Aborigines to benefit from ocean mining?

Australian Aborigines may have a stake in the profits of deep seabed mining under the new United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea according to a Monash expert in international law.

Mr Harry Reicher, senior lecturer in Law, has urged Aborigines to carefully contemplate two arms of the International Seabed Authority and to seek recognition before it as a group which may benefit from activities within its jurisdiction.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea was opened for signature at a ceremony in Jamaica on December 10, 1982. No fewer than 117 states and two other entities signed on the spot.

The fruit of a decade's work, it is a massive document which deals with every aspect of the earth's oceans and their uses. It has been labelled "a constitution for the seas".

Mr Reicher says that the section which raises "interesting possibilities" for Aborigines is Part XI which deals with the recovery of mineral resources from depths which have come only recently within the reach of technology. The resource causing great interest is manganese nodules — oddly-shaped clusters of various minerals which exist in large quantities and, remarkably, are self-replenishing.

Part XI establishes the deep seabed and its subsoil and their resources as "the common heritage of mankind", embracing a concept argued passionately in a speech to the General Assembly in 1967 by the then Maltese ambassador to the UN, Mr Arvid Pardo.

Mr Pardo warned against recovery of the ocean's resources becoming a mad scramble by already-rich, developed nations on a par with the colonial battle to carve up Africa in the 19th century.

Under Part XI, the International Seabed Authority is to be set up as trustee for the seabed for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

Mr Reicher says the Convention enshrines two arms of mining on the deep seabed. On the one hand, individual states (and private companies) will be able to mine, with approval from the Authority — and at a cost. Also, the Authority will have its own mining operation, to be called "the Enterprise".

"The potential revenues to be earned by the Authority in this fashion are huge," he says.

How they are to be distributed is laid down in Article 140 (I) of the Convention which stipulates "particular consideration (of) the interests and needs of developing states and of peoples who have not attained full independence or other self-governing status recognised by the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant General Assembly resolutions."

The resolutions cited introduce the concept of self determination which Mr Reicher says is "undoubtedly one of the most vexed and controversial issues in international law".

"At the very least, there is serious doubt as to whether self-determination is a norm of international law — indeed whether it is the sort of idea which is even capable of becoming a rule of law," he says.

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C&C Day: August 7

Monash Courses and Careers Day will be held on August 7 this year. This is the second time the function has been held on a Sunday following its success last year.

Year 11 and 12 students, and their parents and teachers, will be able to chat informally to staff about their options and students about life at the University.

Staff from the seven faculties — Arts, Economics and Politics, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Science — and from the Careers and Appointments Service and the Counselling Service will be available between 1 and 4.30 p.m.

There will be a series of short lectures by the Deans and representatives from the two services.

Robert Blackwood Hall, the Rotunda lecture theatres, and the ground floors of the Menzies building and the Union will be used.

The Sports Centre and Deskia Hall will be open for the day also. Visitors can have lunch in the Hall between noon and 2 p.m.

The director of Courses and Careers Day, Professor John Crisp, says many young people — and often their parents — have problems finding their way through the maze of university offerings.

Private, face-to-face discussions could provide the basis for a firmer decision, he says.

The Festival of Theatre continues in July with these events among others:

- The continuing season of You Can't Take It With You at the Alexander Theatre until Saturday. It's a popular comedy by Hart and Kaufman.
- A production of Shakespeare's Henry V, mounted by the Monash Shakespeare Society, opens in the Alex. on July 15. Until July 23.
- Peter Shaffer's Equus gets a 10th birthday production in the Union Theatre from July 26 to 30.
- Last Laugh star Tracey Harvey will bring her character Teresa O'Reilly, singing lay run, to campus on July 13.

Full details are on page 12.

Photos: Tony Miller.
Share in mining profit?

Professor Ned Flanders, based at Monash during a visit to Victoria and other States until the end of July, says it will be some considerable time before the Authority's decision on the sharing of deep sea mining profits will be made by the Assembly (formed by all parties to the Convention), on the recommendation of the Authority's executive organ, the International Seabed Authority's (the ISAB). More important than canvassing this legal issue, says Mr Reicher, is to take another, more pragmatic approach to the problem. Decisions on the sharing of deep seabed mining profits will be made by the International Seabed Authority's supreme policy making body, the Assembly (formed by all parties to the Convention), on the recommendation of the Authority's executive organ, the Council (which will have 36 members).

Mr Reicher adds that it is "early days yet". He says it will be some considerable time before the Authority is actually established, operating and earning revenues.

There are no surprising or difficult-to-group elements in knowledge about effective teaching, according to distinguished US educationist, Professor Ned Flanders. Why, then, aren't there more, effective teachers? The answer to that, says Professor Flanders, lies in the problem of living up to good intentions. Excellence in teaching requires more than knowing what it is, it requires skilful application of that knowledge.

Professor Flanders, an associate of the University of California at Berkeley, is visiting Monash on a Fulbright scholarship.

