It took an engineer!
And a Monash one at that

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While the nation as a whole rejoiced a week ago today as Australia II did what no other boat has done in 132 years, there was cause for special celebration and an outburst of great pride at Monash.

Skipper of the "yacht that did it", in the America’s Cup, John Bertrand, is a Monash graduate. So too is one of the engineers on the crew, William Baillieu. A second grinder, Brian Richardson, was associated with the Monash rowing team in the early '70s although he was not a student here.

John Bertrand graduated with an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1970. His fourth year project in 1969, which earned him a high distinction, was an "Investigation into the performance of a 12 metre yacht sail". It dealt with optimum jib and mainail configurations.

His supervisor, Professor Bill Melbourne, himself associated with the design of the 1967 challenger Dame Pattie, remembers that the two used to joke that an Australian yacht wouldn’t win the America’s Cup "until it had an engineer at the helm".

John was awarded a Full Blue by the Sports and Recreation Association in 1968 — the University’s first and only such award for yachting.

In 1972, William Baillieu was awarded a Full Blue for rowing. William was stroke on the Monash team which won the Oxford-Cambridge intervarsity boat race held on the Manning River, Taree, NSW, in that same year. He also represented Australia in rowing at the 1972 Olympics.

William completed his Bachelor of Economics degree in 1974 and graduated in May 1976.

Brian Richardson rowed for Monash in local events in the early '70s.

Final year thesis that pointed the way

"Investigations into the performance of a 12 metre yacht sail". That is the title of a fourth year Mechanical Engineering thesis submitted in 1969 by a young man who Professor Bill Melbourne, project supervisor, remembers as being unassuming but quietly confident and determined.

The description "a person who knew where he was going" crops up without exception among those at Monash who remember our most public graduate of recent months: John Bertrand, captain, helmsman and sail designer of Australia II, the America’s Cup winner.

Full Blue

Not only was John’s technological interest in yachting fostered in Mechanical Engineering’s wind tunnel, Practising his skills on the University’s behalf, he represented Monash in intervarsity sailing events in 1967 and 1968, skippering a Sharpie class boat.

And the Sports and Recreation Association recognised a great sportsman in the making by awarding John a Full Blue in its 1968 sporting awards. It is the first and only time the Association has made this award for yachting.

In the same year he was president of the Monash Sailing Club.

John Bertrand’s years at Monash were 1966 to 1969. The year after, he travelled to the United States where he began a Master’s degree in ocean engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology — and joined the crew of Gretel II in his first America’s Cup challenge. He sailed with Southern Cross in 1974 and Australia in 1980 also.

By the time he enrolled at Monash he was already an Australian sailing champ — at age 16, in the VJ class.

There was common ground with Professor Melbourne who had been part of Warwick Hood’s design team for Dame Pattie, the 1967 challenger.

Professor Melbourne says that the two often used to joke that an Australian yacht wouldn’t win the America’s Cup "until it had an engineer at the helm".

"And that is precisely John’s strength," he says. "He combines two talents — a natural talent as a yachtman with that of a top-rate engineer who understands the mechanics involved in a yacht’s performance. It’s a point on which America has had the edge over its competitors for years. "First and foremost, though, John is a great yachtsman."

Professor Melbourne says that it was quite clear John "would be the one to get there!"

A grand plan

"Everything he has done has been quite deliberate — part of a grand plan perhaps. Yet he was always a pleasant and unassuming person and, you can tell when you see him on television, he’s no different now."

Monash sports administrator, Doug Ellis, remembers John Bertrand as an extremely courteous and likeable person — “quiet, but he knew what he was about”.

"Sailing was a passion,” says Doug.

Bruce Kuhnell, a student in the same class as John Bertrand, is now senior lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Monash.

It was a class of 18 — somewhat smaller than final year classes of 50 or so in later times.

He recalls John as a good student, a "gentleman", but quiet — something of a loner. The hallmark of a true sailor, perhaps.

As well as the America’s Cup, John has been a member of Australian Admiral’s Cup teams in 1973, 1977 and 1980. He is a former world champion in the Soling class and represented Australia in the Finn class at the 1972 and 1976 Olympics, winning a Bronze Medal at the latter.

He was set to go to the 1980 Olympics when the Australian team withdrew. He then understood Jim Hardy in Australia in the 1980 America’s Cup challenge against Freedom, skippered by Dennis Conner, his 1983 opponent.

John came second in the 1981 two-tone world championships, last year won the Australia Cup, and this year has picked up the Westpacific Advance Australia Cup, the Lymington Cup and come second in the Hissachi Cup.

For a number of years he has run North Sails, sailmakers, in Melbourne.

Art auction boost to Drysdale memorial, p.3
Christianity in Australia

There has been no grievous decline in Christianity in Australia and there never was a "golden age" of full churches.

These are the facts, according to Dr Gary Bouma, senior lecturer in the sociology of religion at Monash. Dr Bouma, who is also assistant curate at St John's Anglican Church, Toorak, says the statistics simply do not support the myths about Christianity in Australia.

"People have a sense that there was a golden age in the past — whether they think it was last century or the 1930s — when almost everybody went to church but I can't find it statistically.

"Attendance varying around the 25 per cent mark has been the rule for Australia since about 1860. A look at historical trends reveals a pattern of remarkable stability in the percentage attending."

Church attendance figures peaked at 30 per cent in 1960, the year after the largest Billy Graham crusade in Australia; but in surveys done since, the percentage who say they have been to church "within a week" has varied between 25 and 25 per cent.

However the sort of people attending church regularly has changed.

"They are now less likely than before to be Catholic, more likely than before to belong to a small religious group."

The proportion of Australians claiming to be Christian has decreased from 95.9 per cent in 1911 to 76.4 per cent in 1981, but Dr Bouma believes that this is largely due to an increase in honesty.

Since 1971 there has been a "no religion" category on the census form. In 1981 10.8 per cent of Australians said they had no religion.

Dr Bouma says people are becoming more honest about saying they have no religion.

"Those who once said C of E and meant no religion now say no religion."

Dr Bouma said the decline in people identifying with a Christian church between 1971 and 1976 — from 10,990,379 to 10,644,851 — was seen at the time as the beginning of the end for the Christian churches.

But this figure increased to 11,131,198 in 1981.

"While at the time 1976 seemed to be the first step to the end it now appears much more to be a hiccup in the trend of fairly steady growth."

"There has been substantial recovery since 1976. There is no evidence for a numerical withering away of the Church."

Dr Bouma said the only major churches to show a decline in membership between 1976 and 1981 were the mainline non-conformists — Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Uniting.

But the relative strengths of the major Christian groups were changing — the Anglican church had one of the lowest growth rates of 1.6 per cent.

Mainly as a result of immigration and of fertility rates the Catholic and Orthodox churches were growing more rapidly.

"Australian Christians are no longer predominantly Anglican. By 1986 Anglicans will have to cede first place to Roman Catholics. The small religious groups will continue to grow in numbers and proportion."

Dr Bouma said the Christian churches must expect to have less "clout" in modern Australian society where issues were no longer judged by Christian values alone.

