Rich Victorian dinosaur finds yield firsts

A Monash Earth Sciences student is a member of a team which has made Australia's most exciting recent dinosaur finds — and the first in Victoria for 75 years.

The finds include bones of animals never before known to have existed in this country.

Masters student, Tim Flannery, together with colleagues Rob Glenie and John Long, made the initial discoveries at Eagles Nest, near Inverloch. Expeditions in the coastal area nearby, particularly between Kilcunda and Inverloch, in the last six months have yielded about 40 bones or bone fragments, mostly dating back 110 to 125 million years.

**Bones identified**

The bones have been identified by Ralph Molnar, curator of mammals at the Queensland Museum, and Tom Rich, curator of vertebrate fossils at the National Museum of Victoria. With Tim they are about to publish the first paper on the fossil finds.

Tim says that one of the most exciting discoveries has been a footbone of an Allosaurus, an awesome carnivorous animal some 12 metres long. No other Allosaurus fossil has been identified in Australia.

Other animals identified include less startling forms such as an Hypsilophodontid (a smaller dinosaur about two metres long), a larger herbivorous Ornithopod, lung fish and a turtle of a smaller form than is found today.

The area in which the finds have been made is not a new fossil location. It is the site of Victoria's first and, until this year, only dinosaur bone find — by a State Government geologist, Ferguson, in 1963.

Tim says that the lack of further discoveries in the area was not for the want of trying.

"The area has been worked by every geologist since Noah, looking for huge bones, skulls and the like," he says.

But the site isn't like that. The bones we have retrieved have been fragmented in cross sections of rocks, distinguishable in the first instance by their darker colouring."

The 'big' find

He does not discount the possibility, however, that a "big" find of more articulated bones may still be made.

The area covered by Tim's expeditions has been based on a close study of Ferguson's journals by Rob Glenie.

The rock in which the fossils have been found is lower cretaceous sediment.

The area, although now part of Victoria's coastline, was a freshwater deposit when dinosaurs inhabited it.

The site is believed to have begun 50 to 55 million years ago.

"The team has extended its search to a new location — an area of similar deposition near Cape Otway in western Victoria."

While Tim has become absorbed in the work on dinosaurs it is a sidelight to his Master of Science study on kangaroos, including fossil kangaroos.

He is looking particularly at the adaptation of kangaroos' feet through time to different environments.
Dean takes serve at lawyers

The Dean of Law at Monash, Professor Gerard Nash, has raised doubts about the intelligence of recruiting lawyers and law graduates.

Professor Nash told a student seminar on "The Future of the Legal Profession and the Legal Education" last month: "I believe that too many of today's practitioners, of both law and non-law, and too many of the graduates the law schools are producing today are not intellectually qualified to cope with today's world of law, still less with tomorrow's world."

Professor Nash made similar criticisms in an article in the latest issue of the Law Institute Journal. He said that he expected many in his audience would contend that academic capacity was not really the test of a lawyer and that there was much legal aid and similar work which did not require specialist skills.

He said: "I would agree that academic capacity is not the sole test of the lawyer but minimal academic capacity is a prerequisite without which he could not enter into a good lawyer."

He continued: "Commission is not, of course, judged solely on academic merit. There is more to being a lawyer than absorbing technical information or manipulating that information."

"I believe that a graduate should have the academic capacity to diagnose problems which clients put before him. Across a large area of the law he should understand the basic principles applicable; and in other areas he should be able to discover the present state of the law, to find statutory material and case law in completely new fields, to interpret it and apply it."

The basic principles should be contained in the graduate's head and not in his notes.

"He should also know how to communicate with people, how to deal with facts and how to apply the law to the problems of individuals as revealed by those facts," he said.

"I am not sure that our graduates, even the best of them, have all of those qualities at graduation."

Steps to competence

Professor Nash repeated his support for what some others have described as "backward steps" in legal education, as a means of turning out more competent graduates.

Among these were closed book examinations in the basic subjects to ensure that the student had some knowledge of the law and not merely very well indexed photocopied materials; the reintroduction of university fees; provision of scholarships for, say, the top 20 per cent of students; abolition of TEAS and its replacement with an examination of study skills; and a tightening of exclusion criteria in relation to Bachelor of Laws students.

He said: "It is the duty of the law schools to turn out people who are competent to practise the law and that requires that the student have a capacity for sophisticated thinking."

"The student should also be tested in his basic capacity to handle facts, files and people. These are the three essential daily ingredients of a lawyer's diet; if he is to be a lawyer at all there is no necessary testing of these skills."

To remedy this Professor Nash said that a clinical component should form a compulsory part of the law degree for those wishing to be admitted to practice.

The ideal, he suggested, would be to upgrade the law degree from a five to a five-and-a-half year course, making it the sole requirement for admission to practice.

The fifth year would consist of the Leo Cusson Institute or its equivalent (which is now taken after graduation) followed by the clinical component, leaving some academic studies until the first half of the sixth year.

Professor Nash said that in the absence of this ideal, which would require considerable amendment to the rules of the Council of Legal Education, he would like to see the LL.B. graduate not just his capacity to answer examination questions, "before we let him loose on the public."

Professor Nash said that while he would like to see the LL.B. become a really professional degree (with the Bachelor of Jurisprudence for those who wanted a background in law for purposes other than the practice of law) he did not believe the LL.B. graduate should come out a specialist.

"Specialisation should come after graduation and must be developed through postgraduate education," he said.

Professor Nash said that it was wasteful to turn out more lawyers than the community needed. But, he added, neither the law school nor the University nor the law profession could enter the market and sell what it did not want.

He said: "In view of the relative unreliability of HSC results as a predictor of who will make a good lawyer, to reduce the intake based on those results would appear to be arbitrary and unreasonable and would clearly prejudice a number of people who in the ordinary course make good lawyers in the future."

"We should not restrict entry into the law school in the interests of those already in the law school. We should not restrict output in the interests of those already in the profession."

He said: "I have indicated that if I had a totally free hand uninhibited by outside policies or outside pressures, I would exclude from the LL.B. students who by their performance in the first three years of their course showed an intellectual or personal incapacity to cope with the very high demands which I expect the profession will have to make in the closing decades of this century."

"I did not intend that to mean entry to the profession should be controlled to keep the numbers down. That is not the role of the University in our present society."

"I do believe we should only turn out people who are competent to serve the needs of the community and to have the skills necessary to compete favorably on the employment market."

Professor Nash said that there was a future for the legal profession with new and exciting fields to be conquered.

"The question is whether the academics, and the present and future members of the legal profession, have the vigor and mobility to move into these fields or whether we have lived too long in our fortresses."

The law in focus

Nuclear theft and terrorism threat

The threat of theft and terrorism arising from nuclear proliferation poses possible long term dangers to the fabric of freedom.