A successful classroom, he says, is one in which students learn more subject matter, learn to like their teacher and actually stay at school. Among the differences which show up consistently between such a classroom and others less successful are these:

- The teacher listens to what his students say and responds accordingly.
- Learning activities are organised effectively.
- Schoolwork is adapted so that children work on problems appropriate to their interests and abilities.
- The teacher observes his partner's teaching back to their schools to implement new ideas.

Says Professor Flanders: "It's fairly basic, isn't it? Take listening to others responding appropriately — it's the courtesy you would expect of any conversation partner at a dinner party."

The way in which such ideas have been introduced in teacher education in the past has been by students reading and hearing about them.

"Unfortunately, good advice rarely shows up in the behaviour of people who merely hear it," says Professor Flanders.

The key lies in putting it into practice. Analyses of techniques crucial to gaining classroom interest needs to take place in a real-life setting, he says, and trainee teachers need to put what they learn from that analysis into practice.

Modern technology has assisted that process, Professor Flanders advocates. Videotaping the performance of trainee teachers need to take room experience.

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Economics today is a model discipline

Sustained recovery likely

In the last 30 or so years economics has undergone a remarkable change, says a distinguished US economist now visiting Monash.

Professor Arnold Zellner, professor of Economics and Statistics at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, says that change is illustrated by the nature of articles in economic journals and in economic research reports in universities, government and business.

Several decades ago much of the writing was qualitative and spiked with armchair ("It seems to me...") opinion. In some cases it was simply handwaving.

Today the approach is quantitative and more definitely "scientific". An economist will state his proposition then set about testing it using data analysed by modern mathematical and statistical methods.

In other words, econometrics has come to dominate economics and the former's place as "specialty" of the latter is becoming less of a distinction.

Professor Zellner's contribution to the quantitative approach has been considerable.


In the theoretical field he has worked on Bayesian and other methods in econometrics. In applied econometrics he has contributed to the modelling of producer and consumer behaviour and to the wider problems of econometric model construction and forecasting.

The worth of econometric modelling has itself been the subject of debate. Just how successful have the models been?

Professor Zellner answers that by drawing an analogy with automobiles. Some of the very early auto models such as the Stanley Steamer occasionally blew up or broke down, he says. As expertise increases and he

The $64 question of any leading US economist today: Is economic recovery in the US underway and is it likely to be sustained?

Professor Zellner says that there can be no doubt of recovery; among the indicators are an upturn in the automobile and housing industries and a pick-up in sales of consumer durables. Necessary inventory adjustments are taking place.

There are indications, too, that it will be a strong recovery, he says. For one thing, the Government will be going all-out to make sure it is. 1984 is a Presidential election year, he points out, and it seems a sure bet that Ronald Reagan will be seeking a second term.

One of the big question marks over the US recovery - and its possible effects on economies of countries such as Australia - is over interest rates. If they rise too sharply recovery could be snuffed out.

Professor Zellner sees a slow rise in interest rates as likely but he to the wider problems of econometric model construction and forecasting.

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The progress towards perfection, says Professor Zellner, has been a little slower in econometrics than in cars. In fact, he says with a smile, a good, dependable Model T Ford would be welcome every now and again.

Success lies in more experimentation with models to understand why they fail when they do and how they can be improved, and better economic theory.

The advent of computer-simulated modelling is allowing more ready analysis of models' properties, he says.

In fact, says Professor Zellner, economic forecasting is generally of better standard than some would give credit.

Much of the public attention - and subsequent criticism - has been on attempts to model national economies. But greater successes have been achieved with smaller-scale projects - modelling, for example, particular problems of an industry.

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It’s a splendid sight.

All 24 of Celia Rosser's original watercolor paintings for the first volume of the prestigious publication, The Banksias, are currently on show in the Monash Exhibition Gallery.

It's the first time that the paintings have been shown together. The exhibition also includes some of Mrs Rosser's working drawings and color separations of one of the paintings. It closes on July 15.

Mrs Rosser is Monash University Artist.

First volume


Only 730 copies were printed; each sells for about 1000 pounds Sterling. One was presented by the Federal Government to Queen Elizabeth II as a gift from the Australian people when she visited last year.

In the complete work, which will span three volumes, all 70 or more species of Banksia will be illustrated and described. Already it has been called one of the "all-time finest collections of botanical watercolor paintings."

Banksias abound in gallery

At the exhibition opening, Celia Rosser with Louis Matheson, right, and botanist Alex George, who wrote the text for The Banksias. Photo: Adrian Featherston.

The Exhibition Gallery is located in the Visual Arts department on the seventh floor of the Menzies building. Its hours are: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Social Work

Applications for entry into the Monash Social Work course in 1984 are now being received.

Forms are available from the Social Work department, 11th floor, Menzies Building.

The closing date is October 7.

At the exhibition opening, Celia Rosser with Louis Matheson, right, and botanist Alex George, who wrote the text for The Banksias. Photo: Adrian Featherston.

