A 312-year-old document bearing the signature of Charles II of England is on display in the Monash Main Library.

The document directs the release of Ralph Montagu, who was sent to the Tower of London in 1673 for challenging the Duke of Buckingham in the King’s Drawing Room. It is among more than 60 exhibits from the Restoration period on show in the library until June 24 courtesy of an anonymous Melbourne private collector.

Nearly all of them were printed or written during the reign of Charles II, who entered London as king on May 29, 1660, though in Royalist eyes he had been king since the execution of his father on January 30, 1649. The exhibition is arranged in sequence, beginning with Prince Charles famous diary entry of October 13, 1660:

"Cheerfully hanged', drawn and quartered"

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"I went out to Charing Cross, to see Major-General Harrison hanged, drawn and quartered; which was done there, he looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition."
Going down, down, down... on to the Monash rugby field

Every jump counts for Bill Kenny from POPS (Parachutists Over Phorty) who is climbing towards his 4000th sky-dive. With members of the Eagles stunt team he was happy to help out in a Monash Sky-diving Club spectacular one lunchtime last month. Although the original session had to be cancelled because of bad weather, the clouds parted just long enough on the second try to let the divers get through. Photos: Richard Crompton.

More push needed for research funding

Universities and their graduates must continually reinforce the need for adequate government funding of basic research, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold, said recently.

He was speaking at the La Trobe University Graduation ceremony for the Schools of Behavioural Sciences and Education on May 10.

He argued that only through informed lobbying by the scientific community could governments be kept aware of the long-term benefits of research.

Professor Westfold recounted lobbying efforts in 1975 when funding for the Australian Research Grants Scheme was cut from $9 million in 1975, to $3 million in 1976.

"Hard lessons were learned at that time, and because of recent events these same lessons need to be brought to attention again," he said.

For 1985 the ARGs had received a "mere" $23.88 million from the Commonwealth, he said.

As a result the grants committee could only support to only about half the projects for which applications had been made.

"The proportion of new projects funded has fallen from 46 percent to an all-time low of 26 percent.

"All this when for the first time in living memory Australia has had a Minister in the Science portfolio (Mr Barry Jones) who has good claims to understand what research is about and its value to the nation."

Following the outcry about the recent cuts, Mr. Jones blamed scientists and academics for their "wimpish lobbying".

"What the Minister was saying is that it was not entirely his fault," Professor Westfold said.

"He was signalling that he needed more help.

"I suspect that one of his problems is that the Science portfolio ranks fairly low in the ministerial pecking order, much more knocked down by more senior ministers, backed by the mandarins of Treasury and Finance, than the Minister for Health, who has responsibility for the now consistently more generously funded National Health and Medical Research Council."

Professor Westfold said the reaction of academics and scientists to the 1975 cuts had been the opposite of "wimpish".

He described the behind-the-scenes lobbying which had gone on --- including the hiccup, when it was discovered two days before a major protest meeting that only the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader, not all MPs intended, had received invitations.

Professor Westfold urged the graduates to support the newly-established Federation of Australian Scientists and Technological Societies in its role as an educative and lobbying group for research.

JUNE 5, 1985
Keeping spaghetti in suspense

Italy may have its spaghetti trees, but Monash can lay claim to some rare and extraordinary examples of the spaghetti bridge, a species previously unknown (or at least unrecorded) in the Southern Hemisphere.

Developed by Professor Noel Murray of Civil Engineering with the help and guidance of Dr Donald Dalton from Leeds University who made a brief visit to Monash late last year — the spaghetti bridge can be seen in a wide variety of its forms this week at the Bassett Theatre (E1) where prizes are being awarded to the best of the species. The Great Spaghetti Bridge Competition of 1985 has been designed in all seriousness so that first-year engineering students can put their newly-learned theories into practice. It presents problems similar to those faced by an engineer in a remote area who had to build a bridge from untested local materials.

The bridges must be constructed only from wheat-based pasta and glue, and must carry a 900-gram trolley a half-kilometre across an articulated roadway with the total weight of the load upon the bridge being around 1600 grams.

The lightest of the successful bridges will win, and a separate prize is being awarded to the most ingenious design which will be chosen with the assistance of consulting engineer, Mr Milton Johnson.

