Reality rolls in for wave energy

Wave energy could realistically provide between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of Britain's present energy needs, according to visiting mathematician Dr David Evans.

By the year 1985, or perhaps a little later, he predicted, we could see the practical use of devices to harness the energy of ocean waves.

The use of wave energy, he says, could give Britain the breathing space it needs to "sort out its fossil fuel and nuclear energy options."

Dr Evans, who is at Monash as visiting lecturer in the department of Mathematics, is from Bristol University, where he is engaged in wave energy research.

Theoretically, Britain could obtain all its present electricity needs by tapping wave energy, he says. But there are practical problems which make total reliance on this source of energy unlikely.

For example, to meet Britain's present electricity needs, he says, you would need at least 1200 km of underwater wave energy absorbers. This extension of Edward T. Chace, who could interfere with shipping and would also involve a massive transfer of economic resources to the wave energy program. There might also be environmental and ecological problems.

"In the end," he says, "there are no waves in certain locations," he says.

"That's one reason why we could not all of a sudden turn to wave energy. Parts of the country could be cut off from energy supplies in calm weather."

Dr Evans says wave energy in Britain is regarded as the major alternative renewable energy source, largely because of Britain's "prime position as far as waves are concerned."

"The mean annual energy density is between 30 and 70 kilowatts per metre wave crest coming to shore," he says.

Wave energy also has a special appeal because it is most abundantly available in stormy winter months when energy demands are greatest, and solar energy is most meagre.

Dr Evans says the British Government is supporting several ideas for harnessing wave energy in its large-scale program, which has now been running since April, 1976.

"The idea is to tap the long swell waves," he says.

"Basically, the idea is to build a large structure in the sea usually parallel to the incoming wave crests which will cause it to move and react against some fixed structure.

"As a result the wave energy is converted into mechanical energy which is then transferred either into hydraulics (fluid flow) or some other way to drive a turbine and generate electricity.

"The electricity is then fed back to shore by sea cable."

"Dr Evans' interest in wave energy is both theoretical and experimental."

Egg sucking kit's historic yolk

More than 100 years ago the grand old man of British ornithology, Alfred Newton, was in full flight in his study of the world's birds.

Part of that study involved building an extensive birds' eggs collection — also a fashionable field sport and pastime of the century.

Monash University last month was presented with a bird's egg sucking kit owned and used by Newton, a founding member of the British Ornithologists' Union and first professor of zoology and comparative anatomy at Cambridge University.

The kit, used to remove the contents from eggs, is currently in the Zoology department.

It comes to Monash from Mr J. S. P. Ramsay of Woolwich in New South Wales, Mr Ramsay, now in his 90s, is the last surviving member of the family of Edward P. Ramsay, curator of the Australian Museum in Sydney from 1874 to 1894.

A few years ago the late Jock Marshall, then professor of Zoology at Monash, secured for the University several of Edward Ramsay's books. Among these was the rare and valuable kit Mr Ramsay has also sent a reprint of a monograph by Newton titled Suggestions for Forming Collection of Birds' Eggs. Dated 1860 the monograph was reprinted with additional information from the Circular of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington. Evidently Newton's reputation was established on both sides of the Atlantic by then.

An offence today

The art of egg sucking is not widely practised today. In many countries, including Australia, many birds are protected by legislation and private collecting of their eggs is an offence.

Curator of Birds at the National Museum in Melbourne, Mr Allan McEvoy, is familiar with the technique.

The "professionally" blown egg, he says, is one in which the contents have been removed through a single hole in the side of the egg. The "schoolboy" approach is to make a hole at either end and blow the yolk through.

In the "professional" way, the egg is punctured with a needle to break it. Then, with the pierced side facing downwards, the egg has air blown through a pipe across its surface. After the contents begin to pour out water is injected to facilitate the yolk's exit and clean the shell inside.

Alfred Newton was born in 1829 and died in 1907.

Perhaps his most enduring scholarly contribution was a Dictionary of Birds, published in 1896, and now considered a classic of ornithological literature. Four years later the Royal Society, of which Newton was elected a member in 1870, awarded him a Royal Medal. In the same year he received a Gold Medal from the Linnæan Society.

At age 25 Newton was elected to the Drury travelling fellowship of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and spent until 1863 touring the world.

In 1866 he was appointed professor of zoology and comparative anatomy at Cambridge, a position he held until his death.

