Asian studies - 600 visitors

Some 600 people with an interest in Asian studies are expected to attend a conference to be held at Monash from May 10 to 14.

It is the fourth biennial conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia which has a wide-ranging membership including academics, secondary teachers, librarians and journalists. The Association exists:

- To promote the study of Asian languages, societies, cultures and politics in Australia.
- To support teaching and research in Asian studies.
- To encourage the exchange of information through publications, conferences and seminars.
- To contribute towards an understanding of Asia in the community at large.

About 150 papers are to be delivered, encompassing a broad range of topics from Australia-Asia media relations to Japanese language and linguistics and post-1976 Marxism in China. A cultural program highlighting Asian arts has been organised as part of proceedings.

Specialist groups such as the Malaysia Society, the Australasian Association of Eastern Philosophy and the East Asian Librarians Group use the opportunity provided by the conference — which is being held at Monash for the first time — for their annual meetings.

The President of ASAA is the Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University, Professor Tony Low, who will address the conference. The Dean of Arts at Monash, Professor John Legge, is chairman of the Asian Studies Committee and convener of the conference is Associate Professor Harold Bolitho, of the Japanese department. Dr Gale Dixon, senior lecturer in Geography, is the conference secretary.

Dr Dixon says that the conference’s organisation, with its interregional and regional panels and curriculum forums, gives it the flexibility to meet the diverse, interdisciplinary interests of participants.

He describes it as the “one chance” for people interested in Asia to get together to discuss research and trends in the teaching of Asian subjects.

About 25 overseas visitors are expected to attend. For further information and registration forms contact Dr Dixon on ext. 2530.

- New technology — ... And improved energy policies

Participation in the implementation of new technology by the people who will be affected by it seems a sensible approach. But it is rarely used.

A Monash lecturer in Accounting and Finance, Mr Doug Campbell, says that the participatory method of introducing a major systems change requires a willingness to spend money, time and effort. Hence the far more usual method of introduction is the fait accompli.

“Participation is a good idea but it takes a helluva lot longer,” says Mr Campbell. In an article on page 5 he explains the advantages of taking that extra time.

In review on pp. 10 and 11

- Harold Love’s The Golden Age of Australian Opera — Bruce Knox
- Peter Singer’s The Expanding Circle — Max Charlesworth

There’s paternal pride in those smiles!

TWO Monash graduation ceremonies last month yielded two quite remarkable coincidences. At the Science graduation ceremony on April 14, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, presented his daughter, Lisa, with her science honours degree. At the same ceremony, La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Scott, saw his daughter, Caraline, graduate. In the photo left, Monash dad and daughter are pictured left and La Trobe right.

On April 21, it was the politicians’ turn at the Law graduation ceremony. Victoria’s new Premier, Mr John Cain, saw his son, John, graduate. Also in the audience was the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lindsay Thompson, whose daughter-in-law, Thessa, received her degree. Thessa’s husband, Murray, graduated in Law from Monash last year. The politicians and their family graduates are pictured right (Cains left, Thompsons right). More on recent graduations pp. 6-7. Photos: Rick Crompton, Tony Miller.
Recital on the veena

Chittit Babu, described as the world’s leading exponent of the Indian stringed instrument, the veena, will give a recital at Robert Blackwood Hall on Friday, May 14 at 8 p.m.

Chittit Babu is to the veena what Ravi Shankar is to the sitar, a better known instrument in the West.

The veena is an ancient Hindu instrument more commonly played in southern India. It is believed to be played by the Goddess of Knowledge, Saraswati.

In a second event at Monash, Mr Babu will speak about the instrument in a public lecture/demonstration to be held in the Music department auditorium on Monday, May 10 at 8 p.m. His visit to the University, organised by the Music department in association with the Australia India Society of Victoria, coincides with the fourth biennial conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia. He will be giving another recital of instrumental music at the Union Theatre, Melbourne University, on Saturday, May 15 at 3 p.m.

Chittit Babu — who holds no fewer than 11 rode titles in music — gave his first public performance at age 12. He is regularly featured in All India Radio broadcasts.

While this is his first visit to Australia, Chittit Babu has toured extensively throughout Asia, Europe and North America since 1989.

Accompanying him will be Verara Rao, playing the mridangam, a double-headed drum, and Somayajulu playing the ghatam, a large earthenware pot which, in the hands of a skilled artist, is capable of producing a great variety of rhythms and tone colours.

Tickets for the RBH concerts cost $8 ($6 concession) and are available from Bass outlets or at the door. For further information contact Mrs Rea Pera, lecturer in Music, on ext. 3234.

Blood Bank visits in June

The Blood Bank will be making several visits to Monash next month and is hoping for the same high level of blood donations it has received from Monash students and staff in the past.

On Tuesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 3, the Blood Bank will be located in rooms SG01-4 of The Humanities building from 9.45 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 8 and Wednesday, June 9, a mobile unit will be situated in the parking bay between the Religious Centre and the University Union, and will be open for donations between 9.20 a.m. and 12 noon, then again from 1 p.m. to 3.20 p.m.

