Gearing up for Open Day '81

It's all systems "go" for Open Day, which will be held at Monash on Saturday, August 1.

Members of the public and intending students are invited to visit Monash on Open Day (between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.) to find out a little about how a university works.

Planning for the range of activities offered is now entering final stages, and a full program will be available shortly.

The program will include course and careers counselling, as well as departmental and club displays and exhibitions, films and tours of various University facilities.

Open Day Director, Professor David Giles points out that, as in previous years, the main emphasis will be to introduce school students to the University.

"But Open Day is also a day for the family," he said. "The public will be able to learn something about the teaching and research activities at Monash."

About 60 departments and organisations and more than 30 clubs and societies will be taking part in Open Day — Monash's 13th.

'Big splash' in Sports & Rec. additions

Construction of Monash's swimming pool is underway as one of several new projects being financed from the Union development fund.

The indoor pool, which will cost $1.3m., should make its first splash around April next year. It is being built in the area immediately north of the Sports and Recreation Centre, adjacent to the new tennis courts.

The outer shell of the building, including roof, is being erected first. This will allow the internal construction of the pool and surrounding area to be completed without weather delays.

Water and sewerage were laid on to the site last month at the same time as they were connected to three other new buildings in the area. These are pavilions to service the tennis courts, the rugby/cricket ground east of Engineering, and the soccer/cricket ground on the terrace below the tennis courts. Their construction cost $190,000.

Complete facilities

Deputy Warden of the Union, Mr Doug Ellis, says that the projects take a step further the long-standing policy of the Sports and Recreation Association to provide complete leisure facilities — similar to those which are more common as commercial ventures — for all members of the Monash University community including graduates who have retained a formal link with Monash.

The pool complex will consist of a regular 25m. pool joined by a "canal" to a leisure-oriented pool, as well as a spa, two saunas and sun deck. It will be heated by natural gas supplemented by a solar system of which Engineering and the Physics department are involved in the design.

Like the pool the pavilions have been planned with multiple uses in mind. Mr Ellis says that the tennis pavilion in particular will help meet the demand by student groups and individuals for a low-cost social function area.

Monash's sports and recreation facilities regularly attract favorable comment from visitors, particularly those coming in for competitive events at the weekend. They are also used frequently by neighbouring schools.

Mr Ellis says that credit for the quality of the fields goes to the superintendent of sports grounds Les Hudson and his staff of five who have developed and maintain what amounts to about 30 per cent of the University site.

Development of the fields has, at times, been no easy task — first class fields have had to be grown in as little as four inches of soil. Ingenuity has paid off, such as the system of moveable fences which ensures that what is often the unavoidable desolation of the centre of the football oval does not mar the cricket pitch come change of season.

The Sports and Recreation Association has had to deal with problems, too, caused by an altered allocation of space. The original master plan designated for such activities an area which encouraged cohesive development. The laying of the University roads flattened the allocation to a long, narrow site which has made central management of facilities more difficult.
Now you see it, now ...?

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin, suggested last month that the Federal Government should have restored $95m. to $54m. in the operating funds customarily provided for universities at a time when, according to the TEC, a prime consideration should have been not to allow a decline in the quality of universities and colleges of advanced education.

Among specific decisions contained in the guidelines which the AVC had criticised were:

- The cutback in buildings money, which would reduce even further operating funds.
- Abolition of the Education Research and Development Committee.
- The way in which the decision to phase out engineering education at Deakin University was taken.

On this issue the AVC says:

"Not only does it infringe university autonomy in a blatant way, it also bypasses the normal triennial processes and ignores consultation between Commonwealth and States on these issues, which is stated Government policy."

DEAKIN

At Deakin University, the Academic Board has protested "in the strongest possible terms" on the decision to phase out precision and engineering education in Geelong. The Board said in a recent statement that the decision was based on a misinterpretation of the advice of the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission.

The chairman of VPSEC has stated: "The Commonwealth Government's decision about engineering in this University goes far beyond anything proposed by VPSEC."

FAUSA

The Federation of Australian University Staff Associations has also expressed "grave concern" at the Government's "unilateral" decision to phase out engineering at Deakin.

The statement says: "The decision appears inconsistent with the widely acknowledged forthcoming shortage of professional engineers. It is an example of 'shotgun manpower planning'."

"It is quite inconsistent with the Federal Government's statements, only 18 months ago, to the effect that it would, in determining the pattern of tertiary education, continue to have prime regard to the demand for places from those qualified and those wishing to enter particular courses.

"The decision is an infringement on the independence of Deakin University and threatens the concept of university autonomy overall."

Japanese study centre is open for business

Melbourne now has a Japanese Studies Centre, designed to provide a focus for Japanese studies and to promote understanding of that country in Victoria.

The Centre, officially launched on June 24, is based at Monash, and its founding president is Professor Jiri Neustupny, chairman of the department of Japanese at Monash.

Other members of the board are: Mr Les Oates (University of Melbourne — Vice-President); Dr Yoshio Sugimoto (La Trobe University — Director); Dr Margarita Skoutarides (Swinburne Institute of Technology — Treasurer); Associate Professor Harold Bellitho (Monash); Mr Helen Marriott (Swinburne); Mr Roger Pulvers (Melbourne); Ms Susan Wilson (Monmouth High School).

Professor Neustupny said this week that the Centre would be primarily a planning agency for the development of further Japanese studies in Victoria. It would be able to implement a number of tasks and initiatives that are currently being discussed.

To promote co-operation in research and teaching in these fields and to promote academic exchanges with specialists in Japan and elsewhere.

To encourage the dissemination of knowledge of Japan and the Japanese language in society at large and particularly in educational institutions.

To provide information through publications, seminars and lectures.

