Focus on Asia
This month Reporter talks to a distinguished international visitor about the role of women in Asia. We look also at changes in China's foreign policy and end the Asian 'tou' at a lively form of Javanese theatre. Pp 4, 5.

Also
• Survey on graduates' starting salaries.............. 9
• Schools — as they are and as they might be...... 10

PM's private office supports 'political' role

From the Whitlam years on, the private office of the Prime Minister, staffed largely by personally-appointed policy advisers, has developed as a significant, self-contained unit within administration.

Its growth recognises the Prime Minister's need for support in his political function — something in which his Public Service Department cannot easily — or properly — assist, says Professor David Kemp, chairman of the Politics department at Monash.

Professor Kemp was a senior adviser on Mr Fraser's staff in his first two years as Prime Minister and was director of the PM's office in 1981.

In the year or so since, Professor Kemp has been researching the elevation of the PM's and other Ministers' offices to ones with a capital "O" and developing a concept of their role in the system. Such a development has also occurred in Britain, Canada and other countries whose government is based on the Westminster system.

At its heart, says Professor Kemp, is awareness that politics and government are not separate and that good government involves competent performance of the political function.

An inside view

There has been a tendency in the past to view politics negatively, as disruptive of government, and to downplay its significance by loading the whole of the political role on one man, the Prime Minister or Minister.

In essence, he says, the political job is a leadership function. It involves the identification of philosophy and values underlying decision-making, the establishment of priorities, definition of tasks and the integration of information and ideas from many sources "into a coherent function".

"Political judgment is a major part of a Prime Minister's role and one which, it is now acknowledged, requires assistance. With the increasing complexity of government it would require a superhuman effort of one man to do it without staff support," he says.

Apolitical PS

The Public Service cannot properly provide much support for the Prime Minister in his political function. Departments are supposed to be apolitical: their main job is to give "technical" advice and administer policies.

Hence the development of a private office system staffed by non-tenured advisers attuned to the Government's philosophy and aim. In other countries the unit is termed the Political Office.

Monash chemists manufacture new carbon compound

Researchers in the Monash Chemistry department have manufactured a new carbon oxide.

The new oxide is tricarbon monoxide, made up of three carbon atoms and one oxygen atom. It is represented by the chemical symbols $C_3O$.

The Monash team believes tricarbon monoxide will take its place beside the well-known carbon oxides — carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO$_2$) — and the lesser-known carbon suboxide (C$_2$O$_3$).

The manufacture of tricarbon monoxide came as a corollary to the team's work examining the molecules which exist in space.

Professor of Chemistry, Professor Ron Brown, said one of the most abundant molecules in space was carbon monoxide.

It's Courses and Careers Day on Sunday

• What the day aims to do — p. 3
New carbon oxide

Dr Frank Eastwood, Reader in chemistry, Dr Patricia Elmes, a professional officer, and Dr Peter Godfrey senior lecturer, worked with Professor Brown. A graduate student, Mr Ed Rice, developed the theoretical framework for the experiment.

The team used a relatively new chemical technique of building a very large, but unstable, molecule which, when heated, would break down, leaving the hoped-for tricarbon monoxide.

Dr Eastwood devised a molecule of 12 carbon atoms, 12 hydrogen atoms and eight oxygen atoms - C₃H₁₂O₈.

And after long hours in the laboratory the team found they had the desired result - the molecule broke down, leaving acetone, carbon dioxide and the new oxide:

Professor Brown said that tricarbon monoxide had proved to be a peculiar compound - although it "lived" for only a fraction of a second it was, in chemical terms, reasonably stable.

And, unlike the other carbon oxides, it was a polar molecule - with a positive electrical charge at the oxygen end and a negative charge at the other. In the other oxides the charge is spread uniformly along the chain of atoms.

Professor Brown said the team would now do more work on measuring the distances between the atoms in the molecule and also examining the chemical properties of a bronze-coloured deposit left in their equipment after the manufacture of tricarbon monoxide.

"Tricarbon monoxide is a simple thing and a very reactive one - there could well be years and years of work, not only for Monash researchers, in following up its properties."

Professor Brown believes there is a fair chance of finding tricarbon monoxide amongst the gases in space, but not in large quantities.

The team will take up this search in February next year using the most advanced radio telescope available at Kitt Peak in Arizona.

Graduation

Application to Graduate forms are now available from the Student Records Office, University Office, for bachelor degree candidates in their final year who expect to qualify for their degree at the 1983 annual examinations and who wish to graduate at a ceremony in 1984.

Applications should be lodged by Monday, September 5, 1983.

Students in those faculties in which honours are taken in an additional year who intend to proceed to honours in their degree at the 1983 annual examinations and who wish to graduate at a ceremony in 1984.

Applications should be lodged by Monday, September 5, 1983.

Which garrulous great galahs were going home?

One guest! The notorious Dave and Mabel who rather fancied themselves as Monash students (learning parrot fashion so to speak) are now back at Sedge and tearing the pants off late night TV viewers. Their "tutunday" - probably the most widely distributed of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation $5000 in ransom money, via the Monash fronton Lobotomy Society. Eat humble cracker. Photos Week people/s

Private office's political role

In an interview with Monash Reporter, Professor Kemp made these points:

- It is essential that the role of such an office be defined correctly. One thing it is not there to do is compete with or supplant Departments in providing the kind of advice expected from the Public Service.

- A well-functioning office system, rather than a source of tension with Departments, can help preserve the apolitical character of the Public Service. An alternative would be to politicise the Servier by staffing first and second division positions, say, with people who are likely to understand the Government's purposes. This can have disadvantageous effects on Department morale and career structures.