Professor Arnold Zellner

economic models and forecasts are

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Much of the public attention — and subsequent criticism — has been on attempts to model national economies. But greater successes have been achieved with smaller-scale projects — modelling, for example, particular problems of an industry.

"It is easier to work with one market than an entire economy," he says.

In government, econometric models are being used to forecast the impact of alternative policies. Both public utilities and private industry use models to forecast, say, the impact of new rates and revenue of an increase in the price of goods or services.

And, says Professor Zellner, statistical data and econometric analysis are coming to play a significant role in certain types of litigation. Two examples: in cases where firms are charged with employment discrimination, data on salaries for an important part of "evidence"; and in anti-trust cases, models are used to determine the amount of "overcharge" in situations in which prices have been allegedly fixed.

Professor Zellner says that the very attractive salaries that economists — at least in the US — draw in both the public and private sectors are an indication of their worth.

And the public perception of economists? There are always those people, he says, who look for the pie in the sky, who expect immediate answers to problems.

"It's like asking why doctors haven't found a cure for cancer. In economics, as in medicine, there are difficult problems which take time to solve."

Professor Zellner is visiting the department of Econometrics and Operations Research until July 12 and is giving a number of lectures and seminars. It is his second visit to Australia and Monash — he was previously here in 1980.

On this trip he will also be talking at the Australian National University, Macquarie University and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, and Flinders University in Adelaide.
A new look at links in the Argolid

In the late Bronze Age, 1600 to 1200 BC, Mycenae stood supreme in the Greek civilisation. The last 200 years of this period saw Mycenaean culture at its height with evidence of trade and settlement reaching from Italy to islands including Crete and Rhodes and to the boundaries of modern Turkey and Syria.

Then, Mycenae's influence declined and the focus shifted to eastern parts of Greece. The reasons for this can only be a matter of conjecture among historians today.

A Monash classical scholar has a more "down-to-earth" interest in Mycenaean culture, however.

Miss Elizabeth Carvalho, principal tutor in Classical Studies, recently joined two archaeological expeditions in Greece — one organised by the British School of Archaeology and the other by the newly-established Australian Archaeological Institute.

One of Miss Carvalho's interests is in understanding how the "heart" of Mycenaean Greece — the Argolid — functioned.

Mycene is located on the rich Argive Plain. At the time of its supremacy there were at least eight other significant settlements on the plain.

"I am interested in how these centres related to Mycenae and to each other, to see whether they operated as what could be termed a region," says Miss Carvalho.

The best way to "get the feel" of this subject was to retrace the steps of the early Greeks and explore the Argolid Valley on foot.

At a fairly brisk walking pace, Miss Carvalho "clocked in" distances between settlement sites of from three to six hours, sometimes over roads which, by the construction methods of walls, bridges and culverts, were identifiable Mycenaean.

With such ease of access, she says, it seems unlikely that the smaller settlements were independent of Mycenaean control.

It would appear, indeed, that there was a hierarchy of centres, all linked economically and politically.

In establishing a likely ranking in order of importance, Miss Carvalho surveyed the archaeological sites of the settlements with a checklist of "significantly" features. Among these were the presence of a palace on an elevated position and surrounding fortifications; evidence of decoration and writing; the existence of "tholos" tombs (circular with a vaulted ceiling, of varying diameter) or chamber tombs (which were cut in rock); and engineering works such as dams, aqueducts and other fortifications.

All features were present at the site of Mycenae itself, not surprisingly. At the north of the plain, it was evidently the "land" centre.

Tiryns, very near the coast, also displayed a concentration of the features and, says Miss Carvalho, was most probably the region's major port. Homer records in "The Iliad" that many ships left from Tiryns and neighboring coastal sites in the expedition against Troy.

At another site — Berbati — excavations have revealed kilns and fragments of pots like those found as far afield as Cyprus. It is also located near a rich clay bed.

An easy three-hour trip on foot from Mycenae, Berbati was quite probably a satellite settlement which was the centre of pottery-making, she says.

The second expedition was to the area of Boeotia; the interest, again, Mycenaean times.

One aspect Miss Carvalho explored was the irrigation system which drew water from Lake Copais to the area around Gla.

This engineering feat opened up new land for cultivation. It was an achievement likely to be eyed enviously by rival power centres such as Thebes.

There exists from Mycenaean times a number of fortresses in the area. Miss Carvalho believes they formed a network. It is feasible that, given the use of good flares, a signalling system had been devised from one observation post to the next to warn of possible attack, she says.
Renaissance Florence is, in a way, being “deglamourised” by a group of Australian scholars — including Monash historian, Dr Bill Kent — as the most important centre — saw an emanation of natural creative genius, nurtured by perceptive patrons, which yielded a great flowering of the arts.

The argument now being advanced places the cultural product in a more realistic political setting. The motives of patrons such as Lorenzo de Medici — “the Magnificent” — are seen in a new light. No longer the lovers of art for art’s sake, they become “users” of art, especially architecture, as a means of expressing their power and authority.

This is not to deny the existence of artistic genius, nor to detract from the value and pleasure we derive today from its manifestations.