FOOTNOTE: Tonight (July 7) the Centre will undertake its first public venture — a free lecture on "Law in Japanese Society", by Dr Malcolm Smith, senior lecturer in Law, Monash.

The lecture will be given at 7.30 p.m. in Lecture Theatre 2, Lathe Building, Melbourne University.

Energy-savers: enter now . . .

July 30 is the closing date of a competition for the best design for a notice encouraging people using University buildings to save energy.

First prize in the competition, being conducted by Monash's Energy Conservation Committee, is $100. The winning design will be used for a sticker to be placed alongside light and power switches. Entries may be submitted at the rough sketch stage. They should be sent to Mr Kevin Grace, University engineer, in the University offices.

The Energy Conservation Committee will form the judging panel and the results will be announced in "Reporter".

Robert Blackwood Hall last month celebrated its 10th birthday.

An invitation was marked on the anniversary — Friday, June 19 — by an informal gathering of people who, in the words of the Director of the Hall, "worked with great dedication" to make the Hall a reality. The occasion was marked by Sir Robert Blackwood, the University's founding Chancellor, in whose honour the Hall is named, and Sir Lindsay Clark, whose gift to the University includes the superb Leonard French window in the west wall of the Hall.

In a brief address, Dr Hiscock said that the Hall had more than fulfilled its early promise — already it had passed the million-patron mark. A recent check had shown that nearly 1,000,000 attended functions there in the past 10 years.

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Two-way education can cushion cultural clash'

In education lies elimination of the "cultural clash" between Australia's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, believes Eve Fesl, the newly-appointed Director of Monash's Aboriginal Research Centre.

That, Ms Fesl says, is a two-way process: education of Aborigines to a high standard so that they can handle the "alien" culture and participate as equal members of the community as well as maintaining an appreciation of and pride in their own culture; and education of non-Aborigines about this country's original inhabitants so that people to become involved in and take control of their own cultural research.

A project which has just been launched and which emphasises Australian participation is on the literacy wants of adult Aborigines in three communities.

Ms Fesl believes that one of the most important contributions the Centre can make is to encourage Aboriginal people to become involved in and take control of their own cultural research. A project which has just been launched and which emphasises Aboriginal participation is on the literacy wants of adult Aborigines in three communities.

The Centre's work in promoting the learning of Aboriginal languages is to include adults too. It plans to introduce a course in Bandjalang for adult Aborigines and to run one in the Wirri language also.

The two languages provide an interesting contrast. Bandjalang is a language which has evolved to accommodate concepts of non-Aboriginal society; Walpiri, on the other hand, is the language of a tribal people which has remained largely unchanged and through which it is possible to trace their traditional culture.

Ms Fesl believes that one of the most important contributions the Centre can make is to encourage Aboriginal people to become involved in and take control of their own cultural research.

A project which has just been launched and which emphasises Aboriginal participation is on the literacy wants of adult Aborigines in three communities.

Ms Fesl says that the Centre will evaluate is the literacy 'wants' of the adult Aborigines rather than outsider-perceived 'needs'.

"In the past, programs have been imposed on people by outsiders without consultation and, because they didn't meet local wants, have not been accepted. The programs have been a failure and money has been wasted."

"We hope that, on the results of our research, programs can be established which are meaningful to the people socially successful. Our approach will be working — in asking the communities first — has implications for a lot of other areas."

The Aboriginal Research Centre will tackle land rights for Victorian Aborigines later this year when it convenes a major seminar on the issue.

Ms Fesl says that it is hoped that the seminar will bring together "everyone with an interest in the matter" to clearly define types of land rights and "make a statement!"

At the moment, she says, many people think of land rights for Aborigines only in terms of sacred sites and tribal areas. But, she adds, it can also be argued that in the last 150 years the State's Aborigines have been dispossessed of their land and should be compensated in some form.

Discuss champion

Queensland-born, Eve Fesl came to Monash last month to pursue her studies in anthropology and linguistics. In her spare time, she has been working as a research assistant at the Aboriginal Research Centre.

Among other roles Ms Fesl is a member of the committee responsible for writing volume one of Australia's history for the Bicentenary. She believes that the most pleasing aspect of the Aboriginal Research Centre is the "challenge it offers to initiate new research and meet community needs that will play an important role in developing confidence and changing attitudes of Aborigines and non-Aborigines into the future'.

Former director of the Aboriginal Research Centre, Mr Colin Bourke, returns to Monash on July 16 to give a lecture on 'The Aboriginal Development Commission, National Aboriginal Congress and the Land Councils', (Lecture theatre R6, 1 p.m.).

Other speakers in the Aboriginal Studies Lecture Series this month include John Moriarty, Eleanor Bourke and John Budby. Details in the Diary, page 10.
Australia has a regional role to play on aid for the disabled

In Asia and the Pacific region, there has been an estimated, there are more than 40 million disabled children. Less than one per cent of them attend school.

Many of the nations recognise the need for action to help the disabled live a life of usefulness and to launch early detection and intervention programs to prevent needless disablement. The countries face pressing problems of development, however, and considerations such as special education often receive low priority. Australia, it has been suggested, has a regional role to play in such matters.

Late last year, as a prelude to the UN International Year of Disabled Persons, representations of 14 Asian mainland, Southeast Asian and Pacific countries attended a workshop on special education at Monash sponsored by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau. Workshop director was Professor Marie Neale, Director of the University's Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children. A report on proceedings has been published recently.

ADAB saw the workshop as a first step in the design of a training program for teachers, administrators and the like in the teaching of those with disabilities scheduled to begin in the second half of this year.

Not surprisingly, one of the conclusions of the workshop was that there is a wide diversity in the needs, priorities and styles of special education services of different countries. It follows that particular special education training programs should be devised with reference to the circumstances of individual countries.