But they could deal with this by working alongside secular groups such as welfare agencies and youth and unemployment groups.

"Take the example of the case put by the churches in Victoria against casinos. The arguments were not moral, but about the impact of such a move on the society, on the family, on individuals," he said.

No grievous descent from a 'golden age', says sociologist

Students plan management seminar

A group of Monash economics students has an ambitious undertaking for year's end.

Members of the Monash branch of AIESEC are organising a management development seminar — for industry. Among participants will be some of the leading people in the personnel field from the private and public sectors and education.

"Management Development: Where to from here?" will be held at the Hilton Hotel on Thursday, December 8.

AIESEC is an acronym of a French title which translates as the International Association of Economics and Commerce Students. The Association was formed in 1948 and aims "to promote a better understanding between the student, business and academic communities and to prepare competent, internationally-minded managers for the future".

AIESEC is represented on some 15 Australian campuses and is currently in a strong phase at Monash with about 160 members.

The seminar will be held just before AIESEC's national conference at Monash from December 9 to 12.

Driving forces behind the revitalised Monash branch are Tim Murray, president, Jeffrey Edwards, marketing officer, and Martin Bean, vice-president, who are organising the seminar — believed to be the first student-run event of its type.

Tim Murray says: "We plan it to be a valuable forum for exchange of information on management development — where it is going, what is happening overseas and an examination of the need for change in the attitudes of Australian business towards management development."

"In short, it will be a 'state of the art' seminar for people working in the personnel management field and junior managers."

Chairing the seminar will be Dr Sharon Dickman, lecturer at Footscray Institute of Technology, who recently chaired the Australian Marketing Institute's conference.

Among the speakers will be:

- Dr Gary Bouma, who will give the keynote address on the importance of management development.

- Dr Roy Gilbert, Director of the Victorian Ministry of Housing, who is expected to set a cat among the pigeons by talking about the inadequacies of present management courses and the need for change in management development systems.

- Peter Wale, Sales Training Manager with Honeywell Information Systems in Sydney, who will give an overseas perspective.

- David Hume, management consultant, and Ian Macgregor, Director of Human Resources Development for Pannell Kerr Forster, chartered accountants. They will present a managing director-personnel director role play which will deal with corporate politics, the need for management blend and the role of a consultant.

The enrolment fee for the seminar is $100.

For further information contact AIESEC, Room B39, Menzies building or phone ext. 3084. After hours: Tim Murray on 211 1579 or Jeffrey Edwards on 217 3018.
Art auction will fund Drysdale memorial

About 100 works by a Who's Who of Australian artists will go under the hammer this month when they will proceed going towards a memorial to Sir Russell Drysdale at Monash.

The auction — featuring works which have been donated by artists, their families and collectors — will be held in the Regent Hotel, Collins Street, on Sunday, October 30 at 6.30 p.m.

The hotel is donating use of the room and Sotchoy's is conducting the auction without commission.

The idea for a permanent memorial to Sir Russell Drysdale — known to his friends as Tass — was fostered at a service in Sydney following his death in 1981 by Professor Andrew, Dr Brown, Mr Margilnson, and Margaret Plaut, professor of Visual Arts at Monash, who has organised the auction.

Professor Andrew says Professor Andrew about Drysdale the artist: "He was one of those seminal people who, like Tom Roberts and other artists of the Heidelberg School, made us see Australia through new eyes."

"Almost single-handedly he opened up major exhibitions on this country, depicting the Outback and Aboriginals, particularly in a way never seen before."

In turn, Fred Williams made the same sort of quantum leap that Drysdale and artists of the Heidelberg School made.

And Tass Drysdale the man? Professor Andrew says: "He was a mix of introvert and extrovert — a man with an immense talent for friendship."

"He loved the land and, indeed, started off as a jackeroo. He was at the same time an extremely literate person who could hold his own in conversation with the best."

"Tass was the sternest of critics of his own work — what he would show and sell. That's why his output is comparatively small."

"He was always supportive of younger artists — a man without a trace of jealousy."

The auction, which will be auctioned on October 30 include several by Sir Russell Drysdale. Lady Drysdale has donated the famous Watercolour "The Rabbiter" which will be featured on the cover of the catalogue.

The works will be on show at the Regent Hotel, formerly the Wentworth, on the Saturday afternoon and evening and all Sunday preceding the auction.

Other artists represented include: Sidney Nolan, Fred Williams, Arthur Boyd, Donald Friend, Roger Kemp, Leonard French, Inge King, John Olsen, William Dargie, Henry Moore (the only non-Australian), Arnold Shore, George Bell, Rupert Bunny, Daryl Lindsay, Theo Proctor, Brett Whiteley, Gay Stuart, Jan Senbergs, Robert Jacks, Hal Missingham, Jock Clutterbuck, Robert Kippel, Celia Rosser and Peter Sculthorpe.

A list of works donated up until early October is published in an insert in this issue of Reporter.

Monash University will next year launch an Orientation Scheme for Aboriginal students — the first of its type in an Australian university.

The scheme aims to open up access for Aboriginal students to university qualifications, thereby increasing Aboriginal participation in the professions, public service, management and community leadership, and contributing to Aboriginal self-management.

It is being funded by the Commonwealth through the departments of Education and Aboriginal Affairs.

The idea for such a scheme arose initially from Aboriginal people and organisations.

It has been pursued at Monash at many levels — from the Aboriginal Research Centre, the departments of Anthropology and Sociology, English and History, through the faculties of Arts and Law, to Professorial Board and Council which have considered the scheme in detail and endorsed it.

The idea was encouraged by Lady Drysdale, her widow, and pursued posthumously on Sir Russell Drysdale, an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1979.

It was felt that Monash University would be an appropriate place for the memorial to be located and the Vice-Chancellor gave the go-ahead.

Drysdale was a frequent visitor to the campus in its early days — to see Professor Andrew and friends in Zoology such as Tim Baley, now Director of the Graduate School of Environmental Science, the late Doug Dorward, and the late Jock Marshall with whom he wrote "Journey Among Men". He had an abiding interest in the ecology of the Australian environment and was a learned contributor to environmental seminars.

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The scheme will consist of specific preparation for university study, thus bridging the educational and cultural gap which frequently exists between aspiring Aboriginal undergraduate and matriculants from other communities.

Ensure skills

"It will offer a full academic year of specific preparation for university study, thus bridging the educational and cultural gap which frequently exists between aspiring Aboriginal undergraduate and matriculants from other communities.

"It will improve the likelihood of Aboriginal students ultimately gaining university degrees by ensuring good study skills, by customising intending undergraduates to the procedures, styles and expectations of a university, by giving them confidence in their abilities, and by providing on-going support facilities.

"The Scheme will consist of specific staff, rooms and support mechanisms for students during the Orientation year and thereafter while they continue as undergraduates at Monash.

"In addition to offering direct educational assistance, staff of MOSA will act as counsellors and guides to the complexities of a large university. MOSA, in other words, will provide a sense of ownership, of educational support and sympathetic community encouragement."

