‘Excellent’ response to a timely request

It’s not until a large number of clocks and watches are laid side by side that you realise a simple action most people perform tens of times a day without thinking — telling the time — could be difficult for the slow learner.

No two timepiece faces, it seems, have ever been made the same.

Different shaped and colored dials varying hand lengths, Arabic numerals, Roman numerals, strokes instead of numerals, some at the five minute mark, some only at the quarter hour mark, some with no strokes at all, second hands as opposed to alarm mechanisms intact, which have Roman numerals on their faces.

Senior research fellow in Monash’s Education faculty, Dr Pierre Gorman, recently made a request for discarded watches and clocks, which although no longer working had handsetting mechanisms intact, for research studies among slow learners.

It met with an excellent response. A total of 36 clocks and 11 watches were donated.

“I’d like to thank donors very sincerely for their valued assistance,” Dr Gorman said recently.

The clocks and watches will be used in programs at the Work Preparation Centre run by the Department of Social Security.

For the last five years this Centre, in South Yarra, has been training the slow learner and mildly retarded for ultimate employment in the open workforce, as opposed to sheltered workshops.

To add to his collection of diverse clocks and watches for work with the trainees, Dr Gorman is seeking untimed pieces, with hand setting mechanisms intact, which have Roman numerals on their faces.

Dr Gorman’s office is room 354 in the Education building.

Pictured above is Dr Gorman surrounded by donated clocks. Photo: Hero Allesuns.

Will computers bring chaos or Utopia?

Social chaos — or a work-free, fun-filled paradise? What does the “new technology” hold for society? And what are the implications for universities?

These were among the questions confronting a small, informal discussion group that met on Friday, October 13, to consider ways of broadening examination of the issues and problems posed by the technological revolution.

The meeting was convened by Associate Professor Ian Turner (History) with the aim of bringing together interested parties from a variety of departments and areas — on the assumption that, to date, discussion has been largely compartmentalised and isolated, with too little interdisciplinary involvement.

Departments and offices represented were the Computer Centre and Computer Science; Electrical Engineering; Administrative Studies; Sociology; Law; Politics; Careers and Appointments; Continuing Education and HEARU.

Monash Reporter was there to record the discussion and prepare an edited version for publication in this issue (it appears on pages 14 to 16).

Opening the discussion, Ian Turner apologised for appearing to take a “too-apocalyptic” view of the situation. (He made up for it later by denouncing the Luddites and welcoming the prospect of mankind’s liberation from the curse of work.)

However, he pointed out that the world was at the point of entry into a period of scientific and technological change that would involve changes at least as significant as those that followed the Needithic and Industrial Revolutions.

The changes would come about with bewildering rapidity and create social tensions of a kind that our society had never previously known.

Universities, Turner said, were uniquely placed to take an overview of the situation and to influence policies that would have to be devised to ameliorate the problems of adjustment and transition.

Associate Professor Tony Montgomery (Computer Science) warned of the dangers of “fear-mongering”, and stressed the need for greater efforts to educate people at the tertiary level in the skills required to meet the demands of the technological age.

“Whether we try to turn back the clock and prevent it or not, technological change is going to happen, and we need the people who are trained, socially and technologically, to handle it,” he said.

One positive move universities could take, he said, would be to lobby government to ensure that an indigenous computer industry was established. This would reduce Australia’s dependence upon overseas technology and save us from becoming a “technological island”.

Montgomery said that Australia was well behind the Japanese who 10 years ago realised the potential impact of computers and began a program of “computer awareness” to prepare their society for the changes facing them.

Dr Bob Birrell (Sociology) questioned the assumption that the new technology and specifically microprocessors were the cause of present unemployment problems.

He said that societies, such as the United States, that had allowed free rein for the introduction of processors were currently creating jobs “at an enormously rapid rate”.

Any modern economy, provided it’s not in a recessionary phase, could still create jobs — although those jobs would not necessarily “acceptable” types of employment.

The meeting agreed that a series of more widely-representative seminars over the next few months would produce some useful insights and appointed a sub-committee to draw up a program.

It is expected that the seminars will attract speakers with expert knowledge in a number of areas, both from within and outside the University.

Special graduates’ issue . . . what’s inside

The year in review

This issue of Monash Reporter, the last for 1978, is being mailed to all Monash graduates in a bid to keep them in contact with the University and informed of its affairs. A round-up of the year’s major events begins on page 7 in a special five-page ‘Year in Review’ feature.

This is the second year in which the November Reporter has been mailed to graduates. It follows requests over recent years by the Australian University Graduate Conference that universities do more to maintain contact with their former students.

Other features

- High book prices — the cause
- Study on mercury in creek
- Graduate unemployment?
- More in ‘Lear Debate’
Copyright Act blamed for high price of imported books

By Bellewa Lamb

The high cost of imported books continues to be a problem, despite recent changes to marketing arrangements between Australia, England, and the United States.

And, despite what many who pay the often exorbitant retail prices believe, it is just a result of the pricing policy of Australian booksellers.

According to recent research by Lucy Hunter, of the Law Faculty, the 1968 Copyright Act is to blame.

Ms Hunter has just completed research into book importation and the closed market in Australia. Unless her call for reform, which is echoed by many booksellers and publishers throughout Australia, is heeded the situation will get better.

Ms Hunter first became interested in the problem of book acquisition, when, a few years ago, she was looking for a book, and her search led her to the University Library.

Ms Hunter said it was obvious that, as a small nation in terms of population, Australia could not expect to provide local publishers with the long list of books they require. Thus a small nation in terms of population, Australia could not expect to provide local publishers with the long list of books they require.

Ms Hunter pointed out that, while the British publisher was able to print the books under one contract, the Australian bookseller had to meet the cost of importing the books individually.

The result and major legal battle fought by Australian publishers to acquire, direct from World, was that the public suffered a continued role of dependence from England.

The 'market' of the 1968 Copyright Act on the Australian book market. The 'market' was to protect the owner from unauthorised reproduction. What happened was that, in applying the Act to both importation, importation became synonymous with reproduction and protection accordingly extended.

In the 'cause celebre' of recent times, Angus and Robertson imported 8400 copies of Time-Life 'Food of the World', through an American agent.

The price at which the books were purchased would have enabled Angus and Robertson to retail the books at $29.95 each, whereas direct purchasing from the sole Australian agent would have meant a recommended retail price of $16.95. While such a price discrepancy has not been uncommon in Australia, the ensuing legal battle was.

Time-Life took Angas and Robertson to court. The High Court, on appeal, ruled in favour of Time-Life thus reinforcing the closed market system with which the Australian reading public is burdened.

As the manager of the Monash Bookshop, Mr Beresford Demarr puts it, booksellers are in a 'cliff stick' at the present moment. All too often they are unable to obtain the required books, or are forced to 'buy around'. In the case of the Monash bookshop, he estimates that 80 per cent of books purchased each year are affected by the operation of the closed market.

In calling for urgent amendment to these provisions of the Copyright Act which are the legal foundation for the closed market, Ms Hunter is not alone. Most Australian booksellers and many libraries are in firm agreement.

President pays us a goodwill visit

Mr Blagov Popov, President of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, paid a goodwill visit to Monash last month.

Mr Popov was welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin, and spoke with the University Librarian, Mr Brian Southwell, and members of the department of Russian.

He presented the University with a set of books dealing with the history and culture of Macedonia, and told the Vice-Chancellor that one of the purposes of his visit to Australia was to foster interest in the language and culture of Macedonia.

Mr Popov said he hoped that academic exchanges could be arranged between Monash and Macedonian Universities.

Later, the President toured the Main Library and inspected the 'Living Languages' display of materials used in the teaching of community languages.

At the photograph above, Dr B. Vasiliev, a senior tutor in the Russian department, shows Mr Popov material from the 'Living Languages' display in the Main Library, while the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin, looks on.

Attitudes still racist: lawyer

Mr Galbally praised Monash's involvement in ethnic affairs, particularly by the recently-announced establishment of an Ethnic Heritage Collection by the Centre for Migrant Studies and University Library.

Working towards a multi-cultural Australia was as much a task for the 'native ethnic' as it was for migrants.

Lawyer, Mr Frank Galbally, who chaired a Federal Government inquiry into migrant services, said at Monash recently while opening the 'Native Language Program'.

Mr Galbally said there were some Australians who still retained attitudes to racism and colour consciousness.

"If Australia is to give justice to all in its society then we must get rid of these hang-ups from the days of ignorance and oppression," he said.

But they would have to extend their range of contact.

Mr Galbally said: "Universities, while functioning well in the specialised areas of higher learning, are not having sufficient influence in the education of the great majority of our population."

Although it can be claimed that the role of universities is in higher learning and research, I believe they have become too inbred in the sense that they tend to perpetuate their own concepts of education and see learning as an end in itself.

"Universities should accept that one of the ultimate objectives justifying their existence must be the appropriate and relevant education of every person, whether that person ever enters the campus or not."

The photograph above, Dr B. Vasiliev, a senior tutor in the Russian department, shows Mr Popov material from the "Living Languages" display in the Main Library, while the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin, looks on.

MONASH REPORTER
An investigation into the distribution of mercury in Raspberry Creek, including a study of its formation within the food chain, is currently being conducted by two Master of Environmental Science students at Monash University.

The presence of mercury in Raspberry Creek is a legacy of gold mining in the area. Mr. Chris Bos-VanderZalm and Bill Raper, both chemists, is being carried out under an $11,000 contract with the Environment Protection Authority. It is believed to be the first such study in Australia of the extent to which the mining process can be causing contamination of mercury in a creek.

The samples are being examined by cold vapour atomic absorption techniques for measuring amounts of mercury in a creek. The tests have been collected, with the assistance of students from Rusden, on three field trips to the area. Biologists at Rusden have also assisted with the classifying of the organisms collected.

The researchers will complete their study by next February.

- Research assistant, Graham Bird, and a student from Rusden sort insects gathered from rocks in Raspberry Creek during the latest field trip to the area. These organisms were collected half a kilometre from the A1 gold mine outlet.

Methyl mercury

The present study aims to document in detail the extent to which the mercury in Raspberry Creek has moved through the sediment into the food chain. Methyl mercury compounds, which contain mercury that has been recovered by distilling the mercury in the ore, is a dissolved by the mercury, metaling amalgam from which the gold is recovered by distilling the mercury. In earlier days, all Victorian gold was recovered from the mine tailings, which still contained mercury residue, after being dumped in a nearby stream. This process takes place in a supposibly closed distillation system, but leakage can occur. Increased mercury content of bottom sediments of a creek may continue to be released and contaminate the water environment even when the discharge of the pollutant is halted.

