**First recitals on new organ**

Melbourne will have its first opportunity to see — and, what is more important, hear — the Louis Matheson Pipe Organ in Robert Blackwood Hall in a series of recitals and a gala concert planned for its inauguration week later this month.

The Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, will inaugurate the organ on Tuesday, April 22 before an invited audience including guests of honour, Sir Louis and Lady Matheson, and donors to the organ appeal. The appeal raised $350,000 in 1976 to fund the organ which commemorates the work of Sir Louis, as Monash’s first Vice-Chancellor, in building the University.

The first public recital will be on the following evening — Wednesday, April 23 at 8 p.m. The organist will be senior lecturer in music at the Victorian College of the Arts, John O’Donnell, who is an internationally recognised performer.

The program will include works by Bruch, de Grigny, Buxtehude, Scheidemann and Bach. A celebration gala concert will be held on Saturday, April 26 at 8 p.m. O’Donnell will again be the organist and will be joined by the Brass Choir of the Victorian College of the Arts, under the direction of Gordon Webb, and the Melbourne Chorale Chamber Choir, under the direction of Val Pyer.

The program will include works by Bliss, Messiaen, Rautavaara, Alain, Britten, Tall, Scheidemann, J. S. Bach and Gabrieli.

Tickets for the Wednesday recital cost $5 (adults) and $3.50 (students, pensioners and Alexander Theatre Supporters). For the gala, tickets cost $7 (adults) and $5 (children, students, pensioners and Alex. Theatre supporters).

There is also a special rate for bookings for both performances — $10 (adults) and $7 (students, pensioners and Alex. Theatre Supporters).

Tickets are available from the Hall or from any BASS outlet.

A third event — an organ workshop — is being planned for Thursday, April 24 at 8 p.m.

The workshop will cover technical and musical aspects of the organ and will include a recital by O’Donnell. It is being organised by RBH and the Victorian Society of Organists. Tickets cost $2.50 and $1.50 (Society members) and will be available at the door.

The builder of the organ, Herr Jurgen Ahrend, and his wife Ruth will be flying from West Germany to Melbourne for the inauguration. (Herr Ahrend will be present at the organ workshop.)

The organ is the largest built to date by Ahrend who is considered one of the world’s foremost builders and restorers.

The Matheson organ was built in Leer, in the north-west of the Federal Republic of Germany, and shipped to Melbourne late last year. It was re-assembled and installed in RBH by Ahrend and a small team in January and February.

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**The Matheson years**

Monash University was the first of the many new universities to be built in Australia in the 1960s and ’70s. In character, however, it developed as “the last of the old universities rather than the first of the new”, in the opinion of the University’s Vice-Chancellor for its first 16 years, Sir Louis Matheson.

Sir Louis has just written his memoirs, Still Learning, in which he traces Monash’s early history.

The book, published by Macmillan, was launched on campus yesterday.

Monash, Sir Louis says, “had to claw its way into an unsympathetic world.”

Among the topics about which Sir Louis writes is student unrest — “the feature which, to many people’s minds, put Monash on the map, for better or worse.”

Emeritus Professor Hector Monro reviews “Still Learning” for Reporter on page 3. He concludes that being a Vice-Chancellor is one of the harder ways to earn a knighthood.

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**Rare distinction for Monash biochemist**

Monash professor of Biochemistry, Professor A. W. Linnane, has been accorded a rare honour.

He has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, which was founded in the reign of Charles II, in Britain’s most prestigious scientific organisation, with membership restricted to scientists of eminence in their fields.

There are about 500 members from Britain and the British Commonwealth, and about 70 foreign members.

Professor Linnane, who has Ph.D and D.Sc degrees, came to Monash as a reader in January, 1962.

He has been a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science since 1972.

He was a former President of the Australian Biochemical Society, former President of the Asian and Oceanic Biochemistry Society and President of the International Union of Biochemistry Congress (1982).

He is chairman of the Australian Academy of Science’s National Committee for Biochemistry and is Editor-in-Chief of the new journal *Biochemistry International*, published on behalf of the International Union of Biochemists.

He has published about 200 major papers.

Professor Linnane’s election to the Royal Society was for his work in the field of molecular genetics, particularly for the contribution of his team to unravelling the function of the cell’s second genetic system.

One of the outstanding achievements of 20th century biology has been the elucidation of the chemical basis of heredity. The transmission of hereditary characteristics from parents to offspring depends upon molecules, called DNA, found in the nucleus of the cell, which contain coded information built into their molecular structure.

This coded information is used by the cell to synthesise proteins and enzymes and determines whether you are born a man or a woman, a man or a woman, have blue eyes or black, have a light or dark skin.

Although practically all of the cell’s DNA is located in the nucleus, a small amount is associated with tiny organelles in the cytoplasm of the cell called mitochondria, which are often referred to as the cell’s powerhouse because of their role in energy metabolism.

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**Who could ask for anything more?**

This month Reporter tackles a big question, perhaps the biggest: “Has life a meaning?”

Actually philosopher Peter Singer has dealt with the question in a new book “Practical Ethics.” A report on the issues raised by the book appears on pages 6 and 7. On page 8 we report historian Hugh Stretton’s recent comments at Monash on the effects of positivism.
A report published by the Monash Geography department has identified 12 areas in Victoria which could be used as wilderness. Wilderness areas are large natural regions essentially unaltered by man. Of the 12, there are in semi-arid localities, seven in mountain regions and two on the coast. The nominated areas are shown on the map opposite.

The report, Wilderness in Victoria: An Inventory, has been compiled by five people: Mike Feller, formerly of Melbourne University, now with the faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia; Doug Hooley, a Monash geography honours graduate, now with the Ministry for Conservation; Theo Drehar and Iain East (both postgraduate students in biochemistry at Melbourne University); and Robert Jung, a CSIRO chemist.

Copies of the report are available from the Monash bookshop and the cooperative bookshop in the Union.

The authors give the warning: "Unwise use and mismanagement of Victoria's wilderness resources will not to be further depleted.

'The attempt to protect and sympathetic management of the areas delineated in this report are needed so that the wildlife species of these tracts can be retained, and improved on, for the future.'

They say that the inventory represents the first detailed systematic survey of wilderness tracts in Victoria and complements one carried out by Helman, Jonas, Pigram and Smith in 1976 of east New South Wales and south-east Queensland.

The authors acknowledge, however, that some attempts have been made to identify wilderness tracts in particular Victorian regions - like the State's alpine area and that the Land Conservation Council has made some progress in identifying, qualitatively, areas with wilderness recreational value. The Council has recommended two wilderness areas - one in the Big Desert and the other in the Alps.

The main part of the new report includes a description of the methodology and criteria used to identify and delineate the areas and the inventory itself. There are also sections on the value of wilderness and the history of its preservation, and aspects of its future.

The authors say that they adopted the definition of wilderness used by Helman's group - "A large area of land perceived to be natural, where genetic diversity and natural cycles remain unaltered."

