Gun lobby's aim: "To intimidate government in the frontier society"

Australian shooters are travelling down a well-trodden American road, says noted gun control lobbyist, John Crook, in his Master of Arts thesis.

Like American shooters before them, they have become influential in the shaping of government legislation, and recent scenes of shooters demonstrating in Australian cities could be a sign of things to come.

"Australians will indeed have to watch out, because there are similarities between the Australian and the American experience. We were, and to some extent still are, a frontier society," said Mr Crook, in an interview with Monash Reporter.

His thesis, *The Development and Influence of the Australian and American Gun Lobby*, has been accepted, and he already has a working title for the Ph.D thesis he hopes to begin next year: *Shooting: The Twentieth Century Religion*.

"Australia is a melting pot, like America," he says. "We are both, in a sense, new cultures with a strong outdoor sporting section."

"And even though shooters are in the minority, as we saw in the recent gun lobby marches, they're prepared to intimidate state governments."

While the Victorian gun lobby might appear to be a political newcomer, it has been influencing successive governments since the late 1950s.

Former Victorian Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, a farmer and keen shotgun shooter, presided over the first post-war firearm Act in the state in 1958, Mr Crook said.

Under the Act, which placed some constraints on rifles, 90 per cent of a shooter's license was put into a wildlife fund earmarked for "research and development" of wildlife reserves — projects that included buying back swamps from local municipalities for the use of duck shooters.

However, this cosy arrangement which benefitted the shooting fraternity was not considered unusual at the time.

"The traditional way of thinking was that the sporting shooter knew everything about ducks. Therefore he was the best one to go about conservation issues because he was interested in the future of his sport."

"If you go back to those times, politicians didn't think that anybody but the police and the gun clubs should be consulted on gun laws."

Prior to the introduction of new laws at the end of 1972, the Sporting Shooters Association brought out from the UK a former Yorkshire policeman who had written a book which disputed the efficacy of gun control laws.

The grant, announced by the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr John Dawkins, represents the lion's share of $1.8 million set aside in the last budget as the National Public Sector Management Study Fund.

According to its director, Professor Allan Fels, the primary thrust of the new institute will be research, but it will also involve itself in teaching non-degree courses, providing in-service training for public sector managers and carrying out contract research for Australian and foreign governments and private sector organisations.

In addition to the successful tended to the Commonwealth, the institute has also drawn support from the Victorian Government, which has agreed to contribute $500,000 over five years to enable the appointment of a Professor of Public Sector Management.

"The fact that there was such strong state government support greatly assisted Monash's application to the Federal government. An earlier grant of $60,000 a year for two years from the Vice-Chancellor's Academic Development Fund, and further support from the Dean of Economics and Politics also gave credibility to our plans," Professor Fels said.

It is feared that the institute eventually would comprise between 20 and 25 academics. This would mean the appointment of about 15 academics within the next six months.

The institute will focus on four main areas of study, each headed by a professor. Professor Henry Ergas has been appointed to develop studies of communications, especially telecommunications. Already, he has been active as a member of the government working party which recently reported on the future of the telecommunications industry to the Minister for Transport and Communications, Senator Gareth Evans.

Professor Chris Selby-Smith will be responsible for health policy and management, and the chairman of the Economics department, Professor John Head, for tax and expenditure administration. He will co-operate in the area of tax law with Professor Yuri Gribich, a former Monash academic, now at the University of New South Wales.

The position of Professor of Public Sector Management, concerned with effectiveness and efficiency in the public service, has been advertised. It is expected that an appointment will be made early in 1989.

A large proportion of the money promised to the new institute will be used on a seeding basis. There is no government commitment necessarily to continue or renew funding.

"It is hoped that several parts of the institute's activities will be self-funding by the time the money runs out. There will be some areas, however, where the university will have to seek renewed funding."

"In the past, there has been a dearth of research into public sector management by universities. Schools of public administration and management have tended to downplay the part that efficient management practices can play in achieving government policies.

"A key feature of the Monash development is that the new institute will be linked with the Graduate School of Management, and not hived off into a separate school, cut off from mainstream developments in management research and teaching."

John Crook

His timely appearance legitimised the stand of the association, says Mr Crook. When the new laws were introduced by Sir Rupert Hamer's government on January 1973, the restrictions on high-powered rifles which had been in place since 1958, were removed.

"The thing that I discovered was that intelligent and sophisticated politicians became absolutely childish when faced with the gun lobby."

In 1978, Mr Crook founded Australia's first gun control organisation, the Council for Control of Gun Misuse. More recently, he helped form the Victorian Coalition for Gun Control in the wake of the Hoddle Street killings.

However, after eight months of being constantly frustrated by the coalition's lack of political will, Mr Crook established Gun Control Australia in early May and became its founding chairman.

The new lobby group maintains that it is essential that gun control is taken out of the political process and placed in the hands of an independent authority which would oversee the issuing of shooters' licences.

*Continued page 2*
In the legal limelight

The Springvale Legal Service was in the news last month with a controversial visit by the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, and an official opening by the Victorian Premier, Mr Cain.

Mr Hawke chose the service's new premises at 5 Osborne Avenue for the launching of the Federal Government's Social Justice report. He was greeted by demonstrators — mainly women and children — who drowned out the last of his speech and ensured television news coverage.

The opening of the building was a more congenial affair. Mr Cain described the Legal Service as its co-tenant, the Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau, as "state-of-the-art" models for the provision of community services.

He commended those who had started legal services in Victoria — at Springvale, Fitzroy and Heidelberg.

"They were not flavor-of-the-month in the early 1970s, but some of you saw the need and followed through," he said.

"Citizens' advice and legal services have grown in number and importance around Victoria.

"Such services give people more control over their lives — guiding them through a bureaucratic maze, helping to rectify an injustice or discovering that they are entitled to some form of financial or other support."

Seventy per cent of the people using the services came from a non-English speaking background, and with the help of translators they were able to make more sense of life in a new country, Mr Cain said.

The Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau was established in an old house at 5 Osborne Avenue in late 1970 and opened for business in July 1971.

Legal "referral" sessions, started in 1972 by Monash Law students, council and bureau staff, laid the foundations of the Springvale Legal Service.

Over the next 15 years, the bureau and the legal service grew rapidly and developed a wide range of community services with local, state and federal government funding. The two services complement each other and are widely acknowledged as leaders in their respective fields in Australia.

The Legal Service staff come from the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria and Monash University. About 60 law students work at the centre each year, helping to provide legal advice, referral and casework services to several thousand clients.

The services outgrew the old house and they now occupy a new building completed in December 1987 on the same site at a cost of $803,000. The money was provided by Springvale Council, the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria, the R.E. Ross Trust, the William Buckland Foundation and Monash University.

Conclusion casts doubts

Professor A.G.L. Shaw is to be congratulated for his gallant attempt (Monash Reporter, 4 May) to master the methodology and conclusions of a thesis submitted to a department outside his area of expertise and which can only have been lodged in the Monash University Library for a month at the most.

His statement that Dr Allen's findings "can only be justified on assumptions" undoubtedly came from a close personal study of the data.

His conclusion casts doubt upon the entire system of supervision and marking in the Faculty of Education. Professor Shaw has perceived a major fault in the thesis which has clearly eluded the best efforts of independent experts in the field.

In addition to casting doubt upon the assessment methods of Monash University, Professor Shaw makes a serious accusation of inadequate provisions to safeguard confidentiality at the University of Melbourne.