Such a program is the Australian Government-assisted Regional Training Course for Teachers of the Handicapped operating in Fiji for nationals of the South Pacific. The workshop agreed that this program should receive continued and substantial support.

Australians special adviser to the Fiji Government, Mr Frank Hilton explained the importance of training in the local setting: "Prior to 1978, teachers within the region were being sent to Australia for diplomas-level courses in a specialised area. They lived for 12 months in a very much higher standard of living, working with children who had benefited from intervention from a very early age using equipment that was not available in their own countries.

Then they were suddenly plunged, on returning home, into a situation with one room, a dozen children of mixed handicaps, and a very low salary (because the voluntary organisations couldn't afford any more). These teachers were often immediately given government jobs and administration because they had fairly decent education and were readily available."

Delegates to the workshop agreed that the regions need a training program for their teachers, which should include the provision for consultants and specialist workers to join programs in other countries as well as the training of personnel in Australia.

Professor Marie Neale. Workshop director

The need was seen, too, for special short courses for educators and others to develop specific skills to meet local needs. A further need was expressed for co-operative action-oriented research in aspects of special education, involving Australian and local research workers.

Highest priority in training was accorded to the delegates to services for early detection and timely intervention.

A proposal which gained acceptance was for the establishment of regional resource centres.

It was recommended that Australia take the initiative in setting up one such centre in collaboration with other countries and seeking support from appropriate international agencies.

Such a centre, it was proposed, would establish a bank of equipment and teaching aids, evaluating their performance; disseminate the latest information and provide a clearing house for information on expertise, equipment and the like; undertake the training of personnel, the sponsorship of research, and innovative work in designing techniques and technologies for special education.

Indonesia's massive task ahead

Indonesia currently has 19,000 academicians for about 330,000 students. By the turn of the century, in less than 20 years, however, the country will need 300,000 academics.

Dr Badib received his PhD in Linguistics from Monash early last month. He flew from Indonesia to Melbourne especially for the occasion, arriving just hours beforehand. Dr Badib studied at Monash under the Colombo Plan from 1977 to 1980. The topic of his thesis was "Some Major Constructions in Javanese." His work at the IKIP Sourdabaya University in East Java where he is secretary of the Postgraduate Board which plans the University's PhD and Masters courses. He is also director of the University's Language Centre which specialises in the teaching of English and Japanese.

Questions on 'wealth units?'

Where necessary, enquirers are referred to relevant publications or to other likely sources of information. The ACU says the strength of its information service is that it can usually put an enquirer "on the right lines" at an early stage.

For those in London, the ACU operates a library, open to the public, which contains some 12,000 books and pamphlets, university calendars, prospectuses, gazettes and reports, as well as works of general reference.

Inquiries should be directed to the ACU, John Foster House, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PP.

Access to Monash under study

A Transport Working Party has been established at Monash to examine the issue of access to the University by public transport. The Working Party will soon call for submissions from interested individuals and groups.

The body has been set up with support from the State Department of Transport which has provided $5000 as a sum to be matched by the Vice-Chancellor towards the salary of a research assistant.

Chairing the Working Party is the Executive Director (Research) of Jennings Industries Limited, Mr Vic Jennings. Its Monash members have been selected for their expertise in transport and urban studies - Associate Professor Colin Gannon, of the department of Economics, who recently returned from secondment as Director of the Bureau of Transport Economics in Canberra; Mr Tony Richardson, of the Transport Study Group in the department of Civil Engineering; and Associate Professor Jim Whitelaw, of the Geography department, who has had broad experience in urban studies.

The Working Party has decided to conduct its study in three phases:

- To identify and, if possible, quantify the transport problems affecting existing and potential members of the University community.
- To determine and evaluate a range of feasible solutions to these problems.
- To initiate a demonstration project addressing one or more of these problems.

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Girls are overtaking boys at Monash

"Who is coming to Monash?" asks the lead article in a recent issue of "Careers Weekly" - and the answer is, increasingly, females rather than males.

In the article Mr Lionel Parrott, officer-in-charge of the Careers and Appointments Service, gathers figures from several sources which support the belief that university graduates are increasingly more likely to be women than men.

For example, the retention rate at Year 12 is higher for females than males, in all Australian States and territories.

In Victoria, according to the publication "Australian Students and Their Schools," 37.5 per cent of female students at Year 12 in 1978 went on to higher study compared with 28.8 per cent of males. The difference between the female and male retention rate was more marked in this State than in any other and Victoria's male retention rate was the third lowest, ahead of only the Northern Territory's and Tasmania's.

A second set of figures - on VUAC offers of tertiary places - points in the same direction. In 1975/76, some 59,266 VUAC offers were made to male students, compared with 63,140 to female students. By 1978/79 this number had risen to 60,034 for males and 73,460 for females.

Says Mr Parrott: "Whereas offers made to males have remained constant, offers made to women have increased and women are increasingly more likely than men to receive an offer."

Humanities bias

Female students dominate intakes into arts/humanities courses and teacher training courses.

A Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit survey on students aged from 16 to 20 entering Monash for the first time in 1980 shows that there were more than twice as many female first year Arts students in this category than male. Mature age students tend to be women too.

In the Education faculty last year there were 919 females enrolled and 735 males. An Education department survey shows that 80 per cent of first year primary teacher trainees last year were female.

Mr Parrott says: "The precariousness of teaching career prospects (at least in the eyes of students), an increasing tendency to consider the vocational implications of courses of tertiary study, and a reappraisal of traditionally female careers may lead to a different sex distribution of students in future in courses such as engineering."

High potential

He adds that graduate recruiters have indicated to his Service that the prospective recruit of high potential these days is very likely to be a woman. Graduate recruiting is often carried out by women, he observes.