How large is large?

In deciding this, the authors say they took into consideration two criteria related to the value of wilderness.

- The recreation criterion, which demands that the area be large enough to enable users to feel satisfied that they have established contact with the wilderness.

- The ecological or conservation criterion, which demands that the area be of a size to maintain the natural systems on which both the recreational and scientific uses of wilderness depend.

The authors did not automatically disqualify areas from being included in the inventory on the ground of man's disturbance.

"Some would argue that any area which has any sign of disturbance caused by man should not qualify as wilderness," they say.

"While this may be ideal - and not unrealistic for some areas such as parts of south-west Tasmania - it is unfortunately not practical for wilderness in Victorian context.

"They have adhered, however, to strict guidelines in assessing such disturbances as vehicular access, logging activity, stock grazing, the presence of powerlines and huts, privately owned land and disturbed areas seen from the wilderness.

Many of these disturbances were excluded from what they term the "core" of the wilderness tract but accepted, in certain cases, in the "buffer" zone.
Monash: Its health owes much to tolerant, fair first V-C


Reviewed by Hector Monro

Sir Louis and Lady Matheson "at home" in the Vice­Chancellor's house. 1975.

Sir Louis Matheson's book could hardly be more different from Rowe's. The contrast comes out in their titles. Rowe's a coxcomb of defunct snout at his former colleagues: "If the Crown Fits?; Matheson's "Still Learning", while it is of course a translation of the Monash motto, suggests scholarly humility and a readiness to consider other people's opinions.

True, he records that, when he told the Vice­Chancellor of Manchester that he would, to begin with, be presiding over a university without any students, he got the reply (which he "thought slightly curious"): "You should count yourself fortunate that your university will not have any professors.". "But", Matheson adds, "as time went by and the Monash staff became more numerous and more insistent on being consulted before any decision was taken, I saw the wise old man saying that the first months and months seemed idylic in retrospect." And he heads one of his chapters with some lines from Medical Graces before Board, in which the former Melbourne Vice-Chancellor asks for a blessing on Professorial Board meetings, ending:

And very specially today We ask that A. B. stays away. In this to him, the wretched Chairman's sake.

What is not recorded is that Matheson read Medics' verses to an early Professorial Board meeting, to the great delight of all the members. Jock Marshall, that extraordinary mixture of scholar, swashbuckler and over­late adolescent, whom Matheson may well have regarded as his own particular A. B., was especially pleased, and asked where he could buy a copy. That incident is typical of those occasions which could hardly be more inimical to any university as a handy and rather pleasant place to consider other people's opinions.

One reason for this was that the professors were in a position to sympathise with the Vice-Chancellor. Like him, they had joined Monash to try to realise their private visions of the ideal university made up of ideal departments. Like him, they had, as a first step, appointed subordinates with a reputation for being dedicated to their subjects and full of ideas. Like him, they were finding that people with those qualifications have their own visions. On the whole, however, the visions coincided well enough.

Another reason was that they were all aware that Monash (in Matheson's words) "had to claw its way into an unsympathetic world". There was a good deal of generous co-operation from established institutions, but there were those who thought of the new university as a dumping ground for Melbourne's rejections. Matheson records that "it was

Rubella immunisation campaign on campus

The Monash Health Service has advised female students and members of rubella-bearing age to ensure that they are immunised against rubella.

Sister Jeanne Lyng, nurse education officer with the Deafness Foundation (Victoria), will give a lecture on the subject at the German measles, on Tuesday, May 6 at 1 p.m., in Rotunda theatre B4.

The Foundation is conducting a campaign to control the disastrous effects of rubella in a pregnant woman on the foetus. Among these are severe deafness, blindness, heart defects, skeletal damage and other crippling disabili­ties.

Potential mothers can gain immunity, however, by having a single injection of rubella vaccine at least two months before pregnancy.

The vaccine has been available for the last 10 years to adolescents and women of child-bearing age through the Victorian Health Commission. However, most women of child-bearing age have not before had the opportunity to receive this protection.

Some women believe that they have immunity because they have had rubella. Many illnesses can be mistaken for rubella, however, and only a positive blood test will prove immunity. A vaccine is thus advised in all cases.

For further information contact the Health Service in the Union.

Mrs Gisela Bieg, secretary to the Secretary to Council, would like to thank the person who returned her wallet and bankbook to the CBA Bank on Friday, March 7.

April 1980

3
Nuclear proliferation, dwindling world energy supplies and the threat of an economic depression might indicate a grim scenario for the '80s — but there still is hope for the future, according to Monash economist, Dr Alan Fels.

Dr Fels, senior lecturer in Economics, told the seminar that Australia should adhere to countries in the years ahead, though causes of depressions had greatly likely to make Australia a more attractive destination for investors capital, said Dr Fels, who also discounted the theory that the world was headed for another big economic depression.

There were strong reasons to believe the 1950s experience would not be repeated in the '80s — knowledge of the causes of past depressions had greatly improved and important institutional changes in the banking and financial world made a repetition of the earlier financial collapse unlikely.

In economic terms Australia might do better than the rest of the world in the decade to come, Dr Fels said. There was evidence to suggest that some key factors retarding world economic growth would stimulate here, notably the world energy crisis and the probability of major new mining projects.

Rising world oil prices would lead to increased prices for Australian export goods, like coal. The value of the rise would exceed the higher price paid for import oil. Many projects which had previously appeared uneconomic would become viable in the future.

While it was unlikely that Australia could ever return to the golden years of the '60s and '70s — the product of unique economic circumstances — it seemed likely this country had a better chance of maintaining its past growth paths.

The impact of a mining boom and Asian industrialisation were the two big challenges now facing the Australian economy, Dr Fels said.

The Asian manufacturers' export trade was not a temporary phenomenon but one to which the whole world must adjust.

Australia's electronics industry had already felt the impact and engineering, metal working and other industries could expect similar competition.

Computer technology has already outstripped the capability of humans to program and use it effectively. According to Mr Peter Bowden, a senior lecturer in Administration at Monash.

It was unlikely the '80s would see any important advances in this area, he told the seminar. It was unlikely that even the most executive would have a desk top computer terminal by 1990 though senior executives of the future could feel threatened by a new generation of middle managers educated to use computers routinely in their work.

Opportunities

The opportunities in future would come to managers who saw and used the increasing sophistication of computer organisation; the threat would appear to managers unwilling or unable to use fully trained people around them.

Increases in the cost of computer software, relative to the cost of hardware, could bring its own new problems in the years ahead, with an increasing use of pre-designed package systems; it was rare that these could ever satisfy a particular company's needs.

One of the most striking changes in the business world of the '80s would be the increasing number of women in management positions, Mr Bowden said. They would tend to be in staff and not line positions; but their presence would be very noticeable.

Policy analysis

The manager of tomorrow would be more thoroughly trained and able to rigorous analysis of the analytical approaches of his colleagues and subordinates. He would be more concerned with company strategies than the day to day running of the organisation.

