Sir Edmund: Ambassador for science

Sir Edmund Hillary's scientific training has been done on the spot, in remote parts of the Earth like the South Pole and the Himalayas.

His qualifications, though informal, include assisting with high altitude, earthquake and acclimatisation studies and initiating environmental and conservation projects.

Through the Himalayan Trust he established in 1960, Sir Edmund has been responsible for setting-up hospitals, schools and medical centres for the Sherpas, the mountain people who helped him to conquer Mt. Everest.

At 65, the adventurous New Zealander, who still spends three or four months every year with the Sherpas and walks hundreds of kilometres, is delighted to be involved with the ANZAAS Festival of Science.

He believes his nationality and his 'lack of formal scientific training will help bridge the gap between Australian and New Zealander, between scientist and layman.

As ANZAAS president, he is enthusiastic about plans to involve the public - especially the young.

"We can look forward to an exciting and stimulating congress," he said during his recent visit to Melbourne.

"The young people will give it life and vitality. It's amazing how much the public is interested in things like conservation, atomic activity, tree-planting and what's going on around them.

"Almost everything comes under the umbrella of science, and a well-presented series of public lectures and discussions will draw a lot of interest."

Sir Edmund, an apriast by occupation, was knighted in 1953 after he reached the summit of Everest.

In the late 1950s he commanded the New Zealand group in the British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition led by Vivian Fuchs and reached the South Pole.

His next adventure will be a visit to the North Pole in April with American Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon.

"You don't need courage to go up there and build a few schools."

Despite the ironies of the Sherpas' position - they must carry building materials in on foot because the air charter services are booked out by trekkers and adventurers, and there's a massive tree-planting project under way to restore forests chopped down to warm tourists' toes - Sir Edmund doesn't condemn the influx of visitors to Nepal.

"We accept that people want to go there; the best we can do is help get the best advantages for the Nepalese, help them to deal with the changing world," he says.

"There's a pretty good standard of education now and they're benefiting from the tourist boom."

"We've prevented them from becoming peons."

"You don't need courage to go up there and build a few schools."

"I feel a strong sense of friendship with the Sherpas - they're very easy people to become involved with," he says.

Sir Edmund will return to the Himalayas early next year to open another of the schools and medical centres the trust has provided.

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Centre to look at maths learning techniques

The recent Cockcroft Report on mathematics teaching in schools suggested the establishment of more centres of mathematical education around the world to raise the quality of maths learning.

The first such centre in Australia was recently established in the Monash Faculty of Education under the direction of Dr Dudley Blane, who completed his postgraduate studies at a similar centre at London University.

Initial financial support has come from CRA Ltd which, like many other large companies, has been concerned about what it sees as a low standard of mathematics among school leavers.

The centre is being administered by a steering committee under the chairmanship of Dr John Theobald and includes representatives from the Faculty of Education, the Mathematics Department, the Mathematical Association of Victoria and the Department of Education.

It is considering projects including an investigation of the mathematical learning problems of children from non-English-speaking backgrounds, the development of innovative teacher-training materials, the place of parents in the teaching of mathematics and the effective use of micro-computers in the classroom.

A CRA Lecture Series began recently with a talk by Professor Hugh Burkhardt, director of the Shell Centre at the University of Nottingham which was commended in the Cockcroft Report.

Dr Blane says a major school curriculum initiative will be the most important of the centre's activities.

He is a strong supporter of the Reality in Mathematics Education project developed in Victoria, which he believes is providing the right philosophy for mathematics teaching.

He also hopes the centre will play a significant role in the proposed national curriculum and teaching program being negotiated by the Curriculum Development Centre in Canberra.

Monash was seen as a logical choice for the centre, with 35 to 40 per cent of Australian research into mathematics education already being carried out at the University.

"But it's not just a Monash body; it's a centre for anyone who wants to be involved," Dr Blane said.

Overseas academics had shown interest in the centre and the first of these, Professor Douglas Crawford of Queen's University, Canada, was already using it for research during a three-month visiting professorship.

Links had also been established with centres in the United Kingdom and Southeast Asia, Dr Blane said.

Aboriginal graduates stay with tradition

Monash staff are well-represented on the committee of the newly-formed Australian Federation of University Aborigines.

The inaugural presidents are Eve Fest, director of the Aboriginal Research Centre and Isaac Brown, director of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines.

Their joint appointment is in line with Aboriginal tradition which requires that some things are spoken of only by males and some things only by females.