- There is room yet in Australia for a widening of the tasks of "political offices". They should attend formal departmental and interdepartmental meetings, sit on task forces and the like, working closely involved in the work of Cabinet.

- The strengthened role of the private office - through the Whittington, Fraser and Hawke administrations - has bipartisan support. It is being emulated, too, in State governments. In the Hawke Government there may initially have been some shift back towards the traditionally influential role of the Public Service. It is only a marginal difference, however.

Until Whitlam, says Professor Kemp, the PM's office was small and staffed mainly by relatively junior officers of the Public Service. The office acted primarily as a mechanism for moving papers between the Department of the Prime Minister and the PM, and organising his appointments.

In the '60s, however, Gorton took an initiative unique to the Australian system. He established policy divisions within the Prime Minister's Department, covering every aspect of government activity. These divisions - which still exist - have briefed the PM on missions from other departments. They could not do much to assist the Prime Minister in his political functions, though, and their role has been a controversial one.

The Prime Minister's Office, as it has existed for the past decade, has a staff of about 25, including some eight senior advisers.

Professor Kemp says that - at senior levels - that is fairly close to the optimum size. It should remain small so that a close relationship between "Ministerial staff and staff is preserved.

Its "bread and butter" tasks include scheduling the PM's meetings and engagements, managing affairs with his electorate, and handling the most important correspondence. Other functions are policy advice, speech writing, political information (briefing him on political events throughout the country), media communication and liaison with the political party, in and outside Parliament, and around the country, and with the Public Service.

Professor Kemp says that a major aspect of the political function of the Office is to identify problems which the Government should see as important and requiring action. Its job, then, is to suggest to the Prime Minister possible directions for the Public Service on what kind of policy advice is required.

The Office has a further task in assisting the Prime Minister on the advice coming back from Departments to determine whether it meets guidelines and whether it presents the options satisfactory.

Integrating task

He says that the Office also helps the PM to integrate the various organisations for which he is responsible.

Professor Kemp says: "The Prime Minister is the leading person in his Office, in Cabinet and the Ministry. He is also the leader of his party in Parliament and leader of his political party in the country. And he is leader of the nation."

He is likely to receive input on many issues from all these groups and needs to "pull it all together".

"Again, it is simply too big a job for one person to do without staff support."

Where the development of the private office system has caused some controversy, he says, is with the appointment of people who do not possess (or economic) expertise. The criticism then is that they duplicate what is being done in Departments.

On the contrary, he says, the appointment of such experts reflects an awareness by governments that policy advice can never be purely technical - that it must be based, implicitly at least, on values and beliefs on which people and parties differ.

He says: "It is therefore quite sound for political leaders to seek advice from experts known to share their philosophical perspectives. One can be confident that people can adequately identify the value and judgmental components of advice."

Professor Kemp says that being a member of the Prime Minister's or Minister's office can be an insecure position. By definition, members of a "political office" can have no tenure - they can be dismissed at will and, in any case, go when the Minister goes. They have no superannuation and, as a recommendation on their conditions of employment, he suggests that some life assurance provisions be made.

AUGUST, 1983

MONASH REPORTER
Gearing up for Careers Day

This Sunday — August 7 — Monash again says “Welcome” to some very important visitors: our students of the future, their parents, friends and teachers.

Following the pattern set last year, Courses and Careers Day differs from the traditional sort of Open Day — for good reasons.

Director of the ‘Day’ this year is Professor John Crisp, of Mechanical Engineering.

Sunday a success

He says: “Last year’s experiment in conducting a counselling day on a Sunday showed us that we could reach our target audience very successfully by satisfying its need for information — given informally, and without strings attached.

“We recognise in addition the desirability of explaining the University to the public from time to time, and this we will do through an Open Day, even though economic conditions are pretty much against us at present.

“I think that we have found a very practical alternating arrangement,” said Professor Crisp. “We know that the sort of face-to-face discussion that Counselling Day offers provides a very firm basis on which prospective students can make their decisions. Our experience also suggests that the alternative Open Day satisfies the other need.”

The University will be open from 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Copies of the official program for the day are now at the enquiry desk in the Union.

Director of Courses and Careers Day, Professor John Crisp (left) discusses arrangements with Professor Bill Melbourne, chairman of Mechanical Engineering.

Appeals Tribunal has immense powers

A non-judicial administrative appeals body may make a startling impact on the development of Federal Government policies, according to a Monash law lecturer, Mrs Jennifer Sharpe.

Mrs Sharpe has spent the past three years studying the workings of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, set up in 1975.

The tribunal has the power in some areas to overturn Ministerial and Cabinet policy.

“This turns the whole idea of ministerial responsibility upside down. ‘In the policy review area the tribunal has more power than the High Court. Where a department exercises discretion ary powers, the Court can say a decision is legally wrong or was improperly exercised, but it cannot over ride the Minister’s discretion or decide on the merits of a particular policy.

“The tribunal can,” Mrs Sharpe said. The tribunal is staffed by Federal Court judges and others with expertise in public administration and related areas.

It sits in all capital cities and hears cases informally, often without legal representatives being involved.

It can deal only with matters for which it has been given responsibility by government legislation. In some areas

Book for 'Tootsie'

“‘Tootsie’ will be screened at a film evening next month in aid of the Monash Art Fund.

It will be held on Monday, September 26, at 5.30 p.m. in the Alexander Theatre, Champagne and sandwiches will be served. The cost is $8 a head.

