Monash sets up Spanish connection

A PROPOSAL to formalise research links between one of the oldest universities in Spain, the Universidad Complutense, and Monash University has been approved by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

The establishment of a sister university agreement would cement existing links between the two universities, as well as open up new opportunities for an exchange of staff and students.

Negotiations between the two universities have already commenced and it is hoped an agreement will be signed later this year.

According to Mr Alan Kenwood, senior lecturer in the Spanish Department, the Universidad Complutense in Madrid is one of the two most prestigious universities in Spain. It has about 160,000 students and teaches from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"It has a very active and internationally respected research profile in many disciplines and would offer Monash the opportunity to conduct research programs of mutual interest in a wide range of fields," he said.

While the agreement would officially link Monash with the Universidad Complutense, research and teaching contacts have existed between the two universities for more than 10 years.

Dr Diana Bradley, of the Department of Psychology, has worked in collaboration with Jose Garcia-Albea of the Complutense Department of Psychology since 1977.

The two met while at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where Dr Bradley, then a graduate student, and later a postdoctoral fellow, worked with Professor Garcia-Albea for two years on cross-language studies of human language processing.

Dr Bradley visited Professor Garcia-Albea at the Complutense in 1983 and again in 1987, to give talks and to consult with his research group on their common research interests.

As a result of Dr Bradley's first visit, Rosa Sanchez-Cisah, who had obtained a Masters Degree under Professor Garcia-Albea in Spain, came to Monash as a PhD student in 1984, returning to the Complutense in 1988 as a postdoctoral fellow.

"During that time, Professor Garcia-Albea visited the Department of Psychology to work collaboratively with us since a lot of work in Rosa's PhD thesis and in other research projects depended on experiments run in parallel at Monash and Madrid," Dr Bradley said.

"Another Monash PhD candidate from this research group, Christopher Davis, recently took up a one-year postdoctoral appointment at the Complutense.

Monash senior lecturer in the Department of Classical Studies, Dr Alba Romano, also taught at the Complutense while on an Outside Studies Program (OSP) in 1988 and returned in January this year to give further lectures.

"I feel I have an open invitation to go back any time. There is an enormous amount of interest in invited specialists and education generally," she said.

"Public and specialist lectures often attracted audiences of 700 or more. The university actively encouraged international research cooperation by offering substantial grants to visiting academics on OSP to top-up their salaries."

For the last eight years, Monash and Auckland universities have conducted an intensive one-month language course in Madrid for undergraduate students. The course consists of four hours of language classes five days a week, with general lectures each afternoon on contemporary Spanish culture and society.

Mr Kenwood said about 40 students from the two universities, as well as from other Australian institutions and the general public, attended the course in Madrid each year.

"The course is an accredited part of their Monash degree and involves regular written work and a formal examination at the end," he said.

Ms Sonia Lewin-Poole, who attended the course in January, said the contact with Spanish university students and the intensive language tuition was very rewarding.

She particularly appreciated the close links established between the student group and the school of social sciences, the weekend excursions and the regular visits to the theatre and live shows that formed an integral part of the cultural component of the course.

Any academic interested in establishing research links with the Universidad Complutense should in the first instance contact Mr Alan Kenwood on ext 2226.

MONASH University scooped the Alexander Sutherland Prize for Historical Research into the Built Environment awards last month, taking out both the postgraduate and undergraduate sections of the competition.

Dr Ursula de Jong collected the major prize while Caritona Anderson, a second year Visual Arts student, was a joint winner in the undergraduate section.

The Alexander Sutherland Prize was established in 1988 by the Historical Buildings Council to foster research into the history of the built environment.

It is named after Alexander Sutherland, a 19th century journalist, schoolmaster, poet and historian. He is best known as the principal author of the two-volume work, 'Victoria and its Metropolis', which is one of the basic sources for historians of the built environment in Australia.

Dr de Jong, now a Deakin University lecturer, won $5000 for her doctoral dissertation titled 'From England to Australia: The Archdeacon of William Wilkinsson Wandell (1822-1899)'

The dissertation, which has been eight years in the making and taken her as far as England and Scotland, documents Wandell's English designs and examines selected examples from his vast Australian work.

"The thesis explores the implications of Wandell's contribution to both ecclesiastical and secular architecture of the 19th century in Britain and Australia," Dr de Jong said.

As part of the research, Dr de Jong visited the United Kingdom in 1984 and spent a month in London and Scotland finding the remainder of Wandell's Gothic Revival churches.

His more famous Australian works include St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, St Mary's Church in East St Kilda, St Ignatius in Richmond, Government House, The ANZ Gothic Bank on the corner of Callan and Queens Streets and The Union Club in High Street, Sydney.


She shared the first prize of $1500 for the undergraduate sections with final-year Deakin University student, Dianna McShan.

Dr Conrad Hamann, a senior lecturer in the Visual Arts Department, said the awards were a pleasing recognition of Monash's involvement in public debate and investigation of Australian architecture.

"I was delighted with both awards," Caritona's because it was a new approach developed quickly and Ursula's because it was a reward for a colossal amount of work over a number of years," he said.
Studying errors from the past

LITTLE do they know it, but those people in the habit of correcting mistakes in books are following an age-old custom.

Post impression correction, to give the practice its proper name, is the term used to describe the last-minute amendments that were made by authors and printers to the text of a book after it had been printed. According to Monash PhD student Brian Gerrard, who is looking at the practice in Great Britain during the 18th century, such panic resulted from the way in which writers approached the publishing process.

"Sometimes an author would not bother to check if the proofs, or his book was correct, and often got a fright when he saw his words in print," Mr Gerrard said. "Other than any typographical error, the reasons for altering hundreds of books were usually political or personal. But in those days, paper was expensive. It was cheaper to cross out a word, add a new one, or even rip out an entire leaf, than to print another edition."

"Many books were corrected in bizarre ways—in some cases often as much as a quarter of a book or more was altered. It's fascinating to find out why they required correction in the first place and to resolve what happened in the process."

"Sometimes only a few books of a particular print run were changed, and in other cases, hundreds."

A clinical biochemist by training, Mr Gerrard became interested in the phenomenon when he began collecting 18th century books. And now his curiosity has led to his selection as an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, an award that will allow him to spend a year in America, working in libraries. The Huntington Library in San Marino, California, has the largest collection of 18th century books in the United States.

Dr Gregory is presently head of the Social, Administrative, Comparative and Policy Studies division in the Education Faculty at Monash. Since taking up a full-time lectureship at Monash in 1979, Dr Gregory has developed an international reputation in the field of economic education. He has been involved in the training of economics and commercial teachers, is the author of a number of economics books, and was actively involved in school economics and commercial curricula.

THE Occupational Health and Safety Branch (OHS), in conjunction with the St John Ambulance service will conduct a four-day Level 3 first aid course in May.

It is anticipated the course will be offered only once this year. Level 3 trained first aiders are required where first aid rooms exist (under the Code of Practice "First Aid in the Workplace", section 7.4).

Mr Gerrard will be "looking at everything from single elementary manual correction to the instances when an author totally changed a page."

THE Synd of the Uniting Church has appointed Dr Alan Gregory as Master of Ormond College at Melbourne University.

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THE show, held at the Royal Exhibition Building from 5 to 7 April, included some of Australia's largest companies and major tertiary institutions which recruit graduates and school leavers.

SECONDARY and tertiary students were able to explore a wide range of career options and talk face-to-face with employers at the Graduate Careers Show.

The show was held at the Royal Exhibition Building from 5 to 7 April, included some of Australia's largest companies and major tertiary institutions which recruit graduates and school leavers.

Monash University has combined with Chisholm and Gippsland institutes in one stand this year, so students could get a better picture of the wide range of courses and programs which would be available when the three institutions merge on 1 July.

According to Careers and Appointments manager, Bryan Barwood, the show attracted a far higher proportion of Year 12 students than undergraduate students in tertiary institutions.

"Several school excursions to the show took place on the second day and the opportunity for discussion with careers teachers was valuable. The Saturday attracted a mix of many school students, parents and teachers," he said.
New technique proposed for women's surgery

WOMEN with severe menstrual problems may soon be able to avoid having a hysterectomy if a new laser and electrical surgery proves successful.

The Menstrual Management Service based at the Monash Medical Centre in one of the few centres in Australia which is researching the new surgical treatment.

Professor David Rush, of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, said lasers and resections could provide a superior treatment to hysterectomy with few side effects, less discomfort and a shorter stay in hospital.

While hysterectomy involves the removal of the womb, the use of lasers or electrical resectoscopes removes only the lining of the womb leaving the uterus intact.

"The laser works differently than a hysterectomy when compared to hysterectomy and is in keeping with the demand for women to have more attention paid to preserving their uterus and as much of it as possible," Professor Healey said.

"The operation takes less than an hour and patients can go home the same day or the next morning and resume normal activities almost immediately.

Women who have a hysterectomy have to stay in hospital for three to six days and the convalescence period could take six weeks."

The operation can be performed using either a laser or electrical method.

The laser method uses a very fine beam of light which is drawn across the lining of the uterus (the endometrium) to vaporise target cells. The electro-cautery method uses a resectoscope to remove the lining with a fine cutting action.

Both treatments make use of an instrument called the hysteroscope which is passed through the cervix into the hollow cavity of the uterus. The laser is passed through the hysteroscope which focuses and concentrates the beam to the desired diameter. With the electro-cautery method the same hysteroscope is used but instead of a laser as electrical current is used to cut away the lining of the uterus.