Students who complete the Orientation year — achieving a standard at least equal to HSC — will be guaranteed admission to the Monash faculties of Arts and Law. Other faculties may wish also to accept successful MOSA students.

Areas taught in the year will include history, anthropology and sociology, English, numeracy, communication skills and general study skills.

In the Scheme's first year, an annual intake of about 10 is planned — building rapidly to 20. Applications for the first intake have been invited. They close on November 14.

The appointment of a MOSA Director, one other teacher and a secretary will be made soon — with a third teaching position planned as the Scheme grows.

In addition to members drawn from around the University, the committee overseeing MOSA includes members nominated by the Victorian Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, the National Aboriginal Education Committee and the Commonwealth Department of Education.

For further information about MOSA contact Professor Rickels on ext. 2160 or Ms Eve Fed, Director of the Aboriginal Research Centre, on ext. 3346.

The various on-campus groups: Monash Women's Society, Monash Parents' Group, Monash Medical Mothers' Auxiliary and Monash Admissions Committee.

Many individuals, including members of the Union and particularly our project officers, Neil Judge.

The Alexander Theatre. Their combined efforts have ensured a welcome boost to the finances of the Monash Art Fund.
Recomendations on APM mill's river discharge

A Monash Environmental Science team has made recommendations to Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited on the effluent discharge of its Maryvale mill into the La Trobe River.

Among the recommendations are two on the further treatment of process waste which would satisfy water quality objectives of SEPP - the State Environmental Protection Policy (Waters of the La Trobe River Catchment).

The study was commissioned by APM itself. It involved an investigation of the hydrological, chemical and biological characteristics of a 1.5 km reach of the La Trobe River in the vicinity of the effluent discharge point of the APM mill.

Report published

Three Master of Environmental Science candidates - Ying Hsuon, Patricia Sargent and Choon-Hooi Teoh - conducted the study. A report edited by the Graduate School of Environmental Science and APM is based on the findings of their theses. It is entitled Aspects of the La Trobe River Ecosystem.

The project's aim was "to acquire an understanding of the functioning of the ecosystem in the (1.5 km) reach of the river in order to determine any effects of the APM effluent, and, where appropriate, to suggest means whereby the water quality can conform with the requirements of SEPP".

The researchers found that during the study period (from March to December last year), all the water quality parameters measured in the APM final effluent met licence standards laid down by the Environmental Protection Authority.

And all except one - the presence of floating matter - met SEPP objectives on Gippsland's most important river. The SEC is the other principal industrial user of its water and the La Trobe serves as the Gippsland's most important river.

Further treatment

SEPP rules out any floating matter in effluent discharge. The report says: "This objective was not met on each of the sampling dates, although the amount of floating matter (in the form of a white foam) was markedly reduced after the introduction of additional defoaming treatment by APM in September."

The study recommends that APM further treat its effluent waste to eliminate floating material.

It also suggests that the effluent's high color level could conflict with SEPP objectives although these do not set a specific limit on color.

The study says: "It appears that color levels in the effluent could be interpreted to be 'objectionable' and hence in contravention of the SEPP objective for color..."

Overseas models pave way on de-traumatised divorce

In family law, Australia is part way down the path towards modifying the adversary method of court procedure - a feature of our common law system.

Associate Professor Henry Finlay, of the Law faculty, suggests we go further, drawing on examples of some US states and European countries. He does not suggest, however, that we should abandon the adversary procedure in family law.

The adversary system - where lawyers "fight it out" before a judge on behalf of their clients - can lead to harm in the area of family law by stirring up hostilities between divorcing partners, says Dr Finlay. This can jeopardise an ongoing relationship which may be necessary if custody of children is involved.

He recently spent an outside studies program in the US and Europe, particularly West Germany, where he was able to observe closely other procedures in family law, including the “inquisitorial” mode of proceedings, and found that that procedure should be continued.

The study recommends that bioassays being undertaken by APM on the effects of particular toxicants on individual species should be continued. It also recommends that APM continue monitoring physico-chemical and biological parameters of the river (that monitoring should be more intensive, over a range of flow conditions during the study period these were at an estimated 10 year low), and over a greater distance.

Further treatment

The biological aspect of the study involved collection of macroinvertebrates - animals without backbones but visible to the naked eye - from the river bed and from bank vegetation. Macroinvertebrates are especially suitable for such study because they are relatively slow-moving, susceptible to changes in water quality, easily collected, easily identifiable and representative of the biological system.

The research showed that in the diversity and numbers of these animals the lower La Trobe River sector was biologically impoverished. It also indicated that some additional stress was being imposed immediately downstream from the discharge point.

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A poet who longs to move his art centre stage

For many, "modern poetry" is characterised by tight, impenetrable bundles of words tucked away distantly in slim vols.

Poetry has come to be viewed by such readers as acts of personal expression — but not ones of communication. The most critical might say, impolitely, that it has become the art of the wanker.

As such, poetry has taken a back seat to its creative brothers, prose and drama.

Melbourne-born writer, Keith Harrison, now a professor of English in the U.S. but currently on "exchange" in the English department at Monash, believes strongly that poetry must reassert itself in the public domain if it is not to be relegated forever to the status of minor art form.

The challenge for poets is to do this without losing the intensity and integrity of their work.

Recapture narrative

One way in which it can be done, Professor Harrison suggests, is for poetry to recapture lost ground in narrative — in works for the stage and radio, even films and TV.

Poetry, he says, needs to adopt forms more widely interesting and accessible than the "intense, brief utterance". One of his own recent works has been a translation from Middle English of "a rattling good Arthurian yarn", Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. It has been produced as a verse play on American radio.

Dylan Thomas's Under Milkwood stands out as a major achievement of poetry in drama; T.S. Eliot and W.H. Auden tried it with varying success; and more recently and closer to home, Dorothy Hewett has used the language of poetry in her drama.

But playwrights from Ibsen on have tended to concentrate on the story they are telling and the stage business, rather than the language in which it is told. "Compared with the action, the language of drama today doesn't tend to matter all that much — although I will be challenged on that statement," Professor Harrison says.

The golden age

By contrast, he points to the "golden age" of Shakespeare who was able to "marry" poetry with dramatic narrative.

"In Shakespeare's works, verbal richness goes hand-in-hand with dramatic event. Poetry is used in such a skilful way that the audience is not even aware that it is 'poetry' — in the sense that such awareness might distract them from the action."

So what is it about poetry that makes its survival in the public domain important?

"I believe that the language of poetry can comprehend more of human experience — its ambiguities, its richness, its heights and its depths — than prose or drama," replies Professor Harrison.

Keith Harrison will be giving a reading from his own work today (Wednesday) at 1.10 p.m. in Room 803, Menzies building.

"By and large a university can provide a stimulating environment for an artist to work in — even when he likes to engender heat rather than light."

Many universities, particularly the North American ones, recognise a duty to promote the "subversive activity" of creativity through artist-in-residence programs and the like.

If there is a stumbling block for the academic writer, says Professor Harrison, it is the pedestrian (if major) problem of organising time "so that he may forge something new himself".

