Plans for HSC English 'naive'

"It's naive and ill-considered to cut English in half in the expectation that it will be covered somewhere else," says remedial English adviser at Monash, Mr Gordon Taylor, about the Blackburn Report.

He was referring to the report’s recommendation that a new common subject — the study of work in society — could serve as a medium through which literacy and broader communication skills could be developed and tested.

There would be a corresponding reduction in the requirements for compulsory formal English study.

"I can't see how the study of work in society can possibly be a useful vehicle for teaching literacy," he said.

"Nobody knows what the subject is — it does not even exist and it will probably be a mish-mash.

"It's not possible to teach literacy in an undisciplined way."

Mr Taylor, a remedial English adviser at Monash since 1974, has done several studies on levels of literacy and numeracy among students.

While he concedes that literacy is not the exclusive domain of English teachers, he is concerned that the new proposal would require such a massive teacher re-education program that it would be unlikely to work out.

At a recent special lecture to staff from the Faculty of Arts, he said a more co-ordinated and systematic approach had to be developed for the faculty as a whole to tackle the problems of student writing.

Academic staff traded off strengths and weaknesses in such things as relevance, the quality of ideas, the breadth of reading, the structure of argument, logic and the use of evidence, against strengths and weaknesses in the mechanics.

Members of staff in the same department could vary considerably in the weight they assigned to particular criteria in judging a piece of work.

Mr Taylor said that some members of the Arts Faculty believed that the system of half-year units, combined with the freedom to discontinue a subject a student was not doing well in, enabled the student to move to a course somewhere in the faculty where attention to quality of language was reputed to be slight.

"In this way the student can hide his or her failures in the inerstices of the faculty system."

Plagiarism was resorted to not so much out of a poor sense of academic ethics as from an inability to summarise and analyse secondary sources, which themselves were relied upon excessively because students lacked the ability to analyse primary texts.

"It can therefore be seen as an inability to write which stems in part from a lack of the relatively sophisticated reading and analytical skills an undergraduate needs to master," he said.

"There is an easy attitude to language and language use and this well-established academic tradition needs to be modified, if not broken, before much can be accomplished.

"If the ability to write is widely regarded in the faculty as an accessory to, rather than as an integral part of, an Arts education, only ultimate embarrassment to the University can follow."

The Dean of Arts, Professor John Legge, has given his full support to moves within the faculty to improve student literacy.

Following a report to the Faculty Board from an ad hoc committee on student literacy and numeracy, he welcomed Mr Taylor's lecture, the first of its kind at Monash, and has encouraged departments to follow it up by more detailed discussion.

"There is a serious problem of student literacy," he said.

"We are trying to do what little we can at our end, but to be tackled properly the problem should be faced at primary and secondary level."

Gordon Taylor

See pages 4 and 5 for more comments on the Blackburn Report.
Think of the ANZAAS Festival of Science as a big exciting information market — but instead of a bazaar of colorful fruits and vegetables, or shares changing hands on a bustling stock exchange floor, the festival offers across-the-board "information specials".

Like farmers on market day, top scientists from Australia, New Zealand and around the world will be showing their wares to all comers — to other scientists sharing their disciplines, to scientists in other specialities and to the public in general.

Those attending the festival will be able to pick up information bargains.

It will cost only $8 for a ticket to any of the 130 or so Congress sessions at Monash University; and nothing to participate in an event of the Community Science and Technology program.

The festival has four segments:

- **The 55th Congress at Monash**;
- **The Community Science and Technology program at more than 100 venues around Melbourne (private and government laboratories, factories, public utilities and sporting and other organisations are offering open-house with special scientific activities at no charge);**
- **Youth ANZAAS, involving more than 1500 girls and boys from secondary schools in Victoria, other States, New Zealand and neighboring countries in a week of free scientific events at Dallas Brooks Hall; and**
- **ASEAN Interaction for invited participants from ASEAN countries.**

Segments might give an insight into concepts of time, space, light or life; or an appreciation of the complexity of issues like Aboriginal land claims, equal opportunities for women; or establishing new industries like deer farming.

### Bustling bazaar of 'information specials'

The information market is increasingly important because we live in an information society.

More and more people now make their living assembling, sending or using information instead of manufacturing and distributing goods and products.

However, production of an ever-increasing volume of information brings problems as well as benefits.

We can't keep up with all of the information produced. So we tend to specialise, to know more and more about less and less.

Then we find it difficult to take in the whole picture — to get all of the information needed from all of the specialists with their own jargons and information distribution systems.

This is one of the important challenges of today . . . one to which ANZAAS responds the year round and in a particular way with the Festival of Science.

ANZAAS has a key role in the information market. It offers a forum for all scientists to contribute and exchange information.

### Melbourne’s got the numbers

Statistically speaking, Melbourne is rather well off.