Appointments should be made by donors prior to the Union Bank visits at the Union Desk.
Refugee evidence on chemicals 'weak'

A Melbourne sociologist has described as "very, very weak" the body of evidence from refugees used to support claims that the Lao Government has been deploying Soviet-supplied chemical weapons against suspected rebels in the country.

Mr Grant Evans, a tutor at La Trobe University, returned recently from Laos and Thailand. He visited the refugee camps from where the "Yellow Rain" stories have emanated and parts of Laos where the chemical weapon deployment has been going on. He returned recently with a report of his findings.

Mr Evans claimed that the onus rested mainly on those using refugee evidence in any study to treat it carefully. This had not been done despite the opportunity given for systematic analysis. There has been continuous access to refugee evidence and journalists and others who strictly controlled access by outsiders to the refugees.

As a basic weakness in the evidence, Mr Evans said that no research had been done on the background of the refugees telling stories of gassing. This had been neglected by gatherers of the evidence and journalists and others who had given it wide circulation. He said that most of the stories had originated from the Ban Vinal refugee camp, populated by members of the Hmong tribal group. The Hmong, Mr Evans said, were not just "simple country yokels." They had been soldiers for decades, he claimed, most recently forming the backbone of a CIA-financed "Secret Army." He said that Ban Vinal was "ruled" by officer corps of the old CIA Army who strictly controlled access by outsiders to the refugees.

Mr Evans claimed that there was a high probability that at least two-thirds of the 110 people who had given evidence of gassing were former CIA soldiers. He said that it appeared that the camp's leadership had "packaged" a story which was presented to a steady flow of Western news teams (including an Australian 'Sixty Minutes' team).

Mr Evans said that, as a second weakness, little cross referencing had been done of the refugees' stories. Efforts he had made in this regard showed that the "details just don't check out".

Mr Evans described refugee camps as having a "pressure cooker atmosphere" - the ideal environment for rumours to gain currency and for stories to be adopted by individuals as their own.

It appeared possible that "gassing" had become a ready explanation for common complaints among what was an extremely sick population. He said that medical authorities had agreed that there were alternative, plausible explanations for all the complaints that had been blamed on chemical warfare - skin disease, fever, coughing of blood, and diarrhoea.

Mr Evans said that the Lao Government - "not surprisingly" - denied that it used chemical weapons. But he said he was permitted to speak to villagers and discussed the issue, too, with Western aid staff. He found no solid evidence of gassing or the claims of genocide. At several places the locals were aware of the claims of chemical attacks. Further conversation revealed that mostly they had heard them on Voice of America reports or from people returning to the country from the Thai refugee camps.

Pool date: July

Early July is the new completion date for the swimming pool currently under construction adjacent to the Sports and Recreation Centre.

The main structure is complete, pools have been excavated and surrounding concrete floor laid with tiling about to proceed. The sauna rooms have been fitted and the changing areas are being finished.

Over the road, work is proceeding satisfactorily on an extension to Robert Blackwood Hall which will give additional storage space. Anticipated completion date is in May.
The Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children

...and a philosophy

Monash fliers’ Anzac tribute

Tocumwal (NSW) returned servicemen experienced a new dimension to their Anzac Day observance this year: a ceremonial flyover by members of the Monash Flying Club.

Thirty members of the Club were spending the weekend of April 24-25 gliding with local enthusiasts at the old RAAF aerodrome two miles out of Tocumwal.

On the Sunday morning, three of the Monash crews — flying Cherokee six-seaters — accepted an invitation from Bill Riley, proprietor of the Sportavia complex which now operates the aerodrome, to join the Anzac observance.

As a result, six aircraft — three flown by local aviators, and three by Monash fliers — swept in arrowhead formation over Tocumwal, following the main street and coincidence with the service being conducted at the local RSL headquarters.

The Monash aircraft were piloted by Maurie Butler (acting deputy Comptroller and president of the Monash Flying Club), Peter Gordon and Don McDonald.

At the conclusion of the Anzac ceremony, the RSL sent a despatch rider (on mini bike) to the aerodrome to convey the ex-service men’s thanks for the Monash contribution.

Supply Group’s aim is ‘value for money’

Monash Report
Mr Doug Campbell, lecturer in Accounting and Finance, spent most of last year on an outside studies program working with Professor Enid Mumford, an industrial sociologist, at the Manchester Business School. For many years Professor Mumford has been advocating and assisting the implementation of "participation in systems design". Here, Mr Campbell writes on the philosophy of this approach, the advantages to be gained by it — and the reasons why it is not more universally adopted.

The implementation of change in any organisation needs to be planned and managed with great care. Some resistance to the change is to be expected. How that resistance is overcome will determine the extent to which the benefits expected to flow from the change will be achieved.

That the people whose work will be affected by a proposed change should be "involved" in the implementation of it is not a new idea. That same people should actively participate in the development of the ideas leading up to the proposal to make a change is less generally accepted.