"Despite this, and despite the increasing acceptance of equal opportunity for sexes, we must ask how long will it be before the boardrooms of Australian companies reflect an equality of the sexes or, dare we suggest, a marginal in balance in favor of women to reflect the proportions accurately?" Mr Parrott asks.

• While the trend is toward female students, males still outnumber females on campus. The net enrolment in all faculties in 1980 was 14,096: 8030 males and 6066 females. The faculty with the lowest intake of females is Engineering in which 53 females were enrolled in 1980 and 1019 males.

New titles from Monash authors

Three new volumes with either Monash authors or editors have been published recently with the assistance of the Monash University Publications Committee.

One is an anthology of 27 poems by senior lecturer in English, Mrs Jennifer Strauss. Titled Winter Driving, the volume has been produced by Sistera Publishing Limited.

The collection carries a foreword by poet Rosemary Dobson who writes: "These are intelligent contemporary poems, most of these touching on, but not labouring, the predicaments of women who have to face untimely bereavement, unlooked-for responsibility, loneliness. One would anticipate that such poems might be rather lowering to the spirits of the reader. They are not."

Senior lecturer in Classical Studies, Mr A. J. Boyle, is the editor of the series of critical studies in Greek and Roman literature published twice yearly under the title Ramus by Areal Publications. Vol 9 No 2, just out, carries six papers by US classical scholars on topics ranging from "Men and Gods in Euripides' Hippolytus" to "Homer's Catalogue of Women."

The third book is The Study of Plant Structure Principles and Selected Methods by reader in Botany, Dr T. P. O'Brien, and M. E. McCally, of the Biology department, Carleton University in Ottawa. It is published by Termaraphi Pty. Ltd.
Opinions on the effect of television on behaviour, particularly that of children, are easy to come by.

The serious researcher in the field, however, recognises that logical and procedural difficulties arise in attempts to relate human behaviour to attributes of television.

A senior lecturer in Education at Monash, Dr Mary Nixon, makes this point in her introduction to the monograph, *TV and Children: Research Issues*, published recently by the Education faculty with assistance from HSV 7. The publication brings together papers delivered at a seminar held at Monash last year.

Dr Nixon heads a Monash team working on a TV and Children project. She says that both television and human behaviour are multi-dimensional.

"Neither lends itself easily to an experimental paradigm which holds constant all variables save one which can be systematically manipulated." She illustrates the difficulties.

"Much valuable and interesting work has been done in attempting to assess television's effectiveness as a model for action, asking whether viewers (children in particular) adopt behaviour that they have seen on the screen and whether such behaviour persists and becomes characteristic."

"One irrefutable conclusion from this work is that the use viewers make of what they see depends upon the nature of the program material, the conditions under which the viewers saw it, and what the viewers perceived to be the functions of television."

Researcher highlights problems in 'TV and children' studies

Dr Nixon says that one of the significant factors that had to be taken into account in such research was "the sheer adaptability of the human organism."

"Viewers are capable of infinitely varied behaviour, both overt and covert, relative to television — and to other objects and events in their environments," she adds.

Many of the issues in the study of television bedevil all social and behavioural research, Dr Nixon says.

"Investigations in which interviewers collect data depend for their validity on the training and integrity of the interviewers; too often, both are quite limited."

"When informants provide data by means of checklists, questionnaires, diaries and the like, the informants may be no more concerned to provide an accurate picture than they are to make themselves look good (or to make their children or pupils or associates look good)."

"Informants may lack the objectivity to record accurately or may lack the conceptual skills which are needed to recognize variables that the investigation focuses on."

"If data are collected from groups, either through discussion or by means of some written record, contamination is almost bound to occur. Investigators may be able to turn this to their advantage by framing their aims in terms of group processes or consensus in decisions, but this can lead to other difficulties of interpretation."

Dr Nixon says that a highly controversial issue in television research is that of "ecological validity."

She says: "Since most television viewing takes place in households, the argument has been advanced that investigations should be sited in households if the results are to be ecologically valid."

"An opposing argument can be advanced that the sources of error in observation are much greater in natural settings than in contrived settings where greater control over extraneous variables is possible; therefore investigations sited in laboratories and especially planned studies provide data containing less error and contamination, even though something may be lost through lack of a natural setting."

This controversy, Dr Nixon says, is unlikely to be solved either logically or empirically, "but with goodwill one approach can complement the other."

Grant reflects on a's shortcomings a 'splendid' future

from the cultural power centres of the world were ending.

Mr Grant sees an irresponsibility in Australia participating in experiences "anguish over and shaped overseas while rarely contributing anything creative itself.

Australia's international contribution and other aspects of its civilization have been the focus of Mr Grant's reflection of late. His current work is a book on Australia in which he attempts a dissection of its "anatomy."

"It's a book about who owns and runs Australia," he says. "But I hope it will not be just a discussion of power structures. It attempts to identify those parts of Australia's anatomy which, like the appendix, are useful but dispensable; those parts which are important, but which it would be possible to struggle along without; and those parts without which Australia would not survive."

One of the highlights of Mr Grant's period as writer-in-residence has been a series of public lectures he has given on "Aspects of an Australian Civilization."

He believes there is truth in what Robin Boyd says about the Australian ugliness resulting from our refusal to come to terms with the reality of the Australian environment, as unpalatable in parts as we may find it.

Rather than face this reality, we import distracting "features" from abroad. As a consequence Australia is a country plagued by uncertainty - on, for instance, even the simplest elements of nationhood such as insignias like the flag and the anthem and a lack of confidence in its own experience.

Mr Grant argues that there is a long-term value, if short-term costs, in Australia building on its own experiences, "in accepting our own history - how we have done it - rather than importing instant solutions from overseas."

A case in point is the blend of public and private sector in Australian life. For example, in broadcasting we did not imitate either the UK State-sponsored or the US private-sponsored models but adopted an interesting mix of the two - "a mix that perhaps suits our temperament."