Professor Harrison says that creative writing classes have given him some of the most rewarding moments in teaching — and some of the most frustrating.

The creative writing class is not one of defined territory, set texts, notes and strategies, he says.

"The responsibility of the 'teacher' is to create occasions whereby students can give expression to that part of their mind which harbors the symbol, metaphor, intuition — in other words, the subconscious."

"After an outburst from the subconscious, it then becomes a matter of editing according to the procedures and principles of the best literature, past and present."

The significant role of the creative writing class, says Professor Harrison, is not to uncover literary geniuses one and all, but to expose students to the material of art — to let them begin to see what the artist's job is.

"They learn what it is to face a blank page, and make something interesting happen," he says. "It is an experience which usually gives them a new appreciation of the work of others."

In his own work, Professor Harrison has several projects underway including with columns and a novel. A number of works on the go at once allows him to "move around" if he runs up against a blank wall.

The novel is a form he has not tackled before and the poet is finding the need to "flush out" ideas and develop further his characters.

The grand effort for the future, though, it seems certain, is that play, radio, film or TV script which will help restore poetry to its rightful place.

Seminar examines issues on AID and adoption

Monash's Centre for Human Bioethics and the Centre for Continuing Education are organising a one-day conference on "Adoption and Artificial Insemination by Donor; Access to Information?" on November 2.

Registrations for the conference close on October 19.

Among the speakers will be the Minister for Community Welfare Services, Mrs Pauline Toner, the Shadow Minister, Mr Don Saltmarsh, and Professor of Philosophy at Deakin University, Professor Max Charlesworth.

The registration fees are $30; $25 for members of the Australian Association of Adoption Educators (Monash Human Bioethics); and $8 (students).

For further information and registration contact CCE on ext 3717 or 3718.
New Bretton Woods or the Apocalypse?

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Shridath Ramphal, has endorsed calls for a redesign of global financial and trading systems — a "new Bretton Woods" — as a step towards averting "conflict of apocalyptic dimensions."

Delivering the Mencies Memorial Lecture at Monash College, Sir Shridath said that recovery would only come in "the notion that if the rich get richer, there are no better times for all."

Sir Shridath said that a Commonwealth study, soon to be released, would make "a significant contribution to the conceptual and practical preparation for a fresh attempt to design a global financial and trading framework that responds to the world's present needs and mankind's aspirations for stable recovery."

He warned that time was short: "We do not have another decade to spin out in fruitless dialogue!"

Sir Shridath said that, despite dire economic conditions, nations continued to pretend that solutions could be produced through domestic policies alone.

He said: "Why, when governments have accepted at one level of perception the reality of a world economy, when they themselves speak, as they did so righteously at Cancun and repeatedly at Versailles at Ottawa, and at Williamsburg, of commitment to world economic recovery, do they continue to act as though their world economy does not itself need collective attention and management?"

"Governments, international institutions, the global community, transnational corporations, all know that it does; yet the skills of management so exhorted at home remain withheld at the global level.

"The collective search for world economic recovery is deferred and we rush like lemmings, separately but together, towards the abyss of economic disaster, continuing the pretense that our fate is our own, that humanity is separable."

Sir Shridath said that the world economy faced a crisis of contraction — of financial flows, growth and international change.

"Its outward and visible symbols are deepening poverty, mounting unemployment, massive debts and payments deficits, collapsed commodity prices, a casino-like quality to currency markets and rising barricades of protectionism," he said.

"Its human impact is the shattering of the assured prosperity of the rich, of the new-found confidence of those who believe they have begun to turn the corner of development, of even hope of better times for the poor."

"Its political fall-out could be an era of new apocalypticism and a new political geography of the world and unleashed conflict of apocalyptic dimensions."

The German Occupation becomes literary France's preoccupation

Dr Colin Nettlebeck

The modern French obsession with France during the German Occupation is to be the subject of a study by senior lecturer in French, Dr Colin Nettlebeck.

Dr Nettlebeck says he first realised the extent of the obsession when he began a survey of modern French fiction — reading novels since 1968 which had won literary prizes.

"I was absolutely astounded by how many of them were talking about the war."

Dr Nettlebeck says that French artists, particularly writers and film-makers, have led the revival of interest in French behaviour during the war.

"I want to look at the relationship between story-telling and history — the way in which the narratives of artists, whom we think of as being somehow representative of the hidden obsessions of the collectivity, light the way for a new look at historical narratives."

Dr Nettlebeck says French interest on the Occupation has moved from being an obsession to becoming a "fashion", nicknamed "Retro" by the French.

And a fashion with a darker side.

"Since 1968, the end of the De Gaulle era, there has been a stream of books and films but some of it has an indulgent air about it, almost a salaciousness."

There is not only what he describes as "unnecessary" books written by eminent authors who felt they should be seen to say something on the subject but also the freedom given to people to attempt to excise their war-time activities.

"You have people talking relatively freely about the nastier side — black marketing, membership of the Gestapo and collaboration — and excusing their actions on the basis that it was all right for the times."

Dr Nettlebeck says there was a very real need for a reassessment of the Occupation — a phase of "remembering in order to be able to forget properly."

But he believes the "fashion" continues because there is still no clear synthesis of views about what happened, because of ideological divisions within the French community.

Soon after the war the French accepted the De Gaulle myth that they had been beaten by superior weaponry and brutal repression, that they had generally resisted bravely apart from a few villains purged after the war, and that ultimately regained their freedom and honour.

"There was widespread ignorance within France of what happened during the war and a coherent history was very slow to emerge.

"France was physically divided into zones during the Occupation, and there were very little communication, except that controlled by the Germans, between them."

It had been American historians writing in the '60s and '70s about the Occupation who had led to a re-thinking by young French writers and, later, by historians, he said.

This had allowed some unpleasant truths to emerge. For example the French were not generally aware until the late '70s of their government's treatment of Jews during the war, nor of the degree of collaboration at both governmental and individual level, even of French participation in torture of French. There were more French serving in the Gestapo in France than Germans.

Dr Nettlebeck points out that it is only this year that an examineable chapter of history on French behaviour during the Occupation is to be taught in French schools. And then only in history in the last year of high school.

"The reason given in 1968 would have been that it's too soon after the war but if you go back to World War I you find it got into the school books very quickly."

Dr Nettlebeck sees the Occupation "fashion" gradually fading out as the newer "wars and all" version of history is accepted.

"But I'm not sure how long this will be — the French are still a long way from having a clear simple synthesis of what happened."

Visitors to Monash from Bangladesh...

Prominent members of the People's Republic of Bangladesh visited the Monash Visitor's Book, which was launched by Asling Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold. Members of Monash staff and the Bangladeshi community in Melbourne who met the Delegation included Dr Ian Copeland, History (left); Shamshuddin Ahmed (Ph.D. student in Economics at Monash); Rabib Islam (M.E. student at Monash) and Wazed Ali (Ph.D. student in Economic History at Melbourne University).