In the context of data processing systems, the people involved in the design and implementation of new systems can be identified as:

- Top management, who control the availability of resources.
- User management, who will use the computer system to assist them to meet their administrative responsibilities.
- User personnel who will work directly with the system, recording transactions and utilising the output.

- Data processing specialists, including systems analysts and designers, and programmers.

Traditionally, top management has said (perhaps after some prompting) "go ahead" and the data processing specialists have designed a new system after some brief discussion with user management. That (often) worked reasonably well.

Why should an organisation consider asking all the people involved to participate in the systems design and development operation?

**Three reasons**

There are three reasons: responsibility; expertise; and acceptance.

User management is administratively responsible for the information processing activities which involve computer use. They, rather than data processing specialists, can identify what the computer should be asked to do in order that their own information needs can be met.

User personnel, the people who actually run the "present" system, have an intimate knowledge both of how that system works and what information demands are made upon it. They, rather than data processing specialists or even their own managers, are in a position to ensure that any new system is complete, and has capacity to meet all its obligations.

People who have been deeply involved in planning and designing a new system know that it has been properly designed and will do their utmost to overcome any problems which do arise during implementation. Their resistance to the change will be minimal.

This all seems pretty obvious. Surely all organisations would involve staff in this way? But they don't! Why not?

**Time. Cost. Fear.**

The more people who are involved in the design and development of a system, the longer the system will take to come into use. The resulting system may well be "better" than one designed almost wholly by data processing specialists, but the extra delay in achieving benefits may be unpalatable to top management.

Systems design and development must occur while the organisation continues to function. Taking staff away from their normal duties to participate in the systems design process must involve either overtime payments or the employment of other staff to do participants' normal work.

Unless the people who are participating in the design and development of a system are allowed to take decisions, their participation is somewhat devolved. However, decision-making outside the normal authority structure of the organisation may be seen as threatening by some managers, and letting non-experts take decisions about systems design may appear threatening to some data processing specialists. People who perceive developments as "threatening" are unlikely to promote those developments.

The "quality" of a system has two major dimensions:

- Efficiency and effectiveness, leading to smooth and profitable operations by the organisation.
- Job satisfaction for the user managers and personnel.

Participation seeks to enhance the status of the second dimension and, indirectly, to help achieve the first.

---

**Hartung telescope gives Physics new eye on sky**

A 308 mm reflector telescope built by the late Professor E. J. Hartung, formerly Professor of Chemistry at Melbourne University, and donated to Monash University by his family, was unveiled on the roof of the Physics Department last month.

It will be used in the teaching of astronomy, a second year subject in the Science faculty.

Professor Hartung, a keen astronomer, died in 1980. He was the author of the classic handbook "Astronomy of the Southern Skies".

At a brief inauguration ceremony, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold described Professor Hartung as "a very significant figure in observational astronomy in the southern hemisphere."

Present at the ceremony were Mrs Valerie Judges, daughter of the late Professor Hartung, and two of her children, Jennifer and Jemima.

Mrs Judges said later: "Father was above all a teacher. He would have been happy to know that it was students who were using the telescope in the laboratory on which he had spent so much time both building and observing."

As well as the telescope, many books from Professor Hartung's library were donated to Monash.

---

**Monash Council, 1984?**

Is this (to mix the literary allusion) the Monash Council of the brave, new world with machine replacing man at the highest level of University decision-making?

A preview of what the Council chamber might look like, should such a state of affairs ever come about, was given when the room was set up recently for a seminar conducted by Monash staff for staff of other universities on our newly developed Integrated Staff Information System (ISIS).

Discussion at the seminar centred on the problems of the old system which prompted the system re-design and concepts used in building the new system — then it was over time to ponder its worth.

Among ISIS's objectives are the payment of salaries and wages, fulfilment of obligations in relation to income and other taxes, preparation of salaries budgets, and staffing statistics, general personnel administration, and the administration of superannuation schemes and leave requests.

There were actually PEOPLE at the seminar: the photo was taken by Bob Lee of Finance, during a break.

**Next issue: Monash at ANZAAS**
Wage demands—

By John O'Shea

Australians had developed a "cargo cult" mentality as evidenced by their obsession with "outrageous" money wage increases, the former Dean of the Economics and Politics faculty, Emeritus Professor Don Cochrane said at Monash recently.

Delivering the occasional address at a graduation ceremony at which he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Economics degree, Professor Cochrane said:

"Too many people believe they are entitled to receive, 'as a right', large increases in money wages, substantial welfare handouts and, at the same time, expect their taxation to be reduced."

"The application of this thinking, encouraged by trade unions and many politicians, has produced both inflation and unemployment."

"Who can believe that the increase of around 25 per cent in hourly wages obtained by the metal trade workers last December was in any way reasonable? I can only presume that in reaching this agreement, 'cargo cult' thinking is not limited to workers but has spread to many employers, the latter assuming that through price increases, tariff protection and exchange rate devaluation their problems will be resolved. In other words, a benevolent government can always come to our aid!"