"Australia has failed to mature as a nation mainly because we have refused to come to terms with our neighbouring civilisations."

Mr Grant believes that instead of racing headlong into the future Australia would benefit from examining more closely its past. After identifying those features that have shaped what we are, we could plan more effectively for the future on the basis of our own experience.

Australia has failed to mature as a nation, he says, mainly because we have refused to come to terms with our neighbouring Asian civilisations.

"A nation establishes itself by working out its relationship with its neighbours, for good or ill. In our case we have lived as an outpost of Western civilization, receiving our culture from first the UK and then the US and protected militarily by them from our region."

"We see Asia as a market and an arena of strategic importance. But it is also the source of ancient and powerful civilisations which offer different answers to the great questions of life from ours."

A second feature of Australia's existence, he says, which Mr Grant refers is "the hole in the middle."

The physical "hole" is the result of our settlement pattern and the exposure of the coast of what was perceived as a largely inhospitable continent. The effect on our consciousness has been a continual "looking out to sea" rather than in towards component parts. The emotional "hole" is the result of "dependent prosperity", benefiting from a great civilisation without contributing to it.

He says that Australia is in some respects still a developing country, with a small market which it is not in Australia's interest to subject to "market forces", for example in resources development, in education, health, defence, funding the arts.

With "faith" in Australia's ability to mature as a nation Mr Grant holds a rather splendid vision of our future. He says that two dramatic questions about the event remain unanswered: Why did Kerr set out deliberately to deceive the Prime Minister using the dismissal as a shock tactic? And why didn't Whitlam refuse to be sacked?

Mr Grant said: "The answer to the second question may be that in the back of Whitlam's mind he thought he could win the election. He thought, 'The Australian people won't stand for it.'"

The irony, even tragedy, is that Whitlam was a believer in the constitutional process, a man whose political life was dedicated to reform using the processes of our social institutions, parliament and the law.

"The consequences of 1975 is that we are to survive the world must break away from the pattern of civilisations devouring each other - of dominating or being subdue - and accommodation must be the path."
Monash at the Brisbane ANZAAS

Doubts on our aid commitment

Acceptability of scanning "market choice"

The introduction of Australian Product Number scanning systems at the retail checkout could provide many benefits for consumers, two Monash marketing academics said in an ANZAAS paper "Item Price-Marking and the Consumer".

Dr Robin Shaw, a lecturer in Administrative Studies, and Ms Roseanne Buxton, said the benefits are: a faster checkout; fewer errors at the checkout; a more detailed receipt tape; an improved visual display at the checkout; opportunities for more personalised services; and a better availability of products.

The academics say that scanning systems will be introduced in Australian stores over a number of years.

During that time shoppers will be presented with a range of product choices and a variety of attributes on which to base a patronage decision. The market scanning system provides a classic opportunity to "let the market decide", based on freedom of choice and "perfect" information.

New President — but new Pacific policies?

It was not a foregone conclusion that the policy of France’s new President, Mr Mitterrand, on that country’s South Pacific territories would be radically different from his predecessor.

A lecturer in Politics at Monash, Dr John Dalton, said in this in an ANZAAS paper which surveyed the French regional past, present and future in the South Pacific and Australia’s position in relation to it.

Dr Dalton said that it should not be assumed that a Socialist President would "haul down the Tricolor" in the region quickly.

"Mitterrand faces the same-phaselannes of national interests and lobbies which must give any French President pause, particularly a President who will be seeking to persuade the bourgeoisie that a Socialist President is not the advance scout of the Communists," he said.

France controls three territories in the South Pacific: French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna Islands, and New Caledonia. A fourth territory with which France currently controls is the New Hebrides, became independent as the new state of Vanuatu in 1980.

Dr Dalton said that the "familiar influences" of Catholicism and notions of a "civilising mission" were powerful ingredients in the establishment of a French Pacific Empire in the first half of the 19th century and they remained powerful factors reinforcing the French determination to retain a presence.

"France’s ‘mission’ in the South Pacific has been frequently stressed in recent years by both the French politicians and administrators. The comforting myth that racism and colonialism cannot exist in France’s overseas territories — which are legally part of France — has led to the belief that the French possessions in the South Pacific are harmonious, multi-racial societies which enjoy the benefits of French language and culture," he said.

But there was a hard-nosed edge to France’s continued presence in the region: Mr Dalton said the French Polynesia was a significant military asset as a nuclear weapon testing site and New Caledonia was important economically — with immense mineral deposits — and militarily too, as a back-up facility for France’s atomic testing facilities at Mururoa.

Dr Dalton said that a desire to safeguard the valuable assets of New Caledonia and French Polynesia greatly influenced France’s policy on the decolonisation of the New Hebrides.

He said that the French and others had woven an "incredibly tangled web of diplomatic intrigue and political deceit" to delay and frustrate the birth of Vanuatu.

Domino theory mentality

"The heart of the matter, which explains a great deal of French intransigence and obstructionism, was the fact that French attitudes towards its territories in the Pacific have increasingly been dominated by a domino theory mentality — independence for one would lead to a chain reaction effect resulting in the collapse of the French Empire in the Pacific."

Dr Dalton said that Australia had been "schizophrenic" about the French in the South Pacific "viewing them sometimes as useful friends and allies in areas vital to Australia’s interests and, at other periods, as problems that refuse to face South Pacific realities". The question of French nuclear testing had been a source of contention between the two countries in the past.

Dr Dalton said that there were three positions that Australia could adopt on France’s continued presence in the Pacific: confrontation, collaboration or that of an "honest broker".

Discussing the "confrontationist" line, he said that Australia would suffer from too close an association with France.