Other office-bearers are Christopher Bourke (secretary), Pat O'Shane (co-ordinator of national relations) and Marcia Langton (treasurer).

The federation was formed last month in response to a survey among Aboriginal graduates conducted by the research centre.

Its aim is to provide an independent, intellectual view of Aboriginal affairs, to promote Aboriginal scholarship, to initiate research and to support Aboriginal students.
Godot altered our view of the world

Stanley Gontarski doesn’t want to argue — as far as he’s concerned, Samuel Beckett is the world’s greatest living writer.

“Waiting for Godot was a culture-altering event,” he says. “It changed our perceptions of the world; Godot has even entered into the consciousness of popular culture.

“We’ve always been waiting — not only in the sense of our relationship to technical culture and being forced to wait around for repairmen, doctors, lawyers.

“We wait till we’re 18 to drive, till we’re 25 for something else, till we’re 35 and 40,” he says.

“Even in The Bible we’re waiting for salvation, waiting for hope — waiting is a whole theme in the Judaico-Christian tradition.

“It’s easy afterwards to say: of course, that’s how it is. But before the play appeared (in the early 1950s) it wasn’t so clear.

Gontarski, a Fulbright scholar, is Associate Professor in the English department at The Ohio State University at Lima, president and co-founder of the Samuel Beckett Society, editor of the Journal of Beckett Studies and guest editor of the Modern Fiction Studies. Samuel Beckett Issue.

He has spent two months of his Australian visit at Griffith University and is guest lecturer in the Department of English until the end of term.

He is making contact with Beckettians in Australia and New Zealand (they are thinly scattered) and has arranged for a special Australasian edition of the Journal of Beckett Studies to be put together by Professor Colin Duckworth of the University of Melbourne and Dr James Acheson of the University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

Gontarski first met Beckett in 1974 after being kept waiting for several years.

They have a good working relationship and Beckett wrote a play for him in 1981 when Gontarski was co-director of a 75th birthday tribute to Beckett, The Godot Symposium.

“He had to bring the present to his own party,” Gontarski says.

“I asked if he had anything for a world premiere and he wrote Oh!n Impromptu for me to produce.”

Beckett’s latest work, The Intent of Undoing in Samuel Beckett’s Dramatic Texts, deals with Beckett’s ability to remove all traces of himself from his work.

“His sources are autobiographical but he transforms them into art.

“He’s a craftsman who pays incredible attention to detail, language and structure. Although he’s been associated with the surrealists, he is appalled by the notion of automatic writing,” Gontarski says.

Beckett is enjoying popular success in the United States where a series of his one-act plays (including Oh!n Impromptu) has been running for close to two years at a New York theatre.

His output is prolific and Gontarski is looking for converts to help with the years of scholarship ahead.

He believes it was fortunate his Australian visit followed closely behind the tour by the San Quentin Actors Workshop, which was performing Waiting for Godot under Beckett’s direction.

“They made it much easier,” he says, laughing at the comment by one of his Fulbright referees that “wherever Gontarski is becomes, by virtue of his presence, a centre for Beckett studies.”

“Is that likely to happen at Monash?”

“I hope my visit might generate some work on Beckett,” he says.

“It’s already had an effect — because I was coming, his fiction is being taught here.”

Malouf explores mystical aspects of language

Author and poet, David Malouf, is living proof of his own belief in the incantatory powers of language.

As a recent guest speaker at the English Department’s series of lunchtime readings, he kept the very large audience enthralled with excerpts from his novel, An Imaginary Life, and poems associated with it.

The novel won the 1979 NSW Premier’s Award for Literature and is a set text for this year’s students.

It’s a fictional account of Ovid’s life in exile, based on the descriptions in Tristia, and it works on a favorite theme of Malouf’s — isolation and the powers of speech to obstruct real understanding.

The Brisbane-born writer sees speech as ambiguous.

“It is both a fulfilment of man’s potential as a social creature, and a step away from the object perceived,” he says.

“It leads us further into developing ourselves and takes us away from the absolute unity with the world we have as children.

“Ovid is exiled more from language than from place,” he says, having abandoned the Roman poet in his later years to the custody of a primitive peasant community with an unknown language.

“He has to build up his experience over again. Then he sees a flash of scarlet (or thinks he does) and that word conjures up a whole world for him.

“All he needs is belief, and that is partly belief in the incantatory powers of language.”

Through close and silent friendship with a wild boy, Ovid finds meaning for his life and the peace to face death.