The operation was pioneered in the United States 10 years ago but Australia has been slow to make use of the new laser technology. As a result, hysterectomy has been the traditional surgical treatment for women who have heavy periods or menorrhagia.

Menorrhagia is a very common gynaecological problem where nine out of 14 per cent of otherwise healthy women have an increased mean menstrual blood loss greater than 80 ml per menstrual period.

Australia has the highest rate of hysterectomy per 100,000 women in the world. Yet doctors believe one of the most common surgical operations performed on women, is estimated that about 25 to 50 per cent of patients will sustain complications, even in experienced surgical hands. Although most complications are mild, haemorrhage, pelvic infection, sepsis and urinary tract injuries have been reported.

Moreover, significant psychological and social problems may follow hysterectomy. There is evidence that hysterectomy results in loss of self-esteem and a change in one's perception of her own femininity.

In addition to the significant impact on physical health, hysterectomy operations cost the taxpayer dearly.

The public health annual cost, estimated by Medicare benefits, exceeds $210 million a year. Many believe this to be a conservative figure as it does not include operations performed by local practitioners and other health personnel outside the public and private hospitals.

While an alternative to hysterectomy is obviously desirable, there is still not enough proof that the new surgical operations do indeed improve the health of women.

"The Monash research team has established a women's register which will record the menstrual history of all who take part in the study. The register will enable doctors to follow more closely the effects of the operation on the patient."

"We are planning to run the register for three years after which time we will be able to determine whether the operation has been successful or not," Professor Healey said.

"While assuming there are no bad effects from the treatment, and the overseas work suggests there are not, the register enables us to act in a watchdog manner and to pick up any difficulties from an early stage."

For more information about the Menstrual Management Service, contact Sister Pam Mamers in the Monash University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on 550 3387 or 550 1111.

Studying the impact of sleeping tablets

AS people age the pattern of their daily biological (circadian) rhythms begins to change. For instance, elderly people may not sleep as long at night and take naps during the day.

Although it is a normal part of the process of ageing, for some this disturbance of the normal pattern of sleep is inconvenient, and they take sleeping tablets to help them cope. But little is known about how sleeping pills actually affect biological rhythms.

In order to investigate this interaction, researchers in the Monash Psychology Department are planning a study of the circadian rhythms of two groups of people over the age of 65; those who use sleeping tablets and those who do not.

Research co-ordinator Mrs Carol Smith, says: "Sleeping tablets induce sleep, but they also may affect the timing of sleep. We want to see whether the tablets also shift sleep patterns as measured by changing levels of the hormones, melatonin and cortisol."

The group is looking for volunteers over the age of 65 and who still live at home to take part in the study. Participation will not involve any discomfort.

One day a week for six weeks, volunteers will be asked to fill in a diary of when they sleep, and also to record if and what they take when they sleep. During a 24-hour period, they will also be expected to collect saliva samples at noon, at 4 p.m.; half an hour after going to bed; in the middle of the night; when they get up in the morning; and two hours later.

In addition for five days of one week, those taking part will be requested to keep a diary of daily activity.

From the saliva samples, the researchers will be able to track the levels of melatonin and cortisol through waking and sleeping hours. And the diaries will help them determine how active each participant is and how much exposure to daylight they are likely to have. (Daylight is important in helping to set the circadian pattern)."

"We are not asking people to participating in this study, but we are happy to talk to people about the project at any time," Mrs Smith said.

For further information or to volunteer, contact Mrs Carol Smith on (03) 565 9295.

Appointment

THE director of the university’s National Centre for Cross-cultural Studies in Law, Ms Greta Bird, has been appointed a part-time member of the Law Reform Commission.

Ms Bird, whose appointment was announced recently by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Mr Lionel Bowen, will work on a bi-cultural reference during her term, which will end on 30 September 1991.

Ms Bird is one author of The Process of Law in Australia: Inter-cultural Perspectives, which was written with the aim of helping to change the bias of legal education; and to encourage changes in the legal process itself.
Database to keep tabs on plastics

A COMPUTER database providing information on plastics and their interaction with the environment is to be established at Monash University.

The Monash Centre for Advanced Materials Technology (CAMT) and the Plastics Industry Association (PIA) recently signed a contract to set up and operate the system.

The chairman of the Environmental Action Group of the PIA, Mr Tony Rogers and the executive director of the PIA, Ms Susan Ryan, officially launched the project at Monash last month by signing a contract document with managing director of Monarch, Dr Paul Hudson.

The PIA handed over a $51,430 cheque to initiate the project, but the CAMT will receive funding over a 12 month period in excess of $100,000. This will pay for software and hardware items, rented accommodation in the Faculty of Engineering and staff to abstract publications, input data and conduct searches for the PIA and its member companies.

Abstracts of papers and publications concerned with the environmental effects of plastics and competitive materials will be stored on the database.

The data base system will use the AIPS software package for local storage, but a significant portion of the search capability will be via links to the major overseas databases, environmental and materials.

According to Ms Ryan, the project will contribute to the public's understanding of plastics by providing information on plastic products, techniques and recycling techniques.

"The PIA expects that this database will become an active participant in the worldwide network of materials data banks which is now forming," she said.

The PIA also recognises the need for the database to be set up and maintained by an organisation which is both independent and technically competent in the field of advanced materials."

"Work on the database has already begun and it is expected to be operational on a restricted basis by July.

From The Farm to strawberry fields

AFTER 19 years as professor of English and 29 years as one of the shaping spirits of the department, David Bradley has retired to his strawberry farm on Phillip Island. Already, his absence from the teaching rooms and the corridors of power has begun to make it clear how fruitful his work at Monash University has been.

As a student, his passage through Melbourne University combined academic prize-winning with an active student life, in which the range of his future academic occupations was becoming visible. He acted in a large number of plays throughout his time there from 1943-1945, and in his final year, as well as being treasurer of the SRC and president of the Arts Union, he was editor of Fawno, secretary of Queen's College Dramatic Society and organiser of the 1946 Melbourne Revue.

He moved from a tutorship there to a lectureship at the University of Western Australia in 1948; it was a small but distinctive department to which he brought his work as both actor and teacher of drama was welcomed and invaluable. Performances both within the university and in the Perth Repertory Society continued at the rate of at least one a year. His King Lear and his role in what was probably the first Australian production of Nothing for Godot are part of the history of drama there.

He not only produced student plays regularly but also designed and built the Dolphin Theatre, a conventional small theatre much used within the university, and before that an experimental Elizabethan scaffold stage which has since borne fruit in the replica New Fortune Theatre, designed into the new Arts building.

Apart from two scholarship years at Pembroke in Cambridge, he remained as a pillar of that relatively small department until 1961, when he moved to Monash as Professor Scott's first colleague in the new institution. He deployed here the same combination of acting and producing talents, with both scholarly and practical work in theatre design.

In the first four years, he produced four plays for Monash, including the university's first play, Everyman, and a notable Midsummer Night's Dream among the pine trees by the science lecture theatres.

From professor to politician: With the help of some of his students, Professor David Kemp began the move from Monash to Parliament House, Canberra, Professor Kemp of the department of Politics was elected the Liberal Member for Victoria last month by signing a contract document with managing director of Monarch, Dr Paul Hudson and Professor Paul Rossiter.

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Industry sponsors top engineering students

THE Faculty of Engineering has attracted nearly $900,000 from industry to sponsor a new co-operative education program for top undergraduate students.

The money is being used to fund two classes of scholarships to help motivate good students to take up engineering. Sponsoring companies also have agreed to provide work experience for recipients, and thereby will gain access to the faculty's best students.

The Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Davall said: "We set up this arrangement on the basis that the students will see the industry as their main employer and thereby be more motivated to work for the industry. The students will gain valuable experience and also learn about work ethics, as well as being able to experience the nature of their particular industry."

Professor Davall said: "Eight students have become Industry Scholars. Given satisfactory academic results, they will receive $9000 a year for five years. In recognition of their achievement, they will gain an extra year over their engineering degree, spending 18 months working in industry during that time."

The other 34 students have been awarded a one-year sponsorship of Dean’s Scholarship of $3000. At the end of the year, they and their fellow students starting second year will become eligible to compete for 12 four-year Industry Scholarships.

The scheme is based on a successful program operating at the University of New South Wales. Almost any student with a Year 12 score above 300 in the Bachelor of Engineering course and 360 in the Bachelor of Computer Science and Engineering course received a scholarship.

Sponsoring companies include BHP Transport, Email Electronics, Holden’s Engine Company, the Public Transport Corporation, Gurrandegrade Haskins and Davey, BP Australia and the Wilson Electric Transformers Company Pty Ltd.

Professor Davall was able to attract them by outlining the advantages of being involved. "Sponsors get access to the top engineering students in Australia and are able to get a look at them and try them out. By their association with the faculty they also can gain access to our academics for consulting work, and our laboratory facilities for research. And it’s all tax deductible as a training expense."

The general manager of Email Electronics, Mr Russell Cooper, agreed there were advantages to being involved. He said the company had an obligation to its shareholders to ensure a return on money outlaid, and did not see its sponsorship simply as a grant.

"We look upon this scheme as encouraging a more readily available supply of students from university at a time when we are spending considerable time and effort in recruiting computer software engineers with little success."

And, as you might imagine, the students are delighted. "Almost everyone I know doing first year engineering applied," said Mr Zoltan Zdimirovic, a Computer Science and Engineering undergraduate from Rowville who won an Industry Scholarship.

"I'm really pleased. The money's a pretty good motivation, but the cost of the course wouldn't make or break me. The best thing about the idea is that I get to work for 18 months and come out as an engineer with experience."