In fact, the findings of the thesis are based on a statistical analysis of publicly available data. It is unfortunate that Professor Shaw stated that opinions are "quite unsampled". The sampling technique, as is usual in such theses, is plainly described.

Professor Shaw's concluding paragraph leaves him open to the conclusion that he has been caught in a circular argument. His statement "not good enough" is an assumption in itself.

The professor's discussion with male candidates about their failure to achieve has led him to a conclusion which must be disregarded. His sample appears to have been biased, unlike that in the thesis. Nor has his belief been subject to statistical analysis. It can be regarded as a non-significant finding.

It is well established in sociology that committee members tend to appoint clones. Whether they are invariably the best candidates has yet to be proven.

John Cole
Occupational Health Unit
University of Melbourne

Engineering visit

The recently appointed president of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, Mr Alex McLachlan, visited Monash after opening the Bicentennial Electrical Engineering Congress in April.

Mr McLachlan heads his own engineering consulting firm in Sydney and was installed as president of the institution in February during the Bicentennial National Engineering Conference.

After being introduced to engineering students by the Dean, Professor Peter Darvall, Mr McLachlan spoke about the institution, the Association of Professional Engineers, government policies on high-technology education and the principles of tertiary fees.

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LETTERS

One for George

George Fairfax, general manager of the Victorian Arts Centre, last month launched Monash historian John Richardson's latest book, Australia: A Cultural History. Here he is shown (centre) taking after the event with the author, left, and Neil Ryan, general manager of Longman Cheshire, the book's publisher. ("As Australian as a Vegemite sandwich ..." See page 11 for George Fairfax's review of the book.)
Strong arguments for broadly-based degree

A graduate with a broad education in the humanities could eventually contribute more to Australia's productivity than someone with a degree in a specialised or applied field, said Professor Graeme Davison of the Monash History department.

He was responding to the "unduly narrow and instrumental" approach of the Dawkins Green Paper on Higher Education, which sees increased technical training as the way to increase productivity. "There could be strong arguments, on economic grounds alone, for preferring environment which encourages people to think," he said.

"If you want a society where technical training as the way to increase innovation is highly prized, you won't get it only by putting resources into particular areas, but by nurturing an environment which encourages people to be highly critical, highly inventive."

Professor Davison was responding to the Green Paper on behalf of the Australian Historical Association, of which he is president.

He said the humanities, and history in particular, was a major avenue by which working class and lower middle class families could gain access to higher education.

"An initial enrolment in humanities or social science courses often provides the intellectual preparation and develops the self-confidence necessary for the graduate to advance into more specialised fields," he said.

He said while the paper spoke at length about the means of achieving national goals, it contained little about the contribution which humane learning — and history in particular — could make to the debate on national priorities.

"History graduates are well represented among the heads of government departments, and compete very successfully for entry into foreign affairs and other public services."

"We have evidence, too, that history graduates are sought by computer, management and other business organisations."

"They have the capacity to think clearly and logically, to make critical judgements and intelligent syntheses of a wide range of materials, to set problems in a wider context and to deliver their conclusions in clear and graceful prose."

"As Australia develops stronger trading links with Asia, it also has a particular need for business people who can think clearly, who can form opinions and who can communicate them effectively."

"It would not be possible to increase the participation of under-represented groups in technical and scientific disciplines by simply changing the mix of tertiary offerings, Professor Davison said. "The scores for entry to many scientific and technological courses are already fairly low and we doubt whether an increase in places in these fields alone will enhance the employability of graduates."

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A survey of enrolments around Australia showed history was one of the few disciplines in which entrants from government schools equalled those from non-government schools, women out-numbered men and students from non-English-speaking families were highly represented.

"Science and technology courses favor the groups such as middle-class, privately-educated males, who already participate most in higher education," he said.

He believes the Green Paper has been very selective in its index of some aspects of the United States and Japanese models, while overlooking the fact that both nations encourage students to start their tertiary education with a broadly-based degree.

"The AHA's response, prepared by Professor Davison and titled History and Higher Education, was submitted to Mr Dawkins, Minister for Employment, Education and Training.

La Trobe honors Ross Day

Professor Ross Day, chairman of the department of Psychology, has been awarded an honorary degree by La Trobe University in recognition of his services to the Lincoln Institute of Health Services.

He was deputy president of the Lincoln Institute's Council from 1973 to 1980, and president from 1981 until 1 January 1988, when the institute became the School of Health Sciences at La Trobe.

The degree, Doctor of the University, also recognises Professor Day's contribution "to the international intellectual community, as a psychologist of great distinction, working principally in the field of spatial perception".

Professor Day was born in Albany, and did his first degree at the University of Western Australia. He completed his doctorate at the University of British Columbia and then spent 10 years at the University of Sydney, where he became a reader. He was appointed Foundation Professor of Psychology at Monash, and has been chairman of the department since 1965.
Dr Bill Kent, Reader in History, was a particular target for Professor Aitkin's barbs (see panel at right). This is his response.

"We have four uses."

Members of the Arts Faculty present at the talk by Professor Don Aitkin, designate of the new Australian Research Council, left the lecture-room confused by his qualifying position on how the humanities and social sciences would fare under the new funding arrangements, and dismayed by the snappiness he appeared to display to their fields of study.

1, for one, had come positively eager to be reassured by Professor Aitkin, himself a distinguished social scientist, and a good deal that he said during his exposition, and the first part of question-time, was sensible and consoling.

We humanities people are not asking for a larger slice of the cake; only, in fact, for a very modest share of it. It was therefore comforting to learn that while 20 per cent of the research budget would go to targeted projects in the national interest, "curiosity-led research" in all areas, including the humanities, would receive the rest.

I was particularly encouraged, at first, to hear Professor Aitkin's account of how the humanities might justify their existence in a world where, most of us would agree, there is some sort of "accountability" is necessary.

It was made all the more distressing by the evidently approving which was expressed by at least a few of our scientific colleagues in the room.

Further questioning — who was to be sure, for understandable reasons, by this time not always temperate — made matters worse.

One had the impression that Professor Aitkin was not so much engaging with people in the room as sparring with a long-time adversary in another place, some critic who believed that with the advent of the Green Paper and Professor Aitkin himself "the barbarians and cretins were at the gates", some arrogant scholar who simply assumed that humanities studies need no justification because they occupy the higher cultural ground. Such points were neither made not (as far as I could see) implied by his Monash questioners.

By this time Professor Aitkin really did seem to be saying, or at least implying, that the humanities had a particular need to justify themselves in a tough world, that their research was too often "navel-contemplating and should be 'applied'." (It is perhaps significant that Classics, History and English provided his examples here, not the newer social sciences.)

He pointed out the pressing need for Australians — diplomats, businessmen, Qantas stewards indeed — to know Japanese: the necessity for Australians, such as Australia, faced by the sort of problem Professor Aitkin described so eloquently. Indeed this is a field which some 800 VCE students are taking with feelings of genuine disquiet, weaned on the Italian Renaissance's perennial fascination, viz the stunning Japanese-funded cleaning of Michelangelo's David. (Some have even implied that it seems to have a prehistory as a "reaction" to the 20 per cent of funds to be made available for relocation allowance available for relocation expenses in an attempt to encourage a prehistory to that document.)

The chairman-designate is Professor Don Aitkin, erstwhile head of the Australian Research Grants Committee.

