Support for professorial chairmanships

The Monash practice of restricting the chairmanship of departments to professors has, on the whole, served the University well.

This was one of the principal findings of the Monash Review Committee, whose report on the headship of departments was adopted by Council at its June meeting. (Despite the use of the word ‘headship’ in its terms of reference, the committee found no case for changing the designation of the office from ‘chairman’ to ‘head’.)

However, the committee left the way open for the appointment of non-professorial chairmen “in exceptional circumstances”.

The Review Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Professor K. C. Westfold in 1977 to investigate and report upon various aspects of University government and administration.

Its final report on headships was accompanied by three appendices dealing with (1) the duties and responsibilities of chairmen of the academic staff (to be incorporated in the Staff Handbook); (2) departmental government; and (3) appointment procedures of professors.

The committee reported that it had examined procedures operating at all the Australian universities and had before it accounts of new procedures at two universities — Melbourne and Adelaide — which allowed for the appointment of non-professorial chairmen of departments.

It had also received 80 submissions from Monash staff members, a report of an ad hoc committee of the Arts Faculty Board, and a number of other reports and submissions.

Arguments for change

In its report, the committee summarised the arguments in favour of opening the chairmanship of departments to non-professorial members of faculty as follows:

- The possibility of high-handed or arbitrary behaviour, harassment or victimisation, and failure to respond to representations, or to inform and consult, would be greatly reduced if a chairman knew he could be more readily removed.
- Particularly in single-professor departments there is need to offer relief from the burdens of chairmanship.
- There is an inconsistency in appointing professors (on the grounds of their high attainments in research and scholarship) to offer academic leadership, and then requiring them to assume the burdens of administration.
- Not all professors possess administrative abilities, whereas in most departments there can be found sufficiently senior non-professorial staff members who do possess such abilities.
- A professor can exercise academic leadership within a department by reason of his academic stature without being its chairman.
- Particularly in the current phase of virtual autonomy in Australian universities, the opportunity of chairmanship should be open to able “chairworthy” academics who now have few opportunities to apply for vacant chairs.
- Election of chairmen would ensure that those who have to live with decisions made on behalf of the department would have some influence on the choice of the person making those decisions.
- Non-professorial chairmen of departments in other universities have performed their duties with satisfaction.

Arguments against

The counter arguments were summarised as follows:

- At Monash University acceptance of a chair carries with it acceptance of the burdens and responsibilities of administering a department when it is vacant.
- It is at any time open to a chairman to seek relief from the burdens and responsibilities of the chairmanship by resigning his professorial chair.
- Occasional cases of incorrigible behaviour or incompetence do not provide good grounds for overturning a system which is basically sound.
- The role of academic leadership, particularly in technical departments, cannot readily be separated from administrative responsibility and accountability.
- In allocating departmental resources and support facilities a chairman has to distinguish between good and bad research. The best scholars, among whom are the professors, are best able to carry out this responsibility.
- The process of election can be divisive, and result in the appointment of a compromise chairman rather than the best person offering.
- An elected chairman may be reluctant to call a member of his department to task for unsatisfactory performance of his duties.
- Continued P.2

They’ve got a show for you

Rehearsals are in full swing for the Monash Modern Dance Group’s show “Instep ’80”, to be presented in the Alexander Theatre late this month.

Pictured are three of the dancers who will be performing: (from left) Linda Goldsmith, Kathryn Hulyer and Marilyn Capper. As well as student performers, the Modern Dance Ensemble will appear in the program.

There will be five performances of “Instep ’80”: Wednesday, July 30 at 1 p.m., July 31 at 1 p.m. and 5.15 p.m.; and August 1 at 1 p.m. and 5.15 p.m.

The program will include a variety of dance styles: jazz, classical ballet, Afro-Cuban, contemporary, tap and primitive.

Tickets will be available at the door and cost $2.50 (adults) and $1.50 (students and pensioners).

For further information contact 557 6708 a.h.

Another serve of Ox. tongues

Sharp tongues, sharp minds and an entertaining lunchtime and evening... that’s the promise held out by the visit of the Oxford debating team to Monash this month.

The team will be here for a debate against the Monash Association of Debaters on July 11 at 1.15 p.m. in Blackwood Hall. The topic will be: “That we should get in for our lunch.”

On July 14 the team will return to RBH for a debate against a top Victorian State debating team.

Coutesy: Student Life, 1980
The 'balance of Nature' belief takes a nosedive to extinction

There was no such thing as a "balance of Nature", Professor Charles Krebs said in a recent Monash faculty of Science public lecture.

The idea that animals lived in ecological harmony and populations would remain constant if Nature was left to itself had been held for more than 2,000 years but was "quite wrong", he said.

"There are great fluctuations in populations but they were not controlled by the inter-relation of species, he said.

The sole driving force in species was their size, the animals become more aggressive, the fewer they are, he said.

"Most genes for aggression are favored in small species, he said.

"In the past, man believed he could control Nature," he said. "He does not.

This mistaken view had been exemplified by excesses in harvesting in the past, he said.

Whales had been over-harvested to the point where their numbers were so reduced they would take a long time to recover.

Essentially, almost every fishery on Earth has been over-harvested, he said.

However, he said, it was possible to reverse the trend. He cited the Pacific salmon as "a success story" in species regeneration.

But no lemming nosedive

Tailpiece: The balance of Nature was not the only myth exploded by Professor Krebs. Another was the so-called suicidal tendencies of the lemming.

Lemmings are not impelled by population pressure to commit suicide by jumping over cliffs, he said. This was a folk tale which appeared to have arisen as a result of the sudden rise and fall in lemming populations.

Parents' dinner

The Monash University Parents' Group will hold its annual dinner dance in the main dining room of the Union on Saturday, July 19 (6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.)

A band will play and there will be valuable prizes to be won. The cost is $30 a double and it is a BYO evening.

For tickets contact Mrs Nina Triano, 1 Nicholson Street, Mt Waverley (288 7127).