Two Monash academics have advocated a “busing” system as a means of reducing inequality of opportunity in Australian education.

The system they propose would be voluntary and would work by allowing students from inadequate or overcrowded schools to better schools in other areas. Busing in the US to even up the racial mix of schools.

The suggestion is one of several radical measures put forward in a new book by senior lecturer, Dr Peter Gilmour, and lecturer, Dr Russell Lansbury, of the Administrative Studies Department, to alter the structure of the educational system and the labor market in Australia.

Other measures they canvass include the paying of a “living” equivalent to the dole, to students once they reach school-leaving age to encourage them to stay on, and the building up of poorer government schools so that they have superior facilities to the rest of the system.

The academics make the suggestions in the concluding chapter of Ticket to Nowhere, published recently by Penguin as a Pelican Original. The book’s subtitle is “Education, Training and Work in Australia.”

They argue that the Australian labor market is divided now into two broad segments:

1. The primary sector of the labor market consists of well-paid secure jobs which offer prospects for learning and advancement. Access to this sector is usually based on social origins and the possession of credentials, such as certificates or degrees, which are required in the educational system. These include the link between the financial position of the individual’s family and his access to education; the link between the individual’s home and school environment, and his educational achievement; the link between the social position of the individual’s family and his eventual ability to obtain high status employment; and the link between social status and occupation.

2. The secondary sector of the labor market consists of low-paid insecure jobs which offer little security and few promotion prospects. Those who work in this sector have not had equal opportunities to gain educational qualifications or have obtained ‘tickets to nowhere’.

Gilmour and Lansbury say there are two main streams by which a child can pass through the system. One is through private schools or elite government schools into universities and then into professional or skilled occupations. The other is through government schools into unskilled or semi-skilled occupations, or continuing on to TAFE or TAFE studies and then into para-professional or skilled occupations, usually at the lower tier of the primary labor market.

Once a child is firmly launched on one stream it is very difficult to change course, they conclude.

That is, unless several strong links are weakened or removed.

They say: “These include the link between the financial position of the individual’s family and his access to education; the link between the individual’s home and school environment, and his educational achievement; the link between the social position of the individual’s family and his eventual ability to obtain high status employment; and the link between social status and occupation.”

School wage

To break the link between the family’s financial position and access to education the academics suggest that students, when they reach school leaving age, should be paid the equivalent of the unemployment benefit they would receive if they left school and could not find a job. This would greatly reduce the cost of keeping a child at school for families less well off.

They propose that students from families with higher incomes would also receive these payments but suggest that tertiary fees could be reintroduced on a means tested basis, with high earners paying the full cost of a tertiary education and low earners being subsidised.

Gilmour and Lansbury say that the home and school environment is strongly linked to educational achievement.

“The home environment will only change slowly over several generations. However, immediate steps should be taken to change the school environment,” they say.

They propose that government secondary schools as the target for improvement. Facilities at the primary school level are often quite reasonable and finance is readily available, they say.

They suggest that compensatory funding should be increased to the point where the poorer government secondary schools are given superior facilities to the rest of the system, thereby attracting better teachers and students.

To ensure that prestige ranking does not develop among the government secondary schools they advocate the system of busing.

They say: “Parents should, however, have the right to elect whether they wish their children to be part of this program.”

“In the medium term these proposals would help even out the environments of secondary schools; in the short term they would give parents the option to move their children to a more favourable school environment.”

Gilmour and Lansbury admit that it would be difficult to break the link between the social position of an individual’s family and his ability to gain a high status job, the “old boy network”.

“Companies cannot be easily persuaded to employ staff on the basis of particular criteria. One possibility, however, would be to make promotions dependent on taking a retraining course provided by a tertiary institution.”

To raise the social status of tradesmen, and overcome the current shortage of them, the academics propose a new system of post-secondary vocational education.

This would be divided into two equal but different streams: one for the skilled trades and one for the professionals.
Button examines the problems now confronting universities

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Shadow Minister for Education, Senator John Button, recently addressed a seminar at Monash on "The Reputation of Education and the Role of Universities in Society". The seminar, part of a series organized by the Staff Association of Monash University,

Here is an edited text of Senator Butt-

on's address:

It is a great pleasure for me to be at Monash University to meet members of the staff association. As Shadow Minister for Education and Science, I have to listen to the claims of universities, colleges of advanced education, the technical and further education sector and scientists, both in universities and organizations such as the CSIRO.

I mention those factors because they are relevant in a sense to what I have to say about priorities. I wanted to start by giving what I feel is probably a highly subjective view of my own observations about universities in Australia and what I would like to see in relation to universities in Australia.

In the past universities enjoyed a high level of public esteem, much more than they do at present. I think many members of parliament would like to see them recording high standards of service, and as a labor politician, I would like to see them being centres of excellence, not simply centres of "elite". But I use the word "elite" in relation to intellectual attainments and not socio-economic elites as I believe most universities still to be. I would like to see good conditions for the staff, and that would assist them in pursuing the three previous things which I have mentioned, and I would like to see them making a larger contribution of staff and ideas, with government and industry.

Now, assuming some sort of general agreement that these sorts of objectives for universities, I want to say something about what I, as a politician, see as the public perception of universities in Australia.

First of all, let me say that it is generally not good. It probably never has been good but it is probably worse now than it ever has been before and that is, I think, the explanation and, the reason for many of the apparent attacks on university conditions which are made by governments. They could be made in a very good political environment at the moment because of the public perception of universities.

The news that makes most about the public perception is that, of course, universities are now open to much more public scrutiny than previously, because they are recipients of large sums of public money from one source — the Commonwealth. The public are also willing to lend their ears to articulate voices in the media, particularly, who are critical of universities.

Now I must say that my own perception of universities over the last 18 months has changed a little, but certainly nine months ago I made what I understand to be outrageous statements about universities because the thing that upset me most was that there seemed to be a very supine posture adopted by universities in the face of attacks by governments and others. One was tempted to stir, to ask universities to stand up in their own interest and I tried to do a bit of that. Not because of my efforts, but because of the collapse of time, undoubtedly change is taking place in that regard now.

Problems with govt

Let me turn now to some of the contemporary problems of universities as I see them, particularly those problems as they relate to government.

The first problem, of course, is that universities have been in a period of sustained growth with a large increase in the number of students, a large increase in financing and a vast increase in Commonwealth expenditure particularly. That growth period is now brutally and suddenly at an end. There is less demand for student places in universities including this one, and in the last Tertiary Education Commission Report it was said that universities will have to make economies of the order of five to six percent on 1976 standards.

This year $39 million was knocked off the Tertiary Education Commission recommendations for finance to universities. The effects of this on the image of universities are probably well known to you. It is said that universities — some of them — are deliberately lowering standards in relation to the requirements for entry to obtain funding.

There is much criticism of the current method of funding; the Tertiary Education Commission in its last report has indulged in that, and even suggested that there may be a need for changes to be made. Professor Karmel, the Chairman of the Tertiary Education Commission, has drawn attention to the no-growth situation in universities in another way when he points out that of some 12,000 academic jobs in universities, there will only be 60 new places available per year for the next five years.

That has enormous consequences for young academics and is a very real problem in terms of the ageing factor in the academic population. There has also been, of course, a dramatic and significant decline in research funds available to universities.

The second problem which universities don't talk about publicly, and one understands why, is the existence and growth of other sectors of tertiary education. That means limited resources have to be shared with the colleges of advanced education and the TAFE sector, and it highlights a number of factors about the traditional areas of university activities.

There is also the recognition that of the 19 universities we now have, not all are of the same standards and there is a great apprehension about the report of the Williams inquiry, which will be released soon, as to whether it will make recommendations about different treatment for different universities throughout Australia.

I think certainly in the CAE sector there is a lot of paranoia about universities, and if university academics could be accused of a thing like that, I think there is some degree of paranoia about the CAE's among university academics. There is a great deal of confusion about the competing claims of the three areas.

The third problem which universities seem to be suffering from at the moment, is the general education malaise and a backlash perceived in the community against education generally. I don't know whether this is so true in relation to the tertiary level as it is in relation to schools but it is certainly the case that students are increasingly apprehensive about the culture. Until 10 years ago I think everybody in Australia really understood in a very simplistic sort of way what they thought education was all about. That is to say the better school you went to and the longer you stayed at school and the better job you did, the better job you got. That is perhaps simplistic, but I think that was the core culture of educational ambitions and aspirations. That has all changed with reference to the long term and significant unemployment and for the purposes of this discussion, among graduates.

The fourth problem which universities seem to me to have to face at the moment is the question of single Commonwealth funding. If one compares that with the United States where many of the universities have two and sometimes three sources of funding, it does raise important questions about the notion of university autonomy. I don't suggest that there should be any changes made to that single source of funding but does bring into relief the fact, this debate about university autonomy and the apparent threat to university autonomy which is sometimes seen, for example, in the behaviour of AUS student organisations and legislation on study leave.

Fifth, I would like to say something about what seems to me to be specific problems at the moment.

Teaching research

The first one is really an identity problem. It seems to me we talk so much about the function of the university in terms of the relationship between teaching and research. All the research funds have been made on behalf of universities by the protagonists of universities as lobbyists are usually made in terms of the research functions of universities — a very important function.

Claims are not often made in respect of the teaching functions of universities. As universities move more and more from tenured appointments to fixed term appointments, it seems to me that this question reflects a seriously important and acute problem. Academics on fixed term appointments, particularly young academics tell me that they feel embarrassed by them in the three years of their appointment to devote their time to research, to ensure the quality of research, so that they will have a good curriculum vitae which is the only method of obtaining further employment. That is a matter which I think relates very much to the absence in perhaps three sources of teaching in any method of teacher assessment. So I think there is a very real problem here. Inherent in that is the nature of university of how much importance we attach to the teaching function, how it is to be reflected in methods of assessment, and how is the argument to be put in the public forums as distinct from one highlighting the research function which is in a sense more wamy but much easier to put over.

The second sort of specific problem relates to things like study leave. I believe that the government's attitude towards that has been very symbolic thing. It is not a significant thing in itself: not much money is involved. It's a very small percentage of time, a slap on the university.

Extended next page
**Family Court a 'world lead'**

Australia's Family Court system came in for strong praise from the president of the International Society of Family Law recently.

Professor Dieter Giesen, of the Free University, West Berlin, said the system was one of the most advanced in the world. Professor Giesen visited Monash for several days as the guest of a senior lecturer in law, Mr J. N. Turner.

On his first visit to Australia, Professor Giesen said he hoped to make a return visit so that he could make a closer study of the Family Court system.

