Curbing the wrath of a tropical storm

About 40 per cent of Australia’s export earnings come from a huge but little-studied part of the country, the tropics, which is subject to dry spells, severe storms and long periods of heavy rain.

The most important tropical industries — mining, off-shore oil and gas, fishing, agriculture and tourism — are highly weather-dependent. While the threat of cyclones is ever-present, sudden storms or extreme wet seasons can also cause significant economic and social disruption.

So the Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre has organised the Australian Monsoon Experiment, the most extensive study of Australian tropical weather ever mounted.

And staff and postgraduate students from the Applied Section of the Monash Mathematics department are playing a very significant role in it.

The study will be conducted in two phases, the first running for 15 days in October-November at the end of the dry season and the second for 30 days in the wet season months of January and February next year.

It will involve a permanent upgrading of the meteorological observation network in northern Australia and will bring together data collected by that network and at specially established weather stations on land with information collected by satellite, the Australian Institute of Marine Research oceanographic vessel, and sophisticated research aircraft from the CSIRO, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Flinders University.

The experiment has been designed to find out as much as possible about the phenomenon, known as the North Australian Cloud Line, and its effect, and also about the relationship between tropical storms and the wet season atmospheric circulation. It is hoped to use this information to construct more accurate computer models to support forecasters.

And that is where Monash comes in. For the better part of a decade, researchers in the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, working under the leadership of Dr Roger Smith in collaboration with Dr Reg Clarke at Melbourne University, have been studying the Morning Glory, a spectacular cloud formation which forms in the early morning in the southeast corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria from late September to December.

The Monash research group have put up the idea that it is caused when easterly on-shore winds blowing off the Pacific Ocean at the base of Cape York Peninsula develop a front which in the early morning collides almost head-on with a corresponding front developed by the westerly on-shore breezes as they move inland from the Gulf.

What would then occur is similar to two waves meeting at the seaside travelling in opposite directions. Where they meet, water is pushed up and settles back either side of the join. Cold air would be lifted up in a like manner to form the Morning Glory disturbance, the team argues.

- Continued P.6
Scientists should work from ‘moral’ base

A university-trained scientist should have a deep love of nature and a personal, moral commitment to explaining and heeding the truth, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of NSW, Professor Michael Birt, told Monash graduates. “The training of a scientist can — and should — offer more than might be called mere technical proficiency. “Attitudes of mind and mental habits which are useful in other spheres of human knowledge can also be acquired. “A scientific education should enable us to know when propositions can be accepted because they are based on sound, tested and sufficient evidence; a recognition that established new facts may alter quite dramatically a general perception of what is correct and the flexibility of mind to embrace that change; and a regular, but not exclusive, reliance on logical argument to reach conclusions,” he said in his occasional address at the recent Science graduation in Robert Blackwood Hall.

“Just as scholars in the humanities draw material from the creations of artists, academic scientists draw on the work of great creative scientists in their exposition of their disciplines. Science and the humanities were quite dramatically a general perception earlier on. But in science the ultimate point of group finding is to contribute to our understanding of the universe, and that involves the conclusions of propositions accepted because they are based on sound, tested and sufficient evidence.”

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Computer breaks through language barrier

The Faculty of Arts has developed one of the world's most flexible multi-lingual word processing packages for microcomputers.

The user will be able to switch between English and 12 different Slavic languages at the flick of a key, and the system can be adapted for use in Classics, Philosophy, Linguistics, Mathematics and other language departments.

It combines commercially-available programs with specially written software.

The System was developed for the department of Slavic Languages by third year student, Tim Pilbrow — who designed the characters — and programmer, Pan Thongvilu of the Computer Centre — who wrote the programs to convert the designs into microcomputer and printer characters.

Professor Jiri Marvan, chairman of Slavic Languages, said it had been almost impossible to publish some languages in Australia, but the new system was expected to simplify, speed up and reduce the cost of this process. "We should now be able to produce our own camera-ready copies of papers and articles," he said.

After the faculty decided to install microcomputer-based word processing, it was faced with the task of coping with departments which used special characters in their work, said Dr Aubrey Townsend, senior lecturer in Philosophy and co-ordinator of the installation program.

Word processing software for Russian had been developed and was available, for example, on the University of Melbourne mainframe and on Apple microcomputers at the Australian National University.

But a worldwide search turned up no microcomputer-based system which could cope with all the other Slavic languages and produce an acceptable quality of print.

It was originally thought that as the IBM-PCs used by the Arts Faculty were limited to a set of 256 characters it might not be possible to develop such a system.

There was also the problem of the ease with which the operator could switch between languages.

Mr Thongvilu's software throws a grid onto the screen on the microcomputer, and allows the user to design characters by filling in appropriate grid squares (see pictures).

Mr Pilbrow not only had to design all the different characters used in Slavic languages, but he had to come up with a set of a maximum 128 characters which could cover any eventuality.

