Bridge delights Metrail

‘Failed’ experiment is taxpayers’ gain

The outstanding success of an experiment that failed could save Victorian taxpayers millions of dollars.

For when a bridge sagged to the test floor instead of breaking under a total weight of 154 tonnes in Monash’s Civil Engineering laboratory recently, Metrail engineers were jubilant at the prospect of a drastically reduced bridge replacement program.

“As an economy measure after World War 1, many road bridges were built over railways by laying used rails side by side and filling the spaces with concrete,” says Associate Professor Paul Grundy.

“This stop-gap method used what was virtually scrap metal as a temporary means of meeting the need for bridges.”

Metrail recently commissioned Associate Professor Grundy to perform tests on the strength, stability and safety of the bridges under modern traffic conditions to find out how far it had to go with an expensive replacement program.

The bridges passed all tests with flying colors and it seems likely not only that the replacement program can be delayed or abandoned, but that this cheap form of construction can be used in the future.

Professor Grundy says the tests began last June in the early hours of the morning at the Jones Road, Dandenong, bridge which had been replaced to improve road alignment.

Two low-loader trucks weighted with four-tonne concrete blocks to a limit of 56 tonnes — the design load for two trucks — were parked in the centre of the bridge, which easily carried the weight.

A section of bridge was removed and transported to the Civil Engineering laboratories at Monash and tested to destruction, but again it proved surprisingly strong and durable, Associate Professor Grundy says.

The prototype was then constructed in the laboratories and tested in three positions: on parallel supports 9.144m apart; on skew supports at 45 degrees, 12.933m apart; and on skew supports at left with a 500mm deep upstand edge beam added. (This edge beam, which is necessary as a crash barrier, provides these bridge structures with a much-needed stiffener against excessive vibrations.)

In the final test where pressure was to be steadily increased until the bridge deck failed, a haul had to be called at 154 tonnes because the sagging centre of the structure was almost touching the laboratory floor and it still showed no signs of breaking.

“It carried a load eight times what it would carry in service and in the final stages the deck deflected into a dish shape up to 220mm under the jacks, but

RSI ‘not a mental condition’

“RSI is in their arms not their heads,” says Associate Professor Tony Ryan, director of the University’s new Occupational Health Service and the man in charge of a Government-funded investigation into Repetition Strain Injury in the public service.

The 18-month study convinced Dr Ryan that RSI was a medical problem not a psychological one, but he won’t be ready to make recommendations to the Government until all the results have been analysed.

“It’s not just the keying speed or ergonomic factors,” he says about the condition which is affecting keyboard operators around Australia — especially women.

“Ergonomics are important but so is the flow of work, the deadlines, pressure from supervisors and the way work is organised.

“No single factor is the cause — it’s some complex mixture of all these together and we’re hoping to isolate it through this study.”

Dr Ryan says men also get RSI and it is not just an Australian disease.

“Repetition injury occurs in other countries under different names — in Japan they call it occupational cervicobrachial disorder but it’s the same thing,” he says.

The Occupational Health Service will operate alongside the existing University Health Service, directed by Dr John Green, which provides general medical care for students and staff.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold, says the chief role of the new service will be to investigate ways of preventing and heading off potential health problems associated with working conditions at the University.

“RSI will be only one aspect of its operations,” he says.

Dr Ryan, who will report directly to Professor Westfold, will work closely with Dr Green to provide consultant services for all occupational health problems within the University.

He will advise on the handling of

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A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

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Agreement reached on the weather but...

The recently-signed affiliation agreement between Monash University and the Bureau of Meteorology is more than a mere formality, says Professor John Swan, director of the ANZAAS Festival and former Dean of Science.

"It means the Bureau effectively becomes part of the Monash campus so students can work there and still meet degree requirements for working on campus. Bureau staff will also be able to act as supervisors for Monash students," he says. The affiliation with the Bureau was based on similar arrangements made with the Museum of Victoria and the Victorian Institute for Marine Sciences which had proved very successful.

Pictured during the signing at the Bureau of Meteorology are, from left, Professor Swan, Professor Kevin Westfold, Monash's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Zillman, the Bureau's director, and Mr Jim Butchart, the University Registrar.

Prepare for cool change

Meanwhile, postgraduate students from the Department of Mathematics have supervised the completion of the fieldwork phase of the co-operative Cold Fronts Research Programme which has been conducted in three stages since 1979.

