India's 'Untouchables': change comes slowly

Experts on development in third world countries have argued cause and effect between an increase in the level of education of women, along with improved standards of living, and a reduction in population growth.

But how much education is needed to achieve this effect?

It is one of the questions Monash economic historian, Dr Marika Vicziany, hopes to answer in a study on fertility and the family life of Untouchables - or to use Gandhi's term, Harijans - in India. It is a project with clear policy implications.

Dr Vicziany returned recently from India where she conducted an interviewing program among Harijans in a village in the State of Bihar. Her work is being supported by a Monash Special Research Grant.

Not clear cut

She emphasises that her conclusions are tentative. They do point, however, towards a link between improved female literacy and reduced population growth that is not as clear cut and immediately achievable as might be first thought.

"It appears that the amount of education required to achieve the predicted effect is 'a lot' - much more than just a few years at school," she says. "We might have to accept rapid population growth in some areas for quite a long time."

The argument on female literacy, set in an Indian context, runs on these lines:

A newlywed couple traditionally moves in with the groom's parents whose attitudes prevail in the household on important matters such as child bearing. Education of the young woman gives her a new perception of reality, an independent base from which to make decisions. On some issues these are likely to differ from those of her parents-in-law, particularly in relation to family size. Education is also likely to elevate a woman's relationship with her husband to one where they will discuss such things as family planning.

Education, then, should give the young woman an improved status in her new family from which she should be able to "fight off" the authority of her parents-in-law if need be, and implement new ideas.

The argument can come unstuck, says Dr Vicziany, and indeed there are circumstances in which a little education can actually undermine the status of the young woman.

She cites a case from the village in Bihar:

A young woman, daughter of a schoolteacher and with some education herself (about three years' schooling), married a man who was completing a university degree. More significant in determining the couple's status in the family than their education, however, was the fact that they had no separate income. In simple terms, income counts more than a limited amount of education: no income, no opinion.

Sex

Good, we've got your attention. But it's more than a teaser, so to speak. This issue, Reporter delivers. On page 9 we look at sex - the apes and man. A Monash psychologist discusses whether early man was monogamous, polygynous or promiscuous - and gives a clue on why the whole thing is sometimes called "monkey business".

Care urged with teaching

A former Chancellor of Monash has urged academics to pay attention to their teaching.

"I recognise that research is a very important part of the work of the academic staff, but I am afraid that all too often teaching is regarded as a necessary evil," said Sir Richard Eggleston, delivering the occasional address at a Law and Science graduation ceremony last month at which he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

"This is a subject that has interested me for many years, indeed, ever since I myself suffered from one or two inaudible and disorganised lecturers as an undergraduate.

"It has always seemed anomalous that below tertiary levels of education some training in teaching methods is insisted on, but above that level even incompetence is tolerated."

Sir Richard continued: "Every disgruntled student who complains about poor teaching may mean several votes for a government that wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of universities. It behoves us to be always vigilant to see that grounds for complaint do not exist."

"I should, however, make it clear that I believe that Monash enjoys a deservedly high reputation, both for its teaching programs and its research and I have the utmost regard for the enthusiasm and dedication of all the staff with whom I have come in contact."

In his address, Sir Richard examined the quality of teaching that has been conducted at some of the "great" universities over time - and also some of the "freedoms" of universities in history.

"The charters of the ancient universities were not charters of freedom for the undergraduates and those associated with them, but charters of oppression," he concluded.

"The university had its own police force, its own prison, and apparently its own intelligence network. One can imagine how busy the Proctors would have been if they had been exercising their talents 120 years later on an Australian campus."

Continued next page
Life in the low caste

From page 1:
The particular couple illustrates a second point on which Dr Vicziany has been reflecting: the connection between dowries and the status of the young woman in her parents'-in-law home — with the flow-on effect to family planning. The dowry system is becoming more common among upwardly mobile Harijans and, on the surface, would appear to enhance the status of the young bride. Paradoxically it has the potential to work in the opposite direction, says Dr Vicziany.

"As a Harijan family acquires some wealth, attempts will be made to marry a daughter into a slightly better-off family in the same caste. The search for a groom will cover a wider area than in a more 'traditional' marriage. Thus a Harijan bride with a dowry appears to enhance the status of the young woman with her parents-in-law, makes her quite dependent — a dependency which her insufficient education cannot overcome."

Dr Vicziany has chosen Bihar for her study as a State which various individual points pinpoint as one of the most "backward" and poverty-stricken. Unlike, for example, some of the south-western States of India which are in "demographic transition" with falling population growth rates, Bihar continues to experience a rising rate. It also suffers from severe problems of government co-ordination and control. The village in which she carried out her initial research is located some seven kilometres from Central Patna, the State capital. It could be described as a "peri-urban" community: although the city is encroaching on its fields, it continues to derive its livelihood from agriculture. Later in the project Dr Vicziany hopes to conduct research in a second village more isolated from city influences.

The structure of the village represents the caste system in microcosm, she says. A central road divides Harijans from other villagers. And within the Harijan community, there are sub-communities formed by family groups of the Chamar, Dusadhi and Musahar castes. Among these families there is only limited contact. The Chamars are the most upwardly mobile with members who are being educated and taking advantage of government assistance; the Musahars, the least so.

Dr Vicziany's first — and by no means easiest — task was to be "introduced" to and win the trust of the people she hoped to interview, on indeed quite personal matters. In this she was assisted by a woman who acted as her interpreter (although Dr Vicziany does speak some Hindi) — a student of Patna University, independent press entrepreneur and feminist. This woman had previously had some contact with a family in the village. Rather than enter the community armed with a questionnaire seeking "hard" data, Dr Vicziany adopted an approach in this first contact as proposed by Jack Caldwell among other demographers. That is, first gain some understanding of the people with whom you are working. Against this, statistical information can be interpreted.

She says: "I sat down with whichever women were available and conducted unstructured interviews, seeking descriptive 'biodata'. I wanted in this first instance to be accepted by the women, to immerse myself in their environment."

In such a field study you often pick up information which may seem irrelevant at the time, but later proves useful in interpreting data. "I was interested in discovering what is happening to the lives of these people and, just as important, what people think is happening. This last aspect is vital in terms of formulating government policies which will work. A family planning program may make sense from the urban, Western viewpoint, unless it has been designed with particular people in mind — unless it makes sense in their terms — the chances that it will be successful are diminished."

Ultimately she will use a formal questionnaire seeking hard data on such aspects as fertility and mortality in certain age groups.

Among the policy implications that Dr Vicziany says have emerged at this early stage are these:

- For education to have its predicted effect on fertility, schooling must extend over much more than just a few years.
- While female literacy has been nominated the critical variable, improvements have depended in first instance on a rapid rise in male literacy.
- Of necessity, the education of women will lag behind that of men. Experiments to short-circuit the process have not only failed but disrupted family life to an extent which has interfered with other projects aimed at the socioeconomic uplift of Harijans.

Nevertheless, illiteracy (which was 93% amongst Chamars in 1971) has not prevented Harijans developing a good understanding of the people with whom they are working. Against this, statistical information can be interpreted.