Some of the accent marks over capital letters had to be displayed separately to keep to this limit but they will be combined in the computer print-out.

Mr Pilbrow used existing Australian software to re-program the IBM keyboard to different sets of characters selected from the 128.

Any of the sets is then processed in the normal way. Not all of the sets represent different languages. Mr Pilbrow has created two Russian sets — one programs the keyboard so that it resembles a Russian

Baby sleep monitor wins overseas prize

A design by a final year Electrical Engineering student for monitoring the sleeping patterns of babies has won an international prize.

The largest professional organisation of electrical engineers, IEEE, which is based in the United States, gave its top award in 1985 to Albert Fu, who was competing against students from China, India, New Zealand, South Korea, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia.

His design, a microprocessor-based digital filter, is used to separate electrical signals from sleeping babies into four major frequency components — alpha, beta, delta and theta.

It requires only a quarter of the hardware used with analogue filters, and is also more versatile because its characteristics can be changed by simply changing the program stored in the memory chip.

Mr Fu designed and built the new equipment under the supervision of Dr Khee Pang. Reader in Electrical Engineering, who is also jointly supervising his current research in data flow computer architecture, with Mr Barry Treloar of the Computer Centre.

MONASH REPORTER
Prayer’s a good thought

“No one in the technological age questions the value of thinking,” says the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr Frank Little.

“Prayer is thinking, and an eminent form of it.

“Prayer thinking may not be of any apparent value for immediate utilitarian gain, yet it can provide the serenity, the form of thinking and hard work; without prayerful thinking, all our thinking can become mere calculation.”

Dr Little was guest speaker at a special 25th anniversary University Service last month in the Large Chapel of the Religious Centre.

Practice makes imperfect

Final year law students are among the privileged few encouraged to benefit from their mistakes.

Each term those enrolled in the Professional Practice Course at Springvale Legal Service compete for the Slade Trophy (named after Philip Reginald Slade, founder of the service and previous owner of the saucepan now used as the trophy) which is awarded to the student whose faux pas during his or her tour of duty “most clearly indicates his promise as a lawyer”.

“Students anxiously await the announcement of the winner at Slade Trophy Night,” says Ms Louise Kyle, community lawyer for the service.

They also hear taped messages of encouragement from such dignitaries as Don Chipp, Ron Barassi, Gareth Evans and John Cain. The last pep-talk was given by a member for the 3RRR Penturto Pentur panel, Dr Turf.

The latest winner, Julie Ligeti, rang the police late one night when she became frightened of continuous knocking on the walls of the Springvale Legal Service building.

When the culprit proved to be a mischievous possum, Julie went to the front of the field for the Slade Trophy.

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Homegrown truths

In your issue of March 5 there appears an account of an address made by Hugh Stretton at Monash University in which he is quoted as saying that “FAUSA’s policy of preferring Australians to others for academic appointments is likely to dull our quality, and is anyway as reprehensible as any other racist discrimination.”

Later he refers to “one of the foreigners FAUSA now wants to prevent our hiring, or working with, or learning from...”

It is particularly distressing to FAUSA that an Australian academic of the eminence of Hugh Stretton either has been misquoted, or has failed to research his material thoroughly.

FAUSA certainly has no desire to keep foreigners out of Australian universities.

But it is concerned that too often undue weight is placed, in the making of university appointments, on “overseas” qualifications and/or experience, and that Australian qualifications and/or experience are unjustifiably down-graded.

As in so many other areas, the homegrown product is spurned in favour of the import.

The FAUSA policy merely seeks to redress this balance by prescribing that Australians should be preferred in academic appointments where all other factors — including merit — are equal.

This vital qualification was omitted from Hugh Stretton’s description of our policy position.

Les Wallis, General Secretary, FAUSA.

Carnival chorus

Captivating choral pleasure is destined to strike Monash next month when Carmina Burana is performed in concert at Robert Blackwood Hall.

This popular work, composed by Carl Orff in 1936 as a setting for 12th century profane student songs, will be sung by the Monash University Choral Society (MonUCS) on Friday, May 2, starting at 8 p.m.

Based on three themes — the Caprice of Fortune, Drinking With Friends, and the Pleasures of Carnival Love — the work’s popularity is demonstrated by the conspicuously large audiences it attracts.

Judging by the near-capacity crowd at the last MonUCS presentation of Carmina Burana in 1978, the work will be an impressive start to the choir’s year.

MonUCS, one of the oldest-established societies at Monash, has gained recognition in the musical world through its regular quality presentations of famous and little-known works.

Past conductors include John McCaughey, Doris Lawrence and Bevan Levison, and the present conductor is Andre de Quadros, music master at Presbyterian Ladies College (and former head of music at Billanook College, Mooroolbark).

The choir also participates in the annual Intervarsity Choral Festival under the direction of renowned conductors such as Peter Seymour, Richard Dival and Georg Tinter.

