University approves smoking policy

THE University Council has approved a partial ban on smoking at Monash, to take effect from 1 July. The ban will result in a marked reduction in areas within university buildings being designated non-smoking areas. Smoking will only be allowed in areas clearly marked with "smoking permitted" signs. Exceptions include the foyer areas surrounding the lifts on the 9th, 10th and 11th floors of the Monash building, separate single-occupant offices, designated cafeteria areas in the Union Building, residential rooms in the Halls of Residence and in some staff tea or lunch rooms at certain times.

Smoking will not be permitted in inter-connecting offices unless all occupants of the rooms are smokers. People who occupy "smoking permitted" offices and who smoke when non-smokers are present. Heads of Budgetary Units may attempt to segregate smokers and non-smokers if requested by staff. The new Policy with Respect to Smoking was drafted by the Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee (OHSPC) following extensive consultation with staff and students.

A draft policy containing two options was circulated widely for public comment within the university. The first option provided for a total smoking ban while option two provided for an area by area prohibi
tion in certain areas of the uni

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University approves smoking policy

greater Monash offers students more diversity

MONASH University, the Chisholm Institute of Technolo

ogy and the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Educa

tion have teamed to form one of Australia's most exciting and diverse tertiary institutions.

The greater Monash University comprises campuses at Caulfield, Clayton and Frankston, as well as Monash University College Gippsland at Churchill near Morwell in the Latrobe Valley.

Students can enrol at any campus in a wide variety of courses from the level of a diploma to a PhD. And the Monash-Gippsland Distance Education Centre provides off-campus courses in a range of dis
ciplines to the whole of Australia. All graduates receive international

ly recognised Monash awards.

With a budget of about $200 million a year and an enrolment of about 28,000 students, Monash is now one of Australia's largest uni

versities.

It was no contest: a bin holds more than a pelican, at least when it comes to cans and bottles. One of the university's Envirobins, a unique machine that automatically sorts glass from aluminium, was the focus of the recent launch of the Monash University Recycling Scheme, presided over by Pelican, the Warden of the Union, Graeme Sweeney, and recycling co-ordinator, Katrina Roberts. Picture: TONY MILLER.

INSIDE

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• Peter Spearritt and Deborah Zion of the National Centre for Research and Development in Australian Studies take a look at the VFT proposal, Page 10.
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Greater Monash offers students more diversity

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Chisholm lines up in solar car race

THE world's first model solar car race was held last month as a prelude to the real test in November, when 30 vehicles will race from Darwin to Adelaide powered by nothing but the sun.

Sponsored by Energy Victoria and organised by the Chisholm Institute of Technology, the competition was designed to let students experience the thrill of designing and building a solar-powered car without incurring the expense of a full-size vehicle.

As part of the competition they had to conduct their own research into solar cells, friction, aerodynamic drag, and strength of materials. More than 35 schools took part in the event, held at the Exhibition Buildings.

In 1987, Chisholm's entrant, called Parhelion ('points of the sun'), has been set up to boost the range of expertise necessary to win the highly competitive event. Its members are Chisholm, Monash (Materials Engineering Department), Monrabhun TAFE (Machining Department) and Dandenong TAFE (Plastics Skills Centre).

Construction of the car, a catamaran capable of reaching a top speed of 109 km/hour, began in November last year. Parhelion Solar Vehicle Project Manager and Lecturer in Chisholm's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Mr Paul Wellington, estimates that the equivalent of $2 million has been spent on the project.

The car uses a revolutionary three-wheeled catamaran design, with the driver seated at the front of the right-hand hull, which contains the electric motor and steering wheel.

The second hull contains only one wheel. Solar cells are fitted to the body connecting both hulls, and to the outside of the hulls. Use of the latest high-tech carbon and glass fibre panels has kept the weight of the car down to just 170 kilograms. Mr Wellington said: "As very little is known about the aerodynamics and structural aspects of road catamarans, we are pioneering the design."

Extensive wind tunnel tests have resulted in a light, low drag, stable car, about the size of a Ford Falcon. High stability is essential, as the race is held along highways used regularly by huge road trains.

The only frame in the car, made of aluminium, transfers the body and driver loads to the front wheel. The rest of the structural loads are carried by carbon fibre and fibreglass honeycombed panels.

Like daughter, like father

IT'S not that unusual for a father to attend his daughter's graduation but at an Arts graduation ceremony last month one family found the roles reversed.

Mr Fred Taylor, 68 years old, received his Arts degree on 30 May at a graduation ceremony in Robert Blackwood Hall. His daughter, Mrs Adair Bunnitt, who graduated from Monash with a BA in 1968, was on hand to witness the event.

Mrs Bunnitt said her father chose to follow a similar path to the one she pursued at Monash 22 years ago.

"I've been amazed at the impact of Monash on his attitudes and have been made more forcefully aware of the importance of Monash to my own values," she said.

"In the last few years I recognised how strongly the teachings and ideas of the Arts Faculty influenced my thinking and way of life, and I can see it in him too. I never thought I would hear my Dad talking about feminism/Marxist thinking."

Mrs Bunnitt attended Monash during the radical student movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and described her time at university as challenging and exciting.

Monash holds information day for secondary schools

THE new enlarged Monash University was the focus of two information days for secondary school principals and teachers held late last month.

The seminars, organised by the Careers and Appointments Service, represented the first major public event involving schools where the structure of the new university was outlined.

Nearly 400 principals and teachers representing about 300 schools throughout Victoria attended the seminars held at Deakin Hall. In his opening address, the deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, described the merger of Monash with Chisholm and Gippsland institutes as the most exciting moment in the history of education since the establishment of Monash 28 years ago.

Other speakers included the Chisholm Director of Technology director, Dr Geoffrey Vaughan and the director of Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Dr Tom Kennedy.

The speakers gave their perspective of the reasons for the amalgamation and future directions in terms of course developments and integration of activities between campuses.

A paper was also presented by Professor Warren Ewens, chairman of the Mathematics Department, on mathematics prerequisites and the new VCE. The paper was an official document, designed to promote discussion concerning proposed mathematics prerequisites under the VCE.

In the second session, the Deans of the 10 faculties that will comprise the enlarged university provided information on new courses and changes in selection procedures currently under consideration in some areas. Teachers were also given the opportunity to discuss any problems or concerns with the academic heads and other staff.
A MEMORANDUM of Understanding between Monash University and the University of Phnom Penh (UPP) in Cambodia was signed at an historic meeting late last month. The agreement was jointly signed on May 25 at the Monash city offices by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan and Mr Ek Sam Ol, the Vice-Minister of Education and Rector of Phnom Penh University (UPP). Under the agreement, both universities will participate in a range of collaborative activities including training programs, research and the exchange of teachers and scientific materials.

Monash is one of several universities, including Monash, that have had negotiations with the Cambodian delegation during its departure to Australia. The delegation is being sponsored by Quaker Service Australia, which has been assuring with English language teaching in Cambodia and is currently running courses at the UPP for teacher trainers and interpreters.

The delegation consisted of Mr Ek Sam Ol, the Vice-Minister of Education. Mr. Pham Channan, vice-director of the UPP and Mr RousSeen, director of the Department of Rehabilitation in the Ministry of Social Action. The delegation has travelled to Cambodia and is currently running courses at the UPP for teacher trainers and interpreters.