Visitors from Bangladesh also included: Mr Mirza Haider Ali, Asst. Director, Muslim Education Society, United States of America; Dr Shamsuddin Ahmed, M.E. student at Monash; Mr Mohammad Azam, Asst. Director, Muslim Educational Society, United States of America; and Mr Kazi Mosharraf, Asst. Director, Muslim Education Society, United States of America.

MONASH REPORTER

OCTOBER, 1983
Philippines
post-Marcos

In Manila, the Marcos regime teeters on the brink of collapse. What is likely to happen in the Philippines in its wake?

Monash's Centre of Southeast Asian Studies brought together specialists from around Australia to discuss this most topical of questions at a day-long seminar on September 21 — a day on which protests against the Marcos regime saw at least 11 people dead in Manila.

Among the 50 participants at the seminar was Dr Francisco Nemenzo, former Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of the Philippines — a focus of student activism in recent years. Dr Nemenzo, who was detained for a number of years during martial law rule, is currently a visiting fellow at the Australian National University.

He said that the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino on August 21 was but one of a number of factors (albeit now the focal one) which had pushed the Philippines to the point of crisis.

Assassination, he said, had to be seen against continuing grim economic conditions. The country faced a stagnating economy and financial crisis of such magnitude that most institutions were making no loans other than on a day-to-day basis.

For a number of years, disaffection with the regime among diverse groups has grown strength to the Democratic Front, the umbrella organisation which embraces communists, squatter groups, left-wing elements in the Catholic Church, labour and student opposition and the like. Its armed wing is the New People's Army.

The strength of the opposition is now such that the regime is seriously threatened.

And then there is the health of Marcos himself. Widely believed to be in an advanced stage of a degenerative disease, he is probably a spent force on health grounds.

Which leaves the question: what next?

It cannot at this stage be answered, speakers at the seminar agreed. There is no clear successor to Marcos but there is some frantic manoeuvring going on to decide the issue.

Among the alternatives generally canvassed at the seminar were a military dictatorship, a Communist revolution or the continuation of quasi-constitutional government such as existed before and after martial law rule.

Among the players in the piece will be the Army, the traditional oligarchies who hold economic power in the country, the Catholic Church and the various opposition groups — both semi-legal and underground.

And Marcos's wife, Imelda? Some seminar participants gave her "imminent resignation from public life" statement little credence saying that it was a common ploy. Such a "resignation" left room for a comeback by "popular demand!"

As Governor of Metro Manila and Minister for Human Settlements, Imelda Marcos has a power base in the bureaucracy and is also believed to have the support of some elements of the military.

However, there are other groupings within the regime bitterly opposed to her, it was said, and she finds little favour among the Filipino people.

The Catholic Church, the seminar was told, is as confused and divided as the opposition to the Marcos regime generally. Its ambivalence is symbolised by Cardinal Sin who within days conducted both Aquino's funeral and a Mass at the Palace.

Dr Dennis Shoesmith, of the Asian Bureau Australia, said that Cardinal Sin had an undoubted ability to divide the Filipino people but questioned whether he was capable of formulating strategy.

The Church, he said, was split on leadership-grass roots lines. The Bishops and superiors of religious orders might express dissatisfaction with Marcos but their opposition was of limited extent. On the other hand, parish priests and nuns who worked with the people were inclined to be more radical in their opposition and hence at odds with their leadership.

The seminar ranged over what constitutes the opposition — from moderate to radical — to the regime. A significant part of that opposition is the New People's Army, whose real strength is unknown. It is broken up, apparently without central leadership, and does not dominate large areas of countryside — although it is thought to command widespread sympathy in some.

Indeed, the "work" of the New People's Army is sometimes unclear, with the leadership often identifying the latter with the former to justify its own presence in an area.

Another element of opposition is found in organised labour, working largely "underground", which has demonstrated the capacity to mobilise strikes. The great majority of Filipino workers are not covered by "above-ground" unions, however, or belong to ones established by the government.

In shanty towns, squatting organisations have been formed to resist government attempts to demolish homes. Through these organisations, individuals have become interested in wider issues and have joined the underground.

The student body too has been a volatile political force for a long time — but opposition to the regime today even numbers in its ranks merchant bankers and other members of the professional class who have organised demonstrations in Manila. It has been suggested that student activists of the '60s, now in the professions, are spearheading this middle class attack on the government.

The International Scene

- Dr Gale Dixon, acting Research Director of the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies (right), discusses a point with Dr Francisco Nemenzo, of the University of the Philippines, and Mr Amando Dolorona, who works with The Age and is completing a Ph.D. at Monash.

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Seminar calls for local language teachers

The need for locally-trained teachers of ethnic languages, and in particular those spoken by Australia's Yugoslav communities, was highlighted at a seminar organised last month by Monash's department of Slavic Languages.

The seminar was convened by Dr Bobba Vladiv, senior tutor, in response to the needs of students in the department conducting research projects on or doing extra-curricular teaching in ethnic languages, particularly Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian.

Among the speakers were representatives of the Child Migrant Education Services of the Victorian Education Department, including three exchange teachers from Yugoslavia.

Says Dr Vladiv: "While the Education Department's exchange teachers program is of in calculable value, with the Yugoslav teachers bringing with them expertise and knowledge of up-to-the-minute linguistic developments in the source country, it was generally agreed by the seminar that the need for teachers of ethnic languages in Victorian schools cannot be met by a scheme which at best supplies three teachers per year."

'Another obvious solution to the problem is to create teacher training facilities in Victorian and Australian tertiary institutions and to produce more locally-teachered teachers.'

Teaching materials

Another problem discussed at the seminar was that of teaching materials and textbooks. It was agreed that books from Yugoslavia were generally unsuitable for use here because of cultural differences between Yugoslav and Australian children - and that ethnic language curricula should be designed locally.

In this respect, Monash is leading the field with two projects currently under way in Slavic Languages. Both represent the first such systematic fieldwork in Australia.

The need to keep in touch with Yugoslav research was also emphasised. Participants at the seminar agreed that the pooling of research resources at Monash with those of curriculum development and teacher training at Rusden would be "a good starting point" for the training of Australian ethnic teachers of Yugoslav languages.

Mark Garner, lecturer in Language Studies at Rusden, has already taken initiatives in this area.

One practical outcome of the seminar, according to Dr Vladiv, "will be to try to formulate a scheme whereby Monash students of Slavic languages will be able to obtain formal training and qualifications as teachers of ethnic languages."

Experts discuss laser technology

About 150 laser scientists and engineers - including delegates from the US, Israel, Japan and New Zealand - attended the third International Laser Conference (Australia), which was held at Monash from August 29 to September 2.

A highlight of the conference was a public lecture by Dr W. Krupke, Deputy Director of the University of California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, who discussed latest developments and future strategies in the use of lasers in thermonuclear energy research.

More than 70 papers on a wide range of laser topics were presented at the conference on the development of new lasers, their use in optical communication, industry and commerce, fusion research, biology and medicine, and various areas of science and engineering.

Dr Scott Rushhig, of the US Naval Research Laboratory, reported the latest advances in fibre-optic sensors - an emerging technology. These devices are sensitive and relatively inexpensive and can be used to measure acoustic and magnetic fields, electric currents, rotation rates, accelerations, position, temperature, toxic gas concentrations, etc.