The students were told about the project in March and they have had to work in groups of three without outside assistance. They have been advised to make sure their designs are symmetrical and the spaghetti fresh because there are no second chances — collapse means disqualification.

Pursuit of knowledge is just a game

A new board game being developed by Monash staff may not be about to outsell Trivial Pursuit, but it involves a far more vital pursuit.

One of the game's inventors, senior lecturer in Physiology, Dr Graham Taylor, said the game was designed to teach senior school students about the circulatory system.

It was developed by Dr Taylor, another Physiology lecturer, Dr Caroline McMullen, and Education lecturer, Dr Margaret Brumby.

Players have counters representing red blood cells which they move around the body from the heart. Along the way they gain "oxygen points" for good behavior and encounter "brain wave" squares — sets of question cards which can be varied to suit the age of students using the game.

Having completed the trip back to the heart, the winner is the player who has gained most "oxygen points".

The game also has a strong sociological message — good behavior such as losing weight gains an extra turn but smoking means a lost turn," Dr Taylor says. "The idea is to provide something to help teachers and education students."

Dr Taylor said the game had been tried out on HSC biology teachers at a conference at Monash in December, and many of their suggestions had been incorporated.

It still requires some redrafting and the team is hoping for support for the project from the National Heart Foundation.

Circulation is an example of the innovative work being done through a very small Monash program — Teaching Improvement Projects.

TIPs is administered by the Higher Education and Advisory Research Unit from a special annual grant of $6,000 from the Vice-Chancellor. The maximum grant available is $750 and last year 15 projects were financed.

TIPs paid $350 towards the initial artwork on Circulation to get the project off the ground.

Halley's ignoble return

To the average person the 1985-86 appearance of Halley's Comet is likely to be something of a disappointment, according to Monash chemistry professor, Ron Brown.

At its closest, the comet, which only appears every 76 years, will pass further from Earth than at any other time in the past 2000 years.

So the spectacular cosmic event which has inspired everything from great works of art to mass panic might scarcely be visible, even at its brightest, to the unaided eye of the city dweller, Professor Brown said recently at Melbourne University.

But there was great excitement in the scientific community at its coming and preparations were being made worldwide for close scrutiny in the hope not only of improving our knowledge of comets but also of the origin of the solar system.

Professor Brown said that the most widely accepted idea of the nature of comets was the "dirty snowball" model — a nucleus composed of the same cosmic dust as that from which the solar system was formed, parts of which vaporise to form the visible coma and tail as the comet approaches the sun.

Four space probes, two already launched by the USSR and one each to be launched by the European and Japanese space agencies in July and August, are to pass as close as 1000 km to the comet.

The only real observations on the comet made using earth-based instruments. The International Astronomical Union has set up a body, known as International Halley Watch (IHW), to co-ordinate these observations.
Some need to upgrade their qualifications, others to break out of established moulds.

But all so-called mature-age students are confronted by some special pressures when they enter the brave new tertiary world.

Age itself is not a great problem, according to studies done by people like Dr Terry Hore and Dr Lee West of the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit at Monash but motivation is a different matter.

It must be strong enough to withstand criticism and complaints at home and on the work front from spouses, children and colleagues who are not only demanding their share of attention but reacting with hostility to what they perceive as a threat to themselves.

Nevertheless, mature students have proved a worthy addition to the tertiary sector and it seems they are here to stay.

Since they began appearing in significant numbers more than a decade ago, the system has adapted to their special needs.

But easier access to higher education does not mean an easier acceptance of changing status.

In this letter to Hore and West, in response to their book, Back to School: A guide for students to study, the author finds herself alienated from her former life, yet separate from the new world, which is now educationally qualified to enter.

"My formal education began at the age of six years, and ended in grade eight at the age of 14. I found employment in a factory putting crown seals on sauce bottles. The year of 1982 found me with a retired husband (considerably older than myself) five children, the youngest 13, and a job as a cleaner.

What led me to college is important, but a very long story and irrelevant to the subject of this letter.

My age and background didn't seem to matter. I passed the entrance exam and began my course the following year. It was like jumping blindfold into an alien universe.

Apart from being the oldest by many years (I still am, in all three levels) I was also the most ignorant, and often totally inexperienced at things the HSC students took for granted.