Dr Kent says that examination of contracts of the day makes it clear that commissions for works of art, especially architecture, as a statement of power and authority.

Our motto: Ancora Imparo (“I am still learning”), is a saying attributed to Michelangelo. But now Monash professor of Visual Arts, Professor Margaret Plant, says that, “In all scholarly honesty”, there is no evidence that Michelangelo uttered the words. If he did, he was not voicing an original thought.

Professor Plant, delivering the occasional address at a recent Arts graduation ceremony, said that the words were in fact a cliché of the time, attributed in various Latin versions to Plato and Seneca.

But she suggested that it would have been entirely appropriate for Michelangelo — “the Time-Life painter, par excellence, who puts popes in their place, daily wrestled with the Agony and the Ecstasy, and had a beard that grew upwards as a result of his lyres on his back painting the Sistine ceiling” — to have believed in “Ancora Imparo”.

Ability legendary

Michelangelo’s ability was legendary in his lifetime — he was known as Michelangelo the Divine.

Said Professor Plant: “His very facility and terribleness — his terribilità as it was known — would make a process of learning seem to have been mastered in his cradle, with no more necessity.

And yet it is the giants that first declare that the educational process is ongoing and unending.”

Professor Plant said that the words “Ancora Imparo” were illustrated frequently in the 16th century in parody form. And two centuries later their Spanish equivalent was used in a drawing by Goya.

She said: “It is of interest that four of the world’s greatest contributors to learning and the world of the spirit — Plato, Seneca, Michelangelo and Goya — should have espoused this motto and seen the extension of the learning process continuing into old age.”

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Patron-creator

Patron, then, moves into a “co-operative” role of creator with the artist who, in turn, is nudged back towards artisanship.

“To understand this is to account for the forms ‘genius’ took; to help explain, for example, why the Renaissance style was a fully-fledged classical style,” he says.

In Florence, the Medici moved from the ambiguous position of “rulers” in a republic in the 15th century to princes in the following century.

They recorded the structures they did the Medici were in effect saying: “We are the new Romans!”

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national science program recommended

The public holds science and scientists—and universities—for bad—namely, in low esteem. It is disinclined with and uninterested in science.

True or false?

Conventional wisdom over nearly the last decade would dictate the first answer.

Such belief has provided repeated justification for the shaving and shrinking of government-financed effort in research and tertiary teaching of science.

Distinguished leaders of government, the bureaucracy, science and education seem to have swallowed the same pill of public lack of interest.

But what is the basis of the claim?

"In short — none!" says Dr Peter Pockley, Public Affairs Adviser at the University of New South Wales, in a paper "A National Program for Promoting Public Understanding of Science" delivered to the recent ANZAS Congress.

Dr Pockley continues: "To the best of my knowledge there has been no systematic survey of public attitudes to science in Australia, let alone to the connection between such perceptions and the development of government policy.

"I find it extraordinary to conclude that evidence-based, scientific and educational leaders have gone along with a view which is unsupported by the kind of data which, from their training, one would expect them to demand before succumbing to political pressure which is, in Australia's large government structures, one with which scientists most closely align themselves.

"My astonishment is tempered by the realisation that this is yet one more symptom of the 'Canberra virus' creeping through a small group of influential people working in isolation of the major population centres who convince themselves, and then others, of the reality of their position."

Dr Pockley says that surveys in Canada and Europe have recorded widespread interest in science and a strong demand for more and better science popularisation in the media.

"He says that the situation in Australia is unlikely to be different although he urges regular public opinion surveys to test it.

"It is then time, he argues, for a national program for public understanding of science."

Putting forward a 13-point plan, Dr Pockley says: "In some instances it is a case of extending existing information services, but the greatest effect is likely to be experienced if completely new projects are initiated and sustained with coordination and coherence.

"His suggestions concentrate on assisting target groups — journalists and editors, public sector and private sector bodies, and scientists. Retaining intact the structures of the organisation and not running the risk of perturbing their peers groups are dominating influences."

"A top priority is the need to convince those who create and control our institutional frameworks — the chiefs of government research bodies and the heads of universities, in the main — that the interests of their own institutions and staff will be better served by actively encouraging people under their leadership to engage in public education and communication on the employment of science, medicine and education reporters and on the attitudes of editors towards scientists."

"Copies of the paper may be obtained from Dr Pockley, Public Affairs Unit, UNSW."

Technology with a capital "I" — a dominant, dominating, relentless, overpowering entity?

That was an "incarnation" not conceived by engineers, according to Professor John Crisp, of the department of Mechanical Engineering.

"It is an invention of disappointed philosophers, humanists and sociologists," he said.

Professor Crisp was delivering the 1983 Robin Memorial Lecture at the University of Adelaide on the topic "Technological Tempery and the Engineer."

There were, he said, at least four convergent influences that bore the "I". These included the "Galbraithian" myth of "rolling inevitability" — and now sustained it.

"The historical recurrent fear of redundancy — 'well-based and properly associated with major technological change'."