He said the Court's jurisdiction should be enlarged, however, to cover de facto relationships.

The International Society of Family Law has members from 58 nations with an interest in family law and the sciences dealing with the family.

Among the Society's activities are international conferences held every two years during which members exchange views on studies of problems related to the family and solutions offered by the law to them. The next conference, to be held in Sweden, is on family living in a changing society. Previous ones have been on the child in the family law, and violence and the family.

Professor Giesen is also a member of a study group under the German Federal Parliament on the rights of women in society.

While in Melbourne he addressed the Equal Opportunity Board.

He said the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act was more carefully phrased than some in other countries, including the English Act of 1975.

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**Honey collectors sing a sweet song to lull bees**

While an apiarist might be expected to possess certain skills, mental and physical agility among them, a musical ability is not commonly accepted as one.

In parts of Sumatra, however, music plays a significant role in honey collecting, to which a special ceremony is attached.

Reader in politics, David Goldworthy, attended a honey collecting ceremony just outside Pantai Besar, a small village on the east coast of North Sumatra. He describes it, the legend on which it is based, and analyses the two songs — the Tree Song and the Bee Song — which are the basis of the ceremony in Studies in Indonesian Music, published recently by the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies.

Edited by Margaret Kartomi, "Studies in Indonesian Music" is number seven in the Monash Papers on Southeast Asian series.

David Goldworthy writes that the honey is collected on a moonless night during one brief period of the year only.

Collection is not from cultivated trees but from wild ones. The trees are the main source of danger both must be pacified by the right song. A "shaman" is the main person responsible for the ceremony. He wears a painted shirt and holds a bundle of reeds with a tree spirit at each end.

The ceremony begins with the "shaman" working in pairs — an older man acting the part of the spiritual leader and a younger man as his assistant.

This is how Goldworthy describes the ceremony he saw: "The shaman lit his flares and stood quietly beneath the tree. Without any accompaniment he began singing an incantation intended to propitiate the tree and its spirit and to subordinate it to his will, in order to ensure the safety of the climbers."

"Three times he shouted 'Remember!' as a warning to the bees. Exactly what they were supposed to remember was not specified. Perhaps the shaman was reminding the bees of their human origins (according to legend) and hence the reason for his power over them. He then began to climb the tree, followed by his assistant.

At the top, the end of a knotted cane rope was attached to a bucket made of deedskin while the other end was taken aloft. As soon as the honey collectors reached branch with nectar on it they suspended the free end of the rope over the branch and let it down to the group of assistants below.

The "old shaman then began to sing songs to the bees. He hoped to full them into a false sense of security by the beauty of the songs and their placatory words. Since the bees and the tree spirit are the main sources of danger both must first be pacified by the appropriate songs."

The shaman sang to the bees to entertain, flatter and cajole them in the hope of distracting them from his purpose. But he also sang to keep up his spirits and to intensify his concentration on the task.

Also included in the publication are the essays, "The Tarawanga — A Bowed Stringed Instrument from West Java" by Catherine Falk, and "In Defence of Kroncong" by Bronia Kornhauser. Copies are available from the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies at $7 each, $8 if posted.

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**Aboriginal art on show**

Aboriginal artists from Millington, in Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory, will present an art exhibition and workshop at Monash University from this month and early in December.

The exhibition and workshop are being subsidised by the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs.

It is planned that various paintings, carvings, weapons, musical instruments and weavings will be exhibited and sold in a traditional outdoor setting at Market College in Norman Road.

The exhibition will be open to the public from November 27 to December 30, and from December 2 to December 8, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Admission is $1 for adults and 80 cents for children.

A spokesman for the Centre said the exhibition represented a unique opportunity for Melburnians to see, first hand, bark painting, weaving and other arts as well as hear the language and music and see the dancing of tribal people of Northern Australia.

Invitations have been sent to schools throughout Victoria, as well as interested community groups, to visit the exhibition, the aim of which is to further cultural understanding within Australia.

For further information contact ext. 3336.

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**Club's services expanded**

Monash University Club has expanded its range of services for members and their guests.

Club manager, Mr Steve Abougaila, says a new menu has been devised for the dining room, which will be open from 6.30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday evenings for full a la carte meals and liquor service.

Mr Abougaila says the club hopes to attract more patrons to its outdoor barbecue area during the summer months.

The area seats about 130 people, and there are two gas barbecues for cooking meat, poultry and seafood available at the main grill.

The club will also cater for a wide range of activities, including dinners, receptions and psychology opportunities.

Membership of the club is open to all staff members and certain classes of postgraduate students.
Dr Tim aids UNESCO study in Thailand

Dr Tim Ealey, co-ordinator of the Monash environmental science course, has returned recently from Thailand where he helped conduct a UNESCO-instigated evaluation of environmental education.

Dr Ealey, together with Dr Jan van der Broek, of the UNESCO Integrated Training Centre in the Netherlands, was asked to evaluate, specifically, the effectiveness of courses conducted by the faculty of Environment and Resource Studies at Mahidol University in Bangkok.

This faculty, headed by Dr Nart Tunawiriross, has received substantial funding from bodies such as the Ford Foundation, and a proposal has been made that it be established as a major centre for environmental study in south-east Asia. Such a centre could initiate important, integrated programs to deal with problems common to several countries in the region, relating to the use of rivers, deforestation and population control, for example.

Dr Ealey spent three weeks in Thailand. The first was spent interviewing government officials involved with resource management and environment controls.

In the second week, the team went on an extensive tour throughout the country to examine how environmental science students are trained in the field and to see, at first hand, the types of problems they are dealing with.

Among these are deforestation and the proper use of foreign aid. The final week was spent in writing the report for UNESCO.

* Dr Ealey (right) is pictured inspecting a very efficient form of power in Thailand — the elephant.

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Utah helps with power boat

The Utah Foundation has donated $20,000 to the department of Mechanical Engineering towards the cost of a power boat for coastal waters research work.

The 6.7m. diesel-powered, aluminium boat will be used in association with Scylla, the Nomad meteorological buoy donated to the department earlier this year by Esso-BHP.

The new boat will be used as a means of transport to Scylla when it is moored offshore and, in one of the planned research projects, it will carry electronic equipment and be used by divers.

Scylla, formerly used to obtain wind speed and direction data for use in the design of offshore platforms in Bass Strait, is equipped with two anemometers on 30ft mast and radio telemetry gear which transmits on two frequencies.

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Choral Society Xmas show

Monash University Choral Society will present a medieval mystery play for its Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 28 in the foyer of Robert Blackwood Hall.

The concert, scheduled to start at 8 p.m., will be performed in costume and will be accompanied by both traditional and medieval carols. Admission is free.

The concert will be a rather smaller affair than the performance of "Carmina Burana" — composed from a series of medieval pieces — which the Society presented in September, in conjunction with Ars Nova.

An estimated 1100 people attended the concert, which met with considerable critical acclaim.

Further information about the forthcoming production can be obtained from the secretary, Elizabeth Nottle, on 24 8809.

The two vessels will be used in two major research projects in Port Philip and Westernport bays over the next few years.

One is on large-scale turbulence. Aerial photographs have shown that regular cell-like patterns of eddies exist occasionally in most tidal inlets around the Victorian coast. Subsequent dye releases have confirmed the presence of these eddies. Existing theories of turbulence, however, do not predict their presence and very little is known about them.

The project has an important environmental aspect. The presence of the large eddies is likely to have considerable effects on such processes as the mixing of effluents and the dispersion of the waste products of industry.

The other research work will be on waves. The effects of wave forces on structures — important in the design of offshore moorings and coastal protection works — will be examined.

The power boat is being constructed by Kayla Industries at Moorabbin. It will cost $30,000, towards which the Mechanical Engineering department will contribute $10,000.

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Monash chemist at the Vatican

Monash professor of chemistry, Professor Ross Brown, was one of a group of eight eminent scientists who participated in a meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Science in the Vatican last month.

Professor Brown was invited to address the meeting, on the subject of the origin of life, by the president of the academy, Professor Carlos Chagas, of the medical school at the University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The academy, formed in the 16th century, is believed to be one of the oldest scientific groups in the world. It has some 70 members, personally appointed by the Pope, and the academy's president is one of few people who has direct access to the Pontiff.

Professor Brown was among three Americans, two Germans, one Belgian and one Frenchman at the meeting, which took place in a building built by Pius IV in the peaceful gardens within the central Vatican.

Professor Brown said he believed one of the purposes of the meeting was for church authorities to gain information on views about the origin of life from leading research workers in the field.

Subjects discussed included the theory advanced by British astronomer, Sir Fred Hoyle, about living matter developing in the comets and showering on earth, thus creating epidemics.

Professor Brown said he saw serious difficulties in Hoyle's theory — a view held by others who attended the meeting.

Professor Brown said it was agreed that the most challenging question was how and where the first highly structured unit, centred on the tiny RNA molecule, got assembled. (RNA carries the genetic code in viruses and some bacteria, and also plays a vital part in the transmission of the human genetic code.)

Professor Brown, a galactic chemist whose special field is the search for life supporting molecules in outer space, was also present in St. Peter's Square when the new Pontiff, Pope John Paul II, was introduced after his election.
1978 has seen probably more inquiries, reports and intensive public and governmental scrutiny of universities and tertiary education generally than any other year since the dawning of the "Golden Age" of higher education in the early 1960s.

In Victoria, we've had the Partridge Report, which proposed ways of restoring balanced development and rationalisation between universities, colleges of advanced education and the technical and further education sector. More recently, we've had the TIG's report on Study Leave — and arguments are still reverberating across campuses throughout the country on that subject! And we still await the report of the Williams Inquiry, which might well herald further wide-ranging changes in the Australian tertiary education scene up to the year 2000.

To many, this rush of investigatory activity has spelt new and unwelcome intrusions into what we regard as university freedoms and autonomy. And it would be idle to pretend that we have not been diminished in some degree.

This year has not been an active one, socially, for the Monash Graduates Association. This is our hope to remedy with the annual picnic coming up. Last year's picnic, despite the rain, was very successful.

Two activities of wider involvement continued throughout the year. These were:

• The Graduate Register, through which graduates place their name on a roll and are available to give advice to undergraduates on career questions. This we have found to be no surprise to any of us that the tremendous rate of growth in tertiary education that we experienced in the '60s and the early part of this decade would, sooner or later, come to an end — or, at least, slow down quite dramatically.

We have not been alone in this; the most cursory glance at the international literature on education will confirm that universities the world over are in a similar situation. Certainly, it was brought home to me with some force when I attended the quinquennial congress of the Association of Commonwealth Universities in Canada in August.