I could understand the essay questions, but what exactly was an essay?
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION
Are we maltreating possums?

An unannounced visit to Monash early this month by RSPCA inspectors threw the University into a public controversy over animal experimentation.

During the visit on May 1, the inspectors asked to be shown around the animal house in the department of Physiology. In the absence of a staff member to guide them, they were introduced to Dr Jim Adams, director of Animal Services, who took them through the Central Animal House.

He later offered to show them the Physiology animal house but they declined because they said they had another appointment.

Six days later, the president of the Victorian branch of the RSPCA, Dr Hugh Wirth, said on a radio talkback program that possums held in the department were being mistreated, and that the inspectors had been denied access to the Physiology animal house.

He invited the public to join in a protest against animal experimentation, to be held outside the University on May 10 and 11.

Professor Roger Short from Physiology, who was acting as spokesman for the University at the time, responded to Dr Wirth’s allegations in two television interviews, heavily-edited excerpts of which were shown on May 9, 10 and 11.

At the same time, the poorly-attended demonstration against animal experimentation drew media attention unfavorable to the University.

Council has since lodged an official complaint with the media organisations expressing its “grave disquiet at the false claims and distortion of facts that had occurred on television and in the press” concerning experiments involving the use of possums.

On Friday, May 17, Dr Wirth, accompanied by the Victorian director of the RSPCA, Mr Peter Barber, and two inspectors, visited the department of Physiology, where Dr Wirth declined an opportunity to inspect the Animal House.

He was subsequently reported in the press as having said that he was denied admission, but that the inspectors had been conducted over the facility and would be reporting on the conditions they had found.

In this and the following pages, Monash Reporter presents some views about animal experimentation from people involved.

‘Trivial’ work very relevant

Melbourne University’s Professor Graeme Clark, the developer of the bionic ear, has come out strongly in support of research into the hearing of possums carried out by Dr Lindsay Aitkin in the Monash Department of Physiology.

Far from this work being “trivial”, as it was termed by the Victorian president of the RSPCA, Dr Hugh Wirth, it had relevance to the treatment of human hearing problems and involved research of a high calibre, Professor Clark said.

In an open letter to critics of research involving possums, Dr Aitkin and Dr Magda Weiss*, both senior lecturers in the Department of Physiology, said two principal research projects had been carried out using brush-tail possums.

“One study, completed more than two years ago, concerns the brain mechanisms involved in the processing of sounds by possums.

“In the eight years of research on this subject (1975-1983), approximately 60 possums in toto have been used.

“All have been anaesthetised deeply for the entire duration of the experiments, and killed at the conclusion with an overdose of anaesthetic.

“Research of this type is vital for our understanding of the basic brain processes involved in normal hearing and deafness in all animals, including man.

“Another project, which is still continuing, examines the hormones being produced by the various glands of possums.

“These animals are also deeply anaesthetised and various hormone-producing organs are removed before the animals are killed with an overdose of anaesthetic.

“This research provides us with information about marsupial evolution and their adaptation to the environment, in addition to furthering our knowledge about the functions of hormones.

“Approximately 20-25 animals are being used per year in this study.

“These research projects are important, both for the immediate acquisition of fundamental knowledge of the various ways in which the living body functions and also because their findings may have ultimate clinical significance.

“The possum has been used as a representative marsupial species because it is very common in the Melbourne area (indeed, it reaches pest proportions in some areas), and it is relatively easy to house comfortably in animal houses.”

*Dr Weiss is involved in the hormonal study.

MONASH REPORTER
JUNE 5, 1985
Professor Roger Short

Professor Roger Short, Department of Physiology, was acting as spokesman on animal experimentation for the University when the controversy over the possums broke out.

Professor Short says allegations made by Dr Wirth during a talk-back program on Radio 3LO on May 6 were as follows:

- that the issue before the RSPCA was the use of native animals, possums, koalas, echidnas, wombats, kangaroos and wallabies in research.
- the Department of Physiology was mis-treating possums held in captivity.
- his inspectors had been to Monash the previous week, and the first department they had called on was the Medical School, where they were welcomed with open arms, and found the facilities excellent. They then went to the Department of Physiology, where they had to disguise themselves as students to get in. Ultimately they were "sprung", but they had seen the wire cages, buckets and garbage bins in which it is alleged the possums are kept.
- the main research was related to the ability of possums to hear, and the research had established that possums could hear very well, surprise, surprise.