Professor Cochrane said that under present economic and political conditions it appeared that full employment and high rates of wage increases were not compatible.

Some of the best minds in a number of countries had tried to find a solution, "so far with a singular lack of success", he said.

But Professor Cochrane added that it was not difficult to provide a...
"general prescription" for the economic malaise. "It might simply be stated that our rate of wage increase has to be reduced, and this could be done by co-operation and communication between unions, employers and government," he said. "But to achieve a sincerity and commonness of purpose that will achieve this co-operation has proved elusive to our economic policy-makers and politicians. No-one has so far been able to find a formula agreeable to all parties."

Professor Cochrane suggested, however, that some of the impact of high wage increases could be absorbed through increased economic efficiency.

He said that, in the case of the economy as a whole, improved economic efficiency could be achieved through tariff reorganisation, taxation restructuring and the removal of unnecessary government intervention in the marketplace.

In the case of individual organisations, a large number of measures could be taken to improve productivity and reduce costs of production.

Professor Cochrane said that improved efficiency could sometimes mean using more capital intensive methods of production.

He said: "Contrary to some views, this will not necessarily lead to any unemployment in the longer run. To the extent that efficiency is raised, by whatever means, the rate of growth of the economy will be increased. In these circumstances the level of economic activity and employment will expand. "Without growth it is not possible to remedy our many deficiencies such as environmental factors, redistribution of income to the really disadvantaged and, at the same time, make any impact on the level of unemployment."

Interest impact less now

Professor Cochrane has become "memorised" by the rates of interest for housing loans and ignore the fact that their impact has been reduced from around 18% in 1965 to 8% in 1980. His career span study and work at Sydney, Oxford, Cambridge universities as well as ANU. His career spans study and work at Sydney, Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester universities as well as ANU.

He discovered and exploited a remarkable chemical reaction — the conversion of a normally very stable assemblage of carbon and hydrogen atoms (the so-called benzene ring) into a reactive dihydro form by treatment with reactive dimethyl in liquid ammonia as solvent. This process is now known as the "Birch reduction". One application of this method makes possible the technical synthesis of oral contraceptive hormones from cheaply-available plant sterols.

Hon.
D.Sc.
for
Arthur
Birch

A distinguished academic whose name is now part of the descriptive terminology of organic chemistry last month was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Monash.

He is Professor Arthur J. Birch, described by the Dean of Science, Professor John Swan in the citation, as "a very great chemist". Professor Birch was appointed founding Dean of the Research School of Chemistry at ANU, a position from which he retired in 1980. Since then he has been a visiting fellow at the University of Sydney and at Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester universities as well as ANU.

He discovered and exploited a remarkable chemical reaction — the conversion of a normally very stable assemblage of carbon and hydrogen atoms (the so-called benzene ring) into a reactive dihydro form by treatment with reactive dimethyl in liquid ammonia as solvent. This process is now known as the "Birch reduction". One application of this method makes possible the technical synthesis of oral contraceptive hormones from cheaply-available plant sterols.

30s were 'far worse'

The outlook for the young when he graduated in 1932 was far worse than it is now, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sawer told a recent graduation ceremony at Monash. Professor Sawer, former Dean of the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, was giving the occasional address after receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

In 1932, he said, unemployment stood at nearly 30 per cent of the work force, compared with around seven per cent today. World war seemed certain.

The legal profession, in general, had not begun to recover from the great slump until 1939, the eve of the war.

"The outlook today seems to me a good deal better," he said. "No major power today publicly proclaims that only in war can mankind achieve its highest values.

"It is my belief that we will have no world scale war for the rest of this century."

Professor Sawer said he hesitated to make any such "oracular statements" about the economic and sociological aspects of our current problems.

"However," he said, "you may be interested in the views I heard, expressed by a gentleman named Silver at a Melbourne University Labor Club conference at Olinda in the early 30s."

"He was the social democratic father of a communist fellow member of the Labor Club. He said that in his view the happiest sort of society we were likely to achieve was a liberal capitalist economy with parliamentary democracy and a strong welfare state component, and with an annual inflation rate of three per cent.

"Maybe we shall have to learn to live with a much higher inflation rate, in the same way as we have to live with the bomb. At worst, the current state of the economy is hopeless but not desperate."
Countering disasters: 1

Monash University has been called on to help the Australian Counter Disaster Centre at Mt Macedon develop a national directory of disaster research workers.

The directory will contain a brief account of disaster research which is being undertaken or completed in Australia and seeks to highlight the wide range of disciplines involved in counter disaster research such as the social, natural and physical sciences.

All inquiries should be directed to Mr Ian McDermott, Research Officer, Australian Counter Disaster College, Macedon, Victoria, 3440. Phone: (03) 261200.