Public sector managers would equal face the same needs for exacting policy analysis and for managing staff who were better educated and seeking higher levels of satisfaction from their working environment.

The success with which administrators in both public and private sectors coped with their future challenges would have an impact not only on their own careers and organisations but on the social and economic well being of this country.

Linguistic expert visits

Monash

A distinguished German professor of Slavic studies, Professor Helmut Jacknow, lectured at Monash recently during a flying visit to Australia.

Professor Jacknow, of the Ruhr-Universitat, Bochum, West Germany, is a specialist in Slavic linguistics.

Lectures

He delivered two lectures in the Russian department: one on the subject and tasks of a dynamic analysis of word formation and the other on the characteristic features of the history of the Russian language and literature.

Professor Jacknow also visited Melbourne and Queensland univer-

He says that there is a strong interest in Slavic studies in West Germany with some 400 students in his own department.

"Most of them want to become teachers in the Russian language," he says, but points to a "saturation of the market".

Professor Jacknow says that West German universities face the same funding restrictions that Australian universities appear to face.

He says: "We were well funded in the '60s and early '70s but there is much less finance now which has influenced the whole situation stafjing, research, the purchase of books and courses like this.

He points, however, to some areas where West German universities would appear to be better off than Australian—like an $11,000 allowance to build the library in his department.

Jobs - a key problem

High unemployment figures would be a continuing influence on Australian life in the '80s, Monash's Dr Russell Lansbury told the seminar.

Dr Lansbury, a senior lecturer in Administrative Studies, said the prospect of reduced economic growth rates, allied with rapid social and technological change.

He said it was likely Australia's arbitration system would continue to be the principal scapegoat for all unsatisfied parties in industrial relations during the coming decade.

At the national level, there would be an urgent need for governments, employers and unions to reach a new consensus about common goals and principles, especially if Australia was faced with a breakdown in the wage indexation system which had been a major factor in wage standards in the last half of the '70s.

Unemployment

Despite the promise of a new leisure society created by the application of new technology in the 1980s, the issue of unemployment was likely to remain a key problem for industrial relations in the coming decade, Dr Lansbury said.

Although an increasing number of young people would continue to choose to be or be forced to accept — an alternative lifestyle outside the traditional workplace, the work ethic was likely to remain the cultural basis of Australian society.

For most Australians, economic survival, social status and self esteem would continue to be highly dependent on the kind of job they held.

Unemployment would not decline in unemployment, especially among school leavers, the government would be forced to consider radical new measures to create more jobs, Dr Lansbury said.

Ideas likely to emerge as realistic options in the 1980s included work sharing, permanent part-time work, a shorter working year and a shorter working life time. All of them would have important implications for both unions and employers.

Already in some US states, legislation made compulsory for up to 10 per cent of all positions to be permanent part-time work. Around 20 per cent of all union contracts in the US now called for a reduction of hours or a sharing of work before lay-offs were permitted to consider radical new measures to create more jobs, Dr Lansbury said.

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Although there had been little debate on work-sharing in Australia to date, the recent Crawford Inquiry into Structural Adjustment had called for investigation of the adequacy of current means of total sharing income, between people in and out of work.

The issue of industrial democracy was unlikely to be as widely debated in the next decade as it was in the last, Dr Lansbury said. The persistence of high unemployment levels would focus employees' attention on job security rather than job quality and associated rights.

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Dr Alan Lansbury, a senior lecturer in Administration at Monash last month on likely economic and social developments in the 1980s and their impact on business and government.

The seminar was organised jointly by Monash and the Australian Institute of Management. It drew a wide audience of managers and senior executives in the private and public sectors.

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Recent events at Monash in focus

Art Exhibition (right): At Monash, Melbourne University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Durham, opened the Melbourne University collection and of the Monash-Melbourne art exchange. He is pictured in front of the Arthur Boyd work, Nude in a Cornfield. The exhibition remains open in the Visual Arts gallery, in the Menzies building until Thursday (April 3).

Millionth Volume (below left): The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin (left), receives the Monash Library's volume 1,000,000 from Mr Ken Horn, President of the Friends of the Library, State Librarian and former Monash Acquisitions Officer. The book — Mammotretus Super Bibliam — was a gift from the Friends. The University Bookshop, Blackwells of Oxford and the Monash Ex-Committee (former members of the Monash Parents' Committee) also gave books.

Orientation (below centre and right): Bagpipers heralded the start of the Orientation program for new students at Monash early last month. The Vice-Chancellor and other University identities welcomed students on the first day. This introduction was followed by meetings with academic staff and a lively three days of events planned by clubs and societies. Photos: Herve Alleaume.

A small corner where we keep to God's time

There's a small corner of the Monash campus that will be forever Joh Bjelke-Petersonland.

This was the reassuring message that the Chancellor, Sir Richard Egleton, had for the University when he officially "opened" the Moppert Sundial last week.

The "small corner" is the courtyard north of the Union, where future generations of Monash students will be able to set their watches in the confident expectation that they will be accurate according to Eastern Standard Time for any month of the year... . . . Except, of course, for Summer Time.

And then, Sir Richard suggests: "... if you can't remember whether to add or subtract, at least you will know the time according to Joh Bjelke-Petersen."

In the Chancellor's view, there could be no questioning of the sundial's accuracy.

In fact, he said, the instrument "... answers to the full the reproach of Ben Jonson: "I am a sundial, and I make a batch of what is done far better by a watch."

The sundial, described in detail in last month's Reporter, is the brainchild of Dr Carl Moppert, senior lecturer in Mathematics, who sees its successful completion and inauguration as something of a triumph of one class of Australians over another — the one class being the innovators, the ones who (by various means) get things done; the other being those whose purpose in life seems to be to frustrate the efforts of the innovators.

Full significance

In his opening address, the Chancellor drew upon his encyclopaedic knowledge of the law to impress upon his audience the full significance of the Moppert Sundial's contribution to timekeeping.

He said: "This is a very appropriate hands. the one showing Greenwich Mean Time for any month of the year... . . . If you can't remember whether to add or subtract, at least you will know the time according to Joh Bjelke-Petersen."

"Prior to 1880, every town had its local time, and indeed, in 1858, a defendant arrived at the Dorchester Assizes at 10 o'clock in the morning. Dorchester local time, only to find that the court clock had been set at Greenwich time, and judgment had already been given in favour of his opponent."

"Despite his protests, the judge would not rehear the case, and he appealed, whereupon the appellate court set aside the judgment, saying that unless the contrary was specified, time fixed for the sittings must be taken to be local time."

The plaintiff argued that the time to be observed at any place was either that fixed by the authorities or by the general course of the inhabitants at that place. They said that 'Greenwich time is observed at most places in England through which railways pass, and in some the clocks have two sets of hands, one showing Greenwich time, the other the time of the place'.