Dr J.C. Diels, of the University of Texas, reviewed recent developments in the generation of light pulses having magnetic fields, electric currents, rotation rates, accelerations, position, temperature, toxic gas concentrations, etc.

The five-day conference culminated in a workshop designed to facilitate discussions between laser scientists and engineers and the Australian business and industrial community.

Looking ahead to summer

Scientific interests and a sense of adventure

The Australian and New Zealand Scientific Exploration Society could have the summer activity for you.

ANZSES's Expedition Abel Tasman - in January-February 1984 - will be based on the Alexandra area on the south coast of Tasmania.

The five-week expedition is open to males and females, 17 to 23. It will offer opportunities for field work in geology, entomology, botany, limnology and archaeology. The headwaters of the Picton River, which will be explored, have been virtually undisturbed since the Pleistocene glaciers of 14,000 years ago.

ANZSES's Expedition Investigator - also in January, 1984, will be to the wild Coffin Bay Peninsula on the west coast of South Australia.

The expedition will follow the path of Matthew Flinders, the first European to explore this coast. It will set out to conduct a scientific survey of the ecology of the area.

An information sheet on the expedition says their aim is "to enable participants to gain satisfaction on several levels, including knowledge and technique in scientific discipline, as well as a sense of self-esteem through physical challenge, while living in taxing conditions."

For further information about both expeditions contact The Executive Officer, ANZSES, PO Box 174, Albert Park 3206.

Third term might have just begun - but (no harm in forward planning) are your thoughts turning north for the summer vacation?

If they are, the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education has an interesting offer on accommodation in Lismore which is within easy access of beaches (Byron Bay is 40 minutes' drive), mountains and rivers and located in a pleasant rural setting.

Accommodation is of two types - villas (for town houses) and cottages.

The villas, which vary in size and can sleep from three to six people, range in price from $15 to $23 a day ($55 to $150 a week). The cottages, which are similarly self-contained but do not offer ready access to a pool, have three bedrooms. They rent from $17 a day ($110 a week).

The accommodation is available from December 17 through to February 20.

For further information contact Mr Pat Mills on (066) 21 2267 or write to The Secretary, Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, PO Box 157, Lismore NSW 2480.

MONASH REPORTER

OCTOBER, 1983
The Federal Education Minister, Senator Susan Ryan, has urged universities to be more socially responsive — for a start, by ensuring social justice and equity within their own walls.

In a major speech to the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations meeting in Brisbane, Senator Ryan set forth Government objectives on universities. High on the list was greater access by disadvantaged groups, including women, people of lower socio-economic background and Aborigines.

Throughout, she emphasised an expectation that universities be willing partners with the Government in initiatives to meet those objectives.

Disadvantaged groups

Senator Ryan said: "Given the financial assistance the Government will be providing, it would be useful if universities and CAEs were to put forward their own separate suggestions for changes within existing allocations to give further effect to the policy of increased participation by disadvantaged groups." On the same theme: "It is time for the universities to re-examine the roles they play in relation to society as a whole. If they understand this examination with the vigor and enthusiasm that the Government thinks is appropriate, they can count on the Government's full support." And again: "Without becoming more socially responsive, universities will find it difficult to regain the support and respect of the community at large. If universities lose confidence in the Government's support, the Government loses impetus for expanding its financial support."

Senator Ryan said that the Government could be assisting universities in programs for internal change by both legislation and special funding.

For example, it was making available an extra $10m in recurrent grants to create an additional 3000 student places in 1984.

"We hope that this will make it possible for institutions to provide a wider range of opportunities for students and to make special efforts to attract entrants from social groups at present under-represented in the institutions," she said.

Affirmative action legislation

Senator Ryan outlined programs to secure greater participation by Aborigines in higher education. She said that the Government had proposed a Bill outlawing discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status or pregnancy — "the legislation will prevent discriminatory employment and promotion practices (in universities) and any discriminatory practices preventing access by women to courses."

Senator Ryan also foreshadowed affirmative action legislation which would require institutions to develop internal management plans to overcome structural discrimination.

"It is a great paradox that our universities, which draw on the best knowledge about the world we live in and give instruction in the best means of increasing that knowledge, are not moved to initiate corporate social action of any kind whatever by this knowledge."

Senator Evans said that there had been much debate about sex discrimination legislation. He pointed out that "the Attorney-General had agreed to adopt the model bill dealing with the legal status of children born as a result of artificial insemination and certain in-vitro fertilisation procedures."

FAUSA urges affirmative action

The Federation of Australian University Staff Associations has called for the universities to consider affirmative action provisions of proposed sex discrimination legislation. In a submission to the Federal Government, FAUSA says that if the position of women in universities is to be improved, equal employment opportunity policies and initiatives must be mandatory rather than voluntary.

FAUSA argues that what it seeks does not cut across university autonomy — a concept which it says applies properly to academic functions, not administrative and employment ones.

It says that systemic discrimination against women is "deeply embedded in university employment" at the point of selection, appointment and promotion and in the working conditions of academic staff. Sex-segregation of the academic labour force places women in the most vulnerable and lowest paid positions, "rendering their employment tenures and temporary."

The submission says the universities should be in the forefront of positive social change.

"Women will never achieve equality in society unless such equality exists in our educational institutions which are the source both of career opportunities and of important opportunities for the self-development of individuals."

"If an institution is entirely absent from the field of social action then the impartial observer can only conclude that whatever their reservations, study may reveal about the world, the students and academic staff who comprise that institution must have concluded that no social action is required."

Role of education

"Some see education as being morally neutral, concerned to teach what is, but not what should be.

"Do not see education as morally neutral."

"In its relationship to society, it must take one of two approaches: either it can set aside what its own perceptions tell it about prevailing social conditions and accept the status quo, or it can act to facilitate social change in the direction that its perceptions indicate might be needed."

"If it accepts the status quo, it reinforces the status quo, because its acceptance bears the imprint of intelligence in sight, the authority of superior knowledge."

"If universities and colleges make no judgments about social conditions in the world around them, the social standing of those institutions is such that, by their omission, they invite the broad body of opinion that holds them in respect to emulate that lack of interest."

"They provide a model, in short, that encourages continued support for the status quo."

OCTOBER 1983
Plain man's guide to stress — a success

In Review

Stress, Drugs and Health, Frank Campbell and George Singer, Pergamon Press, 1983.
Pp. 135. RRP $12.95.

• Frank Campbell is editor of Monash Review, George Singer, professor of Psychology at La Trobe University.

The book has stress as a central focus. Stress is a subjectively perceived notion — a situation is deemed stressful in terms of a person's ability to cope with the situation as perceived by him or her. It is very real to the sufferer of stress and it enters into the lives of every one of us at some point or other. It may not attract much sympathy though because of the way we are socially conditioned to avoid acknowledging stress as a disease in others, if not in ourselves, reserving the "pull yourself together" exhortation for them.

The authors range through a great deal of material, citing research findings to show how the body's chemistry is affected by stress and what medications are being developed to neutralise its effects on behaviour. Much of the research originates in animal experiments and this part of the book may not enamour itself to animal liberationists.