(“He took so much poetic licence I thought I could, too,” says Malouf without apology.)

The story grew out of an obsession with isolation.

“I’m fascinated by the tension between the desire to be in the social world and the need for isolation to achieve anything.

“A lot of things get done in a state of chosen isolation, often by people like me whose real nature is to stay with others.”

It is also preaching another very strong message from Malouf: that the positive acceptance of fate is the only sensible way of dealing with the world.

“There’s an element of choice in the Ovid situation,” Malouf says.

“There were unpleasant parts of the old life and he recognises the exile as a happy fall.

“He is able to say, this is the situation and I choose it — let it take me where it will.”

Malouf says the switch from poetry to prose was difficult.

“I wanted to write prose but it wouldn’t work.

“Then I discovered I’d already hit the right tone in a poem so I stuck with that.”

“In An Imaginary Life I’ve been building on a sort of evolutionary knowledge of all those creatures which existed before us and were part of our development — it’s a sort of coming together of the universe till the earth and the self are inseparable.

Malouf never has plots. His writing develops from ‘some kind of argument’.

“I have to keep following things to see where they lead,” he says. “There’s some kind of situation I want to explore and as the plot grows, so does the argument.

“Sometimes it doesn’t come to any conclusion but that doesn’t matter too much.”

He has taken a break from his isolated home in Compagnatico in Tuscany to be writer-in-residence at Macquarie University.

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OCTOBER 3, 1984
Should universities compete on the open market?

In its tertiary funding guidelines for 1983-87, the Federal Government clearly spelled out its requirements for universities and colleges to look to private industry and business for research funds. The officer-in-charge of the Careers and Appointments Service at Monash, Lionel Parrott, considers the implications of such a move:

Let us imagine that a university administration, in preparing its budget plans, issues a directive that all budgetary units are expected to seek outside funding.

It requires little imagination to see that students could well find themselves being asked to pay for services like careers and appointments which are currently offered free of charge, and that the private sector will be chased for funds.

Other implications for careers and appointments services include:

- Fluctuations in income due to the rise and fall in demand for graduates;
- Loss of teaching and research time of professional staff engaged in earning funds or soliciting them;
- Threat to impartiality in dealings with employers.

(Will generous supporters of the activities of a careers service expect that their names are the ones most often brought to the attention of outstanding graduates seeking employment?;)

- Preference for trivial activities which can attract outside funds.

(Will capacity or willingness to pay affect the level of attention given to individuals or groups? Would an academic department, prepared to pay for specialized careers seminars for its students, attract more than its "fair share" of a careers service's time?;)

- Standing of the service.

(Will it be regarded thankfully by other sections of the institution because its new-found ability to attract funds eases the financial pressures elsewhere, or will it be envied because of its relative wealth? Or will they clamor for its removal, because it cannot attract funds at all?;)

Finally, to what extent should a careers service use its contracts and expertise to benefit other sectors of the institution? Whatever the implications for the university as a whole, marketing is bound to assume great importance.

Can we look forward to spectacular new marketing initiatives — graduation booklets sponsored by cigarette manufacturers, perhaps, or graduation ceremonies that are sponsored, even televised?

There are implications for academic and research activities that have not been fully considered, either.

There may be some loss of academic freedom, and in its most obvious forms, this will no doubt be successfully resisted.

But the real costs to an institution are far more subtle. Some of them are:

- Ordering of research priorities so projects attracting private sector funding receive top priority.

(Will unimportant, even trivial, research be carried out in order to attract funds? Will departments with little ability to attract non-government funds be able to undertake research, or even continue to exist?;)

- Prospect of much of the research work, and much of the research money, being provided by defence interests or even by governments of another country;

- Institution's image. (Employers already make judgments about their financial support in terms of an institution's "favorability" towards them. Publication of unfavorable research data may lead to an industry withdrawing funds. Or the appointment of unpopular or unsuitable academic staff may lead to at least a threat of withdrawal of funds. Will students given to throwing eggs or verbal barrage at controversial public figures be placing funds at risk?;)

- Possibility of affluent academic disciplines pressuring for the removal of poor cousins.

Clearly, the Federal Government needs to indicate where it will draw the line, and what the emphasis will be.

Does it intend to precipitate a mad and competitive scramble for funds where only the strong will survive?