He edited several zoological journals, and contributed articles to the Encyclopaedia Britannica in addition to publishing several major works including his dictionary and Zoology of Ancient Europe.

The ornithological library at Cambridge is named after him.

End.
The academic year enters its most testing stage this month when the annual examination period begins on Friday, October 26. It ends on Friday, November 23.

Monash students will be well guided in the when and where of their exams this year. For the first time computer-printed timetables will be sent to them.

About 11,000 separate timetables listing all scheduled examinations in subjects for which each student is enrolled will address students’ term addresses this week.

The timetables list the day, time, duration, location and other details relevant to each subject. It is believed that Monash is the first university in Australia to issue students with individual timetables. The Deputy Academic Registrar, Mr J. Leonard noted the practice at some universities overseas during his recent study leave.

The new procedure has been made possible by development of the Examination Section system with the assistance of the Information Data Processing staff. It represents a saving of several thousand dollars as well as offering an improved service to the student who previously had to peruse the full timetable.

Copies of the full timetable will be displayed in the Union and at Student Records in the University Offices but copies will not be available generally. Posted with the individual timetables this week will be a notice to students regarding the conduct of examinations and information on enrolment procedures.

Students have been asked to note that this will be the only information on re-enrolment in 1980 posted to them. In previous years information was posted in November.

On the timetable this year some 550 examinations are scheduled for about 45,000 candidates. About half a million A4 size sheets will be used during the six weeks it takes to print the examination timetables.

Then, some summer ideas

While gold is being used as a hedge against inflation, Monash’s Summer School is this year offering a wide range of courses as a hedge against vacation lethargy.

Enrolments for the 12th Summer School open for Monash students and staff on October 15 and for members of the general public on October 25.

For the first time the newly opened Monash Arts and Crafts Centre will act as a focus for many of the school’s activities.

This year 74 courses are being offered. All are taught by skilled people in their fields.

In the popular arts and crafts section, some of the courses which will be available include pottery, leatherwork, sewing, weaving, macrame, book restoration, leadlight windowmaking, cartoonography, Chinese and Japanese painting, life drawing and painting, tapestry, patchwork, jewellery and silversmithing.

Those keen on acquiring a second language can choose from French, Japanese, German, Italian and Spanish.

In the music field, classes will be offered in the folk guitar, basic fiddling, tin whistle, classical guitar and jazz.

A wide variety of dance skills will be taught, from traditional Greek to Australian folk, with disco making an introduction as well. There will be tuition in drama, too, with an acting skills course and a beginner’s theatre workshop.

Courses will also be offered in photography, including color printing, poetry and sport, including archery, fencing, Chan, archery and self-defence for women.

In the practical section, some 16 courses covering a wide field of endeavour are listed. These include: accountancy for small businesses, bridge for beginners, an introduction to computer programming, bookkeeping, gardening, Australian native plants, first aid, typography, interior decorating and motor maintenance. For those with an eye to the 1980 academic year there is a course on learning to study at tertiary level and for those turning an eye away from the 1979 academic year and toward relaxation there are courses on alternative medicine and yoga and sensitive massage.

A Summer School brochure is now available from the Clubs and Services Office on the first floor of the Union (ext. 3144/3180).

Rational approach to hospitals needed

Hospital planning in Victoria needs to be carried out in a rational and apolitical manner, according to the presentment of the Queen Victoria Medical Centre, Mrs A. W. Hamer.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of contributors to the Centre last week, Mrs Hamer was critical of changes and delays in plans to relocate the Centre and amalgamate with McCulloch House on the Clayton site near Monash.

She said: "I cannot begin to describe the effect on morale and purpose when, after four years’ intensive work, a planning brief carefully prepared to Health Commission specifications, accepted in principle, is discarded overnight to conform with political and financial exigencies."

"To add insult to injury the reason for the 1977 amalgamation — McCulloch House’s future — is now in limbo, the commissioned brief also having been summarily tossed out."

"Mrs Hamer, who is also a member of Monash University Council, went on: "I am deeply grateful to all those who have battled, and loyally supported me in navigating those stormy seas."

"To the Dean of Medicine, the faculty of Medicine, the senior medical staff, and to the Project Team, bloody but unbowed from disappointment, my deepest appreciation and thanks."