This presentation of Carmina Burana will also feature the Victorian Chamber Youth Orchestra, the National Boys Choir and the National Girls Choir.

Standing Lake

MonUCS Bookings ($8, $4 concession) can be made at Robert Blackwood Hall or by phoning 523 7257.

APRIL 4, 1986

LETTERS

Let’s go Latin

I trust that immediate steps will be taken to implement the evidently sensible proposal of Hans Lausch (Monash Reporter 1-86) that henceforward all teaching in this most venerable of universities be conducted in Latin.

A council resolution to make Latin the sole vehicle of instruction would instantly eliminate all problems of communication in this much-ravaged multi-cultural society.

Of course, the department of Classical Studies might perhaps require a few additional appointments to cope with the expected increased enrolments in Latin, but a dozen new professors — and a corresponding topping-up of the non-professorial ranks — could see us through.

Surely, however, the University motto, Ancora imparo, is a corruption possibly effected in the transition from mapuscule to minuscule script in the early years of our existence — of Ancora imparti, “with unequal anchor”, stressing the point that, even at the time of our foundation in the eighth century, the Faculty of Arts was inadequately funded as compared with its fellow faculties.

Alan Henry

Classical Studies

P.S. Late enrolments in Latin 103.06 can still be effected. (For a small fee we can also arrange to have graduate credentials suitably updated in the new official language.)

Parking pinch

Your article on the removal of the kerb at the “disabled parking” area near the Monash Club was a welcome addition to your series on parking at Monash.

I look forward to the continuation of this series.

It should, however, be pointed out that the parking spaces are not consistent with Australian standards.

The existing guidelines as set down in The Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice prescribe a width of 2.6 to 2.7 metres for general 90° parking bays.

The updated version of this guide (AS, CE/1/1-85-2) is due for release by the Australian Standards Association in 1987.

It suggests that car sizes have decreased and that bays should be between 2.4 and 2.6 metres for general use.

However neither of these standards apply to “disabled parkers”.

The relevant standard is AS 14428 (1977), Design Rules for Access by the Disabled.

In clause 6.1 page 6, this standard states “Car parking space shall provide a flat surface not less than 3m wide.”

In many cases it is advisable to provide spaces which are wider than 3m.

The parking spaces near the Monash Club are only 2.5m wide.

I therefore suggest that the title “one small step” is appropriate, but perhaps there is still another small step to go — the parking spaces should be 3m wide.

William Young, Senior lecturer, Civil Engineering
For the past 25 years, the Monash Art Collection has led a precarious existence. It has been given a lot of exposure, with works hung in buildings like the Main Library and Robert Blackwood Hall for the benefit of passing traffic. But this practice has taken its toll, and there has been substantial damage—accidental or otherwise.

"We get graffiti, bird droppings, grime and accidental damage, caused by trolleys and other furniture crashing into paintings," says the curator, Jeopser Duncan. "Some have such delicate surfaces that even minor damage can be devastating."

The curators will be able to breathe a little easier later this year, when the collection moves into a permanent home in the new multi-disciplinary building. The Art Advisory Committee has been supervising a restoration and conservation program in the knowledge that works will have a good chance of remaining in pristine condition in their new quarters.

Already the Burnell collection of prints and etchings has been fully restored, and a $3000 grant from the Vice-Chancellor's fund has given impetus to work on the general collection. Two well-known paintings, Lesley Dumbrell's Fan Tan and David Aspden's Meditation, have been cleaned of the bird droppings they acquired while hanging in Robert Blackwood Hall and the University Offices respectively.

Edwin Tanner's Moral Philosophers is now back on the wall as part of the present exhibition in the University Visual Arts Department gallery (7th floor, Menzies building) after several years in storage following a bad fall.

The restoration program has been aided by the arrival of the first crop of Australian-trained conservators, newly graduated from the Canberra School of Arts. They include Kate Eccles-Smith, who worked on the Burnell collection, and Robyn Sloggert, whose projects have included Fan Tan and Meditation.

"It was very difficult to find skilled people before, but these graduates are up-to-date with the latest techniques," says Ms Duncan. Some artists, like Barbara Grossman, are willing to repair their own works. "It's better if we can get the artist involved, but it's an expensive and distressing process."

"Understandably, some get very upset about the damage, though only one refused to help," Ms Duncan says. The current exhibition, Monash Collection Reviewed—Paintings, shows many restored works, and some very recent acquisitions.

This mixture provides a good contrast and allows earlier works to be seen in a different context, she says. The present acquisition program includes more works under glass, like Maggie May's series of three etchings, Tidal Zone Suite, which can be more safely exhibited around the University in response to staff requests for "something to brighten the walls."

Lecture rooms, theatres, residential halls and recreation areas at Monash University accommodated more than half a million members of the public last year.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, said he was impressed with public use of the lecture theatres. Non-university use of departmental space almost equalled the time used for formal teaching.