Countering disasters: 2

Monash's own little counter disaster team works behind the inquiry desk in the Union. Well at least they do their bit to help solve the little problems — like change for the photocopyers and directions around campus — for University members and visitors.

Joining Cathy Gelma (seated) on the team this year are three friendly new faces: Robyn Campbell, Karen Hall and (appropriately enough) Barbara Helper (left to right).

One of the girls' favourite questions? "Is this the inquiry desk?" It's rather like living life in a goldfish bowl, one remarks.

IVF and the media

The IVF procedure made a compelling media story with its focus on mothers and babies, on Australian expertise, the radical nature of the operation and its implications.

But the story lent itself to misrepresentation because of the delicate nature of the issues involved and because of the media's attempt to translate scientific terms into a layman's language, according to Mr John O'Hara, lecturer in Media Studies at Swinburne Institute of Technology.

In his paper, Mr O'Hara reviewed coverage of IVF in the Australian media from early 1980.

He said that while the coverage had been particularly thorough along certain lines the shortcoming was that it could not allow for the real dimensions of the story, "for that middle ground between relief to infertile couples and the horrors of science fiction."

He said: "There has been no account of the medical world within which this technology has developed. We need to know much more about the ethics and politics of medical science in terms that would, finally, owe little to a coverage of IVF as a domestic issue."

Mr O'Hara said that the media coverage of IVF began with euphoria in 1980. Not until nearly 18 months later were problematic issues about the procedure and its implications seriously raised.

He said that the early coverage was favorable, "partly no doubt because babies make good copy; the procedure was seen as an Australian first; there was respect for the scientific expertise involved; and the stories fitted so well into the image of happy families that popular journalism likes to promote, especially when media organisations buy up rights and the families become media property."

The early coverage was seen in purely domestic terms with the focus firmly on the personalities involved.

"The Women's Weekly was well on the way to turning the parents of the IVF babies into the Sullivans," Mr O'Hara commented.

The recipe for funding success

The question has been raised as to what priority IVF programs should have in the allocation of scarce medical resources.

But, back to basics, just how are health care resources allocated and what is the recipe for any new project securing its place in the sun?

An experienced hospital administrator, Dr Ian Brand — executive officer of the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital — addressed these questions in a paper delivered at the conference.

He said that health care resources is a fairly simple subject, "Dr Brand concluded. "In my experience there has been very little scientific endeavour in the allocation of resources at any level. Every level tends to do what it can get away with."

In the first instance, he said, the allocation of resources was a Federal political decision. It was thus subject to competing claims on the public purse and the desire of the Government to put a brake on public expenditure.

At the State level, the dividing up of the Commonwealth block grant was very largely the function of public servants employed by the Health Commission under general political guidelines provided by the Minister of Health and the Government.

Dr Brand said: "Far and away the overriding principle in this division of resources is historical cost, that is, the allocation to individual hospitals and programs is done on the basis of how much they spent in the preceding year."

At the next stage down, chief executive officers allocated resources within their own hospitals on the same lines: they "simply base the budgets they submit to the Commission on historic costs."

Nevertheless, he added, it was possible for most managers to allocate money in projects dear to their hearts or which they believed to be important.

Within such a system there was scope for significant favouritism which advantaged some at the expense of others, he said.

The problem facing new projects was acute because, in a period of zero budgeting, any "new" funding must be found by redistribution from existing services. The personality and influence of the project leader and the prestige of the project could be crucial,

Dr Brand said: "All management is people management and those persons most skilful in interpersonal influence will ultimately command the greatest resource allocation. If such a person has a worthwhile project of considerable public value and this can be demonstrated to a chief executive officer or a committee of management, then the project cannot fail, providing the resources required are not too dramatically expensive."

In 1978-79 Dr Brand was seconded to the Queen Victoria Medical Centre and played a role in directing hospital funds toward the IVF program.

"It seems to me that any project which may attract favourable publicity, especially within the medical and scientific community (and let us be quite certain that the project at Queen Vic. has done this throughout the world), should be encouraged and supported as far as is possible," he said.

Support for the IVF program also came from Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith, Director of Nephrology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Professor Kincaid-Smith drew a parallel between IVF's bid for a slice of the cake now with that of her own field — the treatment of end stage renal failure two decades ago.

She said that funding authorities had to be persuaded that there must be an expansion of health care facilities.

"This approach finds it difficult to accommodate the broader criticisms of the technology and its possible role in subverting precisely that social order so nicely represented by happy families," he said.

The medical use of IVF babies reinforced a sense that no moral issues were involved, he argued.

"Extensive photographs and television footage of the latest cute baby it was possible, suggest an innocence, a transparency that is transferred from the image of the process by which it was conceived."

Mr O'Hara said that the coverage involved a set of paradoxes. These centred on:

- Definition of the event as a 'miracle' while insisting on the normality of the process.

- Description of parents as a minority group, but using this group to represent all parents.

- Representation of the doctor as a medical authority and as a missing father figure.