In this special section of Monash Reporter, designed to keep graduates informed of our activities, we have essays a pen-picture of "the year's events" as perceived from the viewpoints of our standards of scholarship, research and teaching during the difficult days ahead.

R. L. Martin
Vice-Chancellor.

Fee abolition little help to disadvantaged

The abolition of fees in tertiary institutions has had, at best, a marginal effect on the accessibility of higher education to socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

This is the major finding of a study by a team of researchers at ANU and the University of New South Wales of the composition of students in higher education in Australia and the effect of the abolition of fees in 1974 on it.

Conclusions in the report, Students in Australian Higher Education: A Study of Their Social Composition Since the Abolition of Fees, are based on data derived from a national survey of students starting courses for the first time in 1976 in universities and colleges of advanced education.

They are confirmed by independent yearly analyses of the composition of the Monash student intake which have been made by the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit since 1970. These analyses show that the students' social composition — judged on sex, the type of secondary school attended, father's occupation and parents' education — remains largely unchanged, the abolition of fees in 1974 having little effect.


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Aboriginal Studies

Plans are proceeding at Monash for the establishment of an Aboriginal Resource Centre which, it is envisaged, will be the chief pool of resources on all Aboriginal questions and concerns in this part of Australia.

The Centre will be set up with proceeds from the $25,000 Elizabeth Eggleston Memorial Fund Appeal, established in 1977 to commemorate the work of a great scholar in Aboriginal Affairs.

Dr Eggleston was director of the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs at Monash from 1971 to 1976 when she died at age 41.

The basis of the proposed Centre’s materials will be the library which Dr Eggleston bequeathed to the CRAA. Added to these books, pamphlets and papers, it is planned, will be purchased material and any further donations.

Looking at life before birth

A new multi-disciplinary research centre at Queen Victoria Medical Centre hopes to make a significant contribution to the study of life before birth and of one of medicine’s most baffling problems — infant cot death.

The unit — the Research Centre for Early Human Development — came into existence mid-year, with the appointment of Dr John Maloney as director.

Dr Maloney was formerly head of the developmental biology research unit at the Baker Institute.

The new Centre has a staff of 14 — scientists, clinicians, research assistants and an engineer.

It directly involves two Monash departments — pediatrics and obstetrics & gynaecology — as well as the Queen Victoria special care nursery.

It also draws support from a number of other areas, such as the departments of anatomy, physiology and electrical engineering at Monash, and the Queen Victoria departments of bacteriology and biochemistry.

Dr Maloney says that in the nature and breadth of its work, the Centre is unique in the world.

Ode to a sperm

It is believed to be the only one specialising in peri-natal studies, spanning the pre- and post-natal stages of a baby’s development. The peri-natal period covers about the last third of the gestation period and the first year of life after birth.

Poets, it seems, can find their inspiration from odd sources.

Take, for instance, a notice seeking sperm donors for an artificial insemination program. Singularly unpoetic one would think. But the notice mentioned that as far as possible, donors and recipients would be matched for “physical characteristics, race and religion.”

“And religion” exclaimed Emeritus Professor Hector Monroe.

He contributed this verse on what he termed the major scientific discovery that every little spermatazon was either a little Protestant, Catholic, Moellem, atheist or Jew.

The infant, though not yet conceived,
Has pondered, doubted and believed.
Its credo, as a minimum,
Acknowledges
God’s understudy here below.

To fertilise a pious ovum.
He knows that it would ill behove him
For if by probing he should find
A future schism.

Forestalling any future schism.

To fertilise a pious ovum.

Reports, reports . . .
The changing face of education

Two reports, one delivered in March to the Victorian Government, and one about to be delivered to the Federal Government, could have a significant impact on higher education.

Among the committee's major findings were these:

• The period of almost open-ended growth in Australian post-secondary education has, for the time being at any rate, come to an end.

• In tertiary education, Victoria is already provided with the institutions and facilities that should be adequate for some years to come.

• Several existing institutions are already experiencing difficulty in enrolling enough students of adequate capacity and qualifications — there will be no need to establish new institutions in the foreseeable future.

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Among the committee’s specific recommendations were a number which will significantly influence the course of tertiary education in two Monash faculties — Education and Engineering.

It said generally of Monash that it was “now a well-balanced University with strong departments in the physical and biological sciences, in several branches of engineering, in the humanities, in the social sciences and in various professional areas. Notable strength in research and higher degree work has been developed.”

As with the University of Melbourne, enrolments at Monash had now been stabilised and little overall change was likely in the future.

However, there was a firm recommendation that new student numbers in Education and Engineering should be reduced in 1979 in view of the over-supply of graduates in both areas.

Legislation to set up the recommended Post-Secondary Education Commission was introduced in the State Parliament in April.

The Bill attracted strong criticism from the four Victorian universities which claimed that certain sections posed a serious threat to the traditional autonomy of universities.

An amended Bill went before Parliament in May. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin, said at the time that the amended Bill went some way towards meeting the universities’ objections, particularly in relation to clauses on staffing and employment.

But, he said, the amended Bill retained and spelt out in greater detail the requirement that universities submit their proposals for education funding and the introduction of new courses to the Commission for approval before forwarding to the appropriate Commonwealth funding bodies.

This provision represented a significant disruption of the direct relationship between the universities and Commonwealth authorities, existing over two decades, and the preservation of which the Partridge Committee specifically and strongly recommended.
And now ... the King Lear saga

From the moment it was announced that Monash's Alexander Theatre would be presenting Shakespeare's "King Lear" as translated from Elizabethan English into contemporary prose by leading Australian playwright, David Williamson, it was on. Facing stern Broadway critics with "The Club" must have been child's play compared with facing an audience conversant with some academic members devoted to a belief in the Bard's sacrosanctity, with an updated "Lear." Only by The Bairnadle Chicken Soup to monitor the progress made in a sports arena as those without bringing sport into the law courts isn't "the done thing," says Mr. Turner. It was in the Gazette that one of the principal inquirers, Dennis Davison, lecturer in English, pointed out the "opening of the door of asserting that, at direct variance with popular academic belief, John Donne had been clearly in

Warning on sport and law

Sportsmen who recklessly injure others on the field risk being charged with a criminal offence. This warning to sport's "head hunters" comes from a senior lecturer in Law at Monash, Mr J.N. Turner. Mr Turner says that the traditional attitude that bringing sport into the law courts isn't "the done thing" is changing. "Players are as open to prosecution for acts committed in a sports arena as those without. If they deliberately breach the rules of the game in any aspect of playing, and recklessly injure others, then they may find themselves facing criminal charges and their clubs being fined," he says. Mr Turner organised Britain's first symposium on sport and the law while on study leave at the University of Birmingham recently. The meeting attracted strong representation from sporting bodies, the legal profession and the press. He has been asked to organise a similar conference in Australia in the near future.

Cases arising from violent behaviour is only one of the many aspects of the law relating to sport needing to be explored, however. These are some of the others Mr. Turner nominates:

- As sport becomes more professional, sportsmen and women could mount challenges to open up the all male preserves of clubs, such as the hallowed MCG pavilion.
- Spectators might resort to the courts if they feel their safety has been neglected by a club, including their safety from attack by an overexcited, drunk spectator.
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- New pendulum set swinging

A Foucault-type pendulum is now on permanent display in the Mathematics building at Monash. It was developed by Monash mathematician, Dr Carl Mopper, and "opened" in June by Monash's Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston.

Foucault was the eminent French physicist who used a pendulum in an experiment in Paris in 1851 to show that the pendulum was in effect swinging in the same plane as, and that its apparent motion was caused by, the earth's rotation. Dr Mopper always wanted to recreate Foucault's experiment since he was a small boy in Basel, Switzerland, when he swung a pendulum from a high gable of his father's house.

That attempt was not successful, but Dr Mopper's latest attempt has succeeded, and he has given it a few new "twists" of his own.

Dr Mopper's pendulum is powered by a unique electromagnetic drive, and it is also fitted with a series of electronic sensors so that its motion can be monitored continuously.

The pendulum was developed by Dr Mopper in collaboration with Associate Professor Bill Bowwick, of the department of Electrical Engineering.
Oakley among authors on Monash campus

Novelist, short story writer, playwright and film script writer.

That's the impressive literary credits of Monash's writer-in-residence for 1978, Barry Oakley.

Created a library of literature and measure different noises radiating from engines or industrial machinery which make many loud sounds.

The technique involves taking up to 100,000 noise measurements each second and analysing them on a high speed digital computer.

This provides a "map" of the acoustic intensity of sounds at a large number of positions close to the surface of the noisy engine or machine.

According to Dr Robin Alfredson, a senior lecturer in mechanical engineering who has been working on the project, the technique should have widespread application for noise control in heavy industry.

Current methods for distinguishing between, and measuring noises in a multi-source situation involve wrapping the noise source in a lead sheet lined with sound absorbent material. Dr Alfredson says the laborious wrapping of the engine or noise source in sound absorbent material and then uncovering it bit by bit to make noise recordings presents serious problems, especially if the machinery is large, or if it is necessary to keep an engine cool.

Using the wrapping technique, it is also usually necessary to prepare the surface of the noise source, and eliminate noise from the surrounding area, such as that produced in nearby parts of the factory or workshop.

With the Monash technique, he says, sound measurements and recordings can be made in a normal factory environment.

The signals are then fed via an analog to digital converter to a computer which provides the results in a matter of minutes. Dr Alfredson says: "At present, there is a growing awareness of the need to control noise in industrial situations because many studies have shown that workers' hearing can be seriously and permanently impaired by prolonged exposure to high levels of noise.

"What we do in effect is measure the sound power per unit of area — the acoustic intensity."

It would be possible to go into a factory, obtain the necessary readings without shutting nearby machinery down, and then take the tapes back to the computer for study. The results would be ready within a matter of hours.

"The other advantage is that the equipment is quite portable and the microphones can be placed in nooks and crannies which may not otherwise be accessible."

Dr Alfredson adds: "Digital methods for determining intensity by measuring the fluctuating pressures and the pressure gradient appear very promising. This is due largely to the accuracy and speed of the analog to digital converter and the ability to store, transfer and process large amounts of information in a computer at high speed.

"Preliminary tests indicate that an accuracy within the range of about one to two decibels in intensity can be expected."

Giving meteorology 'proper attention'

When people find out you're a meteorologist they have one response: "Is it going to rain tonight?", according to the professor of meteorology at Monash, Professor C. Priestley, appointed earlier this year.

But meteorology — the science of the atmosphere as a component of the environment — has wider applications than weather forecasting.