This was 10 years' work, costing something like 100 possums per annum, and did not abide by the code of ethics on animal experimentation.

These allegations are all without foundation, Professor Short says.

"The story about the initial visit is completely incorrect. The possums (13) are kept in a large room, which has plastic buckets suspended from the ceiling, which serve as nests boxes during the daytime.

"These have proved to be an ideal and hygienic way of raising possums in the laboratory, simulating their natural arboreal environment, and at no time are the animals ever confined to these buckets against their will.

"The total number of possums used for "hearing research" between the years 1975-1983 has been only 60.

No further research in this area has been conducted since mid 1983.

The work is performed on fully anaesthetised animals, which are killed under the anaesthetic at the termination of the experiment.

"Thus no cruelty, pain or suffering can possibly be involved in the experimental procedures. The experiments conform in every respect to the CSIRO / NH & MRC guidelines for ethics in animal experimentation, and without Ethical Committee approval, no research grant would have been awarded.

"As to the charge that this work is "trivial", it has been well funded by outside research grants from the Australian Research Grants Committee which are highly competitive and subject to peer review of the scientific objectives.

"The results of this work have been published in the most prestigious international scientific journals including Behaviour Research 150, 29-44 (1978), Journal of Experimental Zoology 209, 317-322 (1979), Hearing Research 7, 1-11 (1982), and Brain, Behavior and Evolution 22, 75-88 (1983).

Professor Short said although he had been at pains to point out to interviewers why the possums were given buckets for sleeping quarters, and that the experiments were all done under full anaesthesia at all times, the media chose not to present these facts but rather to inflame the controversy.

"The only way that public fears will be allayed, and research workers protected from harassment and provided with the intellectual freedom to pursue fundamental research, is to establish a Federal Inspectorate of suitably qualified individuals who have freedom of access to animal experimental areas at all times," he said.
In animal experimentation aseptic to the sufferings of animals?

Professor Peter Singer

Professor Peter Singer, director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash and professor of Philosophy, is president of the Victorian branch of Animal Liberation, national patron of Animal Liberation in Australia, a member of the CSIRO's advisory committee on the ethics of animal experimentation and vice-president of the Australian Federation of Animal Societies, an umbrella organisation for about 50 animal welfare groups.

In response to the question: Do you think that all animal experimentation should cease? he said:

"I don't see it as realistic to hope for the total abolition of animal experimentation in the foreseeable future, so the question becomes: what experiments will be done and how will they be conducted?"

There are probably some experiments being carried out which should not be carried out and others which could be carried out with greater concern about the animals.

When I say I expect it to continue, I'm saying that I think there will be a hard-core of research where the community is still going to believe animal experimentation is worthwhile because they are going to be told that their own chances of surviving cancer or a heart attack will be reduced by this research being carried out.

Animal experimentation has become part of our way of carrying out science and research and it's a very large institution. No doubt there are certain things which we could not find out or certainly would not find out so soon if we were not to use animals.

For these reasons I can't see any government in the foreseeable future prohibiting animal experimentation in toto; the best that I think it might do is regulate and control animal experimentation so that only the most essential experiments are carried out and that they are done in the most humane manner possible.

What restrictions in animal experimentation interfere with the pursuit of knowledge?

It's easy to talk about the importance of pursuing science and knowledge and that as a university we are in the business of pursuing knowledge. I accept that but I think we all also accept that there are certain constraints on how we pursue knowledge.

Our ethical restraints have to include the suffering of animals just as they already include the suffering of humans.

It's not a question of whether we pursue knowledge or not.

The question is where do we draw the line and how do we regulate it?