"The social purpose of new technology to eliminate unproductive and unpleasant, demeaning labour," he said. "But it has added to the displacement of out-dated labour releases, if socio-political circumstance is suitably arranged, human energy and vitality for more dignified and yet economic purposes."

A second influence was the western cultural belief of "dissociation" — "the compartmentalisation of man and nature — as if these two things had no relationship."

"(It is) as if man were not natural or, as most would today say, as if it were self-evident that things that man makes are unnatural and therefore inherently inimical to him," Professor Crisp said.

"It was not a view shared, for example, by the Japanese who believed that technological and human interests were the same: "Technology is seen as an extension of the human individual wishing to make himself 'better' as a human."

"A second convergence was the human predilection to successfully find scapegoats for things gone wrong."

"Its most noted and influential example was the media contribution to the power of a technocratic elite."

"Technocracy" was conceived and promoted through the mid-19th-century, Professor Crisp said, by amateur philosophers and embryonic political scientists.

They argued that, through applied scientific rationality, society would be better governed. Science and engineering would serve the cause of social justice.

"The notion developed at a time of unprecedented activity by innovative technologists and engineers, "almost none of whom, though praised, subscribed to it."

Professor Crisp said that the economist J. K. Galbraith's "emasculated version" of this concept promoted the idea that ultimate power lay with the technical decision-maker embedded in the middle levels of the corporation whose management merely ratified an engineering proposition.

Facts different

"But the facts are different," he said.

"Even if there exists a technical elite, the engineering component has over the past few decades been declining... Other sectors are now belted in the power of a technocratic elite."

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They argued that, through applied scientific rationality, society would be better governed. Science and engineer-
Hi-tech: graduate need to fulfil the promise

UK schemes endorsed

Professor Lance Endersbee

Australians had developed a “cargo cult” attitude to development of the country.

They believed that natural resources and “high technology” could save them without any real effort on their part, according to the Dean of Engineering, Professor Lance Endersbee.

Professor Endersbee addressed the annual dinner of the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia in Melbourne in June.

“We in Australia tended to assume that these natural resources could be developed with relatively little effort on our part.

“Thus, foreign investors would meet the costs of exploiting these resources, without the need for Australian investment; if technology was involved this could be provided by overseas technology, financed by the investors; and if work was involved, this could be done by migrants.

“Over the years, our preoccupation with these natural resources has diverted our attention away from the need to invest in resources of people who are to create this prosperous future.”

Professor Endersbee said a similar view had developed about “high technology” — “that it has the power to save us, as a quick fix, once again without any real effort by Australians”.

Professor Endersbee was chosen as one of seven “notable professional engineers”, past and present, during Professional Engineers’ Week at the end of June.

He said the present business recession had led to an undue pessimism in Australian society.

“Our society is showing weakness under challenge, and despondency and confusion seem to be the national malaise.”

Professor Endersbee said the decline of manufacturing industry in Australia was now so critical that a committee of inquiry should be appointed to look at ways of enhancing technological capability.

“It must be emphasised that sharp changes are needed in government policies at federal and state level — technological, economic and education — and within industries, and within universities and colleges, if we are to stop the downhill rush.”

Professor Endersbee said Australian industry became locked into the exclusive use of overseas research and design — a technological imperialism — by buying overseas technology.

“It becomes the role of the Australian engineers to plant designs overseas, and to supervise manufacture of products designed overseas. Further technological development in such plants and industries then remains under the firm control of the overseas designers.”

“A great advantage in using Australian engineering designers is that they automatically design and specify for Australian manufacture — they can incorporate Australian components in their designs, and design for Australian resources and materials and spare parts.

“There is an immediate ripple effect in our economy,” he said.

Professor Endersbee said the total lack of engineering research professors at Australian universities was a “national disgrace”.

There were 78 full-time research professors in Australian universities but not one in engineering.

Yet ANU had 16 research professors in Social Sciences and 12 in Pacific Studies.

Professor Endersbee said lack of staff and heavy teaching commitments were hindering the Monash faculty’s previously successful program of collaboration with industry.

Professor Endersbee recently said the mooted development of self-sufficient communes as an alternative for unemployed young people was attractive if a high level of training was involved.

If communes were competitive with other economic units they would be dependent on technological resources and skills.

But communes should not be seen as an easy solution and divert attention from the real need — “that of making more use of present talent, creating a high level of capability in Australia, and the continuing development of our people for what we can call a knowledge-intensive society,” he said.

The need has been the same in Britain, says Professor Polmear, where there seems to be a new recognition that there has been too much preoccupation with science and too little attention paid to technological innovation and application.

There, he says, universities are now involved in two initiatives to increase the supply of graduates and expertise to industry.

These are models Australia could follow.

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The Teaching Company Scheme also aims to develop closer partnerships between universities (and polytechnics) and industry.

“Its main objective is to raise manufacturing performance and implement advanced technology and employment opportunities by the effective use of academic knowledge and capacity,” says Professor Polmear.

