Higher degree studies come under scrutiny

Despite the growing numbers of people in the community with higher degrees, relatively little research has been done in Australia into the benefits or otherwise of such qualifications.

Now higher degree studies in education are coming under scrutiny in the Monash Faculty of Education, which is conducting a survey on behalf of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission.

The survey is a joint project for Monash and the University of Sydney and its results will contribute to a review of higher education provisions.

They will also be used as a base for an assessment of the roles of different types of higher degrees in education, in terms of professional and career development.

Professor Peter Fensham, Dean of Education at Monash, and Professor Don Spearritt, head of the Department of Education at Sydney University, are supervising the survey.

Research assistant, Robina Duggan, is sending out questionnaires to the 850 people who have completed higher degrees in education at Monash, and she will later hold a small number of in-depth interviews to gain more detail.

Response to the idea has been enthusiastic so far, she says, with a pilot survey of 32 people bringing replies from all but two, and follow-up inquiries from other higher-degree holders who wanted to know why they had been left out.

The questionnaire deals with the postgraduate experience itself, including questions about the right kinds of choices for study methods and whether there were problems with supervisors, projects or theses.

Then it moves into the workplace to consider the consequences of higher degree studies and whether postgraduate skills are used in employment.

A third section deals with employers' perceptions of the role of the higher degree.

Robina, who expects to finish her Master of Environmental Science degree at Monash this year, has been involved with the survey part-time and can be contacted in the faculty on ext. 2812, or at her home on 49 3913.
No danger from corporate sector: Martin

A new pattern of relationships between universities, governments and private business will develop in the next few years, but it need not mean the universities lose their independence, Professor Ray Martin, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, says in an interview in this month's Monash Reporter.

"I don't believe that the corporate sector, by increasing its support of universities, would wish to intrude on their independence, although it would seem inevitable that the corporate attitude to research would become known more clearly in universities, and that this could have some indirect effect." Professor Martin disagrees with those pessimists who foresee a lowering of university standards through a growing collaboration between seats of learning and business interests.

In an article in Careers Weekly, he writes: "I don't believe that the corporate sector, by increasing its support of universities, would wish to intrude on their independence, although it would seem inevitable that the corporate attitude to research would become known more clearly in universities, and that this could have some indirect effect." Rather than sensing danger from this corporate sector, Professor Martin sees problems in future government attitudes.

"I think universities must continue to be all about excellence," he says. "And it is vital that this commitment be retained to the year 2000 — and beyond — if they are to play their pivotal role in society."

"It is important that governments do not try to erode university excellence for policy reasons in other areas."

"Genuine university standards are international. It is crucial that governments do not allow these standards to be debased by any decisions on social policy, as one possible instance."

"Finance is going to be a life-and-death matter for the universities of the future," Professor Martin says. "A trend towards developing new sources of non-government finance should be accepted."

"The percentage of gross domestic product that governments in countries like Australia are prepared to spend on higher education is unlikely to increase," he writes.

Future non-government income sources would include:

- Support from strong alumni organisations.
- Effective commercial exploitation of the results of university research and development.
- Fees from the marketing of knowledge through university people acting as consultants.
- The offering of degree and non-degree training courses, on and off the campus, on a full-fee basis.
- The probable reintroduction of university fees. ("It might be expected that universities could be receiving something like a quarter of their income from this source before the end of the century."

"Private universities (although the range of disciplines in these is likely to be limited to the human and social sciences.) Non-government funding of universities is said by many to introduce the risk that university research could become more "strategic" and less "curiosity motivated"."

"Prof Martin agrees that there is a danger, but points to ways it can be avoided. Universities must insist on commitments to make their own judgments about the kind of research they do. Universities as a whole must hold on to their freedom to develop their own initiatives, once the restraints of government directives are no more, he says.

"Looking forward to the year 2000, Professor Martin sees also the need for all universities to live by the Monash motto — Ancora Imparo, "I am still learning."

"The private sector will have to keep improving employees' technological knowledge and skills. Hours of work will decrease as leisure hours increase, and people will need education on how to handle their time and their lives, he says.

"As this need for wider-spread knowledge grows, universities must at the same time continue their main responsibilities — the "training of young people in research methods and techniques; the conduct of research at the frontiers of knowledge; and the immuring of young people with a creative and constructively critical approach to information and its evaluation."

Professor Martin looks forward to an increase in interdisciplinary studies, just as he accepts with confidence the enormous continuing growth in computers and their applications.

"Already access to a microcomputer is a requirement of entry to some US universities," he says.