There is also an interesting chapter on ageing, and another on the therapeutic effects of copper on the human body with some good news for arthritic sufferers.

Campbell and Singer write with commendable clarity. Though there is no word or topic index, the book is helpfully divided into short chapters with headings clearly indicating their content. There is also a glossary of terms used in the text, though this is incomplete. For instance, terms like 'acetylcholine', 'catecholamines', 'glial cells' and 'tinnitus' are explained; others like 'Broca's area', 'geotaxis', 'neurocritical area', to name but three, are not. So the lay person would still be advised to seek some help from the psychological, biochemical, pharmacological and other biological sciences' literature which provides the source material for the book.

"Stress, Drugs and Health" is a thoroughly worthwhile book that succeeds in its aims of placing otherwise difficult-to-get-at information before a lay readership. It has some delightful illustrations by Phillip Schofield, a fellow academic at the University of New South Wales . . . a book then to acquire and to recommend to others who want to be informed of some of the important and fascinating developments in the area of the biological sciences.

Peter Boss, Department of Social Work

SUSAN CURRY (for Sicily as she then was) completed her Honours degree and a Dip.Ed. at Monash in the years 1965-69.

She has recently been living in California with her husband, Dr Fritz-Curry, also a Monash graduate and now lecturer in Physiology at UC at Davis. He is currently a visitor in Monash's Biochemistry department.

Susan has been working part-time as a writer and music reviewer. Here, she comments on "Farms" that meant much to her:

When I moved with my family to Davis in 1977, I found that this branch of the University of California was originally known as "The Farm".

Twelve years earlier I had begun undergraduate studies at another "Farm", the new university at Clayton.

A brief sabbatical visit to Monash provides the opportunity to compare and contrast two campus communities of similar size which mean a great deal to me.

It must be difficult for present-day Monash students to think of it as the "Farm", but to the student of the 1960s it was a fact of life.

Sir Robert Blackwood, in his book "The First Ten Years", describes the origin of the term in this way: "The friendly atmosphere of a closely-knit student family was appreciated by all attending the new University, which was immediately dubbed the 'Farm'."

The same atmosphere was apt in another sense as well: the landscaping we saw now was in its infancy in 1965. Cavernous trenches crossed the waxes between the Union and the Menzies building, providing lunchtime shelter from the howling winds which funnelled through, even on a calm day.

One felt like an explorer, splashing from History in H3 to the never-never of Engineering for Geography practical classes. There was strong camaraderie which grew out of the sense of adventure in being part of a new enterprise.

The development of the University of California at Davis (formerly Davisville), parallels that of Monash fairly closely.

It is only since the late '50s and early '60s that Davis has been extended to a general campus. It opened its doors in the first decade of this century as the "agricultural college for UC Berkeley, 100 km to the south-west.

The big expansion came about the same time as Monash was growing rapidly. By the early '70s, the UCD campus offered almost a full range of University studies. While Monash's nickname "the Farm" has become more and more detached from reality, Davis kept its nick name "Aggie Farm" retained its original emphasis and went on to become a world leader in such areas as animal and plant science and veterinary medicine.

Indeed, each year on "Picnic Day", the University's Open Day, when many thousands of visitors pour into the little town from all over northern California, the majority of entries in the parade have an agricultural or veterinary theme.

In contrast with Monash, which lacks a "local" community, the city of Davis (pop. 37,000) has grown along with the campus. The city is well-known for its active promotion of energy conservation, including the some 50km of bicycle paths throughout the town, its village, and its city-wide recycling policy. It is possibly the most energy-conscious city in the United States.

Close city-university ties have reinforced the successes of each and strengthened the community. Many faculty members sit on standing committees of the city council, and a former chairman of the UCD Student Representative Council provided — as Mayor — over some of the most far-sighted city planning policies in the early '70s.

If Davis were to be swallowed up by nearby Sacramento, an energy-wasteful North America would lose a model city.

• An entry in the UC Davis annual Picnic Day parade. Photo: Robert Bynum.

The Head of the English Branch of the British Library, Ian Willisson, will speak at Monash twice this month as part of his Melbourne visit.

Mr Willisson, apart from his senior administrative functions in the British Library especially in the area where books, is well known for his contributions to scholarship in the fields of research librarianship and bibliography.

On October 10 at 2.15 pm in room S411 of the Menzies building, he will speak on "Research librarianship, 'canonisation', and the humanities: the compilation of the New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature 1900-50'.

Then on October 14, he will participate in a round-table discussion on "The history of the book in Australia" in room 210 of the Menzies building.

He will also speak on "The history of research librarianship" on October 11, at 5.30 pm in the Queen's Hall seminar room of the State Library.
Points raised were ‘neither accurate nor consistent’

IN NORMAL circumstances we would not regard a critical review of a play as a matter for response. In the case of Peter Farago’s review of Equus (Monash Reporter 7-83), the author has departed so far from the bounds of reasonable and accurate criticism that we feel it necessary to request the right of reply.

It would seem to us quite unfair that the excellent work of so many people should have no other epithet than that review — which might also quite unreasonably prejudice your readers against future drama productions at Monash.

The review in question was largely a criticism of lack of consistency in the application of ‘convention’. To make sense, such a criticism must itself be both accurate and consistent, but Mr Farago’s review was neither.

Mime nudity

‘The script calls for nudity at the climax of Act One,’ writes Farago, but Shaffer’s stage directions are explicit on the point: the boy should only mime undressing. Similarly, Mr Farago criticises the actor playing Nugget for failing to “weave a sustained illusion”. The basis of this criticism is the assumption that the actor steps out of his character as a horse to raise a supporting pole from the stage. In fact, the pole was raised by the boy (as Shaffer’s script directs).

Basing his argument initially on these two errors, Mr Farago proceeds to erect a complete criticism of the play’s direction, lighting, set and acting.

His criticism that there is no consistency in the use of props argues a remarkable lack of understanding of the nature of drama, which works within the constraints imposed by the presence of an audience in an essentially artificial environment: the theatre itself.

To return to the facts: the play had run two nights, with a few seats left over each occasion, in a massive reaction in the form of ticket sales. Without further advertising, and without review, news of the play had spread to such effect — presumably by word of mouth — that the entire remaining run was booked out on the third day.

Most of these bookings, incidentally, were from individual students, not from institutions which might have set the play as a text. So heavy was the demand that queues formed up to two hours and a half in advance of each performance, hoping for returned tickets. When eventually an extra performance was arranged, it was sold out within two hours of seats being offered — again, without advertisement. Even then thousands of people were unable to obtain tickets.

Willing ‘victims’

If, as Mr Farago implies, these people were in danger of “being taken for a ride”, they seemed very willing victims of a situation having seen the play once already, they were returning for a second ride.

Finally, fairness to the unstinted efforts of everyone involved, and to put the record straight for the actors who gave so much, to such good effect, we should mention that our leading players were immediately snapped up to appear in further productions.