More than half the statisticians in Australia are trained in the Melbourne area, and about a quarter of Australia’s statistics research effort is concentrated there.

And that dominance looks set to continue, given a recent Federal Government decision to support the establishment of a Joint Centre for Statistical Sciences to be based at Monash, La Trobe and Melbourne universities and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

It will be one of seven key centres of teaching and research which will share about $3 million in the next three years.

Key centres aim to improve teaching and research standards, help tertiary institutions respond to demands for their expertise and promote co-operation between higher education and industry.

When the ABC’s television program, *Pressure Point*, dealt with euthanasia recently, it featured Professor Peter Singer and Dr Helga Kuhse from the Centre for Human Bioethics. It was filmed in the Union Theatre. Pictured filling seats on stage beforehand while the cameras were being positioned are, from left, campus visitor, Sean Kelly, an unnamed ABC crew member, and the show’s compere, Huw Evans. Photo: Richard Crompton.
'Boy from Fitzroy' wins top post at Harvard

Although Harold Bolitho regrets leaving Monash, he is looking forward to concentrating exclusively on his specialty — early Japanese history — in his new post at Harvard University.

An Associate Professor in the Department of Japanese for the past 12 years, he was appointed Professor of Japanese History at Harvard after being "check-ed out" during a Visiting Professorship there last year.

He was chosen from a field which included a number of American specialists and an Englishman.

"I've been very happy at Monash, it's been good to be associated with a growing department, but I know nothing about modern Japan and I feel I should." At Harvard I'm being hired specifically as an early Japanese historian and I'll have an office in what must be one of the best Oriental libraries around." he said, before leaving Australia late last month.

Professor Bolitho graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1960 and went to Japan in 1962 — first as a Saicoji Memorial Scholar, then as Myer Foundation Scholar — returning in 1965.

He then undertook graduate work at Yale University where he became Yale Prize Fellow in East Asian Studies, and gained his Ph.D. in 1969.

Christie called to Prince's nuclear round-table

Professor Christie Weeramantry from the Faculty of Law was an invited guest at the Groupe de Bellerive Colloquium on Nuclear War, Nuclear Proliferation and their Consequences, convened by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and held last week in Geneva.

One of the colloquium's crucial considerations was the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which is coming up for its five-yearly review in Geneva in September.

The Prince, who is president of the Groupe de Bellerive, financed the conference for the purpose of bringing together some 500 or 600 people from around the world to explore the arguments that will be aired at the conference in Tokyo the theory that scientists who knowingly manufacture nuclear weapons commit an offence under international law.

This theory is receiving increasing international attention.

New law course brought flood of reforms

The Faculty of Law at Monash had gone a long way towards achieving its aim of emphasising the interaction between law and life, the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, told guests at the Law School's 21st birthday celebrations.

The new kind of law course designed for Monash, and outlined in Sir David Derham's speech at the opening of the Law School in 1968, had helped to resolve the apparent dilemma of maintaining the authority of the law while eradicating errors within it.

"One result has been a flood of law reform measures and a great growth of new tribunals and new remedies in areas previously barely touched by the law: administrative and environmental law to name but two," Sir Ninian said.

"And there have been dramatic reforms even in matters procedural, perhaps the ultimate domain of conservation."

"In all these moves towards a legal system better adapted to the needs of the times, Monash Law School has played its own notable part."

The dinner, organised by the Monash University Law Alumni, was held at the National Gallery, with lawyer-turned-master of ceremonies, Campbell McComas, as Master of Ceremonies.

Campus on show

Scenes from campus life at Monash will be depicted in a film made by the Media Unit at Deakin University for screening to prospective university students throughout the State. The film, aimed at 16 to 18 year olds, is being made on behalf of the Victorian Vice-Chancellors Committee.

It will focus on the everyday experiences of two people — Steve, a young third year science student and Rita, a mature aged student studying economics.

Peter Lane, director of the audiovisual production team at Deakin, said the lead roles would be taken by professional actors but the rest of the cast would be Deakin staff and students.

The film was about a fictitious university and would be a compilation of the four universities in Victoria with scenes from every campus.

The final shots would be a montage of people who had gained university degrees, including famous names like Robert de Castella, Germaine Greer, Collette Mann, Max Giles, and Bob Hawke, as well as others who have followed different courses and become taxi drivers, bakers or farmers.

It is hoped the film will be finished by August ready for distribution to schools.

Since he joined Monash in 1973 he has spent periods as Visiting Scholar at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, as well as the visiting professorship at Harvard.

Despite his travels, the new appointment is the first major move for the boy from Fitzroy and he approached it with "a mixture of excitement and apprehension."

He will be joined by his wife, Anne, a secondary school teacher, and daughter, Emily, 14, at the start of 1986.