On Tuesday 3 May, 1988, as the third speaker in a series of "Brown Bag" luncheon seminars organised by the Higher Education and Advisory Research Unit, Professor Aitkin once again made the point of the advent of the ABC and its proposed operation.

Below are two reactions to his visit, Baggin Kitchin, the new Arts Faculty and the other from a member of the Arts Faculty, Professor Aitkin a free communication on the issues raised and would like to publish a selection of comments.

Dr Bill Kent

"Pure" research of distinction which mattered to other scholars because it moved them to rethink their field, devoted and efficient teaching which impressed more directly utilitarian research — and in response to an admittedly sharper but perfectly polite statement from Professor Nestor (English) concerning the increasing difficulty we have with research applications criteria which, with their emphasis on team-research for example, are designed more for the needs of the scientific and technical communities than for ours — Professor Aitkin lost his temper, saying among other things that in his opinion "there were more wankers in humanities faculties than others".

Although he at once apologised — and (the latest I point that he is a busy man with a big job before him — this was still, to put it mildly, a distressing display of arrogance for someone in his position to make in public.

Sparing

It was not the place to argue the very strong case that the humanities and social sciences, the subject-matter of which is the study of human society and its history, can and do provide an essential training for the leaders of a community, such as Australia, faced by the sort of problem Professor Aitkin described so eloquently. Indeed this was not the only argument put to him because, during his talk, one felt that he took for granted its force.

Some minutes into question time, however, Professor Aitkin appeared to change tack. After a mild request from Walter this was particularly encouraged, at first, to hear Professor Aitkin's account of how the humanities might justify their existence in a world where, most of us would agree, there is some sort of "accountability" is necessary.

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Drug centre adds status to Science Park

The Monash Science and Technology Park looks set to become an important Australian centre of biotechnology with the Victorian Government's announcement that an international drug testing facility will be built there.

The Drug and Chemical Safety Evaluation Centre is a joint venture between the Victorian Investment Corporation and the multinational contract research company, Applied Bioscience International Inc.

It will join another Victorian Investment Corporation venture in the park — the Biochemical Process Development Centre, an initiative which derives directly from research into purifying proteins by a group led by Professor Milton Hearn of Biochemistry.

The park, being developed across Blackburn Road from the Halls of Residence, also has attracted a biochemical manufacturing joint venture between the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and a foreign biotechnology company. In addition, two other biotechnology organisations are considering locating there.

Dr Paul Hudson, managing director of Montech, the university's technology and consulting company which is developing and managing the park, said: "This is a highly significant technological opportunity for Monash University and could lead to the Monash Science and Technology Park becoming a national focus for biotechnology and pharmaceutical research and development."

The State Government previously announced that the investment corporation would commit up to $6 million to the establishment of the evaluation centre and $3 million to set up the process development centre.

The Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources, Mr Robert Fordham, said the building of the evaluation centre was an important part of the Victorian Government's technology strategy.

"When this new centre is completed, a major hurdle to innovative research and development in Australia will have been overcome."

"Without a facility such as this, much of the practical results and leads which result from biotechnological research could not be followed through in Australia," he said.

He said the new centre would place strong emphasis on the development of tests which do not require animals, or use fewer animals.

The centre will have the capacity to carry out evaluations of a wide range of products, including chemicals; foods and feed additives; pesticides and herbicides; drugs, vaccines and diagnostic reagents for medical and veterinary use; antiseptic compounds; and other environmental testing elements.

Dr Hudson said that Montech and the Faculty of Medicine had been keen to see the drug evaluation centre built adjacent to the campus, because of the opportunities for collaboration, particularly with the departments of Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Genetics and Chemistry.

He said he could foresee the possibility of joint research and development projects and honorary academic appointments. He also thought the centre would be a potential source of casual, part-time and permanent employment for Monash students and graduates.

Montech and the university would benefit from the improved opportunities for commercial exploitation of the university's research, facilities and expertise.

Dr Hudson said the Applied Biotechnology Science Group decided to locate in the Monash Science and Technology Park because of the expertise on campus, the ready access to the university's scientific, technological and recreational facilities and the attractiveness of the Monash environment.

"The decision to build the evaluation centre here is a substantial vote of confidence in Monash University and Montech. It owns a great deal to entrepreneurial activities of the departments of Pharmacology and Biochemistry, especially Professors Alan Boura and Milton Hearn and Dr Jean Olley."
'Little Lon' dig yields clues to pioneers' diet

Lights, action and cameras filled the second-year Botany laboratory last month as a film crew began shooting a sequence for a documentary on the archaeology of Melbourne.

The subject of the afternoon's filming was a team of Botany students painstakingly sorting through material which had been excavated from a mid-19th century domestic cesspit in Little Lonsdale St.

The "Little Lon" dig, one of Australia's largest urban historical excavations, was completed early last month. The Monash sequence will form part of Digging Melbourne, a project sponsored by the documentary division of Film Victoria.

The students, under the supervision of senior lecturer Dr Beth Gott, were filmed as they searched treated samples of the detritus for fruit seeds.

After the seeds are identified, archaeologists are able to interpret the diet of the folk who used the pit in the 1850s.

Work already completed has demonstrated that grapes, raspberries and figs constitute the major part of the botanical evidence.

Dr Gott explained on camera that the absence of twigs and leaves suggested that the fruit had not been grown on the site. The household had more likely bought it fresh from the market, dried or as jam, she said.

The seeds would have then reached the pit in the family's table scraps or, because such fruit is usually eaten whole, via human waste.

Monash students sorting material from a dig at the site of a house in Queen Street last year found that the seed evidence indicated its occupants had a better diet than the Little Lonsdale Street family.

Strawberry, plum, tomato and cherry seeds were found in addition to grape, fig and raspberry seeds.

The house belonged to one J.T. Smith, seven times Lord Mayor of Melbourne in the middle of the last century.

More than 300 careers counsellors, Year 12 co-ordinators and principals from 200 Victorian schools attended a seminar organised by the Monash Careers and Appointments Service last month.

The theme of this year's seminar was Caring for Students. Representatives from student support organisations at Monash, including the University Counselling Service, the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines and the Student Employment Office, outlined the services which help students make the transition to university life.

In keeping with the theme, the seminar was held in Deakin Hall to give country teaching staff an idea of the life of a student boarding at Monash.

The morning session of the seminar focused on new course developments at Monash, special admission arrangements, and the new student selection procedures that have been mooted as a result of the revision of the Year 11 and 12 programs.

Among the speakers were Professor John Hay (Dean of Arts), Professor Peter Darvall (Dean of Engineering), Professor Louis Waller (Law), Professor Bill Muntz (Dean of Science) and Professor Nick Hastings (Information Systems).

Patients at the Monash Medical Centre are probably wondering why recent meals from the hospital kitchen have had an added piquancy.

The answer is nutritionally simple. Since Food Services apprentice supervisor, Shane Stirling, established a herb garden in one of the hospital's courtyards two months ago, many of the meals prepared at the centre have been flavored with the likes of sorrel, lemon balm, fennel, chives and curry plant.

Over 100 plants representing more than 30 varieties of herbs grow in the atrium garden, tended by kitchen apprentices.

Fresh focus on vision

With the recent signing of an affiliation agreement between Monash and the National Vision Research Institute, the future of visual science in this state has never looked clearer.

The Dean of Science, Professor Bill Muntz, who has been closely associated with members of the institute, says the affiliation will benefit students and scientists alike.

"The idea is to bring us into a formal association with another group who works entirely in vision."