Sir Richard went on: "Such an argument was not calculated to win over the court. The Chief Baron remarked that time could not be altered by a railway company. In fact, however, the railways must have had a powerful influence in promoting the use of Greenwich Mean Time throughout England. In the United States, where States lying North or South of each other may have different times, the railroad clocks are set to 'railway time'. Similar problems arise as between Victoria and New South Wales on the one hand, and Queensland on the other."

In Victoria, at least, the problem was partially solved — legally — by a ruling of the Supreme Court which in 1896 set standard time as the mean time of longitude 150° E.

MAGS meets

The Monash Association of Graduate Students will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday, April 9 at 4.30 p.m. in the conference room on the first floor of the Union building. All postgraduates have been invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.
Engineer takes even hand on East, West

A reader in Civil Engineering at Monash, Dr George Rozvany, is taking an even-handed approach internationally to explaining his research.

Dr Rozvany has accepted invitations to be a principal lecturer at two advanced study sessions covering the area of computerised design and optimisation theory, being organised by the NATO Advanced Study Institute at the University of Iowa in the USA; the other is being organised by the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

Dr Rozvany has been talking to both organisations about basic research and not its military applications.

He says: "I have no hesitation explaining my theories to both organisations because no classified information and, or, will be available in unclassified literature."

He says that, earlier this year, he received an invitation to participate in the NATO session on optimisation to be held in May; in fact, he will give an opening lecture and two others at the two week event. The session has now been expanded to include an identical program to the NATO meeting.

"Although it is organised by the Polish Academy of Sciences this event seems to be an exact counterpart of the NATO session." Dr Rozvany says that, at about the same time, he received an invitation to be one of the lecturers in a 'study session' in Warsaw in November. He has accepted this invitation.

Cold War

Dr Rozvany says that renewed signs of a Cold War between East and West, while thoroughly undesirable from a general point of view, could have a spin-off for basic research.

"In the '50s and '60s, at the height of the Cold War, a lot of money was spent on research much of which had applications other than the military."

"I view money spent on basic research as money being siphoned away from direct military expenditure toward work which may be of benefit in many other areas."

Dr Rozvany's work has already received wide international attention.

Following his participation in a NASA symposium on future trends in computerised design in Washington DC about a year ago he was invited to give a four month course on optimal design at Essen University in West Germany.

He has recently written a "state of the art" article for the journal of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is a member of that body's committee on optimisation.

The Bard takes a back seat for a 'Changeling' 

The 17th century tragedy, The Changeling, by Middleton and Rowley, will be climbing out from under the long shadow cast by the Bard for an airing at Monash this month.

"The Changeling", which focuses on the corruption of personality and morals will be staged by the English department and the Monash Shakespeare Society from April 16 to 24 in the ground floor theatre of the Mansfield building, nightly (except Sunday) at 8 p.m.

The play is regarded as one of the most neglected tragedies in the 17th century other than by Shakespeare. Because Shakespeare universally represents the period on the stage today there are few opportunities to see plays such as "The Changeling".

The play is presented by a Postgraduate Text Group in the English department, who have both co-produced and acted in many plays on campus, including A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It and The Tempest.

Finished Dr Rozvany's book, The Optimimum Design of Flexural Systems. Optimisation aims at finding the best solution to a problem after consideration of the range of alternatives.

One of the applications Dr Rozvany has in mind is the structural layout design, particularly the design of long span surface structures.

In the first 200 pages of his new book, 'Practical Ethics', philosopher Peter Singer discusses what we ought morally to do about several controversial and highly complex matters among them, the taking of life in the forms of abortion and euthanasia, the killing of animals and the distribution of wealth and what means are justified to achieve ethical ends.

In the final chapter, Professor Singer, of Monash's Philosophy department, turns to a more fundamental question, a question about ethics itself rather than within ethics: Why act morally at all?

It is not a question easily answered. In fact, Professor Singer concludes: 'Why act morally cannot be given an answer that will provide everyone with overwhelming reasons for acting morally. Ethically indefensible behaviour is not always irrational.'

"We will probably always need the sanctions of the law and social pressure to provide additional reasons against serious violations of ethical standards."

But the pursuit of reasons for acting morally leads Professor Singer to what he says is often regarded as the ultimate philosophical question: Has life a meaning?

"If we accept that a divine being created us with a purpose which we know and accept, then we can claim to know the meaning of life; but Professor Singer does not himself accept this belief."

Atheists

Atheists, he adds, can find meaning in life even though they must give up the idea that life has some preordained meaning and accept that life as a whole has no meaning.

However, the evolution of life, which has "just happened", is nevertheless regarded as the existence of beings who prefer some states of affairs to others. It is thus possible for particular lives to have meaning.

Professor Singer says: "If we are looking for a purpose broader than our own interests, something which will allow us to see our lives as possessing significance beyond the narrow confines of our own conscious states, one obvious solution is to take up the ethical point of view."

"The ethical point of view requires us to go beyond a personal point of view to the standpoint of an impartial spectator."

"Looking at things ethically is a way of transcending our inward-looking concerns and identifying ourselves with the most objective point of view possible."

He says that adopting the ethical point of view offers a meaning and purpose in life "that one does not grow out of."

Talking about the book, Professor Singer says that "Practical Ethics", which is to be published by Cambridge University Press, attempts to fill a gap in philosophical literature by applying the principles to a collection of treated problems facing society.

Professor Singer, who is perhaps most widely known for his book "Animal Liberation", completed the work while on an outside studies program in Oxford.

In the first chapter of "Practical Ethics" he puts this view of what ethics is.

"He says that conduct comes into the domain of the ethical if people are prepared to look at what they do. If not, their actions are in the realm of the non-ethical."

For an act to be ethically defensible, however, it must be compatible with more broadly based principles than self-interest.

Defend conduct

He says: "If I am to defend my conduct on ethical grounds, I cannot point only to the benefits it brings me. I must dress myself to a larger audience."

Professor Singer continues: "In making ethical decisions we must assume that our own rights and duties depend on what we do or they do. If not, their actions are in the realm of the non-ethical."

"For an act to be ethically defensible, however, it must be compatible with more broadly based principles than self-interest."

Universal view

"Ethics requires us to go beyond the local law and the universal law, the universalisable judgment, the standpoint of the impartial spectator or ideal observer or whatever we choose to call it."

Professor Singer says he is inclined to hold a utilitarian position and to some extent his book may be taken as an effort to indicate how a consistent utilitarianism would deal with a number of controversial problems.

The project is supported by Peter Singer requires the person acting ethically to take into account the interests of all those affected by his decision.
New Synthesis", published in 1975. In it, Wilson defines sociology as "the systematic study of the biological and social behaviour".

Professor Singer says that sociology bears on ethics indirectly through what it says about the development of altruism. Sociobiologists suggest ways in which altruism might have evolved, consistent with Darwinian theory, on the grounds that this would suggest the elimination of altruists in the struggle for survival.