But Mr Zdimirovic also has experience in other lines of work. Two or three nights a week he plays either solo or in a band at hotels and reception centres in the eastern suburbs. He plays bass guitar and drums, usually with my uncle. We play middle of the road stuff, but it’s fun."

Briefing centre launched

AUSTRALIA’s first international briefing centre was officially launched in Melbourne last month by ANZ’s deputy chairman and Group Chief Executive-Mr Will Bailey, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

When opening early last year, the Monash-ANZ Centre for International Briefing will help comprehensive government agencies establish and maintain export-oriented businesses overseas, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere and Pacific Basin.

ANZ has funded the centre with $4 million over five years, and Monash will supply the academic expertise.

Mr Bailey said: "I believe that with an increased awareness within the Australian business community of the need for a much broader "international perspective" and a better understanding of the cultures, traditions and business practices of our neighboring countries, we can improve Australia’s trading position, and in so doing reduce this national debt of ours."

One of the centre’s tasks will be to help ease the culture shock often suffered by expatriates by briefing them on pertinent local social, cultural and business issues.

The objective of the Monash-ANZ Centre for International Briefing is to provide a full picture, encompassing political, social and economic aspects of the region, and to cover issues which may have been glossed over in the past."

Mr Bailey said: "The centre will be undertaken for families on housing, transport, education, social interaction and day-to-day living in a new country."

Professor Logan said the centre would allow the university to show the business community its teaching and research strengths, particularly in Asian studies.

University Club gets a facelift

THE Monash University Club has been invigorated by a promise of a significant injection of funds by the university.

At the club’s Annual General Meeting last month, it was announced that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, was prepared to provide $250,000 over the next three years to enable the club to carry out urgent maintenance and repairs, refurbish its reception and facilities, replace kitchen equipment and carry out alterations to the building.

The Vice-Chancellor has also agreed that, from 1993 onwards, the university will waive the club’s annual rental of $20,000.

To assist the revival process, club members agreed to a substantial increase in membership fees to $100 a year for staff and $55 a year for postgraduates and alumni.

In addition, staff will now be able to pay their fees by fortnightly or monthly deductions from their pay.

University Club president, Mr Graham Briscoe said after being on the brink of closure due to financial difficulties, the club could now look forward to a new era.

"We have basically got to a point where the club is literally bankrupt as well as needing a lot of money spent on it in terms of new equipment and furniture," he said.

"Our greatest difficulty has been in the catering area where wages and food costs have risen astronomically, and given the nature of our private club licence, we are prevented from advertising for outside functions which do provide a good profit margin."

Mr Briscoe said the university recognised it was important to have a university club for the well-being of its staff and had come forward with financial support.

He said despite the increase in membership fees, the amount was still lower compared with many other university clubs in Australia. (Club membership at Melbourne University is $125, University of NSW $105, University of Wollongong $141, and ANU and University of Tasmania have both closed their clubs.)

"The incoming committee is certainly very heartened by the financial support the university is willing to provide and is confident about the future of the club," Mr Briscoe said.

"However, it is disappointing that a number of members have chosen to resign without really understanding the extent of the problems which the club faces. In reality all we are asking of the members is an increase in subscription to the extent of a half a pot of beer per week - about 90 cents a week."

The committee is presently considering re-development plans for the club. These include:

• the refurbishment of general eating areas and the kitchen;
• altering the bar and servery areas;
• establishing a liquor outlet and an up-market bistro;
• the refurbishment of general eating areas and the kitchen;
• altering the bar and servery areas; a renovation program to either cover the existing outdoor eating area or build a new eastern wing; external maintenance.

Mr Briscoe said in the early stages of redevelopment priorities would be to upgrade the internal furniture, improve the quality of food and try to change the liquor licence to enable outdoor functions to be held at the club.

No decision has yet been made on any of the plans. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposal should contact Graham Briscoe on ext 3156.
New film courses draw the crowds

FEW new courses attract more than 100 students without trying. But that is just what has happened with the introduction of film and television studies at first year level.

In fact, given a full-time staff of only three, the Film and Television Studies section of the Visual Arts Department packs quite a punch generally.

For instance, the staff have been responsible for importing most of the important Indonesian films shown in Australia. They also have a significant input into Melbourne's film festivals. And for more than a decade they have been teaching courses at second year level and above to hundreds of students.

Now there are plans to introduce film and television studies as a fully fledged major within two years.

Senior lecturer, Dr David Hanan, says the group's choice of name is deliberate and reflects its outlook.

"What we are doing is more than 'cinema studies', because that term implies no interest in documentary or non-fiction films, and more than media studies, because film is an art form."

And the study of film and television could hardly be more important. "What the students learn in the new course, Ms Leoni Naughton, "is in America, it is expected that about 10 per cent of the average person's conscious life is spent in front of a television." she said.

"Our perception of the real is meditated through these images. So it is important to develop a critical awareness of the political and social function of film."

"The object of the new introductory course is to broaden the students' cinematic horizons, to get students thinking in more critical and analytical terms about the ideological functions of film.

"We will focus on television and contemporary commercial Hollywood movies. The most common response to these films is that they are pure entertainment, that they couldn't possibly be political."

In addition to Ms Naughton the film and television studies group includes three part-time lecturers who give it a decided feminist dimension.

They are Ms Freda Freiburg, co-editor of Don't Stop Dancing! Women's Independent Film-making in Australia who has been contracted to do a book on Japanese women's melodrama, Ms Debra Verhoeven, associate director of the Spedale Fringe Film and Video Festival who runs a film program on 3CR and Ms Susan Stewart, an expert on Japanese cinema.

Ms Naughton has just returned from living in West Berlin, and will be teaching higher year courses on German cinema and on film theory and criticism.

She argues that German cinema has been an important and influential medium. "Germany has the most heavily subsidised film system in the world. The idea is to export and promote a more favourable image of what it means to be German."

But what is produced is hardly straight propaganda. Many of the films are highly critical. They advocate the extension of the German state, that it is solid enough to tolerate criticism."

Public television also is highly innovative. "Independent film-makers, for instance get good exposure on public television, which gives them a broad audience outside of cinema," Ms Naughton said.

She said, the priorities of German public television were first, to entertain and, second, to present a diversity of opinion and only third, to entertain. In fact, the British Broadcasting Corporation is ac­claimed Channel Four is based on the German model.

In contrast to the German experience of state sponsored cinema, the film industry produces between 70 and 80 movies a year with almost no Government support. But, says Dr David Hanan, that does not mean the quality is bad. Four or five films in the past 20 years have been as good as the best or five Australian movies.

Dr Hanan and Mr Basokki Koecani from Asian Languages and Studies have been working for several years on subtitling significant­ant Indonesian films. As a result of their early work in the field, they were asked by the National Film Council of Indonesia to provide English subtitlles for 12 seminal Indonesian films made between 1950 and 1970.

New prints of these subtitled films will be struck in Indonesia and sent to countries. The team has completed six films already and hopes to finish another three this year.

Dr Hanan, Mr Koecani and Dr Kristina Sen, a Monash Politics graduate now at Murdoch Universi­ ty. The visit was arranged with the help of the Institute for Contem­porary Asian Studies. After a meal and presentation ceremony, The Kangurue Dancer, a film about the social position of the women who dance traditional Hindu-Buddhist dances in Islamic West Java.

Survey finds young Indonesians wary of tourism

INDONESIANS regard Aus­ tralian tourists as friendly to­wards foreign tourists but have more difficulty in understanding our accents, according to a survey conducted by the 1989-90 Val­lejo Gantner Memorial Travel grant recipient, Sheryl Pager.

Sheryl, who is a third year Economics and Politics student at Monash, travelled for more than two months through Sumatra, Java and Bali, conducting the survey of young people aged from 15 to 25 years old about the effects of tourism in Indonesia.

She received $500 from the Val­lejo Gantner Memorial Travel Fund to help pay for the trip. The travel fund was created in 1970 in memory of Val­lejo Gantner, a student in the Faculty of Arts who died in 1962 as the result of an accident.

From the 125 completed surveys, Sheryl said the respondents gener­ally regard tourism as important for Indonesia's economic development but were wary of the damage it could do to their indigenous culture.

"It was proposed that Australians should learn more about Indonesia's way of life, with respect to accept­able levels of dress, language and cultural difference, and culture before visiting the country," she said.

"An interesting comment that came to light, however, was that more damage has been done by the impact of foreign films than by the influx of tourists. I suspect that the language barrier between most Indonesian and tourists acts as a buffer for the indigenous culture, while the films are all subtitled."
Banking Law expert returns to Monash

THE former Sri Lankan Ambassador to Australia, Dr Wickrema Weerasooria, returned to Monash University this year to take up the position of Associate Professor in Banking Law.

Dr Weerasooria was a senior lecturer in law at Monash from 1977 to 1977, when he left to head the all-important Ministry of Plan Implementation under the Executive President of Sri Lanka.

According to Dr Weerasooria, an academic's life can be a strange twist of events led him to spend more than 14 years in public and international life working for the Sri Lankan Government.

While in Sri Lanka on diplomatic missions from 1983 to 1996, Dr Weerasooria became involved in the publication of a satirical cartoon book critical of the then Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mrs Bandaranaike.

He was charged and eventually imprisoned for defamatory and infringing emergency regulations. His passport was confiscated and he was put under virtual house arrest.

Luckily for him, Mrs Bandaranaike announced elections on June 5 and in the July 21 poll she was defeated. The new government asked Dr Weerasooria to stay on in Sri Lanka and help the country down the path of reform.

Dr Weerasooria agreed, and re-created the role of the Ministry of Plan Implementation by broadening its focus to include all the major social and economic development activities in the country.