Son, Harold, 18, who has been offered a place at Harvard, will probably go there at the end of his current first year in Law/Science at Melbourne University.

For bookings, phone 8181307 (we think).

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earlier addressed by the Victorian Minister for Education, Mr Ian Cathie. Summarised under five headings:

- Years of schooling to provide can be
- The last decade, expressed dissatisfaction
- Concerned in relation to the Blackburn
- English provided in Years 11 and 12 of
- The working party's recommendations, on the other hand, did stick

Universities have, in many ways over the last decade, expressed dissatisfaction with the competence in English language of the students who have been "successful" in the two years of compulsory English provided in Years 11 and 12 of schooling.

Faculties at Monash in 1975, and again in 1981, expressed this dissatisfaction in formal meetings. Accordingly there is no automatic reason why the Victorian University should be concerned in relation to the Blackburn Report proposal to reduce the compulsory amount of English to two units.

Two units of English may well be a reasonable amount given that a number of other areas of the curriculum, ought to have a chance to contribute to the continued general education of these students at this level.

There is scope in the report for tertiary institutions to indicate the sorts of specific English language skills other units should aim to provide.

Moreover, the report does refer to the potential that other subject fields have to develop and reinforce English language skills.

These more transactional aspects of English are probably much the ones universities facilities seem to need and find lacking among many of their present students.

It will be unfortunate, then, if we find universities expressing dissatisfaction with the report's recommendation concerning compulsory English and not supporting the potential the report holds for improving language skills.

The report strongly addresses the need for the Mathematics/Science group of students to have a good understanding of Science and Mathematics. It is unfortunate that the report appears to recommend against the moves universities have made in post-compulsory years.

The proposals in the report for all students to continue studies in English (two units), the Study of Work (two units) and at least three units in each of Arts/Humanities/Science/Technology and Mathematics would broaden the education of many students compared with the present situation, which allows them to avoid studies in the latter two categories.

This assumes, of course, that appropriate curricula in these three umbrella areas can be developed.

The present curricula, particularly in Science/Technology and Mathematics, have not been a satisfactory base for the broadening that is intended.

On the other hand, the proposals do little to ensure a broadening of the other Mathematics/Science group of students who at present are very specialised.

The possibility remains (indeed recommendation 10 suggests that it is likely) that these students could still undertake 17 units out of 24 in the Science/Technology plus Mathematics areas, which is the same proportion as now for the many students who take the physical sciences and both mathematics in Years 11 and 12.

The fifth and final need that universities express is an interesting one that need not be defined a little more clearly before the report's obvious attention to this aspect can be judged.

Ingratiating "preparatory" programs in most faculties are not noted for the initiative they expect students to take in negotiating their own learning.

Indeed, many school curricula courses of study expect or require school students to show much greater autonomy.

On the other hand, university education does usually expect students to take more initiatives than schools do with respect to planning and disciplining their own learning, to attending and responding to lecture-type situations, to give appropriate priority to library and other unmonitored sources of learning in the face of reading references and constructing essay and other responses with relatively little guidance.

It may be that students at these levels of schooling will be best prepared for life beyond school if both these sorts of autonomy are fostered in the post-compulsory years.

Unfortunately, the report's recommendations 17, 19 and 28, seem more likely to service the second sorts of autonomy than they will the former.

It is unfortunate that the report appears to recommend against the moves in Victoria over a number of years to involve students and teachers in direct decision-making and responsibility about the content and manner of their learning.

In doing so, it is contrary to present government policy about schools' responsibility for curriculum and about the participation of students, teachers and parents in determining curriculum.

More generally, it seems likely that universities will support the recommendations about the new sorts of learning and assume responsibility for these years of schooling.

These larger, more separate senior schools should be more likely to be able to provide quality resources and teaching for the diverse groups of students at this level.

Universities will also be concerned that mature age students (a very essential source of excellent students for a number of specialties) have been so neglected by the report.

Its recommendations about the nature and extent of the pre-university course is quite inappropriate for these students.

Matric committee gives vote of support

The Matriculation Committee at Monash is chaired by Professor Bill Rachinger from the Department of Physics.

It has looked at the Blackburn Report and asked faculties to start thinking about the implications so they will be ready to respond at short notice in what promises to be a tight timetable for implementation of the report's recommendations.

"We want comments to come from the grass roots," Professor Rachinger says.

"The new curriculum hasn't been defined yet so there's little the faculties can say in terms of detailed requirements, although the universities will be expected to provide information on their pre-requisites in mathematics, physics and so on.

"But the Faculty of Arts may be very concerned about the place of modern languages, which don't get much of a mention in the report.

"There'll be concern generally about the place of English and the fact that the time given to it will be reduced, although there'll be the argument between those who are concerned with what you might call technical English and those who are concerned with the literature aspects.