In 15 years' time, "the development and use of satellites for teaching, and the explosive growth of the whole information technology sector, are going to make the present styles of information transmission and retrieval — which lie at the heart of academic activity —barely recognisable."

No danger from corporate sector: Martin

High ideals a challenge for modern universities

The subject of the fifth John Henry Newman Lecture will be Newman himself, writes Dr Gabrielle McMullen, Dean of Monash College, which presents the annual lecture.

In 1852 John Henry Newman delivered a series of lectures in Dublin in preparation for his appointment as the Rector of the University, which the Irish Bishops hoped to build.

These lectures are available to us today in his published book, The Idea of a University and have been read and found to be relevant by many generations of university scholars.

For Newman a university education was its own end. "Knowledge is not merely a means to something beyond it, or the preliminary of certain arts into which it naturally resolves, but an end sufficient to rest in and to pursue for its own sake," he wrote.

However, he saw the university as more than just a place for acquiring a great deal of knowledge; it should cultivate the intellect of its scholars and allow them to pursue truth "the true and adequate end of intellectual training and of a University is not Learning or Acquisition, but rather, is Thought or Knowledge exercised upon Knowledge."

He saw professional studies not restricted to just training students for their work, but training them also to be good members of society.

"If then a practical end must be assigned to a University course, I say it is that of training good members of society. Its art is the art of social life, and its end is the fitness of the world."

"A University training aims at raising the intellectual tone of society, at cultivating the public mind, at purifying the national taste," he wrote.

Are these high ideals realistic in our universities in the last years of the 20th century, where more applied research and courses are being pushed into the foreground by the economic climate and government pressure?

"A University is an Alma Mater, knowing her children one by one, not a foundry, or a mint, or a treadmill." Can we still achieve this individualism in universities with 15,000 to 20,000 students and reductions in staffing levels?

Is John Henry Newman's The Idea of a University still relevant or desirable?

In presenting the 1985 John Henry Newman Lecture at Mannix College on Thursday, October 3, the distinguished literary critic and poet, Dorothy Green will address these issues in her paper entitled: John Henry Newman: The University and Society.

Mrs Green is an Honorary Visiting Fellow at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. The lecture will begin in the College Hall at 8.15 p.m. and it will be followed by supper in the Senior Common Room.

Oh dear, no deer

The best-laid plans of mice and ANZAAS organisers sometimes gang awry, so when it was learnt that Australian regulations forbade the use of live deer and the shooting of a project from a helicopter, the planned demonstration of deer-reflecting by New Zealanders, Tim Wallis, had to be considerably modified. The crowd assembled near the Sports and Recreation Centre was actually treated to the sights and sounds of a not being fired from a helicopter on the back of a truck.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1985
"Every academic discipline has to contribute what it can to halting proliferation as a prelude to turning the arms curve downward," he says.

Nothing could be more false and dangerous than for academics to believe that the job of working for disarmament is for others, but not for themselves.

Professor Weeramantry has dedicated himself to making better known the principle that the use and manufacture of nuclear weapons are "contrary to the basic principles of international law and constitute a crime against humanity."

"If that proposition is correct, then scientists who knowingly make nuclear weapons are participating in that crime, and they cannot pass the blame on to statesmen and generals," he says.

"Scientists, not statesmen and generals, did the work that raised the world stock of nuclear weapons from three Hiroshimas to one million Hiroshimas.

"It was clearly held by the war crimes tribunal at Nuremberg after the last world war that, for crimes against humanity, superior orders are no defence. And that tribunal was made up of the current nuclear powers."

Professor Weeramantry took his argument earlier this year to an international science meeting in Japan. The reaction was mixed.

Some British representatives opposed him strongly. Young scientists from the US National Aeronautics and Space Ad-

ministration conceded, more thoughtfully, that they were troubled by his views.

Members of the Soviet group, to his surprise, supported him.

Professor Weeramantry was able to make his case again, more recently, at a science meeting in Geneva called by a private body, the Groupe de Bellerive, to consider the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, first signed in 1970, and due to come up for renewed debate in the United Nations General Assembly.

The high level of super-power representation in Geneva is indicated by the fact that the US delegation included Vice-President George Bush, economist Professor Kenneth Galbraith, and astronomer Professor Carl Sagan.

The Soviet delegation included the distinguished professor of international law, Anatoly Gromyko, son of the president of the USSR.

At the heart of the nuclear disarmament crisis, Professor Weeramantry says, are the questions of horizontal and vertical spread.

The first concerns the extension of nuclear capacity sideways to countries other than the original atomic powers — the US, Britain, France, the USSR and China.

The proliferation treaty has been effective, to a valuable extent, in controlling this.