In the eight and a half years he spent in the Sri Lankan administration, he was largely responsible for formulating and implementing rural development programs throughout the country, population policies and family planning programs, manpower and employment policies, programs for the development of women and children and the co-ordination at a national level of food, nutrition and fertiliser programs.

As a result of his work he became a major figure in the international world of population control and family planning.

In addition to heading the Ministry for Plan Implementation, Dr Weerasooria also acted for some time as Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Regional Development, and as Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

His other responsibilities included the national co-ordination of programs for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). His work also took him to the United Nations General Assembly, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In March 1986, he was appointed as Sri Lanka’s Ambassador/High Commissioner to Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Fiji.

After assuming duties in Canberra, he wrote Links between Sri Lanka and Australia which received excellent reviews and has now gone into a second edition.

Dr Weerasooria said he would never forget the 13 years he spent working for the Sri Lankan Government but he was pleased to return to academia.

“The experience I got during the period from 1977 to 1990 has given me greater confidence and ability to get back to my first love of academia,” he said.

“I hope I can bring to bear this vast experience of 13 years of public life, both nationally and internationally as a diplomat, for the benefit of the students, staff, faculty and university.”

“The years I spent outside academia life has made me believe while maintaining professional and academic integrity, academics must reach out to speak and write on day to day current public issues rather than let events overtake them.

Dr Weerasooria obtained a first class honors degree in Law in 1961 at the University of Ceylon (as it was known then). He later attended the Ceylon Law College where he qualified in June 1961 in the Barriers’ Final Examination.

He obtained his doctorate from Monash University this year to gel back to my first love of on Australian banking.

The book has recently gone into a second edition which covers the vast developments in the field of banking and banking law, following the deregulation of the financial system in the early 1990s.

Dr Weerasooria is the author of several other books and publications including Casebook on the Law of Banking and Cheques in Ceylon, Commercial Law in Ceylon, Law Relating to banking in Ceylon, Credit and Security in Sri Lanka and Banking Law and Practice in Australia.

Asking about his priorities as an academic at Monash, Dr Weerasooria said: “My first, second and third priorities will be teaching and to be accessible and helpful to students. After that, I hope to concentrate on research and publications on current issues in my fields of interest.

New Christian group to fill void

WITH at least 10 Christian groups on campus, you could well be forgiven for feeling that Christ’s followers are well and truly catered for.

Yet, according to ecumenical chaplain Father Steve Russell, there are still students out there who haven’t yet found their particular Christian niche.

It’s with this group in mind that Father Russell has helped start another Christian student group.

“Our main concern is that the groups that already exist at Monash aren’t really reflective enough of the whole spectrum of Christian thought, opinion, and experience,” he said.

Father Russell describes the new group as more liberal and open to different ideas.

“It’s more open to diversity, to people who don’t necessarily toe the line in certain ways — for instance, there’s no doctrinal test to belong to this group, anyone can belong to it,” Father Russell said.

Although the group is called the Anglican Christian Movement, Father Russell denies that it is elitist.

“We don’t want to sound as if we’re exclusive; the group’s not just for Anglicans.

“The sort of people who are connected in any way with the Chapel at the moment are by no means specifically Anglicans — they’re connected with all sorts of churches.”

Wary of being accused of “preaching” members of existing Christian groups, Father Russell maintains there is room for many kinds of Christian theology.

“The kind of people who would be attracted to the Anglican Christian Movement would be those whose thinking is a bit more questioning, a bit more open than those in some of the existing Christian groups.

“But I want to be careful not to be too critical of those other groups, because I want to underline the fact that they reflect legitimate forms of Christian faith and experience.

“It’s just that what they are reflecting is actually quite limited, and we want to be able to capture some other parts of Christian faith in a new group,” Father Russell said.

Asked how he would describe the outlook of most of the current Christian groups on campus, Father Russell felt that the word “conservative” was appropriate, while he applied the term “liberal” to the new Anglican Christian Movement.

Father Russell said the new group wanted to fill the void noticed by many Christian students who did not feel comfortable with the more fundamentalist groups.

“We want to achieve a group where people feel free to explore and express their religious outlook.

“We want to provide a focus for their thinking and their social, political and religious activity — to give them an outlet for their particular kinds of religious belief,” he said.

Egyptian seminar

THE Committee for Egyptology is holding an all-day seminar titled, “Ancient Egyptian Religions”, on 29 April.

The seminar will be presided by Dr Colin Hope who is a visiting scholar at Monash and curator of the forthcoming “Civilisation: Ancient Treasures from the British Museum’s” exhibition.

Lectures will cover private and state religion, the creation myth, the state temple, role of the king, funerary beliefs, and will conclude with an open forum on monotheism.

The seminar will be held in the Konuda Lecture Theatre 6, from 10 am to about 4 pm.

The cost is $35 or $25 for students, and pensioners, and includes morning and afternoon tea and a light lunch. All proceeds from the seminar will go towards establishing a lectureship in Egyptology at Monash.

For tickets or further information phone Gill Bown in the Department of Classical Studies on ext 3264.
Council chaos

PAPER darts, wads of harden­
ing chewing gum, empty cups, upturned chairs. The after­
noon was a university gathering usually provoked righteous in­
dignation from those whose job it was to clear the debris.

But on this particular afternoon Eunice Clutterbuck leaned against the
panelling walls of the confer­
rence room and just sighed.

"Bloody Council meetings."

Swinging a portable vacuum cleaner on to her back, she pur­
duced the trail of rubbish over a
Berlin Wall of disturbed
furniture.

The Hoover hummed across the
plush carpet. At each nameplate she paused, conjuring up an im­
age of the person in her mind’s
eye. Now and then she pur­
ed at any moment. according to the
university’s health and safety handbook.

"Well, almost. It was a Council member, stretched prostrate behind a chair, a cup and saucer balanced delicately across a
waist-coated and tweeded chest.

She wondered if the
academic whose head she cradled
might have a better sense of timing. After deciding
that you?"

"Professor Adams-Smythe, is that
you?"

She remembered the
university’s health and safety handbook.
At any moment, according to the
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Eunice sought the support of a
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It is presented on the basis of
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tralia. The last two criteria being
applied largely by interview.

At the presentation ceremony, Dictionary thanked his family, lect­
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support in his studies.

"It is a great honor to receive this
medal and I realise the competi­tion
was very tough and quite possible
there were more than just myself
who deserved this award," he said.

MECHANICAL

THE 1989 J. W. Dodds
Mechanical Medal for the out­
standing final year mechanical
engineering student was awarded to Domenic Breh­
wiler.

The Clyde, Riley, Dodds man­
ger of engineering, Mr R. Austin,
presented the medal and a $1000
cheque to Domenic after the Engin­
ering-Science graduation cere­
mony on 30 March.

The Dodds Medal is named for
J.W. Dodds, who was a pioneering innovator mainly in design, manu­
facturing and the commissioning of
thermal power stations.

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CIVIL

THE Ove, Arup & Partners
Prize for the top student in Civil
Engineering for 1989 was
awarded to Kevin Hellier.

The prize was presented by
the director of Ove, Arup & Partners,
Mr David Singleton after the Engin­
ering-Science graduation cere­
mony on 30 March.

Other Civil Engineering prizes
awarded were:

A.J. Richardson Prize in
Transport Engineering
Awarded to Mr Yap, Moss Ying
and presented by Dr Tony Rich­
ardon who is the chairman of the
Department of Transport and
Resource Engineering at RMIT.

Scott & Fairphry Prize in
Highway Design
Awarded to Jonathan
Shmerling and Tony Growse
and presented by Mark Whales of
Scott & Fairphry Pty Ltd.

Furphy Prize in
Civil Engineering
Awarded to Kevin Hellier and
presented by Tony Wong of
Gutteridge Haskins & Davy Pty
Ltd.

Tileman Prize in concrete
structures
Awarded to Dean Morgan and
presented by Russell Thomas, direc­
tor (Engineering) Tileman Aust.
Department of Civil Engineering
vacation work report prize
Awarded to Mr Cheng, Lee Hong
and presented by Professor

E.M. Laurensen.

Other prizes not awarded on 30
March:

Coffey & Partners Prize in
technical engineering
Presented by Mr Goh, Tak W
om (in Malaysia).

Achabhi Prize in
Industrial engineering
Awarded to Mr Cheng, Lee Hong
and presented by Professor
Piecing together the life of a tyrant

COMPARISONS between the Khmer Rouge and Hitler and Stalin have been made of Pol Pot and Adolf Hitler and Stalin have been described as "inappropriate" by one of the university's Southeast Asian specialists.

According to Dr David Chandler, Pol Pot was a complex, if poorly understood, politician who ruled over a regime that between 1975 and 1979 decimated the Cambodian population. His views grew out of a political biography he is writing on the former leader since he was overthrown by the Vietnamese in 1979. So little in fact that Dr Chandler fears his book's final chapter will be composed of merely blank pages.

There are various rumours that he has been sick, has visited China and has remarried. What is certain, however, is that he has remained leader of the Khmer Rouge movement. Dr Chandler believes it is an interesting time to be writing about violent all-consuming revolutions, particularly when the actual value of testimony is being questioned.

Pol Pot speaking as a rally in 1978.

The following is an edited version of the occasional address given at the Science Graduation on 14 March by the director of Chisholm Institute, Dr Geoff Vaughan.

IF one looks back over the decades one sees an enormous change in education from the British tradition which was still with us in the 1950s. University education in the '50s, we would say today, was elitist. Higher education involved small numbers of students, only one university in each of the capital cities, the institutions were remote from government. People were forced to listen, even RMIT was still called, not officially but affectionately, the working man's college.