He said public use of university facilities exceeded expectation.

Results from a Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission survey revealed that non-formal use of universities' facilities were generally above the expected level. At Monash, the residential halls, Arts and Crafts Centre, and the Centre for Continuing Education provided for more than 12,000 members of the public last year.

The Robert Blackwood Hall and the Alexander Theatre had the greatest public use, both with annual audiences nearing 90,000.

Robert Blackwood Hall's Assistant Manager, Ms Joan Sayers, says the hall is heavily booked for public performances and conferences except when University examinations and graduation ceremonies are conducted.

Public use of campus more than expected and graduation ceremonies are conducted.

Last year the Alexander Theatre was used on 310 occasions for non-university performances.

Preference is given to student use of the Sports and Recreation Centre, which is funded by Union fees, but 37,000 members of the public used the centre last year.

Deputy Warden of the Union, Mr Doug Ellis, said the closing of local recreation centres had increased public use of university areas.

The centre is almost fully booked because both students and the public have gained greater awareness of fitness.

The Union, although it does not allow non-student use of space during term time, had 27,000 outside people using facilities last year.

The public now has to book to use the Union's catering facilities.

Catering manager, Mr Joe Curtis, said catering services would once have been able to automatically accept bookings.
The Bureau of Meteorology is very interested in it, as the associated weather often closes Top End airports such as Gove, and in the wet season can lead to severe thunderstorms and squall lines in the region.

The Bureau of Meteorology is interested in the phenomenon of the North Australian Cloud Line, which forms along the western side of the tip of Cape York Peninsula in the northeast of the Gulf. This is a late afternoon convective cloud formation, the North Australian Cloud Line, which then moves westwards across the Gulf and sometimes across the Top End to the Timor Sea.

The Bureau of Meteorology is involved in the monsoon experiment, which is designed to produce data to test and refine her model.

But there are many other links between Monash and the Bureau of Meteorology. Dr Smith, for instance, will be helping to direct the experiment from the Darwin Operations Centre.

During phase one, a group of eight Monash researchers will be based at Weipa releasing balloons at strategic times and tracking them with theodolites, and Monash will be providing the services of an instrumented light aircraft to make measurements over the peninsula and out to sea.

In phase two, four Monash students will be operating an upper atmosphere weather station at Burketown, taking six-hourly radio Sonde soundings and making routine weather observations. Meanwhile at Weipa, four others will be repeating the dry season measurements, made during phase one, for the wet season.

The experiment is being monitored by Dr Nigel Tapper from the department of Geography at the Australian Monsoon Experiment.

Dr Smith said: "There are very strong links with the people at the research centre. Many of our former graduate students now work there, and its head is an ex-lecturer in our department."

That relationship was formally acknowledged at the beginning of last year when the Bureau and Monash concluded an agreement of affiliation, which means that the Bureau is now regarded as part of the Monash campus as far as research work goes.

And the ties were strengthened further this year with the announcement of two Bureau scholarships to be awarded annually to enable members of Bureau staff to study for the newly introduced Master of Science degree in Dynamical Meteorology.

The degree is offered by the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, and provides a strong theoretical background backed by experience of its practical application.

Perhaps it is not surprising, therefore, that this year's two winners, Wasyl Drosdowsky and Geoff Garden, will both be heavily involved in the Australian Monsoon Experiment.

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The mathematical equations involved were so complex that she had to go to Germany to do the main calculations on one of the world's fastest and most powerful computers - a Cray computer at the German Aerospace Research Organisation in Munich. The monsoon experiment has been designed to produce data to test and refine her model.

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Dr Smith, for instance, will be helping to direct the experiment from the Darwin Operations Centre.

During phase one, a group of eight Monash researchers will be based at Weipa releasing balloons at strategic times and tracking them with theodolites, and Monash will be providing the services of an instrumented light aircraft to make measurements over the peninsula and out to sea.

In phase two, four Monash students will be operating an upper atmosphere weather station at Burketown, taking six-hourly radio Sonde soundings and making routine weather observations. Meanwhile at Weipa, four others will be repeating the dry season measurements, made during phase one, for the wet season.

The experiment is only the latest activity in the long-standing relationship between Monash and the Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre.

Dr Smith said: "There are very strong links with the people at the research centre. Many of our former graduate students now work there, and its head is an ex-lecturer in our department."

That relationship was formally acknowledged at the beginning of last year when the Bureau and Monash concluded an agreement of affiliation, which means that the Bureau is now regarded as part of the Monash campus as far as research work goes.

And the ties were strengthened further this year with the announcement of two Bureau scholarships to be awarded annually to enable members of Bureau staff to study for the newly introduced Master of Science degree in Dynamical Meteorology.

The degree is offered by the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, and provides a strong theoretical background backed by experience of its practical application.