“IT also trains graduates for potential careers in industry and serves to develop and retain existing company and academic staff.”

He says that the SERC and the Department of Industry provide funds to universities to support high calibre graduates who are recruited by the SERC and the Department of Industry to work with a particular company for two years on approved projects.

It has been found that a high proportion of the Associates are invited to become permanent employees with the company to which they have been attached.

Academic staff benefit from being able to extend their teaching and research beyond the classroom and laboratory.

Professor Polmear visited the UK recently to deliver a memorial lecture to the London Metallurgical Society and attend two conferences.
Guardianship schemes—a limited approach

Guardianship schemes for intellectually handicapped people should be seen as only one very limited approach to the problem, according to a senior lecturer in Law at Monash, Dr Terry Carney.

Dr Carney said the "automatic" guardianship of handicapped adults by their parents or others was a fundamental contradiction of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons.

Dr Carney was speaking at a seminar at Monash on June 15 designed to stimulate debate on alternatives in the area of guardianship.

The seminar resulted from a project of the federally-funded Human Rights Commission aimed at implementing the UN Declaration.

Dr Carney is also a member of a State Government working party which is to develop legislation on the issues.

Key proposals in the UN Declaration are:

- Normalisation — as far as possible the intellectually handicapped person should be able to participate in an ordinary way in the community.

- The least restrictive alternative — the intellectually handicapped person should not be diminished if there is a less intrusive alternative.

- A qualified guardianship arrangement be available where necessary.

Dr Carney pointed out that under Victorian law the intellectually handicapped person has been treated as a person in his own right. The legal rights and responsibilities of a parent over a minor do not apply to the legal independence and autonomy of the intellectually handicapped adult.

Dr Carney said that a possible alternative, or supplement, to guardianship schemes was a broad supportive welfare and citizen advocacy network aimed at supporting and reinforcing the actions of intellectually handicapped people.

The seminar discussed three distinct types of guardianship schemes.

The first scheme gave precedence to maintaining freedom of the individual and providing assistance to achieve self-development. Under this scheme limited guardianship rights would be given to one person but the scheme would be restricted to people whose lack of competence had been clearly shown. A court or tribunal would make the decision and would also decide on controversial medical procedures such as sterilisations, non-therapeutic abortions and tissue donations.

A second, more paternalistic scheme sought primarily to protect the handicapped person from exploitation, abuse and degrading treatment. Under this scheme social workers would be able to intervene in cases where a person was "unable to take care of himself" or "unable to make reasonable judgments".

More people would be covered and public accountability would be lost.

Dr Carney said a third scheme emphasised developing the handicapped person's abilities within a limited guardianship.

Dr Carney said guardianship necessarily involved some denial of human rights and liberties and should be confined to situations where the benefits outweighed the costs.

He said the legalistic approach would confine "the benefits of guardianship to those people who demonstrably lack the legal and other capacities required in order to participate appropriately in the community."

Inquiry urges transfer of CSIRO laboratories

An inquiry into safety standards at two CSIRO laboratories has recommended their urgent relocation from Fishermen's Bend to Clayton, opposite Monash.

The inquiry was conducted for the Federal Government by a committee headed by Emeritus Professor Rod Andrew, founding Dean of Medicine at Monash and now Director of Medical Education at Cabrini Hospital. Other members were both Monash academics: Professor Louis Opal, of the Department of Social Medicine, and Professor Roy Jackson, of Chemistry.

Dr Carney said the committee acknowledged the death from malignant melanoma last year of a 33 year old CSIRO scientist, Dr Ron Bergamasco, who had worked in the Applied Organic Chemistry Laboratories at Fishermen's Bend.

The committee concluded that it had not found any evidence that Dr Bergamasco's death was related to his occupation or his work environment.

But it also concluded that the Fishermens's Bend laboratories "must be regarded as providing a hazardous working environment!"

The buildings were 30 years old, and designed and built at a time when the practice of chemistry was about to change dramatically.

The committee recommended that the planned CSIRO laboratories Replacement Materials Laboratory to Clayton be accelerated as a matter of urgency and high priority.

It noted that, in 1980, CSIRO's Executive had concluded that there was no feasible alternative to construction at Clayton and that continued occupancy of the present site was holding up research on the national importance of the laboratories.

The committee also recommended urgent funding and a detailed plan for the transfer of the Applied Organic Chemistry Laboratories to Clayton. Individual research groups should be transferred as accommodation became available.

Even given a favourable program, the transfer to Clayton may not be completed until 1986.

In the meantime, it recommended upgrading of the present air supply system as an interim measure.

Tableting the committee's report in Parliament, the Minister for Science and Technology, Barry Jones, said: "Given the very short time between the setting up of the committee and the presentation of the final report over six weeks, it is an exemplary piece of work."
University pays homage to 'a cultivated man'

The late Emeritus Professor Guy Manton had had an extraordinary capacity for inspiring affection in all who met him, Sir Louis Matheson, former Monash Vice-Chancellor, said at his funeral service on June 8.