The 1960s was a decade of growth with the spreading of seats and colleges. The universities and colleges shared the Commonwealth abolished fees and this can be of advantage to both government and the community.

There is a great disjunction in looking for scapegoats he tore the violent all-consuming revolutions. There are various difficulties. People belonging to the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia who sought political asylum as refugees are undoubtedly unwilling to admit their past because they are not easy to mobilise, therefore many were killed. There was a great disruption between the middle and the working class. This became plainly and painfully evident when the Cambodian version of China's Great Leap Forward, the organisation of all agriculture, descended rapidly into chaos. The scheme was badly mismanaged. People were overworked.

"The population was not in-" executed in the Phnom Penh became the scene of thousands of 'confessions' by so-called traitors. About 20,000 people were exec-ecuted in the prison in three years. Some 5000 of their statements still exist, but as they were made under duress much of their content is worthless to the investigative writer. They must be handled with the utmost care.

One who did was Dr Chandler. He returned to Phnom Penh in 1989 with the Commonwealth entry into Cambodia. He travelled to Canada, the United States and France, seeking people who may have either known Pol Pot, or may have known someone who did.

"These people all agreed he was a man of considerable charm who was able to instil loyalty in others. One who knew him as a student said that the first time he saw him he knew he could be his friend for life." Public documents, speeches, and recorded interviews which cast light on the life of the deposed leader of Democratic Kampuchea have been described as 'inappropriate' by one of the university's Southeast Asian specialists.

Dr Chandler regards Pol Pot as a seductive, but fascinating man. "People oversimplify him by calling him an ogre. It's possible to explain what he did in terms of the ideology of the leaders working together, and those who were subjected to that policy," he said.

"The population was not interested. They were too difficult to mobilise, therefore many were killed. There was a great disruption between the middle and the working class. This became plainly and painfully evident when the Cambodian version of China's Great Leap Forward, the organisation of all agriculture, descended rapidly into chaos. The scheme was badly mismanaged. People were overworked, and it wasn't long before cadres began starving them to deliver food to the government."

The widespread passive resistance of the people, coupled with military pressure from Vietnam in 1975-77, made for a paranoiac mix. Dr Chandler said.

"When his imitation of the Great Leap Forward was achieved full, Pol Pot believed he had been betrayed. And in looking for scapegoats he tore the Communist Party apart." Little is known about the life of the former leader since he was overthrown by the Vietnamese in 1979.

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Little is known about the life of the former leader since he was overthrown by the Vietnamese in 1979. So little in fact that Dr Chandler fears his book's final chapter will be composed of merely blank pages.

"The 'past six months commu-" nist parties around the world have been completely discredited. In fact, it has almost got to the point where revolution could become an absurd concept," Dr Chandler said.

But Dr Chandler is certain of one outcome of Pol Pot's reign of terror. "The people who won the Demo- cratic Kampuchean revolution were those who resisted, passively or not, who misunderstood it, or who understood its destructiveness all too well, and have survived."
The literary road from Bertolt Brecht to anarchic British comedy may not be well-travelled, but there is one Monash academic who can almost say she has walked it herself.

Professor Philip Thomson of German Studies is not only an expert on the poetry of the German playwright and lyricist, he is also an authority on the grotesque, a form of humor popularized recently in the BBC television series "The Young Ones".

"But events in Europe in recent months have almost overtaken university lecturers, particularly those whose specialty is German language and culture. The possible reunification of the two Germanies has created a new agenda. Already I've had to rewrite 10 lectures," Professor Thomson said.

"In fact, the situation was so fluid I found myself floundering in the last lectures in 1989."

He is guardedly optimistic about the pending union. "There are some really serious problems that may arise between a united German and Eastern Europe, particularly Poland."

"This worries me most for historical reasons. In the past the interaction between Germany and its neighbours has been fairly catastrophic in the sense that language students are among Germany wreaking financial havoc."

"I believe the major problem will be how to stop Western German banks and lending institutions making a repeat of the 1930s."

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But Professor Thomson believes that those who are able to overcome traditional resistance are usually well-rewarded. "There is social evidence to suggest that the intellectual tools you need to develop proficiency in a language that is transferable, such as analysis and synthesis.

"There is a reasonable relationship between learning a language and overall intellectual ability."

"In fact, the solution is quite simple. All you need to do is read a lot of poems about himself, which I did, to refresh my memory and to learn what interested Pro- fessor Thomson's most successful book, The Grotesque, published in 1971."

"The grotesque is an all-embracing term that describes the mixture of comedy and something totally incomparable, such as horror or tragedy."

"In most popular exponents in the recent past have been British comedy groups such as The Young Ones and Monty Python. Certain works by authors like Joseph Heller, Franz Kafka and Samuel Beckett also fit into the same category."

"The classic reaction is laughter followed by the words 'that's sick!'"

Pratt receives honorary degree

The remarkable success of distinguished Australian businessman, Mr Richard Pratt, has been built on manufacturing rather than financial manipulation, Professor Peter Darvall, Dean of Engineering said recently.

Mr Pratt's services to industry have been recognised by the Australian Government which made him an officer of the Order of Australia, he said.

Professor Darvall was speaking at the Science and Engineering Graduation Ceremony last month, where he presented Mr Pratt for an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree.

Mr Pratt was born in 1934 in Poland and arrived in Australia as a child. His early life was spent in St Kilda and then in Victoria where he was educated at Sir William Light High School, University High School and Melbourne University.

His father, Mr Leon Pratt, formed Visy Board Pty Ltd in 1948, manufacturing corrugated cardboard cartons. Richard Pratt joined the company in 1953, working in marketing and sales. In 1969 he succeeded his father as chief executive of the Visy Board Company.

Under his leadership, what was a prosperous middle-sized company grew to become one of the largest private enterprises in Australia.

The Pratt Group, of which Richard Pratt is chairman and chief executive, now has a total of 40 plants in Australian states and offshore manufacturing and service operations in Thailand, New Zealand, the United States and Britain.

The group has annual sales in excess of $700 million and employs more than 4000 people in its Australian operations.

"One interesting aspect of recent expansion of the group's manufacturing activity has been attention to waste recycling," Professor Darvall said.

"Four paper mills using waste paper feedstock have recently been commissioned and a considerable plastic recycling operation as well.

"Mr Pratt's view is that waste disposal can be converted to the manufacture of paper and plastic paper."

Apart from his business interests, Mr Pratt strongly supports the theatre and has been an active participant in both areas.

"A former member of the Melbourne University Union Repertory Company, he has a major role in the stage hit Summer of the Seventy-venth Doll during its London and New York seasons," said Professor Darvall.

"He is an office-bearer of the Carlton Football Club with which he was once a player in the seconds and, thirds, and was winner of the Morris Medal for the best and fairest player in the VFL Under 19 division in 1953.

"In 1983 he organised and largely financed the Challenge 12 quest for the America's Cup and provided critical support that assisted the America's Cup II in its capture of the trophy."

"Mr Pratt is also chairman of the board of the Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria and breakthrough chairman of the MacFarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research."

The Pratt Foundation and the Pratt Group Scholarship Trust have assisted long-term people wanting to pursue primary, secondary and tertiary education.

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Public history goes bush

IT has been said that good historians need strong boots. Students of the Master of Arts in Public History course at Monash need leech repellent, a machete and a fire-mask as well.

These integral historians have recently returned from a field trip to the Walhalla and Thomson Valley district of Gippsland. As well as studying buildings and landscapes in the Walhalla Historic Area, they picked their way through the bush to the site of an isolated and abandoned sawmill, and “supervised” a controlled burn at a modern logging coupe.

The Master of Arts, in Public History course is new in its third year of teaching and continues to attract considerable student interest.

The first such course in Australia, it is designed for graduates in history who are working or seeking employment in the public history field, and offers genuine work experience and employment opportunities for students.

A highlight of the course is the regular first semester field trip, and its message is that historians can also be useful outside libraries.

The recent excursion (26-31 March) took place partly because students have been working on an informative brochure about the Walhalla Historic Area for the Ministry of Conservation and Environment.

Following a tour of the town from the local ranger, they then visited the site of the former Walhalla Post Office, for many years a private home, and now recently purchased by the Victorian Government for its historic significance.

With its leaking roof, overgrown garden, subsiding buildings, domestic artifacts and documents, and impressive but fading interior, it was a fitting introduction to a thriving mining town, it poses conservation dilemmas. How might it be restored, or sensitively re-used?

What clues in its past are to be found in its fragile fabric?

A walk around Walhalla's precarious hillside cemetery with a local historian was followed by a tour of the famous Long Tunnel extended gold mine.

Late in the day, a number of the party investigated the site of Walhalla's market gardens, where a Chinaman community once existed. House foundations, a low stone wall and the crowded flats of the gardens are among the few visible reminders of Chinese life in the Victorian mountain goldfields. The Public History group has recommended a thorough archaeological survey of this historic site.

After a day of studying buildings and landscapes from the mining era, the group literally plunged headlong into the nearby forests to discover some of their 20th century sawmilling history.

The field trip finished in a blaze of glory as forest officer, David Wells, explained modern forest management practices to the backdrop of a controlled burn. This intense, confined bushfire was a prelude to seeding of a new, different forest. Fire has a history as natural phenomenon, a cultural artefact, a management tool.

Historians are becoming critical in debates about today's forests as they begin to map the patterns of fire, the patchwork of logging, the impacts of human usage, and the changing relationships of society and nature.