Wilson suggests that "the time has come for ethics to be removed temporarily from the domain of the philosophers and biologicals."

Professor Singer does not agree and has drawn a distinction in his claim. He says, however, that while Wilson is confused, his study holds some of the most fundamental tenets and there are useful parts of it.

While away from Monash on study leave and two years on leave, Professor Singer also wrote a book on Marx as part of Oxford University Press's new series "Past Masters". The volume is a text for the layman, say, Professor Singer says, "unequals Marx's role as philosopher, stressing the unity of his views."

"This requires me to weigh up all interests and adopt the course of action most likely to maximise the interests of those affected. Thus I must choose the course of action which has the best consequences, on balance, for all affected," he says.

Professor Singer attacks controversial problems and arrives at controversial positions. This is particularly so in his discussion on the taking of life.

As he says himself in the chapter "Taking life: euthanasia", "The conclusions we have reached will shock a large number of readers for they violate some of the most fundamental tenets of Western ethics - the wrongness of killing other sentient human beings."

From these conclusions on abortion, euthanasia and killing animals is his view of the sanctity of the life of a human being.

In reaching his view he focuses on the term "human being" and, as it were, bisects it.

In one sense, he says, it means a member of the species homo sapiens. In another sense a "human" is a being with particular characteristics: two crucial ones - rationality and self-consciousness. For this sense he uses the word "person" and includes the possibility of non-human animals which exhibit these characteristics (chimpanzees, for example) being embraced by the term.

"The sense of 'human being' overlap but do not coincide," he says. Referring to the first sense of "human", Professor Singer argues that whether a being is or is not a member of our species is, in itself, not relevant to the wrongness of killing it.

"The biological facts upon which the boundary of our species is drawn do not indicate moral significance. To give preference to the life of a being simply because it is a member of our species is to put in the Singer position an axis which give preference to those who are members of their race."

Professor Singer says that it can be argued from four distinct philosophical grounds, however, that killing a self-conscious being is more serious than killing a merely conscious being.

The arguments are:

1. The classical utilitarian claim that since self-conscious beings are capable of fearing their own death, killing them has worse effects on the happiness of others.
2. The preference utilitarian calculation which counts the thwarting of the victim's desire to go on living as an important reason against killing.
3. The theory of rights according to which to have a right one must have the ability to desire that to which one has a right, so that to have a right to life one must be able to desire one's own continued existence.
4. Respect for the autonomous decisions of rational agents.

Professor Singer says this philosophical framework transforms the abortion debate, for example.

"We can now look at the foetus for what it is - the actual characteristics it possesses - and can value the lives of beings with similar characteristics who are not members of our species."

Misnamed

"It now becomes apparent that the Right to Life movement is misnamed. Far from having concern for all life, or a scale of concern impartially based on the nature of the life in question, those who protest against abortion but dine regularly on the bodies of chickens, pigs and calves show only a biased concern for the lives of members of our own species."

"For, on any fair comparison of morally relevant characteristics, like rationality, self-consciousness, awareness, autonomy, pleasure and pain, and so on, the calf, the pig and the much derided chicken come out well ahead of the foetus at any stage of pregnancy - while if we make a comparison with the foetus of less than three months, a fish or even a prawn would show more signs of consciousness."

Claim to life

"My suggestion, then, is that we accord the life of a foetus no greater value than the life of a non-human animal at a similar level of rationality, self-consciousness, awareness, capacity to feel, etc. Since no foetus is a person, no foetus has the same claim to life as a person."

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Professor Singer rejects the argument that euthanasia would be the first step on a slippery slope to genocide.

"There is little historical evidence to suggest that a permissive attitude towards the killing of one category of human beings leads to a breakdown of restrictions against killing other humans," he says.

"Ancient Greeks regularly killed or exposed infants but appear to have been at least as scrupulous about taking the lives of their fellow citizens as medieval Christians or modern Americans."

Eskimo custom

"In traditional Eskimo societies it was the custom for a man to kill his elderly parents but the murder of a normal healthy adult was almost unheard of."

"If these societies could separate human beings into different categories without transferring their attitudes from one group to another, we with our more sophisticated legal systems and greater medical knowledge should be able to do the same."

"All of this is not to deny that departing from the traditional sanctity of life ethic carries with it some risk of unwanted consequences."

"Against this risk we must balance the tangible harm to which the traditional ethic gives rise - harm to those whose misery is needlessly prolonged."


Aeon AP80 B000000
Historian Hugh Stretton at Monash...

*Positivism: a technical mistake, social disaster*

A distinguished Australian historian, Hugh Stretton, has launched an all-out attack on positivism in the social sciences which he calls the "60s" — labelling it "a technical mistake and a social and political disaster".

The basic positivist idea is that social science could and should aim at a purely objective knowledge of the world — our knowledge of society should be a passive, descriptive sort of positivism in the modern sense.

Mr Stretton is a reader in history at the University of Adelaide and last month delivered the sixth Oscar Mendelssohn Lecture. His topic was "How to Corrupt the Social Sciences".

In the lecture Mr Stretton traced the effects of positivist teaching — which stressed that science should deal only in the objective "ought" — and that social value-creating, policy-making, and all the new knowledge about right and wrong should be excluded from science — to some of society's current problems.

Selfishness

For, he said, although the positivist ideology had been largely discarded, members of the generation "saturated" with it were now reaching the top of their career ladders and beginning to exert an influence on the world.

It was not fanciful to see the effects of those decades of "brainwashing" in the hard-sell of classical selfishness and professional selfishness to be found now in the affluence ranks of the upper class, the public service and the universities.

Mr Stretton said: "I suspect that a lot of the well-paid technocrats — an elite of intellectuals and technocrats rather more reactionary and in some fields less technically competent than their fathers were a generation ago.

"And this may help to explain some current troubles — troubles like welfare backlash and tax revolts; our general incompetence with problems of inflation and unemployment and the levels of professional complicity or despair about those problems, and the widespread political shift to the Right which has been happening in a number of the more conservative democracies." Mr Stretton said that, although the poise which had been bred in the universities in the 1970s, the social damage continued.

This was because the ideology was replicated in course outline, textbooks and teaching methods still being used and being encouraged in some key areas.

"You can still find some academics teaching the beliefs in almost all disciplines. They still prevail in most schools of thought on the other end of the spectrum they seem to prevail as majority views in a lot of Australian schools of economics and psychology."

Before the positivist revolution, Mr Stretton said, a university education in the social sciences was a general education and had strong links with classical and humanitarian studies.

In a subject such as sociology, students divided their time between techniques of social observation and analysis and ideological debates about social conflicts and social purposes — debates which shaped their technical questions and research in critical ways.

"That general kind of education plus a good deal of traditional classics and history produced most of the people who created the modern welfare society: the people who extended educational and medical and hospital services to all classes, the people who invented old age pensions, child endowment and supporting parental pensions or insurance for the sick and the unemployed, public housing programs and most of the rest of the welfare apparatus.