First, academe’s sober Spring

The Chinese Minister of Public Health, Mr Qian Xinzhong, headed a group of Chinese scientists and health workers which visited Monash last month.

The Minister, on a tightly scheduled visit to the University, met with the Dean of the faculty of Medicine, Professor G. Schofield, who took the visitors on a tour of departments. They visited laboratories in Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology and a complete practice display, organized by the department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

The group was photographed in Physiology where the work of Dr G. Taylor on Hirschsprung’s disease was explained to them. In this condition, which occurs in man, the colon is absent or abnormal.

Using mice, Dr Taylor has been investigating various aspects of movements of the colon and the bowel disease.

Dr Taylor outlines his study to an interpreter who translates it for Mr Qian Xinzhong, centre. Professor Schofield is at rear.

Focus on China’s human face

"In no century have such changes taken place in China," says the catalogue note for a photographic exhibition which opens at Monash later this month.

"Yet there is a persisting backdrop of ancient customs, ancient ways of thought."

It is the aim of the exhibition — simply titled ‘Curiously Curious’. — to depict this blend of the impact of 20th century revolution with tradition in China.

The exhibition opens in the Visual Arts exhibition gallery, on the seventh floor of the Monash Union, on October 22 and runs until November 16. The gallery is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibition consists of 59 photographs which depict the life — at home, work and school — of ordinary Chinese people. Mr Sironi says he has not photographed the great buildings and monuments as much as the people themselves in their daily pursuits.

The exhibition photographs have been selected from a larger collection of 175 prints and 135 slides which will be available for teacher use from the Educational Services Centre in the faculty.

The photographs were taken during an 18 day visit to China by an Education faculty-sponsored group led by John Fyfield last year. The group, led by Professors Eric Peake, Canton, Foshan, Taiyuan, Datong, Dazhai and Xi’an.

A photographic exhibition of the buildings of Melbourne titled Visions of a City: Melbourne continues at the gallery until October 12.
Study probes mutagenic activity in Bay

A Monash Master of Environmental Science student is mapping the distribution of mutagenic activity in Port Phillip Bay.

Results from tests conducted by Zena Helman, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree with honours in genetics, show evidence of mutagens — agents which cause damage to the genetic material in cells, the complex biological molecule, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) — in mussels collected from the Bay. Her work is being carried out in the Genetics department under the supervision of senior lecturer, Dr V. Krishnapillai.

A second part of the Monash study, to be conducted by fellow Master student Mr Tong Schui, an engineering graduate, will attempt to trace the source of the mutagens in the Bay to its likely sources of industrial pollution.

Damage to DNA in humans appears to be a cause of cancer and genetic birth defects and may contribute to ageing and heart disease. Concurrently, mutagens are natural chemicals in our diet, radiation, and combustion products such as those found in industrial chemical products, pesticides, drugs such as DES, hair dyes, aerosol propellants, food coloring additives and preservatives. In addition to these chemicals which have been identified as mutagens, there are tens of thousands which have been introduced into commerce without adequate testing.

Effect on cell

Ms Helman explains the effect of a mutagen on a cell: "The first point is that the cell has a good defence system to deal with the presence of the mutagenic agent to the cell's DNA. In addition it has an extensive system to repair any damage to its DNA."

"But if the damage is not repaired, there is a chance that a mutation will occur. If this can be passed on to the next generation (cells), and a mutation has occurred, an alteration in cell functioning can have a number of effects. The vast majority of mutations are lethal — the cell dies."

"Other mutations may result in a 'sick' cell — one that grows abnormally or requires extra nutrients to survive. If a mutation occurs in a germ line cell (an egg or a sperm) there is a chance that it will be passed on to grandchildren. The same thing can happen in the eggs or sperm of animals, which is how mutations in the germ line tissues have been passed down for millions of years."

Ms Helman says that the results have not surprised her: a large number of natural chemicals, to be found in industrial chemicals, are mutagenic agents. Ms Helman cautions against drawing conclusions about the risk to humans until the mutagen in the extract has been determined to be mutagenic.

Ms Helman says that she has found the incidence of mutagenic activity to be greatest in mussels collected from areas of the Bay (particularly Corio Bay) adjacent to industrial activity along the shipping lanes. "These positive results tap off markedly in the section east of Brighton."