First Monash/Westpac scholar named

Stephen Sau-Wing Lam, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded the first Monash/Westpac Scholarship. Stephen, who has a B.E. (Hons.) and M.Eng.Sc. from the University of Melbourne, is researching heat convection in enclosures with non-parallel floors, a situation which occurs in commercial, industrial and domestic buildings. He is conducting experiments on heating and cooling processes under summer and wind conditions and developing a numerical model which will help designers improve heat convection performance at the construction stage. The work is being done in collaboration with the CSIRO Division of Energy Technology. Stephen is pictured, centre, with his wife Sandy, and Mr John Brown, manager of the Monash University branch of Westpac who presented him with a letter of congratulations.
Overall plan for environment action in Asia-Pacific lands

Preparing an environmental education plan for countries as diverse as Iran, Australia and Kiribati sounds like a tall order.

But the United Nations Environment Program hopes such a plan will be approved in February by the 44 nations of the Asia-Pacific region.

The director of the Monash Graduate School of Environmental Science, Dr Tim Ealey, one of the three international consultants involved in devising the plan, says it's important to avoid the pitfalls associated with such a wide-scale project.

"Usually what happens in this situation is that general recommendations are produced which are deep, meaningful and useless," he said.

But the criteria for the UNEP plan was that it should be practical and implementable.

Environmental action had increased in the region in the past 10 years but increases had been uneven, Dr Ealey said.

"Most countries have environmental protection Acts but some take no notice of their own legislation.

"For example, the imports of timber into Japan from the Philippines are massive, Israel has desperate problems from the Philippines so in fact, huge areas of forest are being chopped down illegally.

"In the Cordillera mountains area, north of Manila, the whole sides of big mountains are crumbling away.

"They now need re-training in land management so they can tackle the massive erosion problems."

Dr Ealey said Mongolia, Nepal and Sabah also had desperate problems caused by tree removal and erosion.

"In Sabah the rivers don't splash along, they sort of slurp, solid with mud, from the terribly bad forestry practices."

Two Thai programs were good examples of the type of activities which can be spread through Southeast Asia under the UN plan, he said.

One involved the production of "biogas" — methane from household waste — to provide electricity for villages.

Under the other program, teachers actually living in the villages taught informal environmental awareness.

Dr Ealey said the group was investigating educational education and training at all levels, with a particular emphasis on short courses for teachers, government employees and journalists.

He said the task was enormous with an area extending from Iran to Korea and out to the Pacific Islands.

It included the world's highest mountains, its deepest seas, huge coral reef systems and vast deserts.

One of the spin-offs from the program would be an index compiled by Dr Ealey of all the institutes in the region offering environmental courses.

He said Monash already had a connection with Thailand, with six staff members from the Mahidol University doing postgraduate courses here.

Dr Ealey and the other consultants, Professor Sharma, president of the Indian Academy of Science and Mr Hiroshi Ishi, deputy science editor of the Asahi newspaper in Tokyo, are producing a 30-page draft action plan to be distributed to the nations in the region in December.

Government representatives will meet in Bangkok from February 25 to March 1 to give final approval.

Dr Ealey will return to Bangkok after this meeting to edit the papers and proceedings for publication.

Fuel-burning report a constant reminder of Ash Wednesday: Mackenzie

The Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mr Rod Mackenzie, launched the book, Fighting Fire With Fire, with the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mr Rod Mackenzie, during the launching of the book at Monash.

Photo: Julie Fraser.

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The director-general of the United Nations Environmental Plan, Dr Mustapha Tolba from Nairobi, centre, and the director of the UNEP regional office in Bangkok, Dr Nay Hun, right, during their recent meeting at Monash with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.


Speakers will include Robyn Williams of the ABC Science Unit whose opening address is titled 'Balmain Basketweavers and the Volvo Set'.

Swedish philosopher, Arne Naess, and American sociologist, Bill Devall, will present their 'deep ecology platform' for reconstruction.

Terry Lane of Melbourne's 3LO will speak at the conference dinner on Saturday, October 27, on 'Less Than Meets the Ear: An Examination of Ethical Sterility in the Media'. Guests are welcome.

For inquiries, detailed programs and registration, contact the organisers, Frank Fisher, ext. 3841 and David Farrow, ext. 2530.
Academics call for earlier deadlines on strategy plan

A group of senior Monash academics has prepared a response to the National Technology Strategy Discussion Draft issued by the Federal Department of Science and Technology. Contributors include Professors Sinclair, Baxt, Eadersbee, Fensham and Brown, and Dr Leo West. The response was edited by Professors Westfold and Brown.