"From their point of view, it gives them access to our research facilities. From our point of view, it gives us access to their expertise, their techniques and the supervision of PhD students."

The Carlton-based institute, which is privately-funded by opticians and clinicians, undertakes basic and applied research into vision and its disorders.

The main areas of collaboration between Monash and the institute will be in the disciplines of psychology, anatomy, science and engineering.

Members of the department of Psychology are interested in the neurones underlying various visual processes.

Anatomy is investigating its development of visual systems, Engineering is studying artificial vision, and Science, comparative vision.

The study of vision, in which Australia leads the rest of the world, has not only crept across the boundaries between disciplines, it has also become something of a scientific growth area.

"It's an interesting subject, because it's one which has really taken off," said Professor Muntz.

"It's completely changed and progressed by orders of magnitude during my scientific career. It's also particularly interesting in many ways because it does involve engineers as well as biologists."
Sisters in Law follow grandfather’s footsteps

It seems fitting that twin sisters, Wati and Yanti Abdurrahman, left, should be doing their articles with a law firm that specialises in joint-venture work.

Born in Melbourne to Indonesian parents 24 years ago, the twins graduated in Law at a ceremony at Robert Blackwood Hall last month after having gone through their entire education together. Their closeness even extended to similar marks and the same study groups.

The twins’ interest in the legal profession was sparked by their grandfather, a former Supreme Court judge in central Java. They believe they are the only Indonesians to have graduated in law in Australia during the past two years.

Their remarkable similarity in appearance often led to confusion among fellow students at Monash. Friends would be upset when a twin failed to acknowledge a greeting. More often than not, however, they were talking to the wrong twin.

There appears to be less of an identity problem at Freehill, Hollingdale and Page where the sisters are articled clerks. In this law firm with extensive interests in Southeast Asia, Wati is specialising in banking while Yanti is interested in takeovers and mergers.

All right, who’s been shaking this tree?

Caught toying with the "Apple of Wisdom" under the Newton tree in the faculty courtyard are Engineering’s three deans. The caption accompanying this unsolicited contribution read:

"The tall jovial one in the middle is Emeritus Professor Ken Hunt (Dean 1960-1975), for whom Deanship is a receding memory. The relieved looking one on the left is Professor Lance Endersbee, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Dean 1976-1986) who has just relinquished the Deanship. The one with the forced smile is Professor Peter Darvall (Dean 1986-?)."

Youthwork exchange

An international program promoting the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the field of childcare and youthwork had its Australian launch last month at a ceremony in the Gallery Building.

Jointly sponsored by the Centre for Youth Development and Research at the University of Minnesota and Youthorizons in New York, the International Learning Exchange in Professional Youthwork (ILEX) invites youthworkers around the world to join a Youth Service Agency in America for 12 months. The program provides accommodation, meals and a monthly stipend for participants.

Pictured at the launch are Mr Race Mathews, Minister for Community Services in Victoria, Professor Millie Poole (Education), who is national representative of ILEX, and the executive director of ILEX, Mr Herbert Barnes.

Hold it! Helga was first

Despite our best efforts to find out whether Geoff Crawford was the first Special Admissions student to gain a Ph.D (Monash Reporter, 4 May), nobody could say for sure.

Now we have learned that Monash’s own Helga Kuhse, deputy director of the Centre for Human Bioethics and a leading protagonist in the death-with-dignity debate, beat Geoff to the punch. She entered Monash under the Special Admissions Scheme in 1974 and was awarded her Ph.D in 1983.
laughable when the issue was first raised 18 months ago. The scheme quickly became known as the Cape York Caper, following former Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's announcement of the project to an incredulous State parliament in 1986.

It was little wonder that Sir Joh's latest hobby horse was met with widespread scepticism. After all, he was the man who, several years earlier, had publicly championed the ill-fated hydrogen car.

But, as so often occurred throughout his premiership, it seems that Sir Joh could have the last laugh. A feasibility study carried out by the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and chaired by Dr John Simmons, Reader in Mechanical Engineering at Queensland University, concluded that a spaceport on Cape York was a viable proposition.

At a lunchtime lecture organised by the Monash Young Engineers last month, Dr Simmons declared that "space is going to be a boom industry". He cited US plans to mine the lunar surface, a permanent American manned base on Mars, and the servicing of orbiting space stations, as examples of future expansion in the area.

Union grant

A biochemistry research scholarship funded by the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association has been awarded to David Grasso, below, a postgraduate student at the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine.

Mr Grasso graduated with a B.Sc (Hons) in Biochemistry at Monash in 1986, and worked at the centre in 1987. The union's grant enabled him to enrol as a Ph.D candidate in 1988.

In expressing appreciation for the union's support, the director of the centre, Professor Anthony Linnane, said that the results of Mr Grasso's work will provide valuable new information on the function of living cells in both health and disease.

Law prize

The Supreme Court Prize for the best student in a final year in the course for the degree of Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1987 has been awarded to Ajay Thapliyal of Clayton South.

A commercial spaceport on Cape York would reap the financial rewards if it could provide an international launch facility for such projects.

In the past, launch sites around the world have been heavily subsidised by governments because of their military use. A commercial spaceport was an entirely new concept, said Dr Simmons.

Cape York offered a number of advantages over similar planned commercial launch sites in Hawaii, Japan, Indonesia, Kiribati and Palmyra Island. Among the peninsula's natural and man-made assets were: proximity to the equator (less fuel is required to put a rocket into orbit from an equatorial launch site), a predictable climate, vast areas of open land, existing access to sea and air through the bauxite town of Weipa, political stability and Australia's location on the Pacific Rim of Technology.

But although the $500 million scheme had attracted the keen interest of the Federal Government, some problems needed to be examined, said Dr Simmons.

An amalgamation of several companies, including Bond Corporation, BHP and Comalco, which were unsuccessful in their bid to become Australia's first space agency, has set up a rival consortium to challenge the officially appointed Cape York Space Agency.

The Federal Government has urged the consortia to work together, but Dr Simmons describes relations between the two as "in a state of flux".

Another problem concerns the impact of the spaceport on the Australian environment. Rockets had a habit of "dropping things" after they were launched, and the regular dumping of used rocket parts over Central Australia would create a "delicate situation", said Dr Simmons.

He believes there is a "50·50 chance" of the project coming to fruition. At this stage, he said, it would be irresponsible to establish a course in space engineering in Australia.

At present there is only one job going in the Australian space industry — that of firstcosmonaut aboard a Russian space station.

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Goethe winner

Judy Lachele is the winner of the 1987 Goethe Prize for the best first-year student in German. She is pictured above receiving her award from the German Vice-Consul, Mr Hans Mullers, during a ceremony held in the department last month.

Call for papers on Europe

A conference to be held at Monash next year by the Centre for European Studies will examine major social, political, economic and cultural issues in contemporary Europe.

Papers are being invited for the conference, part of which will be devoted to the concerns of the business community in its dealings with Europe.

Issues to be focused on include: The United States of Europe; Questions of Identity; East and West; Foreign Policy and Political and Cultural Relations.

The program will include distinguished guest speakers, and conference papers will be compiled into a volume in the Monash European Studies Series.

Europe Today: Problems and Prospects, to be held from 12-14 July, is the first conference organised by the centre, which was established last year to develop teaching and research.

Inquiries and offers of interest should be directed to Professor Brian Nelson, Centre for European Studies, Monash University.
On-the-spot training for medical students

After more than 25 years as a sufferer, and the replacement of both hips, both knees and her left elbow joint, Mrs Shirley Dunn is a great source of knowledge about rheumatoid arthritis — not only of what it is, but how it feels and what it looks like.