Professor of Law at Monash, Professor C. G. Weeramantry, said on a recent ABC Guest of Honour program, "Some Legal Implications of Nuclear Technology."

Professor Weeramantry said that the British Atomic Energy Authority's Special Constabulary was an armed force with the task of arresting those who by their performance in the first three years of their course showed an intellectual or personal incapacity to cope with the very high demands which I expect the profession will have to make in the closing decades of this century."

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Conference venue has busy time

Normanby House - a venue for continuing education activities at Monash - has hosted about 20 conferences since it opened in March.

The conferences have varied in length from one day to one week. Normanby House, formerly Marist College, is managed by the University's Centre for Continuing Education which offers the following services: conferences, seminars, training courses and other educational activities.

As well as University departments, its facilities are available for use by outside groups.

Normanby House, opposite the Halls of Residence in Normanby Road, has 10 meeting rooms, single bedrooms and the latest television, telephone and air-conditioning facilities. It is a welcome addition to the 400 rooms, attractive courtyard and off-street parking for 30 cars.

All the rooms are fully equipped and the services offered and details of rentals and charges are contained in a brochure now available. For information, phone or write to Mr McDonald on 541 0811 ext. 3716 or Mrs Noelle Wengier, on a Tuesday or Friday, on ext. 3309 or 3713.
South Africa: what are the options for future?

Will South Africa spark a conflagration engulfing the African continent and, possibly, the rest of the world? Is there a more optimistic possibility for inevitable change in the white dominated society? What are the limits of peaceful change?

Not new questions, perhaps, but ones which continue to draw the keen and nervous consideration of world leaders. There are questions, too, which have received scholarly attention from Professor Winston Nagan, professor of Law at the University of Florida, Professor Nagan is a visiting Fulbright Scholar in the Monash Law faculty until the end of the year.

South Africa has a special significance for Professor Nagan. He was born in Port Elizabeth and studied for his first degree, a Bachelor of Arts, at the University of South Africa. In 1964, however, he left South Africa "hurriedly."

He explains why he left the country before the authorities could connect me with activities of the National Union of South African Students with which I had become involved.

He has not been back since.

Professor Nagan is now a citizen of the United States and refers to the US as "my country."


In this chapter, Professor Nagan examines the power structure in South Africa, the moves toward change and looks at the country from a comparative perspective. He maps US foreign policy in regard to the country.

Professor Nagan defines the material he marshals to construct two possible models for the country's future: the "most optimistic conquest" and the "most pessimistic constructs". He warns that one will eventuate largely on the role of the South African whites not bound up with notions of Afrikaner nationalism.

In the former prediction he sees, in the first instance, a gradual intensification of violence with outbreaks of terrorism in urban areas directed particularly at the security police informer network.

He predicts that deteriorating security may provoke a strong reaction from a coalition of forces within the white power structure. More enlightened Afrikaners might combine with a business sector committed to a more liberal outlook and key elements in the army to suspend South Africa's racial isolation.

This suspension would be followed by a great convention which would set about drastically dismantling the apartheid security state, instituting a rule of law based on a constitution embodying a Bill of Rights, releasing political prisoners, abolishing all torture, declaring amnesty for all exiles and political prisoners in exile and allowing them to participate in the national convention.

Contained tension

What would emerge from such a convention in the first instance would most probably be a structure in which no group received everything it bargained for.

He says: "It would be a system of controlled tension. The hope would be that wise leadership could yield a greater sense of national purpose than a mere containment of racial tension."

In the "most pessimistic construct", Professor Nagan sees an exodus of whites from South Africa leaving only those dedicated to Afrikaner nationalism and concepts of white supremacy.

To these people, the meaning of the words "compromise" and "negotiation" are unknown. In deciding to "go it alone" he predicts they would seek to maintain their power and authority by the increased use of force.

Professor Nagan says the real danger then lies in the possibility of a major racial war, and in the country's possible use of its nuclear capability. The international implications of such an outcome could, indeed, be far-reaching.

Professor Nagan says the US Government is committed to peaceful change in South Africa and he praises the role of Andrew Young, Ambassador to the United Nations, in sensitizing the US and world public opinion to the issue of human rights in international context.

But he says there are "limits to the possibility of change being achieved peacefully."

The principal limit is imposed by the South African government itself which may refuse or severely limit the advocacy of change by constitutional means - jailing, torturing or exiling those who challenge the system. "To talk about peaceful change or transition in such a setting is to ignore the psychological, social and political facts that underpin the essential nature of apartheid," he says.

Professor Nagan is currently completing a book on Private International Law and the Family - a comparative perspective, the topic of his Yale doctorate.

Private international law is the law which regulates problems which have a foreign element.

At Monash Professor Nagan will conduct seminar sessions on problems in family law.

He views the "family" and "marriage" in a broader perspective than a strictly "legal" definition would allow.

"The family in my country is involved in the major social inventions concerned with the control and regulation of the emotional, material and moral life of the individual. But there are other institutional forms which may do the same thing and these are scientifically studied too. I attempt to examine these forms in a descriptive sense and then ask moral questions."

His wider approach to "the family" and "marriage" enables him to rationally assess such forms as cohabitation, open marriage, contractually limited marriage, group marriage, homosexual and transsexual relationships and the like.

He has coined the description "affection units" rather than "family" to apply to those relationships.

He says: "An affection unit designates a relationship that is comparatively stable, established voluntarily and in which the primary but not exclusive goal is the giving and receiving of affection; that is, the exchange of positive sentiments."

Professor Nagan explains that his approach may have more use in societies (which honour a high degree of cultural pluralism and individual autonomy) where informal de facto relationships appear to be widespread (e.g., the U.S., Sweden), and less use, in, say, Australia.

He says: "In the U.S. there appears to be apprehension about the survival of traditional values and institutions (like the family) as a result of the impact of accelerated social and technological changes."

"While family patterns tend to be relatively stable in Australia, Americans are increasingly asking the question: 'Can the family as traditionally understood, survive?'"

Monash man to head Menzies Foundation

Professor Sir Edward Hughes, chairman of the Monash department of Surgery at the Alfred Hospital, has been appointed foundation honorary director of the Menzies Foundation for Health, Fitness and Physical Achievement.

The Foundation is to be established with funds raised by the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust, set up this year to honor the former Prime Minister who died on May 15, 1978.

The proposal for a Foundation concerned with improving the level of fitness and health in the nation, developing and improving our achievement in sport, and fostering the enjoyment of sport and recreation, was first drawn up by Sir John Loewenthal, of the Department of Surgery at the University of Sydney. Sir John is chairman of the Menzies Trust Foundation.