Its main points, according to Professor Westfold, are the importance of striving after excellence in engineering and technological activity, the value of strategic projects, the need to encourage an appreciation by scientists and technologists of entrepreneurial and management skills, and the proposal for developing Research Associations.

The response was sent to the Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Jones.

This is an edited and abridged version: The discussion draft is to be welcomed as a recognition of the economic and social dangers that Australia is facing as a result of having become a technological backwater.

But Australia must speed to catch up and for this reason we propose the 1995 objective to implement an appropriate strategy be expedited to 1990 and the efforts increased accordingly.

The draft has focused on the needs of research and development but another critical factor, engineering design, has been entirely omitted. Research is insufficient by itself, and will have little value unless there is a corresponding development of engineering and technological talent to develop and implement results.

Many organisations are heavy dependent on overseas technology for the most sophisticated work and in consequence, few young engineers get the rigorous training needed in the early years of their professional life.

A rewarding national technology strategy would then be to embark on a whole series of technological projects, each one inspiring to its participants and the community. The pursuit of technical excellence in industry and governments would follow as a result.

A major question running through the document is the desirable or necessary extent of national guidance in technological development.

The preferred emphasis for governments is on investment in people and the development of their skills and capability through strategic development projects.

It is also necessary for governments to demonstrate consistency in the pursuit of their chosen strategies.

For example, virtually all industrial freight in cities is moved by road and yet there has been a total embargo on the construction of new freeways.

If the technology strategy is to be implemented there is a need for a significant increase in both undergraduate and postgraduate engineering enrolments.

The strategy proposes an objective of 50 per cent of students completing secondary school by 1995, but the very best students still tend to enter medicine, para-medicine and the law.

We need to find pathways for diverting more into science and engineering. It may be necessary to offer positive incentives for courses deemed to be in the national interest.

There has been a trend towards under-employment of graduates together with the entry of graduates into non-traditional jobs. There has also been a salary decline.

Both of these trends will have to be reversed if there is to be long-term demand for higher education at the level set in the targets.

It is also essential that attempts to encourage science and technology be backed by education in management. Poor management has been one of the constraints on the adoption of new technologies in the past.

The research collaboration between universities and leading technological enterprises is already effective, but many smaller firms find it more economical in the short-term to rely on overseas technology.

These should be made aware that it might be preferable to have graduate research schools in universities undertake research programs related to their needs.

We propose that consideration be given to developing a type of research and development activity that is a joint undertaking of industry, government and higher-education institutions. It might be called a Research Association.
Increased education in conflict with demand for low-skilled workers

The U.S. Australia Joint Seminar on The Future Impact of Technology on Work and Education was held at Normanby House, Monash University, from September 17-21. Participants came from universities and governing bodies in Australia and America and included the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Barry Jones, and consultant to the United Nations' Centre on Transnational Corporations, David O'Connor.

Australian organisers were Gerald Burke and Peter Fensham from the Monash Faculty of Education. Arrangements in the US were handled by Russell Rumberger and Henry Levin from the Institute for Research on Educational Finance and Governance at Stanford University.

Professor Levin will compile seminar papers and major aspects of the discussion into an edited volume to be published by Falmer Press. Dr Rumberger's paper, presented on the first day, dealt with the potential impact of technology on future job skill requirements.

His summary and conclusions were as follows:

Technology will have a widespread and profound impact on work in the future. One of its effects will be to alter the skills that workers will need to perform their jobs. But will workers need more or fewer skills in the future? Although more detailed studies on the impact of new technologies on the skill requirements of jobs have yet to be done, existing studies suggest that technologies often reduce the skills required by workers.

Moreover, employers have an economic incentive to eliminate high-skilled, high-wage jobs in order to cut labor costs. As further advances in micro-electronics lower the prices and increase the processing capabilities, future machines will be used to replace workers with more sophisticated skills.

Of course new jobs will be created for workers who design and build these new sophisticated devices. But recent employment projections indicate relatively few new jobs will be created, either in firms where these devices are built, or in occupations related to their use.

Rather, future job growth will continue to be dominated by retail trade and service employment, where there is a higher concentration of low-skill, low-wage jobs than in other sectors of the economy sector. The net effect of these two trends will be to reduce the average skill requirements of jobs in the future job market.

One implication of this scenario is that current efforts to raise educational standards in the United States could produce a future generation of dissatisfied and unproductive workers.

Recent evidence suggests workers who have more education than their jobs require, not only become dissatisfied, they are less productive.