The project is directed towards determining the way cold fronts move across south-eastern Australia, and it is the largest joint meteorological field program mounted in this country.

Five universities in three states are involved, as are the CSIRO, the army, navy and air force, the Victorian Marine Models Laboratory and Telecom.

Doctoral candidates Julie Nooan, Michael Reeder and Kathy McLean were in charge of undergraduate students from Monash, Melbourne and Flinders universities for the final fieldwork at isolated locations over summer, while Gary Dietrichsmaier, also a Ph.D. candidate, computed data at a base in Mt Gambier.

A CSIRO research plane was also based at Mt Gambier for part of the four-week study period and pictured below, assisting with the project is Roger Smith, senior lecturer in the Monash Department of Applied Mathematics, seated, and Malcolm Parker from the CSIRO.

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It's the sort of movement that has great significance in our culture; it's marvelous to see so many older Australians who are still young in spirit," Professor Martin was responding to the enthusiasm of the 400-strong crowd which attended the launching of the University of the Third Age at Monash (U3AM) last month.

Three such groups are being formed in Melbourne at present: the others are in the city and at Hawthorn. Based on a concept which began in France 12 years ago, they are self-help, informal learning groups for active retired people — people who are in the Third Age of their lives.

Professor Martin told the crowd that the embryonic organisation, while not an official offshoot of the University, would receive as much indirect back-up as possible — particularly from the Centre for Continuing Education and its director, Dr Jack McDonell, who had organised the launching.

The U3A movement had begun in Toulouse in association with the University, and by 1982 there were some 400 U3As in France and 14 elsewhere in Europe, Professor Martin said.

"There is one at that ancient seat of learning, Cambridge, and its winter program for 1984 included such tempting topics as history of art, desert island aesthetics, 20th century furniture — fakes and alterations, antique maps, a seminar on life critiquing, 'We have no idea of the ways in which this U3A is most likely to develop, or of the probable long-term relationships between it and the University,' he said.

"But that's the novel part of the movement, that the organisation grows to meet the needs expressed by its own members, not as the result of any institutional notions of what people ought to learn or how they ought to be taught."

The director of the Australian Council on the Ageing, Mr Cliff Picton, a former lecturer at Monash, told the meeting his organisation was prepared to provide official back-up for the U3A movement if necessary.

He said there were more older people now than at any time in the history of the world and something had to be done to make their retirement mean more than just a rest from work.

"You are the repositories of vast amounts of knowledge gained over many years in many areas," he told the crowd.

"Governments need to recognise the value of keeping such a resource in good order."

Monash University's Computer Centre last week commissioned its latest acquisition, a Burroughs B7800 computer worth more than $3 million, plus a million dollars' worth of software.

In return, Monash paid Burroughs one dollar.

The transaction had been arranged in conjunction with the Victorian Government through its "Offset Program" and was intended to provide a significant boost to Monash's undergraduate teaching and research.

It will also allow state government departments access to the computer and will provide free computing services for private sector projects judged by the Department of Industry, Commerce and Technology to be of economic significance.

The triple-processor B7800 is now about five years old. It was previously rented to the Victorian Gas and Fuel Corporation.

The Director of the Computer Centre, Dr Cliff Bellamy, says that the computer is physically a very large machine. It includes:

- Three main processors, each about twice as powerful as the VAX-780 processors which the Centre operates.
- Three input-output processors.
- Three data communication processors.
- One million words of main memory (six megabytes).
- 48 disk drives (total capacity gigabytes).
- Eight magnetic tape drives.
- Six line printers.
- 140 video display terminals.

Dr Bellamy said that the commissioning of the B7800 was one of two major developments in the Computer Centre this year.

The other has been the completion of a new computing laboratory housing 350 computer terminals to provide facilities for teaching students, mainly in computer science, engineering and mathematics. (This week, 290 first-year mathematics students will have their first introduction to the B7800.)

Among those participating in the documentary film, Theorem: a dream of change, was Sue Shaw, who has a long affiliation with Monash as a student, freelance music teacher, and member of various committees for the disabled.

She recently accepted an invitation to supervise a Handicapped Students Survey for the University.

Sue, who is confined to a wheelchair, was one of the first student members on the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee for the Handicapped.

This group has been responsible for many changes to buildings and amenities which make life easier for disabled students, and it has organised the survey to find out what else is needed. It was also behind the screening of Theorem at the Alexander Theatre during Orientation Week.