The evening will be opened by the Monash Advisory Committee which is convened by Mrs Renea Martin, wife of the Vice-Chancellor.

Bookings can be made at the Alex, or by phoning the ticket secretaries, Mrs Brenda Road from the campus, is an affiliated residential college run by the Dominican Fathers for students of all denominations.

On Sunday, August 7, the College will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Residents will be conducting tours, and afternoon tea will be served in the foyer. Application forms for 1984 will be available.

As well, Mannix students will be available to talk to visitors in the balcony room of the Union.

Monash man at the helm

At Mannix, too

Monash College will hold an Open Day to coincide with Monash’s Courses and Careers Day.

Mannix, located across Wellington Road from the main campus, is a board and residential college run by the Dominican Fathers for students of all denominations.

And now for HSC Economics

Monetarists vs Keynesians, and the prospects for an incomes policy since the Economic Summit.

They’re just two of the topical issues to be covered in the annual day of lectures for HSC Economics students organised by Monash’s department of Economics.

It will be on Sunday, September 11, from 9.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., in Robert Blackwood Hall.

As well, the Chief Examiner for HSC Economics, Dr G. M. Richards, a senior lecturer in Economics, will talk to students on examination techniques and marking procedures. Lecturing staff of the department will also be on hand for informal discussion.

This is the sixth year in which the lectures have been held in their present format. Last year a record 1200 students attended — about one-quarter of all those doing HSC Economics.

The program is:

9.45 a.m., The Nature and Evaluation of Alternative Economic Systems, Dr I. Ward; 11.15 a.m., Alternative Approaches to Macroeconomic Theory and Policy — Monetarists vs Keynesians, Dr D. M. Richards; 12.15 p.m., International Trade and the Australian Domestic Economy, Professor R. H. Snape; 2.30 p.m., Incomes Policy — Prospects for Australia, Mr Donald Foster; 3.15 p.m., The Role of the Market in the Australian Economy, Mr J. C. G. Wright.

The lectures are free and open to interested students and their parents.

The department would appreciate hearing from large groups planning to attend.

For further information contact Dr Richardson on 541 0811 ext. 2308 or Ms Lisa Gropp on ext. 2383.

Monash man at the helm

At the helm of Australia II, the America’s Cup hopeful, is a Monash graduate.

He is John Bertrand (left) who graduated in mechanical engineering in 1969.

The following year, John, who is 36, sailed on Great Britain’s America’s Cup challenge and then stayed on in the US to do a master’s degree in ocean engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He has won a host of sailing events and has been an Olympic competitor.

For the last 10 years he has been involved in the boating business full-time, most recently as a sailmaker.

AUGUST, 1983
Ketoprak: theatre with a double edge

A traditional imagery runs through practically all forms of Javanese theatre. That imagery is constructed by characters, their manner of speaking and behaviour, and their place in the social hierarchy. There are several popular theatre forms developed in the 20th century which draw on this traditional imagery in interesting and innovative ways.

One example is Ketoprak — a popular entertainment of villagers and inhabitants of "lower class" city neighbourhoods, or kampung, in central Java, especially around Yogyakarta.

A lecturer in the department of Indonesian and Malay at Monash, Mrs Barbara Hatley, has made a study of Ketoprak and observes that an adaptation of traditional theatrical imagery has come to express a sense of identity for its audience.

With what would Ketoprak compare in the West?

"Probably a mixture of TV melodrama and the circus," replies Mrs Hatley. It is a stage drama played by actors either in Western or "in the round" in villages. Touring troupes often perform in their own demountable theatres.

The Ketoprak repertoire includes traditional Javanese stories but it also draws on wider sources such as Middle Eastern fables.

The focus is on dialogue although performances are usually accompanied by a Western-style orchestra which underlines the action or fills in between acts. The dialogue, in Javanese language, is entirely improvised — there are no scripts.

There are professional Ketoprak troupes in Java, some independent and other government sponsored.

Alongside the professional companies, which tour the countryside performing for a month or two in each location, is a large number of amateur troupes. They make a strong showing for special events such as Independence Day, August 17.

In recent years, says Mrs Hatley, the authorities have promoted this entertainment through competitions and the like as a way of combating the influence of Western culture.

Mrs Hatley says that all Javanese theatre has some potential for parody, for light-hearted mocking of traditional images. In Ketoprak this is particularly well-developed.

"What Ketoprak does is really sharpen the double edge," she says. It is able to do this because its structure is less rigid than other forms of theatre, its playing less stylised and its stories more varied.

Among the traditions of Javanese theatre, the hero is always deformed and aristocratic, the villain a grotesque demon, and lower class figures or villagers misshapen clowns.

In Ketoprak these simple villagers often steal the limelight, leaving the princely characters somewhat upstaged with not a great deal to do. The villagers roles are played by the most competent actors in the troupe: among their talents must be ability to improvise and a quick wit for repartee.

Says Mrs Hatley: "Ketoprak definitely does not challenge upper-class values. However, within the overall structure of traditional stories and theatrical imagery there emerges for low status actors and audience members a sense of pride in what they are. "Village social life is depicted as warm, intimate and humorous compared with court life which often seems rather stuffy. Ketoprak is an expression of cultural identity for its audience."

In Ketoprak's less strict format, village characters are able to improvise with topical and domestic references not possible in other dramatic forms.

And it gives stronger parts to actresses. Reflecting village life as it is, they are able to make jokes, indulge in repartee, reprimand their husbands and generally appear in control.