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"The mutagens, such as DES, hair dyes, aerosol propellants, food coloring additives and preservatives. In addition to these chemicals which have been identified as mutagens, there are tens of thousands which have been introduced into commerce without adequate testing."

"The energy of the waves would disperse into the cylinder."

The keynote speaker was Professor Edward Burns of London's Courtauld Institute who spoke on Palladio's "minor" works, pointing out their importance in providing insights and information into his early development and working processes.

Dr Gregory says that Burns ended with a plea for greater emphasis upon the preservation and restoration of all Vicenza's Renaissance buildings, emphasizing the significance to the town's total character of even its minor structures which provide a supporting counterpoint to the grander palaces and villas.

Dr Gregory's trip to Italy was sponsored by the Italian airline, Alitalia, the Vacchi Foundation and the Arts faculty.

BERKLEY who says that it is likely there is no completely safe dose of mutagens and carcinogens (agents which cause cancer in animals). Some of the methods she uses to identify mutagens in the mussels were developed by Ames.

Ms Helman says that it is believed, too, that exposure to mutagens has an additive effect through time and possibly a multiplicative effect.

Palladio still stands supreme

Four hundred years ago next year the Italian Renaissance architect and builder Palladio died, ending a productive 72-year lifetime during which he designed a series of villas and palaces which transformed the architecture of his native Vicenza and the surrounding countryside, inland from Venice.

In 1976 he devised a set of equations which enabled workers in the field to predict in a simple way the efficiencies of particular wave energy absorbing devices.

Subsequently he built his own wave energy device which he is working on at present at the University of Bristol.

The "Bristol Cylinder", as the device is called, owes its existence to a curious discovery by an American Naval Architect, Professor T. F. Ogilvie. Dr Evans says he has tested the device both theoretically and in the laboratory and has shown that it works.

The cylinder has now caught on, and we have quite a large program ahead of us," he says.

Palladio's architecture, he explains, is of special significance in that it is both "modern" and classical. He says: "Palladio was a Renaissance man who looked back to classical antiquity and used it as a mainstay for his ideas. But his villas in particular were revolutionary in their functional design and their close relationship to the surrounding landscape."

Dr Gregory says that Palladio is also noteworthy for his drawing methods, often working from sketches of classical buildings and evoking his ideas as he drew. His practice of perfecting his designs through a series of alternative solutions and details was forward-looking, anticipating the practice of the modern architects.

The course consisted of lectures and seminars and visits to Palladio's buildings some of which are only opened to the public. Among these was Villa Foscari (evocatively called the "Malcontenta") on a canal site near Venice and the Villa Barbaro, lavishly decorated inside with frescoes by Palladio's Venetian collaborator Veronese.

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Dr Gregory's trip to Italy was sponsored by the Italian airline, Alitalia, the Vacchi Foundation and the Arts faculty.
Move control of administrative powers to judiciary, judge urges

A Federal Court Judge has suggested a constitutional shift in power to give the judiciary control over the exercise of some administrative powers.

Mr Justice F. G. Brennan, who is President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, said the warrant for conferring such power to the courts lay in the safeguarding of the individual as he dealt with the anonymous complexity of the modern bureaucracy, and the assistance to the bureaucracy which external judicial review could provide.

Mr Justice Brennan was delivering the 1979 Wilfred Fullagar Memorial Lecture organised by Monash's Law faculty. His topic was "New growth in the law — the judicial contribution".

He said that the importance and growth of administrative powers had stimulated the sentiment that control of many administrative powers should be committed to the judiciary.

"He that is called upon to exercise the power of citizenship, licensing of professions or trades, quotas, permits and licences granted in respect of importing and exporting — the list of administrative controls and activities is large and expanding."

Mr Justice Brennan said that, at the moment, the exercise of administrative power was subject to independent administrative boards.

"In theory, a chain of responsibility exists: administrator to Minister of Parliament," he said. "But, in fact, the Minister leaves the day to day exercise of the powers to administrators who frequently develop a familiarity with administrative problems exceeding that of their Minister."

He said that circumstances had conspired against Ministers using their power except when the pressures of politics or the anguish of a particular plea promoted its exercise.

Immune from scrutiny

He continued: "The reality is that a large concentration of power affecting a broad spectrum of activities is immune from scrutiny in the particular exercise of that power."

"It is no surprising that there have been calls for judicial intervention, for the experience of man is that the exercise of power in camera and without effective external review is at risk of miscarriage and doing injustice to those affected by its exercise."