The persistence of high mortality amongst Harijans seems to be largely caused by inadequate diet and appalling living conditions. Without doing something about these — through, for example, implementation of the minimum agricultural wages policy — the poor may yet respond to the opportunities of a rise in literacy and education, but it still exists. Untouchables — or, as they are variously described, Harijans, ex-Untouchables, and, in official terms of contemporary Indian medicine, Non-western medicine complementers rather than competitors with western medicine. Non-western medical know-how rests more on easy access to the facilities than to the facilities there is only limited contact. The Chamars are the most upwardly mobile with members who are being educated and taking advantage of government assistance; the Musahars, the least so.

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China: key', rural reforms first

China has a better chance of successfully managing its urban planning problems than other developing countries, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

The key to China's success is the major rural reforms which took place first, Professor Logan believes. Professor Logan was one of 10 foreign speakers invited to an international workshop on the problems of urban and regional development in Beijing last month.

The workshop was organised by the Academy Sinica (the Chinese Academy of Science) and the United Nations University. Experts from the United Kingdom, Hungary, the USA, Nigeria, Japan, Australia, Colombia, and West Germany attended.

The foreigners presented papers on their own countries' experiences in urban and regional planning and then heard discussion of the problems of managing growth in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai, before touring Beijing and its rural hinterland.

Professor Logan, who is also professor of Geography at Monash, said China was now industrialising rapidly.

Inequality

"The experience of other developing countries who follow that path — of industrialisation and modernisation — is that it leads to inequality of distribution of income, particularly rural versus urban."

"China has solved some of these problems by undertaking major rural reforms first, by the redistribution of land."

"There seemed to me, going around, a good deal of evidence of peasants being fairly affluent."

"Of all the developing countries I have visited — in Asia, America and Africa — there's less evidence of poverty in China than anywhere else and less evidence of a gap between the rich and the poor."

"The Chinese cities are all growing rapidly, and the Chinese family planning program seems to me to be working very well."

"China should be able to manage its redistribution well," he said.

Professor Logan said the Chinese were now aware that their problems of transportation, controlling growth of the invasion of valuable rural land by urban development, the provision of housing and infrastructure, control of land uses inside a city — were identical to those of major cities elsewhere.

He said he had been impressed by the integration of economic development and the use of land use in China. Planning is controlled by one body, the State Planning Commission.

"When they decide to build a factory, the transport, everything, is planned at the same time, unlike here where two or three government departments control different aspects," he said.

The Planning is controlled by one body, the State Planning Commission.

53rd ANZAAS

The 53rd ANZAAS Congress will be held from May 16 to 20 at the Western Australian Institute of Technology, Perth. Around 3000 participants are expected at the Congress, the theme of which is "Resources and Responsibilities".

MONASH REPORTER
A Monash lawyer has urged reform of Constitutional provisions on nationality qualifications and disqualifications for members of Federal Parliament.

Dr Michael Pryles, a Reader in Law, says in an article published recently in the Monash University Law Review that reforms in this area proposed by the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs do not go far enough.

Dr Pryles highlights some seemingly unjust, even absurd, situations that would occur under present law.

Take, for example, this hypothetical case:

A Member of Federal Parliament, Australian-born, whose parents were also born in this country, is a rabid anti-communist who conducts a vehement anti-Soviet campaign. A backdoor method of "neutralising" his voice in the House may be for the Soviet Union to confer on him Soviet citizenship.

Under disqualification provisions of the Constitution, on face it would seem that the member's seat would therefore become vacant, even though he did not seek the citizenship of the foreign state and would certainly not bask in the glory of it.

(Under the rule of private international law, possession of a foreign nationality is determined in accordance with the law of the foreign country concerned.)

A second area where qualification provisions could operate unjustly concerns prospective members with dual citizenship.

Here, take the case of a person who is an Australian citizen by birth and a British subject under the Australian Citizenship Act. His parents, however, were born in a southern European country and under the law of that country cannot divest themselves of that nationality. Further, their children also acquire their nationality irrespective of the place of birth.

It would appear that Constitutional provisions would preclude that Australian-born person from standing for Federal Parliament.

Says Dr Pryles: "This would be unjust, especially if the person concerned had never attempted to rely on his foreign nationality, such as by applying for a foreign passport, and had always declared himself to be an Australian citizen."

The requirements

What does the Constitution stipulate on nationality for members of Federal Parliament?

Section 34 says that, until the Parliament otherwise provides, a Member of the House of Representatives (and, under section 16, Senate qualifications are the same): "must be a subject of the Queen, either a natural born or for at least five years naturalised under a law of the UK, or of a Colony which has become or becomes a State, or of the Commonwealth or of a State."

The Parliament "has otherwise provided" in a number of instances. Section 69 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, for example, established that the nationality qualification be that of "British subject status".

In 1981 the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs recommended that "Australian citizenship" be embodied in the Constitution as the nationality qualification for MPs. Recognising the difficulty of achieving Constitutional change, it recommended that the new qualifications be implemented immediately by an amendment of the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

This was done in section 34 of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1981.

However, Dr Pryles points out that the freedom of the Federal Parliament to "otherwise provide" in relation to nationality qualifications for members is somewhat circumscribed by two sections of the Constitution.

Section 44 (i) provides that "any person who . . . is under the acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to a foreign power, or is a subject or a citizen entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or a citizen of a foreign power . . . shall be incapable of being chosen or of sitting as a Senator or a Member of the House of Representatives."

Says Dr Pryles: "The provision, then, applies at the initial stage of election to Parliament and prescribes certain disqualifications which preclude a person being elected. However, the requirements of the provision are given a continuing operation in relation to existing MPs by section 45 (i)."

This section provides: "If a Senator or Member of the House of Representatives . . . becomes subject to any of the disabilities mentioned in the last preceding section . . . his place shall thereupon become vacant."

Voluntary

Dr Pryles comments: "The Commonwealth disqualification provisions are not dependent on any act taken or adopted by the person concerned. The disqualification simply operates if the existence of foreign nationality or citizenship is established."

He says that perhaps the easiest way of avoiding the undesirable results evident in the two earlier cases is to read into the disqualification provisions a requirement that the foreign nationality be voluntary.

The Senate Committee, in considering section 44 (i), concluded that the safeguards that were worth preserving without disqualifying dual nationals could easily be embodied in a procedural provision.

It has recommended that a new provision be inserted in the Commonwealth Electoral Act along the following lines:

(1) A person shall declare at the time of nomination whether, to his knowledge, he holds a non-Australian nationality.

(2) If the declaration made pursuant to subsection (1) is in the affirmative, he shall further state:

(a) that he has taken every step reasonably open to him to divest himself of the non-Australian nationality; and

(b) that for the duration of any service in the Commonwealth Parliament, he will not accept, or take conscious advantage of, any rights, privileges or entitlements conferred by his possession of the unsought nationality.

This recommended provision, says Dr Pryles, is not adequate.