"The French are noble but nimble allies and if Paris changed course suddenly than Australia could be left to inherit a legacy of bitterness and mistrust," he said.

French promises of greater access to EEC markets for Australia’s primary and manufactured products, have to be treated cautiously. The French like to think that Paris controls the EEC but that is certainly an exaggeration and, in any case, Australia also has significant economic and trading interests in the South Pacific which could be damaged by support for the French.

"The French can always lower the Tricolour but Australia must forge permanent relations with our South Pacific neighbors and that fact must always underlie our perceptions of Australia’s role and behaviour in the region."

Dr Dalton suggested that Australia might play a role as an honest broker between France and her South Pacific territories if we could demonstrate that "despite our British heritage, we are not part of the alleged Anglo-Saxon conspiracy which seeks to drive the French from the Pacific and, in fact, Canberra speaks with an authentic Australian accent.

He said that Australia could help to persuade the French that there is still a role for France in the region in terms of aid, education, language and culture.

"Of course, whether the naughty French would be prepared to accept these conditions is another matter," he added.

July 1981

MONASH REPORTER
A move away from the present arbitration-dominated wage fixing system could have overall economic and industrial benefits which might be better but could be worse, than the present system, Monash university's Deputy Chancellor, Dr J. E. Isaac told the recent ANZAZS Congress.

It would produce an interaction between an active bargaining and arbitration of a kind which would lead to a domination of the former, he said.

Dr Isaac, Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, said: "The history of Australian industrial relations suggests that compulsory arbitration does not exist comfortably as a unique form of bargaining as equal partners."

"It seems that one or the other has to dominate industrial relations processes."

Dr Isaac said the present centralised wage fixing system operated, between both employers and the ACTU, and the Commonwealth Government "took an active part in the fixing of the problem". However, it argued that it was advisable to continue with a centralised system especially because the main parties had already expressed preference for it.

Alternative system

Consideration of an alternative system would take time and involve a thorough examination of the centralised system and the legislative and historical context of Australian industrial relations.

The present wage fixing system, he said, imposed restrictions on individual unions, employers and tribunals, and called for a degree of compliance and co-operation from all, including governments, which seemed to work the system in a constant state of crisis.

"The justification for continuing with a centralised system must rest on whether any significant industrial and economic benefits can be said to accrue from its operation," he said. "A firm conclusion on this question does not come easily."

Critical to the viability of the system, he said, was the extent to which unions and employers were able to exercise restraint on their members.

Dr Isaac said support for a more decentralised "market" oriented wage fixing system came from some economic journalists, academics and others, who suggested, "as an act of faith rather than by realistic rational discourse," that such a system would promote better industrial relations and have generally more favorable effects on inflation, employment and productivity.

Discussing the case for greater flexibility in wage structure, he said he had not seen any recent studies, but international studies in the 1960s suggested that flexibility was not an essential requirement in labor allocation.

He made these points:

- Even in the absence of tribunals, the market mechanism would be in the mechanical manner desired by the

PROPONENTS OF A FLEXIBLE WAGE STRUCTURE

Demand and supply forces did operate, but the supply functions were more complex than was generally assumed by those who favored the market-oriented approach. In Australia, the high degree of concentration of the work force in a few centres, the extent of unionism and the predominantly occupational rather than industrial structure of unionism, militated against wide variability in wage structure.

" Widening skill differentials might do little to ease the shortage of skill unless training facilities were equal to the task. Subsidised training might well be a more effective way of dealing with the supply of skill than higher skill differentials.

Discussing the suggestion that relative wage changes should be related to productivity movements, he said, that logically, this would mean that service industries with little scope for productivity increases, like universities and other teaching institutions, police and fire fighting, public servants and parliament, would lag behind, electronic, chemical and various manufacturing industries.

"Quite apart from the industrial implications of such a development, in economic terms, it does not follow that high productivity industries need relatively more labour," he said. "It could be the opposite. That would depend on the elasticity of demand for the products of those industries. It is far from established that as a rule it would be economically desirable for wages to rise faster in industries with high productivity."

THE EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE ON DECENTRALISED SYSTEMS UNDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The empirical evidence on decentralised systems under collective bargaining, he said, did not suggest that relative wage movements were correlated with productivity.

Effect on Inflation

Referring to the effect of wage levels on inflation, Dr Isaac said the extent to which centralised wage determination had assisted in moderating inflation was a related issue.

"There are those who believe that indexation has sustained a higher level of wages and prices than might have otherwise occurred," he said.

"Those involved in the day-to-day settlement of industrial disputes and are restricted by the indexation principles, tend to believe otherwise."

The experience of a number of countries with different wage fixing arrangements, he said, seemed to support the view that inflation cannot be brought to heel quickly by wage restraint.

The price should also be remembered," he said, "that the source of acceleration of inflation in the last two years has been external in character, international and government policy-induced price increases."

Psychology: What's the use?

How much have pure and applied studies in psychology contributed to its professional practice? And how is the profession of psychology related to psychology research?

These were two questions to which Emeritus Professor Ron Taft addressed himself in his presidential address delivered to Section 23 of ANZAZS.

Professor Taft said that the direct contribution of psychological research to psychological practice had been "shy".

A "crisis in confidence" in the practice of psychology partly stems, he said, from a feeling that psychological theory, even that with an applied orientation, was trivial and too removed from practical reality.

"The gulf between the researcher and the practitioner is a wide one stemming from the different aims of the two," Professor Taft continued.

Practitioners are concerned with making decisions for action in a particular context and often for a limited period of time. They may well be steeped in theory and academic knowledge, but when they need to make decisions they do not usually try to spell out the chain of propositions that leads to their decisions or even to express them.

"On the other hand, the theoretician aims at providing through scholarship and research a set of propositions that supervene any particular context."