Mr Justice Brennan said that some administrative laws were based on legal theory and professionals were not keen on the exercise of discretionary administrative power," he said.

Science and the media: a bridge needs building from both sides

With a few exceptions the standard of science reporting in the Australian Press left a great deal to be desired, Monash academic Frank Campbell told a recent seminar at La Trobe University.

And the situation would not improve, he said, until newspapers made a practice of employing specialist science writers, asititcists, for their part, took the task of communication more seriously.

Mr Campbell was speaking at a seminar "Bridging the Gap Between Science and the Media", organised by La Trobe University's College of Continuing Education.

There were notable exceptions to the charge. The most obvious, he said, was The Age, which in an article by encouraging the view himself, he said there was some .

"Entitlement to a social security benefit, assessments of various taxes, permission to drive a car or build a house, the payment of bounties, acquisition of citizenship, licensing of professions or trades, quotas, permits and licences granted in respect of importing and exporting — the list of administrative controls and activities is large and expanding."

Mr Campbell said that some scientists who think that science is too complex for treatment in the Press.

"Although he did not agree with this view himself, he said there was some justification for it. Some areas of science, he pointed out, because of the inherent difficulties, to give more than an impression of what was going on."

There was also the danger, he said, that the controversial opinions of an scientist, who were not on the ground, could be accepted by the public as representing the opinion of scientists in the particular field.

Although superficially there might appear to be strong arguments against the use of the media for the dissemination of scientific information, he said there were strong arguments in favour of it.

One was accountability. The other was education.

"If you agree that education is a good thing, I think you have to be prepared to tell the people what you are doing, and try to help them understand what you are doing," he said.

Migrant Studies diploma

Monash University's Centre for Migrant Studies is offering a (Graduate) Diploma course in Migrant Studies next year for people working with migrants.

The course is intended for librarians, social workers, clergy, lecturers, teachers, members of government departments, and others who may wish to acquire the special skills needed for work with migrants in a multi-cultural society.

It may be taken in full-time or over two or three years part-time.

Associate Professor Michael Clyne, who is directing the course, said that there were few professions that could ignore the fact that Australia was a multi-cultural country.

"Forty-eight per cent of Melbourne's population in 1976 were migrants or the children of migrants," he pointed out.

He said the Diploma course was first established in 1976 but had since been revised.

People enrolling for it could develop their own course from the various components to meet their own particular needs, he said.

For example, teachers who took the Diploma course could include a practicum in teaching English to migrants. This will be offered in 1981. The course also includes studies in cultural pluralism and religion designed especially for the clergy.

Applications for enrolments are available from Mrs M. I. Sturgess, Faculty of Arts, and should be submitted no later than February 1, 1980.

October, 1979
An open letter to the Chancellor

Dear Sir Richard,

I first read your paper "The Role of Universities in the Community" while I was an address given by you to the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee on July 8, 1979. I would like to focus first of all on why I should have felt that way.

Of course your paper was taken out of context and since it was distributed without any real introduction it is not, perhaps, surprising that it should not have struck me in perhaps the way it was intended.

I have re-read your paper a couple of times since then and the one thing that strikes me first of all is when you quote from the checklist, item (a) is "What are the objectives of the institution?" and your comment: "The first question on this checklist may seem to be some to be too simple to warrant serious response.

This gave me the clue as to what was missing and it is one very simple point, namely there is no mention in the paper of scholarship or learning. I therefore find the paper a one-sided one, especially in the context of Universities as teaching and training institutions. I asked myself why you should have seemed such an important one to someone such as me who trained as a mathematician in an "independent" school, which is one aspect of the university, though their aims and methods are undoubtedly "prejudicial" to my concern with the field of scholarship.

Had I suggested (to go to the other extreme) that Council should set their own standards and expect the public to accept their decisions and then talk about the efficiency of tertiary institutions? On my recent visit to Monash, I found that there were questions as to whether such institutions really belong in the university or not. Obviously it depends on the particular rules and what they are doing, but we have a past history of the past and the past for this heritage of learning which is presently in our charge. We have a certain responsibility to those who have come before us and the number of students that we turn out and the number of staff that are required to do that. Relevance is such an ephemeral value, ought we not to be considering values such as that which more permanent?