"In the first place it does not deal with the situation of a person who is not formally a national or citizen of a foreign country but is under an acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or is entitled to the rights and privileges of the foreign citizenship and voluntarily retains the allegiance or rights and privileges."

"Secondly, it does not deal with the situation contemplated by section 45 (i) of the Constitution, namely that of a person who at the time of his nomination is not a foreign citizen but who after his election acquired foreign nationality."

"At least where such acquisition is voluntary it should result in the disqualification of the member."
Mercury monitor job for the humble yabby?

The humble yabby — a part of Australian folklore if less celebrated than the koala, kangaroo or Billy Tea — has shown some promise as a biological monitor of water quality.

A Monash study indicates that the common yabby, Cherax destructor, might yet be of use in the detection of mercury contamination. However, it shows less promise as an indicator of lead contamination.

Evaluation of the yabby as a heavy metal indicator is part of a search that has been going on for some time for Australian animals useful in water quality management — research that has been promoted by bodies such as the Australian Water Resources Council of the Federal Department of Resources and Energy.

The Council has supported a three-year study on the yabby by Dr Sam Lake, senior lecturer in Zoology, in which he has been assisted by graduate researcher, Anthony Sokol.

Some of the recent research findings have been going on for some time for Australian animals useful in water quality management — research that has been promoted by bodies such as the Australian Water Resources Council of the Federal Department of Resources and Energy.

Two Monash chemists will deliver papers at an important conference on mercury in the environment to be held on Tuesday, May 10.

The conference, to be held at Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, is being organised by the RACI (Vic­torian Branch) Analytical Group. Senior lecturer in Chemistry, Dr Bruce Coller, will deliver two papers, one a "scene-setter" on sources of mercury in the environment.

Dr Ken Deacon, of the Chemistry department.

Wide distribution

He says that the species was an attractive candidate for further evaluation for several reasons. It is found over a wide area of mainland Australia, from Central Queensland through to South Australia, and in a range of water bodies, including lakes, rivers, farm dams, swamps, rivers and creeks. It is also a fairly robust animal which can tolerate a wide range of salinity, water temperature and dissolved oxygen.

As a first step in his study, Dr Lake conducted a literature search. He found that while the yabby has made a mark in popular literature (including its "own" book: A Tribute to the Humble Yabby by Peter Oliszewski) there is a paucity of scientific literature on it. His first task, then, was to gain some appreciation of the yabby's biology and information on its breeding and feeding habits, growth rate, life span and the like.

He conducted this study on yabby populations — members of which were captured, marked and then recaptured at intermittent farms about 40 km south of Dookie and Trentham and Dookie Agricultural College, near Shepparton.

The dams were also used in the evaluation study as clean control sites, sediment analysis revealing they had low concentrations of both mercury and lead.

For comparison Dr Lake examined sediment from sites where contamination revealed significant pollution. Mercury contamination of Victorian waterways has been associated with gold-mining (mercury was used in the amalgamation technique of extraction).

Dr Lake chose a "contaminated" site at Meni Creek, another a farm dam along-side Mountain Highway, Wantirna. He says that the research has shown that the yabby takes up — bioconcentrates — mercury in its muscles, particularly its abdominal muscle, as opposed to say, the exoskeleton or the digestive gland.

He has found that the level of mercury accumulated by the animals is size related; that is, the larger the yabby the higher the concentration. Thus the animals need to be measured for size.

Once this has been done, the animal has "considerable promise" as a reliable biological monitor of mercury contamination, he concludes.

Lead, however, is a different story. This metal was found to accumulate in the exoskeleton which the yabby sheds when it molts.

Yabbies can live up to five years and molts about 20 times in that period. "It is an attractive candidate for further study over a period of time," he says.

Resolution of the precise taxonomic structure of the species is essential if it is to be used as a biological indicator, he adds.

What, then, has the study revealed on the ecology of an animal which has probably figured more prominently in the childhood of Australians (within reach of a body of fresh water) than more "glamorous" native fauna?

In its feeding, says Dr Lake, the yabby is extremely opportunistic. Its diet is detritus, that is, the organic debris of decomposing plants and animals — carrion, manure, leaves and mud, for example.

The yabby, which has a life span of three or so years, also has a response to drought, boring down through the bed of a drying-up dam or creek, encasing itself in a chamber of moisture to reemerge when the water body begins to form again.

The study has shown the Cherax destructor's growth rates and breeding habits are flexible, varying between localities. The breeding season at Trentham is from October to January while at Dookie it extends into March.

The flexibility in growth rates, says Dr Lake, can be attributed to temperature and food supply differences. In general, yabbies grow to about 50mm carapace length and males to 65mm or more, although the growth rate is very slow above 60mm.

Yabbies are active from late September-October through to April, says Dr Lake, "giving credence to the old belief that you can catch yabbies in months with an 'r' in them."

The yabby, indeed, has found a scientific "home" in Monash's Zoology department. Other work on it is being done by Professor Mike Cullen and Dr John Baldwin.

Conference on contamination

The seminar, which has been planned by Dr Doris Aitley, of the CSIRO, will speak on mercury in hair as an indicator of the uptake of the heavy metal from the environment; Mr J. D. Thomson, of the Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority, will examine standards for mercury in food.

Speakers will also cover mercury contamination at specific sites — Rasp­berry and Morning Star Creeks, the Upper Goulburn River and in Port Philip Bay.

Dr John Baldwin, director of the Centre for Early Human Development at the Queen Victoria Medical Centre; Janet Lord, a home visitor with the Sudden Infant Death Research Foundation; Ruzana Trivan, a counsellor with the Foundation, who will discuss the needs of grieving families; and Dr Rosemary Schwartz, a psychiatrist with the paediatric unit at the Royal Women's Hospital, will discuss "cot death".

"Cot death" is the medical term for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Some of the recent research findings will be discussed at a special seminar on Sudden Infant Death which the Centre for Continuing Education has organised for Wednesday, June 1, in collabora­tion with the Sudden Infant Death Research Foundation.

The seminar, which has been planned for health care professionals and others who may be involved, will also discuss the short and long term effect of sudden infant death on families. It will be held from 4 pm to 9 pm.

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1. In Engineering

Nick Batten, who finished his course in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering in 1982, has won the IREE award for the best final year electrical engineering project in Victoria.

This is the third year running that a Monash student has won the prize. In 1981 the winner was Ian Butler; in 1982, Patrick Sim.

Nick's project is relevant to problems in digital communications.

Digital signals are used for transmitting data between computers via telephone lines and are beginning to be used for transmitting telephone conversations. These signals must be encoded to utilise the capacity of the transmission lines and also to ensure secure and error-free transmission.

To achieve the correct encoding, Nick was faced with the problem of working out the rules of transition from one state to another in a "state transition diagram". This task can be done manually but is extremely time consuming and prone to error.

Nick's solution was to use an EPROM (Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory) to store the rules of transition from one state to another. The resulting equipment, called "Line Code Generator", will allow several rules of encoding to be called up at will for researching their properties and efficiency.