The Engineering faculty, as well as participating in Careers and Counselling Day, is planning two courses designed to meet the specific information needs of two groups - careers teachers and parents of prospective students.

The faculty sees the events as complementing its activities of August 2 which will be aimed specifically at the prospective students themselves.

A symposium for secondary school careers teachers on careers in engineering will be held on Tuesday, July 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A counselling night for parents of prospective students will be held on Thursday, July 31.

For further information about these activities contact the Faculty Secretary's office on ext. 3407.

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Monash's first 'C & C' Day August 2

Early next month — on Saturday, August 2 — Monash will hold its first Careers and Counselling Day. Organised by the Careers and Appointment Service with the co-operation of faculty secretaries, it will be the University’s chief information-giving activity this year on courses and careers for prospective students.

It is planned that Careers and Counselling Day will alternate each year with the traditional Open Day and that the former will emphasise, as its name suggests, academic counselling minus the "fun of the fair", public relations aspect of the latter.

All participating

All faculties will be taking part on August 2 and, as well, there will be student involvement so that secondary students will have the opportunity to talk to undergraduates in their year level and to other students in subject areas which interest them.

Inquiries about the day should be directed to Lionel Parrott, Careers and Appointment Officer, or Mrs Barbara Linten on ext. 3159/1/2.

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Letter to the editor

SIR: As a Monash graduate and careers teacher at a school located near the University, I was pleased to read about the plans for Careers and Counselling Day on August 2 (Monash Reporter, May 7.)

"The emphasis on academic and careers counselling, including the fact that decision-making by students and the provision of information on courses and future employment, is to be commended." This type of approach, successfully implemented, can only result in the most suitable students undertaking university study.

"The proposal to consider the needs of parents of prospective students is also to be commended. Parents are possibly the most important single factor influencing a student's career choice. Yet they may be hindered in their efforts to assist their student children in their choice of and adjustment to university studies for a variety of reasons: the university life of 1980 is different from the university life they have known; they have no personal experience of university life and hence no understanding of the pressures; or they may have well-meaning but unrealistic aspirations for their children to attend university.

"Liaison between the university and parents could help overcome these problems."

Gayle Clarke

Murrumbeena

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Headships

The committee recognised that there were certain circumstances in which it would become necessary to appoint a non-professorial chairman. It therefore recommended:

"That appropriate amendments be made to the University's legislation to provide for the designation of one of the professors, associate professors, or readers in a department as its chairman with concurrent membership of the Professorial Board.

That, if it becomes necessary, for a non-professorial chairman to be appointed, that appointment be made by a selection committee similar in representation to selection committees that select professors.

That, if it becomes necessary, for a non-professorial chairman to be selected from below the rank of associate professor and reader, the Chairman and one other member of the Readership and Associate Professorship Committee be included in the selection committee.

Other recommendations by the committee included:

- That the resolutions of a departmental meeting should not be binding on the chairman of the department.

- That Council prepare procedures for the removal from office of a chairman of a department for unsatisfactory performance of his duties or for other due cause.

- That provision be made in exceptional cases for a chairman to delegate his responsibilities to a non-professorial acting chairman for a period not exceeding one year.

- That deans of faculties be required to conduct at intervals of, say, three years a review of the chairman of each department in their faculties.
Meet a couple of top linguists

If he says "oe-ther" and she says "eye-they", rather than talking Gershwin's advice and "calling the one of the world's leading scholars more.
whole thin, study of language in its cultural setting and social history (she has studied the history of language policy in several countries including the US, Mexico and Guatemala).
The couple are visitors in the Linguistics department at Monash until August.
Professor Ferguson, who has served as president of the Linguistic Society of America, is from Stanford University. He has worked there for 13 years but points out that during his career he has spent as much time "outside" as "inside" (universities). Early in his career he worked on diglossia (in the Service Institute in the US State Department, taught at Harvard for four years, and was then appointed Director of the Centre for Applied Linguistics in Washington.
Since arriving at Monash, Professor Heath has received the good news that she has been appointed to the School of Education at Stanford University. Her days of "commuting" between San Francisco and Philadelphia, where she worked previously at the University of Pennsylvania, are over.
On a personal level, the couple chose to come to Australia during Professor Ferguson's sabbatical leave (he is travelling on a Guggenheim Scholarship) because it was an English-speaking country in which children Brice, 17, and Shannon, 13, could continue their education.
On a professional level, they were attracted to Monash because Professor Ferguson knew personally or was acquainted with the work of such academics as Professor U.G.E. Hopper, Associate Professor J.T. Platt (Linguistics), Associate Professor M. Clyne (German) and Professor J.V. Neustupny (Russian).

One of his projects was a joint study with Greenberg on "universals" - features which occur in a large number of languages.
The result of their work - a book titled "Universals of Human Language" - is an important work at this time, Professor Ferguson says, because it presents a philosophy of language research different from that embraced by the previous generation of linguists.

"They emphasised the diversity of languages," he says.
Professor Ferguson says that although his study on universals heralded a change in philosophy, the work was not philosophically motivated.

"In his efforts to classify language Ferguson was struck by the similarities he found across hundreds of languages," he says. This was the starting point for the joint research which was empirically oriented. The linguists described what they found.

Noam Chomsky, arguably one of the best known linguists, generally, because of his participation in public causes in recent years, has worked also on universals.
Professor Ferguson says: "Chomsky's work shows more explicitly philosophical concerns."
Professor Ferguson describes the approach of the two studies as totally different.