"We showed it to publicise the survey and increase awareness of the needs of the disabled," Sue says.

"We want to encourage disabled students to be responsible for helping to improve their own future at Monash."

Sue completed her B.A. in the Monash Department of Music, then did a part-time Dip. Ed. at Monash and a Diploma of Music Therapy at the Chisholm Institute.

"Music therapy led me into the 1982 stage performance of Theorem at the Melbourne Concert Hall," she says.

She took part in and partially narrated the screen version, some of which was filmed at Monash.
Reader in Geography, Dr Joe Powell, will have a problem when he delivers the keynote address this month at a symposium on Social Adaptation to Semi-Arid Environments, at the Centre for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Like many Australian scholars caught up in the funding squeeze, he won't know until it's probably too late about the latest overseas research and findings in his subject area because of the dearth of publications available here.

A common enough complaint, but in Dr Powell's case it is especially worrying—he has not seen his host's publication, the Great Plains Quarterly which will carry his address, since libraries advise it is unavailable anywhere in Australia. The journal began production some years ago as a time of massive reductions in library funding in Australia and it came under the all-but-prohibitive category of "new periodicals".

Dr Powell, who became Monash's first Doctor of Letters by formal examination in 1983, believes he was in-

vited to give the keynote address at the Great Plains symposium so that an Aus-

tralian would be represented among a wide range of speakers contributing to an historical perspective on interna-

tional ecological problems.

He is a human geographer with a special interest in pioneer settlement set-

ttings in the New World, including the semi-arid environments.

"There will be people from earth sciences and social sciences, from Africa, China, Europe and North America, and you have to argue a case all can make sense of," Dr Powell says. He will move outside the established American emphasis on the Dust Bowl experience of the 1930s so graphically illustrated in Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath.

"Lessons learnt from American ways of life—from the ecological sensi-

tivities of capitalism—can't be ap-

plied willy-nilly around the world," he says.

"European imperialists and the Com-

munists, for example, have made similar mistakes.

"The pastoral nomads and peasant farmers of Africa had worked out very clear ecological guidelines and their systems were culturally and ecologically sound until they fell victim to capitalism.

"But indigenous cultures in Central Asia fared little better under the Russian and Chinese systems which brought massive social disruption and environ-

mental catastrophe," Dr Powell says.

"Neither capitalism, socialism nor any mixture of the two has provided a satisfaying, ecologically-adaptive culture."

**Stone Age specialist to study tempo of change**

Why Dr Martin Williams should have been awarded the University's new Professor of Geography is an interesting question.

It is not that he is not a distinguished senior, well qualified and qualified for the position. It is just that his interests and research span so wide a spectrum of knowledge that elsewhere he could just as easily have ended up in a Department of Geology, Zoology, Meteorology or perhaps even Anthropology.

He brings with him a program grant from the Australian Research Grants Scheme which guarantees him money for the next six years for research into the prehistoric climates of the Darling, Nile and Ganges basins.

"The aim is to establish the tempo of environmental change within Australia and the Northern Hemisphere over the past five million years," he said.

"This will allow us to test models of future climatic change and give us considerable insight into the nature of human response to environmental stress (human evolution)."

A Cambridge graduate, Professor Williams completed his doctorate at the University of Manchester in 1983, believes he was in-...
Soviet bid to restore scientific links

The visit to Monash last week by a high-level delegation of Soviet science administrators was very encouraging for the re-activation of the exchange program with the Leningrad Zhdanov University, said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin. Monash was the only university in Victoria visited by the group which was in Australia to talk about re-establishing scientific links broken by the Fraser Government in 1980 after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

It comprised two foreign experts from the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology, Mr Aleksandr Serdyuk and Mrs Anna Santalova, and a representative of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Mr Vladimir Volgin.

After discussing the exchange program with Professor Martin and the Dean of Arts, Professor John Legge, the delegation did a tour of departments in Science and Engineering.

Mr Volgin said the group was particularly interested in possible collaboration in the fields of geology, marine science and astronomy.

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DECEMBER GRADUATES

- Distinguished engineer, Sir Bernard Callinan, gave the occasional address at the December graduation and was admitted to the honorary degree, Doctor of Engineering. Sir Bernard is pictured on the right with his wife, Lady Callinan, talking with the University’s Chancellor, Sir George Lush, and Lady Lush. Photos, Richard Crompton.