With smoke in the nostrils and leeches in the socks, it was time to return to the library with new questions.

Tom Griffin, Lecturer in Public History
For and against a high-tech city

Australia's first free public workshop on the Multi-Function Polis was held at La Trobe University last month. Monash senior lecturer in Japanese and Director of the Japanese Studies Centre, DR ROSS MOUER reports.

SINCE 1987 the Federal Government, four state governments and at least two secretariats have been exploring the feasibility of establishing a multi-function polis (MFP) in Australia. Although still undefined, the concept calls for some kind of high-tech city which would have a sizable population with a large proportion of the inhabitants drawn from overseas.

In an attempt to open up the issue for public debate, the first free workshop on the MFP was held on 3 March at La Trobe University. Sponsored by series of academic organisations from Victoria and South Australia, including the Japanese Studies Centre at Monash, the "Polis, functions and people" workshop comprised three panel sessions.

They included a look at the restructuring of the Australian economy and the Asian context in which Australian development would occur in the future; progress made on the MFP proposal to date and the planning process.

Restructuring of the Australian economy and the Asian context

Several themes emerged from the first session. Reader in the Politics Department at La Trobe University, Dr David Carney pointed out that Australia had reoriented itself to Asia over the past 20 to 30 years. He emphasised the way in which Australia, under the Fraser and Hawke Governments, had retreated from the economic nationalism of the early 1970s.

Dr Carney also saw the 1980s as a period, when successive governments sought to contain wages, to increase export profitability and to provide a domestic environment conducive to foreign investment. As Australia's economic position dropped, integration with Asia and the Pacific region was seen as a way out.

The second panel was asked to consider the MFP concept. It was clear that a firm concept did not exist. Attention focused more on the processes by which the feasibility studies were being conducted.

Many people expressed concern that the planning for the MFP had occurred so quickly. However, both Trevor Berthold from the MFP Australia Research and Geoff Hallinan from the Overseas Investment Division of DITAC, criticised the media and public for remaining disinterested despite repeated press releases on the planning activities.

Mr Hallinan emphasised that the Government had not made a decision on whether to proceed with the project. He said a report was to be submitted on 30 June and the Government would then decide whether to initiate a more detailed feasibility study.

Professor David Yencken (Melbourne University) emphasised the need to avoid ethnic enclaves, techno-professional enclaves and the introduction of inappropriate technologies. He called for community consultations and a much more open approach to planning.

I spoke of the emergence of a powerful techno-professional class which was increasingly serving as gatekeepers for many of the societies in Asia. It is far to ask whether planning between elites for Australian development would leave the general public feeling alienated and divorced from the new technologies being introduced.

The MFP: An Answer?

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Professor Gavan McCormack (Adelaide University) commented on the desirability of furthering Australia-Japan relations. He said the relationship was such that it would be strengthened by an MFP.

While also warning about an excessive concern with economic issues to the exclusion of social, cultural and legal issues.

Community Perspectives

The third session consisted of a panel discussion which included Harry Van Moorst (Ramboullin Alliance and the Coalition Against Poverty), Syd Spindler (Australian Democrats), and John Spight (Victorian State President of the Australian Metalworkers Union).

They highlighted environmental issues, the absence of grassroots participation and the view that the project was basically designed by and for large corporations and might result in an enclave for an international techno-professional elite.

The debate which followed each session was lively. One chargeout was between those for indigenous development who believed more support should be provided for the promotion of Australia's science and technology, and those who felt Australia's future would best be promoted by foreign-led development which would infuse valuable investment funds and necessary technology into Australia.

Despite disagreement on some key issues, there was also widespread consensus in other areas. The assumption commonly accepted was that economic changes in the Asia-Pacific area were real and that Australia would need to respond creatively to them if it were to maintain its independence and current standard of living. There was also consensus that Australian interests should come first in any decisions about the MFP.

Whether the MFP goes ahead or not, the question of Australia's response to a rapidly changing economic environment will remain on the political agenda for some time.

The more fruitful and communicative discussions on the MFP, the more reasoned the final outcome of political debate on the larger questions in which democracy, economic efficiency and technology are so intricately interwoven will remain.

Even if the MFP does not go ahead, the debate it has stimulated should serve Australia's future well.

Centre charts historic Gippsland

A COLLECTION of poems exploring themes of Aboriginal history and the mountains and coast of East Gippsland, is one of more than 100 books held at the Centre for Gippsland Studies.

Based at the Gippsland Institute for Advanced Education, the centre has been established to promote the study of Gippsland, both within the academic and wider community. In addition to its large book collection, the archive at the centre holds many photographs, maps, newspapers, journal articles, genealogical records and ephemeral material.

Gippsland historian, Meredith Fletcher, who co-ordinates the centre's activities, said the centre tried to collect everything published on Gippsland, focusing on five areas. These are: Gippsland's regional and local history, environment, literature, Aboriginals and social sciences.

The volume of material collected is so great that the centre has only recently completed the mammoth task of publishing a complete list of its holdings, which comprise more than 3000 items.

The bibliography, titled Gipps­ doc, was published in three volumes in August last year. About 150 sets were printed and more than 100 already have been sold.

"Gippsdoc can now be consulted in libraries and public libraries throughout Gippsland, at some historical societies, in government department and university libraries in Melbourne and in the homes of serious researchers on Gippsland topics," Ms Fletcher said.

"We have been very pleased with the response to Gippsdoc and are now working on the next task — preparing the supplements to keep Gippsdoc current."

"We have received a number of requests for the Gippsland thesaurus, the list of subject headings used for compiling Gippsdoc. Instead of issuing prounses, we have decided to print the thesaurus, and it will be available in 1990."

The centre is open three days a week for use by students, school teachers, researchers, local organisations and interested people.

It promotes activities such as seminars, excursions and publishing projects which serve to increase awareness and knowledge of the Gippsland region. Ms Fletcher said.

"We have national, state and local authorities, historical societies, museums, libraries, schools and other relevant institutions, groups and individuals to further these aims," she said.
ENTHUSIASTIC audiences re­
resulted in the Shakespeare 
Society's production of "Romeo 
and Juliet" being booked out 
early this month.

Seated outdoors near the science 
laboratories under Melbourne's 
armoreshy, but sparkling night 
skies, many young theatregoers 
returned for a second dose of Shake­ 
peare's tragedy. 

Directing the first show for the 
Shakespeare Society's 1990 season 
was final year history student Fiona 
Blair, who proved her versatility by 
also taking on the role of Lady 
Capulet at two weeks' notice, due to 
an actress dropping out of the cast.

Students Tom Bradley and Gaye 
Quinn played the star-crossed 
lovers, with Julian Beckedahl as 
Mercutio and Sue Craw playing the 
nurse, while assistant director 
Daniel Schlosser doubled as Betri­ 
alla.

"I wanted to get a really small 
space where the audience is looking 
in on the play," director Fiona Blair 
said.

Ms Blair described the outdoor set 
as an Elizabethan-type stage, with 
scaffolding and a watchman used as a 
balcony.

"We acted in the Alexander 
Theatre last year, and they were 
very nice to us and I found them 
helpful in all sorts of ways, but even 
you could get a venue at the 
Alex it looks bare.

"There's a huge gap between the 
audience and the actors, which is a 
real problem in Shakespeare because 
there are lots of really inti­ 
mate monologues which should be 
in the centre of the audience," she 
said.

Ms Blair felt that the outdoor "in 
the round" setting was an ideal one 
for the play, even if Melbourne's 
unpredictable weather caused some 
doubled monologues.

Ms Blair felt people were seeing 
slightly different Romeo and Juliet 
characters from the ones they may 
have expected.

"Romeo is... I think... funnier 
than normal... I really don't see him as 
being in love with love... as you are 
taught at school.

"I think he's someone who des­
perately wanted to love someone 
and who really has lots of love to 
give, and the one thing about Juliet 
is that she has the ability to take the 
love.

"I think that's as amazing as be­
ing able to give out lots of love," 
Ms Blair said.

Ms Blair insists the only way to 
understand Shakespeare is by see­
ing his plays.

"Even if it's a bad production, 
which this isn't, at least you can 
make a judgement about what you 
think..." Ms Blair said.

The next exciting project for the 
Shakespeare Society is a revival of 
last year's production of "Much 
Ado About Nothing" at the 
Esplanade Hotel in St Kilda in the 
middle of the year.

And the immediate priority for 
Fiona Blair?

"Apart from some sleep, I'll try 
keeping the first half-year until I'm sup­ 
posed to have done into the remain­ 
ing weeks and get my history jigsaw 
put together and then I'm going overseas to look 
at plays in England and maybe at 
some graduate directors' courses," 
she said.

MONASH University Season 
'90 at the Alexander Theatre 
continues in June with the hit 
Off-Broadway musical 
Nunsense, which runs for two 
weeks from 7 June.

Sister Bernadene has accidentally 
poisoned 22 of the order with her 
batch of vichyssoise, sending them 
running out when Mother Superior 
blows the kitty on a new video 
recorder, leaving the others to rest in 
tempo... in the freezer! The 
Department of Health is about to 
descend on them. They need to raise 
money. They need an idea... a 
variety show in a school hall!

June Bronhill 

Returning to the Alexander 
Theatre to lead the concert in this 
year-topping night of non-puss is 
June Bronhill.

It will be somewhat of a reunion 
for everyone at the theatre as she has 
played here several times in the past 
with the Melbourne Music Theatre 
Company. Forty years ago as a 
young June Gough from Broken Hill 
she made her singing debut in the 
Sydney Sun Aria Contest and came 
third to June Sutherland.