Perhaps it is not surprising, therefore, that this year's two winners, Wasyl Drosdowsky and Geoff Garden, will both be heavily involved in the Australian Monsoon Experiment.

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Praise be!
The comet HAS come

Late in 1984, with Halley's 1910 visitation still vivid in his memory, Gilbert Vasey (former editor of Monash Review) penned the following verse in anticipation of his eagerly-awaited second encounter with the cosmic visitor . . .

The comet is coming
(as written in 1591)

(1591)
You remember last year the light in the sky —
A point at the head, the tail riding high.
How the village pond froze and the ducks all died.
The cider went acid and the milk went bad.
The game disappeared, the lambs didn't thrive,
But thanks be to God, we survived, we survived.

(The Prophet at All Scients)
I went to the prophet at the shrine of All Scients:
"Will these come again to decure our poor minds?"
"Far worse, far worse," as his prayer he delayed,
"The comets are coming, I'm afraid, I'm afraid."

(1066)
"You remember King Harold at Hastings was slain,
'Twas not by an arrow as the story books said,
"But a shaft of black light from the comet's long tail.
"For such a sad story words fail, words fail!"

(1607)
"That comet I see, as it passes near heaven,
"Will come back this way in 1607.
"You cannot escape it, its aim is too sure;
"Chant aves and paters your life to secure."

(1682)
Our prophet saw further — adding doom to his mood —
"It will come yet again, though none here will spy
"The name in its tail, spelt Halley (now Hawley).
"So fear you the Lord, sing holy, sing holy."

(1985-86)
With his infinite lens our prophet foretold
Halley's comet would cycle yet three or more fold;
And would come very close within the next year:
If heaven be pleased, we will see it from here.

G.H.V.

(Monashe Reporter is delighted to report that heaven was, indeed, pleased. Gilbert and Florence Vasey have had frequent sightings of the comet from their backyard at Doncaster.)
AvCC to expand industry links

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Business Council of Australia have endorsed recommendations of a Joint Working Party to strengthen and expand existing links between universities and industry.

They have also recommended that the government launch a national publicity campaign to improve community awareness about the importance of research and technology to the standards of living, export competitiveness and national development.

Greater co-operation between universities and industry was necessary for the prosperity of the country, the chairman, Mr John Hooke, when he presented the working party's recommendations.

"Australia needs to create more wealth in order to lift employment and living standards, and to do this it needs to foster the conditions that will allow industry to perform.

"It must have an appropriate business and investment environment.

"In the area of the application of new technology and manpower planning, a much greater involvement between business and the university sector will assist in the attainment of these goals."

The 11-member working party, set up in October, was headed by Mr Hooke, chairman and chief executive of Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Ltd., and Professor Ray Martin, Vice-Chancellor of Monash University (deputy chairman).

Its proposals included:
- the appointment by each university, if it has not already done so, of a business liaison officer, who will be the focal point to which industry might turn if it requires any research support or advice;
- the encouragement of greater university and corporation staff appointments to appropriate company boards and university committees;
- the support of the appointment of industry nominees to university councils or senates;
- the greater use by industry of the retention of academic consultants, who might be used from time to time for specific contract research and generally involved in the research effort of the companies concerned;
- the encouragement of more joint appointments of senior research staff;
- the exploration of the establishment of joint collaborative projects among companies whereby a company and a university can make available resources to provide for the collaborative funding of various research projects of specific interest to both the company and the university;
- the holding in 1986 of a BCA/AVCC Forum on University-Business Co-operation to enable senior company and university executives, politicians and senior public servants to exchange information and ideas;
- the establishment of a mechanism whereby representatives of the AVCC and the Business Council can continue to meet to discuss areas of policy formulation to ensure that collaboration and interaction be continued and strengthened.

The AVCC and the Business Council have also recommended that the government continue to support and expand National Research Fellowships and the Teaching Companies Scheme, and that it complement these with new research awards in science and engineering.

This would encourage Ph.D. students to undertake industrially orientated research projects.

ABC to stage debate

Following the success of Monash's in-vitro fertilisation program and the development of the Centre for Human Bioethics, the University will probably host an ABC television debate on Ethics and the New Biology.

The debate, one of a series of eight being organised by the ABC, would be conducted on campus sometime in May or June.

This first series, to be held at different universities, will be related entirely to Australian issues.

Topics suggested by other universities include: Civil liberties: a bill of rights or the Australian curst; De-regulation of the labour market: Aboriginal rights - where would we go from here?; State rights and the environment; and The rural crisis - is there one?