Women’s achievements: in theory and practice

Children under six are not invited so when Marilyn Lake (below) received her doctorate, daughter Katherine, 6, was there but Jessica, 3, had to stay with friends. Nevertheless it was a family affair with Marilyn’s husband, Dr Sam Lake from Zoology, also present.

Marilyn, who did her M.A. at the University of Tasmania, wrote her Ph.D. thesis on soldier settlement in Victoria 1915-1938, and titled it The Limits of Hope. She is also co-author of a soon-to-be-published book about Victorian women, which was commissioned by the 150th anniversary committee.

The book, written with Farley Kelly (who did her Ph.D. through the Monash Faculty of Education) is titled Double Time: Women in Victoria 150 years, and is due to be published by Penguin early next month.

It is a collection of 50 group and individual biographies of Victorian women.

Ros hits a high note

Noted musician and experimental composer, Ros Bandt (above), has capped off a long academic career at Monash with a Ph.D. for her thesis, Models and processes in repetitive music.

Ros, an artist in sound who did her B.A., Dip. Ed. and M.A. at Monash, now divides her time between creating original music on original instruments, performing with the early music group, La Romanescu (formed by her husband, Dr John Griffiths, also a Monash graduate), and building sound sculptures.

Her first solo album, Improvisations in Acoustic Chambers, was recorded in wheat silos and cement water tanks, and her second, Soft and Fragile, features music in glass and clay.

Ph.D. for ex-MHR

Former Labor MHR, Gareth Clayton, was also awarded a Ph.D. at the recent graduation ceremony.

Gareth, a senior tutor in the Statistics Department at Melbourne University, did his doctoral work in the mathematical statistics area of spatial point processes.

He is married to Dr Margaret Clayton, senior lecturer in Botany at Monash.

This doctor

There are few Doctors of Philosophy in the Australian Nursing Profession, so Sandra Stacy’s achievement is remarkable in more ways than one.

Sandra, 42, a nursing sister, has never matriculated nor held a Bachelor’s or Master’s Degree, but her preliminary work towards a higher degree was so promising...
The diagram below shows how the prototype (shaded) compares with an actual bridge. In this construction method, rails are laid toe-to-toe spanning the long direction, then the spaces between are filled with reinforced structural concrete and covered over with concrete to a depth of 100mm. The depth of concrete varies on some of the older bridges which may have only 25mm of cover over the head of the rail. Right: Inspecting cracking between the edge beam and deck as the load climbs towards maximum: Mr Nils Larsen, right, from V/Line, Associate Professor Paul Grundy, Mr David Chamberlain, Metrail and Mr Robert Armstrong, Metrail.

MARCH 6, 1985

MONASH REPORTER
Library loses a veteran

Myrtle Spottiswood left Monash last year after greater glory unfulfilled. In 1960, she was appointed secretary to Ernest Clark, the first University librarian, who was trying to establish the library in a part of the Physics Building. Mr Clark held the position until his death in 1971.

"There's no plaque, building or anything to let people know he was foundation librarian," Myrtle says.

"New staff haven't heard of him and a lot of the older ones feel quite strongly about it.

"We would like to see something done to remember him."

Myrtle began to work as a temporary for three or four days "which drifted in to 24 years."

There were no reference books when we started," she says.

"I was rostered on the desk for the first session and a young man came in and asked for an atlas.

"I didn't want to admit we didn't have one, so I kept probing to find out what he wanted.

"It seemed he wanted a map of the local area so I asked what it was he wanted to know.

"Looking rather embarrassed, he said: 'Where's the nearest pub?'

MONASH REPORTER

It's that empty feeling you get as if in a shopping centre a bit after closing time

And it's a feeling that you know is happening because you're the one that's bringing it on but you can't seem to snap out of it

By the time the evening's here you're just paddling water, marking time to the beat of life's hum-drum.

Sulky in the morning, that's how I feel

'Get out of my way!' I say and bang the head of my egg

Later, an hour after my day's work has started, I feel better and start to long for when the clock reaches five so that I can go home, hanging in there all the same, trying to give the impression of enjoying myself

Only occasionally then do I feel that feeling. Then I let my life be imposed onto the circle of a clockface

And start to search for a reason why

LOUISE VAN WISSEN

(Louise van Wissen works in the Department of Pathology and Immunology at the Monash Medical School, Alfred Hospital.)