So, while she may not be able to drive a car or dress herself, she feels that she can contribute to helping train new doctors.

"The students have got to learn somehow, don't they? Why not on a live body like me?"

Mrs Dunn is part of a new program organised by Dr Alan Rose of the department of Community Medicine to give fourth year medical students from the Prince Henry's campus of the Monash Medical Centre the experience of examining patients in their own homes.

Here, Mrs Dunn is lying on her own bed being examined by Andrew Steele while (from left to right) Caroline Hawkins, Dr Alan Rose and Louise Johns look on.

About one-fifth of all medical services are provided by general practitioners, and that is the area of training that Community Medicine addresses.

The difference from the more conventional hospital setting can be quite marked, Dr Rose said. For instance, general practitioners on home visits are providing continuing care for chronic illnesses, as opposed to investigation, diagnosis and treatment of a condition in its acute stage.

He said seeing a patient in his or her own environment could provide useful clues as to the best way to proceed with on-going treatment. For example, the state of the house could give an idea of socio-economic and educational status and how patients were coping, information it was impossible to get from examining someone in a consulting room or a hospital ward.

At home, there were likely to be other people caring for the patient, such as Mrs Dunn's husband Frank, who has gradually assumed the load of running the house and looking after his wife as she has become worse. The students were able to ask him important questions and he could be relied upon to help with treatment.

Dr Rose said that patients in their own environment were more assertive and inclined to say what they were thinking and feeling, all of which improved their compliance with treatment.

Excessive politeness is often mis-read

Recent research by a Monash specialist in Japanese business communication has shown that the politeness which usually accompanies Australian and Japanese business meetings is often superficial.

According to Helen Marriott, senior lecturer in the department of Japanese and founder of Australia's first course in Japanese business etiquette, negative feelings arising out of an ignorance of the appropriate forms of behavior at such meetings often lie beneath the veneer of civility.

Australians who are unaware of Japanese drinking and eating patterns may offend their Japanese hosts if they fail to follow correct procedure in a Japanese restaurant.

Similarly, the Australian businessman left sitting in an empty Japanese meeting room might suspect that his Japanese counterpart is deliberately trying to assert his authority.

"In general, patients are only too pleased to help. Outside the hospital they have a different attitude towards students. They're co-operative and pleased to see them."

"They're allergic to us in hospital," said Louise Johns.

Mrs Dunn, who has been seen by a number of students in both situations, commented, "In hospital, they tend to ask the same questions over and over again."

Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in the first week of July, 1986.

Copy deadline is Friday, 24 June, and early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, Information Office, Gallery Building, or ring ext. 2085.

Contraception explained

When a person is faced with selecting a form of contraception from the 'cafeteria' of choices available, a number of important considerations must be taken into account.

A public information session on the various contraceptive methods in use and the options available to teenagers, women who wish to space births, and women who have completed childbearing, will be held in Room 87 (Rotunda) on Thursday 16 June at 7 pm.

Entitled Contraception Today, the information session will be addressed by experts in the field. Some of the questions they will consider include: What are the optimal contraceptives for somebody prior to the onset of childbearing? Has the advent of AIDS altered the contraceptive choice at this time of life? What is the optimal interval between births? To what extent can a woman who chooses to breastfeed rely on this as a contraceptive method?

The cost of the information session is $1.50. Further details and information on how to register can be obtained from Ms Rebecca Lodge at the Centre for Reproductive Biology on 365 2765.
Clive Probyn has a gift both in life and on the page for saying a great deal in few words, and his new book is a fine example of this.

Written for a Longman's series, its aim is to digest the rich multiplicity of eighteenth-century English fiction into 250 pages, including bio-bibliographical notes and chronology. It does this to the accompaniment of a steady crackle of intellectual fireworks.

The story centres, as is customary, on the big five - Defoe, Richardson, Fielding, Smollett and Sterne. Probyn has no major revaluation to propose here, though he does with regard to some of the lesser contemporarys, including John Cleland, the author of Fanny Hill.

But he is able to place the giants in a new perspective: one that identifies their particular kinds of originality (showing how each had in effect to re-invent the novel for his own purposes) and the kind of 'contract' that each negotiates with his reader.

If there is an overriding theme to these novels, Probyn argues, it is 'the validity and significance of the individual experience in oppositional relationships with society'.

He finds this most acutely expressed in Richardson's Clarisse, a work whose extreme length will always limit its readership, but in which, agreeing with recent feminist writers, he finds 'a profound social criticism of sexual politics'.

By contrast, the novels of the Gothic and sentimental schools lose momentum because of their unwillingness to confront this kind of dialectic. Instead they retreat into private worlds of fantasy or a tame conformism.

Probyn's approach can be sampled through his treatment of the Scottish doctor-turned-novelist Tobias Smollett, the closest of the big five to the satirical tradition of Jonathan Swift.

Smollett has none of Defoe's or Richardson's concern with 'the definition of self . . . and the existential implications of loneliness' and rejects Fielding's 'intimacy of tone with his reader'.

Moreover, 'of all the major novelists he least has to say about the medium of his message' - Sterne being the champion in this regard. Instead he presents us with 'a single dominating narrative ego, hell-bent on destruction'.

So much, at any rate, for Roderick Random, Peregrine Pickle and, most notoriously, Ferdinand Count Fathom, works which, it is argued, could be valued for their 'fierce narrative energy and 'shocking specificity' but for which Probyn otherwise shows little sympathy.

But Humphry Clinker, the novel which Smollett completed just before his death, is rightly seen as quite another matter.

Here the acceptance of Richardson's method of telling the story through letters has liberated Smollett from the restricted viewpoint of his monomaniac heroes into an ampler world of vigorously but also lovingly interacting egos.

The passion for satire dies in its author just as it does in his fictional counterparts, Matthew Bramble, as the extended family of the Welsh misanthrope progresses on a wild and wonderful tour of the British kingdom of health, spouses and an abiding home.

Probyn indicates all this with characteristic deftness. His advocacy is particularly welcome for a novel which, while it will never have as many readers as Tom Jones or Robinson Crusoe, yields to neither in its depth of human understanding and power to entertain.

To sum up, this is a book which triumphantly transcends the limitations of its series format to offer a coherent and persuasive view of writers who still have an enormous amount to offer to the twentieth-century reader. My only regret is the absence of a chapter on Swift, about whom Probyn has elsewhere written so well.

Harold Love

IN REVIEW

English Fiction of the Eighteenth Century 1700-1789
Longman's Literature in English Series. RRP $22.95

Clive Probyn

Most of Victoria's farmlands will be treasured by the middle of next century unless landowners take action.

The forest and dense woodland which once covered three-quarters of the state has been reduced by more than half. With an estimated five million trees dying each year and lack of sufficient regrowth, the rate of decline is increasing and the consequences for everyone will be severe, says the authors of Victoria Felix: Improving Rural Land with Trees.

The book is a manual for land management, written for all Victorian farmers and landowners, and with a special section for hobby farmers. It describes how the loss of tree cover affects all aspects of farm life from animal breeding to crop and pasture production and soil conservation.

"Trees, like soil and water, play an integral part in the land's natural processes . . . (but) agricultural systems are usually biologically very simple and lack balance," say the authors.