Continued P.11
$20,000 gift will speed study of light

Hewlett-Packard has donated a $20,000 spectrophotometer to the Chemistry Department. Senior lecturer, Dr John Yandell, said the spectrophotometer was a new type of instrument which gave much faster measurements of the absorption of light in the visible and ultraviolet regions. Pictured during the presentation and installation of the equipment are, from left, Professor Ray Martin, Vice Chancellor, Professor Ron Brown, Chemistry Department, Mr Bruce Graham, general manager of Hewlett-Packard and John Lynch, technical sales representative, Hewlett-Packard.

Earhart award for research

Monash graduate, Susan Scott, has been awarded an Amelia Earhart Fellowship for research in mathematical physics at the University of Adelaide, where she is studying for her Ph.D. The $5000 grant, named after the pioneer aviator who disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937, is offered annually by Zonta International in memory of one of its most famous members. Zonta is a worldwide service organisation of executive women in business and the professions.

The Botany Department has a sale of books including Distribution of Victorian Plants by Churchill and de Carona, reduced from $4 to $1.50 (students $1); and The Salt Marsh Plants of Southern Australia by Bridgewater, Rosser and de Corona, $5 plus postage.

Inquiries about these and other publications to the laboratory manager, Annabel Pennell, Room 109, 1st floor Biology Building, ext. 3810.

The path to world peace begins in the classroom, says Jagdish Chander, a leading Raja Yogi and a senior faculty member of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University in Mt Abu, India.

Education is everything — there is nothing else, he said in a seminar last month at Monash on Human Life — Defining the Boundaries.

Ethics and right beliefs must be taught from primary school, along with anti-stress techniques like meditation and the proper motivation for life.

B.K. Jagdish also believes the importance of women as peace-keepers should be more widely recognised.

"Women observe values better than others and they are politically more important because they can keep the family together," he says.

As the vice-chairman of the Raja Yoga Education and Research Society, he has concerned himself with the problems that face parents, teachers and children in modern education.

He has researched students' needs for a sense of identity and purpose in their lives, their relationships with society and their future jobs.

He is a keen writer, editor of three monthly magazines and author of the Universal Peace Documents.

The university at Mt Abu is on the roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is dedicated to research into the definition of life.
In Review

Stubborn Survivors: Dissenting Essays on Peasants and Third World Development
by Rex Mortimer
Ed. Herbert Feith and Rodney Tiffen
Monash Papers on Southeast Asia No. 10. 56

Stubborn Survivors is a posthumous collection of Rex Mortimer's essays on the theme of peasants and political dynamics in the Third World.

In lively prose, Mortimer throws down his challenge to the technological optimism of what he sees as the liberal intellectual consensus, with its unshakable faith in "cumulative progress and human reconciliation", and its naive assumption that the Third World can and must take the same path of development as the industrialised West.

There is no question of technological power of the large industrial nations, whether capitalist or communist, in fact, being used to ultimately destroying the social and value systems of the poor nations and that "there is no guarantee whatsoever that most Third World countries will be able to achieve even their minimum goals of economic development and cultural self-preservation".

In Mortimer's view "the Third World countries can only gain their problems in a world where the overwhelming power of the industrial giants has been broken". How is this likely to come about?

Mortimer's answer is profoundly pessimistic.

Rex Mortimer (1926-1979) was a lawyer and a communist party intellectual when he came to Monash as a Masters Preliminary candidate in the early 1970s. He was the first Ph.D. from the Monash Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and his thesis, Indonesian Communism Under Soekarno, was later published by Cornell University Press. He taught at the universities of Sydney and Papua New Guinea and was a frequent visitor to Monash for the rest of his life.

GETTING INTO PRINT

Queensland University lecturer, Royce Sadler, has produced a book designed to help new writers make it into print.

Sadler's book, Up the Publication Road, concentrates on publication in international journals.

One of his aims is "to reassure authors that the most part publication is not a closed shop or a conspiratorial network impossible to break into.

A new author with a quality piece usually has the edge over a renowned author with an indifferent or bad piece. "There is no need to feel especially apprehensive or intimidated."

Sadler reminds would-be authors that getting published is a fixed-sum game and if your article gets in, another one is left out.

"There are two simple rules for improving the chances — have something to say, and say it well."

Sadler says rejection rates for unsolicited material in the social sciences journals are often as high as 85 to 90 per cent.

"Some of this can be explained by researchers writing first, and thinking MONASH REPORTER about audiences second."

Researching the target journal can be as important as researching for the article itself.

Between 15 and 40 per cent of articles are rejected as inappropriate to the journal concerned, he says.