Sir John suggested a research program into physical medicine and rehabilitation as one method by which the Foundation could achieve its aims. Such research, he said, was at "a low ebb" in Australia.

He suggested that such research should be associated with a major centre of learning and health care — preferably a university teaching hospital.

He said another of the Foundation's tasks should be to launch a public education program.

Satellite talk

The proposed Australian communications satellites, in the news recently, will be one of the topics for discussion at a free public session being organised by the Astronomical Society on Thursday, August 2.

The session will be addressed by Dr Don Kennedy, from the planning branch of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission in Sydney. Mr Kennedy will talk on developments in communication satellites.

The lecture will be held in S3 and start at 1.15 p.m.
A first: two prestigious 1851s in one year

Two Monash students have been awarded prestigious "1851" science research scholarships this year.

They are Hamish McCallum, 22, and Ken Dyall, 24.

Only nine such scholarships are awarded to overseas postgraduate students each year by the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 in London. The awards are open to students who complete a first-class honours degree or diploma.

The successful candidate will be responsible for finding a place in the tertiary institution of her choice. Applications close on September 30 but prospective applicants have been advised they will need to start the application procedure well in advance.

In the first instance those interested should contact the Academic Services Office, Mrs Joan Dawson, on ext. 2555 (in August) or ext. 9911 (in September).

The honorary secretary to the Victorian selection committee, Mr J. D. Butchart, the Academic Registrar, will conduct interviews during August and September. Applicants are advised to apply on the method of application.

Last year's Calyx Woman Graduate of the Year scholarship in Victoria was awarded to Monash science graduate, Wendy Watts. Wendy secured entry to Cambridge University where she will be studying for a Ph.D.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now open for 1851 Rhodes Scholarships.

The scholarships are tenable for up to three years at Oxford University. Students who expect to complete their first degree this year and who will be under 25 on October 1, 1980 are eligible to apply.

Scholarship benefits include a 2500 pounds a year allowance, college fees and travel expenses.

Students interested in applying should contact the Academic Registrar's secretary, Miss V. Kxwaddle, on ext. 2008, before August 17.

The Reporter presents below a précis of details of other scholarships for which applications are currently open.

More information can be obtained from the respective scholarships office, ground floor, University Offices, ext. 8066.

August 1979

Applications open for Woman Graduate of Year scholarship

Applications are now being invited for the Calyx Woman Graduate of the Year Scholarship.

The scholarship — one is awarded in each state and the ACT — is tenable at a university or tertiary institution overseas or, in appropriate circumstances, in Australia.

The scholarship is for a maximum of two years and is worth $8000 a year.

Criteria for selection include: high scholastic attainment; the ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing; social awareness; achievements in other than the academic arena; sense of purpose; and potential for future influence on the Australian community.

The conditions of eligibility are:

- Candidates must be Australian female citizens or have resided continuously in Australia for seven years.
- Candidates must be students, of any age, who will complete a degree or diploma in Australia or its territories contributing to the advancement of Australian science.
- The successful candidate will be selected by the Academic Registrar on the basis of the academic merit of the candidate.

The scholarship is for a maximum of two years and is worth $5000 a year.

In normal circumstances, preference will be given to those who have completed a first degree or diploma.

The successful candidate will be responsible for finding a place in the tertiary institution of her choice.

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Last year's Calyx Woman Graduate of the Year scholarship in Victoria was awarded to Monash science graduate, Wendy Watts. Wendy secured entry to Cambridge University where she will be studying for a Ph.D.


The award is made for work done mainly in Australia or its territories contributing to the advancement of Australian science. Nominations close with the Academic Registrar on Friday, August 10.

Archbishop Mannix Travelling Scholarship

Open to graduates for two years postgraduate study overseas. Value $8000 p.a. Applications close at Melbourne University, September 30.

Gawrie Postgraduate Research Scholarship

For graduates. Tenable for up to two years. $2500 p.a. in Australia, $2700 p.a. overseas. Applications close on October 31.

National Heart Foundation — Vacation Scholarship

Applicable to undergraduates to undertake research projects related to cardiovascular diseases. Two students of each type, 12 week periods. Applications close October 1.

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This is especially to the kind of problems envisaged in the Williams Report, he said.

Sir Richard said that the impact of the problems of the 1980s would vary from institution to institution, and that it was necessary to innovate in some directions if the institution was not to stagnate.

"Overall, there is likely to be a diminution of the scale of activity, but some universities will feel it less than others," he said.

"But even where there is no actual shrinkage imposed, the necessity to innovate in some directions if the institution is to be rejuvenated will itself exert pressure to eliminate or reduce some other areas of activity."

"Existing machinery for the allocation of resources can be expected to cope with most of these problems," he said, "but in the last resort, if it does not, Council will have to decide.

"What is more important, it is Council's duty to protect the weak and underprivileged, and if in the reallocation some important activity seems to be losing ground because in the academic sphere it does not carry a big enough punch, there should be watchdogs who will ensure that the public interest is not sacrificed."

The increasing 'industrialisation' of academic trade unions presents problems of another sort, with potentially serious financial implications, and perhaps equally serious problems of morale."

Industrial relations important

Sir Richard said industrial relations were becoming a more and more important aspect of university government.

"Some years ago I commented on the relative freedom of academics from the tyranny of the clock," he said.

"I am very much in favor of the theory that if great work is to be done in universities, that sort of freedom must be preserved.

"In every organisation there will be found some who abuse their privileges, and it may be easier to do so in a university atmosphere than in a manufacturing or commercial operation, where output can more easily be measured."

"But," he warned, "if academic staff continue to insist that their activities should be considered as industrial, it will be necessary for governing bodies to consider whether correlative obligations should not be laid on the academic staff, and the first freedom which is likely to come under scrutiny is the freedom to stay away from the institution."

Sir Richard said public disenchantment with higher education had made it impossible for universities to set their own standards and expect the public to accept their decision.

A substantial part of the Williams Report is devoted to a consideration of the efficiency of tertiary institutions and to the measures which can and should be taken for the assessment of efficiency, not only to the staff, but of the institution as a whole," he said.

"This involves such matters as the evaluation of courses, the investigation of attrition rates and their relationship to entrance requirements, the training of lecturers in the art of educating, and the assessment of their performance, and similar matters.

"Initiatives in these matters may come from academic boards, but if they do not, it is the responsibility of Councils to take a hand."

Sir Richard said there were internal constraints on the ability of governing bodies to meet these problems.

The first was the traditional reluctance to interfere with the decisions of academic boards. He believed this reluctance tend to disappear under the pressure of events.

The second, which was more difficult, was the constraint imposed by the nature and composition of the Council.

"Councils are already large to the point of being unwieldy," he said.

"But we need a greater number of laymen to man the committees which will have to do the work, and the more 'representative' the Council becomes, the more difficult it is to make detached and responsible decisions."