"In older forms of theatre, such characterisation of women is confined to village wives, while the aristocratic heroine is the model of refinement, delicacy and submissive dependence," says Mrs Hatley. "But in Ketoprak, heroines too may display a sharp tongue and quick wit in standing up for their own interests."

'Sekda' takes stab at bureaucracy

Melbourne this month will have a rare opportunity to see a production of a play by one of Indonesia's leading — if banned — playwright-poets.

A group of third year Indonesian literature students at Monash will present W. S. Rendra's "Sekda" from August 10 to 12 in the SGO-1-2 rooms of the Menzies Building.

The production — which follows one of Indonesia's "rehearsal" Rendra plays 'The Struggle of the Naga Tribe" which has been translated into English. It deals with the exploitation of a tribal group by a multinational company acting in collusion with government.

Not surprisingly, Rendra's writing drew response from Indonesian authorities. He was banned from performing in Yogyakarta — a prohibition he rather neatly skirted by "rehearsing" plays in public for free in front of his house.

In 1978 Rendra was jailed for a time. For the last four years he has worked for a publishing firm in Jakarta. Attempts have been made to bring him to Australia but he has been unable to obtain an exit permit from Indonesia.

Although his theatre "commune" has been virtually disbanded, former members have gone on to make their own contributions to Indonesian theatre.

Mrs Hatley says that "Sekda" is possibly more humorous and less overtly didactic than some of Rendra's other works.

Sekda is an abbreviation of sekretaris daerah, a middle level bureaucratic position, and the play looks at some of the ridiculous extremes to which bureaucracy can go. These extremes are highlighted in a play within the play.

The overall action takes place during August 17 — Independence Day — celebrations. A public speaker in a kampung setting is interrupted by a prostitute and the police move in to break up the fracas.

The incident prompts the kampung people to think about how bureaucrats run their affairs. They decide to act out the roles of these officials.

In one scene an elaborately-catered seminar is held to discuss an epidemic of dengue fever. Mrs Hatley says that the play is interesting dramatically in that, although part of the modern stream of Indonesian literature written in the national language Bahasa Indonesia, it draws significantly on elements of indigenous popular theatre. The "play within the play", for example, echoes a common situation in Ketoprak theatre where servants humorously act out the role of their masters.

The play will be performed in Indonesian but with English "subtitles". Mrs Hatley has written into the play two characters — an Australian anthropologist and tourist — who comment on the events they stumble over in the kampung.

Performances of "Sekda" will be given on Wednesday, August 10 at 7.30 p.m. and on August 11 and 12 at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets cost $1.50 and $1 (concessions) and may be booked on exts 2232, 2233, 2236.

AUGUST, 1983

MONASH REPORTER
China restates independence in foreign policy

Cost conscious, more modest ideologically and with a realisation of limits.

That's how Chinese foreign policy is emerging in the 1980s, according to a leading international Chinese scholar, Professor Ross Terrill.

Professor Terrill, a research fellow at the Fairbank Centre for East Asian Research at Harvard University, visited Melbourne, his home town. At the invitation of Mr John Field, he gave a colloquium in the Education faculty on Chinese foreign policy.

Professor Terrill said that the core of foreign policy until the 1970s was the three worlds theory which lumped the superpowers, Russia and the USA, together in one world, placed their developed associates together in the second, and the undeveloped nations in the third world.

Two events caused a shift in thinking. Russia invaded Czechoslovakia, marking that superpower as more of a threat. The US seemed unable ultimately to influence events in Vietnam, marking it as less of a threat.

As the tilt towards the US grew during the '70s, China modified the three worlds theory. By the end of the decade it was "out the window".

One characteristic of change during the '70s was China's attitude to revolution abroad. Professor Terrill said. Earlier on, China talked loudly about it; by mid to late '70s a reform-minded approach to internal problems, in other countries was being expressed. China was swinging its support behind formal programs for change such as the New International Economic Order.

Superpowers

In the last few years there had been signs of change in China's foreign policy, Professor Terrill said. He suggested that they might add up to a partial return to the three worlds theory, with China again tending to equate the superpowers in a bid to be more independent.

There were several factors behind this most recent shift, he said. For one, there was a sense of reduced threat from the Soviet Union and a recognition that the cost of hostility with that country had been too great.

Secondly, China had found its link with the US fruitful but it had not moved on to the "united front". "Since 1981 that relationship has come back from near alliance to something less" said Professor Terrill. China, he said, had also seen the cost of theoretical models - both in their anti-US and anti-Soviet Union phases - in terms of its relationships with Third World countries.

Changes in foreign policy were also tied in with China's new emphasis on development and modernisation.

Several traits of this change could be identified, he said:

First, China was conducting a very cost-conscious foreign policy. In relative terms, it was not spending a lot on defence or foreign aid and this trend was likely to continue, he said.

China still spent a higher percentage of GNP on defence than Reagan's America, he added, but two defence budget cuts in two years had seen that percentage fall considerably. Spending on foreign aid was down to about one-quarter of its peak level.

Secondly, China was adopting a more ideologically modest approach to the world, Professor Terrill said. One notable feature of that had been the dropping of stern ideological criticism of the Soviet Union.

Thirdly, China now had a realistic appreciation of the limits of foreign policy. Professor Terrill said that China had "learned a lot" about the third world - in particular that there were divisions between countries other than on north-south lines. It realised that in conflicts such as the Iran-Iraq war, for example, it was not possible to adopt a clearcut position.

Fourthly, China was changing its concept of itself. Professor Terrill said that China's attitude towards the West was "ambivalent" and likely to remain so.