"This means having a fairly clear idea of the one or two journals that would be appropriate targets for your article, and keeping these in mind as you write."

Sadler details many ways of giving an article "the best chance of acceptance such as conforming to the journal's style and submitting sufficient copies."

He lists ten benefits of publication.

Not only does it bring the author's work under professional scrutiny and enhance the reputation of the author and the institution concerned, but, he says, publication is "fun".

Sadler also includes a section on dealing with rejection.

Up the Publication Road has been published by the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australia and is available from the Tertiary Education Library, 225 Brougham St, St Lucia for $3, or $2.50 for orders of 10 or more.

JAVA — their response to the Indonesian Communist Party in the years before the 1965 coup and their fate under Suharto's New Order — strengthens his argument that it is illegitimate and futile to view development as aggregate economic growth while ignoring social, political and cultural factors and in particular the vast disparities which have arisen between the privileged urban elite and the peasantry.

He advocates a strategy of peasant mobilisation to achieve self-reliant, self-sustaining, and equitable development, but again he sees little hope of this occurring.

Reading these essays is at once an exhilarating and a devastating experience — exhilarating because of the originality, humor and passion of Mortimer's writing, devastating because of the sombre realism of his prognosis.

Robert Cramb, Postgraduate student, Department of Economics.
Carl’s legacy to Monash is long-lasting

“If you are seeking his monument, look around you” — these words on the tomb of Christopher Wren the architect (and mathematician) are also true of Dr Carl Moppert of the Mathematics Department who died on Sunday, September 16.

His monuments which stand at Monash are the sundial on the north face of the Union building and the Foucault pendulum in the foyer of the Mathematics building.

Although officially a mathematician, Carl Moppert was a well-known and loved personality around the University. He was keenly interested in his projects and "opened" both the Foucault pendulum (1978) and the sundial (1980).

New dean appointed for Science

A New Zealand-born scientist, Professor William Ronald Aylott Muntz, has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science at Monash.

Professor Muntz, 48, is at present professor of biology and head of the department of biological science at the University of Stirling, Scotland.

He is expected to take up his post at Monash in February, 1985.

He succeeds Professor John Swan who retired this year after having served as Dean since January, 1976.

Professor Muntz graduated BA with first-class honors in physiology and psychology from the University of Oxford in 1958. He also holds the degree of D.Phil. of Oxford.

Graduate fellowships

Frank Knox Fellowships for 1985-1986 at Harvard University, are open to recent graduates who are British subjects and Australian citizens. The fellowships, renewable for a second year, are available in most fields of study and include tuition fees and a stipend of SUS6000 p.a.

Applications close with the Graduate Scholarship Officer on October 19, 1984.

PUNISHMENT CHAIR

An American company convicted of rigging bids for highway construction has been told to pay the University of Nebraska Foundation $1.475m to establish a Chair of Ethics, or face a $2m federal fine.

University officials say they believe this is the first time a judge has ordered the establishment of a chair in lieu of a fine.

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University staff will have the opportunity to join a high-level study mission to Egypt and Israel over the summer recess.

Organised by Australian Academics for Peace in the Middle East, the tour will spend a week in Egypt and 10 days in Israel, starting in Cairo and concluding in Jerusalem on January 20.

In each country participants will meet senior Government ministers and officials, senior academics, journalists, military representatives and leaders of both the Arab and Jewish communities.

Visits will be made to many significant places in connection with the study mission, including the Lebanese border, the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), Jericho, the Dead Sea and the Old City of Jerusalem.

AAPME was formed eight years ago with the aim of promoting "informed discussion on the conditions for a just and lasting peace between the State of Israel and the Arab world."

Its study missions are designed to provide some of the information on which such a discussion can be based.

Academic and senior administrative staff of universities and colleges are eligible to join.

This will be the seventh study mission AAPME has sent to Israel, and the fifth to Egypt.

The total cost of the trip, including return fares to the Middle East, hotels, internal travel and most meals will be approximately $2130 from Melbourne.

It will also be possible for people who are travelling independently through the area to join the study mission.

Bookings will close on November 9.

Further information can be obtained from Dr Colin Rubenstein in the Department of Politics, on extension 2413.
Join in Monteverdi's Christmas classic

Bathroom baritones and lower separators — your choir needs you.

There'll be no embarrassing auditions or shameful solos.

You needn't pass any tests at all, and, as Monash Choral Society spokesman, Simon Johnson, says, what better way to learn to sing?