Professor Shirley Heath, currently visiting Monash, served on a transition team on language policy established by Jimmy Carter when he assumed the US Presidency.
A part of Professor Heath's research has been on the history of language policies in the United States and in Latin American countries.
One of the issues canvassed by the team was bilingual education. It put forward the idea that education should not, perhaps, aim at children of English-speaking background being taken away from their first language to English. Rather, it suggested, the aim could be to maintain the original language at the same time as the acquisition of English.
Professor Heath says that this concept of "maintenance" rather than "transition" has found limited acceptance in the US in 20 years since when education authorities but that there is now little enthusiasm for it as policy in the Department of Education.
She raises the possibility that a backlash by some Americans against the new immigration - particularly the recent influx of Cuban refugees - could keep "maintenance" in the back seat for some time.
In Professor Heath's own study, the subject of a book, she has examined US laws as they relate to language and has assessed procedures on the use of language in several settings - in schools, courts and other processes of the law, the public service, employment offices and at electoral booths, for example.

Chomsky's method, he says, has been to look in depth at a small number of languages and his aim has been to construct a theory. The Greenberg-Ferguson work examined a great number of languages and was not theoretically oriented.
Professor Ferguson has shared another area of research interest with Chomsky - the acquisition of language by children. Again, they have taken different approaches to their topic.
Chomsky has written of the innateness of the fundamentals of language. In saying that children are "born to it", he places less emphasis than is given traditionally to the concept of "learning" a language.
Professor Ferguson has approached the research topic of children and language from two angles.
From one, he has looked at how children learn the sound systems of language. He conducted his research with children aged from 1½ to five years in English, Spanish and Cantone-speaking groups in the San Francisco area.
"It is essentially oriented work, not anti-theory but seeking to establish facts from experience," he says.
Some research he has conducted is the way in which adults modify their speech in teaching children. This "baby talk" phenomenon is common to many languages.
"Many speech communities have special ways of speaking to people their members feel are not proficient in the language, whether they be children or foreigners.
"Studies have been conducted on the role such ways of speaking play in the language learning process - whether they are a help or hindrance.
"Some recent research has shown that this "baby talk" is a help but the question is still open."
Professor Ferguson has co-edited a book "Talking to Children", with Catherine Snow.

Meet a couple of top linguists

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The book she is currently working on is in her second sphere of interest - ethnography.
It documents the results of a 10 year study she has conducted on the learning and use of language by children - at home and then at school - in two communities of a quite different cultural background in the US.
The communities are both in the southeast of the country and both are considered as minorities.
One is a Black community; the other a southern Appalachian (White) community. This latter group popularly described as "hillbilly" - originally came from coal-mining areas of the Appalachian mountains, more recently shifted to the ready-made communities formed around textile mills on the coast.
Professor Heath says that the ultimate goal of such a study of minorities is to contribute to policy considerations.
She says: "For so long minority groups have been viewed in negative terms - of how they don't live up to majority expectations.
"It is important to understand minorities as viable groups with their own culture - and language, of course, plays a role in this.
"Government can then look at realistic ways of incorporating the needs of minorities into policy considerations."
Professor Heath has previously conducted similar ethnographic studies in Latin American countries.
Students: a global view and some home proposals

A prevailing belief in overseas universities is that the two Rs will be as important in tertiary education as the three Rs are for the primary and secondary sectors, Mr Doug Ellis, Deputy Warden of the Union, states in his outside study report to Council.

In this case R & R stands for recruitment and retention of students.

Mr Ellis says: "Static or falling enrolments and/or reduced financial support from governments are leading to the belief, especially in Canada and North America, that universities and colleges might have to accept the concept of an 'educational market place' and understand that traditional market forces operate just as fiercely in education as in other areas of economic activity."

It is becoming accepted overseas that universities and colleges are in direct competition for a diminishing number of potential students.

This competition is reflected in various ways, Mr Ellis says.

"One of the most disturbing is the blatant and, in some cases, exaggerated and misleading advertising by institutions."

"Because, in the long run, students are the main sufferers, it is hoped the moves to curb a tendency for this to happen in Australia will be successful."

Mr Ellis says that a responsible and effective advertising policy needs to let prospective students know the facts so that they can make effective choices between institutions and the courses offered.

Student sovereignty

In the "marketing" environment, Mr Ellis says, student or student sovereignty is an often heard term.

"Students are more aware than previous generations of their importance to the economic wellbeing of the university. They are likely to become more concerned about the manner in which they get the best teaching available."

"More attention is not only being directed toward the relationship between students and staff but also to the balance which staff have to maintain between teaching and research."

Mr Ellis's 23-page report follows his 12-months outside study of overseas universities, during which he met with university staff and students, gave addresses on university life and met officials and students he was surprised to find that, at some universities, up to eight officers of the current postgraduate grant."

He says: "All universities visited indicated that enrolments in engineering, some areas of science and business studies are increasing. There has certainly been a swing away from the social sciences and environmental and biological study areas."

Mr Ellis says that he spoke with under-graduate and postgraduate students and formed two main impressions as to why this should be the case, apart from concern about reduced opportunities for teaching:

"The feeling that more and better jobs would arise in the technical areas."

A swing to the belief that problems such as pollution were caused by technology and, despite improvements in legislation, were only going to be solved by an understanding of the technical mechanisms involved.

"Nevertheless, interest in sororities and fraternities and homemaking festivals has revived."

"The trend has been away from hallucinogenic drugs but towards increased consumption of alcohol. The interest in drugs has moved to a much earlier age group. In some States, the smoking or possession of marijuana is now a misdemeanour rather than a crime."

"Sports and domestic political issues have largely replaced the interest in international affairs."

"Mr Ellis says that a common cry he heard was that students today are apathetic."

"It was difficult to escape the impression that one great uniting issue which would act as a catalyst for student action. Such a catalyst could lie in a further nuclear power plant problems, such as occurred at Harrisburg, or in President Carter's proposal to introduce registration for drafting for military service."

Officer sabbaticals

One concept in student government which Mr Ellis examines at length in his report is the system of sabbatical leave for students elected to office in Unions.

In some UK and North American universities holders of these positions were excused all, or a major portion, of their courses for the year they held office. Some also received the equivalent of the current postgraduate grant."

Mr Ellis says that while he was aware of the existence of sabbatical leave entitlements for Union presidents he was surprised to find that, at some universities, up to eight officers were enjoying such leave.