The second concerns the upward growth of nuclear capacity within the arsenals of the super powers.

Configuration or a moon-walker from an ANZAAS session. The creature on the right is a Drager Proximity Suit for firefighters use, and it was on display in the foyer of Robert Blackwood Hall during the Occupational Health and Safety convention last month.

Left. "Don't mix with other chemicals" say the signs on many household products, and if you've ever wondered what might happen if you disobeyed, you should have been in the City Square in the week before ANZAAS to see this demonstration by staff from the Swinburne Institute of Technology. They mixed two ordinary household chemicals to produce a loud bang and the smokescreen, pictured.

get involved in studying how to spread information and interest in averting destruction."

All people interested in human rights should recognise that "the most fundamental of all rights is the right to life... each of us must have exclusive control over our own life so that it cannot be taken away without our consent."

"The bomb has deprived us all of the right to life," Professor Weeramantry says.

"Our right to life is now in the hands of the leaders of the super-powers whose actions determine whether we live or die, without so much as a by-your-leave."

And this has not been contained but has, instead, grown terrifyingly.

The deal between the nuclear and non-nuclear powers, that the non-nuclears would not attempt to gain nuclear capacity, so long as the nuclears worked for disarmament, has in fact been significantly nullified.

This raises the issue of whether it would now be "the wisest thing" for the non-nuclears to walk out of the treaty.

Professor Weeramantry sees clear tasks ahead not only for scientists, engineers and technologists in defining the problems of nuclear armament and working towards solutions, but also invaluable roles for lawyers, theologians, political scientists, psychologists, those in the liberal art, specialists in human rights and others.

Psychologists, for example "should... Each of us must have exclusive control over our own life so that it cannot be taken away without our consent."
Magazine has mind-stretching function

In mathematics, a function is a quality whose value depends on other qualities: it is the essence of interrelatedness.

That makes clear why Function is the name chosen for the magazine put out five times a year by the Monash Department of Mathematics for 16 to 18-year-old secondary and tertiary students, and now in its ninth year of publication.

The name neatly declares the magazine's field. At the same time it embodies the way that mathematics is today intimately related with almost all aspects of life - in the sciences, engineering, medicine, business management and a great deal more.

Function is not specifically based on curricula or examination needs. Its aim is the stretching of the understanding of its readers, and the enrichment of their lives.

Its familiar format (21cm by 14cm) with 32 pages between pale-blue covers, gives compactness with clarity of print.

Subjects range widely, as chosen by an editorial committee centred on Monash but including representatives from Melbourne colleges and the Sydney, Murdoch and Queensland universities.

Recent subjects, for example, have ranged from Pythagoras, Easter, at the one the university provided in my house, I could access not only all the computers on campus but others in London, Cambridge, Durham, St Andrews, Paris, Chicago and other places," he says.

Kent - he was told - has one registered user of its network operating from Melbourne, presumably by satellite.

Yet no network system remotely compares with Kent's exists in this country, and we do not have the large, powerful and fast computers needed for much scientific research.

This means it is often cheaper to send people overseas to work with computers of large-scale numerical capacity, instead of obliging them to work on the same problems far more ploddingly at home.

British universities see themselves as "impoverished", compared with those in the United States, and worse off even than countries like France.

A tremendous tale of woe is heard, and echoed by staff unions and vice-chancellors and strongly reported in the Times Higher Education Supplement. Professor Preston says.

On the research side there is an "even greater woe and gnashing of teeth!"

But, from Australian eyes, the picture in Britain is enviable!

"Academic pastures there are exceedingly lush compared with Australia's," he says.

"And the actual amount of research support is unbelievably lavish, by our standards."

For example, although Birmingham University is smaller than Monash, its research support from government funds is almost equal to the total available to all Australian universities from the Australian Research Grants Scheme.

Gordon Preston's point is NOT that the British universities are unjustified in their complaints, only that they are at a level that we should press for strongly ourselves.

The sad truth is that British universities can no longer claim to be world leaders.

Lack of funds, not of ability, has forced them to drop out of full participation in the elementary particle chase.

They are unable to take the place they would like in the development of the so-called fifth generation computers despite their immense pioneering achievements of former years.

The warning to Australia is transparent.

Function prints about 750 copies an issue. It is available at $8 a year and appears in February, April, June, August and October.

The price falls to $4 a year for bona fide students. Single issues are $1.80.

While the current editor, Dr Mike Deakin, a bio-mathematician, is on leave, the job is being resumed by the man who created Function in the first place - Monash Maths professor, Gordon Preston.