Self-evaluation praised

There was much to be said for the view that evaluation of the academic work of universities was best left to the institutions themselves, Professor P. H. Partridge, Chancellor of Macquarie University, told the conference.

He said there were great difficulties in seeing how external authorities, especially statutory bureaus, could gain the confidence of institutions concerned sufficiently to make the enterprise feasible.

Professor Partridge said he saw great merit in the well organised systematic reviews of sections and aspects of a university's work that the Australian National University had been carrying out.

"The institutionalising of internal inquiry, criticism, evaluation does, I think, tend to erode the confidence of institutions concerned sufficiently to make the enterprise feasible." He said he had been involved in one such ANU review, into the Faculty of Asian Studies.

"I thought the inquiry was amazingly free and thorough, the discussion of strengths and weaknesses, even of personalities within the faculty, amazingly frank," Professor Partridge said.

"That kind of organised internal assessment has great very great promise indeed and it seems to me, to promise quite valuable results."

In the discussion which followed, the Chairman of the Tertiary Education Commission, Professor P. H. Hartnell, said the TEC had some funds for evaluative studies and it would like to encourage the sort of reviews the ANU had been doing.

The TEC had received only one proposal for a similar type of review, and it was going ahead. He expressed the hope that there would be more.

"In particular, if 'industrial' problems press in on us as they have been doing, there will need to be some funds available, on which staff members are not represented and have no right to attend as observers."

Sir Richard said the third constraint is one which may not be so acute in some universities as in others.

"If the tasks that have been foreshadowed are to be undertaken, it will be necessary to devise machinery, where it does not already exist, to enable independent consideration by the Council of policy matters now either handled by academic boards or not handled at all by anybody," he said.

"Sometimes it will suffice to appoint an ad hoc committee. We have such a committee at Monash reviewing the whole question of university government, starting with the headship of departments.

"Is there, however, a case for the creation of a permanent Education Committee of Council, charged with the responsibility of reporting to Council on the sort of questions I have been discussing?"

"I do not, of course, mean to suggest that such a committee should not have academic representation, nor that the views of the academic board should not be sought at all stages.

"What we do need is a body on which lay members of Council can participate in a study in depth of the important problems that lie ahead.

"At the same time, we do not want to interpose a new committee in the consideration of matters that are quite adequately dealt with now by the normal processes."
The Education Minister speaks:

Staffing problems a present ‘inevitability’

Universities and colleges faced some very real problems, particularly in the areas of staffing, said the Minister for Education, Senator J. L. Carrick, told the conference.

“Overestimates in teacher training programs has been achieved in past years and today, resulting from current economic conditions. In Australia, we have tended towards a more stable program. This is conducive to an atmosphere of reflection and reform. The vital element for the tertiary area is the current restoration of triennial funding for recurrent purposes. This enables sound forward planning. Recurrent funding will be constant in real money terms in universities, colleges and schools in 1980. Against this background, essential reforms may be achieved.”

Senator Carrick said the Williams Committee had made some valuable predictions of educational populations and expenditures in the decades ahead. “They will be very useful references,” Senator Carrick said. “At their modest they contemplate significant increases in expenditure.”

Senator Carrick recalled that the Williams Committee had stated: “Education is a continuing and changing process and it should be kept under continuing review.”

All under scrutiny

Senator Carrick said: “This is a job for us all. We are all under public scrutiny, as to the relevance of our work and its basic quality. “Australia has a university system of world standard. Against that background, we should not be reluctant to confess the defects that are there and that can be rectified.”

Senator Carrick said the Williams Committee had not recommended significant structural changes, placing its emphasis on reform by constructive evolution. However, it had not captured the headlines, but nevertheless the Williams reforms would make a massive impact on the whole education spectrum.

He said he fully agreed with the report’s emphasis on the special nature of universities and its aim of seeking to preserve and strengthen universities in their discrete character.

IN BRIEF...

Protect strong

University governing bodies should protect the strong researchers from the weak — their steed of excellence from their mud huts of mediocrity.

That is the view of Professor Brian Anderson, who spoke on The Research Role of the University. Professor Anderson, Professor of Electronic Engineering at the University of Newcastle, is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and a member of the Australian Science and Technology Council.

Professor Anderson stated that protecting the strong researchers from the weak often amounted to protecting the less political members of the university from the more political. And that could even mean protecting people of whom university administrators saw little from people they saw a lot of.

Professor Anderson said that in telling effective check list of questions which he commended to university governing bodies: “What meetings do you have with your best researchers? Are they only when jostling in an academic procession on graduation day, or, before every council meeting. Some meetings I believe are highly desirable if you are to really understand the hopes of your researchers.”

Employer links

Stronger bridges should be built between employers and universities, Professor F. R. Jevons, Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, told the conference.

But because there would not be a dramatic increase in the resources devoted to careers advisory posts in current economic circumstances, the most realistic way to strengthen careers advisory functions would be to draw more academic staff into the field.

Professor Jevons said there should be a two-way influence between universities and employers.

“Universities can persuade employers to recruit more graduates they would not if not being bumped nongraduates a few rungs further down the ladder of job opportunities but they would be improving the performance of the whole system.”

They would therefore be serving the common good not merely the interests of one sector of the population at the expense of another sector.

As for the academic side, I believe if there were greater awareness of the labour market among university staff it would become recognised that the distinction between liberal and vocational education is one that it is better to blur than sharpen.”

The Governor-General’s view:

Merit must be given good university teachers

The Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, made a plea for greater recognition of good teachers in universities, when he opened the Conference of University Governing Bodies.

Sir Zelman, a former President of the Australian Education Council, said that throughout his years at universities he had been deeply concerned with the importance of teaching.

“My experience overseas, in Oxford and in the great American law schools, was one in which the best and most distinguished committed themselves to undergraduate teaching roles,” he said.

“With us, it was said by some, that in promotion and academic reward terms, there was inadequate encouragement for teaching. It was said that ‘teaching’ quality could not be measured, as a written research output could be measured, both quantitatively and qualitatively.”

Sir Zelman said that “there has to be some system of reward for the dedicated teaching and mentor service which enlivens and commits students, and which sets them on the path from which honours, postgraduate and research students emerge, so as to give meaning to the proclaimed role of the modern university.”

He said: “I believe that there is the importance of and emphasis on honours and postgraduate work and research as a central and distinctive activity and role of universities, but it must not be allowed to devalue the importance of the undergraduate work that the university undertakes.

“Specifically, I believe that the most eminent, the best and the most experienced members of the academic body should play an important and committed role in the teaching of undergraduates.”