"They also contributed a lot to general economic efficiency. It was the passionate reformers, not disillusioned technocrats, who developed most of the public census and statistical services, and the employment exchanges, and the public funding and support for the fundamental scientific research on which nearly every phase of the industrial revolution has been built.

Reformist values

"The people who conceived and directed these semi-professionalised, citizen-reasoned reformers who saw no conflict at all between their reformist values and their social skills.

Then came the positivist revolution with the incontinent, authoritative message that moral thought was classical, rate-declining, rate-important and irrational!"

Mr Stretton said: "Positivism came in various forms, at various dates, with varying force to the different disciplines of social science. In most disciplines, and especially in sociology, it came with a great increase of professionalisation and specialisation.

"If you studied one of these disciplines at all, the professors wanted you to do it all the time and in great specialist detail, to the exclusion of your more general educational interests."

"That had multiple effects. It probably increased your self-confidence — the professionalisation was usually accompanied by some self-congratulation in the specialist schools. This led some students graduating at other, unchosen schools which only did half as much economics (or sociology or whatever) which still let you waste time on history or literature or philosophy or Latin or other pre-scientific rubbish."

"While your discipline was thus monopolising more of your time and specialising your skills it was also going positivist — so there was no room left either inside or outside it for serious discussion of general social principles or social purposes."

"A final effect of the professionalisation was often to cut you off from any other discipline, even from the real social problems."

Mr Stretton said that the same economists likely to deduce the most problems of poverty or unemployment or social loneliness or class or racial conflict, he said.

"Then when the formal general theories were looked upon as sufficient to explain the sociologists turned to wondering why. They wrote less and less about society and more and more about the problems of theory and method within their disciplines, the positivist practitioners rejected the approach which identified important economic factors and explained, predicted and managed them by reference to whatever causes offered the best means — whether they be economic, political, technological, social or psychological.

Mr Stretton said: "The orthodox economists preferred to deal as far as possible in economic variables only and in theories designed to model relations between economic variables only. "They like to relate economic effects to economic causes rather than to other social or political causes. This is partly from social conservatism. But it is partly also for the scientific reason that relations with other non-economic factors can rarely be modelled at all elegantly or mathematical.

Mr Stretton continued: "It happens that the relations between strictly economic variables don't exist, but it explains much about the distribution of wealth or income. So a science limited to other similar ways of thinking would be a science of questions of justice or equality and also some problems of economic growth. Also, a knowledge of the strictly economic variables doesn't include much of what you need to know to control the rate of inflation or the level of employment so the science is not entirely useful for purely capitalist purposes."

Mr Stretton said that the same economists likely to deduce the most possible about the economic system from the simplest premises.

"So it suits them to assume that economic activity is powered by a particular sort of material acquisitiveness: if everybody in the system is trying to optimise its resources on identical principles that should make it easier for mathematicians to design elegant models of the system," he said.

The economists had built a science in the theoretical methods of which rather than because of selfishly-motivated exchange economy as the ideally efficient sort. They defined any different sort of behaviour as a "constraint," a "distortion" or an "imperfection".

Mr Stretton explained the basic flaw of the positivist faith: "The social life that social scientists study is very complicated and it probably includes some elements like gaming chances that are intrinsically unpredictable however perfect your knowledge.

"Whatever the nature of the complexity, in practice, investigators have to do something with knowing less than the general types of answers to accept and act on.

"The working choices have to be guided partly by the objective facts of the society and partly by the investigator's purposes in wanting to investigate the society. The investigator's purposes are social purpose of one sort or another, often controversial and always value-based."

Mr Stretton said that most social knowledge had to be understood as a woven fabric, with facts and values as warp and woof.

"If you could ever actually get social scientists to do without the values and deal only in the facts, that would not produce a better science."

"It could not produce any science at all. Instead of science you would have a useless, incoherent heap of unrelated bits of 'objective' information."

"It follows that attempts at positivist science can't succeed. The thing is not even logically or ideally possible."

April 1980

MONASH REPORTER
Our girls ‘crazy’ about Hollywood

Australians girls were “crazy about Hollywood”, a visiting US soldier wrote home during the second World War. Another one was puzzled by an Australian horse trainer there, who accused Americans of poisoning Phar Lap (the GI had never heard of the horse).

These are some of the intriguing details of US-australian social history, revealed through outside studies research by Monash associate professor in History, Dr. Daniel Potts, and his wife Annette.

The couple have co-authored several books and many articles on American-Australian relations, and they visited two-thirds of the United States last year in pursuit of more research material.

They returned home with a rich collection of unpublished diaries and letters by US soldiers based in Australia from 1942 to ’45.

“They represent the reaction of ordinary young Americans to Australia at that time,” explained Annette Potts. “They tell us about American life, too. I’m not surprised the American soldier had never heard of Phar Lap; horse-racing is still banned in a number of American states.”

One young GI recorded his Australian wartime experiences in 10 school exercise books, a page a day. Another one kept a thousand page notebook for his girl at home, Exehila.

“When he went home and married a very nice girl called Mary,” said Mrs. Potts.

An earlier story in Monash Reporter helped the Potts track down some of their research subjects. A student read the report and told her mother about the project.

It turned out her family had entertained a number of young GIs during the War and had kept up the friendship ever since.

The Potts made contact with the Americans and their families and went out to dinner with them. The meeting produced one of the bigger diaries, and more useful material for the Potts’ next book.

Participants sought for Host Family Scheme

Arriving at a large university can be a lonely experience – particularly if you’re from overseas, interstate or the country and have no social contacts in Melbourne.

Each year the Monash University Parents’ Group sponsors a scheme to help overcome the problem.

The Host Family Scheme introduces Monash students living away from home to families genuinely interested in the welfare of students.

Families are currently being sought to participate in the scheme.

Women in the arts: two series

A hallmark of art in the 1970s was the emergence of women artists.

At the end of the decade, the issue of feminism and the arts captured the attention of a group of practitioners and students.

It is, a group of art practitioners and students feels, an ideal time to assess how art has been affected, where women artists will go from here.

To launch that assessment a series of lunchtime seminars titled Women and Art: Into the ’80s will be held at Monash this year. The seminars will be led by women artists and are open to all.

The first seminar was held last week and was conducted by a former Monash artist-in-residence, Dr. Margaret Gubser.

The next will be held on April 23 when Belinda Ely will lead discussion. Belinda Ely is a multi-media artist and co-ordinator of the Women’s Art Register-Extension Project. On April 30, fellow multi-media artist, Isabel Davies, will speak.

Other seminar dates are: June 11, Jill Orr; July 2, Jennifer Berkman, photographer and researcher; July 23, Sue Ford, film maker and member of film making group, Peak Women; September 17, Chris Berkman, social realist painter; October 8, Jenny Mather, photographer and member of the Feminist film group, who will also have an exhibition of paintings and drawings.