The series, to be developed from recommendations from the University Information Officers' Committee, will be conducted by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

The series is designed to show how universities provide information on important Australian issues and contribute to policy formulation by a community.
Senior staff suffer from ‘disincentive’

Dr George Rozvany, Reader in Civil Engineering, will leave at the end of this month to take up a foundation chair as a C4 Professor, Ordnarius, at the University of Essen, West Germany. Hungarian-born Dr Rozvany, who joined the staff of Monash University 23 years ago, specialises in the field of structural optimisation. He will be head of the Fachbereich (Institute) for Modernised Construction at Essen. With the late William Prager, a leading American scientist at Brown University, he developed optimal layout theory which has found a variety of applications ranging from large space ribbons to control of crystal microstructure of composites with a view to creating artificial "super" materials. Here he writes about the reasons behind his decision to accept an overseas appointment.

If I may generalise from my personal experience, there are many good reasons for an academic to remain in Australia indefinitely.

Both my wife and myself are very fond of our adopted country, the great Australian way of life and the delightful people of this continent.

Moreover, I personally find all non-organisational aspects of the university environment at Monash extremely pleasant, ranging from friendly and helpful colleagues (and fine chairmen) in my department to a lovely campus with excellent recreational facilities.

It is obvious, therefore, that the reasons for one giving up such a relaxed and enjoyable existence stem from professional and organisational aspects offered by overseas universities.

I must add that due to the "don't rock the boat" selection policy of some tertiary institutions in Australia, a fair proportion of our academics are not in danger of being persuaded to take up an attractive overseas appointment.

But there are hierarchical disincentives for senior staff in our tertiary system.

Apart from the position of departmental chairman, there is very little difference in the working conditions of most other ranks of staff.

An associate professor (or even a reader) gets a standard size (i.e. rather minute) room, to which most junior lecturers (and some tutors) are also entitled.

He has no personal staff, must comply in all respects with decisions of the departmental or university committees, has no independent budget and must perform numerous routine tasks which could be done by staff of lesser qualification.

While this system has obvious advantages for junior lecturing staff, it proves a disincentive in striving for academic achievement.

Most of the professors of German universities have the ranking C2, C3 or C4.

These grades have their historical origins. A professor, for example, used to be called "ordentlicher oeffentlicher Universitaetsprofessor", now briefly "Ordentlicher".

It is important to realise that the number of C4 Professors in a German "Fachbereich" (which is somewhere between our faculty and department) is much greater than the number of full professors in a traditional Australian university and hence a large proportion of our readers (and some associate professors) would also have a C4 position over here.

The result is that the C4 Professor is free to concentrate on basic ideas at the highest level, on personal communication with students in various parts of the world.

Judging purely by numbers, most of our lecturers would hold at least lower (C2 or C3) professorships at German universities with a lot of privileges and independence.

I must stress, therefore, that the German system is relatively more egalitarian because departmental privileges are not concentrated to the same extent in one person (the chairman).

Professors also enjoy a favorable financial status, my gross salary over there being almost twice my salary here (at the current exchange rate), and, due to a wide range of taxation incentives, my net salary is relatively much higher.

In addition, there is virtually no limit on outside earnings.

Clearly, the German university system produces a highly successful breed of technologist.

West Germany, a country with almost no natural resources, has swollen its surplus (positive trade balance) each year.

The Deutschmark is the most stable currency and the inflation rate the lowest in the world (currently around 0.2 per cent).

All this is achieved by sheer brainpower and technological know-how, resulting in a booming secondary industry.

If we consider that our foreign debt has tripled in three years, that the cost of living on borrowed money, the Australian dollar has lost almost half its value, that the balanced budget (like the DM) during the last two years and the inflation is soaring, it becomes pretty obvious that something has gone fatally wrong.

Creating incentives for intellectual achievement at all levels including science-technical researchers at universities could be a small step in the right direction if it is not too late.

The alternative is, barring an unlikely resources boom, an unprecedented crash of the economy and a hopelessly outward-looked and second-rate secondary industry, bringing our living standard down to that of a banana-republic in South America.

Dr George Rozvany

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Guidelines have not gone far enough: MAGS

The introduction of guidelines for the supervision of Ph.D. candidates has been welcomed by the Monash Association of Graduate Students, but it is feared that the guidelines have not gone far enough.

There are concerns that the guidelines will not have effect where there is the greatest need, says Peter Janssen, MAGS representative on the University's Students Committee.

While they are prefaced with the statement that "there are common issues and responsibilities which apply to all faculties, departments, supervisors and candidates regardless of their discipline or area of research", the preface concludes that these "fundamentals" may be modified by faculties and departments in order to "meet the specific needs of various parts of the world".

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Full steam ahead for Jubilee

Here is a round-up of events so far.

Monday, 19 May:

To open the week's activities there will be a ceremonial conducted in Robert Blackwood Hall. The formal proceedings will include:

- A specially designed medal awarded to each staff member who has served 25 years with the University. The medal, designed by Matcham Skipper, will be presented by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.


- A Jubilee Oration by His Royal Highness.

- Letters of invitation will be distributed throughout the University to find out who wishes to attend the ceremony.