August 1979

MONASH REPORTER
The keynote address

INCREASED FUNDS A KEY TO IMPROVED QUALITY OF UNIVERSITIES: WILLIAMS

It would be a formidable undertaking to improve the quality of universities during the next 20 years, Professor Bruce Williams told the conference.

Professor Williams, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, was the Chairman of the Commonwealth Committee of Inquiry into Education, Training and Employment and the keynote speaker at the conference.

Referring to the problem of improving the quality of universities, Professor Williams said finance was an essential instrument of policy and there was a need to increase it.

"Councils and academic boards will need to give a more concentrated and explicit attention to objectives, to the essential features of university autonomy and academic freedom, and to ways of meeting the expectation of existence of available resources," he said.

"And Councils would be well advised to give more attention to keeping their income and their expenditure consistent with a press towards openness and increasing the awareness of the nature of their stewardship.," he continued.

Professor Williams said there had been a tendency in recent years for the Commonwealth Government to provide larger grants for universities by demanding that they be more accountable.

"The effectiveness of the concern of universities for reason, for the adventure of ideas, for the search for truth depends on a substantial measure of autonomy," he said.

"The best safeguard of that autonomy is effective performance in terms of university values and a capacity to establish it.

"The committee concluded that Councils of universities have not been sufficiently active, or thoughtful, in reviewing performances and in establishing -- as far as it lies within their powers to do so -- optimal conditions for effective performance."

Performance check list

"The committee had no difficulty in agreeing that there is no simple way to evaluate the quality and efficiency of the system, but it provided a check list of issues to be considered and of questions to be asked and, possibly, answered."

"It is not only the persistent calls for inappropriate forms of accountability that will place a greater and more difficult burden on the governing bodies of universities."

"The problems of small growth in the number of students and staff will make it much more difficult than in the past 30 years to change curricula, to introduce new subjects, to recruit the brightest young scholars and researchers of each generation -- at a time when it is reasonable to expect that knowledge will expand rapidly and that in the process many established theories will be disestablished."

Professor Williams said one answer to the question of how the committee viewed the evolution of universities till the end of the century, was that it envisaged the completion of the move started by the Murray Committee report towards a higher proportion of honours and post-graduate students, and towards a greater emphasis on research activities.

He said the committee's emphasis on research students and the research activities of staff was explained partly by the importance of research applied to new technologies, to the improvement of the environment, health and social life generally.

It was also partly explained by the importance to university life of the challenge of unsolved intellectual problems, however far solutions might appear to be remote from established "practical problems."

"The balance between the two aspects of research policy is unlikely to be the same in all universities, but it is important to sustain both activities," he said.

"That is why we advocated bigger basic university research grants and ARGC grants as well as second tier URG grants and an increase in sponsored research projects."

Caution urged on funding scrutiny

A leading British educationist, Dr William Taylor, warned the conference of dangers which could follow a too successful investigation of the way grants are allocated to universities.

Dr Taylor, who is Director of the University of London Institute of Education, came to Australia specifically to address the conference.

He said demands for greater openness were commonplace at present, and everyone was in favour of more open government and administration. But there was a need to be careful.

"I understand your Public Accounts Committee is currently examining the work of the Tertiary Education Commission," he said.

"There is considerable pressure on such organisations to be more open in is representation with a press towards openness and increasing the awareness of the nature of its stewardship."

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How the $ is spent

Dr Taylor put considerable stress on the fact that fundamental changes take place in content of higher education within apparently unchanged structures.

This kind of change was continuous, he said.

"As the research findings appear, the books are written, the beneficiaries of the已是 obsolete leave their posts, so intellectual paradigms are modified, content and methodology adapted, syllabuses and examination papers rewritten."

This ongoing process never makes the headlines, seldom forms the subject of even a chapter in the Report of a Committee of Inquiry. But without some measure of political understanding of and sympathy for the internal dynamics of change in the university, the most well intentioned structural reforms are likely to fail to achieve their purposes.

"Our administrative concern with form rather than content allows the discussion of change in the universities to be dangerously over-simplified in terms of conflict between traditionalists and progressives, conservatives and reformers."

"In fact, the experience of university or college for the individual student is little affected by the great debates on organization and control, on sources of funds and patterns of administration."

"For students, what matters is the quality of the academic encounter with teachers, the nature of relationships within classroom or department, the extent to which what is spoken, read, practiced, demonstrated and discussed represents the best of current knowledge and understanding in a field of inquiry, and the chance to advance to a future occupation and personal identity."

Body to assess value for money

The Federal Parliament's Public Accounts Committee would not just be concerned with looking at audited accounts when it began its investigation into the funding of tertiary education in Australia.

This view was expressed by Professor P. H. Karmel, Chairman of the Tertiary Education Commission, during discussions at the conference.

Professor Karmel entered the debate after the view had been expressed that the PAC would mainly be concerned with looking at accounts, and would not be involved in attempting to assess quality.

Professor Karmel said: "The PAC is concerned with looking to see whether the Commonwealth is getting value for money. It is not concerned with auditing financial statements."

He said it would be asking whether the money provided by the Commonwealth was being spent in an economical way and whether institutions were meeting their objectives by producing quality graduates and quality research.

"The PAC will go to the heart of those matters," Professor Karmel said.

Mr Justice Smithers, Chancellor of La Trobe University, said he did not understand how the PAC was going to determine whether they were getting value for money.

"If universities had to be trusted, they did a tremendous amount of work which no one could be made to do. The universities in some cases could have done some things, to evade an attitude of integrity."

MONASH REPORTER

August 1979
The shape of libraries will change dramatically in the next few years, according to Monash University Librarian, Mr Brian Southwell.

"The time is coming when libraries will no longer be collections of books in particular buildings," he said. "The fuzzy edges of the buildings are going to get fuzzier; our books will be in more places... other people's books will be in ours. Our staff may even be in other places."

Mr Southwell was addressing a joint Staff Associations' meeting on 'Employment in universities and new technology' on July 4. He answered a series of questions on the implications for employment in libraries of the introduction of joint systems for automated cataloguing through CAVAL (Co-operative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries).

Mr Southwell said that CAVAL offered considerable advantages in reducing cataloguing chores, in opening up access to other libraries.

'Push-button' service?

As more and more catalogues were committed to machine-readable form, the time would come when staff in one library would not even have to visit the library to see if a book was in stock. Copies of the catalogue could be placed in every department and it would be possible to learn the whereabouts of a given volume "simply by pressing a button".

An immediate staffing effect of the developing system would be that fewer people would be required to maintain and update cumbersome card indexes but, depending upon the rate at which changes came about, it was expected that "natural attrition" would solve any problems of redundancy.

Mr Southwell said that currently two groups in the library were looking at possible future staffing problems.

One was the committee on staff training, a group of middle-level staff, that had been set up to study what retraining might be necessary. This committee was getting full cooperation from the library administration and had been promised every possible help from Staff Branch.