The agreement comes at a time when the Vietnamese-backed Hun Sen government is still involved in negotiations which will decide Cambodia's future. Many Western countries, including Australia, have not afforded diplomatic recognition to the Hun Sen Government. However, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, has been at the forefront of attempts to devise a peace plan for the country.

At the meeting in Melbourne, Mr Ek Sam Ol, speaking through an interpreter, outlined the enormous challenges facing Cambodia in terms of re-building the country and its educational institutions.

He said the UPP, once a flourishing university, was virtually destroyed during the four-year rule of the Khmer Rouge. The university was closed in 1975 and most of its professors were killed or forced into the countryside to work as peasants in Pol Pot's revolutionary agricultural scheme.

The UPP, now the only university in Cambodia, has 2,000 students and 12 faculties but the lack of qualified staff is still a major problem. Only three academics at the university hold a PhD.

"We hope Monash will be able to co-operate with us in re-building our university little by little as time goes on," Mr Ek Sam Ol said. "It will take five or six years to get the buildings back into shape but what we really lack is teaching equipment, books, documents and people to train us to teach." Professor Logan said: "Monash has a strong interest in Southeast Asia and we would be very pleased to collaborate with the UPP in research, training and teaching. There is a willingness to help but we have to do it in a constructive and positive way." Dr. Chandler, a Cambodian specialist, will visit the UPP in September where he will consult with the delegation further about their meeting.

"Eventually we may be able to send graduates and staff on short secondments to help with teaching and curriculum development," he said. "They could then bring their people here on short training courses for teaching methods particularly in the humanities and social sciences area." Monash University has placed strong emphasis on the development of Asian studies and the agreement further enhances its position as one of Australia's leading teaching institutions in this area.

There will be no campus-wide Open Days or Careers Days at Monash University, Clayton or the Chisholm Institute of Technology (Monash University, Caulfield and Monash University, Frankston) in 1990. We will be busy joining together with the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education (Monash University Gippsland) to provide information to schools.

STUDENTS starting university younger than 17 years old do not appear to suffer any adverse academic or social difficulties, according to a Monash survey. Ms Lesley Greagg, a research assistant with the Higher Education Advisory Research Unit (HEARU), recently completed a study on the costs and benefits of early entrance to tertiary study.

Although there have been studies on the effects of school entrance age for primary and secondary students, this is the first study of its kind conducted in Australia on tertiary students.

Ms Greagg interviewed 56 of the 65 students who were under 17 years old when they entered Monash between 1986 and 1989. The average age for a first-year student in Victoria is 18.5 and 19.5 for males and females respectively.

A proportion of young starters have fathers in "upper professional" positions (52 per cent to 31.5 per cent). The number of students with mothers in "upper professional" positions was about the same for both groups.

The young starters group had fewer Australian-born students and were less likely to have English as a first language. There tended to be slightly more females among the early entrants and more students in this group had inter-state school experience.

Ms Greagg said the results of the study were extremely pleasing and showed students entering university early did so without suffering any psychological or social problems.

"In fact they tend to be no different from other students," she said.
Isaac Brown travels north to head new Koorie centre

THE next time Isaac Brown goes fishing it will be to the warm estuaries of Darwin rather than the muddy waters of the Yarra, where usually all that bites is the hook.

The founding director of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA) packed all his belongings (and a fishing rod presented to him by MOSA staff and students) into his car recently and drove off to Darwin.

Isaac left Monash earlier this month to head north and deal with Koorie affairs and issues. He will be director of the Centre for Aboriginal and Islander Studies at the University of the Northern Territory in Darwin.

He will head a large centre which includes about 90 staff and 300 Koorie students. The centre has an orientation scheme similar to MOSA, and a large undergraduate Koorie program which has several association discipline courses which are service learning oriented.

For Isaac, it is not a case of wanting to leave MOSA, which he has developed from the ground up in 1984, but that his talents are needed at MOSA, because he is the centre in his own country.

"I feel that MOSA has reached a very effective stage. We have demonstrated the real possibility of the program and have had tremendous support from the university, the community and the government," he said.

"I really felt that the centre in my own country needed support. The centre is of some national and international importance, but I also believe programs like MOSA should ensure its viability.

Born of Aboriginal parentage, Isaac's real name is Iruluw Gugu, but he changed it to Irruluma Guru when he came to Monash. From his desk, a large superannuated carpenter's overcoat is draped over the chair. Isaac's desk remained the same for the past 18 years. It is a living reminder of all the people who have helped him. From time to time, he will pick up something from the desk and remember the people who gave him the item. It could be a book, a pencil or a piece of paper. It is a way of communicating with the past.

Isaac is a true believer in the saying 'if you read something, you will remember it.' He has read many books, and he has kept them all. He has read about everything from Aboriginal history to the latest developments in technology. He believes that knowledge is power, and he is determined to share it with others.

"I have always loved Thomson (Gennan) and Mrs Sue Eira Road in Glen Eira East. Academics go back to school

SENIOR students from Caulfield Grammar last month were able to hear Monash academics speak on a wide range of expertise without leaving their own school grounds.

The Careers and Appointments Service organised the second Monash Day for 1990 at the school's Caulfield campus in Glen Eira Road, St Kilda East.

Academics from the faculties of Arts, Science, Law and Medicine took VCE classes relating to their particular field of study. They included Associate Professor Grahame Taylor (Physiology), Dr Ernie Niemann (Chemistry), Dr Shirley Trebush (Maths), Professor Fred Smith (Physics), Professor Philip Thomas (Gastroenterology) and Ms Sue Campbell (Law).

"The students experience a university lecture and then we follow that up with an information session on course pre-requisites and how to get into Monash," she said.

"The students have a chance to talk to professors about their area of interest and what is available for them in that particular field."
Engineering attracts more women

A MONASH University program to make its engineering course more attractive and accessible has been matched by a significant rise in female students.

Since the beginning of 1988, the Faculty of Engineering has been making its entry requirements more flexible, i.e., reducing its emphasis on high school achievements, in order to reduce class size and make a conscious effort to involve industry in its programs.

And the proportion of female engineering students has risen from 11 per cent in 1988, to 14 per cent in 1989, and to 17.6 per cent in 1990. There are now nearly 90 women in first-year engineering and close to 200 overall.

The Dean of Engineering, Professor Peter Darvall, said: "I think the single most effective way of increasing the accessibility of engineering has been the relaxing the prerequisites to widen the pool of eligible students."

In fact, the faculty has dropped the requirement that applicants must have completed successfully English, Mathematics B, Physics and Chemistry. It will now take students with English and Mathematics A and any two of the others.

The lack of Physics, Chemistry or Mathematics B is made up within the first year by providing a special bridging course.

One change in prerequisites raises the number of students qualified to apply for entry to engineering by an average of 15 per cent, widening the pool of eligible female students by more than four times.

"We are also trying to make the course more satisfying and homogenising not so daunting and disorientating. Departments have set targets to cut down the number of contact hours. We need to get rid of the image that engineering is only suitable for relentless, humourless types and try to inject more glamour and more interest, without lowering standards," Dr McCaughey said.

In addition, the faculty is endeavoring to make the engineering course more relevant to industry. This year, for instance, an industry-sponsored co-operative education scheme was introduced to make the course more satisfying and human, widen the pool of eligible female students and to inject more glamour and more interesting, without lowering standards.