"It was difficult to escape the impression that some Vice-Chancellors in the UK have, in recent years, responded to some of the student pressures by virtually throwing the sabbatical system out of the sabbatical bone."

Mr Ellis's assessment is that the all-embracing sabbatical systems do not fulfill the promises made about them, leading to their implementation that, for example, the academic risk of the individual is reduced; that better candidates are offering themselves for election; that the system yields more total involvement by students.

Despite his criticisms of the sabbatical system, and especially its extension beyond the president, Mr Ellis suggests that if, and when, the Monash student body looks at revision of its organisation, it might consider the idea of a chairperson who is allowed at least some relief from study. A living allowance, perhaps equivalent to the full TRAS, should also be provided.

But, Mr Ellis cautions: "While such a move must of course be initiated by students, it is recommended that, if this eventuates, the University should not yield to pressure for more than one such position."

In the same section of the report he makes recommendations on changes to the Union Constitution.

He says that it is appropriate at some stage in the future to review the existing statute and Constitution of the Union to allow an Association of Students, and to reconstitute MAS, the Union (including Clubs and Societies Council) and the Sports and Recreation Association as separate entities. Each would draw a percentage of the overall student fee.

Mr Ellis says that this could be 7½ per cent with the remaining 25 per cent going toward maintenance and development and the financing of particular needs, especially new initiatives.

Mr Ellis says: "Above all, the practice of earmarking a considerable percentage of the student fee for development and maintenance must be maintained if for no other reason than the university must learn how to avoid becoming like some of the shoddy run-down Unions which were visited and which were not well patronised by their own members."

On a staff matter, Mr Ellis looks in his report at the increased unionisation of academic and support staff overseas and the growth of collective bargaining units on campuses, in the US and Canada.

"The emergence of bargaining units, in place of often ineffective staff associations, has meant that college administrators are having to be more sensitive to staff matters than they have been in the past," he says.

Mr Ellis also looks at the issue of the new technology and a question being asked of how educationists can assist those affected by shorter working hours but also those who are made redundant from work.

"Recreation and leisure study personnel are finding that the concept: 'more computerisation — more leisure — more enjoyment — more need for professional recreation staff' is more complex than was generally appreciated," he says.
A History professor has suggested that Monash is peculiarly Australian in nature because it mirrors this country's "somewhat unusual" position in the contemporary world — looking in two directions at once.

Professor Merle Ricklefs, whose specialty is the study of Dante, was giving the occasional address at an Arts graduation ceremony last month.

Professor Ricklefs said: "Australia is, on the one hand, a nation whose historical and cultural roots reach back to Europe, to Britain in the first place of course. But in recent years this heritage has been enriched by immigration from other European areas.

"On the other hand, Australia is geographically on the edge of Asia. This fact is reflected in Australia's current immigration pattern which is providing yet another element of enrichment for this great nation. About one-third of new immigrants now come from Asian countries."

He continued: "At Monash, Australia's European heritage is maintained not only in its very structure as a university but in the subjects which are studied here.

"But at the same time Australia's geographic circumstances, notably its proximity to Southeast Asia, are reflected in Monash's strong offerings concerning Asia. This combination, I believe, greatly enriches this University."

Professor Ricklefs was appointed to Monash six months ago. Born and educated in London, he came to Australia from the UK where, for the last 10 years, he taught at the University of London.

"Since you have all spent a good deal longer at this University than I, an address by any of you to me about Monash would seem more appropriate," he told the graduates.

But Professor Ricklefs said that he was able to assess how Monash was seen by the academic community outside Melbourne and Australia.

He said: "I have been told on several occasions since my arrival that Monash is thought to be not quite of the same order as its other great universities, one which might mention, a report which if it is true I find surprising.

"Monash is, of course, a 'new university' by current academic standards. By the standards of Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard or Yale, not to mention other European institutions outside the English-speaking world, virtually everything is a 'new university', of course.

"We recognise what is meant by this term nowadays: of those several institutions, primarily here and in Britain, which were conjured out of brick and steel to cope with the expansion of tertiary education in the last 25 years or so.

"But Monash differs from most other such institutions, at least with regard to the fields in which I claim any significant knowledge. While most 'new universities' have struggled to establish themselves on the international academic scene, Monash quickly claimed a place among those universities which are still open with respect.

"Indeed, at some early stage in my own career, I was surprised to discover that Monash was 'new' at all. It had from the start so firmly established itself in my own field of Southeast Asian studies that I had ascribed to it a false intellectual pedigree."

Professor Ricklefs said that there were some who said that Monash was not "new" at all, but the last of the old universities.

"Perhaps it is in a position analogous to that which was reportedly described in an American undergraduate essay about Dante: Dante stood with one foot in the grave of the Middle Ages while with the other he saluted the rising sun of the Renaissance. If the analogy is correct, let us at least hope that the posture is less uncomfortable."

Professor Ricklefs said that it had been claimed that Arts graduates were "overeducated and undertrained".

"It is true that in your years here you will not have been taught skills and techniques which are as obviously useful and employable as those of automobile mechanics, nuclear physicists or medical doctors," he said.

"But you have acquired skills which are beyond value, skills which provide you with the tools to come to terms with human affairs in this turbulent, indeed threatening, age."

Professor Ricklefs said that perhaps the most important tool which Arts graduates should gain from their study was humility.

"Man is a most difficult, indeed man's struggle against a hostile environment. Venetians, too, have their own struggle for survival against the elements."

The head of the English department at Venice University, in which Australian studies have been taught since 1971, is Professor Sergio Peraos.

Professor Peraos visited Monash last month and met with Mrs Mary Lord, lecturer in the department of English. Mrs Lord is president of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature, formally established at a national conference on Australian literature held at Monash in May, 1978.

Professor Peraos is President of the Italian Society for Australian Studies. The Society is believed to be the first organisation for the promotion of Australian culture formed in another country.