The project was supervised by Dr Don Keogh of the department of Electrical Engineering.

ABOVE: Nick Batten receives the IREE trophy from Dr Barry Harrison, chairman of the Melbourne division. The line code generator developed by Nick is in the background.

BELOW: A 'state diagram' which shows the rules of transition among different 'states' of a digital circuit for specified inputs. Such diagrams are tools in the design of logic circuits. The circles represent various states, i.e., combinations of 0's and 1's inside a digital circuit. The lines with arrows show the transition from one state to another. The two numbers separated by a slash beside the line show, respectively, the input causing the transition and the output of the circuit after the transition.

2. In French

Three students have won the Alliance Française and Liliane Gay Prize for students of French at Monash. They are Andrew Pentecost, Lynne Baillieu and Anne Kerin — first year students in 1982.

Andrew and Anne are pictured receiving their awards from Dr Colin Nettelbeck, senior lecturer in French, and President of Alliance Française in Melbourne.

Also present at the ceremony was Professor J. C. Redonnet, Scientific and Cultural Consul of the French Embassy in Canberra.

The prize was offered for the first time in 1982. Photo: Tony Miller.

3. In German

The Goethe Prize, awarded by the Goethe Institute to the best first year student in German at Monash in 1982, has been won by Alistair Craig.

Alistair is seen receiving his prize from the Consul-General in Melbourne of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Karl-Heinz Scholtiszek. Associate Professor Walter Velt is pictured left.

The presentation took place during a prize-giving ceremony held in the department of German last month.

MONASH REPORTER
I HAVE a good deal of thought to their position in the community. There are two aspects of the problem: one has to do with which views may be of interest, and this is probably the last opportunity I shall have to give voice to my views.

I was not here during Monash's time of troubles, except just at the very end of the period, but during that time there was much effort expended by the students in trying to provoke the authorities to call the police to the campus, and as much effort by the authorities in trying to resolve the troubles without doing so. As far as I could make out, the student attitude seemed to be that universities ought to be immune from the actions of the civil authority represented by the police, and that this principle derived from a supposed golden age when universities were a kind of sanctuary where the writ of the State did not run.

Student 'freedoms'

The reality of the situation seemed to me then, as it does still, to be very well illustrated by a case which happened one evening while browsing in the Law Reports. In February, 1860, Emma Kemp, a respectable young woman who resided with her mother in Cambridge, England, took her way to a party to be given by some students in celebration of the graduation of one of them, at a hotel 6 1/2 km from Cambridge, when she and others were arrested by the proctors, the Rev. Thomas Wollaston and the Rev. Edward More. She was taken before the Vice-Chancellor, the Hon. and Rev. Latimer Neville.

Without being made aware of any evidence against her, without being told that any charge was being brought against her, she was questioned by the Vice-Chancellor and confined to 14 days imprisonment on the ground (it seems) that she was reasonably suspected of being in company with divers scholars of the university for idle, disorderly and immoral purposes.

She had asked during her 'trial' (if you can call it that) to be allowed to get in touch with certain ladies in Cambridge for whom she worked as a dressmaker, but this request was ignored. One can only guess at the evidence which had been given to the Vice-Chancellor, in her absence, before she was brought before him, but it was almost certainly hearsay. The nature of it is suggested by one of the questions asked of her, namely, was she aware that breakfast had been ordered at the hostelry for the next morning, to which she replied that she had been assured it would be ready at 10 days later, on an Australian campus.

Academic freedoms

MENTION of the Commission of 1850 brings me to my second topic. In contrast with the lack of freedom accorded to the student body and their friends, academic freedom in the universities was carried to extreme lengths in the early years of the 19th century.

Some improvements had been made. In the latter part of the 19th century, the Oxford examination system was a complete farce.

John Scott, afterwards Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor, reported that when he took his Bachelor's degree in 1770, he had been examined in Hebrew and History. The examiner asked "What is the Hebrew for the place of a skull?", to which he replied "Golgotha". He was then asked "Who founded University College?", to which he answered "Alfred the Great". He was then asked to prove that he was "Very well, Sir, you are competent for your degree."

In the 19th century, a stricter system of examinations was instituted, but there were still many abuses; in particular, the system of university lectures given by professors had practically fallen into abeyance, and the Fellows of the colleges were only rarely selected from an open field. Some were reserved for the relatives of the founder, some for scholars from a particular locality, others for scholars from a particular school. There were also serious deficiencies in the curriculum. All these considerations led to a demand for reform.

The same pressure seems not to have applied to Cambridge, where there was less resistance to change, but the dons of Oxford were stubborn, and although they disarmed their critics for a time by foreshadowing reforms, very little was done. Finally, in 1850 the government appointed a Commission to investigate. It seems that the Commission encouraged the University to obtain information, as the Fellows of many of the colleges insisted that they had taken an oath to do nothing that would lead to an alteration of the college statutes, and accordingly that they could not give the Commission information.

Typical of such attitudes was that of University College, which was able to give the Commission a copy of its statutes or a statement of its corporate revenue only in fact reported that it was unable to procure a copy of the Statutes of University College from any other source. Incidentally, University College originated in a quest from Durham in 1249, not in the time of Alfred the Great, so perhaps Lord Eldon should not have passed.

Another indication of the response the Commission received can be found in an entry of the Bishop of Norwich, Chairman of the Colleges, to a letter from the Bishop of Norwich, Chairman of the Colleges, for the Commission: "I have seen a paragraph in the papers urging the repeal of charter or statute of the University, and that immunity of judicial officer s, and considering the flagrant injustice of the proceedings, it sets that immunity at a very high level indeed.

For present purposes, the point I want to make is that the charters of the ancient universities were not charters of freedom for the undergraduates and those who associated with them, but charters of oppression. The University had its own police force, its own prison, and apparently also its own intelligence network. The proctors would have been if they had been exercising their talents 120 years later, on an Australian campus.

Oxford had a similar system of enforcing discipline, but in its case the judicial authority was normally exercised by an Assessor, who acted as the Vice-Chancellor's deputy. A Commission appointed in 1850 to investigate the state of affairs at Oxford reported that they had been complaints about injustices inflicted by the Assessor, but as he had declined to give evidence to the Commission, they were unable to report further on this subject.

Judges, do "listen"

Sir George Lush, Justice of the Supreme Court in Victoria, is Monash's fourth Chancellor.

He was elected to the post last year and took office from the first meeting of Council.

Two of Sir George's predecessors — Sir John Mather and Sir Richard Egerton — were also judges, as is the Deputy Chancellor, Dr Joe Isaac.

The Chancellorship of university executives, indeed, seems to be an occupation dominated by the judiciary.

Sir George is a happily accomplished judge. If you go down the east coast of Australia, you've got two Chancellors in Queensland who are judges, two in New South Wales and three in Victoria. That's seven before you've even reached Tasmania — or ventured west!

Are there any special skills a judge is likely to possess which are well-suited to the task of Chancellor?

"Something to say"

The art of "listening," for Sir George. "As a judge you have some training in keeping your mouth shut until you've got something to say!"