"We were pleased to find that engineering professionals are now actively looking for graduates female engineers. And the co-operative education program actually helps them. The problem of an ethnic community is being tackled in two ways: it is open to both sexes. It just happens that girls are more interested in one maths and biology or a language at Year 12 than boys," Professor Darvall said.

A bridging course in maths has been developed jointly with staff at the Chisholm Institute of Technology (to be part of Monash University from 1 July). The pilot program was financed by the Victorian Education Foundation.

And the Monash Faculty of Education has provided tailor-made bridging courses in chemistry and physics employing teaching strategies developed from its own research into science education. Extensive use is made of computer-aided instruction.

Professor Darvall said: "The success rate of those doing bridging courses in first year has been the same as for the class as a whole. In my opinion it is better to take in highly talented, highly motivated students without full traditional qualifications, than bored students with all the prerequisites.

"We are also trying to make the course more satisfying and homogenising not so daunting and disorientating. Departments have set targets to cut down the number of contact hours. We need to get rid of the image that engineering is only suitable for relentless, humourless types and try to inject more glamour and more interest, without lowering standards."}

(On 4 August, the centre will hold a workshop for parents and children on raising children bilingually.)

There are some particularly crucial issues affecting languages in Australia at the moment, Professor Clyne said:

"In all, 17 languages are taught in Victorian primary schools, with a large variation in methodology, number of contact hours, entry and so on.

"As a result, the state has become a wonderful laboratory, even on an international scale, for the study of sociolinguistic issues in secondary language acquisition." Each year, the centre will concentrate on a different aspect of language policy - this year it's interpreting and translating. In 1991, it will be the media's turn, and in 1992 the subject will be libraries.

The centre is one of five foundation research centres which make up the new National Languages Institute of Australia.

The centre’s director is Professor Michael Clyne, and Dr Anke Pauwels is associate director.

Professor Clyne said: "As its name suggests, the centre is concerned with disseminating the results of research into language policy in Australia, particularly in the areas of bilingualism, language maintenance and shift, and intercultural communication.

The centre’s director is Professor Michael Clyne, and Dr Anke Pauwels is associate director.

Professor Clyne said: "As its name suggests, the centre is concerned with disseminating the results of research into language policy in Australia, particularly in the areas of bilingualism, language maintenance and shift, and intercultural communication."

He said that there was an increasing need for all members of the Australian community to understand how people of different cultural backgrounds communicate.

Professor Clyne said the centre hopes eventually to help members of different ethnic communities deal with their own language issues and problems.

For example, of great concern is the problem of an ethnic community being able to determine how well it is handling the preservation of its language. "We can help them collect data in order that they can monitor the situation themselves," he said.

Dr Pauwels said: "The centre also will identify the optimum methods for bringing up children bilingually and maintaining both languages beyond the second generation."

Back to the 18th century

THE Eighth David Nichol Smith Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies will be held for the first time at Monash University from 25 to 29 June.

The seminar is held each three to four years and is the premier conference in eighteenth-century studies. It is being organised by the Australian and Pacific Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

President of the society, Professor Clive Probyn, who is also chairman of the English Department, said the seminar would include 27 speakers from the United States, England, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia. The speakers will address topics such as law, painting, literary theory, women's studies, music and politics.

The seminar is not open to the public but are invited to attend the keynote lecture by Professor Louis Callen from Trinity College in Dublin. His lecture, titled "Burke, Ireland and Revolutions", will be held on 27 June at 7.30pm.

A special exhibition of Australian portraiture has been organised for the conference in the Monash University Gallery as well as conducted tours of the eighteenth-century buildings in the National Gallery of Victoria. There will also be an exhibition of material on Jonathan Swift in the Main Library.

For further information about the seminar contact Professor Clive Probyn, Department of English, on ext 2130.
Learning about communications

By TONY NEWSTEAD

LAST year saw the important first steps in restructuring Australia’s telecommunications, with liberalisation in the supply and maintenance of customer premises, equipment and wiring.

The results of Austin’s review of telecommunications policy frameworks were completed and the new frameworks will soon be announced and are expected to validate further moves in the direction of deregulation. The DOTAC policy review, announced by the Minister in January, will explore the case for structural changes in the ownership arrangements and relationships of the existing reserved services, carriers, Telecom, Austel and GPT.

These moves bring no surprises and represent a predictable course along a pathway now well-beaten by most of the advanced telecommunications countries. They are designed to encourage greater efficiency, innovation, diversity, and customer responsiveness while providing service providers in bringing the fruits of technology to the marketplace.

The motivation goes far beyond promotion of the telecommunications industry, although it is itself a large and high-growth sector. More critically, it stems from the realisation that telecommunications, along with computing, lies at the core of an information structure that today supports all sectors of our economy.

More than 40 per cent of Australia’s workforce is in the ‘information sector’ and between them they account for some 56 per cent of the nation’s GDP. It is the fastest growing sector of the economy and one whose increased efficiency is critical to Australia’s economic future. The restructuring of telecommunications takes on a very different significance from that one perceptive.

What does the average manager know about the underlying information and communications technology (ICT) skills? Probably a passing knowledge of computers and the level of word processing or spreadsheet analysis. Specialists still have to design and modify the systems to meet changing needs.

In telecommunications the level of understanding is at least an order of magnitude worse.

The relatively few organisations that have realised the efficiencies telecommunications can bring have variably progressed through three stages of development.

The first stage is the realisation that the company’s communications bill is amazing proportion. Here the emphasis centres on cost reduction, through resource sharing with any rationalisation of plant and facilities. Typically it involves the development of some type of private network to handle voice and data traffic more efficiently.

The second stage is motivated by the fact that there are ‘over the top’ switches that can provide more efficient service. And the third stage is to move into telecommunications to create new business opportunities.

A knowledge of telecommunications should, like knowing computer bases – a how to read financial accounts – be an essential part of every manager’s knowledge kit. He doesn’t have to be an expert, any more than every manager has to be an accountant, but he must comprehend the role of telecommunications as a corporate resource in modern business planning and management.

The need for the new requirement of telecommunications training for managers has already percolated through the high level academic institutions around the world. France Telecom runs no less than three telecommunications training and researching the technology and management of telecommunications. In the UK, the University of Sussex was an early leader, as was UCLA, the University of California.

Australia too is starting to take a more active role in ICT management to support the industry restructuring initiatives at both the Federal and State Government level, which give high priority to the information industry sector. For example, the University of NSW runs several ICT courses, while the University of Wollongong now has a Centre for Information Technology Research (CITR).

During the past year several initiatives have been taken in Melbourne which could establish that city as a future world leader in ICT research.

The Victorian Government has established CIRCIT (the Centre for Information Research in Communications and Information Technology) with Melbourne and Monash Universities as co-founders.

Telstra has endowed the first Chair of Communications Engineering at Monash University, and Monash, RMIT and Monash Universities have established MONIC, its centre for ICT Management within its Graduate School of Management.

Of these, Monash is the only institution committed to the teaching of telecommunications management. It now offers a number of ICT-related subjects in its MBA degree.

In addition, Monash has an annual program of short courses designed to meet the needs of general managers in all industries, with others catering for the more specialisation management needs of those industries.