The society, formed in 1962 and one of the oldest at Monash, is looking for new members for its special December performance at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Together with the Melbourne University Choral Society, it will perform the Australian premiere of one of Monteverdi's great baroque masterpieces, Christmas Vespers, and Benjamin Britten's A Boy Was Born.

The society now has about 40 members under the baton of Caulfield Grammar School music master, Greg Hurworth, a former tutor in the Monash Department of Music.

It has an active social life and a repertoire which extends beyond classical music. On Open Day it performed a number of jazz works with the Monash Big Band and it is hoping to stage something similar next year.

The choir rehearses every Tuesday evening from 7.15 to 9.30 in the Music Auditorium, 8th floor South, Menzies Building. For more information, phone Simon Johnson on 729 5443.

Breakfast show change for 3AR

The ABC's bid for a bigger share of the listening audience has seen a new breakfast program launched this week on Radio 2, 3AR.

The program, concentrating on fine music, short spoken items on opera, drama, films, publishing events, seminars and the like, is hosted by Clive Stark.

It emanates from Melbourne and while retaining its national character, it will try to keep in touch with what's happening in Victoria.

Imbalance reduces productivity

• From p.7

A current imbalance between the education level of workers and the skill requirements of their jobs could explain some of the recent slowdown in productivity growth in the U.S.

This imbalance could easily increase in the future, threatening the ability of the U.S. to compete in the world marketplaces.

Technology not only affects the skill requirement of jobs, but also the control of work. Fragmenting job tasks enables employers to better control the work process as well as to lower labor costs.

Technology can work in the same way.

Along with the development of new information technologies have come new ways for employers to monitor the performance of their workers.

New systems that greatly increase the productivity of telephone operators and insurance workers, have already been developed, but the rigid monitoring has brought widespread complaints as well.

Unions have now raised technology as an important bargaining issue.

Yet the impact of technology on the skill requirements of jobs in the future is in no way predetermined.

It will depend, in part, on the technologies that are developed.

But it will also depend on how those technologies are used in the workplace.

Although past technologies have often reduced the skills of workers and lessened their control over the work process, that does not have to be the case.

In some firms, technology has been used to increase the discretion of workers, broaden the tasks they perform, and raise the skill requirements of their jobs.

Technology holds the promise of making work easier in the future and reducing the amount of work people have to perform in order to enjoy a high standard of living.

The future challenge is to ensure the promise of technology is achieved and the threat it possesses is avoided.

IMPORTANT DATES

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

1: Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the second half year in B.Ed., B.Ed. (Lang.), B.Ed. (Now), and M.Ed., for it to be classified as discontinued. Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in Medicine Y for it to be classified as discontinued.

5: Third Teaching round ends, Dip.Ed.


7: Third Term ends for Medicine VI.

12: Applications close for 1985 LL.M. by coursework.

20: Third Term ends.


31: Closing date for applications for Monash Graduate Scholarships and Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Awards.
The events listed below are open to the public. "RBU" throughout stands for Robert Blackwood Hall. There is a BASS ticketing outlet on campus at the Alexander Theatre.


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Inquiries: ext. 3348.

Inquiries: ext. 2197.

ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURES — "Aboriginal Art", by Mr Gary Foley. OCTOBER 11: "Film Making & Theatre", by Mr Garry Bostock. OCTOBER 18: "Aboriginal Literature", by Ms Kath Walker. All seminars at 7.30 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3348.

7: SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT — Featuring the Muhlfeld Trio presenting works by Beethoven, Brahms and Debussy. 2.30 p.m. RBH.

13: SEMINAR — "An Afternoon with ECK" including music, creative arts, talks, panel discussion and book display presented by ECKANKAR Study Group. 2 p.m. Leelore Theatre R6. Admission $3, or $1.50 concessions. Inquiries: ext. 3013.

14: SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT — Featuring the Fay Dumont Singers conducted by Fay Dumont. 2.30 p.m. RBH. Admission free.


19: CONCERT — 6th Annual Waverley Music Eisteddfod-Choral Competition with primary and secondary schools participating as part of "Arts Waveley" sponsored by the Waverley Council and Leader Newspapers. RBH. Admission: adults $1, children 50c.

21: CONCERT Robert Blackwood Hall Management, in association with the Melbourne Youth Music Council, presents the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, the John Ansell Youth Band, the Margaret Sutherland Strings and the Junior Strings. RBH. Admission free. 2.30 p.m.


OCTOBER 3, 1984

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