Professor Peraos's four-week visit to Australia, his first, was sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs. In addition to Melbourne he visited Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth.

He met with writers and academics.

"But as well as meeting key people, I have been getting a 'feel' for the country," he said at Monash. "I have been walking in the streets, reading the newspapers, going to the theatre, browsing in bookshops... getting some idea of current concerns and a local insight on contemporary characters."

"This is difficult to do from a distance," he said.

Australian literature is taught at university level in about 50 countries and, in Italy, at about six institutions.

The Italian Society for Australian Studies, Professor Peraos said, acted as a rallying point for these existing studies (it publishes an Australian literature bulletin) and sought to foster an interest in Australian culture in Italian universities and in the wider community.

He sees Venice, with its international connections, as being well placed to develop as a European centre of excellence for Australian studies.

The English department at Venice University is currently examining the possibility of establishing an Australian Deposit Library.

Professor Peraos said that one of the difficulties in teaching Australian literature in Italy was the limited availability of books.

He said: "We have received assistance from the Australian Embassy in Rome and have a small library of Australian texts."

"What we really need to develop now is our collection of secondary texts."

Two faces of professorial pride

Three Monash professors had good cause to be proud at the Arts graduation ceremony last month: Their children received degrees. Picture left are Monash's Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bruce West; and son, Martin, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in Music. Right, Professor Ian Polmear (Materials Engineering) congratulates daughter, Sally, who received her B.A. Professor Bill Reichinger (Physics) also saw his daughter, Diane, receive a B.A.
Fresh light on general practice

Research is underway in Melbourne, at the Community Practice Teaching Unit, within the Medical faculty, which will aim to give a better definition of the role of the general practitioner in health care. The first step has been to establish a community-oriented research project, and their medical problems at suburban general practice. These patients attend the private practice which leases rooms in the Teaching Unit, located in the grounds of Monash Hospital.

The Unit, which was established at the beginning of last year, conducts classes in general practice for medical students, particularly in their final year, who are then able to apply classroom concepts by working with doctors in the attached practice. (Such a placement program continues in spite of a large number of GP's in private practice throughout south-eastern Melbourne and its areas as well.)

The Community Practice Teaching Unit is headed by Professor Neil Carson and1 an assistant professor. When the Unit was established Professor Carson and1 said it had as a task as helping to restore the importance of the caring role in medical studies and, in the long term, bringing to the fore the importance of upgrading of standards of general practice. It was the first unit of its kind in an Australian medical school.

Senior lecturer, Dr Alan Rose, says that the computerised register will provide data for a number of research projects.

A "seeding" grant from Monash, and funds from the Victorian Academy for General Practice and the Shepherd Foundation have enabled the unit to employ Joan Caelli, an experienced medical record administrator, to create the register.

On file are details of some 9,300 patients — whose anonymity is preserved — who attend the practice, together with a history of their major continuing health problems. Among these are illnesses such as hypertension, obesity, arthritis and cancer and social and psychological problems.

The register, which has aroused interest in a number of research areas, has already been used in several projects.

Alcohol study planned

Alcoholism will be under study at a seminar being conducted by the Centre for Continuing Education at Monash in early August.

The seminar will be held at Normanby House on August 11 starting at 4 p.m. Registration fees for it are now available from CCE (Exta 3718-8).

Leading the seminar will be a consultant psychiatrist with experience in the clinical management of alcoholism, Dr Terry Gidley, and senior lecturer in the Victorian Foundation on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, John Cheetham, Marika Goldfay and Frank Egan.

It is intended primarily for people who are not expert in alcohol abuse but who are involved in dealing with people who may have alcohol-related problems.

The program will include a look at the nature of alcohol problems, information on facilities available in Victoria, and tips on effective counselling.

Australia’s $1/4 m. hope

Skill and chance ... they may blend for the successful conduct of a research project.

They’re also the ingredients which have yielded a happy result for lecturer in Genetics, Dr Tony Morgan, who flies this month to Monte Carlo to participate in the world backgammon championships.

Dr Morgan goes to Monaco as Australian backgammon champion, a title he won last month, along with $1800 in prize money and the air fare.

The prize pool for the world championships, a knock-out tournament, is $50,000 with the champion collecting a cool quarter million.

"Don’t hold your breath waiting for a prize paragraph about this game," says Dr Morgan, ambiguously.

He clarifies his statement: “There will be about 800 competitors at the event.”

Dr Morgan, he says, is a comparative novice in the backgammon stakes although there are now associations in each State fostering interest in the game.

Dr Morgan has been playing for about seven years, the last two competitively. Other members of the Genetics department have been enthused too and backgammon is a common lunchtime pursuit.

Even if Dr Morgan doesn’t come away from Monte Carlo a quarter of a million dollars richer, Lady Luck could still have an ace up her sleeve.

Dr Morgan’s national win over Sydney opponent, George Dobha, was reported in The Bulletin of June 24. On the same page he noticed a gossip paragraph about a rift between Princess Caroline of Monaco and her husband, playboy Philippe Junot.

“As seems to be the case with the beautiful people, Fate could just throw the Princess and me together,” he says.

Meet the WIN

Winter in an election ... the corner ... and still get any easier. But for me, it has been made at weeks. So here we go for 1980 ...

Yes, Brian — there IS a Santa Claus

Christmas came early this year for Dr Brian Roberts — in the form of a $17,000 electron scanning microscope.

He won it in a raffle! Brian, a senior lecturer in zoology, was one of about 500 delegates to the sixth Australian Conference on Electron Microscopy held at Monash in February.

As the conference drew to a close, all registered participants were invited to take part in a lucky dip.

The prize: An ISI Mini-SEM, donated by the Sydney firm of E.T.P. Semra Pty. Ltd., complete with warranty, 12 months’ free service and a course of training in its operation.

It was Brian’s name that came out of the hat. Generously, he decided to keep the instrument at the University instead of taking it home.