Function's address is c/- the Department of Mathematics, Monash, and the business manager is Joan Williams, ext. 2591.

Function's readers are encouraged to submit articles, to write to the editors, or to offer problems - and even cartoons - if they wish. MONASH REPORTER
ANZAAS '85: PLANNING AHEAD

Now the tumult and the shouting has died, what is left for next time?

The 1985 ANZAAS Congress — the Festival of Science that was to bring science down from its lofty, elitist pinnacle and within the understanding and acceptance of the ordinary citizen — has come and gone.

Has it succeeded?

There's plenty of evidence to show that it has . . .

Glowing media accounts hailing the death of the scientific "dinosaurs" and the triumph of the new "public" format of the congress . . .

Encouraging words of praise from prominent members of the international scientific and diplomatic communities . . .

Even — the ultimate — a generous endorsement from the Federal Minister for Science, Mr Jones, who withdrew his famous "wing" epithet and described today's scientists (more accurately) as "nocturnal animals (who) produce wonderful things, but tend to do it rather secretly; sometimes in the dark and (who) tend to be scared about loud noises . . ."

He also likened the older-style ANZAAS to ANZAC day — "the one day of the year when all the grizzled veterans of science came together in order to reminisce and show each other their scars . . ."

Well, there were plenty of loud noises about this year's congress, and plenty of scientists, and critics, who were prepared to show they weren't afraid of the dark. But were they the majority?

And will the momentum generated by this year's festival be maintained?

Has the new look been just a momentary deflection from some sort of preordained path of science, a deflection that will be "rectified" in time?

These are the questions that have been exercising the minds of the two principal architects of 1985 Festival of Science — Congress director, Professor John Swan, and executive secretary, Mr John Thompson.

While they are understandably encouraged by the enthusiastic response of the media and the general public — at least, to the more exciting and readily accessible elements of the festival, such as the immensely popular Youth ANZAAS and the Community Science & Technology Program — they recognise that much more effort is going to be needed to maintain ANZAAS congresses on the new course.

There are some good signs, though. The ASEAN Interaction — a series of workshops held in the Victorian Arts Centre — found enthusiastic supporters among the 70 senior scientists and advisers who came from the six South-East Asian nations.

Professor A.R. Omar, scientific adviser to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, told guests at the official ASEAN dinner attended by 41 interested journalists in the Monash University Club, "The concept of the festival got a lot of support, but many of the participants — and session convenors — failed to capitalise on the opportunities offered. Those who did realise that they had a responsibility to communicate with the public, and who made a real effort to produce papers and abstracts that could be readily understood by lay readers, were well rewarded by the coverage they received."

Prominent among the Monash participants Mr Thompson singled out for mention were Professor Dennis Lowther and his team of speakers at the arthritis session, Mr Charles Meredith.

One positive outcome of the festival has been the formation of an Association of Science Communicators of Australia.

The body, the first of its kind in Australia, was set up at an inaugural dinner attended by 41 interested journalists in the Monash University Club.

Dr Peter Pockley, head of the Public Affairs Unit of the University of New South Wales, who convened the meeting, said he hoped the new association would "foster the development of authoritative reporting, independent interpretation and skilful presentation of science through all media".

The association planned to organise a national conference in August 1986, a year when there will be no ANZAAS Congress, to provide a focus for public attention on science.

Further information about the new association can be obtained from Sally White, editor of Future Age, who is convening the Victorian group.

ANZAAS photos by Richard Crompton and Tony Miller

ABC Science Show presenter, Robyn Williams, received the Michael Daley Award for quality reporting on science and technology, at the ANZAAS opening ceremony.

Peter Pockley, head of public affairs at the University of NSW, spent ANZAAS week at Monash helping in the Media Centre and covering sessions for The Bulletin and other publications.
ANZAAS '85: BRINGING

No real advance in the most vital areas

While science and technology had made vast strides, much remained to be learned about life itself and about co-operation, understanding and peace, Sir Edmund Hillary said in his presidential address at the official opening of the ANZAAS Festival of Science.

Speaking in Robert Blackwood Hall, Sir Edmund asked why the expansion of human knowledge had brought such unsatisfactory results in so many vital areas.

"Why is it that man, who can create the sophisticated wonders of computers, seems incapable of producing peace and co-operation within his world society," Sir Edmund asked.

"Hatred, religious bigotry, lack of concern for the welfare of those less fortunate than oneself, political jealousy and violence seem to have changed little. Maybe centuries are needed for men to change - so long as we can prevent the world from self-destructing in the interim."

Sir Edmund devoted most of his address to remembrance of his great climb of Mt Everest in 1953 with Sherpa Tenzing.