"Good management should make maximum use of helpful natural processes rather than attempt to ignore them or abrogate them so that it becomes necessary to employ expensive substitutes."

"Positive action to protect existing tree cover, to encourage natural regeneration and to plant or sow trees need not be excessively costly and will provide a valuable asset on the farm."

"We could, as a result of such action, see restored areas of healthy indigenous vegetation alongside highly productive land and reversal of the already evident damage resulting from excessive loss of tree cover."

Victoria Felix: Improving Rural Land with Trees was researched and written by Monash students as part of the degree Master of Environmental Science. It was sponsored by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, and launched at a recent symposium at Monash (Weeds on Public Land) by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Mr Evan Walker.

The book is available from the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash University, S5 4619.

Important Dates

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

First half-year ends for Medicine V

13 Second Term begins for Medicine I, II, and III

Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the first half-year for it to be classified as discontinued (excluding Dip.Ed.Psych., B.Ed.St., and M.Ed.St.) If a subject or unit is not discontinued by this date, and the examination is not attempted or assignment work is not completed, it will be classified as FAILED. In exceptional circumstances the dean may approve the classification of a subject or unit as discontinued between 1 June and the end of the appropriate teaching period.


13 Queen's Birthday Holiday

24 First half-year lectures in subjects and units taught by the Faculty of Economics and Political Science

Second Term ends Dip.Ed.

25 First half-year ends for Medicine V
As Australian as a Vegemite sandwich

IN REVIEW

Australia: A Cultural History
by John Rickard
Longman Cheshire Pty Ltd, Melbourne. RRP $18.95

The reproduction of Michael Shannon's painting Suburban Landscape — Melbourne on the cover of John Rickard's history is familiar enough, especially to those of us whose lives cover nearly one-third of the two hundred years of European settlement in our country.

Red rooftops, a suggestion of a far country beyond and a sky which, most likely, will bring a change tomorrow. Australia — A Cultural History is by no means a catalogue, drained dry of vitality, detailing dates and events in a fashion which will destine it to a peaceful life on the library shelf. No, it is a lively series of episodes written in straightforward, easy language as if the author is talking to us about his observations on our manners, customs, values, beliefs and doubts. It is about people, people in an everchanging culture — our people.

The splendid First Impressions exhibition currently at the Museum of Victoria describes a strange, to them, upside-down land seen through the newcomer's eye. Australia — A Cultural History tells the story of a place which most certainly is different, year after year receiving newcomers who are different again from those who preceded them.

In this history, change can be viewed through the eyes of all — all those who have played roles in the recent short history of Australia — the Aborigines, the settlers, the squatters, the diggers, the land-boomers, the shearsers, the city-dwellers, the writers, the painters, the poets, the performers.

John Rickard deals with culture in the broadest sense — and seems to miss very little on the way. We follow the evolution of attitudes, beliefs, customs and values from the Dreamtime, passing through the application of transplanted cultures, to the emergence of what can be seen as a distinctive Oz way of thinking, feeling, behaving.

In one short volume, it is impossible to deal in depth with any one topic. I can't think of a better introduction to Australia for the non-Australian reader — chapters on the Aborigines, immigration, the environment, political institutions, relationships and pursuits provide a colourful canvas of city and country, represented in Michael Shannon's foreground and middle-ground.

For the student, historian or sociologist, it is an engaging account of the ways in which Australians old and new have related to the near city, to the far country — and to each other.

For the vintage Australian, the pages bubble up half-known and half-remembered facts, events and names — White Australia, conscription, Empire Day, wowsers, Angry Penguins, the Move-ment, cream brick veneers, the Cultural Cringe, green bans, "It's Time", The Dismissal.

Much of it is 20th century Australia, particularly in treatment of the period between Federation and the Second World War; some, in fact, is as up-to-date as "Come on Aussie, Come On" and the New Right. All of it is as Australian as a Vegemite sandwich.

As John Rickard moves through our history, he lets us hear his comments, his views and his observations in a most frank and direct manner. He is unafraid to rail against those who have taken unfair advantage of their place in the community or have scored at the expense of others. He takes to task the handful of takeover and merger specialists who play their games of Monopoly seemingly for their own satisfaction of putting another hotel on Park Lane, to the acclaimation of the Stock Exchange and the financial press.

The final chapter carries the title — Vision — it is the "sky-scape" upper third of Michael Shannon's view. It is scuffed with clouds — some promising fair weather, some heralding rain. The different levels of acceptance of our history — the rival claims of disparate interests and groups, the questioning of past mediocrity, the awakening recognition of the peculiar "belonging" of the Aborigines, the status of the most recent immigrants, the acknowledgement of our convict heritage — all point to an uncertain future and suggest a new importance for our history to provide some lessons at least.

John Rickard's conclusions are both hopeful and challenging — it's really up to us.

George Fairfax

Mech Eng rebuilds links with Asian students

A recruitment drive in Southeast Asia has netted more than 60 new members for the department of Mechanical Engineering's Alumni Association.

During a week-long visit to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in April, Associate Professor Arthur Williams, Professor Bill Melbourne and senior lecturer Mr Jack Stecki met with many of their former students, including some who had graduated 20 years ago.

The response was overwhelming, said Mr Stecki, who is alumni co-ordinator. Graduates who had drifted out of touch with the department suddenly appeared at the reunions.

In Kuala Lumpur, an anticipated gathering of 14 students was more than doubled, with some participants driving for over six hours to attend the function.

Their Singapore counterparts were equally enthusiastic. More than 30 graduates were present at the informal meeting in the southern capital.

"Australia doesn't have much of a presence in the area in the form of research organisations, and we feel that Monash could take part in any consulting or research-type activities," Mr Stecki said.

Closer to home, the first in a series of alumni business lunches was held by the department in the Union's private dining-room last month.

"We feel that former students from Southeast Asia had been neglected to some extent in the past and the department wished to let them know it still cared. Secondly, there was a real desire that contacts should be maintained for future business ventures.

"The alumni association hopes that these lunches, attended by a number of graduates from different years, will create an opportunity to "drum up a little business during working hours".

* New members of the alumni present in Kuala Lumpur with Mr Stecki, left, and Professor Melbourne, second from right.
New look at 'world science'

IN REVIEW

The Ends of Science
by Harry Redner
Westview Press Inc., Boulder, Colorado, USA. RRP $80
Published with the assistance of the Monash University Publications Committee

Over the past 15 years or so, historians and sociologists of science, science journalists and scientists have devoted considerable energy to describing the great changes in the organisation and content of contemporary science that have taken place since World War II.

Much of this work has been done through biographical studies of scientists, oral histories and intellectual traditions of the development of theories and research in different domains, inter-nation comparisons of institutional structures which conditioned national differences in scientific traditions, and investigations of funding for molecular biology and modern physics.

Redner argues that reductionist concepts have been very useful for solving some problems, but that they cannot go the full way in understanding complex systems. Redner maintains that although "World science" should not be completely transformed, holistic concepts borrowed from systems theorists and organicists need to be re-shaped in order to understand the autonomy and complexity in the natural world.

But Redner is no idealist; he, like many of the scientific critics of reductionism, realises that this transformation to "future science", will not occur without institutional struggle. The issues discussed in the middle section of his book are therefore pivotal. Part 2 of Redner's book is dedicated to discussing the relationship between forms of authority and social organisation characteristic of "World science".

In the final section of the book, Redner does not base his discussion on new detailed case studies of the relationship between knowledge, power and authority; he offers only vignettes of familiar case studies that have already been well publicised.