"There will probably be general agreement that it is a good thing to bring order to what has grown up to be a fairly disorderly array of subjects, some under VISE (The Victorian Institute of Secondary Education) and some under TAFE (Technical and Further Education).

"1 think there'll be support for the fact that there'll be a single credential given for four years from what we know now as the technical school area or from the high school area.

"I think the replacement of VISE by VCAB (Victorian Curriculum Assessment Board) will be favored by all faculties and indeed by all the universities," Professor Rachinger said.

The grouping of Years 11 and 12 as a coherent entity would also probably receive general support.

Future teachers talk on child abuse

The laws involving child abuse were deficient in ways different from those generally complained about, said principal lecturer in Law, Dr Terry Carney, giving a seminar on Child Abuse in the Faculty of Education.

"Their breadth of focus is too narrow — the problem is not just sexual abuse but physical and emotional abuse," he said.

Dr Carney, chairman of the Child Welfare Practice and Legislation Review Committee which prepared the recently-released Child Welfare Report (known as the Carney Report), says child protection is about providing basic community support.

He urged Dip.Ed. students to be aware, as teachers, of the signs which might indicate that a school student is involved in child abuse.

"Pictured after the seminar are, from left, Penny Maret, Franchesca Vosburg, Ian Woolley, Dr Terry Carney, Dr Mary Nixon, and the Dean of Education, Professor Peter Fensham.

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"What's going out the window in the Blackburn Report is the concept of the mastery of a subject," says Professor David Bradley of the Department of English, who is a member of the Matriculation Committee.

"Experiential theories of learning will be institutionalised by the implementation of the report; the concept of mastery and internalised competence will be eroded."

"But I don't want to knock the report — it's a pretty good middle course," Professor Bradley said that as a piece of social engineering, the report was trying to find a sensible solution to the fact that public examinations have become unpopular.

Although the arguments against public exams were not justified, more students were staying on at school and the ends of secondary schooling had become much more diverse.

The temptation to turn schools into coaching colleges had in the past been strong, and the report's thrust towards self-development rather than subject-based study was probably a timely solution to the present situation in Victoria, he said.

"Its basic goal is self-development and trying to avoid the failure syndrome."

"Students will have spent productive years following courses they've been interested in so they will feel they have succeeded somehow, and the idea of failure will disappear from their vocabulary and understanding."

"Perhaps the report couldn't be more specific about minimum acquisitions and minimum standards because part of its thrust is that teachers should take more responsibility for syllabuses which will engage the students and develop them in appropriate ways — the educational objectives simply remain there as guidelines."

"The social objectives are in a sense trying to make the longer retention at school a more adult and more personally satisfying experience."

There was a conflict between the report's moves towards encouraging more students from lower-income families to participate in tertiary education, while at the same time questioning which belonged to the 1960s and is unlikely to produce the effects it aims for.

"Which doesn't mean that I think it shouldn't happen: given that it's got to be a political report, I don't know what more one could have said."

Sessions to look at problems of young people

The Education Faculty is holding a series of four lectures in July and August to mark International Youth Year.

The lectures will look at the problems and possibilities for young people in the next 10 to 15 years. To ensure relevance to the target audience each session will be chaired by an under-25 graduate student from the faculty.

"What we are trying to do is to encourage people into thinking that there are alternatives to the present system," said the organiser of the lectures, Professor Peter Musgrave.

The first lecture, "Youth Today: a General Picture", will be given on July 17 by Associate Professor Millicent Poole, an educational psychologist from Macquarie University and author of a recently published survey, Youth Expectations and Transitions.

The Dean of Education, Professor Peter Fensham, will speak on "Post-Compulsory Schooling" in the second lecture on July 24.

The third lecture on July 31, "Work, Education and Youth", will be given by Mr John Limbrick, president of the Industrial Training Commission of Victoria.

Delegates to the Ninth National Conference of the Musicological Society of Australia will enjoy a special sesquicentennial concert at Government House featuring music played there 100 years ago.

The conference, to be held in the Department of Music at Monash from August 23-26, has been timed to immediately precede the ANZAAS Festival of Science.

The concert will parallel sessions of papers on the history of Australian — especially Victorian — music.

Visiting musicologists from overseas, including Professor Jean-Jacques Natiez of the University of Montreal and Professor Ricardo Trinillos of the University of Hawaii, are being brought to Australia by ANZAAS and MSA and will present papers at both conferences.

The MSA conference will have three main themes: comparative methods of musical analysis, preservation and conservation of the traditional musics of the Asian area, and preservation and conservation of Australian music, with special reference to Victoria in its sesquicentennial year.

Delegates will also attend a reception at the Gryphon Gallery where an exhibition of musical instruments from Indonesia is being presented by the Indonesian Arts Society and the Monash Department of Music from August 6 to 30.