The second group consisted of those staff members most likely to be affected — the typing pool and cataloguing staff — who had been asked "to meet and discuss the problem and let the library administration see what it looks like from their point of view and what they would like done."

"Although they've only had preliminary meetings so far, the answer is coming loud and clear: most of them will want retraining in other areas of the library," Mr Southwell said.

Mr Southwell said there were a number of possibilities for redeployment where people could use their existing skills; others where skills would need to be altered, in some cases very slightly.

Professor Bruce West, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, said that the development of the CAVAL system was primarily designed with one aim in view: to improve the teaching and research function of the University by making access to current literature easier and more efficient for the teaching and research staff.

"But this University, along with all others, is being ground between two millstones: one being the funds it is being given to operate on, and the other is the problem of how the expenditure of those funds relates to the total bill for staffing salaries. And that raises exactly the problem we are talking about today."

Answering a question on the introduction of the ISIS (Integrated Staff Information System), Professor West said that throughout the whole process of improving the recording of essential staff information every effort had been made to ensure that employment in the University was provided to people likely to become redundant.

"I am informed that, in fact, this has been virtually completely successful over the 10 or so years during which the various changes have been taking place," he said.

The union view

Earlier, the meeting was addressed by Ms Anne Forward, Vice-Federal President of the Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, on the unions' view of the new technology.

She said that, while computer technology offered tremendous benefits to those who laboured and there was an undeniable increase in productivity, the rate at which changes were taking place was causing disruption in the workplace.

"Unions particularly are concerned about the impact of technology because we haven't worked out how to adapt to the changes that it will bring about," Ms Forward said.

"In general, higher education has less to fear from these quarters than most other sections of society," he said. "But the effect on academics is limited... other people's books will be in ours. Our staff may even be in other places."
Screening out prejudice

Television in a multicultural society such as Australia must reflect the multicultural nature of such a society, Associate Professor Michael Clyne told a recent Monash workshop on ethnic TV.

It should reflect the origins of the people in that society, he said, and not just provide news from Australia, the US and UK, which happens at present on most of our television channels.

"It is absolutely vital for a well-informed Australian community that we receive news and information from countries other than Australia, the US and UK," he said.

"There are so many important events in lots of other countries that are totally ignored when quite trivial matters are discussed in great detail on the traditional news services."

The workshop, on Television in a Multicultural Australia, was organised by the Centre for Migrant Studies at Monash to initiate discussion on ethnic TV, which has just completed a 13-week trial period.

Dr Clyne said it was important to recognise that television was the most important medium today through which ideas, thoughts, attitudes and prejudices were communicated.

'Most important' medium

Many of the films we see on commercial TV are second, third and even fifth-rate films from the United States, he said.

Surely it should be possible, he said, to obtain high-quality feature films from European and Asian countries — the source of many migrants — for presentation on television. The films could be presented with sub-titles.

Some people had claimed that Australians would not accept sub-titled TV films, he said.

"I find this hard to believe," he said. "Do any countries have accepted them?"

As examples, he cited the Scandinavians, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

These are among the countries that have developed the highest standard of multilingualism in Europe, he pointed out.

Dr Clyne said films such as these would be welcomed by migrants, and by the children of migrants who have the chance of a much more direct contact with the cultural language of their parents.

The films would also help to break down cultural stereotypes — one of the most important things that television could do.

"I am afraid there are a lot of commercial television stations that have programs that have the opposite effect," he said.

Experimental ethnic television had not been altogether successful either in breaking down false ideas about different ethnic groups, he said.

Dr Clyne said there was a need in Australia for programs on ethnic issues and informative programs for recently arrived migrants.

He suggested as an example a program comparing the Australian school system with the school system in other countries. This would provide information and also "some kind of interaction between the European or Asian experience and the Australian experience."

Special programs for ethnic groups should help alleviate all sorts of problems of the second and later generations, he said.

Discussing the innovative role of ethnic television, Dr Clyne said feature films from Europe and Asia and documentaries on issues in other countries were areas where ethnic TV could take the lead. This type of program might then gradually find its way to other channels.

"There is a need to see ethnic television as a means of representing those aspects of multi-culturalism and multilingualism which are not being dealt with at present by ordinary channels," he said.

"Particularly, with a view to innovation, because it is only to be hoped that in the future all television channels will develop in that direction."

Med. student awarded German prize

Geologists, it may be supposed, are earthy types. But students and staff in the Earth Sciences department proved last month that, when occasion demands, they can play lords and ladies. The occasion which found bowlers and long focks among the rocks was a fund raising effort for the department's social club. From left: Christopher Maree, Ian Clarke and Lesley Harland engage in chit-chat about an interesting little conversation piece.
New interim rules

Monash University has adopted an interim set of rules governing "Outside Studies Programs", which will take the place of existing provisions for Study Leave. Council accepted Staff Committee recommendations outlining the new arrangements at its meeting on July 9.

It also adopted a companion set of rules concerning "Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas".

Monash Reporter publishes in full the new interim rules before the date of commencement will be considered only in special circumstances.

1. APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be made on a prescribed form, endorsed by the Head of Department and the relevant Dean. The form shall be submitted to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) within four months of the date of any proposed absence.

(b) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks. Applications for purposes other than conferences and field work shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(c) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(d) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

2. LEAVE EXCLUDED FROM THE OUTSIDE STUDIES PROGRAM

(a) Leave taken in accordance with the University's leave provisions is not excluded from the Program. Leave taken for any other purpose is not excluded from the Program.

(b) Leave taken for any other purpose is not excluded from the Program.

(c) Leave taken for any other purpose is not excluded from the Program.

(d) Leave taken for any other purpose is not excluded from the Program.

(e) Leave taken for any other purpose is not excluded from the Program.

3. ELIGIBILITY

(a) Eligibility for outside studies and field work is determined by the University's leave provisions and not the Outside Studies Program.

(b) Eligibility for outside studies and field work is determined by the University's leave provisions and not the Outside Studies Program.

(c) Eligibility for outside studies and field work is determined by the University's leave provisions and not the Outside Studies Program.

(d) Eligibility for outside studies and field work is determined by the University's leave provisions and not the Outside Studies Program.

(e) Eligibility for outside studies and field work is determined by the University's leave provisions and not the Outside Studies Program.

4. APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be made on a prescribed form, endorsed by the Head of Department and the relevant Dean. The form shall be submitted to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) within four months of the date of any proposed absence.

(b) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(c) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(d) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(e) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

5. LEAVE TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND UNDERTAKE FIELD WORK WITHIN AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS

(a) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(b) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(c) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(d) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(e) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(a) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(b) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(c) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(d) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

(e) Applications to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia and overseas shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than eight weeks.