The co-operation between individuals he experienced at that time remained as an example of something good in human relationships, he said.

While not claiming in any way to have the answer to the problems of society, Sir Edmund pointed to the work he and others had been doing among the Nepalese people in advancing their society and seeking to protect them from the ravages of environmental destruction and tourism.

- Two free activities associated with ANZAAS were big drawcards for the public.

At left, one of the many children who queued to see the Questacon travelling Science Circus gets involved in some hands-on displays at the Sports and Recreation Centre. The circus is part of ANU's Canberra Questacon Science Centre.

Below, a topical display from the South Pacific Astronautics and Cosmonautics Exposition, otherwise known as the SPACE show, organised by the Space Association of Australia and held during ANZAAS week in the First Year Physics Laboratory. It was the largest display of Australasian space activities ever brought together and featured local expertise in satellite communications, earth monitoring from space, space science and astronomy and spacecraft components.
Challenge is acute

The near future would see an enormous extension of financial and technological interchange between Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, ASEAN and South Korea. Dr Nay Htun, of Thailand, said in his address at the official opening of the ANZAAS Festival of Science at Robert Blackwood Hall.

Dr Nay Htun, left, regional director of the United Nations Environment Program, was one of the distinguished visitors to the ASEAN Interaction segment of the festival.

Asia and the Pacific region, particularly the Pacific Basin, formed the fastest growing region in the world, and by the year 2000 would be the major economic centre of the world if present predictions proved sound, he said.

For the potential of the area to be realised, there would have to be a program of minimising waste, maximising conservation, and optimising natural resources while ensuring at the same time that critical life support systems would not be irreversibly impaired.

"The challenge for science and technology to increase standards of living while increasing the quality of life has never been more acute," Dr Nay Htun said.

"There is no question that this challenge can be better confronted and overcome by co-operation. "Remote sensing for resource mapping; bio-technology for improving crop yields; satellite-aided telecommunication linkages for information storage and retrieval, education and training, are some of the applications that are already used and will require cooperation between and among countries."

'Thities go home'

New Zealand speaker, Pauno Hohepa, below, caused a stir when she told a session on land rights and compensation that white people were visitors who had outstayed their welcome in Australia and New Zealand. She described them as a product of the "off-raft flotsam and jemam of English culture" and slammed many Maoris for being "coconuts" — brown on the outside and white on the inside. Other speakers at the session included Ms Eve Fesl, director of the Aboriginal Research Centre at Monash, and Mr Mick Miller, chairman of the Queensland Land Council.
ANZAAS '85: The Media Response

Star Wars plan is a costly farce: expert

By STUART ROSSON

President Reagan's Star Wars plan is a billion-dollar farce. It could cost complex systems to co-ordinate defence. It was still in doubt, a Melbourne physicist said yesterday.

Addressing a symposium on Star Wars technology at Monash University, Dr Don Hutton said many of the ideas would come from nuclear explosion. What would the public's perception, he asked. Research block for young, science-illiterate Australia and New Zealand. Scientists are now more willing to tackle issues in public forums and "this must help the public's perception of them as concerned citizens, intent on seeking solutions to complex problems in society and not just on sheltering behind barriers of specialisation." Swann was successful in turning the ANZAAS format on its head and increasing its direct contact with the local community to over 22,000 people participating in one of the four main activities — the symposia, and the new youth program, the community outreach program and the Questacon Science Circus, visiting from Canberra.

This figure is about seven times the number usually attending ANZAAS gatherings.

This response to a professionally marketed Science Festival, with free publicity in the Melbourne media, is a further indication that there is a wellspring of support for science in the community at large.

—Peter Pockley

ANZAAS festival was a seven-fold increase on recent levels. When attendances at Youth Congress, the number of visitors attracted in all areas has left the general public both fearful and further committed to the effort put into wooring interest. The experiment did successfully produce. Today, dozens of specialist societies have taken over the role of information exchange within the scientific disciplines. And the ANZAAS format on its head and increasing its direct contact with the local community to over 22,000 people participating in one of the four main activities — the symposia and the new youth program, the community outreach program and the Questacon Science Circus, visiting from Canberra.

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ANZAAS organisers justifiably congratulated themselves yesterday after a week filled with news and views on the widest range of topics ever discussed in 97 years of such conferences.

Although many of the sessions produced information which was neither new nor startling, it was a success in opening science and current affairs to the layman.

The way in which science relates these days to social issues played a large part, and was the underlying theme of the congress, which comprised about 130 sessions and 700 speakers.