It is this fact that Professor Priestley is helping to promote at Monash.

Meteorology, he believes, has not had its proper share of attention as a study in Australian universities.

As a result, few students have been exposed to its possibilities and the science has been starved of its share of the best talent.

Professor Priestley says: "Naturally enough, physicists encourage the top students to become physicists, chemists encourage them to be chemists and so on. Meteorologists, without a leg in, so to speak, have been getting few of the good ones."

Professor Priestley retired recently after 31 years with the CSIRO. He founded the Division of Atmospheric Physics and was most recently chairman of an associated group of Environmental Physics divisions. He is working part-time at Monash.

Meteorological study has been spearheaded for some years by a group in the Mathematics department led by Professor B. Morton, which has applied mathematics to atmospheric and oceanographic research.  

November, 1978
Managing our forest "homes"

For years "forest management! has meant the cultivation of straight, upstanding, young trees and the removal of those — old, twisted and hollow — with little timber-cropping potential.

As is so often the case, such a manipulation of the environment has its side effects. In this case they are felt by the animals and birds that nest and roost in trees — the arboreal species which are likely to find themselves without a hollow for a "home".

Now a study involving three Master of Environmental Science students at Monash is looking at the needs of these creatures in relation to their habitats. Specifically it is researching the effects of providing artificial hollows for them.

These "hollows" are sections of old logs with a base and lid which are wired to the forest trees about five metres above the ground.

The study is being conducted in the Wombat State Forest, a moist, open forest near Daylesford. It is being carried out under a $16,000 contract with the Fisheries and Wildlife Division of the Ministry for Conservation, in co-operation with the Forest Commission of Victoria.

The group intends making a recommendation to the Ministry by early next year on the management procedures which may be adopted to preserve necessary habitats.

The group consists of Barry Golding, Toby Manderson, and Tom Calder.

Toby, a forester, and Tom, a physicist, will bring a multi-disciplinary approach to the project which Barry, a geologist, first became involved in three years ago.

Although it might seem likely that the group will recommend the provision of artificial hollows in forests — at least as a stopgap measure in the decades ahead until some of the younger trees have had time to mature and develop hollows — the members are keeping open their minds.

It may be, they explain, that the provision of more hollows could be detrimental to some species.

Learning and hearing losses

Young school children suffering from a common childhood complaint — infection of the middle ear — may suffer serious educational setbacks as a result, Monash researchers believe.

The researchers also say that middle ear infections are more prevalent than is generally thought, particularly in the winter months.

The infection, which can recur from time to time, causes a fluctuating hearing loss which may impair a child's learning capacity during early childhood years.

Dr Gilbert Best, a senior lecturer in the faculty of Education who has been researching the problem, says middle ear infection is probably the most common childhood complaint treated by pediatricians and hearing specialists.

The infection usually clears up by the time a child is eight or nine years old if he has been adequately treated.

However, if this is not the case, serious hearing loss can result. This loss is brought about by continually recurring bouts of infection which create a pool of fluid in the middle ear cavity.

The research findings are the result of a series of investigations into hearing losses carried out recently.

In the first project, Best teamed with Dorothy Moore, an audiologist at both Prince Henry's and the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

For the second study, Best supervised the work of Norman Powell, a Master of Special Education student at Monash who surveyed a group of more than 300 school children.

Behavioural problems

They say failure to recognise hearing loss in pre-school and early school age children may result in significant delays in the acquisition of linguistic and related academic skills.

Hearing loss may also give rise to behavioural problems at home and in the classroom.

Infections of the nose, throat, adenoids and tonsils are often the forerunners to the problem.

Symptoms such as high temperature, illness and earache are common, but not always present.

For this reason, the researchers say, when children first show signs of not hearing, parents and teachers are inclined to attribute this to inattentiveness or disobedience.

Best says medical research has indicated that one of the problems with anti-biotic treatment for an acute middle ear infection is that it can result in sterile fluid remaining in the ear, so that even when the symptoms of the infection disappear, the resultant hearing loss remains.

The middle ear cavity can be drained and ventilated by a small tube inserted during surgery.

Because the infections can be arrested or cured by adequate medical care, the medical aspect should be vigorously attacked.

Overall, the researchers recommend frequent intensive screening programs for children in the susceptible age group.

Study of Yanks here

The year is 1943. US servicemen on leave in Melbourne after seeing action at Guadalcanal meet Australian servicemen returned from the Middle East.

Some of the servicemen are as young as 18 or 19 — scared to death but determined not to show it, and equally determined to have a good time before returning to battle. Contrary to Australian belief that "all Yanks are from New York", many of the Americans have never been in a larger city than Melbourne in their lives.

A little alcohol stirs emotions. Arguments grow heated over who have seen the most ferocious fighting — the Americans or the Australians — and violence erupts.

According to Associate Professor E. D. Potts of the Monash University, who is conducting an ARGC-supported study on American-Australian contacts during World War II and resulting cultural interchanges, this were the ingredients of friction between Australian and American troops. Another was women.

US servicemen, on US pay rates, had often accumulated quite a handsome salary by the time they were due for shore leave. For their girls they could afford flowers, chocolates, cigarettes and stockings when they were available on the black market — the niceties few Australians could afford, even if they could overcome their belief such gifts were "slippery".

Comments Dr Potts: "The wonder of it is that the Americans didn't cause more resentment."

Occasionally feelings ran dangerously high — during the famous Battle of Brisbane in which one soldier was killed, for example, and in street fights in Melbourne during 1942 and 1943.

Dr Potts says, however, that worse violence flared between black and white American troops in Australia.

Dr Potts' study will cover a wider range of contact between Australians and the GIs than the sensational and violent, however. He will be examining aspects from war brides to how our eating habits were changed.

It is part of a larger study he and his wife, Annette, have been conducting on the development of relations between Americans and Australians since the first contact — the visit of the ship Philadelphia to Sydney in 1792.

• Barry Golding inspects a natural tree hollow for signs of occupation.

1978

Post-grad. wins study award

Conrad Hamann

A post-grad student in visual arts at Monash was one of three young Australians awarded a Harkness Fellowship this year.

The fellowship has allowed Conrad Hamann to travel and study in the United States for 21 months. He is spending time at Columbia, Yale and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Mid-year Conrad submitted his PhD thesis (supervised by Professor Patrick McCaughey — himself a former Harkness winner) on the work of architect Roy Grounds, Frederick Romberg and Robin Boyd, partners in an architectural firm from 1953 to 1962.

Such a study, Conrad told Reporter before leaving, was a way of approaching wider research on modern Australian architecture.

He viewed the opportunity to visit the US as particularly important because of modern Australian architecture's substantial American precedents.

Conrad is spending time examining the significant styles which have developed in the US over the last century, including the East Coast style, Chicago commercial architecture and Californian residential styles.

As part of his interest in Australian architecture he is researching the work of Walter Burley Griffin in America.

He is also studying conservation of old buildings — both the technical aspects and the philosophy of conservation.
An exhibition of recent acquisitions in the Monash Art Collection is being held in the Visual Arts exhibition gallery on the 7th Floor of the Menzies Building during November. Among the paintings acquired last year and this, are works by Roger Kemp, David Aspin, Fred Williams, Sig Gabi, Ben Maddocks, Charles Blackman, William Dobell, Robert Klippen and Eric Taylor.

MonaSH REPORTER

Corrosion course for engineers

Senior engineers from all over Australia will attend a Monash Faculty of Engineering course on the fundamentals of corrosion, its causes and prevention early this month.

The two-part course is organised in collaboration with the Monash Centre for Continuing Education.

The first part of the course, on November 6 and 7, will deal with corrosion fundamentals, while the second part, from November 8 until November 10, will study selected topics in corrosion and its control.

Altogether, a total of 23 hour-long lectures will be given, and there will be question and answer and laboratory sessions.

The course director is Associate Professor Frank Lawson, of the department of Chemical Engineering.

Some energetic people needed

A number of staff and students at Monash will be devoting their energies during the vacation period to the construction of an energy display.

The display, consisting of models, photographs, posters and text, after use in Melbourne may go on tour throughout Australia.

It is being put together by the Community Research Action Centre.

Those interested in helping with its preparation should contact Leigh Hol­loway on ext. 3125. Especially needed are a signwriter and people interested in alternative energy.

Poetic win for Lilian

Lilian Baroja recently won the top award in the Goethe Poetry Prize Competition. Of Italian descent, Lilian is a sixth form student at the Catholic Ladies' College. She is seen receiving her prize from Mr W. Zeilweger, consul of Switzerland, at a ceremony in Robert Blackwood Hall.

Lilian led a field of about 1800 entrants.

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Another prize-winner was fourth­form student, Rosanne Hunt, daughter of P. S. Hunt, full professor of the Mechanical Engineering department.

Study leave changes

SAMU'S view

Sir: The major recommendation of the final report of the TEC on Study Leave, now accepted by the Government, is that the total amount of time spent by members of the academic staff on outside studies programs should not be greater than 7 per cent of available man-years of staff time of the grade of lecturer and above, averaged over the triennium.

At present, the nominal rate is one year in seven, or 14 staff on outside studies programs should not be greater than 7 per cent of available man-years of staff time of the grade of lecturer and above, averaged over the triennium.

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At present, the nominal rate is one year in seven, or 14 per cent. Actual usage at Monash averaged over the years 1970-1975 was only 9.6 per cent, because lecturers on fixed term appointments are not eligible and during growth there are always some who have not yet reached their first entitlement.

In a steady state the usage would be about 11 per cent, depending on whether staff took up their full entitlements, and also on the proportion of fixed term appointments. The higher this proportion, the more study leave is available for the tenured staff. The Staff Association should find this nexus distasteful. Seven per cent of man-years is roughly a 35 per cent real reduction in study leave.

Other substantial changes are that the present emphasis on overseas programs should be reduced, and that any period of absence should be not greater than six months except under special circumstances. No change is recommended for the limits on outside earnings or travel allowances.

At Monash, and at four other universities (at least), study leave is a contractual right; though a qualified one, because a satisfactory program has to be presented. Clearly, if only some of those who presented satisfactory programs had them accepted, there would be a breach of promise. The TEC report states that "the recommendations should not be interpreted as suggesting that institutions consider breaking legally binding contracts or strong moral commitments." FAUSA has warned that one university is already making approval of study leave for 1979 contingent on staff members agreeing to the present emphasis on overseas study and the elimination of its use as a means of upgrading qualifications.

Lessons learnt

What have we learnt from the assault on study leave?

1. That those few who have abused the system have left a bad taste in the proportions to their numbers (and have been over-promoted by such as Peter Samuel and John Pringle). The Staff Association should publicise its disapproval of nest­sitters.