China had a fascination with the West, he said. At the same time it had a long historical memory and had experienced tensions in Western relationships in such areas as the financing of trade and student exchanges.

Parity because of this, China is now seeking to improve relations with the Soviet Union, he said. Another reason might be that moves towards a united front with the West had achieved one of China's aims - a degree of stability with the Soviet Union.

Professor Terrill said that China saw its own interests being served by a continued uneasy relationship between the US and the Soviet Union. It did not want the two countries to fight, collude or get out of balance in power terms.

China, he said, was "playing for time" in a way. It was in the third world but not of the third world and having identified its weaknesses wanted now to spend time remedying them.

Women of the region share a low status

The low status of women was a common factor throughout the Asian-Pacific region despite vast economic and cultural differences, according to a visiting political scientist.

She is Dr Roumna Jahan, co-ordinator of women's programs in the Asia-Pacific Development Centre, based in Kuala Lumpur. For the different ethnic groups.

"But women are not going to get anywhere unless we can increase their participation in decision-making," she said.

Dr Jahan said some of the other issues being investigated by the Centre were the effects of development plans on women and a re-evaluation of the economic value of women's work.

She said the centre aimed not only to identify problems but to give governments of the region plans which would enable them to handle these problems.

The centre has also organised a training program for women establishing "micro-businesses".

Dr Jahan said that in the less developed countries many women were self-employed - at home and in small market and roadside stalls.

"In terms of policies nothing is done for often these women are supporting families but policy-makers are doing negative things - there is no legal protection, often they are harassed by the police, and there is no access to credit," she said.

The Women in Asia workshop attracted a number of leading international scholars to Monash, along with more than 100 participants from around Australia. It was organised largely by Ms Pam Sayers and the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies for the Women's Caucus of the Asian Studies Association.
The late 1960s saw the rise of a student movement against the post-war socio-political consensus. That was the case in Western Europe especially where the students were the movement's driving force. Australia experienced the revolt also, if to a less significant extent, especially in the Vietnam War era as it was in the United States.

The torch of that revolt has long been extinguished. What has happened in the decade or so since?

The West Germans have a word for the reaction to the political turmoil of the late 60s — "Tendenzwende", meaning change of direction, change of (political) tendency.

The nature of this Tendenzwende has been the subject of research in West Germany which is particularly interested in teaching literature against its social and political context.

Senior lecturer Dr David Roberts spent 1981 at the University of Siegen on a Humboldt Fellowship working on change and literature since the late '60s. With Professor Leslie Bodt, Dr Roberts organised a seminar on Tendenzwende in Melbourne last year, the proceedings of which are currently being edited for publication in West Germany.

Dr Roberts sees 1968 as a turning point: May in Paris and August in Prague were the shoots of political change in West and East Europe.

Revolution Illusory

Political revolution in the West was exposed as an illusion — a confusion of political and cultural revolution — as recognition grew that workers were largely integrated into the existing order. The West Germans have a word for the reaction to the political turmoil of the late 60s — "Tendenzwende", meaning change of direction, change of (political) tendency.

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ABOVE: An instant supply of Physics professors — one way of overcoming staff shortages! Professor Bill Rachinger enters the walk-in triangular kaleidoscope in which the visitor sees himself several thousand times and from many angles.

BELOW LEFT: What do rapidly-spinning ice skaters feel when they pull their arms to their side? A rapidly-spinning visitor can find out on this rotation platform. Here John Gipps, of Education, takes a whirl.

RIGHT: A perceptual puzzle — this wooden triangle (look closely at it) cannot possibly exist yet it appears to. Senior lecturer in Education, Dr Richard Gunstone, looks suitably puzzled.

BELOW: This ball, floating on a jet of air, is more difficult to remove than it appears. It illustrates what is known as the Bernoulli effect. Looking on are Dr Gunstone, Ray Horan, Professor Richard White and Professor Rachinger.

These photos were taken by Steven Morton in Monash workshops.
The four concerns of Soviet Jewish immigrants:

- **INTEGRATION**
- **LANGUAGE**
- **SELF-ESTEEM**
- **IDENTITY**

A Melbourne study among recent Soviet Jewish immigrants has revealed that precisely those features which determined Australia as their choice of destination can become a source of difficulty. They include freedom of choice, action, and expression — in other words, making decisions of a kind the immigrants would be unaccustomed to making in the Soviet Union (on education, occupation, and a place of living, for example).

The Ph.D. study was completed in the faculty of Education by the late Dr Olga Steinkalk. In 1978 Dr Steinkalk embarked on an ambitious program to interview all the Jews who migrated to Melbourne under relaxed exit provisions which applied in the Soviet Union in the second half of the 1970s. In the event, she interviewed about 90 percent of the community at that time — some 225 people. She looked at them in two groups — adolescents aged 12 to 20 and their parents. As a background for her conclusions on the adaptation of the adolescents she also interviewed a group of Jewish adolescents born in Australia.

In that study, Dr Steinkalk interviewed the immigrants soon after arrival and then two to four years later. In addition, mid-1982 she did an impressionistic follow-up study of the community which had grown by that time to about 2500 in Melbourne and a similar number in Sydney. (It is unlikely to grow further because of the immigration's restriction of emigration.)

Dr Steinkalk concluded that what she had found about the early group of arrivals held true for the larger community. She identified four sorts of problems they were encountering — ones of integration, language, self-esteem, and identity.