Professor Taft emphasised, however, that a training in general psychology was useful for the practitioner in several ways.

"He said: "An education in psychology or 'behavioural science' can provide a lot of general information, including measurement techniques, statistical methods and the empirical generalisations based on the results of research findings. The psychologist also helps the practitioner to make decisions which, when subsumed when action decisions are made but he is confident that something survives in the orientation of the practitioner that distinguishes him or her from a lay person and leads to the making of a unique contribution."

Professor Taft described the difficulties in assessing the usefulness of psychological practice.

Evaluation could be done on an objective, specific criteria of the outcome of a psychological 'intervention' or on subjective reactions to the intervention.

He said that objective evaluation of psychological services required both a sound design of the investigation and a clear understanding of what the intervention, "both of which are often absent."

Professor Taft said that because of the difficulties of objective evaluation, the tendency today was to use subjective methods: "to investigate whether the clients are satisfied with the intervention and, sometimes, even whether the psychologist himself believes that the intervention was successful."

Nuclear and coal-to-oil

Important new advances made at Monash University in the design of more efficient catalyst systems for the production of liquid fuels by hydrogenation of coal were outlined at ANZAZS by Professor Roy Jackson, of the Monash Chemistry department.

It was well recognised, he said, that efficient catalysis of the first step in coal hydrogenation could lead to large cost savings in plant construction if the reaction conditions could be made less severe. An efficient catalyst system could also lead to a better quality initial product which could be more easily upgraded into a material suitable for use as a refinery feedstock.

The catalyst system he outlined involves the reaction of uranium brown coal with solutions containing iron salts, together with a very small amount of tin salts.

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National Heart Foundation — Vacation Scholarships
Available to undergraduates to undertake research projects related to cardiovascular function and disease. Tenable for six to eight weeks. Value: $55 per week. Applications close in Canberra on October 5.

Australian Kidney Foundation — Vacation Scholarships
Available to undergraduates to undertake research projects related to the kidney and urinary tract. Tenable for six to eight weeks. Value: $500. Applications close in Canberra on October 30.

Australian National University — Vacation Scholarships
Available for third or later year undergraduates, to enable supervised research at ANU for at least eight weeks in December-February. Fares, Hall of Residence fees, and a weekly allowance are provided. Applications close in Canberra on August 30.

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**JULY DIARY**

The events listed below are open to the public. "RBH" throughout stands for Robert Blackwood Hall. There is a BASS ticket price of $8.50 at the Alexander Theatre.

7: ARTS & CRAFTS — photography, nunig-i-embroidery, pottery, Chinese painting, rugweaving and macrame courses at the National Arts and Crafts Centre. Inquiries: ext. 3096.

7-16: EXHIBITION — John Braek. Drawings, works from the 1940's to 1980. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Exhibition, Mendez Buildings. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2117.


8: CONCERT — ABC Monash Series No. 3: The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Harold Faberman; Gervase de Peyer — clarinet. Works by Charles Ives, Mozart and Debussy. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults A.Res. $3.50, B.Res. $7.70, C.Res. $3.50; students and pensioners A.Res. $7.70, B.Res. $5.70, C.Res. $4.90.


8-11: DRAMA — "The Tavern", presented by the Student Theatre Committee. 8 p.m. Admission: adults $4.50, students $2.50. Alex Theatre, Group concessions available. Performances also July 15-18.


16: CONCERT — Six Band Festival, featuring the Melbourne Staff Band, with Salvation Army Bands from Box Hill, Mont Albert, Templestowe, Mount Waverley, Moreland, Macleod. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults $3, children $1.

17: CONCERT — Brian Brown Quintet; Brian Brown — soprano saxophone, trumpet; Bob Wadler — tenor saxophone; Jim Sodergrd — piano; Jeremy Alan — electric bass; Vindi Donati — drums; Alex Pertout — percussion. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.


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**Important Dates**

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in July:

10: Second teaching round ends, Dip.Ed.
11: Second term ends for Medicine VI (Prince Henry's).
14: Second half-year begins for L.M. by coursework.
15: Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in Medicine VI for it to be classified as discontinued.
17: Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in Medicine VI for it to be classified as discontinued.
18: Second week for second half-year course / subject / unit / changes. After July 24 (except with the permission of the Dean of the faculty) no students may take up a subject or unit not previously taken in the second half of the year, except with the permission of the Dean of the faculty. Note: In the case of a change on payment of a late charge fee calculated at the rate of $60 for up to one week late, $10 for between two to two weeks, $20 for more than two weeks late.

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**No don't forget your entry for the Great Energy-Saving Competition:** See page 2.

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**MONASH REPORTER**

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Sometime Monash Arts student and former teacher-turned-stripper, now widely-acclaimed dancer....

DOODY returns to Monash next week for a brief session at the Alexander Theatre.

'The Age' theatre critic Leonard Radio wrote recently that there is more to 'Doody the Stripper's'...
A sweet touch of Brazil

Tutor in the Spanish department, Denis Close, has done much to pioneer an enthusiasm for Brazilian music at Monash — and indeed in Australia — with a series of concerts over the last few years.

He has another concert planned, titled "The Brazilian Confection," to be presented in the Alexander Theatre on Monday, August 3. It follows on the heels of last year's "A Festival of Rhythm," which was booked out.

The concerts are supported by a grant from the Vera Moore Fund. News of Denis's work in promoting Brazilian culture on the other side of the hemisphere has filtered back to Brazil with, as he describes it, "gratifying results."

Sheet music

One of Latin America's largest music publishing companies, Fermato do Brasil, is planning to mention the Spanish department concerts in a musical dictionary which is being compiled. As well, the company has donated recently what Denis calls a "veritable mountain" of Brazilian sheet music.