A year later she won, and with 
funds raised by the people of Broken 
Hill, she went overseas to study, 
adopting the name Bronhill in grati­
tude to her local community.

The rest is history and after 10 
years in London conquering the 
Princess Theatre during the early 
'60s.

In favor of this view would be 
the Alexander Theatre's manager, 
Phil A'Vard, who in fact was stage 
director for that production. The 
Alex's Box Office manager, Natalie 
Richie, ran party bookings and her 
husband Ken, now in the Depart­ 
ment of Medicine, operated 
lighting.

In 1981, June was offered the role 
of Mother Abbess in a revival of the 
musical which ran for nearly three 
years in London.

June Bronhill could never be easi­
ly pigeon-holed and after playing a 
lingerie saleswoman in the TV 
series Are You Being Served?, as 
well as appearances in certain tea­
bag commercials, she is once again 
donning a habit and kicking up her 
heels in what promises to be an 
bizzare scene of Nun sense.

Bookings can still be made 
by phoning the Alexander Theatre's 
credit card line on 365 3992 or by 
calling in personally.

A NEW group of students and 
staff have rallied together to sup­ 
port the Monash Arts and Crafts 
Centre while pursuing their own 
particular creative interests.

Friends of the Arts and Crafts 
Centre are able to use the centre's 
facilities including studios to work 
in and equipment like music stands; 
crochet, paint brushes, potter's 
wheel and sewing machines.

The group, also known as Van 
Gogh's Ear, provides scope for stu­
dents and staff to express their crea­
tivity in a relaxed social atmos­
phere.

Membership costs $4, which will 
be used to fund activities and func­
tions throughout the year.

"Friends" have access to the 
studios at the following times — 
pottery, Tuesday midday to 2 pm; 
classical guitar: Thursday 1 to 2 pm; 
craft and textiles: Thursday 1 to 2 pm; 
painting and drawing: Thursday 
1 to 2 pm.

These sessions are an ideal oppor­
tunity to meet others who have 
similar interests. It also allows 
people to be creative in their own 
time frame rather than trying to 
complete a project during a specific 
course.

Experience is not necessary, 
artistic advice is free and begin­
ers are most welcome. The group is 
also open to any suggestions as to 
the range and times of activities.

The Friends group is presently 
applying for membership of Clubs 
and Societies.

Anyone interested in joining the 
Friends of the Arts and Crafts 
Centre should contact the centre on 
3180 or simply drop in.
Edwin Tanner: Memories of a maverick

Memories of Edwin Tanner
By Gwen Harwood

I WAS blessed with Edwin Tanner's friendship for more than a quarter of a century. We were born in the same year, 1920, Edwin in Gelligaer, Glamorgan, Wales, and I in Brisbane. Two children of the Devil's party— the years frog-march us place by place to meet in middle life, still probing the ambiguities of space. When Edwin was three years old his family migrated to Australia. I remembered his early life in Wollongong in absolute detail, almost day by day it seemed.

When we met in Hobart he was an engineer in charge of the structural design department in the Hydro Electric Commission, and was attending my husband's linguistics lectures at part of a BA degree.

Our children went to the same school, and our two families became close friends. I remember Edwin taking a piece of bread and butter sprinkled with hundreds-and-thousands from the children's afternoon tea and gazing at it for quite a while. He put it back saying "I couldn't eat that. There's not enough blue in the universe.

Our well-fed children were fascinated by stories of his poverty as a child. He could, he said, go for days on a sandwich. There was always stuff to eat, and you had to climb a fence to get it. There was water in the creek, and milk to steal directly from the cows. They were even more fascinated by stories of his mischief. One day he stole from the coal mine t nut a heavy steel "eye-keeper" and spent hours rolling it to the top of the hill above his house in the cutting below. He told the taller between his knees and was letting it go and catching it when it got away and headed straight for his mother's kitchen. This gave me the only stake on the hillside and changed course, knocking over posts and crashing into railway wagons.

My memories of his years in Hobart are of endless quicksilver talks. We ran over logic, philosophy, music, poetry, engineering and of course painting. His great loves were Cezanne and Morandi. "Look at that!", he would say, staring at a print. "You can't explain it, you just have to eat it!" He would discourse on his life in the Port Kembla steel works, in the Department of Aircraft Production, in B.H.P., at Whyalla where he went in 1944 to design the Yampi Sound iron ore mine development. He was lyrical about reinforced concrete, its slabs, shells, membranes, folded structures, its surfaces of all forms.

Though he absorbed the paintings he loved, he belonged to no school. He often talked about the origin of paintings and poems in the mind, and he wrote to no one. "For one who names pictures after they are painted and it is difficult for me to name one before the canvas is stretched." He had been called a "mathematical expressionist". His painting The Public Servant, a picture bought by the National Gallery of Victoria, shows only a chair, a table, a cost on a harpant and a clock. In Exclusive Beethoven an assembly of rods, coppers and wheels is gathered in the space of the paintings as if it is not held by any elements of an invisible world. Philosopher's Mind (sox) shows a dolichocephalic skull seen from above entirely encased in glass.

But if the starting point of the pictures suggests the engineer's drawing board, the total effect is of luminous space and atmosphere. His canvases were never subdued, shimmering or dusty, marks him as a true painter concerned with the mystery of the visible world. I recognised some of his expansions of colour when I saw for the first time the evening skies near Newcastle. While he painted he listened to music. I remember he began to work without "a head full of ideas." In 1970 he wrote to me: "It is clear now that my best work has an elegance and opalescence of some description and wit. Now with relief from pain I am working with the acutest determination and deliberation that spontaneity really needs i.e. first rate spontaneity not slapstick."

In 1957 Edwin left Hobart with his family to live and work in Glen Iris, Melbourne, as a consulting engineer. In 1968, after treatment following an accident, he suffered a chemically induced stroke, and for the rest of his life was never wholly free from pain. At times the pain was intolerable. "Written in pure pain on good paper", he began one letter. Neither medical nor surgical treatment helped for long, and hopeful periods of remission were to be followed by "the cleanest most abstract longest pain which will only get longer as long as I live." Distance did nothing to diminish our friendship, and pain could not cripple his wonderful spirit. Edwin and I wrote one another hundreds, perhaps thousands of letters until he died. In some of the late letters his flowing script is distorted by pain in his hand, but his courage and wit never failed.

He began to incorporate in his paintings carefully built-in collages, using brass rings, plates, screws, pulleys and bits of clockwork. His colours became richer and deeper.

We saw one another now and again, I would stay with the Tanners when I went to Melbourne to give a reading. Edwin had two terrifying dogs, Herb and Ethelred, of which he was very fond. Now and again he would say: 'Give me an honest milk to steal directly from the cows. I am a true painter uncumbered with the Old Testament to see the house he had built in the early fifties. Indifferent to the current occupants he climbed on to all accessible parts of the house, hanging paintings and quoting from scraps of poetry as good as the day I built it." On the way home we were drenched in a sudden rainstorm. A few days later, when Edwin was back in Melbourne, a parcel arrived by air freight for me. It contained a set of healable hair curlers and the brief note: "A lot of your hair is too short to look terrible with wet hair."

From time to time odd unexpected presents would come: six jars of my favourite margarine, unobtainable locally; half a side of the best bacon; a blank notebook; "Chanters", write me a masterpiece, yours, Eddie.

He liked the company of women better than that of men. In spite of his exquisite gentleness he had a totally reckless streak. Another of his favourite stories was of how, in the age of nine, he dived off a bridge near Port Kembla. The only people who had dared to jump off the rail track, which was 40 feet above the water, were youths whose local reputation rested on this feat. One was 18, another 19. To jump in they had to hand between two old timber piles at water level that had carried an earlier bridge. The crowd roared acclaim, and, to use Edwin's own words, "I crept quietly on to the bridge and stood barefoot on the rail track. Everybody laughed. I dived not jumped. My head nearly split open on the water. "My eyes saw green and for some time I was afraid to open them but think towards Rock. Then the bastards, about 50 of them, said I had fallen in. Without a word I repeated the act in five minutes. Anyway I soon became able to dive ten or eleven times an hour."

The boy who began work at the Port Kembla steel works at the age of fourteen was still alive in the consulting engineer, as of course the child is still alive in every artist. Edwin asked his age, would reply, "I am always seven years old." I should have liked to watch him painting, but he said he was too shy to paint while anyone watched, so I did not insist. However he would do elegant drawings while he talked of aeroplanes, lighthouses (Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse was one of his favourite books), and of engineers, philosophers, my characters, Professor Eisenhart, and public servants with their heads or souls held in place.

I would not put up with nonsense. Edwin positively tried to convince him that pain was ennobling— he said "Smash up your hand with a clay hammer". Whenever anyone waffled on about the alienation of the artist from society he would say "Give me an honest engineer".

A young woman said, "I suppose as a consulting engineer you can afford a grand house in triple-fronted brick." He replied "I'd rather have a triple-fronted brick". Asked "Are you religious?" he answered "I was born inside the front cover of the Old Testament".

He felt great sympathy for others in pain, and on one occasion went to see a nun with incurable pain "to show her how to get relief by art". I think that the most terrible thing about pain is that it is inexpressible. Wittgenstein, in Philosophical Investigations, writes "Could someone understand the word 'pain' who had never felt pain?"

Edwin understood the word. "I bought a bunch of flowers, vases, and went around with a lemonade bottle of water to water the flowers and take pies with pastels and a packet of my own killers and sketch book. I sat beside this woman who was wearing my school colours of Blue of Mary and white and showed her how to make a blank piece of paper look good. She said she'd never find anything beautiful enough to paint or draw. I looked into her face for the first time and beheld absolute beauty — I was thoroughly shaken — but said 'You need never go further than what you see in your mirror'."