Almost 300 mourners attended the funeral service held in the Religious Centre.

Professor Manton, 71, had been the first full-time Dean of Arts at Monash. He held the post for 12 years until his retirement in 1977.

Sir Louis said the faculty of Arts had flourished mightily under his guidance.

"He knew and loved the Arts in the widest sense — from the classics, his own field, to literature and drama and languages and history.

"He was a cultivated man, well read and deeply sympathetic to the values of his faculty," he said.

Professor Manton died on June 6 after suffering a stroke. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and three daughters, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Susan.

Sir Louis said: "Today we can only grieve with Barbara and their daughters that what seemed like an idyllic retirement could not have lasted longer."

Mrs Olive Heley, Professor Manton's secretary for many years, gave the first reading at the service.

She paid tribute to his enormous capacity for inspiring affection in all.

"He was a learned man, but he did not wear his learning on his sleeve, for he was truly modest," Mrs Heley said.

Professor Manton read Classics at Cambridge and taught at London's Queen Mary College for five years before emigrating for a Sydney University post. In 1948 he became Professor of Classics at the University of Otago, in Dunedin — a post he held until he came to Monash in 1965.

Workshop to discuss Asian women's role

Several distinguished international speakers will attend a Women in Asia Workshop to be held at Normandy House, Monash, from July 22 to 24.

Among the overseas guests will be:

- Dr Rounaq Jahan, director of the Kuala Lumpur-based UN Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development, and former professor of political science at Daesa University.
- Sukanya Hastrakul, adviser on women's affairs to the Thai Prime Minister. She has spent the last two years researching and attempting to improve conditions of Thai prostitutes.
- Dr Rosalinda Pinedo-Ofreneo, who works for the University of the Philippines as an editor in the Information Office and a lecturer in mass communications.
- Barbara Rogers, author of The Domestication of Women: Discrimination in Developing Societies. She is studying the role of Western women in the issues of Third World development.
- Madhu Kishwar, lawyer and editor of the Indian feminist journal Manushi. She is currently involved in cases relating to land rights for tribal women.

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The Women in Asia Workshop will hear a report on the problems of Filipino women who have married Australians through "mail order" and "bride tour" schemes.

Presenting the report will be Sister Charito Ungson, of the Asian Bureau of Australia, who will soon be developing pilot self-help groups among the brides in Melbourne.

The Asian Bureau Australia was involved last year in a Federal Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs survey on the needs of more than 8000 Filipino brides currently living in Australia. A report on that survey has just been published.

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Sister Charito will speak on the expectations of the brides and their Australian husbands, the marketing of marriage to Australian men as a passport to "freedom and a land of milk and honey", and the problems the brides face when they get here. Those problems result from being cut off from their own social and cultural ties and becoming totally dependent on their husbands.

JULY, 1983
Martin's poetry, consider this:

My Danish ancestors buried their dead
Centuries before Christ
Christmas Ghosts
In the house floor. No separation. So
Is troubled: where are the ghosts?
This first Australian Christmas

To me, Martin's features include the following. First,
simplicity of diction, which everywhere seeks
precision; second, a confidence in exposition but a
distaste for overstatement; third, the compounding of the
and the familiar, fourth, a quiet, wiry, which
serves, rather than prohibiting, evocation.

These have always been Martin's reliable strengths,
though of course they have not always operated
flawlessly — show me a flawless poet and I will show
you a prissy phony — and they have sometimes been
accompanied by other poetic virtues. A word or two
on each may direct expectations of A Flag for the
Wind.

The diction is simple because Martin, a man who in
other contexts shows himself a great word-usher,
wants immediacy of access to the experience he offers.
A different kind of poet, a Lowell or a Porter perhaps,
goes for the tumult of tongues, that being
his characteristic disclosure takes place: Martin
is for quieter, stiller places of the imagination, where
objects and persons stand in an atmosphere of solitude about them, even when they are in company.

Verses biased, unfair
but entertaining!

We've amazing breadth of mind
We are tolerant and kind
We'll consider any view you care to name
We're not sure that God exists
But our piety persists
And we tolerantly worship just the same.

Peter Steele

Hector Munro, emergent professor of philosophy, thus sums up the modernist school of religious thought: "In his sharp, satirical verse "Short Guide to Religion".

In the latest issue of the new Monash poetry magazine, Open Door, editor Karen Dacey reviews Munro's "refreshingly shocking" humorous verse.

It is biased and unfair but totally entertaining, says Munro.

In another article in the same magazine, Professor Munro laments the passing of rhyme, regular metre and humor in verse.

He says: "The main justification of light verse is just that it is fun, both to read and to write. I am sorry that it seems to have become a dying art.

July 1983

To me, Martin's own poems, play an ever-changing part in the poem's being at the service of the wit.

"Forty or so years ago every issue of
Punch would contain two or three ac-
complished and witty poems by such
writers as A. P. Herbert, E. V. Knox
or the editor, Owen Seaman; now it seldom
has any."