Other reasons for the "domination" are not particularly profound, he adds. Judges "have a degree of standing" in the community, and they can generally organise their time to be available for university business.

Sir George is spending his first months in office gaining an appreciation "of how the whole show works": "I have had a lot to do with universities at a faculty level and some experience as a member of the governing body," he says. (Sir George served on Monash Council from 1969 to 1974.) "Coming in as Chancellor, however, is a shock by Monash's size and complexity and there are many areas about which I am still learning."

As Chancellor, Sir George's specific tasks include presiding over the monthly meetings of Council and also graduation ceremonies.

On the role of a Chancellor he makes these comments: "In a modern university, essential management rests with the Vice-Chancellor."

"The Chancellor should be available for consultation when outside views are required. Needless to say he'll get to know what he's talking about."
The Commission nevertheless regarded the importance of research, pointing out that the professors should not be under such pressure to lecture that their research work, for which they would be unduly restricted; but it is obvious that what primarily concerned them was the failure of the university to provide adequate curricula and to give effective instruction to students.

The result of the Commission's report was that Parliament passed an Act in 1854, which set up a new commission, with power to obtain documents, accounts and information, notwithstanding the oath that might be taken by the officers of the university or the colleges. It also contained a provision making it illegal to take any such oath. The colleges were required to bring forward plans for the reform of their statutes, and in particular, for requiring that enrolments be conferred on the basis of merit, and for diverting some of their revenues for the establishment of new chairs in the university.

If the Commission did not approve of the plans, or if no plans were produced, the commissioners could produce their own plans and put them into effect (though there was a limited right of veto by two-thirds of the governing body of the College).

The debates on the Bill make interesting reading also. It emerges in mind that there was no question of the government claiming the right to interfere with the control set up by the founders of the colleges. In reply to this argument it was pointed out that the State forbade the creation of perpetual trusts in the case of dispossession of property, and the right to exercise supervision in a charitable purpose could equally be withdrawn if it led to abuse.

The Bill did not go far enough for some. In particular, no provision was made for the admission of dissenters to the University, and they continued to be barred for some time afterwards. Indeed, my grandfather's cousin, William Moulton, ap­ pears to have overcome the scruples engendered by his Methodist back­ ground, and became Senior Wrangler in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos, and later a Lord of Appeal.

One member of Parliament was dissatisfied with the limited provision made in the Bill for the abolition of oaths, and said that the Commission had recommended that all idle oaths should be forbidden. He said that the fellows of Merton took an oath to speak Latin at dinner, and those of All Souls an oath to be shaved by the college porter once a week. However, the provision for abolition of oaths remained as it has been said, limited to those which might impede the implementation of reforms.

Another member said of the University's governing body that it conducted its debates in Latin, "so that the little it did was too small surrounded by more than silencing parties who disagreed with it — scarcely became known.

THIS HISTORY, sketchy and imperfectly researched as it is, illustrates the inextricability of university activity with other new things. Even independence of government subsidy will not protect a university from intervention by the State if it does not do the things it is created to do.

The "outside view" can be partly in part helpful in a University such as Monash, says Sir George, where a deal of geographical isolation and the possibility that the institution will become inward-looking.

To a large extent anyway, he adds, the "outside view" is important; in particular, it has extended the knowledge of activities in other places.

Sir George finds Monash an exciting University with which to be associated.

"One of the important aspects is that it is a place which made a clean start. Facilities were able to map their own course for the future without being tied to traditional paths."

"A general atmosphere of freshness still prevails."

He acknowledges, however, that Monash, like other Australian universities, faces problems.

"A lot hinges on the major matter of money," he says. There is the need for money, for example, for new developments and opportunities for the employment and advancement of young people. That is a "jam" at senior levels, a product of the rapid expansion of the 1950s and 60s. Sir George believes that the appreciation of universities may have dipped slightly in recent years.

"Twenty years ago the community looked on the establishment of universities as the highest of educational goals," he says. "Now there is the realisation that the next level down — that of technical training — has its own value for the community."

On the other hand, he says, never has the participation rate of members of the community in university education been higher. Such students as well as graduates can play a valuable role in conveying the university message to a wider audience.

Sir George, a regular tennis player who enjoys a game of cricket "on the rare occasions when the Bar invites me to play", is a graduate of the University of Melbourne. He was called to the Bar in 1953. Despite a busy practice, he maintained an interest in legal education, lecturing in mercantile law at Melbourne University.

He became Queen's Counsel in 1957 and was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1966.

In 1960, Sir Richard was made a judge of the Commonwealth Industrial Court and of the Supreme Court of the ACT. He was also appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island. In 1966 he was appointed First President of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Tribunal.

He was knighted in 1971 and retired from the Bench three years later. Soon after he was appointed special lecturer in Law at Monash which cemented his family's links with the University. Daughter Elizabeth was the first person to undertake a Ph.D. in Law at Monash and, before her death in 1976, became a senior lecturer in that faculty and the second Director of the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs.

Sir Richard has been closely involved in teaching in the Trade Practices course and established the subject Problems of Proof which deals with various themes in evidence. He has written on the connection between mathematical probabilities and legal proof to the publication, in 1978, of his book "Evidence, Proof and Probability" which has won international praise.

In the same year Sir Richard's contribution to legal scholarship was recognised by his election to the Australian Academy of Social Sciences — the first Australian judge to be so honoured.
The late Professor Don Cochrane had been "the best man in the world" to establish Monash's faculty of Economics and Politics, the former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Louis Matheson, said last week. The results of his thinking and planning are now manifest in the splendid faculty that he has bequeathed us," Sir Louis said.

Sir Louis was speaking at a memorial service for Professor Cochrane at the Rectory. His obituary appeared on April 15. Professor Cochrane, 66, died on March 31 of cancer. The illness had forced his retirement from the University at the end of 1981.

He is survived by his wife, the pianist Margaret Schofield, his son, Andrew, and daughter, Fiona.

"He died too soon for, at only 66, he would surely have had much more to do; but he had given 20 productive years to Monash, had built a marvellous faculty, and he leaves behind the memory of a loyal, intelligent and compassionate colleague," Sir Louis said.

Sir Louis recalled the surprise he had felt that Professor Cochrane, the then Senior Committee at the University of Melbourne and a man with an international reputation in the field of economics began during Ph.D. work at Cambridge, should have wanted to join his "hedgehog university".

"Whatever the reason Don Cochrane was ready to leave an established chair in a great university and throw in his lot with a group of enthusiasts who wanted to build another great university. And what a splendid contribution he made to that task.

"I remember thinking that Don Cochrane might indeed be the best man in the world for our particular chair—and I believe he was." Sir Louis said Professor Cochrane had argued that the faculty should be dedicated to Economics and Politics—not "Political Science"—and had been pleased when one woman would even say cold outside belied his capacity for great kindness, compassion, affection and tenderness.

Sir Louis said Professor Cochrane had been a shy person who concealed his feelings. "His composed, matter-of-fact manner belied his capacity for great kindness, compassion, affection and tenderness."