Mr O'Hara said that the major break with favorable IVF coverage was the disclosure that embryos were being frozen and, in some cases, used for scientific research.

"This break came as the news value of IVF births had diminished. The disclosure was dealt with in the media as a new story but in terms that carried over from the preceding period. The most important of these terms was the domestic context of the story. The media coverage then was a household word 'frozen and..."

Mr O'Hara said that this contrast between the early enthusiasm and later questioning was not simply a sequential development but arose, in part, because of the terms in which the initial coverage was developed; in particular the use of short-hand images such as "test-tube-baby", "miracle", "freezer", and the personalising of issues.

He continued: "The images and stereotypes that received unresolved paradoxes and provide no middle ground between a narrow description of the process and a speculative account of the implications of the new technology."

"They provide a conservative return to the old order of happy families and the attitudes that are seen to support such family configurations. The new technology is seen to safeguard this order."

"This approach finds it difficult to accommodate the broader criticisms of the technology and its possible role in subverting precisely that social order so nicely represented by happy families."

Support for the IVF program also came from Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith, Director of Nephrology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Professor Kincaid-Smith drew a parallel between IVF's bid for a slice of the cake now with that of her own field — the treatment of end stage renal failure two decades ago.

"This approach finds it difficult to accommodate the broader criticisms of the technology and its possible role in subverting precisely that social order so nicely represented by happy families," he said.

These reports are based on papers delivered at a conference on IFV: Problems and Possibilities organised by the Centre for Human Bioethics, on the University campus.

MAY, 1982

Support for the IVF program also came from Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith, Director of Nephrology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.
Research could aid energy policies

Monash's Graduate School of Environmental Science is involved in two projects which could have a significant impact on government policies on the effective use of energy sources. Both projects are being supported by the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council (NERDC) as well as the Australian Energy Conservation Office of the CSIRO Division of Building Research.

One of the projects, led by Mr David Crossley, senior research fellow in Environmental Science, holds promise of giving policy makers better information on the likely result of energy use in households and other areas of the community.

The method being tested in the two year project is based on a theoretical model proposed by Dr Bill McKenzie, of the CSIRO Division of Building Research. The project of the second project is to estimate what the benefits of energy conservation in households are.

The work is being carried out in association with the Municipal Association of Victoria, with the chief co-ordinator of the team being Ms Annie Austin, an environmental studies graduate from Griffith University and former officer with the Melbourne City Council, has been appointed to work with Mr Crossley on the projects.

Mr Crossley says that the role of local government in energy conservation can be far-reaching. "The importance of action in this area was recognised in the Report of the Board of Review of the Role, Structure and Administration of Local Government in Victoria (the Beane Report)."

In the US and UK, local governments have been active in promoting energy conservation in areas they control. While many Australian municipalities have adopted specific energy-conserving practices, none has implemented a comprehensive program. Mr Crossley says that the guidelines will cover the major aspects of Council activities with expected benefits coming from the short to long term.

Immediate savings may flow, he believes, from energy audits of council operations, such as use of buildings, other facilities and vehicle fleet.

But perhaps more important is the ability of councils to encourage energy conservation by others. This could be done, for example, through the provision of information services for residents.

"Especially after the longer term, councils may be able to effect energy savings through planning objectives on land use, transportation, traffic management, and in building regulations."

The first stage of the project has involved an analysis of energy-related responsibilities and operations of councils. A set of draft proposals regarding policies and procedures is now being drawn up with the help of expert working groups. A survey will be conducted of councillors and officers on the feasibility of introducing such proposals before the final guidelines are prepared by the end of the year.

The aim of the second project will be to test the applicability of a theoretical model which has been constructed to explain the factors which control energy use by households. From this it is hoped to develop a method for predicting the likely outcomes of implementing policy measures designed to stimulate energy conservation.

"Policy outcomes are defined to include both changes in energy-using behaviour by household and positive or negative impacts on households resulting from the implementation of policy," Mr Crossley says.

The model proposed by Dr McKenzie attempts to explain the results of a large number of studies of household energy-using behaviour which have been conducted, mainly in the US and UK, with a few in Australia. In general, these studies have rarely pointed to substantial correlations between factors affecting human behaviour and actual energy use in the household. The new model, however, incorporates a number of variables to give a more complete explanation.

Testing of its applicability will be by in-depth interviews with representatives of some 400 households.

A research fellow, Mr Neil Taylor, has been appointed and the team is currently developing an interview schedule and selecting a sample for a pilot survey. The definitive survey will start in July next year and the final report on the project should be written by March, 1984.

Mr Crossley used a trip to UK and Europe late last year to gather material to assist both studies. From contacts made, the possibility is being explored of linking the Monash-CSIRO project with a multi-national study on consumer energy conservation policies being funded by the Directorate of Environmental and Consumer Protection of the Commission of the European Communities. The invitation to the Monash-CSIRO team has been the only one extended to researchers in Australia.

The area of adult learning is as yet unexplored and within the education program we should be looking to the special learning needs of professionals," he said.