On the whole, however, she found that members of the group, highly anxious about their new life on arrival, had integrated quite well into Australian society by 1982. In Vilna, which was then part of Poland, Dr Steinkalk found that the children had integrated quite well into Australian schools, chiefly Jewish day schools and Jewish schools.

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MONASH REPORTER

A survey conducted by Monash's Careers and Appointments Service points towards a marked deterioration in the employment of graduates in the private sector over the last year.

The annual survey is conducted primarily to obtain information on graduate starting salaries. But this year it has yielded these indicators of the state of the job market:

- In 1982, some 88 private employers participated in the survey (they were selected through their involvement in the previous years' surveys, the University's Employer Information Program (EIP) and in "In Graduate Outlook") and had recruited a total of 1,371 graduates. In 1983, some 85 employers accounted for only 716 graduates.
- Last year six of the companies recruited 50 or more graduates. This year there was only one employer in this category.
- A total of 34 of this year's survey group recruited no graduates at all. In 1982 the figure was 17.

On starting salaries as at April 30 this year, the survey shows up little movement over 12 months. Graduates with combined law and economics degrees recorded the highest percentage increase at 10.5 per cent; Arts graduates majoring in humanities, the lowest at 2.9 per cent.

The small increases (last year it was 6.8 per cent) demonstrate how effective the wage freeze has been, says a C&A report on the survey, and further reflect the deterioration in employment of graduates in the private sector.

Employers predict that the average increase in starting salaries between now and the end of April 1984 will be about 4 per cent.

So how do different graduates weigh in the starting salary stakes?

The top earners are chemical engineers whose starting salary on average is $17,700. Materials engineers are not far behind on $17,650, with other engineering graduates in the $17,000s.

Law/Arts graduates and Law/Science graduates employed in industry (as opposed to the profession) had average starting salaries in the low $17,000s, with Law/Economics graduates some $700 below that. The irony is that these last graduates are keenly sought in industry, mainly for taxation work. But the chartered accounting profession generally is positioned at the bottom of the salary range, says the report, and this has a spin-off for Economics/Law graduates. They are still substantially better off than if they were employed as articled clerks, however.

Science graduates start work in the private sector at around $16,000 on average. Computer science graduates have been in demand but the report notes signs that employment growth in this area is starting to slow.

The "poor cousins" in private industry are Arts and accounting graduates whose salaries are in the mid-$15,000s. Economics graduates majoring in economics fare better at about $16,300.

Says the report on employment trends in these areas:
- The chartered accounting profession seems headed for slightly reduced graduate intake but presents itself attractively to graduate recruits and is unlikely to be disadvantaged by the lower salary rates it offers.
- Graduates whose training equips them in the management of money are likely to continue to find a strong demand, particularly in banking.

A survey of a group of private sector employers has found that more than half use psychological testing in their selection of employees. Monash's Careers and Appointments Service included a question on psychological testing in its annual survey on graduate starting salaries. Some 55 per cent of the 75 employers who responded to the question used some form of testing. Only one-third said that they had never used tests and were unlikely to do so. Four of the employers had discontinued use of psychological tests while another five had used them under consideration. The survey found that there were only a few firms with "dogmatic attitudes" on psychological testing. Most appeared to have an open mind on testing and some were quite uncertain on its value.

Says a C&A comment on the survey: "Most companies seem to regard tests as offering additional information that provides only a part of the information base used in recruitment or promotion decisions.

About 78 per cent of those using tests did so to assess general ability; 60 per cent made use of self-report inventories; 46 per cent used tests of interests and values; and 40 per cent tests of interests, attitudes and values. Five employers who used outside consultants to do the job professed ignorance of the type of tests being used.

The most popular tests were: Kuder Personal Preference Record, Human Wadworth, Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire, Clerical Aptitude, Watson-Glaser Test of Critical Thinking, and ACER Mechanical Reasoning.

A traditional private sector employer of Arts graduates — particularly retailers and insurance companies — have slackened off their demand. The banking industry stands out as the area where graduate employment is growing rapidly but many banks persist in the belief that mediocre accounting graduates are the most suitable recruits.

An honour degree adds anything from $500 to $1500 to a starting salary, the survey shows. And how does the private sector compare with the public?

In the Australian Public Service, graduates with three-year degrees have a starting salary of $14,650; four-year degrees $15,120; second class honours $15,600; and first class honours $16,080.

In the Victorian secondary teaching service, the salary for a recruit with a three-year degree and a Dip.Ed. is $15,760.
Reorganisation urged

A Monash professor of Education has argued for the re-organisation of schools in ways which pay heed to recent research on successful strategies for learning with understanding.

As it is, says Professor Richard White, schools organisation is based on a 19th century view of learning — that the mind is a bucket which can be filled by dropping facts into it.

Professor White recently delivered the John Smyth Memorial Lecture at Melbourne University on "The End of Schools as We Know Them: The implications of recent educational research for learning, teaching and school organisation".

He says that research at Monash and elsewhere shows that teaching is not a simple matter of plopping one fact after another into heads. People have to learn how to learn. It has also identified suitable strategies for learning with understanding.

The capacity to sit through a course of instruction and pass examinations of the expected sort, he points out, is no guarantee of having acquired such "useful understanding".

Professor White says that the new research is related to concepts such as "active learning" and "constructivist theories of learning".

The basic tenet of these theories is that learners construct their own meaning for each experience, whether it occurs in a formal educational setting or outside, by relating it to prior knowledge; learners must be active and are responsible for their own progress.

"Even when teachers strive to work in accord with those principles, the organisation of the school defeats them," says Professor White.

Powerful learning strategies take time and a consistent approach to form.