7. LEAVE TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND UNDERTAKE FIELD WORK WITHIN AUSTRALIA

(a) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(b) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(c) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(d) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(e) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

8. CONFERENCES

(a) Conferences shall be defined as those attended by members of staff only.

(b) Conferences shall be defined as those attended by members of staff only.

(c) Conferences shall be defined as those attended by members of staff only.

(d) Conferences shall be defined as those attended by members of staff only.

(e) Conferences shall be defined as those attended by members of staff only.

9. FIELD WORK

(a) Field work shall be defined as that undertaken within the University's jurisdiction and not abroad.

(b) Field work shall be defined as that undertaken within the University's jurisdiction and not abroad.

(c) Field work shall be defined as that undertaken within the University's jurisdiction and not abroad.

(d) Field work shall be defined as that undertaken within the University's jurisdiction and not abroad.

(e) Field work shall be defined as that undertaken within the University's jurisdiction and not abroad.

10. LEAVE TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND UNDERTAKE FIELD WORK WITHIN AUSTRALIA

(a) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(b) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(c) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(d) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.

(e) Leave to attend conferences and undertake field work within Australia shall be considered only if the proposed absence is for no more than four weeks.
Prodding the ass from the law

"If the law supposes that... the law is a ass,—a idiot."

Perhaps Mr Bumble, in Oliver Twist, was overstating the legislative Council aim to prune away as much as possible of the dead wood of laws governing Victoria.

Typical of the dead wood, for example, are some of the laws governing our observance of Sunday. Dated 1777, the relevant Act prohibits any person over 14 years of age from working on the Lord's day (five being the fine for the offence); any selling of "wares merchantable, fruit, herbs goods or chattels;"

any "drover horseman waggoner butcher his or any of their servants" from travelling (2/- for that offence); and the "crying or selling of milk" before 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m.

Britain removed the Act from its statute books in 1969 but it has not been repealed in Victoria. Such laws are quaint, no doubt, but still open for application in our courts, making the term "dead and something of a misnomer.

In 1977 the Victorian Supreme Court held that a centuries-old common law rule (abolished in England in 1771) which effectively gave stray cows the right of way over cars was still the law here. The motor cyclist who collided with a cow on a country road was not entitled to damages from the animal's owner.

The three Bills currently before Parliament—designed to remove Acts which are "redundant, repugnant or irrelevant"—are based on recommendations made by the Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee.

The Committee in turn based most of its recommendations on a Monash research associate in Law, Mrs Gretchen Kewley, who, with the aid of a grant from the Victoria Law Foundation, spent two years from 1973 to 1975 examining the laws covered by the Imperial Acts Application Act 1922.

That Act was the first step in rationalising the many thousands of British statutes which Victoria inherited. It was drafted by the Supreme Court judge, Sir Leo Cussen, who spent seven years from 1915 to 1922 working in his spare time reviewing more than 7000 Imperial Acts to determine their applicability in the State of Victoria.

Two schedules

The Imperial Acts Application Act 1922 repealed some of the old British Acts and re-enacted others into State law. But Sir Leo left two schedules of Acts of which the application in Victoria was uncertain or which he felt should be preserved. No detailed examination of the 130 Acts listed in these two schedules was made for more than 50 years—until Mrs Kewley's study.

As she states in her report, her aim was "to recommend for retention only those English Acts which are undoubtedly in operation in Victoria or with which the Victorian law is so inextricably bound that to repeal them would be impossible".

The fruits of Mrs Kewley's and the Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee's work are the Imperial Acts of which the application to Victoria of which the application to Victoria of which are still of use and benefit to Victoria. Some of these statutes are being retained for their historical and constitutional significance; others because it is not appropriate to repeal them.

Left untouched are such statutes as Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights—statutes, as Mrs Kewley puts it, which are the foundation of the rest of our laws.

The Imperial Acts Re-enactment Bill is designed to enact in modern form and transfer into current Victorian legislation various imperial provisions which are still of use and benefit to Victoria.

Both bills, when enacted into law, will achieve also the result of terminating the application to Victoria of a great number of imperial laws which are no longer useful or necessary in this State.

The need for such a bill arises from the fact that the Victorian Parliament does not have legislative power over Acts which were passed for Victoria or for the colonies in general by the British Parliament. Such Acts are referred to as "Acts of paramount force".

The Commonwealth acquired the power to amend or repeal paramount Acts by virtue of the Statute of Westminster of 1931, but it did not apply to the States.

The most direct way of repealing obsolete paramount Acts is for Westminster to do so. Some of the statutes considered obsolete have, in fact, been repealed by Britain—but only for Britain.

V.C. to open new arts and crafts building

The new Monash Arts and Crafts Centre—future home of the Summer School and semester creative arts courses—will be officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, at 2 p.m. on Open Day.

Completion of the centre, north of the Union, marks the end of a decade of planning which began when the Fine Arts Club offered its first classes in 1968.

The program has grown considerably since then. Each year thousands of students, staff and members of the general public participate in arts and crafts classes at Monash which is acknowledged as having the largest Summer School program in Australia.

The new centre will enable the Union to increase the range of classes for Winter. It will also provide the opportunity for creative enrichment of many additional groups, such as clubs and organisations, from outside the University. The centre has the potential to accommodate 700 people at one time.

At the core of the building is a large octagonal gallery set in an enclosed garden courtyard. The gallery will house displays of quality student work and also visiting displays.

Radiating from this core are eight major studios and ancillary areas specifically designed for each group of arts and crafts.

The major studios are ones for pottery, glassworking, life drawing and painting, oriental arts (complete with brushes and cushions for students), jewellery and silversmithery, weaving and spinning, sewing and painting.

Each has fittings tailored to the craft's needs. On Open Day in the Arts and Crafts Centre there will be craftsmen at work and an exhibition in the gallery will highlight the best current and past student work. This exhibition will be on show throughout August.

The public will be able to obtain information about the forthcoming Summer School courses, enrolments for which open on October 25.

This year 72 courses will be offered and, in addition to arts and crafts, subjects will include language studies, dance and drama, music, self defence, typing, motor maintenance, computer programming and accounting for small businesses.

The Constitutional Powers (Request) Bill is possibly the most interesting of the Bills, designed as it is to make Victoria, only now, master of its own statute book.

The need for such a Bill arises from the fact that the Victorian Parliament does not have legislative power over Acts which were passed for Victoria or for the colonies in general by the British Parliament. Such Acts are referred to as "Acts of paramount force".

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Little enthusiasm

The British Parliament has shown little enthusiasm for spending its time pursuing the legislative interest of Victoria or any of its former colonies.

Thus Victoria is left with obsolete legislation it cannot get rid of. But under this third bill a "back door" may be opened.