In many cases, the conference demonstrated how scientists are more prepared than in the past to consider the social and economic implications of their research and produce.

—Mark Hooper

The Bulletin

September 10

The brains and energy behind the revolution in ANZAAS congresses evident at this year's meeting, Professor John McDonald of Monash University, believes that scientists are now more willing to tackle issues in public forums and this must help the public's perception of them as concerned citizens, intent on seeking solutions to complex problems in society and not just on sheltering behind barriers of specialisation. Swann was successful in turning the ANZAAS format on its head and increasing its direct contact with the local community to over 22,000 people participating in one of the four main activities — the symposia and the new youth program, the community outreach program and the Questacon Science Circus, visiting from Canberra.

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The Herald

August 31

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The Age

September 2

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Continued from page 5

Good media response crucial to success

Zoology, who was co-convenor of two Conservation of the Bio" sessions on who attracted large audiences to their session on schizophrenia, and Professor Roger Short, who — both in the planning stages and during the festival — made a major contribution to public understanding in areas as diverse as natural birth and deer farming.

"Many others, too, recognised the opportunity they had to sell themselves and their science — and they got in and did it very well indeed," said Mr Thompson.

But the organisers reserved their highest praise for the media...

“Both in the weeks leading up to the festival and throughout the week itself, the media performed magnificently. “Their reporting was positive and very supportive, and the atmosphere in the Media Centre was harmonious and tremendously encouraging.”

This was pretty fortunate, because the organisers realised almost too late that they had seriously underestimated the level of interest that the media was likely to show.

In selecting and equipping the Cellar Room of the Union as the Media Centre, the planners were working on the assumption that 40 — perhaps 50 — journalists could be expected to seek accreditation.

When the festival opened on the Monday morning, no fewer than 130 media passes had been issued and as the week wore on, a further 30 reporters, photographers, broadcasters and TV representatives received accreditation.

Says Mr Thompson: "A good media response was crucial to the success of the festival.

"With the limited resources at its disposal, I think Monash came out extremely well.”

This could be attributed to four major factors, he said:

• The genuine interest and understanding shown by the media, and their acceptance of some of the inevitable “hiccups” that accompany a large and complex affair such as the Festival of Science.

• The support given by the Melbourne papers, in particular, in giving invaluable pre-publicity to the festival.

• The major contribution of Frank Moloney, the retired journalist who undertook almost single-handedly the whole of the media arrangements in the months leading up to the festival — as well as the preparation of the five Festival of Science newsletters produced regularly during the year.

• And, finally, the (mainly) smooth operation of the Media Centre — often under heavy pressure.

Mr Thompson mentioned especially the work of the team of students who acted as “runners” servicing the various venues — and churning out an estimated 40,000 photocopies on the five photocopiers lent for the occasion by Oce Reprographics — and of the representatives of the other Victorian universities, information staff from the ANU and Macquarie and Queensland Universities, the CSIRO and the Department of Science, who all took a hand in manning the centre.

— Keith Bennetts

Scheme is seeking hosts

All students looking back to their first year will remember the difficulties — and the miseries — of settling in and coming to terms with the university and other people.

Davyd Morris, a science student, and Felicity Pask, who is doing arts, want to help new arrivals. They want to develop the Host Scheme, which needs at least 150 hosts to function properly in caring for some 2000 “hostees”.

During enrolment, new students are approached and asked if they would like to join the scheme. Most say they would.

Hosts run meetings with new students between enrolment and orientation, so that hostees can meet other students socially. The aim is to enable hostees to meet people in their own faculties, and, if possible, in the same area of study.

If you are interested, drop a note to the Host Scheme co-ordinators, Mailbox, Union Building, or hand in at the Union desk.

There will be campaigning for the scheme in the Union Foyer at lunchtimes during third term, and application forms will be available.
Students who feel that life has darken­
ed miserably after failure in their first year exams might take heart from the story of the man after whom Monash University is named.

John Monash failed his first year arts at Melbourne University in 1882, when he was 17 and hoping to become an engineer.

"He was soon disenchanted by the sophorific and repetitious lectures of profes­sors whom he censured frequently in later years for their inability to keep abreast of modern thought and research", says biographer, Dr. P.A. Pedersen.

It took a little time but, in 1893, 11 years after his first failure, Monash gained his Master’s in Engineering (with the Argus scholarship as top student) and completed his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. He was also by then an accomplished pianist and linguist and a particularly good mathematician.

In his chosen career as engineer, and after surviving misfortunes that nearly broke him, he became by the age of 48 a millionaire in present-day terms with an estimated worth of more than $50,000. Just before the Great War which was to break out in 1914, Monash was able to buy the large house, Iona, in Toorak and become a proper swell.