And as he unpacked it in his office last week (see photo), he contemplated the chances of the University now offering him life tenure.

January 1980

MONASH REPORTER

Dr Morgan's seminar will be held on July 21 at 4 p.m. in Normanby House. It will be led by Peter Kueffer, of the Education Department, Delays Sargent, director of the Social Biology Resources Centre, and David Lamp, consultant psychiatrist.

Topics covered will include teenagers at school, teenagers and their parents and implications of the "me generation".

For further information contact ext. 3716-9.
The Titration Trio

It probably won't get the crowd at Flemington all that excited, but the Titration Stakes have been the cause of much joy in Monash's Chemistry department.

A Monash team recently won the inaugural Titration Stakes organised by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. The team was formed by second year students Jenny Dunn, Martin Oettinger and Harry Quiney. For the next year they will hold the shield which features a burette, a piece of glassware used in titration, and the symbol of the RACI, the professional body of chemists.

Titration involves determining the composition of an unknown solution by combining a precisely known volume of it with a known volume of a standard solution.

The precise measuring involved and method of combining the solutions constitute a basic laboratory technique which emphasises care and accuracy.

The Stakes involved three tests—an acid-base titration, a "total iron" determination with dichromate, and a zinc-EDTA titration.

The Monash team competed against entrants from RMIT, the Victorian College of Pharmacy and Bendigo College of Advanced Education.

It has been reported that teams from other institutions were expected to enter "but were easily scared off by the pre-competition boasting".

We're in safe hands ...

Jim's top engineer

Jim Lenard is an engineer with a philosophical bent.

In the third year of his engineering course, he took philosophy as his inter-faculty subject. In his final year—1979—he carried on some philosophy units, in addition to the full engineering program.

But that didn't stop him topping his year in mechanical engineering, taking out a first-class honours degree—and winning the J. W. Dodds Memorial Medal for 1979.

The medal honours the memory of Mr Jim Dodds, whose family founded one of Australia's outstanding engineering establishments, Riley Dodds (now Clyde-Riley Dodds).

Jim was awarded the medal at a ceremony in the department last month.

He is pictured here with Mr Gordon Page (left), general manager of Clyde-Riley Dodds, and Professor John Crisp, chairman of the department of mechanical engineering.

Photo: John Millar

Twelve Monash Central Services drivers have received National Safety Council of Australia safe driving awards this year.

One award marks 15 years of safe driving for the University by Kevin Perry. Clocking in with eight safe years are Russell Hall and Ian Newbold. Other awards went to Rex Bowes, Jim McDonald and Fred Westen (five years); Stan Kilner and Bill Callen (four years); John Cechulef (three years); Bill Turner (two years); Brian McCougle and Nick Ntale (one year).

The awards, part of the Council's Freedom from Accidents Campaign, are made to employees drivers who have caused no accidents.

Pictured, from left, are: Kevin Perry, Central Services manager Bill Cunningham, Russell Hall and Ian Newbold. Photo: Rick Crompton.
Democracy in the workplace emerged as an industrial relations issue in Australia in the '70s. A Monash academic's new book assesses the position here and overseas.

Dr Lansbury says that the Labor Party has addressed the issues of democracy in the workplace essentially as an industrial relations issue, taking care to ensure that emphasis is given to the role of trade unions. The State branches, particularly those of NSW and SA, have led the Federal branch of the party in formulating policy in this field.

On the other hand, he says, it is the Federal branch of the Liberal Party which has taken the initiative in this policy. On employment participation, it was announced in July 1978. 

Tribunals: mediators, not trail blazers

Industrial tribunals had a mediating role to play in the path toward worker participation, a deputy president of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, Dr Joe Isaac, says.

Dr Isaac, who is also Deputy Chancellor of Monash University, says that there are many signs of concern about the work place democracy. Employee participation is resented by the employer. The mediator may assist in promoting agreement or in arbitrating unresolved issues at the request of the parties. Those in which worker demand for participation is resisted by the employer.

Dr Lansbury says that, unless there is genuine worker demand, based on concern for job security, pay, status, job satisfaction, safety and other reasons, sometimes backed by industrial pressure, it may provide the stimulus. The role of industrial tribunals will be limited to that of mediation in which both parties are more or less willing to avail themselves of such a service.

Dr Isaac says that the circumstances which favor intervention by mediators are:
- Those in which both sides have agreed in principle, voluntarily or as a result of industrial pressure, to some form of worker participation but have difficulty in reaching agreement on certain issues relating to the scheme. In such cases, the mediator may assist in promoting agreement in a more sympathetic manner.
- Those in which worker participation is resisted by the employer. The mediator may assist in promoting agreement by helping the parties to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution. The mediator may help to ensure that agreement is not only reached but maintained.

Dr Lansbury says that there are, however, signs of caution emerging on the part of employers and government about the role of mediators in encouraging worker participation.

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An ‘academic failure’ pens her way back to the fold

There is a certain irony in Finola Moorhead being back in a university environment as Monash’s writer-in-residence during second term.

Ms Moorhead says that her being a writer has a lot to do with academic failure.

“My learning to write creatively grew up in argument with the academic approach,” she says. Although Ms Moorhead labels herself as an academic failure, strictly speaking she isn’t. She failed first year law at Melbourne University but went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Tasmania and then taught at schools in that State and in Victoria.

Her failure is more one of being unable to accept the “departmentalisation” of life which she sees as occurring in universities.

“It seems that an erudite turn of mind forces one into narrow specialisation with little general communication,” she says.

“The real considerations of life are interdisciplinary.”

While at Monash Ms Moorhead is conducting a series of lunchtime seminars for intending writers and interested people on Thursdays. Starting at 1 p.m. they are being held in room 809 in the Menzies building. Ms Moorhead is also available for private discussions at other times in room 819 in the English department which will secure her entry to the kingdom of heaven.

Ms Moorhead decided to reject security, in a professional sense, at the end of her fourth year of teaching and, after attending a Writers’ Week in Adelaide, committed herself to writing full-time.