Instead of providing us with new convincing demonstrations of how changes in social relations lead to changes in the kind of knowledge produced in a detailed case study, Redner has structured his discussions around a survey and critique of the social theoretical views of various well-known writers.

Theories on the politics of science, the relationship between knowledge and power, and scientific change abound in the metascience literature. The sociology of scientific knowledge is one of the most active and challenging domains of modern studies of science.

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New look at 'world science'
The last piece in Philip Martin's New and Selected Poems is 

_Dream Poem_, in which the speaker hears “a voice coming out of sleep”, enters “a marvellous house, made by women”, and finds

The wide door open to a harvest landscape 
Like Brueghel but without figures, land 
Sloping away towards perhaps the sea, 
And sunny, all of the colour of ripe wheat, 
Some of the harvest cut back sheaf already, 
Everything bright and basking, while in her 
Shadowed by walls and rafters it is cooler. 
And yet still warm, smouldering of gathered country. . . .

Even as it gathers, the poems remain open, welcoming possi¬

ibilities: And towards the door

I see a figure hurrying, small and dark 
Against the sunlit and the golden landscape, 
Almost running, he is coming.

The first piece is preserved. Here the preserved remains of a young man who disappeared in the Falls Copper-mine attract and gather Martin’s dramatic instincts: the man’s fiancée is asked to bring some of his belongings (bicycle, jacket, and shorts) as versions of an old woman’s heart. Which fascinated by the subterranean, the subconscious, or the supernatural, Martin’s poetry shapes its surfaces of experience, knowledge, time and death — as a way of evoking their hidden possibilities.

Framed by Preserved and _Dream Poem_, we encounter selections from _Framed_ (1970), _A Bone Blank_ (1974), and _A Flag for the Wind_ (1982), as well as new poems, grouped under the title _Love Poetry_. The poetry is a work of gathering. It enjoys meetings which occur between masculine and feminine forces, conscious and subconscious states of awareness, past and present moments, familiar and foreign places. It prefers its lines to be regular and spare and its sounds an uncompromised voice.

As well as being influenced by Donne, Yeats and Hope, Martin’s love poetry derives some seriousness and some humor — the Christian belief in the resurrection of the body and from the notion of “sacral love”. In an ABC broadcast, Martin quoted Suzanne Lilar’s _Aspects of Love in Western Society_ and confirmed his sense of sacral love:

Lilar writes of ‘sacral love’. For her the sexual act is itself a sacrament — not only sacred, but able to communicate the sacred: this is what I mean by sacral. And she adds that sacral love is given to another body, another person; and awakens ‘a desire that reaches out beyond all limits’.

Such moments occur often in the book, signifying a darker, harder truth which is able to penetrate the upper world of consciousness. _The Bog People_ contrasts two responses to an archaeological find (the remains of a young girl killed in ritual sacrifice). There is the likely interest of the scholar, in whose living mind the dead are dancing as friendly presences. There is the earlier fear of a peasant, whose mind, dominated by superstition, wants only a domesticated consciousness.

_Tongues_ opens its door upon the world of ancestral voices. A dying husband becomes the medium for some primal, unfamiliar language. His wife catches only its rhythm and remembers only two words. Yet she recognizes that he has expressed some primitive belonging which must serve as their leaving-taking. Although the doctor thinks it is a case of distorted German, the dead man’s father is convinced that “It was our forebears speaking”. The poem is fascinated by the pattern of interruptions: of subterranean into surface consciousness, of the unknown into the known, of the inarticulate into the articulate, of the past into the present, and of ancestral poetry into a modern prose context. This pattern expresses the existence and value of a deeper way of knowing, a larger destiny.

_The ship threatens to break open the self-serving innocence of Anglo-Australian historical consciousness. It entertains the possibility that a wreck may emerge from the sand dunes in which it is believed submerged. This wreck is possibly — the remains of a Portuguese discovery of Aus¬

_tralia, some 250 years before English shoes graced the sands of Botany Bay in 1788. In the size of the time, the poem reduces the importance of any race which has crawled over the surface of this continent. Where moves below? There is a detachment in this which frees the poet to take up Australia’s anxiety about self-multiculturalism.

As Reading the lines suggests, the heartscape is an inter¬

mediate (as well as intermediary) zone:

Europe runs in my veins from childhood on.

Which is my own, which is the Foreign Country?

Not that the poetry itself is anxious: it enjoys its meetings with foreign places and persons, celebrating its encounter rather than the alienated observer. While not excluding all sense of strangeness and horror (see _Father and Son_ and _Greek Migrant Goes Home_), this poetry lives happily in and with other worlds. While the speaker of _Christmas Ghosts_, celebrating a “first Australian Christmas”, is troubled, the anxiety is caused by the separation between the living and the dead.

_Centuries before Christ_ 

My Danish ancestors buried their dead 
In the ground — no use for earth.

So

My English family still expect their ghosts.

Kindly all, they step in from the cold, 
Sit down with us at table ....

In your country I find

All ghosts are laid. And too few places laid.

Bring in your dead.

There are also poems which celebrate a relationship — personal and poetic — with Lars Gustafsson: poems with thin surfaces and deeper sounds. _Thanksgiving Snow_ takes us to America and to an American voice, describing a ritual of reconciliation in which white Australian wine is flaked with American snow. In ways such as this, the poetry creates a world interesting, various, friendly, but not too composed. There is much like in this book, with its frank surfaces and friendly disturbances. The faults are easy enough to find: there are a few lines which need the Martin voice to make them vibrate and there are moments when persistent symbols, such as wind and water, become too familiar. As is often the case, these are but the reverse side of the poetry’s virtues. It controls and varies its time both of time and of time. The poem could extend to a page or longer, and yet it would not have the same resonance as a last line will often more ripple than settle. If this is poetry which believes in the emotions of a destiny, then its stories include the cold grief of _Father and Son_, the cosmopolitan friendship of _Lake-walk, Sweden_, the reflective sensuality of _Laid in Earth_, and the playful commitment of _Muse_, which reminds us that

Prose would have been a mere casual affair.

*Prose would have been a mere casual affair* 

New and Selected Poems by Philip Martin. Longman Cheshire. RRP $6.95

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**Erratum**

A recent exhibition in the Main Library of works from the Panfranco Press was opened by the Dean of Arts, Professor John Hay. Mr John Arnold, La Trobe research librarian at the State Library, gave a talk on the press as a prelude to the opening.
From islands at Monash to Southeast Asia

The Monash campus was a series of islands in a sea of mud when Pam Sayers started work at the university 24 years ago. But they were the ‘good old days’, said Ms Sayers, before leaving her job as assistant to the director of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies last month. "The university was nice and small and you knew everybody. Now it's larger and people tend to stay in their own groups."

Ms Sayers has been with the centre since it was established in 1969 under the direction of Dr Jamie Mackie. In its first year of operation, the centre's total student enrolment was one. In 1988, the number has risen to 49.

With the encouragement of Dr Mackie and the centre's current director, Dr David Chandler, Ms Sayers studied part-time for her Higher School Certificate before commencing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Southeast Asian Studies in 1978. "I found I had a natural affinity with Southeast Asian studies," said Ms Sayers. "I was learning about their culture... and their wonderful food."

An increased knowledge of the region gave Ms Sayers a greater empathy for the centre's foreign students. As she tidied her office lined with Asian postcards and ornaments, she reflected on the position she was vacating for a job as personnel director at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

"It's been a wonderful experience. It's a unique job in the university. I used to organise conferences, look after visitors to the centre, and counsel students. "Not a week went by without dinner with someone from the centre. It's just like one big family."