His early university life did a great deal for John Monash, although he made little progress with his studies.

Dr. Pedersen writes: "Deliverance from despair came through his deep in­volvement in student politics. He was in­strumental in the foundation of the Students’ Union and championed stu­dent grievances in the University paper with his fluent pen."

It was through the university, too, that he took his first steps in his military career — a career that was to see him in the last year in command of an army corps of more than 150,000 men at war. When Victoria’s forces were re­organised after the departure of the British Garrison from the colony in 1870, Melbourne University provided "D" company of the 4th Battalion of the Victorian Rifles.

Monash enlisted as a private in 1884, and here his military ambitions caught fire, as he discovered the excitement of exercising his natural talent for analysis and command within a defined structure.

"The gorgeous uniform and all the pomp of officership," he was also to note in his diary, "bears for me sufficient attraction to make (military advance­ment) a matter of fierce desire."

From that beginning, the life of Monash the soldier grew to eventual command of the 4th Brigade at Gallipoli, of the 3rd Division in France, and then of the entire Australian Army Corps.

Dr Pedersen’s book is an analysis of every important event in that progress from the first shots on Gallipoli to the last struggles of the bloodbath on the Western Front. It describes war through the eyes of the men who have to make the assessments and decisions, carry out the battle plan, and face the consequences of victory or awful defeat.

Monash Nineteenth-Century China 1923-1950
C.P. Fitzgerald
Melbourne University Press RRP $26.50

Falling somewhere between history and biography, this first-hand ac­count of old China surviving into the modern era gives a counter-view to the official picture. Fitzgerald, born in London in 1902 and now living in Sydney, sets in China between 1923 and 1951. He describes the book as the answer to the question, so often asked, as to why he went there.

Marriage
Sydney Grundy
edited by Christine Brand
Monash Nineteenth-Century Drama Series No. 6
Published by the English Department,

Grundy was a famous late 19th century author and in 1897 his plays were amongst the most successful holding the stage. Marriage is published here for the first time, hav­ing been discovered by M.A. preliminary student Christine Brand, during the writing of her thesis on 19th century drama. It is now on the 1985 Modern Drama Booklist. Inquiries to Dennis Davison, English Department.
Haydn's grand mass

Monash University Choral Society will present two magnificent works at its third term concert in Robert Blackwood Hall at 8 pm on September 21. They are Haydn's Maria Theresa Mass, rarely performed in Australia, although one of the grandest of the masses he wrote between 1796 and 1802, and Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem, commissioned from him by the Huddersfield Choral Society in 1936. The Haydn work is for soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists with mixed choir and full orchestra. In the Williams' work, described as an ardent prayer for peace, the solos are for soprano and baritone.

The conductor of the orchestra, singers and organ will be Mr Andre de Quadros, the society's resident conductor, who is master of music at Billanook College, Mooroolbark.

Tickets at $8 ($4 concession) may be bought at the door or from the MonUCS table in the Union Building Foyer from September 16 to 20. On December 19, in Robert Blackwood Hall, the society will again give its yearly free Christmas concert.

Light side of Japan

Beyond the Pale: Comic Views of Japanese Society, a series of films by Yoji Yamada, is being screened at Monash this month and next. The dates are as follows: Tonight, September 11 - Honest fool; Wednesday, September 18 - Gambler's Luck; Wednesday, September 25 - Tora-san's dear old home; Wednesday, October 9 - Tora-san goes religious; Wednesday, October 16 - The lovable tramp.

All films have English subtitles and admission is free. They begin at 7 p.m. in R7 (except on September 18, when the venue will be R5).

Expert on wilderness

A prominent American expert on wilderness areas, Dr George Stankey, will be speaker at a free public seminar on Natural Resources Development and Land Management at the State Film Centre on Wednesday, September 18, beginning at 1.30 p.m.

For further information, contact the Community Recreation Council on 606 3230.

Middle East Tour

Australian Academics for Peace in the Middle East (AAPME), which arranges study missions to Egypt and Israel, invites applications for places in a tour which will leave early in December.

With the co-operation of the foreign ministry in each country, the tourists will get high-level briefings on the political, military and social aspects of the Middle East situation. The tour, at a cost of $2355 for air fare, rarely within Egypt and an extra $13 for accommodation and most meals, will also include visits to Luxor and other tourist spots.

Applications close on October 4 with Mr G. Lee, Secretary AAPME, Shalom College, University of NSW.