He says: "The organisation of the school determines the nature of the curriculum and both together limit the acts of the teachers.

"Faced with an array of teachers, all promoting acquisition of subject matter, and with no models of older children to follow, the learner has little chance of finding out how to learn.

"The wonder is not that so few do, but that any ever did."

Graduates: a club and a meeting

Here, Professor White puts forward one model for the alternative organisation of schools along lines which would allow new learning strategies to be implemented.

This model would produce, he says, "greater learning, less waste, happier schools and a better society". Professor White points out that it is only one possibility. The whole question of school organisation requires thought by many people, discussion and practical trial.

"The one criticism of this sketch that I will not accept is that it is not practical," he says. "The present system is not practical but continues to operate."

In this scenario for secondary education, there would again be lumps of some 20 to 30 children, only this time they would be of as diverse an age range as possible, 11 to 17.

Associated with each lump would be three adults, each of whom is allowed to work as a teacher only half-time. The other half can be devoted to running a family, working in a shop, farming, sitting in the Legislative Council, contemplative thought, fishing, anything except teaching. That prohibition on full-time teaching is intended to keep the school in touch with the larger society.

The three adults will overlap through the week, having at least one day when all are present.

They will work with only one group of children, except where their group coincides with others. They will be with that group as long as they are in the school, which should be years. The group will never die: as some students leave, others will join, and as one teacher goes another will come while the other two will be there to provide continuity. There will be no sharp transitions, no annual spill of positions, no yearly start.

What must the students learn? First and foremost, to become independent learners.

For compulsory content, my choice would be basic numeracy (not a feature of the present system); reading, in the widest possible sense of the term; writing; speaking; public affairs; and the natural universe.

To these I would add whatever else suits the interests of the teachers and the students: cooking, crafts, accountancy, languages, Roman coins, Chinese history, anything. Though not compulsory, these offered fields of interest must be seen as important, not to be squeezed out by the basics that all must acquire.

A lot of time will be spent outside the school, observing and doing in order to keep the school in touch with the larger world. That will be easier to arrange than it is now, where a lot of the difficulty in getting away from the school lies in arranging times with other teachers. Under this arrangement there are no other teachers, no bells, no periods to work in.

New methods will become feasible, indeed necessary, as the teachers will rarely want to talk to the whole group at once. They will spend a lot of their time talking with, not to, students, explaining information which the students have acquired from books and other resources such as computers and finding out far more than they can do about their students' understanding.

The teachers will have to watch over each student's progress, but they will have time to do this and will find it easy as they come to know their students very well.

One thing they will not have to worry about is control. Discipline is largely a problem created by uniform age blocks and traffic management associated with the period system and would not be an issue in this arrangement.

The University Club — the one at 100 Collins Street in the city — is conducting a membership drive among graduates and staff of tertiary institutions.

Established by the Graduates Union of Melbourne University in 1901, the University Club is open lunchtimes and early evening, Monday to Friday, for meals and drinks.

In addition, it is open late on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday evenings for meals, socialising and entertainment.

As they might be...

This is the organisation of secondary schools today as Professor White sees it but with a few exceptions, the standard form is a division of a large number of 11 to 17 year olds into lumps of about 20 to 30 each.

Schools are built as a collection of identically-sized boxes to accommodate such lumps, and such lumps only, except if you are lucky; a hall which will take the whole lot.

Everyone in each lump is about the same age, which minimises the opportunity each student has to learn from another or to instruct another.

The lumps are shifted at fixed intervals, usually under an hour, from box to box, in each of which they are confronted by an adult who spends all of his or her week in that box. During each interval, the adult presents knowledge to the child. If the child does not catch the knowledge, it is gone. The syllabus comes past but once.

In the course of a week each lump meets from five to 10 of these ephemeral adults, and each adult from five to 10 lumps or up to 300 children. What one adult says to a lump usually remains unknown to the other adults.

At the beginning of each year the lumps reform, and it is a matter of chance whether a child meets again any of the previous year's adults.

As they are...

Scholarships

The Registrar's department has been advised of the following scholarships. The Reporter presents a precis of the details.

More information can be obtained from the Graduate Scholarships Office, ground floor, University Office, extension 3055.

Radio Research Board Postdoctoral Fellowship

For Ph.D. graduates, preferably under 30. Stipend $23,437-$25,446 plus other allowances.

Applications close in Canberra on September 23.

Shekel Scholarship 1984

For higher degree studies in Arts, Engineering or Science in the U.K. Benefits include living costs, tuition and other allowances, plus return fares. Applications close in Melbourne on September 24.

National Heart Foundation - Vacation Scholarships

Available to undergraduates to undertake research projects related to cardiovascular function and disease. Tenable for up to eight weeks. Value: $85 a week. Applications close in Canberra on October 1.

ITI International Fellowships

For Master degree studies only, up to 21 months in USA. Benefits include fares, fees, living and other allowances. Applications close in Canberra on October 31.

For further information contact Marg Moss on 63 1607.

The Monash Graduates' Association will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday, September 14 at 7.30 p.m., upstairs in the Union.

Officers promise "a very short AGM" followed by "excellent red wine and some tasty cheese".


MONASH REPORTER
A ‘noble stab’ at Henry V

In Review

A HIGH LEVEL of commitment and involvement was evident in Monash Shakespeare Society’s recently-concluded production of Henry V at the Alexander Theatre. Tim Scott and his cast made a noble stab at this difficult play. The direction was plain and straightforward — content to tell the story clearly without troubling about frills and refinements; but to tell it so that we are left with an attitude of ambivalence towards the King: Is he or is he not the great hero?