Student Theatre still needs people connected with the Jubilee Year, details of which can be found out by ringing the Student Theatre office on ext. 2096.

The Monash University Parents' Group has organised a Jubilee Dinner on Friday, May 9, at Chaucer's Reception Centre.

The group is also organising a Art Exhibition and Sale to be held in Robert Blackwood Hall on July 18, 19 and 20.

If any faculty, department or other section of the University is to hold a Jubilee event during 1986 which is not connected with the Jubilee Year, details can be included in the printed program, by ringing Miss Anita Muller, C/o the Registrar's Office.

9 APRIL 4, 1986
The Ends of Philosophy
by Harry Redner
Croom Helm, London, 1986
(Subsidised by the Monash University Publications Committee)

Put out your tongue ... hold your breath ... bend down ... turn around.
These are typical instructions from a doctor, but what if instead you were told "Put out your tongue ... hold your breath ... bend down ... turn around."? You might provide the basis for standardising medical language in the area.

Dr Bowden began to compile the dictionary four years ago, after working as a physician and medical administrator in Vanuatu since 1972.
The dictionary, on sale at the University Bookshop for $10, uses local Vanuatu spelling.

An important claim of the author is that the task of analysis is not simply to uncover something that was there all along. (This is just the point of his criticism of Nietzsche and Wittgenstein.) Rather, the unconscious — of language and of the psyche itself — is constituted in the process of its being "dis-covered". So the critical destruction of illusion is truly indispensable if a genuine content for thought is to exist at all.

The book ends on a note of optimism. Philosophy could engage other forms of thought in the light of new aims — and even regain its contact with the sciences. Where could it make a contribution? Genetics is mentioned as an example. Scientists with long memories might find this an ominous choice. But these indications are deliberately left as hints. At one point we are referred to a forthcoming sequel entitled The Ends of Science: perhaps more answers will be given there.

The Ends of Philosophy is a challenging book. It continues many of the themes of the author's previous book, In the Beginning Was the Deed. However, it can be read without much difficulty as a self-contained work. It presents what one might think of as an "European" approach to philosophy — not in particular features of style or method of argument, but simply in the fact that it takes philosophy seriously. For this author, philosophy is a vocation, not a pastime. The problem is: how is it to be realised — in terms of its own ends? Whatever the answer, this seems the right question.

Robin Small

Note

the medical profession.

The dictionary includes a section comparing Tok Pisin (Papua New Guinean pidgin), Bislama and Solomon Island pidgin.

"There has been talk of standardising the pidgin languages used throughout the Melanesian area.

"If this occurs, the dictionary will provide a basis for standardising medical language in the area.

Dr Redner says he has compiled the dictionary four years ago, after working as a physician and medical administrator in Vanuatu since 1972.
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Robin Small

Note
The essays in this commemorative volume are intended to serve as a contribution to the Sesquicentenary of Victoria.

The aim is to show aspects of the impact of German-speaking immigrants — and German culture — had on the development of our State. The Melbourne Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Karl-Heinz Scholtysek, initiated the volume, and the Monash University department of German was asked to undertake the editorial work in view of its long-standing research interest in this area.

Associate Professor Walter Veit undertook a very substantial amount of administrative and organisational work in the period prior to publication. It must be noted that for the purpose of the volume, "German" always denotes "German speakers", that is, immigrants and their descendants, from German-speaking parts of Europe.

The essays are based on the scholarly work of contributors in a variety of disciplines; the unifying factor being the assumption that all inter-cultural and inter-ethnic communication is necessary in a two-way process.

Such communication simultaneously contains elements of preservation and change, and it implies an ever-shifting balance between the maintenance of different socio-cultural identities and a dynamic process which shapes both the immigrant and his host country.

The history of the inter-relations between the Anglo-Celtic mainstream culture and German-speaking settlers in Victoria provide important examples for the paradigm.

The volume begins with Michael Clyne's essay on the development of the German language in Victoria, and also contains an investigation of one specific case of language maintenance and change, by Anne Pauwels.

An article on Ferdinand von Mueller by Joseph Powell presents the fate of a brilliant scientist, while Conrad Hamann shows the successful merging of elements of European and Australian architecture in the work of the Swiss-German refugee, Frederick Romberg.

The mid-nineteenth century socialist Hermann Puttmann and the eminent Austrian essayist Paul Hirsch-Hatvani are not identified by Victorians as the significant literary figures they were in their countries of origin, nor are they known in German-speaking Europe for having continued their work as migrants to Victoria. They are therefore presented in this volume with translations of two of their essays on Australia.

A study of the German aspects in the arts and sciences of the late 19th century on the development of a German refugee, Frederick Romberg.

The system, costing $340,000, is being bought with an engineering equipment grant supplemented by departmental funds, says a lecturer, Mr Ray Maxwell. It consists of 15 black and white DN3000 computers and two color DN706s, which will be linked by a high speed local area network.