Professor Cochrane had also had a 22-year association with the State Bank of Victoria as a member of the board. He had been chairman in 1961, and from 1974 until his death.

The Deputy Chairman of the Bank, Mr J. Arnold Hancock, said that Professor Cochrane's contribution had not been only at board level. He had been closely involved in the building and operation of the Bank's residential college at Baxter and in the building and decoration of its centre in the city.

"These buildings and the work which is being done in them are fitting memorials to his enthusiasm and commitment to the development of the Bank. In particular the notable paintings and sculptures by contemporary Australian artists which decorate the city buildings bear witness that he was indeed a man for all seasons."

Mr Hancock said Australia had lost one of its finest citizens.

Policy study reports

Telecom

Telecom's legally guaranteed monopoly of communications cannot be supported on the grounds of efficiency.

This is one of the main conclusions of a new publication, Telecommunications in Australia: Competition or Monopoly?, by Chris Trengove, Research Director at the Melbourne City Council, Dr Kevin Foley, then a visiting fellow at Monash University Centre of Policy Studies, and the distance Centre's director, Professor Michael Porter.

The aim of the program, funded by Enterprise Australia, is to bring students into contact with the practical business world. The Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Politics, Professor A. Sinclair, said the visit had been an important further step in communication between students and business.

The success of the visit owed a great deal to Sir Frank's personality and engaging manner, he said.

Professor Sinclair said he hoped future visits might be fewer.

"The great value of in-residence visits is that the person is around the place. There is an opportunity to make fairly informal contact."

"But this is going to be a continuing problem because the type of person who wants doesn't have a lot of time to spare," he said.

Executive-in-residence

A former CRA top executive, Sir Frank Espie, was the University's first guest last month in a new Executive-in-Residence program. Sir Frank, who was executive director and chairman of CRA Ltd. until his retirement in 1979, was on campus from April 12 to 15.

He spent the time with staff and students in the department of Administrative Studies and the Centre of Policy Studies.

Sir Frank still retains seven directorships, including the boards of CRA and Booker's Copper Ltd., and his main topic in question and answer sessions with students was "The Role of the Businessman." Associate Professor W. A. Howard, of the department of Administrative Studies, said student response to the visit had been "overwhelmingly favourable".

MAY 1983
Was our earliest ancestor — hunter-gatherer man — monogamous, polygynous or promiscuous?

As a physical anthropologist, Professor Roger Short believes that clues to the answer to such questions about the "normal" patterns of social and sexual behaviour rest with great apes in the wild.

He is currently on apes, man and sex at a forum at Murdoch University, Western Australia, sharing the platform with broadcaster and writer, Bettina Arndt.

Professor Short has also written a chapter on sexual selection in man and the great apes in the book Reproductive Biology of the Great Apes, and a chapter on sexual behaviour in Hominids, Sexuality, book eight in the Cambridge University Press Reproduction in a Multispecies series.

The distinction between sexual and natural selection was made by Charles Darwin in 1871. Sexual selection, Darwin said, depends on the success of certain individuals over others of the same sex in relation to the propagation of the species; natural selection depends on the success of both sexes, at all ages, in relation to the general conditions of life.

Using early studies of the gorilla, Darwin illustrated how an animal's mating system is determined by its anatomy through the forces of sexual selection.

He observed that the gorilla is polygynous specifically the males are mated with more than one female, the competition between males would be enhanced, leading to an exaggerated development of the secondary sexual characters used in inter-male aggressive encounters. Thus, males grew larger than the females.

Professor Short says that subsequent studies of orangutans, chimpanzees and gorillas have pointed up the interesting consequences of various species' mating systems on their sexual development.

The difference in the mating behaviour of the three apes can be explained in terms of food supply and the female's access to it.

The female, it has been argued, holds the key to the evolution of social behaviour only because of the greatest energy investment in reproduction because of the increased nutritional demands of pregnancy and lactation.

The female has evolved a reproductive strategy to take account of the fact that the male is a direct competitor with her for food: she maximises her own food availability at the expense of the male while permitting him access to her in a way that optimises her reproductive success.

Application

Briefly, this is the application of the theory to three species:

The orangutan is an aboreal fruit-eater. Since the density of fruiting trees is patchy and thick forest these animals inhabit, each female needs a large core area to support her nutritional needs. For the female, a permanent male consort sharing and defending her area would be a distinct disadvantage.

The reproductive strategy has thus been to live in isolation, seeking the company of the male only when she is in oestrus. For his part, the male must occupy a large core area in which females roam, which he must try to exclude other adult males.

The chimpanzee, on the other hand, has a terrestrial mating system, again explicable in terms of food supply and habitat. The animal is an omnivore and is both terrestrial and arboreal, living in much more open habitats than the orangutan. Reproductive ability is relatively low so each female needs a large core area to support her needs. She cannot patrol this area nor afford to share it with a male who would defend it. Her optimal reproductive strategy, then, is to remain apart from the male except when she is in oestrus.

The males have evolved a collaborative defence of a very large area, encompassing the core areas of numerous females. A necessary condition for this social cooperation has been a sharing of sexual exploitation among the males of any one group of females.

The gorilla's mating system is a typically polygynous one. It is a predominately terrestrial animal which feeds on rather low-quality herbage which is usually plentiful. The female, then, does not have to be particularly concerned about competition for food. Her strategy has been to establish a permanent consortium with a male who will defend a moving territory around her for her part, the male cannot afford to devote his entire attention to a single female when he can maximise his reproductive success by defending a moving territory of about three thousand square miles.

There are just a few of the ways in which function has shaped sexual form in these three apes:

A. An increased body size of the male over the female is characteristic of polygynous primates where the male defends the female. The male orangutan is about twice the size of the female; the difference in the gorilla is at least this. On the other hand, the chimpanzee, in his cooperative set-up, exhibits the least difference in body size of all the great apes.

B. The chimpanzee has by far the largest testes, both relative to body weight and in absolute terms of all the great apes. This can be explained in terms of copulatory frequency: the size of the testes is directly related to sperm production. For the chimpanzee, intercourse is almost a daily occurrence; in the gorilla, on the other hand, the copulatory frequencies of a male chimpanzee makes any of about two dozen females in the community potentially available to the male, whenever a female is receptive to him at any time from ovulation to conception.

What of early man?

Professor Short says that there is general agreement that man originally lived the life of a hunter-gatherer; the men hunted game while the women gathered fruit, nuts, roots and grain.

"As 99 per cent of our existence was devoted to this type of life we must look to hunter-gatherer man if we are to explain the selective forces that made us what we are today," he says.

Hunting and gathering seems to have been a extremely subtle form of existence. It allowed the male and female to exploit two different food sources simultaneously. Female attractiveness is unimportant in the orangutan where the male defends the core area of numerous females. In the chimpanzee, the female attractiveness is unimportant in the orangutan where the male defends the core area of numerous females. In the chimpanzee, the female attractiveness is unimportant because she is not particularly high in the thick forest where the apes usually live. Her optimal reproductive strategy, then, is to remain apart from the male who would defend the territory where she is in oestrus. She maximises her own food availability at the expense of the male while permitting him access to her in a way that optimises her reproductive success.