Canadian naturalist to speak

The forum will be held in S2 (Science Building) from 5.15 to 6.30 p.m. on March 20. Inquiries to the Graduate School on ext. 3837 or 3839.

MARCH 6, 1985
Publishing was a dangerous art when CUP was born

The business of heading a university and its printing activities was somewhat hazardous in the early days of printing and publishing.

For instance in 1642, when the House of Commons took offence at a work published by Cambridge University Press, the University Printer and the Vice-Chancellor were both taken into custody. Although the printer, Roger Daniel, was released on bail, the Vice-Chancellor was not mentioned again. Fortunately, when the press recently celebrated its 400th anniversary it could notch up an impressive list of much more reputable historical claims.

CUP began in 1584, a full year ahead of its nearest rival at Oxford, so it is the oldest existing press, the oldest printer and publisher in the English language and the oldest printer and publisher of Bibles. It was set up under a charter from Henry VIII in 1534, just 80 years after printing was invented. But there is no record of continuous printing and publishing until 1584 following the appointment of the first University printer, Thomas Thomas.

CUP’s unbroken Bible-printing tradition began in 1591 with the first Cambridge Bible; the first Authorised Version (King James Bible) was produced in 1629.

In a quatercentenary commemorative address at CUP’s new Australian head office in Oakleigh, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, said the press was one of the oldest enterprises of any sort in the world to have retained its constitutional identity intact.

"Today the press’s output is formidable. "It publishes 67 learned and scientific journals, over 500 different varieties of Bibles and Prayer Books, and it produces about one and a half million individual examination papers each year for use in Britain and overseas," he said.

"I understand that Australia is regarded by Cambridge University Press not only as an important market but also as a rich source of scholarly visitors."

"The desirability of proximity to Monash led to the choice of the present site in the expectation that close links between the press and the University will flourish."

Grants set the presses rolling

At different times in Monash’s history the establishment of a University Press has been considered.

"Such operations lend prestige to an institution," says the University Librarian, Mr Brian Southwell, chairman of the Publications Committee.

"But it is an inescapable fact of publishing that they do not make money." The University has chosen instead to put aside a small grant of around $10,000 each year for the committee to subsidise approved publications.

"Often publishing houses regard these subsidies as the linchpin of publication, especially when a work is intended for a small, specialist audience," Mr Southwell says.

"Certainly the subsidy can be the vital element in a publication reaching the market at a reasonable price."

"I believe the assistance the Publications Committee gives authors is the most effective contribution, dollar for dollar, that Monash can make towards academic publishing." (The subsidies are usually repayable as a first charge against profits.)

But the Publications Committee, established in 1963 as a committee of the Professorial Board, offers more than financial assistance. Its secretary, Charles Lucas, the University’s Publications Officer, can offer advice and help to anyone on campus in any aspect of publishing.

Mr Lucas, whose background includes seven years as editor-in-chief at Prentiss-Hall and two years running his own publishing company, LCM, says he can suggest publishers likely to be interested in a particular type of work and assist with negotiations.

Family law

Appropriately dedicated to the memory of Pearl Watson, the murdered wife of Family Law Court Judge, Mr Justice Watson, The Family Law Casebook is a timely contribution to an awkward and volatile section of the Australian law.

The book, written by Neville Turner, senior lecturer in Law at Monash, and Frank Bates, Reader in Law at the University of Tasmania, was recently launched by Mr Justice Watson at the Children’s Bureau of Australia, of which Mr Turner is president.

It covers the full spectrum of Family Law matters including the rights of adopted children, fostering and abuse, and those areas of the law still in the development stage — artificial insemination, the enforcement of maintenance and the definition of matrimonial property.

The Family Law Casebook is published by The Law Book Company Limited.

Legge, Whyte on library board

Two Monash academics have been appointed to the State Library/Museum Building Advisory Committee.

The Dean of Arts, Professor John Legge, is chairman of the committee which is working with architect Daryl Jackson on a three-month study of the proposed construction of a museum/library complex on the Queen Victoria Hospital site.

The Professor of Librarinanship at Monash, Jean Whyte, is a member of the committee which also includes Mr Justice Sir John Starkie, QC, of the Library Council of Victoria and Professor Jim Warren of the Museum Council.

Court prize

Warwick Rothnie, who topped the honors list in Bachelor of Laws, has been awarded the 1984 Supreme Court Prize for the best LL.B. student in final year.