2. That we need to make the public much more aware of all the fine work that is done in universities.

3. That the TEC has lost some credibility as an independent adviser to the Government, by tailoring its recommendations to the desired result.

4. That our conditions of employment are vulnerable and that we should protect them by registered industrial agreements. Senator Carrick ominously stated "the Government desires institutions not to absorb the savings in their general expenditure, but to reserve these against possible emerging demands arising out of the Williams Committee Report or other Government initiatives." The Prime Minister used a similar softening-up approach a few days before the Government accepted the TEC report, and hence, I believe, the "sense of relief" with which the chairman of the AVCC, Professor Rupert Myers, greeted the decision.

Peter Darvall,
President,
Staff Association of Monash University.

Recent art acquisitions on show

An exhibition of recent acquisitions in the Monash Art Collection is being held in the Visual Arts exhibition gallery on the 7th Floor of the Menzies Building during November. Among the paintings acquired last year and this, are works by Roger Kemp, David Aspin, Fred Williams, Sig Gabi, Ben Maddocks, Charles Blackman, William Dobell, Robert Klippen and Eric Taylor.

Pictured in the recent opening are the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin, Professor Patrick McCaughhey, of Visual Arts, Mrs Martin and artist, Roger Kemp. The group is standing in front of Kemp's work Aerial Rhythm (1973).

November, 1978

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Monash University Centre for Continuation Education.

Anne Michael and Melandra Prigg, in collaboration with the MonaSH University, will be devoting their energies during the vacation period to the construction of an energy display.

The display, consisting of models, photographs, posters and text, after use in Melbourne may go on tour throughout Australia.

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Lilian Baroja recently won the top award in the Goethe Poetry Prize Competition. Of Italian descent, Lilian is a sixth form student at the Catholic Ladies' College. She is seen receiving her prize from Mr W. Zeilweger, consul of Switzerland, at a ceremony in Robert Blackwood Hall.

Lilian led a field of about 1800 entrants.

The competition was organised by the Goethe Society in conjunction with the departments of German at Monash and Melbourne universities.

Another prize-winner was fourth form student, Rosanne Hunt, daughter of P. S. Hunt, full professor of the Mechanical Engineering department.
Job opportunities for graduates in State Public Service

The Victorian Public Service has assumed greater significance as an employment option for graduates. In addition, a large number of students are preparing for postgraduate studies on a part and full-time basis at undergraduate level. Because of the growing importance of the Service from this point of view, an exchange was arranged: Peter Leaper from the Public Service Board spent four weeks in my job at Monash, while I was given the opportunity to meet senior public servants from 18 different departments. It was my second exchange. In 1973 I spent three months with the Federal Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, as one of the first groupings of its kind. My objectives this time were:

1. To evaluate present and future opportunities for graduate employment.
2. To assess the personal development, job satisfaction, career progress, work being done by graduates in the Service.
3. To promote exchanges of ideas between the University and the Service, and to establish points for continuing contact between them.
4. To explore possibilities for vacation work and the employment of those no longer wishing to study full-time.
5. To recommend improvements in relationships between the Public Service and the University.

The advantages to be gained from such work exchange programs are considerable. The persons involved bring new skills, experience and ideas to the organisations they go to, sometimes of a type not normally available within them. Each person on exchange, in turn, should benefit from experience not always available to him with his employer, as well as forming personal acquaintances which provide the basis for beneficial continued professional contact.

The Victorian Public Service is much-changed since the Bland Report of 1974. One of the Report’s chief criticisms was of the calibre of the staff and it urged a rapid introduction of good quality employees with tertiary qualifications, and, in many cases, from outside the Service. A number of departments have changed or are in the process of changing their management functions, so that the Service provides some interesting contrasts between the old and the new.

The Service has already become a major graduate employer. At the time of the meeting of the Victorian Public Service Graduate Recruitment Scheme was established, a total of 349 graduates had been appointed, of whom almost 30 per cent have been Monash graduates, more than from any other university.

The introduction of both male and female graduates into what was a totally male-dominated structure placing little emphasis on tertiary qualifications in non-professional areas has not been without problems. Further improvement required in the Service’s financial and computer systems will provide a challenge for it and some of its future graduate recruits.

I found that there was considerable interest by public servants in the "graduate programme" of the University. I hope that I played some part in giving them a more realistic perspective.

Many were concerned at the poor standard of graduates. Although there were cases of "prima donna" attitudes among graduates, others felt that the Service was whether it could continue to provide graduates with interesting and challenging work im mediately following their employment. However the overall impression I obtained was that of a large organisation in the throes of change, staffed by some very able and articulate people genuinely concerned with providing responsible Government administration to meet the present and future needs of the public.

Summer job prospects, provisos

Students seeking vacation work the second round of the "summer job programme" about their chances, according to the student employment officer at Monash, Miss Miller. But there are a few provisos.

Miss Miller says the most important is that the students will be prepared to take some initiative and do some footlooging to find work, rather than sitting down and waiting for jobs to come to them.

Second, if the students really need the money and are not just seeking a job for something to do, they should not be too choosy in the sort of work they accept.

This year, for the first time, the student employment office has instituted a very effective job registration system. In other years all job vacancies had been left on the board outside the Careers and Appointments Office in the Union and it had been open go.

Miss Miller says the new system will give her greater control. It will be prepared to take some initiative and do some footlooging to find work, rather than sitting down and waiting for jobs to come to them.

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However, the demand for jobs in areas which have become accepted as one of the best of jobs for students has not been met with the enthusiasm of the past. Many were concerned at the poor status and immediate prospects of students. Miss Miller says: "The big question is the quality of the jobs. The unemployment among those who have done Dip. Ed. in 1977 has not been as great as had been feared. Both the State and the private school systems recruited more secondary teachers than had been expected." Not confident

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"Many of those who are unemployed or who have found work elsewhere have been disappointed at the type of work they have found. One of their chief concerns has been the lack of challenge. Mr Mann says his office's work in helping those who drop out of university is less effective than that for graduates because proportionately fewer seek assistance. "For those who have sought assistance have been helped in various ways.

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The Victorian Public Service is at an interesting stage. Following the Bland Report, which was critical of the calibre of staff and it urged a rapid introduction of good quality employees with tertiary qualifications, and, in many cases, from outside the Service. A number of departments have changed or are in the process of changing their management functions, so that the Service provides some interesting contrasts between the old and the new.

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Are there jobs?

Now I'm confronted with the situation where many of my graduates are very doubtful about whether they are going to get jobs and there's an emergent anxiety among my students who say 'why the hell am I here?'... why should I study because what's going to come out at the end of that process?

They're not particularly interested in study for its own sake. They're interested in what study produces at the point of graduation and I feel myself confronted with a concern for graduate employment that I've never had to face previously.

In addition, on the internal face of the problem, the weight of technological change that I personally foresee implies the probable need for quite rapid restructuring of courses and curricula within the universities.

The external face of that is: Do we have, as a university, a responsibility to society to try and diagnose the situation and to produce some kind of statement about what are the possible or probable social consequences of technological change — and what kind of options is society going to have to confront?

I think that in a way there is a strong case for universities doing this, because my observation to date suggests that governments are reluctant to take this initiative to investigate these things seriously. We have seen a long resistance on the part of the Commonwealth Government to the suggestions coming forward from us. I have, for national counsel of government, employers and trade unions about the long-term consequences of technological change — the weight of technological change that I personally foresee appears to be quite clear.

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What impact does that have on the tertiary education process? Do we have to break away from the link between university education and professional expertise, trade training and so on that we've had in the past, and think in universities increasingly as sociologists in which the whole balance between work and leisure is changing.

We're moving from a society or a technology which in the past has always assumed that increased total production relies on an increased input of labor. Now labor is only going to get in the way of the productive process.

So we're going to have to redefine our whole concept of productive labor. We've thought of it as producing material goods rather than services. Now we're going to be in a position where no labor is required for the production of material goods — or very little.

What impact does have on the tertiary education process? Do we have to break away from the link between university education and professional expertise, trade training and so on that we've had in the past, and think in universities increasingly as sociologists in which trade training is just as important as this.

We've never really looked at that... we've had things like social responsibility in science going through the universities, Pughwash and so on... but it's never been set down as a permanent kind of thing more than a small minority of socially-aware people.

My fear is that we are likely to move into a kind of society which, because of the new technology run by a technocracy, is a self-perpetuating elite, which imposes the necessary social controls to keep a permanently unemployed caste in our society quiet.

I am convinced by the argument that we only have two options — we either accept the possibility of a technocratic society with a permanent unemployed or we try and democratise that process and let the whole society clear through the educative process to the community at large what the options are and allow them to participate in the making of those fundamental decisions.

MONTGOMERY: Much of what you've said doesn't ring very true to me except, perhaps, for the belief that we are about to experience a society of a potential massive change within it.

About 10 years ago the Japanese realised the potential impact of computer technology and started what they called 'computer awareness', which was purveying to the entire society the potential impact of computers on their society and at the same time initiating, through the schools and the tertiary education system, training programs to make people aware of the new information technologies.

Now it's my belief that here in Australia we're at least 10 years behind and at the apogee of this is the situation that Australian academics — and the government as well — started to do something about it.

Whether we try and turn back the clock and prevent technological change or not, I think it's going to happen, and we need the people who are trained, both intellectually and technologically, to be able to handle it — I'm talking about tertiary-trained people — and right throughout society we need to have programs for education for those people that must inevitably come as a result of the non-existence of certain technologies.

Non-productive sector

TEICHMANN: It seems to me that within capitalism, and possibly in other systems as well, it may prove possible to train a large number of people who in a basic sense do not work and do not produce.

It's all very well to say that education should cease educating for work and should educate for something else. As soon as you get to "something else" you get into a very curious area of entertainment, emotional support, filling in time, thinking "what are your thoughts and all that... which, I suppose, is moving into the area of clinical psychology if we're not careful.

REED: The point about universities becoming involved in public policy appears to me to be the critical one.

I've been engaged in movements within the Australian Computer Society to try and get the government interested in hearing about what's happening with computer technology and we have arranged a ministerial briefing at which the top five people in the computer industry will be available to make presentations to government ministers. At the last count we'd had one acceptance and one 'decline'.

The Victorian Government conference was aproached by three different sectors of the Computer Society with offers of assistance in speaking. To my knowledge they've been offered one place.

I don't believe that government, either Liberal or Labor, has any capacity in the Australian political or economic scene to conduct any sort of long-term policy-making or planning on the technological front. The only times we do have the necessary intellectual capability and the time and the resources, strangely enough, are the universities and the trade union movement.