"Open Door" also contains a number of
poems, a short story and a section on
poetry happenings. It is published three
times a year by the Monash Poetry Club. Copies cost $1 each and are available from the Monash Bookshop or Book Co-op.

Contributions from students and staff are being sought for an issue of the magazine's third issue.

At lunchtime

The Thursday lunchtime concert series
continues this month.

Among the performers will be Milada
Taka Mesikova (organ), Glenns O'Donnell
(harpischord), the Wednesday Consort
and Bruce Steele (organ).

Full details in the diary, page 12.
Meet Monash's 'Fair Lady'

New book argues the case on rainforests

To the casual visitor, Australia's tropical rainforests can appear relatively lifeless.

"It is a sadly common misconception," say zoologists Dawn and Clifford Frith. "For those prepared to sit and wait or gain a little insight before seeking it out, however, the breathtaking array of life will reveal itself."

Clifford, a one-time postgraduate student in Zoology at Monash, and Dawn, a graduate of London University, have been prepared to "sit and wait".

For five years they have lived at Paluma in North Queensland where they have studied rainforest insects, plants, bowerybirds and other birds.

Their photography of "the breathtaking array of life" forms the basis of a book Australian Tropical Rainforest Life published recently by Speciality Education Supplies.

One of the purposes of the book, say the authors, is to press home the urgency of the "absolute conservation" of remaining Australian tropical rainforests. "Only expressed public opinion will save our rainforests and public opinion will only be generated through appreciating and understanding," they say.

The last virgin areas of tropical rainforest are in the care of the Queensland Government.

Say the Friths: "That State holds an immense responsibility of national and international significance to present and future generations."

They say that forest logging provides only a few jobs and produces "predominantly elitist" commodities.

"Ares of tropical rainforest extensively clear-felled are often lost forever as all topsoil is subsequently lost by erosion and no plant life remains as a recolonising stock. Forest severely damaged by selective felling may take several hundred years to regenerate to its original undisturbed conditions," they say.

"Australia is one of the few politically stable and physically safe countries where people can enjoy tropical rainforest environments. Conceivably it will one day be the only remaining country with such readily available tropical forest attractions of worldwide tourism significance."

Study on applicability

A new Geography department publication contributes to debate on the application of a particular quantitative method to geography.

It is Data Clusters and Trend Surfaces — No. 29 in the Monash Publications in Geography series — by Albert Goodman, a former Ph.D. candidate and tutor in the department.

Mr Goodman says that the widespread application of quantitative methods (both mathematical and statistical) in geography in the 1960s and '70s brought certain benefits to the subject.

"The need to learn about techniques which had been in common use in related fields such as ecology, botany and geology led many geographers to discover fruitful links across the normal disciplinary boundaries," he says.

"At best this process helped to develop a healthy eclecticism; at worst, it degenerated into uncritical application of quite inappropriate methods."

"Rarely, unfortunately, did it lead to an effective evaluation of the utility of the newly acquired techniques."

Occasionally, however, there has been debate over the correctness of a particular application. One such debate has centred on the use of the range of spatial distribution methods known as trend surface analysis.

Mr Goodman says that his publication makes a contribution to discussion on the effects of non-regular spatial distributions on the results of trend surface analyses:

"澳大利亚 is one of the few politically stable and physically safe countries where people can enjoy tropical rainforest environments. Conceivably it will one day be the only remaining country with such readily available tropical forest attractions of worldwide tourism significance."

Expedition opportunity

The Australian and New Zealand Scientific Exploration Society has organised two expeditions for students seeking adventure during the long vacation.

In January 1984, the "Investigator" expedition will leave Adelaide for the south-west coast of South Australia around Coffin Bay Peninsula and nearby islands. The aim will be to study the ecology and history of the area and the impact of feral animals.

At the same time, the "Abel Tasman" expedition will leave Wynyard for the south-west of Macquarie Harbor in Tasmania. Its aim is to study the ecology and history of the coast around Hibbs Lagoon and the wildfowl of the lagoon, with some pre-history possible.

ANZSES was formed in 1977 to conduct scientific expeditions for young men and women into virtually unexplored areas.

There are normally places for about 32 expeditioners, aged 17 to 24 years and with good outdoor experience. "Investigator" cost is $600 ex Adelaide; "Abel Tasman" $700 ex Wynyard.

For further information contact Mr John Edwards, Computing Services, La Trobe University (478 3122 ext. 2500).
The Monash Festival of Theatre enters its second month on Friday, June 23, with its major productions still running and two more to set to begin their seasons.

Now in its second year as Teresa O'Reilly. This takes place in the Menzies building next Wednesday (July 13) at 12.30 p.m.

Then, on July 15, a production of Henry V opens in the Alex. Presented by the Monash Shakespeare Society, the play is being directed by Tim Scott with second year Arts student Greg Evans in the lead role. The season runs until July 23.

The performance of individuals or of groups, or any aspect of a musical excluding costuming, set design, lighting, production or original lyrics must be nominated. Nominations should be written to the Secretary to the Faculty of Arts by September 30, 1983.

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