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ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

Medical science tots up its gains

The following short list of significant medical and veterinary advances which have been made possible through the application of animal experimentation has been drawn up by Professor Jethal Lykke, head of the University of New South Wales’ School of Pathology:

1. Local anaesthetics.
2. Modern injectable anaesthetics which are not inflammable, e.g. Trilene and Halothane.
3. Discovery of insulin and the synthesis of insulins for the control of diabetes.
4. Vaccination for distemper, canine hepatitis and herpes.
5. Use of the sex hormones for replacement therapy and for use in contraceptive pills.
6. Diphteria vaccine — the disease is potentially eradicable.
7. Tetanus, cholera and typhoid vaccination.
8. Thyroid hormone discovery and use of hormone for treatment of myxoedema and use of thyroid antagonists for treatment of thyrotoxicosis.
10. Penicillin — the disease is potentially curable.
11. Thyroid hormone discovery and use of hormone for treatment of myxoedema and use of thyroid antagonists for treatment of thyrotoxicosis.
12. Control of hypertension with diuretics and hypotensive agents such as beta blockers.
13. Cephalosporins — antibiotic drugs, were drawn up by Professor Jethal Lykke, head of the University of New South Wales’ School of Pathology.
15. Antischistosomes — drugs for treating bilharzia, an endemic disease in Africa.
17. Leukaemia and cancer control by drug therapy.
18. Discovery of monoclonal technology applied to diagnostic technology for a vast array of diseases.
20. Development of kidney grafting: saving of public expense of an estimated $1,000,000 annually in NSW alone.
21. Open heart surgery and the recent development of coronary artery grafting and boring out of obstructed arteries in heart.
22. Cardiac transplantation and liver transplantation made possible only by advances in understanding and control of tissue rejection, e.g. by Cyclosporins.
23. Discovery of the sex hormones for distemper, canine hepatitis and herpes.
24. Development of metal, plastic and ceramic implants for more rapid healing of fractures and replacement of heart valves.

Impressed by standards

In the wake of the recent controversy over the use and handling of possums at Monash, Dr Margaret Rose, a veterinarian and project scientist at the University of New South Wales (and a member of CSIRO’s advisory committee on the ethics of animal experimentation) was invited to inspect the Physiology department’s animal house, and gave the following report:

"The general state of the facilities was good, and I was impressed by the standards of care and attention being provided to the animals. All animals were in a state of good health, except two which were under veterinary treatment; examination of records indicated prompt recognition of the problem by staff. They were obviously responding well to treatment and were being closely monitored.

Cages and compounds were of adequate size and design for the species housed and were maintained in a good state of cleanliness. Adequate quantities of fresh food and water were provided. I was pleased to see the development of pens housing for sheep and possums. This provides the animals with greater areas for exercise and allows development of communal behavioral activities. In all the rooms, the animals responded positively to a stranger entering, a good indication of the standards of care being provided by technical staff.

I discussed with Dr Adams the possum holding facility and I entered the rooms and observed all the animals in their holding boxes. Although these facilities might offend the aesthetic purist, I believe they are a real and innovative attempt to significantly improve the conditions for housing possums, and are infinitely better than the restrictive caging conditions used in most facilities.

The possums are housed within large wire-mesh enclosures within which are suspended multiple, darkened nesting boxes. Thus, exercise and simulated arboreal nesting area are provided, whilst the design of this facility permits cleaning and ready observation of animals. A very real attempt has been made to achieve simulated natural conditions which can be realistically maintained in a research facility.

All the possums were in excellent health, some were suckling young and they showed neither fear nor apprehension when I approached them.

There was no indication that the animals were stressed, in fact, the contrary was true."

Board must approve all animal research

Experiments involving animals cannot be performed at Monash unless they have been cleared with the Committee on Ethics in Animal Experimentation, a standing committee of the Professorial Board.

Its chairman is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, and committee members are Dr Ben Adler (Microbiology), Professor Alan Boura (Pharmacology), Professor Vernon Marshall (Prince Henry's Hospital), Associate Professor John McGechie (Philosophy), Emeritus Professor Hector Monro (Council member), Dr John Nelson (Zoology), Mr Tony Pagine (Law), Professor Roger Short (Physiology) and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Animal Services, Professor David de Kreter (Anatomy).

The secretary of the committee is Mrs Joan Dawson, Academic Services Officer, Registrar's Office.