The seminars, which are being run with the co-operation of the Visual Arts Student Association, all start at 11.10 p.m. in the Visual Arts department on the seventh floor of the Menzies building.

For further information contact Visual Arts tutor, Pat Simmons on ext. 2115 or Denise McGrath on 51 0394.

To complement the “Women and Art” series, the departments of English and Visual Arts are joining forces to conduct a series of lunchtime seminars under the title Women and Writing: Into the ’80s.

The seminars will be held in the exhibition gallery of the Visual Arts department on the ground floor of the Menzies building. All start at 1.10 p.m.

The first seminar in the series will be introduced by Associate Professor Elaine Barry on April 9.

The four seminars will be led by Melbourne writers who will read and comment on their work and then hold an open discussion. The dates are: April 9, Fiona Moodhead; May 7, Helen Garner; June 4, Judith Rodgers; July 2, Jennifer Strauss.

Highlight in visit to ‘Peking Man’ site

A working visit to the famous ‘Peking Man’ archaeological site was a highlight of outside studies in China by Dr. Pat Rich, a student of Monash’s Earth Sciences department.

Dr. Rich was also the first westerner to visit the Naxi Hua mine, where he worked to improve Chinese hominid research.

Dr. Rich said one of the most exciting and unexpected results of her study tour was the beginning of the development of a specialist Chinese English dictionary for vertebrate palaeontologists.

The dictionary began with her persistent attempts at translating terms.

A chance meeting with two Cambridge Chinese scholars at Shanghai airport led to inviting Dr. Rich to join their project to develop a series of texts for Chinese students.

The Cambridge researchers, Professor R. P. Sloss and Dr. J. L. Dawson, have already designed a functional computer system which can cope with 80,000 Chinese characters and allows users to translate phrases and articles in several technical fields.

Dr. Rich will provide a specialist vocabulary for the computer and return, receive a printout and low cost, rapid translation of articles in her field.

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Another chance meeting, with US Geological Survey scientist Dr. J. Everden in Beijing, led to an invitation for Dr. Rich to join another international project, a radiometric (potassium-argon) dating scheme for Cainozoic terrestrial deposits bearing vertebrate fossils.

“When a person steps outside an everyday pattern of work, often marvellous things happen,” she said.

My three week trip to the People's Republic of China was such a step and it has resulted in a stimulating, highly productive exchange of ideas and information as well as the initiation of several joint projects between Australian, Chinese, American and British scientists.”

Appeal for art museum

The New England Regional Art Museum Association has launched a public appeal for funds to build an art museum in Armidale.

The proposed museum will have as its nucleus the Howard Hinton collection and the Dr. Richard and Helen Dixon collection.

Dr. Rich will provide a specialist vocabulary for the computer and return, receive a printout and low cost, rapid translation of articles in her field.

The collection features works by members of the Lindsay family: Streeton, Conder, Roberts and Gruner.

It was Hinton's wish that the works be hung in the College for the benefit of students. The College's main building is not well-suited for this purpose, however. It is not air-conditioned, public access is limited and professional curatorial services are not provided.

When the teachers' college was incorporated as a college of advanced education the Armidale City Council became the museum's trustee.

Added to it is the proposed museum will be the Chandler Coventry collection of modern Australian art.

A local contact for those wishing to aid this effort for the proper presentation of the Armidale city collection is Dr. Mary Nixon, senior lecturer in Education. Dr. Nixon can be contacted on ext. 2893.
Aboriginal people throughout Victoria are likely to benefit from a recent conference at Monash, held under the auspices of the Aboriginal Research Centre.

The conference was organised by the Aboriginal Advancement League and the Aboriginal Research Centre, with an estimated 120 Aboriginal men and women from all over the state, attended and decided to seek support from white Australians in a campaign to promote Aboriginal culture in the schools and wider community.

A retired observer at the meeting, researcher Ms Bette Moore described it as an impressive and moving event.

The Aborigines had a keen sense of their need for independence and autonomy, but at the same time an awareness of the help available to them from non-Aborigines, she said.

A changing role for the Aboriginal Advancement League was an important conference decision, Ms Moore said. In the future, it would put less emphasis on its original welfare role, as a "band-aid" organisation reacting to crises.

It would continue its hostels and welfare work, but eliminate those areas dealt with by other organisations. Greater emphasis would be placed on preventive programs, in consultation with other community groups, and Aboriginal people would be encouraged to become helpers rather than the helped.

White Australians would once more be encouraged to join the Aboriginal Advancement League, though it would continue to be directed by an all-Aboriginal board and the new branches would be encouraged to help with information distribution as well as fund raising for such projects as the development of the AAL's head office building as a tourist centre and meeting place for the league.

The League would also continue its political lobbying work, especially in the areas of land rights and a Treaty of Commitment and Compensation for the Aboriginal people.

Amnesty

The concept of human rights and their observance around the world will be the topic of a series of lunchtime sessions being organised to mark Amnesty International Week at Monash.

On Monday, April 21, Rev. Dick Wootton, vice-president of the Victorian branch of Amnesty, will look at human rights in South America, particularly Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil.

The speaker on April 22 will be Mr Peter Ross-Edwards, patron of the Victorian branch and State leader of the National Party.

On April 23, Mr R. D. Nicholson, president of the Law Council of Australia, will examine human rights from the legal point of view.

Mr Gareth Evans will examine the position in Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia.

All sessions will be held in Rotunda theatre R4 starting at 1 p.m. and are open to all.


The benevolent fiction behind Batman's famous treaty with the Aborigines is exposed in a grim new book by Monash graduate, Dr Michael Christie: "Aborigines in Colonial Victoria, 1835-88.

Most Victorians imagine white settlement in the Garden State as a happy affair — simple black people cheerfully handing over their hunting grounds to white settlers in exchange for a bundle of beads and trinkets.

The truth was very different — a bloody story of ruthless white conquest, resisted by desperate Aboriginal warriors in a hopeless defence of their homelands.

Batman's treaty was itself the beginning of a systematic white attack on Aborigines' rights, as Christie's book shows. The settlers involved knew the black signatories had no right to sign such a document.

He reveals something very like a conspiracy of silence about the violent racial clashes which accompanied white settlement throughout Australia. He says: "It is essential to appreciate the nature of frontier conflict and the degree of success Aborigines had in defending their land, firstly in the interests of accurate history, but also because Aborigines are still affected today by the omissions and distortions that are to be found in so many accounts of the frontier period. . . . The myth that Aborigines failed to defend their land needs to be exploded, not in order to award Aborigines the dubious distinction of being as capable of Englishmen of killing others in battle, but rather to show that Aborigines cared for and valued their land and did not cede it easily or willingly. . . . The whites eventually took the land but they had to take it by force. . . ."

False story

According to Christie, the false story of Aboriginal capitulation has been perpetuated to assuage uneasy consciences and also because of the legally and economically crucial to define Australia as a colony which had been peacefully annexed rather than conquered. Thus there would be no need for treatment some form of compensation.