Instruments on display will come from Java and Bali as well as lesser-known areas, and will include some from pre-Hindu period, the Hindu period and the Muslim era. The latter include the plucked lute and frame drums of various sorts.

Most are owned by the Department of Music and were collected over a number of years by Reader, Dr Margaret Kartomi and graduate students during field research in Indonesia.

Performances will be given at the exhibition by the Indonesian Arts Society at the opening on August 7, for the MSA conference on August 23, and for ANZAAS on August 29.

Inquiries should be directed to Dr Margaret Kartomi, national MSA president or Dr Carol Williams, secretary, or the department of Music on ext. 3238 and 3224.

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As part of the festival, the Department of Indonesian and Malay last month presented Kuda-Kuda (Packhorses) — an Indonesian play by a talented young poet and dramatist, Noorca Marendra Massardi.

This unconventional play concerns the ultimately unsuccessful efforts of three working class Indonesians to change their desperate and poverty-stricken lot.

In surreal style, the trio of a pedicab driver, domestic maid and a Muslim religious tract seller, decide to petition Fate.

On their way to Fate's office, they come across characters from the traditional shadow theatre, are hit by a meteor and contract extra-terrestrial diseases.

The play was performed by students and staff of the Indonesian and Malay department, with most of the players being drawn from third year level.

Virtually all five performances were sold out — due in large measure to the considerable interest from the Indonesian community and secondary schools in Melbourne.

Packhorses was the third production undertaken by the department and was directed by Paul Monaghan.

The play was made possible by the generous financial assistance of the Vera Moore Fund and the loan of an Indonesian pedicab (becak) from Rahayu Trading Co.

The unpublished script was obtained through the Manuscript Bank at the Jakarta Arts Centre — a source the department hopes to continue to tap in future years.

During the annual Festival of Theatre, the campus opened with seasons of popular plays in the Alexander and Union theatres, poetry and play readings and fringe events.

The program for the remainder of the month includes drama being staged by the Student Theatre Committee Department under Peter Fitzpatrick's direction, and a party night on July 22, to which everyone is invited.

Inquiries should be directed to the festival co-ordinator, the Union, on ext. 3108.
Once A Catholic

In August of 1977, Mary O'Malley's Once a Catholic premiered in London. Described by the playwright as an epitaph to the 'fifties, to the Irish living in England at the time of her youth and to Catholicism as taught before the Second Vatican Council, this comedy explores the influence of the Catholic Church at a time of great social change.

The Festival of Theatre version, being presented at the Alex by the Monash Players until July 6, stars Jenny Whelan as Mary Mooney, "a likely bit of crumpet who finds herself a sorry victim of circumstance", and John Howe as Derek, a tough teddy boy.

It is set against a background of cult heroes like Elvis, and the emergence of rock'n'roll and the birth of television.

Rod Charlis, a Murrumbeena school teacher who did his B.A. and Dip.Ed. at Monash, has been appointed as professional director.

He has been involved in theatre in all of its aspects since he was 15, and was very active in the campus theatrical scene.

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HALLS OF RESIDENCE

Home sweet home to 900 students

The Monash halls of residence are an integral part of the University's north-eastern skyline.

Together they house more than 900 students. The five halls have been built progressively since 1962 when Deakin opened with 143 undergraduate places.


At the University's inception it was decided not to have denominational colleges on the pattern of many older universities.

The manager of the halls for the past 18 years, Mr Ken Ward, said each hall was almost equally mixed in regard to sex, ethnic background, academic discipline and year of course.

Thirty-eight per cent of residents are overseas students with another 40 per cent coming from country areas.

"It's a very supportive environment for students, with academic assistance always available," Mr. Ward said.

Each hall is supervised by a warden and deputy warden, posts advertised within the university community.

A senior tutor is responsible for maintaining the academic program and tutor positions are generally filled by postgraduate students.

Mr Ward said each hall had its own identity with different social and cultural activities reflecting the differing personalities of their wardens.

"But there is no individual ethos, such as the religious or disciplinary ones found in older university colleges."

Mr Ward said the halls had a centralised catering service with a system of cash payment for meals unique in Australia.

"Students don't have to decide in advance whether they will be in for meals or not; they can come in and buy what they want."

The meals are heavily subsidised from accommodation fees.

A complex of 31 flats situated in the Wellington Road/Blackburn Road corner of the campus was opened in 1976.

There are three flats with two single bedrooms, six with three, 16 with four and six with five.

They are available to students at the level of second year and above.

Off-campus Mannix College in Wellington Rd has 220 undergraduate places. It was opened in 1969.

Libraries develop at astonishing rate

Australian libraries had developed at an astonishing rate in the past 50 years, the Director-General of the Harrison Bryan, told Arts graduates at Monash.

Progress had not been uniformly rapid or sustained and libraries were concerned at the inability of funding bodies to keep pace with the escalating costs of staff and stock, he said.