The key scenes in this interpretation of Henry V as the hero confronted with the nastiness of war are the exchange between the soldiers and the disguised King the night before the battle and the following soliloquy of the King ... Yet, it is just in this scene and the soliloquy that a confusion arose in my mind. The Hamlet-like agonising of the King sat ill with an interpretation which stresses the anti-heroic — the able, ruthless and finally unsympathetic personality who treats the Southamptons traitors summarily and poor honest William at Agincourt so cavalierly — and which yet gives a hollow ring to all the high-flown rhetoric. The interpretation is fine; maybe it was just not realised in performance.

The post-Falstaffian clowning of Pistol and his cronies is a poor echo in this play of the richer, more economical comedy we see in the Henry IV plays. This is perhaps a reason why it is so difficult in Henry V to make them funny, as well as providing clear-cut comment on the tenuous territorial claims of the King and his cronies. It is just such a hard job in this play to make these characters work, and I’m afraid they didn’t the night I saw the play.

Furthermore the secondary characters are lumped together under dangerous half truths: all Frenchmen are either fops, bullies or madmen, apart from Mountjoy, and all Welshmen are feeble nationalistic and all Irishmen illiterate. So the actors are given only one-dimensional figures to work on, taxing their skills.

My dissatisfaction was therefore not fully the fault of the actors. The play itself must bear some of the cost. From the actors we were offered an intelligent reading of the text, their vocal abilities and capacity to render the narrative sense of material was one of the strengths of this production.

However, this does point up the fact that the production was conceived in purely verbal terms and not in theatrical terms, and consideration of this point leads me to discuss the set and its capacity to assist in creating the stage pictures which underpin the action.

The vast space created by open scaffolding and ramps could have suggested something of the scope and scale of the thematic concerns of this play, but it defeated the actors and director alike.

Too often scenes which needed to be opened up and played over a larger distance were confined to the triangular space on the stage floor, forcing naturalistic playing and reducing the play.

If the ramps had been used as acting areas, effective stage pictures could have been created. In scenes where this was attempted, such as the scene before Harfleur and in scenes between the Dauphin and the French lords, the action was more exciting because the space was used more excitingly.

The necessity of making lengthy exits and entrances to reach the stage floor often impeded the flow of scene upon scene, making it difficult for any director to be in real control of the flow of action where scene could contrast or support scene and where actors could find the necessary energy to sustain the scene.

Such deadening lengthy entrances had the further effect of impairing the rhythms of the play — an entering scene tended too often to pick up the rhythms of an exciting scene, making it difficult for actors to find the rhythm and to revitalise the energy. The effect on an audience was that in a play of pageantry and ritual there wasn’t much colour or tonal change.

Most members of the cast showed us how much an asset controlled enunciation is in Shakespeare.

Greg Evans’ Henry had a scowling authority. He seemed to get a thoroughly competent reading of the King and handled the narrative of the verse with clarity. He created a deliberate figure and must be congratulated for his consistent style. His playing of the scene taxing their skills. was used more excitingly. between Katherine and Alice was engaging and

Robert Holden
Head, Dance and Drama
Victoria College, Rusden

A scene from the recent production of Henry V at the Alexander Theatre. The King (played by Greg Evans, front in white) inspires his army on the morning of battle.

Now Celia Rosser looks at plans of a ‘vile flat dank world’

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A scene from the recent production of Henry V at the Alexander Theatre. The King (played by Greg Evans, front in white) inspires his army on the morning of battle.
An important new Aboriginal play for Alex.

An important new Australian play — written by an Aboriginal and with an all-Aboriginal cast — will have a three-week season at the Alexander Theatre as part of its national tour.

"It is The Dreamers by Jack Davis, Wurru, Luke Fulker as Peter, and Alan Kickert as Roy.""The Dreamers" is Mr Davis's second play. His first, Kullark, was produced by the National Theatre in Perth in 1979 to celebrate WA's 150th anniversary. A former director of the Aboriginal Centre in Perth, Mr Davis became the first chairman of the Aboriginal Lands Trust in WA in 1971. He was also managing editor of Aboriginal Publications Foundation.

He said recently about "The Dreamers": "The core of the play is that it's talking about the Aboriginal situation today. Aboriginal people living in the country areas are still living back in the 1930s and those in the city are supposed to be better off — but in reality the whole story is about 50 years behind their white counterparts."

"Writing about this situation doesn't do much hurt me — I'm a practical person . . . but I see something that needs to be done so I'm saying it and doing it. "It's all about making it real to people — getting them to have another look from an eye-to-eye point of view." The touring production of the play has most of the original cast of the Festival of Perth production.

Prices are $12.90 and $8.90 (students) — below city theatre prices as Alex manager, Phil A'Vard, points out.

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Press by department of Accounting & Finance. 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Lecture Theatre R1 & R5. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2389.


13: SCHOOL HOLIDAY ATTRACTION — "Giant Jobs". Weekdays at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults $7, children $5.50. Bookings at all BASS outlets.


THE REGISTER advises the following important dates for students in August.


I.S.C. HISTORICAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

The date for the beginning of third term.

8: Third term begins for Medicine VI (Alfred Hospital students).

2: Second term ends for Dip.Ed.

20: Break begins for I.E.M. by coursework.


MONASH STUDENT LEAGUE

The next issue will be published in the first week of September, 1983.

Copy deadline is Friday, August 26. Early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and text should be addressed to the editor (ext. 2003) or to the information office, ground floor, University Buildings.