In 1973 she attended Australia’s first playwrights’ week. In the following two years her writing took a more political turn with her involvement in the Women’s Theatre Group. During the years of the Whitlam Government she received grants to assist in her pursuits.

During 1978-79 Ms Moorhead travelled overseas.

“I find the experience of growing older my ideas are changing through the years,” she says.

“Nothing that I have written can be considered finished.”

Life in Halls: the rich, average and poor of it

A survey on the financial background of students living in the five Monash Halls of Residence has revealed wide differences in weekly incomes and expenditure.

The survey, compiled by Judy Orford, was undertaken by a sub-committee of the Halls Residents’ Committee. It had been suggested that information about the financial background of students living in Halls would be of value to all bodies making decisions affecting students in Halls. Such information, it was considered, would be of value in the University’s submission to the Tertiary Education Commission which allocates grants to Halls.

The survey questionnaire and results, in full, are included in the June University Council papers.

The survey was conducted on a sample group—25 per cent (139 residents) of Australian undergraduate students living in Halls in October last year.

Foreign students were excluded from the survey sample as their financial support had been studied earlier last year by Likh Karmachaporn in an Education Masters thesis. Postgraduates were also excluded as many live in Halls as tutors or senior residents.

The results show that the average total weekly income of the students was $65.37 (with a standard deviation of $29.21) and the average expenditure $63.45 (standard deviation $13.14). Weekly income ranged from a maximum of $253.02 to a minimum of $7.69; expenditure ranged from $112.85 to $36.85.

The survey report says that one explanation of the difference between average weekly income and average expenditure is that the questionnaire did not include as options “a bank account” or “parental gift” in the sources of income section.

The figures show some dramatic differences between extremes of expenditure on items such as food (from $40 a week up to $89 and an average of $21.41), entertainment ($30 to nothing, with an average of $5.34) and clothes ($50 to nothing, with an average of $2.10). This is how other income sources ranked in importance. The first figure is the percentage of the sample with the income source; the second is the percentage of total income of the sample made up by that source.

Bank loan 2.2, 2.5; parental loan 34.5, 17.8; scholarship 5.1, 0.7; other loan 0.9, 0.1; other gift 16.8, 6.4; vacation employment 67, 26.4; employment during term (both full and part-time) 25.7, 9.0; other earnings 2.2, 6.3.

One of the questions asked by the survey sought to discover what students did if they ran out of money.

A total of 47.1 per cent of residents said that they borrowed money from friends; 43.4 per cent borrowed money from parents; 27.2 per cent “refused to eat”, 3.1 per cent went home temporarily, 0.9 per cent borrowed temporarily from parents; and 17.6 per cent listed other alternatives. More than one was chosen by many respondents.

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I received recently by the Information subjects as medieval drama; the play's early editions; and the play on the interpretative approaches; religion in the University of Western Australia Press, tions, this 397-page book contains play; language, style and versification; plot , sources and analogues; in­strumentalities. They take an historical regional approach to WA agriculture and look also at special topics such as vermin and weeds, superphosphate and trace elements, and professional and technical services to farmers and pastoralists.

BOOK A 'SUSTAINED PLEA' FOR PEACEFUL END TO APARTHEID

Review

Apartheid — The Closing Phases?

C. G. Weeramantry, Lantana, Melbourne, reviewed by Harold Luntz

Harold Luntz is the George Paton Professor of Law at the University of Melbourne. A South African, Professor Luntz taught at the University of Witwatersrand before coming to Australia in 1965.

Apartheid is not only an object of international concern, but is also the central concern for a great number of South Africans as well. To them, the question of Apartheid is a question of life and death. Professor Luntz's book, Apartheid: The Closing Phases, is a sustained plea for a peaceful end to Apartheid.

Luntz attributes the failure of Apartheid to the failure of the white South Africans to appreciate the fact that their system is not just an internal affair, but has also an international dimension. He argues that the failure of Apartheid is due to the failure of the white South Africans to understand the common humanity of all people.

Luntz's book is a call for the international community to take action to bring about a peaceful end to Apartheid. He argues that the international community has a responsibility to take action to bring about a peaceful end to Apartheid, and that this responsibility cannot be delegated to the white South Africans.

Religion's hold

Another factor in the author's view of the change could be peacefulness. Possibly this has confirmed him in an exaggerated belief in the hold that religion has on the minds of South Africans of all races. He confidently states that if a few priests had boldly defined the legislation prohibiting mixed marriages and had courted and threatened prosecution, "it would not long have stood". The arrest of 50 clergymen during a peaceful demonstration since the book was written may show how well-founded was this trust in the effectiveness of religious influence.

Professor Weeramantry is of the opinion that despite the complaint of Afrikaner intellectualism; and the Afrikaner's search for signs of hope, though they may be, for peaceful change. As much as one would like to, it is not easy to be convinced by the argument that the change will come soon or that it may be peaceful.

In other words, the book itself describes — and the thought that the rage it produces cannot be contained has struck other observers in years gone by. With force and brutality it has been contained. What will bring about the change now?

Professor Weeramantry is not alone in suggesting that the disappearance of White-dominated buffer states around Rhodesia has produced a situation that could result in more guerilla activity on the borders (or, as the recent sabotage of the oil-from-coal installation indicates, deeper penetration of South Africa)."
Planning to study abroad and, more to the point, wondering what it is likely to cost?

The Association of Commonwealth Universities has compiled figures for several Commonwealth countries on the cost of living for an undergraduate student from abroad would likely be face to face in a calendar year.

This is how the countries measure up:

In BRITAIN, a student faces “full cost” tuition fees (of not less than £2,000 for arts, £3,000 for science and £4,500 for medicine) plus between £3,300 and £3,100 for other expenses.

In CANADA, the all-in expense (including tuition fee) would be C$6,000-$7,000.