I've always thought that one of the fundamental questions about information-gathering and consensus-reaching in the Australian community. That is, we work on the British model of parliamentary and public inquiry, which tends not to produce new evidence or real statistics or real information.

Parliamentary inquiries are duds and so are Royal Commissions. The American arrangement of
antagonistic, investigatory terms is much better. The problem is that it's easy to talk about retraining, but the question is 'retraining for what?'

We tend to overlook the historical processes by which technological change has been facilitated in the past.

In the computing field and in the computing press, people are tending to argue that there is no need to worry about the introduction of technology because the industrial revolution didn't produce mass unemployment. The point is that people miss in that is that the processes involved the destruction of one economic system and its replacement concurrently by another which had massive labor demands.

We're in the position where we are destroying the current economic system, but we're not projecting or envisaging what this new economic factor is going to be.

And, what's more, it's not arising naturally, the way it did in the Industrial Revolution.

MONTGOMERY: What about the information industry?

TEICHMANN: Usually the information has got to be about other economic activities.

MCDONELL: But the reason why that comes up is because you come to look at political decisions, many are poorly made because there is not the information available to them to be poorly made. A large very large number of people are needed.

BRYSON: I don't even think that that's the case. This is particularly true in this country because people don't want to be better made.

MANN: We have the case at the moment of the best computer in technology which is being emasculated because the Government does not want to know.

Social dislocation

REED: To give you some idea of what could happen - imagine the social dislocation if the ATA dispute had occurred in the banking industry - and it's likely to in the next two years.

The ABOA is equally well informed and they have done things that the Australian Government hasn't done, that the Labor Party hasn't done, or even, say, the universities haven't done.

They've had people go overseas and look at computer facts and figures, except in other countries.

The point about this need for a labor-intensive industry to soak things up ... that comes back to the question of the public and social values in the country being emasculated as the society does not want to know.

There will be in the next two to three years - or five years at the outside - a genuine reduction of more than a factor of 10 in the cost of computer equipment.

It's never happened in a way which really affected people before because it's always been something which people have been happy. When it becomes the old things that are cheaper, then management can use them directly to get gains. It is potentially as bad as the industrial revolution didn't produce massive labor displacement. It is much better by electronic media, probably much better, by cassettes and by ...

TEICHMANN: The double drive is to cut costs. If at any one time you find it necessary to employ a lot of people to maintain the equipment, it will be in someone's interests to work out a way whereby you don't. As well as the cost-cutting factor you've got your general autonomous activity of scientific research.

MONTGOMERY: Computer programmers spend 70 per cent of their time in the maintenance of their programs.

BRYSON: But even if they do, how does it compensate for the number of people they've already put out of work?

MONTGOMERY: Because they'll be taking on new things - for example in the medical field, there are so many new things that need to be done ... in the comprehension of the geography of the world that there are so many new things which need to be done. These will require people with different skills.

REED: A speaker at the (Australian) Computer Conference mentioned that some sort of country computer technology is not being applied in the way that it's being applied here.

What is going to happen is the political gap between our interests and the cultural values that we prize so highly, with its 15-20 per cent of the population unemployed - and these relatively more backward and supposedly regressive societies who don't have this very high level of technology and yet have full employment?

TEICHMANN: Eventually they'll catch up with us and will acquire all the virtues and all the diseases that we have - and it won't be for want of trying.

LANGSBURY: I've just spent three days at a top management conference of Telecom - and I wonder whether either Telecom or the unions have learned as much as a result of the recent dispute. One adviser seems to have spent most of yesterday trying to tell the top management how they had really won the dispute.

The other thing that concerned me was their tremendous reliance on any sense of accessibility, and it seems to me that we can't expect the ATA or other unions to hold people like Teleco to any kind of account because they are defending the interests of their members ... we can't expect them to be concerned about society as a whole.

Both management and the unions claimed victory in the Telecom dispute but the public remains disadvantaged and ignorant of the facts. Academics have a role to play in trying to hold both sides to account.

The other point is the impact on us (the universities). I just can't see in a couple of decades' time that there will be much need for lecturers, let alone librarians, because so much of what we are doing now in terms of our quaint mediaval approach to teaching and access of material is just going to be done by electronic media, probably much better, by cassettes and by ...

TEICHMANN: You know the joke about the lecturer who put a tape-recorder down in the university ... because he couldn't get up in the morning, and allowed his students to tape his lecture. About a month later he checked up and there were four tape-recorders in the university, because he couldn't get up in the morning, and allowed his students to tape his lecture. About a month later he checked up and there were four tape-recorders in the university, because he couldn't get up in the morning, and allowed his students to tape his lecture. About a month later he checked up and there were four tape-recorders in the university, because he couldn't get up in the morning, and allowed his students to tape his lecture.

BRYSON: I think the really critical issue is how on earth we are going to have an economic system when you have both an unemployed and therefore badly off; it because the industrial revolution didn't produce massive unemployment.

We at universities have to put our minds to the whole question of evening up and equality, because the real issue is going to necessitate a reorganisation of the whole system.

I always recommend we put out a set of long-term goals and that it may be possible to actually convert somebody to thinking in terms of long-term possibilities. And in the meantime we should think of short-term goals that are consistent with those ...

TURNER: It seems to me to be insane to project a situation in which technology is going to replace the productivity of labor when it's impossible to distribute the products of labor. If we're talking about income we have to think of income in three senses: we have to think of work-derived income, which is traditional income; we have to think of what's called social income, which is community-supplied; and we have to think of domestic income, which is an important part of all our activities - we all paint and repair our own cars, paint our own houses and things like that. In a sense, domestic income is the labor-intensive income; if we project a situation in which we encourage people to maximise their domestic income it might help in equalising access to resources.

Education of future

MCDONELL: Discussions have been taking place over the last six or seven years, principally within some of the larger educational organisations and places like that, on the general theme of recurrent education, life-long education and so on. What is well understood is that at least that has already gone on into what kind of education that consists of.

Some European countries have introduced a formalised system of paid educational leave which enables one to get the major parts of the adult population retrained for at least a year, basically, in some sort of educational system, thereby making space for the unemployed young.

In Australia, one of the ways of talking about these sorts of problems has been to say 'let's have a conference'. The Australian model of how you do that, by and large, has been to provide a public forum for people to talk at one another and put position statements.

There is an alternative model which some of our colleagues in Canberra have used fairly successfully, and that is what they call a 'search conference'.

The method there is to get together a very limited number of people by invitation from a range of interests out of the public forum for three or four days, the object being to get one another and exchange views on an informal basis without any commitments. This enables people from different areas to see each other's perceptions.

False promises

TEICHMANN: We're getting into a dangerous position. We're trying to solve the problems of the world. I thought we were trying to solve the problems of universities.

Seeing that we don't know at the moment how to solve the world's problems and seeing that our universities are not likely to be happy if we suggested to the world's problems and seeing that our universities are not likely to be happy if we suggested to them the way of doing it, of course, would be to do a fairly selfish thing and accentuate our traditional role - perhaps separate ourselves from some of the problems that have accrued to one another and exchange views on an informal basis without any commitments. This enables people from different areas to see each other's perceptions.

This goes back to my view of what a university is - it's got nothing to do with jobs or vocations or things like that. We have no interest in the false promises of giving people jobs and promising them how to give society its answers (seeing that accurate, if not original, things that the answers we give them) and take on - I won't say a defensive position - but an elitist position. We should let all the other parts that have accrued, ac...
Epic traditions traced

The universality of epic poetry is demonstrated by an exhibition being staged in the rare books room exhibition space on the first floor of the Main Library during the summer months.

The exhibition is in two parts, featuring the epic tradition in Eastern and Western literature.

There is practically no nation the literary heritage of which does not include epic or heroic verse, reflecting the large and noble concerns of that society.

The epic is, in form, a long, continuous narrative depicting, as it has been described, "great characters in a great way".

There is often an interplay between the epic and the comedy, particularly in the light of our situation today.

A distinction is made between authentic epics which come down out of manufacturing and the more marginal poetry, which can be attributed to individual poets.

Among the better known are classical epics such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey and religious epics such as Dante's Divine Comedy and Milton's Paradise Lost.

Handsome volumes of these works have been included in the exhibition.

The Asian section, featuring about 35 texts, has been put together by senior lecturer in Indonesian and Malay, Dr L.P. Brakel.

The exhibition marks Dr Brakel's departure from Monash. Next year he takes up a post as a senior lecturer in Austronesian Languages at Hamburg University.

The section features works from Persia, India, Malaysia and Indonesia. The impact of epic poetry on the visual arts is perhaps best demonstrated by the detailed and colorful illustrations accompanying the Hindu texts.

The exhibition is open during Library hours.

Computers — how society will change

Incidentally, to the university to go their own way, sure as they are that they are going to solve their own particular problems.

At the moment we're making things hard for them by imposing a sort of guilt thing on them. They not only have to solve their problems, but they also have to be kosher academically. And, for some reason, we academics feel guilty that we are not able to answer the problems of the world and also to get people jobs. I think we ought to do a little bit of analysis at Borneo.

McNIPP: It only took us 25 minutes to get to the point where people started discussing unemployment. At the moment we're making things hard for them by imposing a sort of guilt thing on them. They not only have to solve their problems, but they also have to be kosher academically. And, for some reason, we academics feel guilty that we are not able to answer the problems of the world and also to get people jobs. I think we ought to do a little bit of analysis at Borneo.

BIRRELL: In the United States there has been a very large expansion in the more marginal services: the more affluent segments of the community are prepared to buy cheap labor in areas like restaurants, home help, etc.

Between April 1973 and March 1978 there were 8.6 million new jobs created in the US — a 10 per cent rate of growth over those five years.

Now a modern economy, if it's in a recessionary phase, can still create jobs. But the sort of jobs being created are not necessarily the sort of jobs that I would regard as 'acceptable'. The less affluent have been exploited in this process.

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I think we've got the emergence of a similar situation in Australia. The unskilled, who are being exploited in this process, are drawn somewhat larger to the more marginal services which support this community? What are the implications of that amount of labor shrinking significantly, as it's going to?

Incidentally, what you are saying Buggoets implies that there's not a job in a bank that a computer couldn't do — and when a bank manager is unemployed, does he want to go off and become somebody's servant? We're not talking about unskilled people who are going to be put out of work — we're talking about the skilled people.