Therefore perhaps I can now answer the question I asked in the beginning of my letter by pointing out that you are trained as a lawyer and have experienced all that means in terms of training in a law school, which is one aspect of the university, and one which is in a certain atmosphere where scholarship to this day is most highly valued. So perhaps when you next consider the role of university governing bodies, you might also like to add a section to the academic note on scholarship and its persistent values.

Yours sincerely,

R. M. Eggleston
Professor of Mathematics

And the Chancellor replies

Early in July, Monash's Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston, addressed a meeting of representatives of university governing bodies and discussed the future of Australian universities over the next 20 years. Sir Richard spoke on the role of the University in the Community (my emphasis). The examples you quote are, interestingly, of professional schools again - Library, Department of Architecture, College of Communications. I was not impressed when I drew attention to the fact that there are questions as to whether such institutions really belong in the university or not. Obviously it depends on the particular rules and what they are doing, but we have a past history of the past and the past for this heritage of learning which is presently in our charge. We have a certain responsibility to those who have come before us and the number of students that we turn out and the number of staff that are required to do that. Relevance is such an ephemeral value, ought we not to be considering values such as that which more permanent?

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Yours sincerely,

J. N. Crossley
Professor of Mathematics

The value of scholarship

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The Russian novelist, F. M. Dostoevsky, returned to Russia about ten years ago, might well have anticipated the results of modern Existentialist psychology, according to participants in a recent interdisciplinary seminar in the department of Psychology, Medicine and German and the faculty of Law.

The seminar, led by Dr Bobba Vladiv, attracted contributions from the departments of Psychological Medicine and German and the faculty of Law.

Dr Vladiv says that two major complex themes in these works were explored: psychoanalysis, and circumstances which relate to the question of truth or proof.

Because the central character of The Idiot, if it is not believed to have been an epileptic, Dr Graham Smith, of Psychological Medicine, was interested in exploring the relationship to the symptoms apparent in Dostoevsky's character. Dr Vladiv says that two extensive apparatus of psychiatric studies on Myskhn, this led to a re-appraisal of the character and the Christ-like figure of the holy fool, and opened up a new framework for the interpretation of the novel — Existentialist psychology.

Legal view

Because of Dostoevsky's great preoccupation with crime (murder, patriarch, child abuse) and detection, the seminar then sought corroboration of his views on the relationship between factual evidence and proof.

Dr Vladiv says this correspondence was found in current legal writings — in particular, in Sir Richard Egger's Evidence, Proof and Probability.

Findings supported

Reviewing the book, Mr Neville Turner (Law) said that some "startling and revolutionary insights" of the novel were found by the seminar. He congratulated the legal findings on the arts and the arts on the legal findings. They are interested in the findings on the arts and the arts in the seminar.

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Clearing the skies on thunderstorms

Whether as something to be ter-
riﬁed by or as something to reinforce
one’s security, that violent
manifestation of nature, the
thunderstorm, leaves few people un-
moved.

For the less fortunate the term
“moved” can be taken literally with
the ability of storms, with their strong
winds, hail or associated ﬂash ﬂooding,
to cut a swathe of destruction across
half a State in a matter of hours.

Despite the well-documented place
in our literature of the effects of storms
—all but Noah and his kin were an-
nihilated by one, a demented Lear
wandered the heath in one and
countless popular heroes have been
headlong into one—until recently lit-
good was known about the way they are
formed and their properties.

A pioneer in the study of the
dynamics of thunderstorms is meteo-
orologist Dr Martin Miller, of
Imperial College, London. Dr Miller is
currently visiting the Monash
Mathematics department, working
with the active group in geophysical
and rainfall.

Dr Miller is the tool with which
he has worked in unlocking the
mysteries of storms. The associated
problems are so complex, he says, that
it is only in the last 10 or 20 years with
the advent of big computers that they
may be able to be tackled.

In fact, Dr Miller began working in
the area before the computers had
been developed which could solve the
tens of millions of equations—of air
velocity, temperature and moisture
and wind velocity with height deter-
mine a storm’s behaviour.

From the computer simulation of
the structure of a storm, Dr Miller says
it has been possible to examine such
aspects as how and why storms move,
their length of life and why some are
more severe than others—forming tornados and hailstorms, for example.

He says that it is “on the horizon”
that mathematical models of storms
will be able to be used as a forecasting
method to enhance the accuracy of
weather predictions.