The short courses being held in July include: “Meeting the Telecommunications Challenge”, “Need of Australia’s Remote Areas”, “8 to 10 July: R: Ergs and O: Hughes”; and “Telecommunications Law, Economics & Public Policy”, “29 to 31 July: Jim Holmes”.

For further information about the short course program on the MBA course, contact the Monash Information & Communication Technology Centre on 565 5412.

This is an edited version of an article written by Tony Newstead, Senior Research Fellow at the MONIC Centre for Australian Communications magazine.

Researchers survey the market

THE Occasional Address at the Arts Graduation Ceremony held on 30 May was given by noted playwright, David Williamson. The following is an edited version of his speech.

I was a child of the sixties and actually graduated from this University in 1964 when it was still known as ‘The Farm’. The year 1964 saw the end of a belief that there was a sort of utopian idyll that would be salvaged if only there was a bit of common sense and things were done simply and honestly, and that somehow the people of a country should relate to each other with warmth and gentleness, militari­ism was abolished, the Vietnam War was opposed and the inequalities of wealth between the Third World and the industrial nations strongly criti­cised.

There was a feeling in the air that human enlightenment spearheaded by expanding liberal human­ism would triumph over the inequalities and injustices of the world. The 1960s was an exciting time to graduate. Young students were mounting challenges to authority all over the place and particularly on this campus. They were challenging the traditional thinking of the time, they were challenging the pursuit of material wealth as the ultimate aim of life, and they were questioning and challenging authority to the point where sometimes the admin­istration block was continually occupied by protesting students.

It was thought in the 1960s that which the department hopes to use in a study on the levels of asthma in the community.

Later this year a research group led by Dr Abramson plans to send the questionnaire to 3000 adults. The results will be used to check whether the occurrence of asthma is increasing in Victoria.

But first a draft of the question­naire had to be tested to see whether people could understand it and fill it out without aid.

Research assistant, Ms Justina Kunze, said determining for the purposes of the questionnaire what defined clinically significant asthma was not a simple problem.

Campus reflects changing scene

Campus reflects changing scene

DR Michael Abramson of Social and Preventive Medi­cine (left) completes a free lung function assessment for a visitor to the Prahran market.

The lung function tests were used to induce market customers to fill in a questionnaire on asthma without an ethic of fierce competi­tiveness with people of their own country. Education was seen less and less as an end in itself and more as a means to an end.

The tone of the 1970s and 80s became grimmer as a reaction against the welfare state and the policies of compassion began to set in. Political leaders in the developed countries became increasingly concerned with the gross national product, with rates of economic growth, market forces and competi­tive edges.

Education was seen less and less as an end in itself and more as a means of ending a nation’s growth rate up a couple of points. Education was required increasingly to be har­nessed to the needs of the economy.

To a prejudiced graduate of the 60s, these did not seem to be interest­ing times for graduates to be growing up and learning in. We were all very morally superior, we were all heroes of the 60s, because we felt we had a vision, a better vision of a better world that somehow hadn’t happened.

The 80s, however, look different to me. I think it is going to be a very interesting decade, to say the least.

On the other hand, it is shaping up as a decade of great hope. Totali­tarism regimes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere in the world are crumbling and more and more countries seem to be embracing the central tenet of democracy, which is that the people of a country should be able to change their government by free and fair elections.

On the other hand, they will be times of great danger I think. The findings of the most exhaustive and accurate scientific study yet done on the greenhouse effect were handed down last week and their conclusion was that the greenhouse heating effect was not a hypothetical speculation anymore. It was real and it is happening.

So they are dangerous times, but possibly exciting times, as the dis­parate nations of the world finally realise, or have to realise, that we do have a common purpose, and that common purpose is to save this planet.
AN export-action learning program at Monash University has helped more than 80 Australian companies target markets and launch products successfully overseas.

The Export Development Program (EDP) was established four years ago to enable potential exporters to approach offshore markets with more confidence.

Mr Nigel Hamley said: "The course is designed for first-time exporters as well as those with more experience.

The program is run by the Monash Centre for International Business whose prime objective is to change the attitudes and skills of Australian organisations to enable them to compete internationally. The course is part of the Graduate School of Management. The EDP concentrates on the Asian-Pacific region and in particular Japan and the United States. Some courses, however, have resulted in people exporting products to the Soviet Union, Germany, Korea, China, Italy and many other parts of the world.

The three-phase program includes training and preparation in Melbourne, overseas research, and business planning. Uncertainty over recurrent funding means the programs vary from year to year but this year Mr Hamley has been running 15 courses.

The Department of Primary Industries and Energy sponsors an export-development program designed for food processors, timber producers, who work overseas, horticulturalists and allied industries.

The other program, tailored for companies to develop international agricultural products to Japan and Asia, is through the parallel Special Rural Research Council and is held every two years. A heavily subsidised fee of $350 for exporters of agricultural products and $550 for food processors and manufacturers is offered both involving market research in the US or Japan - estimated to be 30 per cent of real value.

Mr Hamley said that around $100 million in new exports has been generated by EDP's four-year history, and more than 90 per cent of those completing the course have developed export markets or improved established markets as a result of the directional guidance participating companies have received.

The success stories are many and varied. In 1989, a course member secured a $9 million contract for the supply of dried wild flowers to Japan. Similarly, Claudia Chan Shin of Vivian Chan Shanghai fashion house, has been successful in winning export markets in the US for her mother's elegant and high-fashioned knitterwear.

Among other reported cases of export success are $1 million worth of Ugg Boots to California, $300,000 worth by the company and ware to the UK, the sale of eight workshops for waiters and chefs with $15,000 a month to New Zealand and small sales of $2000 a month to London and Europe, and the successful launch of muesli bars into the west coast of Canada.

Other products exported as a result of the course include truck toolboxes, CAD photo plotters, office partitions, high quality furniture, tallow, car seat belts, robotic equipment, veterinary products, crushed garlic, picture frames, opals, pot food, venison and goat meat and mahogany knitwear.

Mr Hamley said the key to export success was preparation and thorough research of the market, something Australian companies are only now starting to realise.

"There is a tremendous need for Australia to export more value-added products that it does and a great need for training and education in international business," he said.

"All the evidence suggests that Australia has a low knowledge and ability in marketing particularly overseas which is affecting its chances of export success. People see export as too hard, unknown. What this course does is take the mystery out of the whole overseas business. While overseas the course participants talk to a whole range of participants talk to a whole range of overseas market researchers, Australian government officials and banks, to get the information they need. They may also have potential distributors they can liaise with when they are prepared to export.

"Once back to Australia, companies may modify their product in some way, for example food products may be modified to suit the Japanese taste. Then they can go back to the market overseas really prepared and with the right product to sell, in the correct packaging, at the right price and with the right level of promotional support."

While the course has generated substantial export business for Australia, Mr Hamley believes we are still too long a way to go before there is an export culture emerging from this part of the world.

"We are only skimming the surface with this program, the Japanese spend much more time training their exporters and international businesses than we do," he said.

"The MBA in international business, which has just been started in the Graduate School of Management, will go on a long way to training and educating our business executives of the future in international marketing and business requirements. Meanwhile, the Export Development Program also used to provide a fast track to exporting and international business which the country badly needs at this time of economic hardship."

For more information about future courses, contact the Centre for International Business at Monash University on 365 5400.