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From previous page

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Under-class created

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Monash ghost of translated King James’

Senior lecturer in English and participant in the ‘Lear Debate’, Philip Martin, claims that playwright, David Williamson, has now turned to translating the Sermon on the Mount, using himself (Martin) as exclusive ghost writer. This is the first draft of the new Matthew 5:1-5, 7:28-29, with an earlier translation (King James’) for comparison.

The new

He took one look at the mob and cleared off up the hill, and his mates went after him.
So he said his piece:
‘Here’s a few things you need to get into your heads.
Don’t knock the poor bastards who haven’t got tickets on themselves:
Somebody’s got a good show lined up for them.
Don’t knock the ones who come on weeping and wailing: things’ll turn out sweet for them, too.
Don’t knock the no-hopers: they’ll take over in the long run, no risk.
And a lot more of the same. When he wound up, the whole crowd said:
‘Have a listen to this will ya? Here’s a bloke who really knows the score.’

The old

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their’s is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:
For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
Family on first visit to a land of studied interest

Australia has loomed large in the lives of Professor Lucien Leclaire's family.

Two years ago Professor Leclaire was one of the first academics in France to pioneer the study of Australian literature and civilization, at the University of Caen where he has been, successively, head of the department of English and Modern Languages.

His daughter, Dr Maryvonne Nedeljkovic, came independently to an interest in Australia, first, as a child through a penfriend in Perth and, later, through university study. Dr Nedeljkovic now lectures at La Man, is chargée de cours at Caen and is doing her thesis for a State doctorate on "Australia through the eyes of British-born writers".

Professor Leclaire has a son working at the University of Rouen who has an interest too in Commonwealth studies, the umbrella under which Australian literature is taught.

Now, Professor Leclaire, his wife and daughter are on their first visit to Australia and recently spent a week at Monash in the English department.

The Australians the family have been seeking during their three month visit are not only that of Melbourne and Sydney, but broadened.

It is also the more primitive, un-sophisticated Australia, the country of bushrangers and adversity, which helped shape "the Australian" of literature — the sort of person who realised that if he was part of the country he could win if he wasn't he was lost; in short, the man who could not merely be a dreamer," says Professor Leclaire, who is interested in examining primary sources and visiting scenes of the works he has been studying.

To this end the family, after arriving in Melbourne and spending a week with a friend, Professor Colin Rotherick, set out on a coach trip taking in Gippsland, Mt Isa, Darwin, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Adelaide, Broken Hill, Armidale, Brisbane, Coff’s Harbour and Canberra, before arriving in Melbourne.

They have not been disappointed in their researches or their hopes.

"Australian people are very much Australian, not English," they agree.

Leclaire holds promise of better relations

The educational activities of the Australian Trade Union Training Authority held good promise for the better operation of trade unions and an improved industrial relations environment.

But TUTA would not achieve these results overnight.

The Dean of the Economics and Politics faculty at Monash, Professor D. Cochrane, said this recently.

Professor Cochrane has been appointed chairman of the executive board and Federal Council of TUTA which conducts training courses for trade unionists at centres in each capital city and at the Clyde Cameron College in Albion/Wodonga.

Professor Cochrane said TUTA's first task was to build a solid system of training programs in "bread and butter" skills, such as bookkeeping, conducting meetings, effective communication, leadership development and the like.

Imaginative

He said that when this was established TUTA might be able to branch into more imaginative educational programs, dealing with diverse issues related to the economy and industrial relations.

He said: "In these, we envisage trade unionists being exposed to as many points of view as possible. I don't believe such issues can be discussed in isolation, so the forums may well involve employers and other interested groups in the community."

Professor Cochrane said the first priority, however, was for TUTA to build up its reputation and gain acceptance from trade unionists.

"They need to have faith in the system. To date, TUTA's activities have received a good reception from a majority of unions."

"What TUTA must avoid is being seen to remove the trade unionists' independence, forcing them in to a mould. This is not its aim."

TUTA was established in 1975 as the first structured, co-ordinated attempt to provide trade union training in Australia. Similar schemes operate in countries such as Germany, Sweden, and the US.

In its first three years the Authority has conducted about 1000 courses for about 18,000 unionists. Most courses are of an average three days duration.

Professor Cochrane's appointment follows a review earlier this year by the Federal Government of the Authority. The review recommended changes to its structure which were legislated for in August.

One of the changes was the appointment of an independent chairman, previously the secretary of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations held the position.

As well as Professor Cochrane, other members of the executive board, responsible for framing TUTA policy, are Arbitration Commissioners, Mr F. Heagney (national director of TUTA), Mr Bob Hawke, Mr Cliff Dolan, Mr John Ducken, Mr Peter Nolan and Mr H. Hausenchild (all of the ACTU), Mr K. H. McLeod (Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Organisa­ tions), Mr J. R. L. Gradwell (Council of Australian Government Employees' Organisation), Mr G. Pollitt (Confederation of Australian Industry), Mr B. K. Keogh (Employ­ ment and Industrial Relations Department) and Mr H. K. Coughlan (Commissioner, Tertiary Education Commission).

Eysenck, Jensen published


The papers — "The nature of intelligence and its relation to learning" by Jensen and "The development of personality and its relation to learning" by Eysenck — were delivered to the Second International Seminar at the University of Melbourne in 1977.

Demonstrators, protesting at earlier war in Cambodia by the psychologists, attempted to break up the seminar, series of lectures by the professor of educational psychology in the Institute of Human Learning at the University of California, Berkeley. Eysenck is professor of psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, London.

In his paper Jensen discusses the nature of intelligence and the educational significance of differences in intelligence. He suggests that current research be taken into account in educational emphasis on pure intel­ ligence in learning.

Eysenck discusses the development of personality and its role in learning. He makes a plea for the teacher to become more aware of current research on personality and its development.

The 1978 issue is the 20th in the "Melbourne Studies in Education" series. It is published by the Monash University Press and recommended retail price is $14.60.
Australian universities and govern­
mental nature, there is also a degree covered by Prof. Stum Harrll of
the future of world minerals and prosed in the chapter by Dr
resources wue . terdependency
nations seeking access to her resources, emerging in the United Nations for tbe
particularly the energy minerals - establishment of a new international
technological capacity.

Andrew Farran, of Monash University,
the Third World.

Problems of rich resources
While the richness of Australia's natural resources raises problems of a
strategic nature, there is also a degree of security in the strong
independence of Australia with its
trading partners. These matters are ex-
plored in the chapter by Dr Robert
O'Neill, Head, Strategic and Defence
Studies Centre, Australian National
University, in his analysis of strategic
concerns. He concludes that resources
diplomacy is not a viable option in
Australian foreign policy, but that
there will be increasing economic
pressure on Australia because of its vital
importance as a resources supplier.

Our relations with Japan are ex-
plored in an interesting chapter by Ben
Smith. He concludes that the
two-way dependence of Australia and
Japan is basically of mutual benefit. He
emphasises that Australia should en-
sure that her resource prices should ac-
curately reflect the value of explo-
ation but that this need not inter-
fer with the development of more
liberal trade policies by both countries.
More on the Lear debate: theatre patrons have their say too

The great debate on King Lear has spread. Discussion about the Alexander Theatre production of the Shakespearean tragedy has now moved to the provinces, and, in these two letters, a Ballarat schoolteacher and one of his pupils give their view.

Sir: I missed Professor Manton's comments on William Shakespeare's "King Lear" but did read Mr Martin's attack and Dr Dilnot's reply (Reporter 6-78, 7-78). My credentials are irrelevant but I hope you may find my comments worthwhile as I write not from the academic boudoir but from a home involved in teaching aspiring undergraduates.

I read the Lear publicity material sent out by the Alexander Theatre Company and chose to bring a group of 40 students (5th and 6th formers) to see it.

To bring students from Ballarat to a production in Melbourne costs about $7 a head — a cost Melbourne teachers do not have to contemplate. With this in mind we read the publicity blurb (on this count I must say that while we found the enthusiasm interesting it was not good grounds for choosing on) and decided to make the trip.

Our reasoning was that with so little literature (especially literature that is demanding of intellectual effort) being done in schools — and this appears to be true not only in Dr Martin's overseas too — the prospect of tackling a play like "Lear" is more than difficult.

You cannot simply ask the kids to read the play and assume that they have understood it. As national Test results show, there is no evidence available to take in straight Shakespeare. And I must confess that I agree with him that there is no Shakespeare but Shakespeare, and Shakespeare is not his disciple!

Given the reasons above, it is not being able to follow even the storyline of a Shakespearean play — and determined that the training of English from students be deprivable of the opportunity of getting a taste of their literary heritage even at HSC level (and also to help boost the numbers of students to keep Mr Martin and his colleagues in jobs — we were glad to see the plans translated into contemporary language because we could use it as a study aid.

For this purpose it is very encouraging. We had very much enjoyed the first two acts in class, laboriously "ex-citing" our way line by line. This is necessary as Shakespeare's language, especially in his later plays, is decided-ly foreign to kids whose vocabulary ranges from "yeah", "terrible", "or-tite" to the "world of today. Theirs no way Reagan's rise to do these bad things" and "Carr, Jerzai". (I exaggerate, but not very much.)

The students, like Mr Martin, found that Shakespeare's version had more, that it was sharper. It had rhythm and language that somehow suited Shakespeare. They returned to the text with a new interest and an increased awareness which was a real gain. The necessary contrast, textually, while the structure was clearer and easier to follow.

Yes, Dr Dilnot — we schoolmasters and schoolmistresses who are up against the Mr Martin cannot imagine (or will not) are very grateful for the opportunity of getting your opponents but by a little praise and some painfully "encouraging" remarks.

I agree with your main argument Mr Martin — that's not sure I'm very happy that I do!

Sir: Speaking as an HSC English literature student, and having seen and greatly enjoyed the play King Lear at the Alexander Theatre, I would like to comment on the controversy over that play which appeared in the Monash Reporter.

First of all, since I am still trying to learn the difference between Shakespeare's (and Philip Martin's) meanings for "confusion", I found David Wall's reply (Reporter 6-78) very helpful in putting such differences into perspective. I feel that without understanding the importance of Shakespeare's language, it is also important for the audience to understand how the play of the other aspects are to be appreciated.

On the other hand, the audience of a translator is expected not to be able to follow even the storyline of a Shakespearean play — and determined that the training of English from students be deprivable of the opportunity of getting a taste of their literary heritage even at HSC level (and also to help boost the numbers of students to keep Mr Martin and his colleagues in jobs — we were glad to see the plans translated into contemporary language because we could use it as a study aid.

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MONASH REPORTER

The next issue of Monash Reporter will be published in the first week of March, 1979.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions for items to be featured in this section are welcomed for the issue (ext. 2005) of the information office, ground floor, University Offices.

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