"Nevertheless the overall achievement is undeniably substantial."

Mr Bryan, who was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Law degree at the recent ceremony, said that 50 years ago schools were generally without libraries.

His first experience of a "real" library had been in 1941 as an undergraduate at Queensland University, yet that library would be considered totally inadequate today.

"In 1949 when I joined the staff at Queensland, the library had existed for 40 years.

"It had accumulated just 96,000 books and had a staff of seven."

"In 1963, when Monash was still just over 20 years old, its bookstock already totalled 1,165,000 volumes and its staff numbered 176."

Presenting Mr Bryan for his degree, the Dean of Arts, Professor John Legge, said he was not only Australia's senior library administrator but a major historian of Australian librarianship.

"His contribution to Australian scholarship through the collection and provision of library materials has been achieved by his enthusiastic and determined improvement of library collections, his leadership in the development of co-operative sharing of resources and, above all, through the success of the Australian Bibliographic Network, a shared computer-based cataloguing system.

"In the near future this network will allow library users to tap into a computer terminal and call up the bibliographic details and location of any book held in Australian libraries."

Professor Legge said the conferment of the degree celebrated Mr Bryan's achievements as librarian, administrator and writer.

"But above all, we honor a man whose vision of libraries has enriched the research resources of this country and has made those resources so much more available to all who seek them."
Postgraduate history student, Mimi Colligan says she "tripped over" the story of Marion "Bill" Edwards several years ago while researching in the *Weekly Times* for her PhD thesis on waxworks and cycloramas.

Mimi, who among other things, is involved in writing women's biographies (she contributed two chapters to the recently published *Double Time*), thinks Marion "a fascinating subject, but says she puts the references in the "do later" basket and tried to get on with her thesis.

James McCaughey, director of the Playbox, heard of Mimi's knowledge of waxworks and cycloramas and engaged her as historical consultant.

For the last month, most of her spare time has been devoted to checking newspapers, letters to editors, electoral rolls and births, deaths and marriages to verify Marion's life as described in the sensational autobiography, *The Life of Marion "Bill" Edwards*, Melbourne (1907).

The result is a new play, *In Male Attire*, which is now being performed at St Martins Theatre, St Martins Lane, South Yarra.

In 1905, Bill Edwards was caught in the bar of the Studley Arms Hotel, Collingwood and was wrongfully accused of attempted burglary.

His trial attracted much attention, especially from young women who, in their eagerness to catch a glimpse of him, crowded the entrance to the court, sent him large bunches of flowers, bottles of scent and tiles and offers of money.

This would not be so remarkable if the central character "Bill" had not, in fact, been a woman.

Marion "Bill" Edwards had, from the age of 19, "realised the many disadvantages a woman had compared to the opposite sex".

She adds, in her ghost-written biography: "A strange yearning, a yearning that I cannot account for, nor have I tried, came over me that I would like to earn my living as a man."

From that day onward, and to all outward appearances, she was a man.

Marion Edwards was born in 1885, to a couple who emigrated from U.K. when she was four years old.

Her parents died within six months of arriving in Australia and she was raised by relatives who lived in north-east Victoria.

Throughout her life, she seems to have been regarded by both men and women with admiration, respect and sometimes love.

First alerted to the existence of this fascinating character in the 1984 *Australian Women's Diary*, James McCaughey, with writer Julianne O'Brien and actors Susie Fraser, Drusilla Hindry and Jillian Murray have devised a performance giving full rein to the picturesque, unique and historical aspects of this remarkable woman.

Mimi Colligan.

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**Books**

Women disadvantaged, so Marion turned male

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Her parents died within six months of arriving in Australia and she was raised by relatives who lived in north-east Victoria.

Throughout her life, she seems to have been regarded by both men and women with admiration, respect and sometimes love.

First alerted to the existence of this fascinating character in the 1984 *Australian Women's Diary*, James McCaughey, with writer Julianne O'Brien and actors Susie Fraser, Drusilla Hindry and Jillian Murray have devised a performance giving full rein to the picturesque, unique and historical aspects of this remarkable woman.

Mimi Colligan.

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**Invitation from Open Door**

The editors of *Open Door Poetry Journal*, which is published at Monash with the support of Clubs and Societies, are calling for submissions for a special feature in the next issue. For extended poetry.

Submissions for this section will be accepted up until July 20. They should be addressed to *Open Door Poetry Journal*, c/- Union Building.

**Waiting for Liam/Violin Lesson**

The poems below are reproduced from the most recent *Open Door*, No. 6, which contained a section on poetry in translation.

The journal's organisers also conduct workshops on the second Wednesday each month in the conference room of the Union at Monash, beginning at 7.30pm.

For further information contact Ivan Cole, co-editor, on ext. 3937.