Research pays off for exporters

McNeil Scholarship funds MS research

A postgraduate student in Biochemistry beginning a study which could lead to better treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS) has been awarded the first Sir James McNeill Scholarship. Ms Evelyn Brandt, who is looking at the relationship between multiple sclerosis and the natural anti-viral agents called interferons, will receive a salary of $18,500 a year and up to $3250 a year in expenses for the next four years. The scholarship was established in memory of Sir James McNeill, a former chairman of BHP and long-time member of the Monash University Council and chairman of its Finance Committee. It is managed by trustees of the Sir James McNeill Foundation in association with Perpetual Trustees Australia Limited.

The deed states that the money can be used to support postgraduate scholars in the fields of medicine, science, engineering and music. Another of the scholarships will be awarded this year to begin in 1991, and thereafter scholarships will be offered when sufficient funds become available.

The awarding of the first of the scholarships recently was marked by a function attended by Sir James' widow and son, Lady Audrey McNeill and Dr David McNeill. Appropriately it was held in the Sir James McNeill Room in the University Offices.

Ms Brandt is in the first year of her PhD after completing a BSc(Hons) degree with first class honors last year. At the beginning of the course she was sponsored by the Japanese government as one of 45 students to study in Australia on a scholarship.

Multiple sclerosis is a degenerative condition induced by a virus which causes the breakdown of the fatty sheath surrounding nerves, leading to loss of nervous control. Ms Brandt's research will attempt to uncover which of the interferons the body produces in the presence of multiple sclerosis.

Ms Brandt will use genetic engineering techniques to fashion probes capable of detecting and discriminating particular interferons. These will then be used to determine the levels and types of interferons in multiple sclerosis sufferers and people who do not have the disease.

If time permits, Ms Brandt will also look at interferon levels in those with Hepatitis B.

Evelyn Brandt works in the interferon laboratory of the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine. Her supervisors are Dr Brian Chesterh and the director of the centre, Professor Anthony Linnane.
Danger of old tongue becoming old hat

ALTHOUGH the most widely taught language in the country, French is in danger of becoming drowned out by "more relevant" languages, according to the authors of a new study into the state of French in Australia.

Some people have even suggested that the language is "old hat" and should no longer be taught in our schools and universities. While it may appear that on the surface all is well (with 200,000 students and 7000 teachers, French represents almost a third of all languages taught here), the authors believe the language needs more funding and its image updating.

"There is a strong emphasis on economic languages without realising that French too is a language with strong economic dimensions," says Dr Hall. "In my opinion, it is the official language of the European Union and is the language of the world's largest market after the US and Japan." The authors write: "Since French has been the language most commonly associated with high foreign language teaching, it has a large legacy in Australia. "Much of this is positive; some is not. Dim but powerful memories cloud the judgement of many policymakers and commentators about French. It is not unusual to hear and read commentaries like the following (even, as in this case, in arguments strongly supporting French): "Like too many Australians of my vintage, I learnt French at high school, five tormented years. Like many others I thought that, so long as I am prepared to travel to France, I could neither understand nor be understood. As a consequence, I have eaten grilled pithu gilds when I thought I had ordered steak." (A. Horin, Sydney Morning Herald)

A free copy of French in Australia can be obtained by sending an A4 size stamped ($1.30), self-addressed envelope to the French Studies Section, French Embassy, 6 Perth Avenue, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600.

IF a native of Scotland were to describe a new publication by Monash graduate Dr Janet Hall as 'a wee book', they would be right on two counts.

First, How You Can Be Boss of the Bladder is a diminutive volume, and second, it is devoted entirely to toilet training in children. Subtitled 'Bedwetting Breakthrough' and successful management of wetting, the book debunks many myths, such as the popular 'liquids before bedtime for a bed-wetting child should be reduced'. In fact, says Dr Hall, increased fluid intake is to be encouraged. At first, wetting may be more likely but less frequent wetting. Dr Hall said: "Children need to understand the way the book debunks the way the book debunks the mistaken assumption that it has no role in Australian education, it will result in all language teaching becoming that much more fragile.

But rather than plead a special case, the authors describe the new and continuing roles of French in Australian education by referring to its relevance in public and intellectual, cultural and commercial endeavors.

They suggest many reasons why French should continue to be important in the Australian education system: it is often used in science, literature, treaties and agreements; is linguistically diverse and therefore easy to learn; can give Australians a better understanding of English; is the official language of most international organisations, and will be the institutional language of the world's largest market after 1992, Europe; and that its cultural prestige motivates students.

The authors write: "Since French has been the language most commonly associated with high foreign language teaching, it has a large legacy in Australia. "Much of this is positive; some is not. Dim but powerful memories cloud the judgement of many policy-makers and commentators about French. It is not unusual to hear and read commentaries like the following (even, as in this case, in arguments strongly supporting French): "Like too many Australians of my vintage, I learnt French at high school, five tormented years. Like many others I thought that, so long as I am prepared to travel to France, I could neither understand nor be understood. As a consequence, I have eaten grilled pithu gilds when I thought I had ordered steak." (A. Horin, Sydney Morn­ning Herald)

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How you can be boss of the bladder

By Dr. Janet Hall

The book was launched last week by the French Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy in Australia, Mr. George Zuelin (left) and the Chief Executive of the Victorian Education Ministry, Mr. Ann Morrow.

Library markets information

MONASH University is opening up its library resources and making available the expertise of its library staff to outside organisations on a fully commercial basis.

Through the Monash Information Service, to be launched on 3 July, companies and individuals will be able to tap into one of Victoria's largest stores of information on a fee-for-service basis.

The information service employs full-time staff involved in information broking — responding to requests for information on demand. It is backed by the Monash University, Clayton campus library, which holds in excess of one million volumes and is especially strong in the areas of science, technology, management and statistics.

The library has on-line access to a comprehensive array of publicly available databases both in Australia and overseas. Information service staffs use these facilities to research any area of business and technology.

Monash University now also includes libraries, databases and trained staff at its Caulfield, Frankston and Gippsland campuses. It has strong links with other libraries, not only in Australia, but also overseas, particularly in South­east Asia.

The information service can provide market research, information on products, industries and companies; publicly available documents; an alerting service for new developments in products, industries and technology; technical and patent information; and even translation of documents not written in English.

The information service manager, Mr. Leigh Oldmeadow, emphasises the professional nature of the service: "I come from a background of working in private enterprise, so I understand the needs of companies. And my experience in business included training library staff in the use of computers. For $400 a year, corporate members can use Monash as an extension or instead of their own library. They can dial directly into the computerised catalogue, use all databases on CD-ROM, and have staff search out information for them at the special consultancy rate of $40 an hour. In addition, corporate members get external borrowing rights to the library, and a 10 per cent discount on all document delivery.

Individuals can borrow books and use the CD-ROM databases for $120 a year. Casual users have access to the CD-ROM databases only via the library staff charging the full consultancy rate of $90 an hour.

Individuals and organisations who use the service regularly can pay for bulk consultancy time in advance at a discounted rate: $450 for six hours and $700 for 10 hours. They also get 10 per cent off document delivery.

For further information on the Monash Information Service, contact the manager, Mr. Leigh Oldmeadow, on 565 2690.

One of the many humorous illustrations from Dr Hall's new book.
Monash arts presents

a united front: Dean

AN academic degree should be seen as a step in a person's education rather than an end in itself, according to the new Dean of Arts at Monash University, Professor Robert Pargetter.