WHY ANIMALS ARE USED IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

Prepared by the Australian Physiological & Pharmacological Society

Brochures available to public

The Australian Physiological and Pharmacological Society has prepared this pamphlet, left, and a detailed booklet, to provide information for the public about animal experimentation. They include comments on benefits, future needs, alternative possibilities and safeguards. Copies of these publications can be obtained by writing to the society at PO Box 1307Q, Melbourne, 3001.
More talk, please, on nuclear war

Graduates had a special responsibility to tackle community issues, said the Chancellor of La Trobe University, Mr Justice McGarvie.

The community needed its university-educated people to involve themselves actively, particularly on such fundamental questions as the best ways of reducing the risk of nuclear war.

"There is an immense need for educated people throughout the world to take this subject off the list that is never mentioned in polite company," he said during an Education, Law and Medicine graduation ceremony at Monash last month.

"It is important for it to be discussed and considered and to have solutions sought by intellectual leaders in an atmosphere as free as possible from emotion and partisan bias."

Mr Justice McGarvie said the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a group formed in 1981 in Virginia, USA, through the efforts of two academics, was an outstanding example of the practical steps professionals could take to bring their energies to bear on the problem.

But while graduates had responsibilities to the community, they could not expect that the shouldering of such responsibilities would bring them popularity.

"Teachers tend to be resented because they do not turn students into more perfect beings than their families produced.

"It is a community based on the rule of law, almost every community activity involves reliance on lawyers. People resent that dependence."

"It has recently been said that doctors are unpopular because people resent dependence on them for health and life," he said.

"No doubt there are other reasons for community resentment of those of the university education professions and disciplines.

"In my own profession, law, I do not doubt that obscurity of language does the profession much harm. I must confess that whenever I hear lawyers explaining a concept in stilted obscure language, particularly if they crowd in technical terms and Latin phrases, I usually suspect that they are aware that they do not understand the topic and are most desirous of concealing that fact.

"If understood, our law can be well explained in clear basic English. Lawyers should look more to the skills of journalists and less to the incantations of conveyancers."

Mooters move on

The fledgling Monash mootin team grew to its full strength through the efforts of Jonathan Slonim and his fellows, but it will be up to a new group of law students to continue the tradition.

The team's near-victory in the finals of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in New York a short time ago was the swan-song for Jonathan and for several other team members who graduated last month as Bachelor of Laws.

Though technically eligible to compete for another year, Jonathan has had enough.

"After seven days a week for six months doing nothing but this, it's time for someone else to take over," he says. It's been hard work, but well worthwhile.

"There are lots of benefits for those going to the Bar and moooting undoubtedly improves your job prospects."

After winning the Australian finals in Canberra — when Jonathan was adjudged best oralist — the team, coached by senior lecturer, Mr Harry Reicher, competed in a field of 63 nations in New York and was defeated in the final by Singapore.

Other team members who graduated at the May 8 ceremony were Alan Swanwick, LL.B (Hons.), and Andrew Hamlyn-Harris, co-winners of the Sir Charles Lowe Prize, and Jennifer Lador.

The remaining team members are John Jarrett, Kate Schneeburger and Carmel Bianchi.

First Special Ed specialists

The first two graduates in Australia to be awarded Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees specifically in the Special Education field received their Ph.Ds at the Education, Law and Medicine graduation last month.

Dr Peter Heggart and Dr Frank Sofo were supervised during their candidatures by Dr Peter Edwards, senior lecturer in Education. They were part of the initial Monash intake for the degree of Bachelor of Special Education in 1976.

Both have done extensive work with special children — the gifted disabled and retarded — and have helped to establish highly specialised learning centres for children who are handicapped or whose education is at risk.

They are now lecturers in Special Education: Dr Sofo at Signadou College in Canberra, and Dr Heggart at the Western Australian College of Advanced Education.

League footballers make news in Melbourne even when their achievements are at the opposite end of the brain-spectrum.

So when dual Brownlow medallist and Melbourne ruckman, Peter Moore, was awarded a Bachelor of Laws degree last month, he must have been one of the few Monash graduates to have the occasion marked with a front-page picture in The Sun.

He was also interviewed on television and radio, where it was suggested he might eventually use his knowledge of the law to work in the football area, helping players and clubs arrange suitable contracts.

Moore, 29, has been studying at Monash for six years and is now working for a legal firm in the city.
**Engineering software is Australian first**

Monash has become the first University outside the US to be given a sophisticated computer assisted engineering design package developed for the General Electric Corporation.