The argument runs like this: Man almost always choose female partners younger than themselves. Female fertility coaxes at menopause; male fertility persists throughout life. If males practised serial monogamy and the female is the primary reproductive source, it is obvious that a successful man would contribute a disproportionately large share of his genes to the succeeding generation and sexual selection would operate."

Professor Short makes these observations about sexual development in humans:

A. In contrast to the cyclical sexual attractiveness of the chimpanzee penile, a woman's breasts from puberty on are a permanent, attractive feature but reveal nothing to the onlooker about when the woman is likely to ovulate. Breast development can be seen as a female stratagem for reinforcing the strength of the pair bond.

B. It is unlikely that the human male's genitalia has been used in inter-male threat and aggression. The most plausible explanation for his large pendulous scrotum and conspicuous penis, then, is that they have evolved to attract the female. If sexual attraction has been the cement of the pair bond, the large human penis may have enhanced the enjoyment of intercourse, making a wide variety of copulatory positions anatomically possible and allowing women agravic orgasms which, itself, may be a uniquely human emotion.

C. Man's testes are larger than that of the gorilla or orangutan and appear to be related to our much higher copulatory frequency. But while the human testes is well-suited to meet the spermatogenic demands put upon it, "it seems certain that a man's fertility would be seriously compromised if he attempted to emulate the high copulatory frequencies of a male chimpanzee."

Was serial monogamy our early way?

Visitors seek local homes

Away on an outside studies program in 1984 and interested in renting your home?

A mathematician from the Colorado School of Mines in the US will be visiting Melbourne for the calendar year of 1984, to work with the CSIRO, and is seeking a home for himself, his wife and three children.

If you can help, contact Associate Professor Frank Lawson in Chemical Engineering, ext. 3426, in the first instance.

And a second request on similar lines, from an Edinburgh professor who will be visiting Monash's Education faculty from mid-September, 1983 to February, 1984 and who wishes to negotiate a "house-sitting" arrangement for Dr Anna Shorten in Education on ext. 2835
CCE initiates novel management course

An intensive week-long course on management held at Normandy House last month marked a first for Monash’s Centre for Continuing Education.

The project is a co-operative venture between CCE and the Local Government Engineers Association of Victoria, and, says CCE Director, Dr Jack McDonell, is a model for future arrangements between the Centre and professional associations.

Last year, the LGEAV approached CCE with the request that it should plan and run a course on “Managing in the ’80s” for its members.

Says Dr McDonell: “The LGEAV is not a large professional body and it felt that it did not have the necessary resources to set up such a major activity. The CCE provided a full service, funded from the course fee.”

Advice on the course structure was given by a planning committee, set up jointly with LGEAV. The Centre recruited lecturers — from Monash and Melbourne universities, Chisholm Institute, the Australian-Administrative Staff College and a number of professional fields.

Dr McDonell said the course was tailored to meet special needs, taking note of the complex structure of agencies in which the local government engineers work.

The State Minister for Local Government

• from page 7

University ‘freedoms’

In the debate on the Bill of 1854, Mr Disraeli said: “If I were asked, ‘Would you have a university with its own government, freedom and independence, but yet with all its anomalies and imperfections, or would you have the university free of its anomalies and imperfections, and under the control of the Government?’ I would say ‘a university free and independent, with all its anomalies and imperfections.’ But, Sir, the painful alternative is not placed before us.”

Self-management

I think Mr Disraeli was being less than candid — the Bill indicated clearly enough that if the university and the college did not come out with satisfactory proposals reforms would be imposed by the State — but the essential sentiment was sound, namely, that provided they manage themselves prudently and efficiently, universities should as far as possible be left to work out their own destinies.

But the history of Oxford is a reminder that the State has an interest in the ‘freedoms’ of the university provided, and we in this State have had many such reminders since.

The point I want to make is that every disgruntled student who complains about university fees may mean several votes for a government that wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of universities, as it leaves us to be always vigilant to see that grounds for complaint do not exist.

I should, however, make it clear that I believe that Monash enjoys a deservedly high reputation, both for its teaching programmes and its research, and I have the utmost regard for the enthusiasm and dedication of all the staff with whom I have come in contact.

Expert advice

But even enthusiastic and dedicated teaching programmes may still benefit from expert advice, and advice need not come from people who know more than the lecturer about a chosen subject. After all, even Olympic athletes have their coaches, and it is safe to say that their coaches cannot run as fast, or jump as high or as far, as the persons to whom they give advice.

FOR MY OWN part, by the end of this year I shall have finished teaching. I have found it absorbing to be involved in teaching in the Law School, and I have at times ventured across the campus into the territory of other faculties. I am deeply grateful to Monash for the opportunities I have been given during the past nine years.

Perhaps I can close with a quotation from Robert Louis Stevenson’s Weir of Hermiston:

“Be wholly devoted to some intellectual exercise is to have succeeded in life; and perhaps only in law and the higher mathematics may this devotion be sustained, suffice to itself without reaction, and find continual reward without excitement.”

I may not have achieved great heights in mathematics, but I have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed the pleasures of both disciplines during my sojourn at Monash.

Honours graduates gain in job stakes

A survey on employment trends of Monash psychology graduates over a decade has shown that pass graduates are being increasingly squeezed out of the more desired, course-related jobs by honours graduates.

The survey was of all honours graduates and a randomly selected group of pass graduates who took their degrees between 1970 and 1980.

It was conducted by Dr Dexter Irvine and Mr Malcolm Macmillan, of the Department of Psychology, and Dr Nigel Lawler and Dr Leo West, of the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit.


In analysing trends from the data, the researchers divided the respondents into three groups — graduates of the early, mid and late ’70s — because the numbers were too small for a year-by-year categorisation.

They say that the three eras are not just convenient ‘bins’: the middle period corresponds with Labor government and the expansion of the public sector, including education, that was part of its philosophy; the late ’70s saw a changed political philosophy in which the public sector was cut back and expansion in the private sector encouraged.

What the survey reveals, say the researchers, is a “displacement effect” between honours and pass graduates as new employment opportunities have expanded and contracted.

This is the trend they have identified: the education system has been the major employer of Monash psychology graduates.

In the early and mid ’70s, it was the first destination of more than 60 per cent of graduates, although in the ’70s there had been a decline (even if all the late ’70s graduates currently not in a job entered the education system, it would represent the first destination of only 43 per cent).

In the early ’70s, honours graduates who entered the education sector — about half the total — did so at the tertiary level, on career paths to academic positions.

Pass graduates (about two-thirds) entered the secondary, and sometimes primary, system in what is termed “professional” (non-teaching) positions involving either psychology or research.

By the mid ’70s, however, honours graduates were less likely to obtain careers in the tertiary system so they started to take the “professional” positions in the secondary system, displacing pass graduates who turned to teaching.