"How can we translate traditional disciplinary teaching into problem solving models and strategies for the helping professional?"

Dr Smith said the majority of graduate students in his study found the most helpful teaching that connected with skills and practice experience. Therefore, the timing and sequencing of teaching was as important as the content, he said.

"While we deal a fair amount with the problems of other people in our professional course, do we consider the mental hygiene of our students?"

There is need for more attention to their preparation for work in general and ways of coping with professional stress, he said.

He said professional associations must look to their present and future role in the rapidly advancing information society. They need to be seen as a realistic force, not as a presence of self-interest or outdated practices or mystique.

Dr Smith's paper and those of other contributors to the seminar will be published, together with a seminar report, by the department of Social Work and the Centre for Continuing Education. For further information about the seminar repeat and other sessions in the Welcare '82 program, contact Barbara Brewer on ext. 3719.
Probing the origins of ethical behaviour

Although it is concerned with the abstract question of the origins of ethical behaviour, Peter Singer's latest book is addressed to the ordinary intelligent person in the street. Written in a lively and marvellously clear style, The Expanding Circle introduces the reader to the main ideas of his latest book, the pseudo-science of sociobiology which claims that our ethical behaviour derives directly from the biological make-up of the human animal. He then demonstrates the difficulties and inadequacies of the position of Wilson (Sociobiology: The New Synthesis), Dobzhansky (Mendel's Fishes), Barash (Sociobiology and Behaviour) and others of the sociobiological ilk.

As he shows very convincingly, biology is not, and cannot be, destiny and one can never derive an ethical theory about how human beings ought to behave from a scientific theory about the evolutionary history and biological constitution of the human animal.

Compromise

However, Singer argues, while the pure and extreme sociobiological position must be rejected, there is nevertheless some gold in them. sociobiology in that human biology supplies the 'basis' or the 'grounds' for those altruistic tendencies without which ethics is impossible. He then defines sociobiology which shows how the insights of the sociobiologists may be allied with quasi-traditional ethical theory based on reason. The main conflict, he claims, is one of the altruism (or variety) between a modified sociobiology - which enables us to recognise the origins of ethical behaviour in biological evolution - and reason - which allows us to adopt the attitude of impartiality which is of the essence of ethical stance - leads to a new understanding of ethics.

As a general introduction to sociobiology, and to the thorny problems that surround the origin of ethics, The Expanding Circle has a great deal to commend it. Lucid and sparkling in style, and admirably non-dogmatic in tone, it is a book that invites the reader to argue with it. From this point of view it would be an excellent introduction to ethics for any general reader. As I have remarked, Singer demolishes the sociobiological claim that our capacity for ethical behaviour, involving as it does the ability to reason impartially, derives directly from our biological make-up. There is, he argues, an unbridgeable gulf between biological fact - the way our genes are - and ethical value - what is good for us and the way we ought to behave. No matter how limiting and constraining our biological constitution might be, it can never dictate what I should hold to be good and what I ought to do. One can never derive an ethical theory about how human beings ought to behave from a scientific theory about the evolutionary history and biological constitution of the human animal.

Irreducible phenomena?

I do not see why it should be thought that if we cannot show that ethics has its basis in human biology, or that thinking has its basis in human neurophysiology, we are then faced with an irremediable problem. After all, it may be the case that ethics and mental behaviour are just irreducible and sui generis human phenomena.

As I have already noted, The Expanding Circle invites, even incites, one to argue with it. I see that as a virtue in a philosophical work and from this point of view Singer's book is full of virtue. It introduces readers to the most difficult questions about ethics and at the same time provokes them to think for themselves and to do some ethics.

Max Charlesworth
Professor of Philosophy
Deakin University

Dissent essential to freedom

Rebellion to secure the right to "freedom" must be pursued constantly throughout the world, as Don Dunstan, former South Australian Premier, said at Monash earlier this year.

Mr Dunstan was delivering the seventh Oscar Mendelsohn Lecture, before a capacity audience in the Alexander Theatre.

"Essential to "freedom", he said, was "dissent, challenge, diversity, innovation, the encouragement of the heterodox and the rejecting of an Enlightenment, embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodox and the rejecting of an Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some heterodo
Assessing Lyster's contribution to a golden age.


In his book, Harold Love, the English department, [Dr. Love's] book acts as a testament to the remarkable range of operatic performances that occurred in Melbourne during the late 1860s. Love has compiled a list of public establishment's personnel, which clearly shows where he belonged (rather than in the ranks of American flibustiers in Central America). He came to Australia after falling in love with the idea of a city that was in many ways comfortable and well endowed at the time.

The book is rich in technical detail of stage craft, of theatre construction; it is a charming and evocative account of Lyster's career as a performer and his influence on the development of opera in Australia. Love's information is well documented, and the book is well illustrated with photographs and illustrations.

Lyster's performances were a benefit for the local opera company and for the Melbourne public. His ability to perform a wide range of roles, from serious to comic, was a testament to his versatility as an actor. His skills as a comic performer were particularly well received, and he was often called upon to perform in these roles.