The $100,000 software package, Integrated Design Engineering Analysis Software (I-DEAS), allows structures to be designed from scratch on a computer terminal and then tested to see how they react to loads and vibration.

The gift of the software was negotiated by Dr Len Koss of Mechanical Engineering while he was on study leave at the company which developed the package, Structural Dynamics Research Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio.

In order to gain access to the software the university had to sign an agreement which stated among other things that the software was to be used only for teaching, research and interaction with industry and was subject to US export controls.

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**LETTERS**

**Maths tutors not on staff**

With regard to the article entitled "Women prove their worth in the 'male' maths field" which appeared in last month's *Monash Reporter*, we, the undersigned, being the six second-year tutors referred to, wish to point out some errors in emphasis which make the article a little misleading.

First of all, while we do in fact tutor second year students as was mentioned (as well as first and third years) we are not "talented young female staff" members or any other variety of staff member (except Rosemary Mardling). We are "talented young female" post-graduate research students who also happen to tutor undergraduate students for a few hours per week in order to supplement our research scholarship allowances.

We recognise the good intentions of the writer of the article in question in attempting to highlight the admirable attitude of the Applied Maths section towards the encouragement of its female students.

However, to depict us as full-time tutors, as was implied, rather than graduate students, defeats that purpose somewhat.

Finally, in the interests of balance and equality, we would like to point out that the Applied Maths section also boasts many "talented young male" post-graduate students namely, Craig Bishop, Leigh Brookshaw, Paul Cleary, Allan DeVille, Greg Dietzach-Jayer, Peter Fox, Mark Hickman, John Lopez, Sanjay Ramevan, Michael Reeder, Stewart Robinson, Greg Roff, Inre Zarelli, Paul Thomas, Sanilis Varnas and Nick Yannios.

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**Planning pregnancy? Dial this number**

A Monash PhD student in the Education Faculty wants to hear from women who intend becoming pregnant before October.

In a year-long project Mrs Zevia Schneider hopes to test the truth — or otherwise — of the popular conception of pregnant women as woolly-minded.

The women will be interviewed weekly about 8 times before they become pregnant and then during a fortnight during their pregnancy.

Mrs Schneider said the interviews would test areas such as concentration, short-term memory, discrimination, decision-making, motivation and mood. About 50 women have already agreed to take part but Mrs Schneider and research assistant, Robin Mullins, a Masters student in Education, are hoping to involve at least 100 women.

"The women who agree to take part are terribly excited about the project," she says.

"A lot have said that they felt they were vague in previous pregnancies and they're dying to see if the results bear this out."

She realises the results of her project could be controversial if they showed lessened concentration during pregnancy.

"But it's important to know if there is any difference in how women assimilate information during pregnancy."

A former nurse and teacher who now lectures in Psychology, Ms Schneider is attracted to the project because of its implications for parenthood education.

"In the long term I am looking at how educational courses for parenthood could best be designed and implemented."
BRIEFS
The Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit (HEARU) has moved to its new office on the first floor of First Year Physics (building number 26).

Educational Technology Services, a section of HEARU, will remain in their present building to the west of the Medical School.

Helen Toplis, a former staff member from the Department of Visual Arts and the author of "Tom Roberts: A Catalogue Raisonne", will give the inaugural Tom Roberts Lecture this month at Robert Blackwood Hall.

The lecture, on the beginnings of an Australian school, will be presented at 8:15 p.m. in the dinningroom followed by supper in the Common Room where a mural executed by 1984 students will be opened by Professor Margaret Plant.

IMPORTANT DATES
The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in June:

- Graduation Ceremony — Arts
- Queen's Birthday Holiday
- Lectures in subjects taught in the first half-year by the Faculty of Economics and Politics end.
- JUNE 17: "The future of ethnic education in Australia and the United States". By Dr Maurice Eisenbruch, Consultant, Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville. 11 a.m. Room 516, Menzies Building.
- JUNE 23: "Aboriginal studies lectures". By Ms Penny Bamberry. JUNE 26: "Aboriginal and the Law".

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

- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FORUMS — "Concerning Environmental Despair", by Frank Fisher, Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash.
- Environmental Science Seminar Room. All forums at 3 p.m. Admission free. Inquiries ext. 8339.