He recounts many of the causes of racial violence on the frontiers of black and white Australia — the clash between pastoralism and the Aboriginal way of life, the racist attitudes of squatters and their men, white mistreatment of black women and, on the Aboriginal side, the need to the story is being repeated native game and to resist threatening intruders.

By the middle of the last century, Christie found, small Aboriginal bands and even neighboring tribes were joining together in their common struggle against the white man, some with striking success.

By 1848, however, Aborigines were dying in "incredible numbers" along the Murray, amid rumours of poisoning by white colonists.

There were about 15,000 Aborigines living in Victoria in 1848, according to anthropological and contemporary evidence, Christie points out. By the mid-1800s just 844 survived, only half of them full-blood.

The "assimilation" policies which meant the destruction of a race were the result of laws restricting full-blood Aborigines and even half castes to outback stations, where the mortality rate exceeded their birth rate.

Dr Christie hopes to develop his theme in a book or TV play aimed at mass audiences in Australia.

Unlike the thing is that the book was written today," he told Monash Reporter.

"We have a mockery of land rights law which gives land to the Aborigines — until white society discovers minerals on it. Even the arguments are the same. The national interest demands that Aborigines lose their land.

Monash library staff can pride themselves on being able to assist.

And that assistance extends beyond book-related matters. It could even save a life.

Ten members of the staff, representing all the major library branches, were selected for first aid training recently (many others joined voluntarily).

The St. John Ambulance course was conducted by Divisional Superintendent, Mandy Gibbe. It is planned that a similar number of staff will do the course next year.

Monash's Safety Officer, Mr W. Barker, says that the University's safety committee supports the idea of members of departments being trained in first aid.

Mr Barker's office is able to supply equipment for such training.

He says: "The person trained in first aid is an important person in an emergency — whether at home, on holiday or at work."

* Photo (above): St. John Ambulance instructor, Mandy Gibbe gives Marion Harland of the Cataloguing department, a few tips on first aid.

Grim story of ruthless conquest

By Jan Mayman

April 1980
Brain and behaviour — a down-to-earth approach

There are a number of the features of the book which may be trying to the reader's patience and which definitely detract from its presentation. I'll mention only two here.

First of all, some diagrams in the book bear no relationship to the text nor is any reason or explanation given for their inclusion. For example, in the first chapter there is a diagram of a simple reflex arc but no mention is made of its relevance to "methods of studying brain-behaviour relationships." The reader is left with the impression that the diagram has been put into the book as an afterthought. Some of the diagrams definitely require additional explanatory labels.

Second, according to the authors in the Preface, Brain and Behaviour attempts to present physiological research findings in a "simple language." "Simple" language and, on the whole, they keep their promise. However, the text lapses into psychological jargon and sometimes veers into time and this heavy use of psychobiological terminology detracts from getting the story home to the reader.

The carefully prepared glossary of terms at the back of the book takes care of the more troublesome words such as "retro-active-inhibition" and "neuropharmacological models", but the layman might find it a nuisance to have to keep flipping to the back of the book to find out what all these big words mean. Many of the technical terms could have been dealt with more adequately in the text itself.

One attractive feature of the book is that it brings together a good deal of the rather complicated and voluminous material on feeding and drinking and the hypothalamus and makes sense of it in a human context. The chapters on feeding and drinking and related topics (e.g. "Sugar-control and diabetes" and "Obesity") provide interesting information for those of us with a weight problem and I believe this is one of the better accounts of how our brain and our body may control food intake. In describing the relevant experimental literature, the book points up clearly the value of animal experimentation and shows that the often misunderstood and sometimes esoteric experiments in which scientists are not without value for the real world. However, Brain and Behaviour is almost too devoted to the brain much larger than the "hypothalamus" and the rest of the brain receives scant attention by comparison.

The book has a rather parochial flavour. Australian brain research, particularly that going on at La Trobe University, is dealt with in detail and it is good to see local work being given a public airing. On the other hand the La Trobe label is overused in the written text. I counted at least 32 direct references to the work being done "at La Trobe" or done "by the La Trobe team"; the repetition becomes annoying, especially toward the end of the text.

Which brings me to my comment at the beginning of this review. Brain and Behaviour presents as a series of well-written technical lecture notes. For an intending La Trobe student the cost of the paperback (recommended retail $12) would seem to be very little to pay for a good set of lecture notes. But for the layman this sum is definitely too much to pay unless, of course, you've got a weight problem and then the book and the advice it has to offer on weight loss and reduction may be cheaper than joining a weight watching group.

G. Richard Gates.
Tutor in Spanish at Monash, Denis Close, describes Brazilian composer Pixinguinha as "a tropical Chopin."

And Denis adds, Nazaret, "bears more than a slight resemblance to the American composer Scott Joplin."

The compositions of Nazaret and fellow composer Puxinguinha will be performed tonight - April 29 - in a recital of "choro" by the Brazilian quartet, the Cavaquinho Group. This group,minus "the choros" developed in Brazil around the 1870s.

He says: "Small bands of skilful but illiterate musicians 'bored silly' with churning out imported polkas and mazurkas at their evening and other functions began indulging in daring improvisations purely for their own entertainment."

"But the most novel style of playing had developed in the choro - which was characterised by beautiful, flowing lines and crafty innovations."

"As with early American jazz, the choro waned when new, more "commercial" trends appeared, but in the last three years there has been a renaissance of this charming music."

Denis became aware of the wealth of music composed in Brazil at the turn of the century when he visited that country in 1977 during which the centenary of the choro was commemorated.

Denis has planned a second musical activity for Monash this year - a full scale Latin American concert in the Alexander Theatre on July 20.

- Ernesto Nazaret

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1: ARTS AND CRAFTS COURSES - Inquire now about the winter program of Arts and crafts courses in 10 courses in 49 subjects, commencing early May. For further information ext. 1923.

2: LECTURE - "Small Bands of Illiterate Musicians" by Mr. R. J. Cook, April 30, in the Music department auditorium in the Menzies building. It is being sponsored by the Brazilian department.

3: CONFERENCE - "Sports and the School" by Mr. W. C. Cook, April 30, in a recital of "choro".

4: Recital will be held at 7.30 p.m.

5: "Small Band of Illiterate Musicians" by Mr. R. J. Cook, April 30, in the Music department auditorium in the Menzies building.

6: This group, minus "the choros" developed in Brazil around the 1870s.

7: Denis became aware of the wealth of music composed in Brazil at the turn of the century when he visited that country in 1977 during which the centenary of the choro was commemorated.

8: Denis has planned a second musical activity for Monash this year - a full scale Latin American concert in the Alexander Theatre on July 20.

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ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE SERIES - "The Aborigine Religion's Contribution to Australian Aboriginal Ideology", by Mr. Pat Dodson, F.R.A.S., April 30, 5 p.m.

2: PLAY - "The Aboriginal Lander's Dance" by Dr. W. K. Leitch, April 30, 7 p.m.

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