Land rights and health

Aboriginal health worker, Dr Trevor Catter, will speak tonight on Land Rights and Aboriginal Health as part of the Graduate School of Environmental Science's forum series for third term.

Other topics in the series are:
- Sept. 18 - Revolutionaries in Central America: A Focus on Nicaragua. Tony Christy, GSES.

All forums will be held from 5.15 to 6.30 p.m. in the graduate school's seminar room, near the eastern Science lecture theathers.

Reading of 'lost' work

Walter Cooper's melodramatic comedy, Hazard, staged in Sydney in 1872, was thought lost until a copy was discovered recently in the Sydney Opera House library.

Dennis Davison's adaptation will be presented by the Studio Players as an acted-reading on Friday, September 13 at 8 p.m. in the English Drama Studio. The cast will include Mimi Colligan, Barbara Calton, Lyn Wilson, Richard Pannell, Alan Dilnot, John Leonard, Chris Worth and Dennis Davison.

Seating is limited to 50, so bookings are essential. Cash or cheque for $2 per person (including wine and food) should be paid to Dr Davison at the English Department, and tickets will be held at the door.

Deterrence strategy: what is it?

The Monash Peace Studies Network has taken deterrence strategy as its theme for third term.

It will present four different perspectives, beginning tomorrow with Deterrence: What is it?, presented by Dr Alan Roberts from the Physics department, in Room 115, Menzies Building.

On Tuesday, September 17, Dr Aubrey Townsend (Philosophy), will speak at the same venue on philosophical aspects in Deterrence Strategy: Is it morally defensible or indefensible?

The last two sessions, to be presented in R3, will concentrate on different political perspectives.

On Tuesday, September 24, the speaker will be Mr lan McPhee, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, and on Tuesday, October 1, Dr Joe Camilleri, senior lecturer in Politics at La Trobe University, will speak on the topic, Deterrence is Dead.

All sessions begin at 1 p.m.

Scholarships

Frank Knox Fellowships are open to graduates who are British subjects and Australian citizens. They are tenable at Harvard University, renewable for a second year, and available in most fields of study. Applications close with the Graduate Scholarships Office, Clive Vernon, on October 18.

The National Heart Foundation is making vacation scholarships available to undergraduates for research projects related to cardiovascular function and disease. They are tenable for six to eight weeks during the summer vacation, and application forms are available from Clive Vernon at the Graduate Scholarships Office. Applications close in Canberra on October 1.

MONASH REPORTER

The next issue will be published in the second week of October, 1985. Copy deadline is Friday, September 27, and early copy is much appreciated. Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly (ext. 2003), clerical Information Office, Ground Floor, University Offices.
A staircase to some, Mt. Everest to others

Life is a series of almost impenetrable obstacles for the handicapped, but with enormous courage, people like Sue Shaw manage to overcome most of them.

Sue, who has a B.A. in music and a Dip.Ed. from Monash, has been conducting a survey for the University for the past few months on ways of improving opportunities for handicapped students.

On-campus storage places for motorised wheelchairs are a very high priority, she says. These big chairs cannot be folded up for transportation, yet they are essential to cover the long distances between buildings and departments.

The survey also shows that the University needs to take another look at the "special considerations" policy within faculties and departments.

"It should not be necessary for a student to ask for special treatment," Sue says. "Advice about special needs is included on enrolment forms, and coordinators should automatically be responsible for liaising between staff members and people with disabilities."

She has talked with 25 students who indicated on their enrolment forms that they were willing to take part in the survey.

Further suggestions or inquiries should be directed to Sue at the Union Desk, or messages can be left with Loris Bates in the Faculty of Education, on ext. 2827.

SEPTEMBER 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.


18: GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SEMINARS — "Feminism, Textuality and the Subject Position", by Sneja Gunew and Philipa Rothfield. All seminars in Room 310, Menzies Building. All seminars at 3.15 p.m. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2130.

22: SUNDA V AFTERNOON CONCERT - "Romantics" (verse & music). Beverley Dunn (verse), Donald Thornton (piano), RBH. Admission free. 2.30 p.m. Inquiries: ext. 2245.

23: WILFRED FULLAGAR MEMORIAL LECTURE — "Judges as Law Makers in the 1990's", by Right Honorable Mr Justice Richardsop. RBH. Admission free. 8.30 p.m. R1. Inquiries: 3308.

23 & 24: BLOOD BANK — At Monash Ground Floor Humanities Building. Appointments to be made at Union Desk.

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Printed by Waverley Offset Publishing Group, (03) 560 5111. Typeset by BP Typesetting Pty. Ltd., (03) 561 2111

SEPTEMBER 11, 1985