The job also had its fringe benefits. With the contacts she has made through the centre, Ms Sayers now finds she never has to stay in hotels when travelling through Southeast Asia. Some of her more memorable stopovers have been with princes in Thailand, and a family of fishing folk in the Philippines.

Mannix lectures

The fifth History and Philosophy of Science Lecture Series will begin at Mannix College on Tuesday 14 June, with Professor Roger Short of the department of Philosophy speaking on the topic, "Harvey's Conception—An Historical view of our Ideas about the beginning of life."

The lecture program will continue as follows:

- 21 June, Dr Linden Gillbank, department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne. "Illustrating the Earth: Representing the 'Real' Earth."
- 5 July, Professor Bert Bolton, Emeritus Professor of Physics, Monash. "Some Aspects of Science in Australia in the 39-45 War."

All lectures begin at 8.15 pm in the Senior Common Room, first floor, Administration Building (located directly opposite the university in Wellington Road). They are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Inquiries should be directed to the college on 544 8895 or 544 8896.
Universities can help Australia compete

One of the answers to Australian industry's lack of competitiveness on the international market lies in the closer cooperation between industry and universities, said Professor Lance Endersbee at the first Supper Club meeting of Friends of Monash University.

In the past a shortage of skilled people combined with a reliance on overseas technology, a low level of research and development and a ready acceptance of poor performance had hindered our industries' chances overseas.

But some companies were still not aware of the assistance that universities could provide, said Professor Endersbee. He cited the case of a well-known Australian electronics firm which rejected the offer of a Monash patent. It was later sold to a Japanese rival for $1 million.

Fortunately for Monash and industry, there has been an enormous growth in the number of joint projects in recent years. He said. But although the universities have at the forefront of Australian research in a number of areas, it must not forget the needs of local companies.

Located in the centre of a high-technology area that currently offers 40 new jobs for every one in Melbourne's suburbs, Monash must be as mindful of the company in Waverley as the one in Brisbane.

The university, said Professor Endersbee, had a national responsibility to apply its resources to its immediate area as well as to the rest of Australia.

He concluded his address by using Monotech as an example of just how successful the co-operation between universities and industry could be. As Monash's technology, consulting and commercial arm, Monotech had made $3 million in its first year of operation.

The next Supper Club meeting of Friends of Monash University will be held in the Banquet Room on Wednesday, 15 June at 8pm when Professor John Hay, Dean of Arts, will talk on Asia and Australia: Towards Horizons.

For information on Supper Club meetings, contact the Office of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, ext. 5007.

A friendly message

Friends of Monash University Inc. are running a series of interesting monthly functions.

Don't miss the next Supper Club night when Professor John Hay, Dean of Arts, will talk about Australia and Asia: Towards New Horizons (Wednesday, 15 June, 8pm, Banquet Room, Union).

The cost of $6 (payable at the door) includes a delicious supper. Access to the Banquet Room is by the external stairs at the most northern part of the Union building.

The July Dinner Meeting is proving to be very popular and is now fully booked. Mr. Roger Short will speak on "Change and Continuity" (Wednesday 20 July, 7.30 pm for 8 pm, Beijing Palace Restaurant, corner Tooronga and Toorak Roads, Hawthorn. This is a BYO function and further information is obtainable from External Relations and Alumni Affairs, ext. 4032, or Yvonne Wilson, 232 7717 (after hours).

For those who missed our May Supper Club talk by Barry Conyngham, there was a good attendance and a friendly atmosphere. Professor Lance Endersbee's lively presentation brought out Monash University's involvement in industry and research (see story). We would tell of many developing areas of Monash and its involvement. We plan to help keep you informed so please watch for further news from Friends of Monash University.

Yvonne Wilson

Secretary

MONASH UNIVERSITY
Walter Burley Griffin — A Re-View

Original drawings, plans, furniture, models and photographs of the Australian work of Walter Burley Griffin and his wife, Marion Mahony, are now on show at the Monash University Gallery.

In 1912, Griffin won the international competition for the plan of Canberra and, a year later, arrived in Australia with his wife and Wright's star draughtsman, Marion Mahony (1871-1961).

The Canberra project, in Griffin's time, proved to be a disaster, Ms Duncan says. Griffin's position as Federal Capital Director was terminated in 1920. His most productive period occurred in Melbourne during the 10 years after he opened a practice here in May 1914. He also maintained an office in Sydney from 1915 to 1935.

Robin Boyd believed Griffin chose Melbourne to set up his Australian practice because "he was a born Crusader" and saw the people and the city as "material for salvation".

Newman College, the Palais de Danse, Thé Café Australia and the Capitol Theatre are just some of the distinguished buildings Griffin created for Melbourne, Ms Duncan says.

By 1925, the Griffins had moved to Sydney to concentrate on developing Castlecrag, a community project of dwellings and landscape designs which sprang from their ideas of democracy and anthroposophy. This project too was never completed and in 1935 the Griffins moved to Lucknow, India, where Walter died two years later.

Oh no, not Harry too

Surely Harry, the great white hunter, couldn't be interested in that sort of thing! And what did happen in the barn with the black manservant? Ellen the groom he has been awkwardly fondness for her mistress — or does she?

Cloud Nine, Caryl Churchill's brilliant study of sexual roles and repres­ sions, begins in the manner of a Monty Pythonesque spoof, as it hilariously exposes the shenanigans that lie behind the pukka facade of an English outpost in Africa in the 1880s. The climate, as one of the characters says, is very confusing.

But there is pain behind the masks, and it is explored more closely in the second act, which takes a look at the complications of the new sexual freedoms of the present. The play spans a century — as do a number of its col­ nists from Act One; but perhaps the people haven't grown up so very much.

Cloud Nine's stunning theatricalism and humor co-exist with a serious and analytical view of authentic human feeling.

The Monash production has a cast of drama students from the department of production. The players are Toby Oates (doubling as Clive and Cathy); Gaye Quin (Maud and Lina); Sue Turnbull (Betty and Edward); Debra Jeffries (Bill and Betty); Bill Orr (Harry and Martin); Wendy Collinson (Ellen); and Gus McMillan (a dead soldier).

The puppet characters for the 1988 production were based on original designs by The Magic Pudding's author, Norman Lindsay, who was also portrayed on stage.

For Term Three, the Alexander Theatre will present the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia with their version of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories. Performance dates and times: Monday, 5 September to Friday, 9 September, 10am, 1.30pm. Inquiries and bookings, 565 3992.

The Merchant of Venice

Almost 13,000 school children, teachers and parents saw the Marionette Theatre of Australia's production of The Magic Pudding at the Alexander Theatre last month.

The children were brought in by busload from all over the suburban area and the peninsula for two performances each day (except Sunday) of the three-week season.

Richard Pannell as Shylock in the English department's production of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice. The play, now being staged at the Alexander Theatre, is directed by Dennis Bartholomeusz and produced by Robin Gerster. Major parts are played by Sue Dodd (Portia), Paul Griffin (Antonio), Tom Bradley (Bassanio) and Deborah Rothfield (Jessica). Tickets are available at the theatre for the remaining performances, at 2.15pm on Wednesday 6 June, and 8pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9, 10 and 11 June. Adults $10.90, students and pensioners $5.90. Phone inquiries: 565 3992.