Professor Pargetter said he would prefer to see a more balanced undergraduate curriculum in the first three years of university obtaining a broad education in the arts or science rather than going into highly specialised areas. "I would like us to move toward a university where students come out of school with diverse skills and the first three years of university are spent getting a broad education," he said.

"Students would then have the option of moving two ways. They are very suited to enter the workforce because they have been trained to become thinking, flexible people who can respond to material put in front of them."

"An arts or science degree would also provide a strong background for a student wanting to move into more specialised courses such as medicine, law, or engineering professional courses."

Professor Pargetter is quick to add that the new arts degree is not new to any Australian university. "It is a matter of the caretaker Dean of Arts last August following the sudden resignation of Acting Dean Martin said. "We continued our university to run its existing programs for a number of years on in Jakana on vitamins and at Melbourne University. The lecture series will be held at Mannix Hall, Deakin University. She will speak on 'Philosophical Travelers at the ends of the Earth: Baudin Peron and the Tasmanians, 1802', on 28 August. Dr Arthur Pryor, Associate Fellow at Macquarie University, will give a lecture on 'Science and Christian Belief' on 4 September.

The highlight of the series is a lecture given by Emeritus Professor John Harley from the Department of Pathology at Melbourne University. The lecture will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of penicillin. All the lectures will be held in the Senior Common Room of Mannix College at 8.15pm. For further information about the lecture series phone the college on 544 8894 or 544 8896.

Gary Martin (right) is congratulated by his daughter and the former director of MOSA, Ian Brown after the Arts graduation ceremony.

The new Dean of Arts, Professor Robert Pargetter.

Professor Pargetter said the Arts Faculty at Monash was clearly the best in Victoria, if not Australia, and if anything should receive more support from the university and other bodies.

"There are economic battles to be won but I believe we offer a lot to the university and the community. The Arts Faculty here is particularly good and is probably one of the best assets of the university. It is inconceivable to me that the university would do anything to harm it," he said.

MOSA students graduate

THE success of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines (MOSA) was highlighted with the graduation of two Aboriginal students last month. Gary Martin, who was in the scheme's first intake of students in 1984, received his Arts degree while Richard Jameson, who joined the scheme a year later, graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work. After completing the orientation year, Martin went straight on to do a Bachelor of Social Work. "We have no such equivalent here, in fact we have very little recognition of Aborigines' rights whereas in other countries it is entrenched into their constitutions," Martin said.

"There are economic battles to be won but I believe we offer a lot to the university and the community. The Arts Faculty here is particularly good and is probably one of the best assets of the university. It is inconceivable to me that the university would do anything to harm it," he said.

The 1990 History and Philoso­phy of Science Lecture Series will be held at Mannix College on 28 August.

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The Very Fast Train has the potential to be the most telling piece of public transport infrastructure in Australia this century. In a country where railways have the potential to be the quickest and most efficient way of taking people from place to place, the Very Fast Train combines the rationality of economic benefits with an understanding of environmental concerns. It is a fitting concept for a country that has managed to balance growth with sustainability.

However, the reality of the VFT project is far from straightforward. The consortium proposing the VFT route through Gippsland have been met with resistance from various quarters. Some critics are concerned that the proposal will divert attention from the existing rail network, while others are worried about the environmental impact of constructing such a large and complicated structure.

One of the main arguments against the VFT is the potential for widespread road closures along the proposed route. This has led to concerns about the economic impact on local communities. Other critics argue that the VFT project is not economically viable and that there are better alternatives available.

Another concern is the potential for increased road accidents. While the VFT project may reduce traffic on some routes, it is likely to increase traffic on others, leading to a net increase in the number of road accidents.

Despite these concerns, the VFT project has received significant support from the Victorian government. The project is expected to create thousands of jobs and has the potential to boost the state's economy.

In conclusion, the VFT project is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires careful consideration. While there are valid concerns about the project, it is also important to recognize the potential benefits that it could bring to Australia. It is up to the government and stakeholders to ensure that the project is implemented in a responsible and sustainable way.
IT'S amazing what a Monash BEc can do for you, writes Neil Gilchrist. He went on to discuss the major developments in the Monash Faculty of Education and the classroom teacher. Gerry described the teacher's work in the classroom as analogous with that of the creative artist of dance, sculpture or language. "Without professional development and educational support, there will be little improvement in outcomes," he said.

Mr Neil Gilchrist has a degree which has combined well with his varied life experience, enabling him to achieve a reasonably high level of satisfaction in his life and work. "A Monash BEc certainly gives you versatility," he writes.

He also remembers his University activities outside the degree course: bushwalking, the Activities Committee, Let's Go, the Labour Club, the establishment of the Monash Fine Arts Group, and a two-month stint as a volunteer in Papua New Guinea. "No doubt all this added to the versatility too!"

"In retrospect, I wish I had been a little more adventurous in my undergraduate studies, taking perhaps a language, European or Asian history or literature, instead of playing it safe and doing British History for about the fifth time in my scholastic career," he said.

"Especially as Monash was the first determinedly Australian university — from Snake Gully and the clay will, Coffs Harbour's mugs of Bridgets in Flight to the bush-coloured buildings, Monash, simply, as perhaps no other Australian university did at the time, reflected and acted upon the spirit of the times, and I was glad to have been around then."

Friends donate clock

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Child Care at Monash

New co-ordinator aims to boost child care services

THE University and the Union have provided an additional $56,000 in funding to help improve child care services at Monash. Part of this funding was for the upgrading of the Child Care Co-ordinator position from part-time to full-time.

Ms Bernadette Brown (formerly Muir) became Monash's first full-time Child Care Co-ordinator at the beginning of this year. Ms Brown, a Monash graduate (English and Sociology) recently completed the Post-Graduate Diploma in Community Education at Chisholm Institute. She previously held the part-time position of Child Care Co-ordinator while also working as a half-time Assistant in the Student Welfare Office. Her position now forms part of the Equal Opportunity Unit at Monash.

The upgrading of the co-ordinator's position is one of several recommendations made in the Monash University Child Care Strategy 1989-91.

The strategy was devised by Ms Brown and the members of the Child Care Sub-Committee of the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee. The committee includes representatives from the Staff Association of Monash University (SAMU), the Victorian Colleges and Universities Staff Association (VCUSA), the Monash Post-graduates Association (MPA), the Mature and Part-time Students Association (MAPS), Monash Association of Students (MAS) and a representative from the Contractors Office.

It presents a series of short and long term solutions to the problems faced by Monash parents when attempting to access affordable and high quality child care.

The strategy recommended six proposals for the improvement of child care facilities - so far four have received funding.

The University has picked up the cost of upgrading the co-ordinator's position, but the other proposals, including increased subsidies to low-income earners using the Monash Student Creche Co-operative, improving the School Holiday Programs, and the development of the SWiCh flat, have been funded by the Monash University Union.

Although Ms Brown believes the university has a greater role to play in providing adequate and quality child care facilities, she is pleased with the progress being made in this area.

"Child care is in a much stronger position than it was two years ago. It is now on the university agenda and we have a child care sub-committee that can present their members' needs and concerns to the administration," she said.