At the moment, he says, weather
forecasters can only consider the ac-
tivity of large scale atmospheric
phenomena such as the “highs” and
“lows” which extend across thousands
of kilometres. Thunderstorms, how-
ever, occur in regions of the at-
mosphere only about 50 to 100 km
away and will require much more reﬁned
forecasting methods.

Dr Miller describes the thunder-
storm as a region of intense updraughts
and downdraughts with currents of air
ascending at speeds of up to 100 km per
second. These rising towers of air can
reach a height of 10–15 km, taller than
any mountain on earth.

He says that the theoretical model is
the most feasible way of studying
thunderstorms. Their very nature and
fearsome dangers measurement of their proper-
tries “in the ﬁeld” and there are many
opportunities too in the alternative ap-
proach of simulating a storm in a
laboratory.

In Melbourne or Helsinki, weather
forecasters around the world, it
seems, face a similar problem: a
reputation for unreliability in their
predictions.

Dr Y. Rinne, acting director of the
weather forecasting department of the
Finnish Meteorological Institute
believes it is an unfair reputation.

He says that the atmosphere is com-
plicated in nature. As our knowledge of it in-
creases so will our ability to forecast its
behaviour,” he says.

“Satellites, better observation
facilities on land and sea to give “ad-
vice notices” of the approaching
weather, and mathematical models
will all play a role in improved
forecasting.

Dr Rinne is impressed by the use
of satellite data by the Bureau of
Meteorology in Australia.

He hopes that an important boost to
better observation will come from the
new UN-backed global atmospheric
research program.

Stbodanka B. Vladiv, Narrative Principles in
Dostoevsky’s Besy. Berne. Peter Lang, European
University Papers, 1979.

Dr Vladiv is a senior tutor in Russian at Monash.

A welcome contribution to
understanding of Dostoevsky

Many scholars are still sceptical about the
beneﬁts of a structuralist approach to literary
analysis and inclined to believe that structuralism is
actually nothing but an awkward phase literary
scholarship is passing through, a kind of Parisian fad
that presupposes a sound knowledge of Russian and a
familiarity with the text of Dostoevsky’s novel.

In her analysis of The Devils, one of Dostoevsky’s
most complex novels, Dr Vladiv is basically apply-
ing a narrative model derived from the work of
the Formalist Bakhtin and later scholars, particularly
German ones, who have elaborated on his insights.

Traditional critical methods have provided a
wealth of valuable insight into the socio-historical
themes of The Devils. The present work, through an
analysis of the function of the narrator, brings to
light another thematic level, which Dr Vladiv convincingly
encompasses the traditionally recognized themes,
concerned with the individual’s relation to “truth” and
the communal communication of “truth”.

Once the distinction has been drawn between the
“implied author” (that is, the nexus of ideas and at-
titudes which governs the structuring of the nar-
ратов) and the fictional narrator, Dr Vladiv goes on
to analyse the information apparatus of both the
“implied author” and the narrator ﬁgure in the
novel, with its elements of rumour, allusion, amb-
ivalence and reconstruction of past events, bring-
ing out the discrepancy between them.

Illustration of theory

She demonstrates very clearly that the informa-
tion apparatus is itself a model of the structuring of
meaning in the novel, and it is this which provides an
illustration of a theory of knowledge and com-
munication.

Many critics have been content to see in The
Devils a rather rambling and confused tale told by
an unreliable and artless narrator. The reader, ac-
counting to this view, must pick his way rather
hesitantly through a maze of dubious and confron-
ting information, searching desperately for “solid facts”
on which to pin his interpretation of events.

The present work, however, suggests that the
central theme of The Devils is in fact expressed
through the very narrative structure of the novel, in-
viting a much more profound reading of the work.

One of Dr Vladiv’s achievements is to make
available to an English-speaking public the ap-
proximation of certain German and Czech scholars
(Wolf Schmid in particular). However, the author
does presuppose a sound knowledge of Russian and a
familiarity with the text of Dostoevsky’s novel.

The terminology employed is complex, as is often
the case with texts in the ﬁeld of semiotic theory,
and obviously aimed at the specialist.

0 Dr Vladiv’s book, Narrative Principles in
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of the formalist-structuralist tradi-
Review

On October, 1979

Dr Robert Denniss Lecturer,
School of Russian, University of New South Wales,
Sydney.