The system will be used in manufactur­ ing design, drafting, the teaching of graphics and data management, and for courses given to local industry.

Papers are invited for the 23rd Indus­ trial Safety Convention, to be held in Wollongong on October 22 and 23.

They could cover subjects including occupational health, compensation and rehabilitation, training, legal implications, and particular health problems.

Submissions must be received by mid-­April and need to include an abstract up to 200 words.

For further information contact Dr N. Jeffries, Program Co-ordinator, 23rd NSW Industrial Safety Convention, P.O. Box 192, Wollongong, 2500.
The ‘Alex’ goes Wilde

Bible bash

Rare biblical artefacts will be on display at Robert Blackwood Hall this month as part of the Bible Expo '86 hosted by Christian groups at Monash.

They include replicas of archaeological significance to the Old and New Testament, rare copies of old translations of the Bible, a 5 cm by 5 cm microfiche containing the whole Bible, and examples of modern translations.

Opening hours for the Bible Expo '86: Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Monash Reporter

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.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FORUMS — A “critical look at the historic conservation movement”, by Alison Black, National Trust of Australia.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SEMINAR Round Table forums at 5.15 p.m. Free. Inquiries ext. 3839.

3. SPACE DISCUSSION — “Satellite Communications”, by Harold Hephern. Sponsored by Space Association of Australia. Admission free. 7:30 p.m. Inquiries: 699 2985 or 772 5804.

4. ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURES — “Post-Contact History”, Wayne Askim.
   APRIL 10: “Kinship”, Don Williams.
   APRIL 17: “Kinship”, Don Williams.
   APRIL 24: “Urban Aborigines”, Eve Fest. Admission free. 1:30 p.m. 2 - 5 p.m., Lecture Theatre B5, Inquiries: ext. 3348.


6. PERSPECTIVES CONCERT No 1 — The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Hiroaki Iwaki. Soloist: A. John Fosco (piano). Program: Sinfonia da Requiem, Op. 26; Mozart; Piano Concerto, Peter Sculthorpe; Symphony No 5; Shostakovich. Admission: Adults: Res. $11.20, B Res. $13, C Res. $9.80. Concessions: A Res. $11.80, B Res. $9.40, C Res. $8. Youth (under 21) and student under 25: A Res. $8. B Res. $6.50, C Res. $5.50. RBH.

7. AFTERNOON CONCERT — The Melbourne Youth Music Choral performs the Melbourne Youth Symphonic Band, the John Amity Youth Band, the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra and the Melbourne Youth Choir. 2 p.m. RBH.

8. LUNCHTIME CONCERT — Jeff Pressing — Piano & Electronic keyboards; Robert Paredes — Clarinet: Presenting jazz and electronic compositions. 1:15 p.m. Admission free. RBH.


11. SATURDAY CLUB — Red Series A. Peter & The Wolf". 5-8 yr olds. 2:30 p.m. Inquiries: 543 2255.


13. MIGRANT STUDIES SEMINARS — " xenosis — What makes a person continue to be perceived as a foreigner?", by Konrad Ethel, Professor of German, University of Dortmund. APRIL 28: "Social Mobility Project", outlined by Dr Tony Penabee, Director of Research, AIAM, and Anne Suss and Marion Kahala. Admission free. 7.30 p.m. 86: Inquiries: ext. 2234.

14. LUNCHTIME CONCERT — Ensemble I Spirio Ranton (violin), Marco Van Pague (viola), Diane Fournier (cello), Brachi Tilles (piano), pres. a program of works by Mozart and Schumann. 1:15 p.m. Admission free. RBH.

15. BIOETHICS LECTURE — “Should the Baby Live?”, by Dr Helga Kuhse and Professor Jim Yeates. Lecture Theatre B6. 1:05 p.m. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3266.


17. MONASH READINGS — Launching of "Your Colours". Ticket Sec: Mrs J. Williams, 728 1061. RBH.

18. BASKET LUNCHEON — Monash University Parents Group. Talk: Demonstration by Mr Michael Linstead, consultant from "Your Colours". Ticket Sec: Mrs J. Williams, 728 1061. RBH.

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20. STUDENTS FOR CHRIST — "Hans Coetzee Crusade". Admission free. 6.30 p.m. (April 21-24 7:30 p.m.). RBH.

21. LUNCHTIME CONCERT — "Baroque Ron Ron", Douglas Lawrence Organ Recital. 1:15 p.m. Admission free. RBH.

22. BASKET LUNCHEON — Monash University Parents Group. Talk: Demonstration by Mr Michael Linstead, consultant from "Your Colours". Ticket Sec: Mrs J. Williams, 728 1061. RBH.

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24. EVENING CONCERT — Festival of Brass, featuring the Melbourne Staff Band and the Hawthorn City Band. Admission: adults $5, children $3. Tickets available at the door. RBH.

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