"It is invaluable material opening up whole new areas to us," he says. There have been other unexpected offshoots from the concerts.

Denis says: "The most important is the possibility of a program on ABC-FM radio in the not-too-distant future. The producers in Adelaide are always looking for 'new' areas of music and what we are doing in our shows is revealing aspects of Brazilian music unknown outside that country."

More than 30 performers will take part in "The Brazilian Confection" which Denis says "like the other shows will emphasise diversity, authenticity, novelty and a 'rhythmic seduction'."

Tickets cost $3 ($2 for students) and bookings may be made at the Alexander Theatre.

Physiology's eye-on-the-sky

Monash's Physiology building, constructed a few years ago, made a dramatic break from the architectural styles of other University buildings. The building's reflective surfaces mirror its environment — on the south-west frontier of the campus — with interesting effect as this study by Ricks Crompton on a partly cloudy day shows. The cloud band at top is, in fact, "real."

Top ceramics on show

The Victorian Ceramic Group is holding its 11th annual exhibition of works by members in the Caulfield Arts Centre, 441 Inkerman Road, until July 12.

The exhibition provides a showcase of works by a wide cross-section of the 600 potters who form the group.

Works considered outstanding by a selection panel will be purchased for the Group's permanent collection which is currently housed in the Arts and Crafts Centre at Monash and in Union House at Melbourne University.

A release from the Group says that the ceramics featured in the exhibition "will be of a conceptual as well as functional nature and will reflect the high standard of members' work."

It says that the annual exhibition "has stimulated Victorian potters to strive for higher standard of craftsmanship and has also provided an excellent opportunity for the community to experience and appreciate their ceramics."

Works in the exhibition will be for sale. The Caulfield Arts Centre is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Christianity Week plans

Christianity Week will be held at Monash from July 27 to 31.

The theme of the Week is "Stop! Consider Christ" and lunchtime and evening activities are being organised to involve students and staff in discussion on Christianity.

Addresses will be given by Bryan Greenwood, a member of the Open Air Campaigners, at lunchtimes in Robert Blackwood Hall during the Week and former Monash student leader, Peter Costello, will address meetings in the Halls of Residence on the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

There are plans, too, to set up a coffee shop which will be open from the Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Christianity Week is being organised by the Evangelical Union.

Medical lab. scientists meeting

The Australian Institute of Medical Laboratory Scientists is holding its Annual National Scientific Meeting at Melbourne University from August 19 to 21.

Invited speakers include:
- Dr Daniel Catovsky (Hammer Smith Hospital, London), who will participate in a workshop on morphological and cytochemical identification of leukaemias, reviewing the FAB classification.
- Dr Carl Burton (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA), who will instruct in workshops on High Pressure Liquid Chromatography, Assay Calibration, and Quality Control.
- Dr Richard Lacey (England), an authority on resistant Staph aureus, who will participate in Microbiology sessions.
- Mr Laurie Marsh (New York), who is a pioneer in the work linking blood groups with chronic granulomatous disease. Mr Marsh will participate in Immunohaematology sessions.

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Students revive two popular US plays

Student theatre comes alive this month with revivals of two plays by American playwrights who established their reputations in the first half of this century.

The plays are Watch on the Rhine by Lillian Hellman which is being presented by the Monash Theatre Workshop in the Union Theatre until Saturday, July 11; and The Tavern by George M. Cohan which is being presented by the Student Theatre Committee in the Alexander Theatre from tomorrow (July 8) until Saturday, July 18, Wednesday to Saturday.

"Watch on the Rhine" is set in a country house outside Washington circa 1940 and focuses on conflict between a German anti-Fascist and a Nazi sympathiser. It explores issues of morality, violence and fascism.

Among Lillian Hellman's other works are "The Children's Hour", "Little Foxes" and "The Autumn Garden". Many have been made into films and she has written many screenplays. An incident in her life recorded in the autobiography "An Unfinished Woman", was portrayed in the recent film "Julia" for which Vanessa Redgrave won an Academy Award. "Little Foxes" was revived recently on Broadway with Elizabeth Taylor in the cast.

The Monash production is being directed by Rachel Teasdale-Smith who recently moved to Melbourne from Adelaide where she studied drama and worked extensively in semi-professional theatre. Monash Theatre Workshop is a student-run group which this year has presented the successful lunchtime shows, "Foiled Again" and "Knit One, Pearl One" and "Love's the Best Doctor"/"Shadow of the Glen".

Performance times are: today (Tuesday) 11.00 p.m., 7.30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday 11.00 p.m., 5.45 p.m.; Friday 11.00 p.m., Saturday 2.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. Tickets cost $1.50 for student, $2.50 others.

THE UNIVERSITY'S expertise is called on by the community in a variety of ways and the latest, it has been reported, is to join in the hunt for a so-called "panther" causing panic in Pakenham.

Several sightings of the Pakenham panther have been reported and local councillor Ted Owen wants them investigated.

According to the Berwick Times, Cr Owen successfully moved at a recent Pakenham Council meeting that "the Wildlife and Lands Department and other suitable bodies such as Monash University be asked to investigate the areas of panther sightings to see if there is evidence of tiger cats in those areas".

A number of departments have been a little bit cagey about whether they'd be interested in pursuing this lion of research.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR replied to the London elderly pensioner who wrote to "the cowardly students of Monash University" (see Reporter 3-81) following reports she had read in the British Press of Prince Charles's reception at Monash when he received an honorary degree on April 16. The V-C enclosed a copy of the May Reporter placing the events of that day in perspective and has received a reply from the lady which reads in part:

"My remarks were meant directly to the students who were evidently offensive to Prince Charles and my apologies to the students who had no part in such behaviour."

What an interesting magazine the 'Monash Reporter' is! I will have great pleasure in showing it to my relatives.

I wish you all peace and success..."