Lunchtime readings begin

English poet and author, Harry Kemp, will present the first of this year’s readings by visiting writers, a series organised by the English Department which is open to all members of the University.

The series is funded by the Literature Board of the Australia Council, the Dean of Arts Fund and the Vera Moore Fund.

Kemp, a friend of Laura Riding and Robert Graves, has been visiting the Monash campus since November while working on a book about language. He will return to England next week.

His reading will begin at 2.15 p.m. on Friday in Room 809, English Department, Menzies Building.

The distinguished Australian poet, A.D. Hope, will present the second reading on Thursday, April 18, at a place to be announced.

Other likely literary visitors to Monash during March include South African-born author, Doris Lessing, and West Indian poet, E.A. Markham.
Lessons we should learn from the student uprising

What took place in the second half of the 20th century was not simply a student uprising, but a profound social and political transformation. What happened? There are many things about the remarkable phenomenon of the student uprisings that are still difficult to describe.

To begin with, the dominant philosophical current of the period was Marxism-Leninism, Mao, Che Guevara, and the works of the 19th century anarchists and Utopians.

The credo offered no blueprint of the society they wanted. What the student movement stood for in all countries is better defined by what the militant students were against than what they were for.

The students’ prime target was Western capitalist society, and with it the values of all its institutions: the bourgeois state, parliament, bureaucracy, the courts, universities — everything.

Each reflected the other; and each reflected the two alienating elements of a society — elitism and injustice. What the students wanted Nothing less than a reconstruction of Western capitalist society, from top to bottom.

Nothing less than a rejection of all its symbols, its modes of dress and speech, its social and sexual relations, its hygiene, its values and beliefs.

Nothing was to be left untouched. Everything had to be stood on its head, authority had to be de-authorised, and unbridled emotion had to replace soulless rationality.

No university administration is permitted to exercise its power, everywhere, when calling for commissions of inquiry into the conduct of the university administration, did not so in the name of greater efficiency, better teaching, better research facilities, better housing, better libraries, better grounds, or better refectories, but solely in the name of participatory democracy.

Without participatory democracy, they said, there was no presence of students in all university committees, without the contribution of students’ opinions and judgement, the university government must be unjust and as the symbol of university administration, the vice-chancellor was not to be trusted.

‘Nothing was to be left untouched... unbridled emotion had to replace soulless rationality’

For militant students, the academic staff was to be treated like those for their demands, and against them.

Their cause was praised, those against them were reviled, ridiculed, and abused in a constant stream of broadsheets circulated on the campus and in lectures every morning.

For example, ISKRA, a Monash Law society, published an open letter to the Pro Vice Chancellor in Lenin’s revolutionary paper in 1917, said: ‘It has become fairly clear knowledge around the university that there is an ongoing substantive controversy between truth and justice in their dealings with students. However the comment section of the university website, the former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Louis Matheson over the past few weeks is somewhat revealing.’

The university must not become a sanctuary for those who act in the public square then run inside its walls for protection.

The lesson is that the university auth­orities must call on the state to help them. And if they cannot hold it with the law — a stratagem must never succeed.

The lesson is that the university auth­orities must call on the state to help them. And if they cannot hold it with the law — a stratagem must never succeed.

For in that condition, life would become solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.

The university must not allow itself to become a sanctuary for those who wish to act in the public squares then run for protection within its walls. That strategy must fail.

One thing university vice-chancellors should have learned from the events of the '60s is this: once they are sure that neither sweet reason nor disciplinary measures can stem the threatened conflagration they must call on the law for help precisely as a private citizen would do.

For a VC to be excessively cautious or timid, to temporise, to prevaricate or withdraw into itself, to be confused by terminologies and phrases like “academic freedom”, “civil liberties” and “free speech” when they arise from the mouths of those whose intent is to subdue and pervert the university to its end for a VC to sit and watch the conflagration in the hope that any step it will all pass in a day or two is to forget the lesson of the '60s.

The lesson is that the university auth­orities must let go of their authority, and if they cannot hold it with the meagre resources at their disposal, they must call on the state to help them.

If the state authorities believe that the most important lesson to be learned and remembered is the need to spread sweetness and light throughout the campus, to say a cherily hello to all and sundry and to open an open door policy — in a word, to pursue the ideals of close fraternity instead of distant impersonality — they are drawing the wrong conclusion.