By the late ’70s, few professional positions in the secondary system were available. Honours graduates thus took teaching jobs, squeezing out pass graduates who turned, reluctantly, to private sector employment (in the late ’70s more than a third of pass graduates entered this sector).

The public sector (including semi-government authorities) has been the job destination of about one-quarter of the respondents, although it has fallen from a peak of 33 per cent of the mid ’70s graduates to 20 per cent of the late ’70s groups.

Of the honours graduates, two-thirds have been employed in training-related work (as psychologists, usually in mental health, or as researchers, often in road research).

In the early and mid ’70s, pass graduates also found such positions (after taking a fourth year elsewhere). However, the late ’70s pass graduates have entered clerical jobs, indicating that the “displacement effect” may have begun to work there too.

MONASH REPORTER
Study sheds light on theatre history

In Review


The problem of evidence must challenge any historian. For the historian of stage performances the problem is acute. Any performance is an act of creation that is never tempted to close the doors of the theatre he has his own deep sense of the play's wholeness but he would do well to consult this book. Dr Bartholomeusz's instinct is to trust as completely as he can - as is consistent, that is, with an alert critical sense. And he is not only served, but he also searches out, especially from 19th century reviews, being wonderfully perceptive.

It's a master for regret that the publishers of this book with its mine of information and wealth of illustration should have priced it out of reach of most individual book-buyers, at $71.

Incompleteness of vision

Faced with this record of theatrical performance more marked in the breach than the observance of its proscenium stage setting) one at the Phoenix in 1951, the Stratford productions - have been remarkable and illuminating. But, in this century, the play has been rather more the thing it has not always been left free: insistence of interpretation has led to clarity of idea and symbol only at a cost.

The Monash University Choral Society this year celebrates its 21st birth-
day and has planned a dinner and gala concert.

The Society shares with the Evangelical Union the distinction of being one of the oldest clubs on campus. It currently has about 60 members under the baton of Greg Hurworth, formerly a tutor in the department of Music and now music master at Caulfield Grammar School.

These members along with those of other clubs associated with MonUCS in its history. Among them are Professor Brimer, now Dean of Music at Melbourne University, John McCann, Lawrence Bevan Levison, Charles Edwards and Noel Ancell.

The Society's normal performance schedule is to be held this month in Melbourne. Some distinguished figures on the Melbourne music scene have been invited to attend the celebration dinner to be held at Alliston's Restaurant, Prahran, on Saturday, July 30.

Anyone interested in attending, or who can provide information on the history of MonUCS, should contact Katie Purvis says that the Society always welcomes new members; tenors and sopranos are currently in great demand. Rehearsals for the September concert begin in second term and will be held on Tuesday evenings in the Music auditorium in the Humanities building.
In praise of a demon barber

**Viewpoint**

"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" opened on Broadway in May, 1983. With Angela Lansbury and Les Caron in the lead roles, the Stephen Sondheim - Hugh Wheeler - Harold Prince musical "Sweeney Todd" opened on Broadway in May, 1983. The action on stage is engulfed by a superstructure — a representation of an oppressive iron foundry — and backed by a huge replica of The British Beehive "The Sound of Music"; they probably wouldn't in an "untried" musical by Sondheim (who indeed isn't even "instant box office" in New York where his latest effort "Merrily We Roll Along" closed after a few short weeks). A few Australian fingers were burnt with his "A Little Night Music" in the mid-'70s.

Against this background, last year the Australian premiere of "Sweeney" was unexpectedly announced for April, 1983. The venue: the Alexander Theatre, Monash. The company: the Chenhelm Light Opera Company. A cause of some anxiety for more than one person acquainted with the Barber and the actor on record.

There have been admirable amateur productions of Sondheim musicals in Melbourne before. But "Sweeney" is different.

It is Sondheim’s most ambitious work, with the possible exception of "Pacific Overtures" which has an Asian cast, introduces Kubaki theatre into an American musical, tackles the subject of imperialism, and is distinctly more up-market than "Flower Drum Song"!

"Sweeney Todd" is an adventurous piece with challenging passages for solo voice (even in three, four or six parts). It may not be particularly likeable, even, in a "set within a set". The focus for much of the time is on the Street address of Mrs Lovett: her pie shop on the ground floor with barber shop above, linked by a hatch through which the victims of Mr Todd’s blades slide to a waiting minter.

The season is over, the sets probably broken down. But this execution of the work was tingling and will remain in the memory of Sondheim enthusiasts.

**May diary**

The events listed below are open to the public. "BBH" throughout stands for Robert Blackwood Hall. There is a BASS ticketing outlet on campus at the Alexander Theatre.


5: 6: RED CROSS MOBILE BLOOD BANK 9:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. Arts Assembly Rooms SG01-4. Appointments must be made at the Union Desk. 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m. Inquiries: ext. 3149.

5: 6: SCIENCE FACULTY LECTURE — "Thinking and reasoning associated with the study of science at university," by Professor Arnold Amos, University of Washington at 11:30 a.m. R1.

5: 6: ABRIGUAL STUDIES LECTURES "Racism in Australia," by Mr A. Cruikshank. 11:30 a.m. - "Racism — Aboriginal Experience". Both lectures at 1 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3335.

5-7: BIRKS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 1983 FINAL CONCERT Piano Trio Op. 6; Sonata Op. 120 No. 2; Clarinet Quintet Op. 113; pres. by Trio Victoria, Marco Vario, Brian Chapman, Phillip Mitchel, The Rove Quartet. 8 p.m. BBH. Admission free.

9: LUNCHTIME CONCERT — Cello Recital by Raphael Wallfisch. Works by J. S. Bach and Z. Kodaly, 11:45 p.m. BBH. Admission free.

9-21: CHILDREN’S MUSICAL. — "The Adventures of Sport Billy"; school holiday attraction presented by Quartet Productions. Daily at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays at 2p.m. Alex. Theatre Admission: adults $7.90, children $3.90.

9:11-13: ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM — "Environmental Planning and the

**Important dates**

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

- First term ends for Dip. Ed.
- First term ends; Study break begins for L.L.M. by coursework. First term ends for Medicine IV.
- Graduation ceremony — Arts.
- First half-year resumes for L.L.M. by coursework. Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the first half year. In Dip.Ed.Psych., B.Ed., B.Ed.Psych., and M.Ed. for it to be classified as discontinued. If a subject or unit is not discontinued by this date, and the examination is not attempted or assigned work is not completed, it will be classified as failed. In exceptional circumstances the Dean may approve the classification of a subject or unit as discontinued between May 30 and the end of the appropriate teaching period.

**Planning Profession**, by W. Chandler, Pres. by Graduate School of Environmental Science. 5 p.m. GSES Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3840.

**CONCERT** - Victorian State Final of ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition 7:30 p.m. BBH. Admission free. Entry cards available at Robert Blackwood Hall and ABC Booking Office.

**GSES Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3840.**


- Monash’s Courses and Careers Day will be held on this year on Saturday, August 7 from 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Its format will be similar to last year's, with the emphasis on academic counselling.

**MONASH REPORTER**

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