Love's book is a valuable contribution to the study of Australian opera, and it should be read by anyone interested in the history of opera in Australia. It is a well-researched and well-written book, and it will be a valuable resource for scholars and theatre historians.

Assessing Lyster's performance in a golden age.

Historic performances

Working with Dr Harold Love, of the English department, Dr John McLean has compiled a list of public performances in Melbourne over the 18 years from 1850 to 1869.

The listing, which will be available on computer at Monash, provides information about a wide range of performances offered to the public as entertainment during those early years of Melbourne's history.

Events listed

Entertainments listed include dramatic, operatic, musical, vocal and instrumental performances, exhibitions, lectures and sermons advertised as amusements, circuses, fêtes and displays, to be held at local origin or bad. The listing is arranged in conjunction with the Institute of Australian History, and is a useful resource for researchers interested in the history of Melbourne.

The information recorded includes the date of performance, the venue, the title of the work or performance, and any information about the performers. It is a comprehensive list of performances, and it provides a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Melbourne.
Women rowers make their mark

Monash women cricketers aren't the only ones to make news; sports usually thought of as being in the male domain.

In last Report we documented the spectacular success of the Monash Women's Cricket Club in the 1981-82 season.

That good news can be followed with more on the success of the Monash University Women's Rowing Club.

In the season just finishing, 34 Victorian regattas were held; MUWRC entered 84 crews at 28 of these (most of the other six being in the country). A total of 38 of the crews were placed, including 18 in first position, 10 in second and 10 in third. That's three more firsts than in the previous season.

The president of the MUWRC, Margaret Swan, says that while the Club has competed in every grade of rowing and in almost every class of boat (sculling being the chief exception over recent years), the performance in open eight event- for two first places- has only lately begun to reflect the skill and commitment of our oarswomen. And in the past two seasons, MUWRC has been the only club to enter open eight — for two first places in the 1980-81 season and one first and three seconds this season.

Margaret says: "At the Victorian Under 23's Ladies Regatta, held in April each year, we have established a unique record of being the only club to have entered two crews in the open eight event for three years running. "Not many other clubs in Victoria can manage to put 16 women on the water at the same time!"

Highlights

These are other highlights of the MUWRC story over recent years, as nominated by Margaret:

International regattas.

Andrea Giles and Roslyn Barnard won the lightweight women's pairs at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in August, 1979.

National championship regattas.

In the same year, Andrea and Roslyn entered the senior A coxless pair event at Westlake, South Australia. In 1980 Andrea and Ruth Bycroft competed in the senior A coxless pair event at Lake Wendouree, Ballarat.

Victorian State Squad selections.

Andrea was selected for the squad in 1979-80, and this year Jo Lincke was selected.

Victorian championship events.

Helen Dickson and Janine Weste took third place in the senior A coxless pair in 1981 and Jo (with Narrelle Dorr of Essendon Ladies Rowing Club) won the title this year.

In last year's Victorian Ladies Rowing Association Premiership the MUWRC finished fourth, and in the Junior championship in first position by one point to the WYCA. This season's premierships are yet to be finalised. Interclub competitions.

In Canberra, 1981, Monash crews entered and were placed in the lightweight and heavyweight fours and the open eight events. In Perth, 1982, Hilary and Janine Lipio won the challenge trophy for coxless pairs.

Monash members have had a close involvement through the years with administrative bodies in Victorian rowing. Margaret, Florence Lively and Angela Hill hold executive positions on the VLRRA which last year amalgamated with the Victorian Rowing Association.

Organ festival

The focus of the 12th Melbourne International Festival of Organ and Harpsichord will be on Monash this Sunday (May 9).

At 3 p.m. in the Religious Centre, Kenneth Weir will present a program titled "Nine of the Eighteen," featuring chorales by J. S. Bach.

At 5.30 p.m., Swiss organist Phillip Swanton will give a recital of 17th century north German organ music on the Ahrend organ in Robert Blackwood Hall.

Proceedings will shift back to the Religious Centre for an 8.30 p.m. concert titled "Polyphonics" in which Roger Heagney, Stephen McTaggart and Jacqueline Johnson will play works by Bach, Couperin, Bulli, Vivaldi, Handel and Rameau for violin, violincello and harpsichord.

The Monash concerts are part of 50 events planned for the Festival which starts this Friday and ends on Saturday, May 15 with a Haydn 200th anniversary concert. A variety of venues will host Festival events — from Ormond College to St Paul's Cathedral and St Mary Star-of-the-Sea Church, West Melbourne.

Admission prices are $4 (afternoon concerts), $5 (twilight) and $7 (evening). Advance bookings can be made at 711 Normanby St. The concerts are also broadcast on ABC radio, start at 7.30 p.m. and Feature new works by Monash graduate composers.

Monash members have been involved in the Festival since its inception in 1971, and have become an established part of the annual program.