The violin in the black case lived with green velvet balls the shape of a woman, a lovely brown woman with curls in her throat for sound to escape the woody grey cat sits on the waste bin it plays a cruel song of sport and a meal song the meal of the large bird with beady eyes and thick brown beak a feather and fur song a beak and claw song the cat draws its bow over the strings of instinct and cunning and cat generations the woman sighs thru' her bow the violin plays melllowly the large bird flies from its tree a small girl I loved gently tugs the large bird flies from its tree the violin plays mellowly the large bird flies from its tree a small girl I loved gently tugs and strums my memory as I tumble into the soft brown symphony of the earth Mal Morgan

When mother burns incense and chants Agio o Theo, Agio ischysos, she sends up such billows of thick, black smoke ... and smoking out the house. At Easter, mother sticks fresh bay leaves in all the keyholes. Georgia Lambrogiotas

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**Roberts' work crucial to Australian School**

Tom Roberts' work was held to be crucial for the development of an Australian school of painting by all involved in its creation, said Helen Topliss, author of *Tom Roberts and the Beginnings of an Australian School*. "Conder, the most gifted artist of the period, acknowledged Roberts' import­ance as an instigator when he wrote him from Paris in 1890:... "if there is any distinct school in Melbourne ... it's entirely due to you."

Ms Topliss, a former staff member of the Department of Visual Arts, gave the inaugural Tom Roberts Lecture at Roberts Hall late last month.

She said a distinct movement in painting was formed in 1883 on Roberts' return from his studies in London.

Under his leadership a group of artists formed camps in the suburban bush where they painted the landscape in a sketchy and more immediate manner than had been the custom.

"In the city, Roberts was involved in improving the status of artists by reforming the Australian Artists' Society and by turning his studio at Grosvenor Chambers into a meeting place for artists, musicians and patrons.

"The impressions Roberts brought back with him from London influenced local artists and led to the 9 x 5 Exhibition of Impressions held in 1899. Roberts was a direct link with and inspiration to the first time the public was exposed to what would become the most disliked school in Melbourne ... it's crucial to the artists' social profile."

"Roberts' paintings could be seen by patrons on studio Wednesdays and was all this was a part of a campaign to give the artist a public face and elevate the status of art," she said.

The lecture was followed by supper in the Common Room, where a mural executed by 1984 residents of the hall was opened by the chairman of Visual Arts, Professor Margaret Plant.

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**Lunchtime Reading**

Poet Fay Zwicky will read from her works at Monash on July 16 as part of the continuing series of lunchtime readings sponsored by the Department of English and the Literature Board of the Australia Council.

Zwicky, who is based at the University of Western Australia, is presently writer-in-residence at La Trobe University.

Her published works include two books of poems, *Isaac Babel's Field* and *Kaddish and Other Poems*, a book of short stories titled *Hostages*, and two anthologies, *Journeys* and *Quarry*, of which she was editor.

The reading begins at 1.10 p.m. in R3.

The series also receives financial assistance from the Vera Moore Fund.

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**MONASH REPORTER 9 JULY 3, 1985**
their number of students have been reduced. The money saved by the Federal Government recently. But a comparative analysis shows that the universities are already lagging behind the schools. The chairman of Monash's chemical engineering department, Professor Owen Potter, has found that the universities are teaching their students in Years 10 to 12 cost more than secondary schools have a target ratio of 1 teacher to 100 students, or 1 in 7.5 staff members, since 1956. The target figure for government secondary schools has been approved by Mr Hawke's government and is 97 teachers per 1,000 students.

In fact, secondary schools equaled the university staff-student ratio in 1978. Professor Potter said the student cost comparison had not been easy to make. "The two universes sit side by side, easily accessible, whereas for government schools the reverse is true." He said the target figure for government school students, set out in Funding Policies for Australian Schools published by the Schools Commission in April, 1984, was $3564.

But this figure did not include undiscounted special education costs, the extra cost of senior students and other items such as the cost of the State and Federal Education departments themselves.

"This yields a final figure of $5256 excluding capital charges and I suspect this is not an accurate figure." Professor Potter said he had excluded 30 percent — the accepted research commission — as too high a proportion of the schools' work from his estimate of university costs so that it reflected only the teaching function.

He also excluded the costs for the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering because of their expensive nature in relation to teaching. Although I later realised the Medicine and Engineering components do not make all that much difference because of the small number of students involved."

Professor Potter said his figures were "working figures" and he did not claim they were "perfectly accurate."

He called on the Universities and Schools Commissions to jointly work on "improved figures." Considering that universities provide a full range of courses across the disciplines up to the highest levels and maintain strong research programs to underpin the nation's progress, one might expect the opinion that a cost per university student two to three times that of secondary school students would be about right.

"But what is the actual situation?"