As Child Care Co-ordinator, Ms Brown has been responsible for the design and implementation of an information service on child care facilities. This service is continually monitored and updated. Ms Brown also provides a counselling and referral service for parents wishing to discuss any concerns or issues related to child or family welfare. Other responsibilities include managing the university School Holiday Programs and developing proposals and plans for ensuring the child care needs of students and staff are met.

The School Holiday Programs, which are now run four times a year in January, Easter, July and September/October constitute an important part of the co-ordinator's position.

The Programs have been very successful, they are extremely popular, with demand often exceeding the number of places available," she said.

We aim to provide educational and entertaining activities for children aged from four to fourteen years. Daily sessions are structured to include a balanced combination of active and passive, creative and intellectual and individual and group activities.

There are lots of things we can tap into on campus, such as guided tours of the University Gallery, the Music Department with its exhibition of Gamelan instruments, and tours of the Koorie garden and Faulu Park. All these resources combine to offer a very interesting and educational program.

Other child care facilities available to Monash students and staff are the Monash Student Creche Co-operative, the Monash Community Family Co-operative, the Elwyn Morey Centre, Kindergarten, the Kangaroo Grove Child Care Centre (at the rear of the Monash Medical Centre) and the SWiCh Occasional Care Centre.

Unfortunately more than 120 people were put on waiting lists for child care at the Monash creches in 1989. These waiting lists increase almost annually.

Ms Brown said child care facilities need to continue to expand in accordance with the growth experienced throughout the rest of the university.

"Clearly, the child care needs of the university community cannot be met by existing facilities. We would like to see a purpose-buil creche on campus to address the increasing child care needs of staff and students," she said.

For more information about child care services at Monash contact Ms Bernadette Brown on 565 3186/4165.

Family Co-op gets new creche

THE new creche, operated by the Monash Community Family Co-Operative, was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan last month.

The house at 74 Beddoe Avenue has been completely renovated and extended for use as a day care and pre-school centre.

Plans to build a Science and Technology Park near Monash, forced the creche to relocate from its original premises at 1 Duerrin Street, Clayton.

Chairman of the co-op management committee, Mrs Jean Sloan said the new creche was a vast improvement on its former premises.

"For both staff and children, it is lovely to have a place that has been designed as a child care centre," she said.

The new creche features three large playrooms, kitchen facilities, a laundry and office space for the staff. The landscaped grounds include a sandpit and other play equipment for the children.

At the opening ceremony, Professor Logan said Monash placed considerable value on the non-academic parts of the university.

"A university does have a responsibility to provide these sorts of facilities, especially if it is located in a suburban environment," he said.

The Monash Family Co-op also run a creche at 78 Beddoe Avenue and the two properties have been linked together at the rear.

The two creches cater for a maximum of 50 children and provide a kindergarten program on five mornings a week. Children are taken from babies to five years old and care includes daily hot lunches, fruit, milk and nappy wash.

The creches are open Monday to Friday from 8.15 am to 5.30 pm.

For further information or bookings phone 543 1372.
Tree planting to improve creche grounds

AN extensive tree planting project has enhanced the surroundings of three houses belonging to the Monash Student Creche Cooperative.

About 75 native trees were planted in the gardens of the creche houses at 2, 16 and 18 Beddome Avenue during Arbor Week late last month.

The Buildings Branch donated $1200 for the plants, tree guards, hoses and other gardening equipment. The landscaping plans were drawn up by horticulturist, Rob McChure and Janet Lanyon, both of the Department of Botany and Zoology.

Ms Lanyon said care had been taken to select plants which were suitable to the creche environment.

"All the plants are flowering Australian natives and the majority are bird-attracting," she said.

"Large shade trees, including Angophora and Eucalyptus species, have been selected to provide continuity of the campus vegetation through the creche grounds. Other trees and shrubs have been chosen to provide shade, screen fences and create interesting play areas for the children."

Ms Lanyon said she hoped some of the older children would learn to appreciate and recognise the Australian native plants while they attended creche.

"Some plants have been chosen for unique features such as interesting seed pods or cones (Bankia species), unusual flowers and growth form. Others have been chosen simply on aesthetic grounds. Consideration has been given to the needs of the individual houses and the age groups of the children at each," she said.

Creche management committee member, Jennifer Weber, said the lack of shade around the houses prompted the tree planting project.

"By planting a few trees we have already dramatically improved the environment and in five years it will look fantastic," she said.

For further information about the creche phone Dorothy Hill on 544 4959.

Campus flat offers occasional care

STUDENTS With Children (SWiCh) provides an occasional child care service on campus for Monash staff and students. The SWiCh Flat child care centre is located at the west end of the Union Building and is for children aged from babies to school age.

The service is designed to assist parents attending lectures and tutorials, requiring extra study time or when previous arrangements are not available. Parents are also welcome to use the SWiCh flat facilities for feeding and changing.

Director of the SWiCh flat is Alyson Ball, a qualified Pre-school Mothercraft Nurse who completed her training at Frankston Technical & Further Education College.

According to Ms Ball, the flat provides a relaxed and friendly environment which allows for group play and individual activities.

"With space for up to four children, it allows time for that special one-to-one attention that is often needed when children are away from their parents," she said.

The SWiCh flat is open during semester (except from 29 June to 13 July), from Monday to Thursday between 8.45 am and 7.45 pm and on Friday from 8.45 am to 12 noon.

During the semester break the flat will be open Monday to Thursday from 9.30 am to 2 pm.

During exam time the flat is open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm and during re-enrolment from Monday to Thursday between 9 am and 5 pm.

Bookings for the following week can be made through the SWiCh flat each Friday between 8.45 am and 2 pm, or during the week that care is required. Payment should be made to the mothercraft nurse on the day.

For more information contact the SWiCh flat on 565 3125.

Keeping the children amused

FOR many parents the school holidays are spent trying to think up interesting activities to keep the kids amused.

The Monash School Holiday Program, however, takes all the worry out of the holidays.

The School Holiday Programs care for the children of students and staff aged from four to 14 years old. The programs are located at three venues on the Clayton campus with children placed in age groups; four to seven years, eight to 10 years and 11 to 14 years. Family requests for siblings to be placed together will be met if possible.

Programs start at 8.30 am and finish at 5.30 pm daily. Half day, full day and weekly sessions are offered. And as demand often exceeds the number of places available, parents are strongly advised to enrol early to avoid disappointment.

Enrolments for the July programs are currently being taken in the Student Welfare Office, first floor of the Union Building. The programs will run from Monday 9 July to Friday 20 July.

The programs have been operating for two years with the aim of providing educational and entertaining activities for children during school holidays. The programs may be seen as an active expression of the university’s commitment to achieving equal opportunity.

An Art and Craft consultant, Ms Claire Grant, has been employed to assist with the preparation of activities for the coming July program. So far, sessions for cottage crafts include terra-cotta pot-painting, followed by planting bouquet-garni herb gardens, copper sheeting designs, beaded amulet craft, picture marbling, cotton reel people and kite-making.

The programs will also offer a wide range of sporting and drama activities including swimming, aerobics, dance and movement classes, and the opportunity of scripting, performing, and filming video-clips. Multi-cultural cooking will also be featured each day.

For further information about the School Holiday Programs contact the Child Care Co-ordinator Bernadette Brown on 565 3186/3126/4165.
Vienna cabaret imitates reality

TAKE an innovative director, a talented performer, and an idea that’s been fermenting in her brain for the best part of a year, and you have — Cafe Fledermaus!