Certainly let relations on the campus be as human as possible.

And while we are at it, let us see to it that the campus grass is properly cut, the toilets are in good working order, the library is as well provided as scarce resources will allow, the food in the refectories is wholesome and good, and so on and so forth.

This said however, having taken all the steps necessary to ensure the university house is tidy and in working order, that is all we can do.

I am convinced that the radical stu­dent is not greatly concerned with the domestic issues of a campus except as pretext in a larger game.

And if this view is correct we can do one thing only — take every possible step to make sure that once become restive again, the university is not made a hostage for the ills of the outside world.

For to begin with, the dominant phil­osophical current of the period was Marxism-Leninism, Mao, Che Guevara, and the works of the 19th century anarchists and Utopians.

The credo offered no blueprint of the society they wanted. What the student movement stood for in all countries is better defined by what the militant students were against than what they were for.

The students’ prime target was Western capitalist society, and with it the values of all its institutions: the bourgeois state, parliament, bureaucracy, the courts, universities — everything.

Nothing less than a rejection of all its symbols, its modes of dress and speech, its social and sexual relations, its hygiene, its values and beliefs.

Nothing was to be left untouched. Everything had to be stood on its head, authority had to be de-authorised, and unbridled emotion had to replace soulless rationality.

No university administration is permitted to exercise its power, everywhere, when calling for commissions of inquiry into the conduct of the university administration, did not so in the name of greater efficiency, better teaching, better research facilities, better housing, better libraries, better grounds, or better refectories, but solely in the name of participatory democracy.

Without participatory democracy, they said, there was no presence of students in all university committees, without the contribution of students’ opinions and judgement, the university government must be unjust and as the symbol of university administration, the vice-chancellor was not to be trusted.

The university must not become a sanctuary for those who act in the public square then run inside its walls for protection.

The lesson is that the university auth­orities must call on the state to help them. And if they cannot hold it with the law — a stratagem must never succeed.

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For in that condition, life would become solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.
RSI Seminars
A series of lunchtime seminars and meetings will be held at Monash to discuss the medical and rehabilitative aspects of repetition strain injury.

These gatherings, organised by the Monash University RSI Support Group and supported by staff associations, will provide information and assistance to all users of screen-based equipment.

The first seminar will be held on Thursday, March 21, in Rounda Theatre R4 at 12.30 p.m., on the topic: Is RSI contagious? Can it be cured?

The guest speaker, Dr W.E. Stone from the Vocational Rehabilitation Service, is a recognised authority on repetition strain injury.

The Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Reverend Dr David Penman, will give the address at the University Service on Thursday at 10.05 a.m. in the Large Chapel.

His theme will be The Historical Jesus and the Christ of Faith, in which he will look at the tensions which can exist between faith and religion.

Prayers and Readings will be led by representatives of staff and students with music from the Monash University Choral Society and organist, Colin Bellton.

The service was introduced in 1980 and is organised by the Office of the Chaplains.

All members of staff, their spouses, visitors and newcomers to the University are invited to attend the Monash Women's Society Annual Lunch in the Vice-Chancellor's garden on March 19 between 12.30 and 2 p.m.

For further information, contact Mrs Daphne Laurensen on 596 4237, or Mrs Margaret Coles, internal extension no. 3919.

WOMEN'S ROLE?

"Despite these on-field problems, the job is enjoyable, and some of the after-hours entertainment is quite amusing. The players have a 'camel club' bar complete with patron and taps galore to build funds for the inevitable end of year trip. Every few weeks, they have a 'low hump night' at which liver enzymes are heavily induced, whilst gambling and chatting up innumerable women that come out of the woodwork. In fact, wives and steady girlfriends are banned; the principle of the evening being to invite a girl you don't want to go home with, so that if everyone obliges, all will be 'catered' for. Sleazy, isn't it? But that's football!"

(Graduate who was senior medical officer to a VFA team)

Association of Monash Medical Graduates' Newsletter, Spring, 1984

Manna from Kennan

The Victorian Attorney-General, Mr Jim Kennan, recently visited the Springvale Legal Service to hand over a cheque for $36,450 which represents the Government's share of the organisation's funding for 1985.

Co-ordinator, Mr Simon Smith, said the service was extremely grateful for the State Government's continuing support.

Established in 1973, it was the second oldest and the busiest community legal service in Australia, he said.

It received funds from a variety of sources including Monash University and Springvale Council.