Catriona Batten, whose remarkably moving performance Mr Farago refers to as “travelling and ranting”, has been offered a leading part with one of Melbourne’s main professional companies.

The giving and the trust to which Mr Farago refers at the end of his review have obviously been accepted wholeheartedly by the majority of those who saw this play. We can only be sorry that the lack of these qualities in Mr Farago’s response should shut him off from sharing an experience enjoyed by so many others.

Andrew Enслиce (Director)  
Val Kent (Producer)  
Department of English

Award to Monash graduate

A Monash graduate currently completing Ph.D. studies at Cambridge University has been awarded Zonta International’s Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award for 1983-84.

It is the second time that Rachel Wise- nester has won the award which memorialises the air pioneer who disappeared over the Pacific in 1937.

The $5000 grant is offered annually to women conducting graduate study in aerospace-related science or engineering.

Rachel’s thesis is on the theory of gravitational lensing effects. Her studies could contribute to a new understanding of galaxy formation and cosmology.

Sir: The reviewer of so ephemeral a thing as a production of a play has a responsibility to those who did not see it and have no other means of assessing the justice of his remarks; this is particularly true of a review in Monash Reporter, which becomes the University’s permanent record of that production. Peter Farago’s snug review of the recent Equus (Reporter, 7-83) represents a complete delusion of this responsibility.

Farago owes any attempt to write about the experience of the play, and instead attempts to measure the direction of it against some rather quaint a priori theorising about the importance of absolute consistency in convention, and of creating a “sustained illusion”! one wonders whether the next generation of dramaturgy (or more recent writers) would have made of these rules.

But the really ridiculous thing is that, having invented the rules, Farago goes on to invent infringements of them — or it is simply that he has as much trouble reading a script (Shaffer’s text does not “call for nudity at the climax of Act One”) as he does in observing what is going on in front of him (the actor playing Nugget did not “pluck from a crane... a hinged pole to lean on”)?

He certainly has trouble in expressing himself, and this does nothing for the clarity of his argument; the first paragraph is pure Babu English, and in one particularly tortured paragraph he manages to describe an opinion on the acting to Plato.

But my concern is not with the gap between Farago’s ambitious as a stylist and his revealed ability, but with the even wider gap between the impression created by a review and the actual experience of the play: perhaps the grossest testimony to his impertinence is his assertion that the actors failed in “the expression of emotion that could at the same time touch and unite an audience”, but only those who were there will appreciate the absurdity of that.

If anyone has been “taken for a ride”, I’m afraid it’s the readers of this journal.

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Department of English

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**Music giants at Monash**

Two giants of the Australian music scene — albeit in widely different fields — will perform at Monash this month.

They are jazz musician Graeme Bell and opera singer-musical comedy star-comedian, June Bronhill.

Graeme Bell’s All Stars will perform at a free lunchtime concert in Robert Blackwood Hall TODAY (October 5) at 1.15 p.m.

June Bronhill, who recently returned from London where she played Mother Superior in a revival of "The Sound of Children", will appear in the title role of "The Merry Widow" at the Alexander Theatre from October 13 to 22. The production is being mounted by the Melbourne Music Theatre in association with the Alex.

The opera by Franz Lehar will be performed nightly at 8 p.m. with matinees at 2 p.m. on October 15, 16 and 22.

Prices are $14.50 adults (concessions $11.50 matinees only) and $8.50 children.

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**Happy 21st birthday, Monash Choral Society**

The Monash University Choral Society last Friday night celebrated its 21st birthday with a concert in Robert Blackwood Hall — along with the Monash University Orchestra which celebrated its first birthday.

The concert featured works by Elgar, Haydn, Britten and Faure. And there was a specially commissioned work by Jacqui Clark, who conducted part of the concert.

The main part was conducted by MonUCS' resident conductor, Greg Harworth and his MUCO counterpart, Noel Ancell.

In the photo above (courtesy Daniel Mannix Photographic Society) members of the Choral Society enjoy refreshments after a recent concert at Monash College.

Mannix College has several events lined up in its third term cultural program which is open to all.

Next Monday (October 10) there will be a recital by voice, viola and piano. A cello, flute and piano trio will perform late in the term on a date to be fixed.

All performances will be held in the College's senior common room at 8 p.m., with supper following. Admission is free.

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**Co-ordination meeting**

Representatives of voluntary groups associated with Monash University are to get together for an annual "co-ordination meeting" on Thursday, October 20.

It is the fifth year in which such a meeting has been convened by Mrs Rena Martin, the Vice-Chancellor's wife. Its aim is to enable members of voluntary groups to learn about each other's activities — and to provide the opportunity for some socialising.

The meeting will start at 10.30 am in the Vice-Chancellor's house. Professor Jean Whyte, of the Graduate School of Librarianship, will be guest speaker.

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**Study tour**

A study tour to Spain is being organised for January 1984 for students and others interested in the Spanish culture and language.

The all-inclusive price from Melbourne is $2550. For further information contact Sally Harvey, tutor in Spanish, on ext. 2262 or 707 4180 (A.H.).

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**October diary**

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

5:30: **WORKSHOPS (one-day and weekend) available in papermaking, composition in painting and sculpture, padded picture frames, appliance and quilting, handmade soap/cosmetics, painted dolls and self sculputure, decoupage, Raku, beadmaking, patchwork and quilted vests, dying fibre and creating designs with a view of Christmas cards, decorative Christmas tree balls, reproduction porcelain dolls. Pres. by Monash Arts & Crafts Centre. Further information: ext. 3096, 3104.


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**Important dates**


14: **SPACE FILMS** — Space Association. 7 p.m. Lecture Theatre R2. Admission free.

17: **SATURDAY CLUB (Red Series)** — "Star Magic", 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Alex. Theatre. Admission: adults $6; children $4.75.


19: **DEADLINE** — for registrations for conference on "Adoption and AID: Access to Information!" to be held on November 2. Pres. by Centre for Human Bioethics and Centre for Continuing Education. Fee (incl. lunch): $30 (students, unemployed, pensioners $3). Further information: exts. 3717, 3718.

22: **MUSICAL COMEDY** — "The Merry Widow", presented by Monash Music Theatre, with Jane Bronhill. Nightly at 8 p.m. Matinee at 2 p.m. on October 15, 16 & 22. Alex. Theatre. Admission: adults $14.50; concession $11.50; matinees only; children $8.50.

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**MONASH REPORTER**

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in October; 7: Third teaching round ends. Diploma Ed. Applications close for entry to Bachelor of Social Work course in 1984.

8: Third term ends for Medicine VI.

14: Applications close for 1984 L.L.M. course, by coursework and Diplomas in the Faculty of Law commencing in Summer term.

20: Examinations commence for Medicine VI.

22: Third term ends.


29: Second half-year ends for L.L.M. by coursework.

31: Closing date for applications for Monash Graduate Scholarships and Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Awards.

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**MONASH REPORTER**

The next issue — the last for 1983 — will be published in the first week of November.

Copyright deadline is Friday, October 21. Early copy is appreciated.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos and suggestions should be addressed to the editor (ext. 2003) c/o the information office, ground floor, University Offices.