- KINSEY — Private collection of rare books, prints, documents marking the 25th anniversary of the Restoration of Charles II. 1st floor, Main Library.


- SPECIAL LUNCHEON CONCERT — Adelaide Glee Ensemb. Program of works by J.S. Bach, P. Casals, J. Klemmg, H. Villa-Lobos, Rachmaninov and Beatles. RBH. Admission free.

- CENTRE FOR MIGRANT AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES — "The future of ethnic languages: The role of the school", by Professor Joshua Fishman, Yeshiva University, New York. Admission free. All welcome. Inquiries: ext. 3245.


"Mail" service matches people with jobs
A major problem confronting the graduate job hunter and the careers advisor with whom he or she consults, is to establish which of the many thousands of potential employers is actively wanting to receive job applications right now.

In this regard, such readily available publications as newspapers, or Graduate Outlook provide only half the story. The Careers and Appointments Service has therefore set up what is called a Recruiters' Letterbox. It will work like this:

Graduate job hunters calling at the Careers and Appointments Service may consult the company reference material and any job specification details held there.

Copies of personal particulars may be left in the Recruiters' Letterbox for each employer in whom they are interested. These details will be forwarded to the nominated employers on a weekly basis.

Employers wishing to participate in the scheme have simply to provide a detailed description of their activities and a job description for the vacancies they wish to fill.

A small administrative charge of $10 will be made for each month the service is provided.

From an employer's point of view, the Recruiters' Letterbox offers an opportunity to establish contact with potential professional staff, possessing varied skills, at very little cost to either party.

Many employers have expressed interest in the Recruiters' Letterbox and the ANZ Bank with ASIO are the first to participate in the scheme. Further information may be obtained from the Careers and Appointments Service.

Rental firm seeks recruits
The managing director of Budget Rent A Car System, Mr Bob Ansell, will hold a careers information session at Monash on Friday, June 21. All students interested in getting information about career opportunities within the company are welcome to attend. The session will be of particular interest to Economics students in final or earlier years. It will be held between 1 and 2 p.m. in RS. Campus interviews will be conducted on Wednesday, July 17, and further information can be obtained from the Careers and Appointments Service.

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Convention of DAAD scholars
German academics and administrators hosting a two-day convention at Normandy House for former scholarship holders from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) were invited to a luncheon at the University Club's private dining room by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin. They were pictured, left, with some Monash academics.

The convention was opened by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Wilhelm Fabricius.

Footnote: Applications for DAAD scholarships for 1986/7 will close on June 28. Inquiries to Clive Vernon, Graduate Scholarships Officer.

MONASH REPORTER
JUNE 5, 1985
The Alexander Theatre will present Abel Gance’s epic silent film, *Napoleon*, for a two-week season from July 29.

The film, first shown in Paris 54 years ago and reconstructed in the 1980s from butchered prints from around the world, is doing its second round of screenings in Australia.

Full four-speaker Dolby sound will be installed at the Alex for the soundtrack version which features Carmine Coppola’s original score.

*Napoleon* was one of the great lost masterworks of film history and Gance, who lived long enough to know it had been recovered, was one of the forgotten geniuses of the cinema.

After years of detective work by English filmmaker and historian, Kevin Brownlow and others, and with the financial backing of Francis Ford Coppola, *Napoleon* was restored to a version lasting more than four hours, and made its debut in America.

Gance, who died in Paris in October, 1981 at the age of 92, directed the film and played the part of the elegant revolutionary, Saint-Just.

**“Napoleon is an awesome achievement, a recovered masterpiece of and milestone in film history.”**

**“But such praise ought not to conceal the fact that Napoleon is also a hooting, hollering, funny, thrilling, dazing and dazzling enjoyment.”**

**“Its four-hours-plus pass faster than many a two-hour gem I’ve watched, and while sacroiliac fatigue produces a slight slump along in the second half, it is temporary.”**

**“Napoleon mounts to such a rousing, astounding, three-screen, cast of thousands, eagle-hust-funded tricolor patriotic finish that if ushers passed out membership cards for the French army I suspect that half the audience would sign up on the spot.”**

CHARLES CHAMPLIN,
Times Arts Editor