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Subscription series will test the waters

Could Monash support an ensemble-in-residence?

The New Trio Victoria, which includes pianist, Brian Chapman, from the Physiology Department, will stage nine concerts was presented in the surrounding area for high-quality professional performing ensemble-in-residence, which would demonstrate the affiliation by presenting a series of four or five subscription concerts at Robert Blackwood Hall on Sunday afternoons during the main Melbourne concert season.

The other members of the New Trio Victoria are Anthony Conossil, violin, and Janis Laurs, cello. Both are principal players with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

At the first concert on Sunday, April 28, the group will perform works by Beethoven, Chopin and Tchaikovsky, and at the second, on Sunday, June 23, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Brahms will be featured.

Both concerts will begin at 3 p.m. and bookings are now open at Robert Blackwood Hall, telephone 544 5448. Preliminary savings are available for families.

Right: The New Trio Victoria, Anthony Conossil, left, Janis Laurs, and pianist, Brian Chapman.

Tribute to tercentenary of Baroque masters

This year is notable for more than Victoria's 150th birthday. Three hundred years ago, three of the greatest composers of the Baroque era were born: Domenico Scarlatti in Naples, J.S. Bach in Saxony and G.F. Handel in Hanover.

In tribute to this triple tercentenary, the Music Department is sponsoring a series of three lunch-hour recitals of the smaller works by these composers.

The central feature of the series will be the complete recorder sonatas of Handel, along with some of his harpsichord pieces.

Bach two-part and three-part inventions, and Scarlatti sonatas for harpsichord will make up the program.

Authenticity will be the keynote of the series with the modern harpsichord (presented to the Music Department by Mrs Vera Moore in 1976) tuned to a temperament used in the early 18th century and to the most common pitch of the period.

The modern recorder is a copy of one made by John Stanesby around 1730. It will be played by Bruce Knox, Senior Lecturer in History, who describes himself as an "earnest dilettante of the instrument and a Handel enthusiast".

The harpsichordist is Margaret Slaes, a graduate of the Melbourne University Faculty of Music, who recently returned from Auckland where she did a two-year study of the harpsichord with Anthony Jennings.

The recitals will be given in the Music Department Auditorium, 8th floor, Menzies Building, at 1.10 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, and on the following two Thursdays.

Alex. show to tour

The Alexander Theatre opens its 1985 adult drama season on March 15 with Down an Alley Filled With Cats, the Australian comedy-thriller now running in New York.

Written by Sydney rugby player and restaurateur, Warwick Mas, this intriguing work won the 1983 NSW Premier's Award for best new play. It is set in a bookshop which is proving a bit of a headache for the Alex's set designer, Graham McGuffie.

When the production goes on tour in country Victoria and Queensland, the shelves lined with books must be light enough to be easily moved.

At this eleventh hour, Graham still hasn't quite decided whether he'll be making mock books using real covers — in which case donations will be gratefully received — or whether he will simply paint in the books for the touring set.

Directed by Don Mackay, Down an Alley Filled With Cats will run at the Alexander Theatre for a three-week season from March 15.

It stars Peter Adams and Paul Karo.

Bookings can be made by phoning the theatre on 543 2255. The Alexander Theatre is also a Bass booking office.

* Pictured left constructing the bookshop interior for Down an Alley Filled With Cats is set designer, Graham McGuffie, and Matthew Peckham of the theatre staff. The remains of the Alice in Wonderland pantomime set can be seen at right and the doorways. Photo, Tony Miller.

**A musical** — Oliver, presented by Frankton Theatre Group. 8 p.m. nightly (2 p.m. matinee, March 2). Alexander Theatre. Admission: adults $5, children/pensioners $4.

7: ZOOLOGY SEMINARS — "Ant Pollination", by Dr Andrew Beattie, Melbourne University. MARCH 14: "It's only a matter of time: the pitfall in circadian and circannual rhythms", by Professor Roger Short. MARCH 28: "Life with a Light: a marine mussel from hydrothermal vents of the Galapagos Rift Zone", by Dr Barry Wilson, Museum of Victoria. 1 p.m. Biology Building, Room 232, Inquiries: ext. 2648.

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


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MONASH REPORTER

The next issue will be published in the first week of April, 1985.

Copy deadline is Friday, March 22, and an early copy is much appreciated.

 Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, in the Information Office, University Offices, or ring ext. 2011.

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