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The terminology employed is complex, as is often
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and obviously aimed at the specialist.

The appearance of Narrative Principles in
Dostoevsky’s Besy is to be welcomed not only for the
superior content it makes to our understanding of The
Devils, one of the great 19th century Russian novels,
but also for the evidence it provides of the vitality and
fruitfulness of the formalist-structuralist tradi-

BOOKS

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Dr Y. Rinne, acting director of the
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All aspects of what makes up weather con-
considered, including precipitation,
wind, humidity as well as tem-
Music and dance Leading Indian artists perform

Two of India's most eminent artists -- a dancer and a sitar player -- will perform at Robert Blackwood Hall on October 12 and 13. They are Miss Padma Subrahmanyan, an internationally famous dancer from South India, and Professor Manuil Nag, a member of a well-known family of musicians in Bengal. Their visit is under the auspices of the Indian Government, and the Indian High Commissioner in Australia, Mr J. C. Ajmani.

The concerts, in which they will be accompanied by a group of five musicians, are being sponsored jointly by the Australia India Society of Victoria and the Monash department of Music. Mr Reis Florc, lecturer in Music at Monash, said the timing of the visit, following their appearances in the Indian Ocean Arts Festival in Perth, represented a rare opportunity for Victorians interested in Indian music and dance.

Professor Manuil Nag, he said, had performed extensively in music festivals and on Indian radio and television. He had played before King Mahendra of Nepal, and had toured Europe and North America. He said that an unusual feature of the concerts would be the variety of dance and instrumental music presented on the one program.

There would be music from the two main artistic traditions of Indian music: Karnatic (South Indian) and Hindusthani (North Indian) -- traditions which were similar in many respects, but also distinctly and noticeably different. (Further information may be obtained from Mr Florc, ext. 3224 or 531 0257 after hours, or from Mr Arvind Shrivastava, secretary of the Australia India Society of Victoria and lecturer in mechanical engineering, Caulfield Institute of Technology, phone 573 2448 or 235 5195 after hours.)

Kiwi cultural contribution

The Rotorus Maori Cultural Theatre will give its only Melbourne performance in Robert Blackwood Hall on Wednesday, October 10 at 8 p.m.

The Theatre was formed in 1973 to foster the language, music, dance, arts and crafts of Maori culture. It has formulated a program of traditional and modern Maori music and dance which it tours.

Most members of the Theatre have a link with Rotorua and are direct descendants of Hinemoa and Tutakienakai, about whom there is a renowned love story.

Tickets for the RBH performance cost $5.50 for adults and $4.50 for students and are available from BASS agencies.

Important dates

The Academic Registrar advises the following important dates for students for October:

1: Fourth term begins for Medicine VI. Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the second half year or over the weekend of the examinations period.


6: Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in DP, Ed. Psychics, for students who failed in the examinations and wish to be classified as discontinued. If a subject or unit is not discontinued by this date, and the examination is not attempted or assignment work is not completed, it will be classified as FAILED.

6: Fourth term ends and students leave the University.

7: Study leave ends.

8: Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in DP, Ed. Psychics. It is to be classified as discontinued. If a subject or unit is not discontinued by this date, and the examination is not attempted or assignment work is not completed, it will be classified as FAILED. In exceptional circumstances the dean may approve the classification of a subject or unit as discontinued between October 8 and the end of the special examinations period.

9: Applications close for entry to the MCOnd half-year for a B.Ed. (combined), B.Ed. (three years), B.Ed. (old), B.Ed. (third year), B.Ed. (three years), B.Ed. (old). Students in the second year of a three-year course may be admitted to the third year and students in the third year may be admitted to the fourth year.

10: First day of examinations in Medicine VI.

10: Students in the second year of a three-year course may be admitted to the third year and students in the third year may be admitted to the fourth year.

10: Applications close for entry to the MCOnd half-year for a B.Ed. (old), B.Ed. (three years), B.Ed. (third year), B.Ed. (old).

10: Fees for the study leave period are due.

16: Mid-term break begins at 12 noon. Students must be in residence by 8 a.m. on October 15.

25: Mid-term break ends. Students must be in residence by 8 a.m. for class.

29: Failing grade list issued.

30: Registrars' office closes at 5 p.m. for mid-term break.

31: Mid-term break ends.

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