Under a little known and little used section of the Australian Constitution, s. 51 (30), the Commonwealth Parliament, at the request or with the concurrence of a State, can pass laws which, before Federation, would have had to be passed by the British Parliament.

Victoria will ask the Commonwealth Parliament to pass legislation to give it power over its own statute books.

Drama for two disciplines

Two Monash departments—Philosophy and Mathematics—will make a dramatic union on Open Day.

Members of both departments will join in the presentation of the play "Language Takes a Holiday", written and directed by Maths lecturer, Dr Aidan Sudbury.

The play, to be performed at Monash College starting at 2.30 p.m., is of interest to both disciplines as it takes as a theme logical paradoxes.

The storyline sounds enticing: An overworked philosopher, Prof. Fist, takes a Cretan holiday and is tormented by various logical paradoxes before succumbing to the conspicuous charms of a masseuse named Aphrodite.

Senior lecturer in Mathematics, Neil Cameron, will play Fist and first year Ph.D. student, Elżbieta Sokolowska, will play Aphrodite.

Assistant the production is Di Trelaor, of student theatre.

The play, which has a running time of about three-quarters of an hour, will be followed by discussion and refreshments.

Plans are being made for further performances on campus.

August 1979
500 fences here for World Titles

About 500 competitors from 30 countries will meet at Monash this month for the World Fencing Championships. The Championships, being held in Australia for the first time, will run from August 18 to 28. All sessions are open to the public. Preliminary rounds will start at 8.30 a.m. each day at the Monash Sports Centre with the finals, in the evening, in Robert Blackwood Hall.

Eight titles are to be decided: men's and ladies' foil, epee and sabre, individual and team events.

The first final, men's foil, will be held on August 19 and will be preceded by the official opening of the Championships by the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen.

Attention will be paid to performances in these Championships particularly: this time next year much the same line-up will be competing in Moscow at the Olympic Games. But there is the all-important selection process before then.

Competitors will start arriving in Melbourne on August 12 and will be housed in the Halls of Residence during their stay.

Eastern-bloc countries, Russia, Hungary and Rumania are favorites for most of the titles but France, Italy and Germany are considered strong contenders.

Other countries have specific strengths. Sweden is fielding its world title team in epee and Cuba has a strong Russian-trained sabre contingent so a pupil versus teacher clash is a possibility.

Australia, with home crowd advantage, has a strong chance of honors in Monash. Will be established by Greg Benko, and Ernie Simon. Both are fresh back from training in the US. The ladies' foil team will be one to watch, too, with strong and experienced fencers anxious to justify the fielding of a full team for Moscow.

Tickets for Championships sessions are available through BASS ticket agencies (there is one at the Alexander Theatre).

For further information contact Caryl Oliver on 49 1169.

A comedy for the legion of long-suffering clockwatchers

"Can't talk now, Mum," says the young lady on the telephone. "It's ten o'clock.

The Public Service: true or false?

A play to be presented at the Alexander Theatre from August 15 to September 8 takes a not-too-serious look at life in the Public Service.

The play is billed "Flexitime", the meaning of which is defined by one of the characters: "Of course I understand Flextime—we start late and finish early!"

Proceeds from the run of the play are to go to the Concern, a group booking for which Cathy has organised a group booking. "Flexitime" tickets cost $6 for adults. Special concessions are available for parties of 20 or more. It has been pointed out that the play's "spot the bow", or even "spot the bow" is the bookend to a "reveal" night out for any departmental party group.

For bookings contact the Alexander on ext. 3901 or 3902.

Cathy Celona

AUGUST DIARY

1: MONASH PARENTS GROUP — evening at the Metropolitan Theatre. Guest speaker: Mr. Peter Wilson, Head of Theological Union. 7 p.m. RBH. Admission: $3. For further information contact Mrs. M. Smith, 581 1229.

2: CONCERT — "Peter and the Wolf" by Prokofiev. Presented by the Melbourne Orchestra. Conducted by Mr. D. F. Stein. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: $3.50, students and pensioners $2.50. Tickets available at BASS outlets.

3: SUNDAY CLUB (Green Series) — "The Peace of Friendship" by 18th-century Englishman, Sir John Bartram. 1.15 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2207.

4: SUNDAY CLUB (Blue Series) — "The World of the Samurai" by 18th-century Englishman, Sir John Bartram. 1.15 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2207.

5: LECTURE — "International Politics: the US and Western Europe" by Mr. R. N. Fordham, Lecturer in International Relations, Australian National University. 1.15 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free.


12: INDONESIAN EVENING 1979, presented by the Indonesian Community Association of Victoria. 6.45 p.m. RBH. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2207.

15: LECTURE — "What's the Law?" by Mr. J. D. Renton, Lecturer in Law, Monash University. 1.15 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2207.

18: SATURDAY CLUB (Blue Series) — "Come To The Ballet" by the Australian Ballet. 6.30 p.m. RBH. Admission: $3, students $2.50 (under 18). Tickets available at BASS outlets.

18-28: WORLD FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS — RBH tickets available at BASS outlets. For further information contact 8 5709.

21-24: INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CONVENTION 1979 — BASS outlets. For further information contact 8 5709.


28: CONCERT — Kontarsky Duo, presented by Musica Viva Australia. Works by W. F. Bach, Alexander Glazunov and Germany are considered strong competitors for the top honors in the sabre division. The Championships, being held in Australia for the first time, will run from August 18 to 28. All sessions are open to the public. Preliminary rounds will start at 8.30 a.m. each day at the Monash Sports Centre with the finals, in the evening, in Robert Blackwood Hall. Eight titles are to be decided: men's and ladies' foil, epee and sabre, individual and team events.

The first final, men's foil, will be held on August 19 and will be preceded by the official opening of the Championships by the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen.

Attention will be paid to performances in these Championships particularly: this time next year much the same line-up will be competing in Moscow at the Olympic Games. But there is the all-important selection process before then.

Competitors will start arriving in Melbourne on August 12 and will be housed in the Halls of Residence during their stay.

Eastern-bloc countries, Russia, Hungary and Rumania are favorites for most of the titles but France, Italy and Germany are considered strong contenders.

Other countries have specific strengths. Sweden is fielding its world title team in epee and Cuba has a strong Russian-trained sabre contingent so a pupil versus teacher clash is a possibility.

Australia, with home crowd advantage, has a strong chance of honors in Monash. Will be established by Greg Benko, and Ernie Simon. Both are fresh back from training in the US. The ladies' foil team will be one to watch, too, with strong and experienced fencers anxious to justify the fielding of a full team for Moscow.

Tickets for Championships sessions are available through BASS ticket agencies (there is one at the Alexander Theatre).

For further information contact Caryl Oliver on 49 1169.

AUGUST 1979