"The position revealed is that the Schools Commission has scored a KO of the Universities Commission. Instead of university students costing less than the student body of the university has been asked to proceed with substantially fewer resources than those provided for senior secondary students.

**Fees for tertiary students and the further prurring of university research funds have been scrapped by the Federal Government recently. But a comparative analysis shows that the universities are already lagging behind the schools. The chairman of Monash's chemical engineering department, Professor Owen Potter, has found that the universities are teaching their students in Years 10 to 12 cost more than secondary schools have a target ratio of 1 teacher to 100 students, or 1 in 7.5 staff members, since 1956. The target figure for government secondary schools has been approved by Mr Hawke's government and is 97 teachers per 1,000 students. In fact, secondary schools equaled the university staff-student ratio in 1978. Professor Potter said the student cost comparison had not been easy to make. "The two universes sit side by side, easily accessible, whereas for government schools the reverse is true." He said the target figure for government school students, set out in Funding Policies for Australian Schools published by the Schools Commission in April, 1984, was $3564. But this figure did not include undiscounted special education costs, the extra cost of senior students and other items such as the cost of the State and Federal Education departments themselves. "This yields a final figure of $5256 excluding capital charges and I suspect this is not an accurate figure." Professor Potter said he had excluded 30 percent — the accepted research commission — as too high a proportion of the schools' work from his estimate of university costs so that it reflected only the teaching function. He also excluded the costs for the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering because of their expensive nature in relation to teaching. Although I later realised the Medicine and Engineering components do not make all that much difference because of the small number of students involved."

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"The position revealed is that the Schools Commission has scored a KO of the Universities Commission. Instead of university students costing less than the student body of the university has been asked to proceed with substantially fewer resources than those provided for senior secondary students.**
Tribute to Alan Scott

The Monash University architect, the late Alan Scott, had the unusual ability in preparing plans for laboratories to blend scientific knowledge and of various kinds he first had to understand what the researchers were endeavouring to accomplish before he put it on paper. "His plan for the Japanese Studies Centre and the swimming pool complex - bore witness to his professional skills. "In preparing plans for laboratories of various kinds he first had to understand what the researchers were undertaking to accomplish before he put it on paper.

"His last major architectural achievement was the computer terminal which Alan had planned and was completed within budget - a great achievement in these days of rising costs. "His building for the Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children has evoked laudatory comments for its unique design and aroused a great deal of envy amongst visiting professors from home and abroad.

The late Alan Scott was 63, died in June after an eight-month illness. He leaves two children, Clare and Michael.

Book for Spain

Bookings are now open for the 1986 study tour of Spain, the third such trip organised by Monash and the University of Amsterdam.

The $2650 cost includes return air fares, four weeks' accommodation in and around an intensive language course, charter flight to London with two nights' accommodation, and one-day excursion. The tour has been accredited and students can now enrol in it as a four- point course. The departure is on January 6, and return can be made up to one year later.

Monash University's U3AM was established with the help of the Centre for Continuing Education and the first courses began in mid-April.

Monsa3 University is one of three such groups formed recently in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

They are based on a concept which began in France 12 years ago, to form self-help informal learning groups for active retired people - people in the Third Age of their lives.

They must be on the prescribed form which is available from the office of the Registrar, Mr Jim Butchart (est. 2008).

Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships in Law and Medicine are available to graduates under 36 years of age and tenable for up to two years at Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews or Edinburgh.

Benefits include monthly living allowance for scholars and dependants, return air fares, internal travel allowance, tuition, examination and other fees, books and equipment allowance and other expenses.

Applications close in Melbourne on August 31 and inquiries should be addressed to Clive Varson, Graduate Scholarships Officer, ext. 009.

MONASH REPORTER

The publication of the next issue will be delayed until August 16 to allow for the inclusion of the program for the ANZAAS Festival of Science.

The code deadline for the program is Friday, August 9, and early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, Information Office, University Offices, or ring ext. 3305. JULY 3, 1985
Celebrated sculptor ‘extremely generous’

This sculpture (below) from the Fish Series by Douglas Stephen has been acquired for the Monash Collection through funds raised by the Monash Advisory Committee.

Mrs Rena Martin, wife of the Vice-Chancellor, says the piece, Arethusa, is one of the best in the extensive Fish Series, which ranges from the mid-fifties to the present time.

Works by Stephen, a former English banker, are widely celebrated and collectors in Melbourne include Dame Elisabeth Murdoch and the McClelland Art Gallery.

“He’s a true English gentleman, shy and retiring, and happy to produce his very best work at his own pace,” Mrs Martin says.

“He wouldn’t put a figure on the sculpture so we had to nominate a price; he has been extremely generous to us.”

The money was raised with functions like an antique fair at Chadstone shopping centre, and a film night, featuring Tootsie, at the Alexander Theatre. The Vera Moore Fund also assisted.