When I first met Edwin I had no interest in portrait painting, saying that photography had made it obsolete. But later he changed my mind. "It was wonderful for me to see John Donne, Ben Jonson and Donne and Donne. I came to the London portrait gallery. Sir Philip Sidney makes me sick, so I do his Apology for poetry pitched from Aristotle."

Continued on page 15
**Entertainment and The Arts**

**Memories of a Maverick**

Continued from page 14

I sent him some newspaper photographs taken at Oyster Cove, and he responded - "The NOT BEND parcel was pushed under the door. Public Servants! I liked the photos you liked best but it makes you look like an 18 year-old Steve. The larger photo is more useful to me as it has a very much better composition even if it makes you look 62 years old.

"Did you notice the 2 circles (your wedding ring and your watch - your eyebrows, you do it well."

"He never thought of himself as Australian. I remember we talked of the books that had influenced us as the 'fifties, and he recalled the green coat I had been wearing on the day we met. I still had forgiven the sharp in his inward eye.

"He spoke of how it was becoming harder for painters and poets to be truly original, and of how little thought was given to the National Gallery of Victoria a decade earlier, to see his painting Madrigale. Hung nearby was a painting by one of his famous contemporaries, "'Doesn't know the first thing about using paint," said Edwin. "It's all going to fade off.' He began picking at a corner with his fingernail and probably would have given a particular demonstration of the truth of his words if a couple of attendants had not restrained him.

"I remember we had a fierce but affectionate quarrel about a poem of mine he didn't like (he was right. I have disposed of it) and about his cutting down three large gums with a chainsaw because they interfered with light from the sun. He went out to buy his lunch (three cans of Coke and two sandwiches) and I had to leave for my plane. We said goodbye in the street."

In Professor Graves's book A History of Philosophy in Australia he says of Edwin's work: "Painters in some numbers in Australia, as elsewhere, have professed to represent in painting such exalted metaphysical themes as the rhythm of the universe; comment in paint at least of the quality of Tanner's work - on ideas in contemporary professional philosophy must be very rare indeed."

In the warmth of our long friendship we had no need to explain ourselves to one another, or to pretend that we were free of the usual human faults and failings. We were friends from the beginning simply because there was an immediate way open between us. Once I asked him, "What do you feel when you have finished a painting that you know is good?" and he answered, "I remember that I shall die." He died in November 1980 aged 59, too soon, but my delight in his friendship and my admiration for his work are unfeeling."

This article was reprinted from the Monash University Galleries catalogue for the current exhibition: EDWIN TANNER: Works 1952-1980. The exhibition closes on 12 May.

**RBH program**

**THE Robert Blackwood Hall activities for May-June include**: Friday 4 May, 8 pm Monash University Choral Society presents the Verdi Requiem with the Franklin Symphony Orchestra; Merlyn Quaile - soprano, Brian Handford - bass, and Marion Brennink - mezzo soprano. Conducted by Andre de Quarennes. Admission: adults $12, students, pensioners and unemployed $7. Tickets available at the door. For bookings phone 563 3030. Sunday 13 May, 5 pm Sri Murugesu Fine Arts Club Melbourne Australia presents Cine Fame YG Mahendra. Featuring a group of 12 film comedians in " ammunition Sir" - a full length comedy play. Also featuring Jothi", the popular South Indian film actress. Tickets available from all Sri Lankan and Indian stores or contact Rahan on 380 1965 or Logan on 732 2232. Monday 14 May, 1.15 pm Lunch time concert, Ensemble 1. Spiros Ramos - violin, Brachis Tilles - pianist; Graham McKeat - viola; Henry Wesly - cello and Hui Chi Hoey - double bass. Performing the Trout Quintet - Schubert. Admission: free. Saturday 19 May, 7 pm Victorian Children's Choir present their Winter Celebrity Concert. Admission: adults $14.50, students/pensioners $11.50, children $8.50. Sunday 20 May, 2 pm Melbourne Academy Boys Choir special fund-raising concert. For further information and tickets phone 900 81 5136. Monday 21 May, 1.15 pm Lunch time concert, trio Nova. Susan Pirrinni - violin, Sarah Cuming - cello and Clare Clements - piano. Featuring Piano Trio Op. 54 - Malcolm Arnold and Berge­metes - Bohuslav Martinu. Admission: free. Thursday 24 May, 7.30 pm Waverley Music '90, a combined schools concert. Featuring eight secondary schools and colleges with groups ranging from Choral Ensembles to large orchestras presenting everything musical from the rap through jazz to the classics. Admission: free. Tickets available on request from Waverley Civic Centre and all branches of Waverley City Libraries and participating schools from 22 April.

For further information phone John Tilbrook on 566 0347. Saturday 26 May, 8 pm Melbourne Youth Music Council presents Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, George Dreyfus Youth Band, Melbourne Youth Choir and the Junior Strings Orchestra. Admission: adults $10 and concession $7. For further information and tickets phone 690 8524. Monday 28 May, 1.15 pm Lunch time concert, John O'Donnell - organist. Presenting a program of works by Scheckleman, Tunder, Buxtehude and Bach. Admission: free. Thursday 31 May, 8 pm AVILA College present the 'The Performance of the Creative Arts', featuring music, drama and art. For further information and tickets phone 807 6777. Saturday 2 June, 8 pm Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir present their annual "Night of Song" singing traditional Welsh Choral Music. Conducted by Bill Meal and featuring past artist June Bronhill. Admission: adults $16 and concession $12. For further information phone 801 1292.

"The first created brings aside and discovers others": Under the guidance of Doreena Douglas, director of the Shoestring Theatre, East Oxford, actors Brenda White and David Wells, Student Theatre's Curdine Lloyd, and second-year French student Susan Little perform a Lecq exercise with neutral masks. The performance in the Mason Rooms last month was used to illustrate Douglas's talk on 'The physical preparation of the actor', presented by the department of Romance Languages, the French Club and the Vera Moore Fund. Douglas was assisted by Bob Burton of Student Theatre. Picture: TONY MILLER
Monash scores a squennis court

THE former State Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Brian Dixon, took the opportunity to try out the world's only squennis court with Recreation Officer, Mr Leigh Branagan, during a recent visit to Monash.

Squennis is a new game which combines the skills of tennis and squash without demanding the ability of being able to play either. It is played on a small enclosed rectangular court and can involve two or four people. Although the court has two nets, the rules of the game are very similar to squash. The racquets are not unlike those used in racquet ball and the ball is the same size as a tennis ball but is soft and spongy.

The game has been designed for both the highly skilled person and those who have difficulty with squash and tennis but still want to have fun and keep fit.

The Monash squennis court is located between the pool and the tennis courts.

A Squennis Cup tournament will be held later this month to find the best male and female squennis player. There will also be a men's and ladies' doubles and mixed doubles competition.

The court is free to hire and is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Anyone interested should contact Leigh Branagan at the Sports and Recreation Centre or inquire at the centre's general office.

Spanish opera

COMBINE Spanish surreal car-
nival paintings, elements of Rus-
sian architecture, and burlesque humor and what do you have? Well, according to director Bar-
rice Kosky, you have his recent
production at the Alexander Theatre of Rossini's popular
opera, "The Barber Of Seville.

The opera played two nights — to
very enthusiastic audiences — as
part of the Alexander Theatre's
inaugural Monash Theatre Season.

Conceived by the Victoria State Operas VSO as its touring opera for the Victorian Arts Council, the idea was to mix very experienced opera singers with the opera stars of the future, who are part of the VSO's Young Artists' Program.

Polished professional, Roger
Howell repeated his acclaimed por-
trayal of Figaro, having played the Barber last year at the State Theatre
while another well-known operatic
name, Ian Cousins, enjoyed the character role of Dr Bartolo.

Joining them were two of the
VSO's younger singers, Michael
Terry and Kathleen Southall-Casey as the young lovers Almaviva and Rosin.

"It's quite exciting for the young
 singers to be able to work with these
experienced performers, but it's also exciting for the experienced
 singers because there's an extra-
ordinary energy and enthusiasm
about the whole process, which is
great," said Mr Kosky.

Barrie Kosky himself is no slack
when it comes to enthusiasm and
achievement.

Last year Mr Kosky was the win-
er of the Channel 10 Medibank
Private Young Achiever Of The
Year Awards (Arts Category), and

Spanish magician Julio "The
Knot Garden" for the 1989 Melbourne Spinoza Festival. One aspect of opera which is very important to Mr Kosky is the use of English as the language to perform a work.

"It makes an enormous difference — operas should be performed in the vernacular in Australia. To have a comedy in which the audience are glued to the subtitles or just smiling at the lovely bits of Italian which are being flung at them, is basically irrelevant and incomprehensible." Mr Kosky maintains that the audi-
ences at the "Aler" enjoyed hear-
ing the opera in English.

"It was very exciting to do an opera with the audience laughing along with the performers spontaneously, rather than as a delayed
reaction from the subtitles. So
rather than just relying on the visual
stuff, you can actually have great humor coming from the words," he said.

A talented young man of definite artistic views, Mr Kosky summed up what he was trying to do to the audiences who came to see "The Barber Of Seville" at Monash.

"Rather than just present a glitzy,
campy comedy, we tried to invest
the comedy with a bit more skill
and black humor. The audience
seemed to find it quite interesting!"

Juggling from the comments heard around the theatre on those two March evenings, it would seem that Mr Kosky succeeded in a big way.