In NEW ZEALAND, the postgraduate student would need NZ$4,000-$5,075. (Note: At least $1,500 is spent on tuition fees for private overseas students.)

By comparison, a postgraduate student coming to Australia would need $7,000 (including a $2,500 visa charge) are based on current Apex air fares to be global, not Commonwealth, and open to staff in all institutions of higher learning, not only universities.

ALIS offers travel awards to junior and senior academic staff to promote academic co-operation between Britain and “overseas” countries. Preference is given to people engaged in activities likely to further collaboration through joint research, publications and/or teaching programs.

The grants in the case of Australians are based on current Apex air fares to the UK with a small local travel allowance. However, requests for further financial assistance, particularly for the initiation and consolidation of formal academic links, will be assessed following the visit.

Applications for grants under ALIS, which the British Council hopes to continue in future years, funds permitting, can be made at any time.

The Council’s address is 209 New South Head Road, Edgecliff, NSW, 2027.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Registrar’s department has been advised of the following scholarships. The Reporter presents a précis of the details. More information can be obtained from the Graduate School Office, University Office, extension 3055. American Meat Research Committee (APR) Awards for postgraduate scholarships and study awards for senior scientists, tenable 1981, close on July 22. Further information is available from Mr D. J. Kelly (ext. 3009). National Heart Foundation – Vacation Scholarships Applications close at Monash on August 31. National Health Foundation – Scholarship for graduate work in the United States, tenable for between 12 and 21 months. Open to persons over 21 years and preferably under 36 years of age. Awards include return fares to the United States, living and family allowances, travel and subsistence. Further information can be obtained from the Graduate School of Environmental Science. Nominations close at the Graduate School Office on Friday, August 15.

Harkness Fellowships – 1981 Awards. Four fellowships for study and travel in the United States, tenable for between 12 and 21 months. Open to persons over 21 years and preferably under 36 years of age. Awards include return fares to the United States, living and family allowances, travel and subsistence. Further information can be obtained from Mr Frank Fl..., of the Graduate School of Environmental Science. Nominations close at the Graduate School Office on Friday, August 15.

Additional information can be obtained from Mr Frank Fl..., of the Graduate School of Environmental Science. Nominations close at the Graduate School Office on Friday, August 15.

The Centre for Continuing Education is organising a series of weekly discussion groups about this subject. The series will be held in September and October, and members of the public will be asked to take part.

Ten people, all with training in different fields, but all committed to the ideals of conservation, will run the sessions. They will give talks and lead discussion over coffee and sandwiches.

Their interests range through: Preservation of wilderness areas (for example southwest Tasmania). Environmental problems in poor countries and how this is connected to the relationships between rich and poor countries.

Further information can be obtained from Mr Frank Fish, of the Graduate School of Environmental Science (ext. 3841) or Mrs Barbara Brewer, Centre for Continuing Education (ext. 3719).
Chekhov's 'Seagull': Melbourne's first

Monash's Alexander Theatre Company this month will stage Melbourne's first full-length production of Anton Chekhov's play, "The Seagull". It has been argued that "The Seagull", Chekhov's first full-length play, is the most significant play of the 20th century.

Its season opens tomorrow night (Wednesday, July 2) and ends on Saturday July 26.

The play's director is Malcolm Robertson who has been closely connected with recent productions of other works by and about Chekhov in Melbourne. Most recently he portrayed the playwright himself in the one-man show, "Diary of an Old Man", at the Playbox. In 1977 he appeared in the National Company production of "The Cherry Orchard" and he has also directed two of Chekhov's works, "The Proposal" and "The Bear".

Robertson has assembled a cast which, he says, is the first week of rehearsals accepted the challenge of Chekhov.

The cast is headed by Jill Forster and Frank Gallagher. Says the director: "I was lucky to get them both. Although as far as is known for her stage and television work, she now only undertakes short seasons because 'The Seagull' is Frank's working non-stop since 'Against the Wind' and has just finished filming for "The Last Outlaw", the TV series on Ned Kelly.

Other members of the cast include Wendy Robertson, Sue Jones, Peter Lumsden, Bruce Kellett, Bruce Chesworth, James Wright, Jacqueline Kelleher and Robin Cuming.

Malcolm Robertson says that "The Seagull" was first performed at the Moscow Art Theatre in 1907 in the vanguard of 19th century drama in the Western world.

He says: "Chekhov in this play changed the direction of theatre. Previously, playwrights gave their audience the dramatic cliches they expected. "Chekhov showed people as he perceived them as a writer and doctor — real people who could change in an instant from angry to joy; from the digital to the ridiculous. He saw landscape with life continuing around them."

"I was writing theatre of the ridiculous, the absurd, before Ionesco and Beckett were born. The reality in Chekhov's 'Seagull':

An exhibition of early 20th century prints and drawings will be held in the Annual Arts exhibition gallery this month.

The works are from private collections and open to the public (Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) until July 23.

Also in the gallery tomorrow, Jennifer Strauss, senior lecturer in the department of English, will read and talk about her poetry. The seminar, starting at 11.00 a.m. is free to the Women and Writing: Into the '90s' series.

The gallery is on the seventh floor of the Menzies building, south wing.

There will be three Wednesday lunchtime recitals this month on the Roland Sharp organ in the Religious Centre.

Tomorrow's recital (July 2) will be given by Dr. Jan Stockigt on baroque oboe, Claudia Nell on 'cello and David Tandy on harpsichord.

On July 9 the program will feature music for strings and organ, including works by Bach, Isaac, Schenbon and Weiberts.

The last recital in the series, on July 16, will be given by Robert Sander, flautist. Audiences for the recitals have been building up since the series began at the beginning of the term. Previous organists have been Harald Fabrikant; Douglas Lawrence, who teaches organ at Monash; and two of his students, Merroy Daccon and Bruce Steel.

All recitals start at 1.15 p.m. and are free.

The next issue of Monash Reporter will be published in the first week of August, 1980.

MONOGRAPHER