Robyn Archer has been described as one of Australia’s greatest entertainment assets, and her latest show, Cafe Fledermaus, is playing at the Alexander Theatre until the end of June.

The Australian premiere season of The Phantom of the Opera.

Cafe Fledermaus is set in the world of Viennese cabaret around the turn of the century.

A cabaret singer on her way to work is stopped by a young man who begs her not to go inside to work, but to explore life’s complexities from his point of view.

However, the young man is persuaded to taste the world of the cabaret, and to see how it reflects the reality of the life which surrounds him.

Written by Robyn Archer, the show also features her in the starring role, and is directed by young Melbourne opera identity, Russell Garbutt, along with musicians Teresa Blake and Lynda Patching.

Having spent a lot of time in London in recent years, Ms Archer developed the idea for Cafe Fledermaus during nine months of her time there.

"I think what the show does is give everybody a very good glimpse of the flavour of cabaret at the turn of the century in Vienna, which was markedly different from Weimar cabaret.

"It says many things I want to say, and it has lots of things in it that I like, and I'm enjoying doing it," Ms Archer said.

Ms Archer is particularly enthusiastic about her supporting cast.

"Not only did we get a cellist in Teresa Blake, but a very wonderful performer in other respects, and Lynda Patching who is carving out for herself a wonderful career as a sort of rock and roll violinist.

"Russell Garbutt is a performance artist who has lots of big visual ideas, and also plays accordion, tuba and trombone, while Brendan Higgins is not only a bloody good actor, but has a really lovely singing voice," she said.

Ms Archer describes her working relationship with director Barrie Kosky as "terrific."

"He's young, with lots of energy, and lots of physical, visual ideas, and he's had such surprising results in opera, which traditionally can be a little bit intractable," she said.

Ms Archer describes cabaret as "like a sort of musical, but with a bit more guts."

"She feels that many different kinds of people will appreciate what she has to offer, although she claims that she doesn't ever look for a particular type of audience.

"I assume that there will be people who haven't seen me in a show for a long time, and also the fans of my Brecht music albums will come," she said.

What Ms Archer values about her show is the diversity of opinion about various aspects of them.

"I think we're going to get, as always, fights breaking out in the stalls because people like one bit and hate the other bit!"

"It'll be a very mixed audience, and from my point of view, anyone who comes in the section of people I'm performing to,” she said.

Possum Magic comes to life

THE Alexander Theatre is involved in an exciting project this year, being co-producer with the Victorian Arts Centre and Garry Ginivan Attractions of the World Premiere of Possum Magic — The Musical.

This ambitious production, held from 9 to 21 July, is faithfully based on the popular book of the same name by Mem Fox with illustrations by Julie Vivas. The book of Possum Magic is already accepted as an Australian children’s classic with sales of over 350,000.

In this long-awaited stage production, directed by John Watson, the many Australian native animal characters will be brought to life with, actors, musicians, original songs and magic!

However, the outstanding element will be the beautiful larger-than-life puppets created by Peter Wilson, co-founder of Melbourne’s internationally acclaimed Handspan Puppet Theatre.

The story is imaginative and uniquely Australian. Grandma Puss makes Bush Magic, but she excels herself when she discovers the magic that will make Baby Hush invisible.

The adventure begins when Grandma Puss forgets what it is that will remove the spell. She does not know that it is something to do with food, so together they set off around Australia to find the magic that will make Hush visible once again.

Starring as Grandma Puss is well-known Australian actress Geraldene Morrow, who has also recently been cast as Madame du Barry in the Australian premiere season of The Phantom of the Opera.

The Alexander Theatre has a national reputation as being the finest presenter of children’s theatre in the country with its long-running Saturday Club subscription series and regular school holiday shows.

The Alex previously teamed up with Garry Ginivan Attractions in presenting the sell-out season of Puff The Magic Dragon.

Bookings are already open for the July school holiday season of Possum Magic and shows signs of filling up quickly. Recently a booking was received at the theatre by fax from an Australian family living in Taipei, China. Who said that people won’t travel out to the Alex to see theatre?

Credit card bookings for Possum Magic can be made by phoning 565 3992.

Philosopher opens exhibition

Defective Models: Australian Portraiture 19th and 20th Centuries at the Monash University Gallery was opened recently by Professor Max Charlesworth from Deakin University, pictured above with his wife Stephanie.
Heavenly performance by swinging sisters

DAN Goggan’s ecclesiastical musical ‘Nunsense’ recently played to packed houses at the Alexander Theatre as part of its national tour. Getting the most out of the show is quite the mark.

Indeed, the whole show was a little lacking in pace to begin with, although this soon settled down to the second big musical number. Apart from a couple of slight slips by two characters, it was smooth running from then on.

It’s probably worth pointing out that to really enjoy the show you need a little ‘inside information’. It isn’t necessary to be Catholic, but a basic understanding of ecclesiastical pecking orders and politics is probably an essential requirement for understanding the show.

Although it’s difficult to single out individual parts, Superior June Bronhill’s natural sense of comic timing really lifted the show. And her ‘straight nun’, Sister Huber, played by Patricia Vivien-Lall, provided a nice contrast to a straitlaced character full of charm, but with an occasional comic outburst.

The musical score was not particularly kind to either Bronhill’s or Vivien-Lall’s classically trained voices, but their characterisations more than made up for that.

The stage was essentially bare. Characters who are peopled by characters who are

The Royal Shakespeare Company can’t be the only company to extol the merits of a costume designer. According to Mr Pannell, a successful costume designer has to be an artist rather than a craft person.

“It’s not surprising that Derek Pearse’s religious beliefs form the basis of his work. As an artist who specialises in making stained glass church windows, a religious background is almost a prerequisite.”

Mr Pearse, a member of the Anglican Church, has been designing and making stained glass windows for nearly 40 years. It would seem Monash is to gain from his experience. Mr Pearse will take four art classes at the Arts and Crafts Centre in July and August. The courses are Painting, Imagination (7 and 8 July), Landscapes and Seascapes and Art as Self Expression (5 June–3 July), and Watercolor (24 July–21 August). Mr Pearse studied at the London School of Building and Architecture and worked at Faith House, an organisation connected with the Anglican Church in Westminster. There he became involved with designing all the interior furnishings of a church, a task which included making the stained glass windows.

Although in Australia in 1948, he worked for several firms making stained glass windows before deciding to set up his own business. Since then he has designed and made some of Melbourne’s better known stained glass windows. The most recent is a memorial window dedicated to the pioneering women of Victoria in St James’ Old Cathedral.

In addition to church windows, which Mr Pearse claims can take anything from 12 months to two years to finish, he also makes stained glass windows for homes and coats of arms in stained glass. According to Mr Pearse, a successful stained glass artist has to be an artist rather than a craft person.

“I set out to make a stained glass window. Once I set out to do that,” he said. “I try to get my students to put into reality their personal vision so that the painting becomes an expression of their own experience,” he said.

Mr Pearse derived his own inspiration from creation theology. In the past three hundred years the Western Church has been very anthropocentric and tended to see Christ from the rest of creation, but I believe that creation is wholistic and everything is related,” he said.

For bookings or further information about courses at the Arts and Crafts Centre, phone 565 3180.

The stage was divided into Rome and Alexandria by the use of Roman and Egyptian pillars. But for those in the original dress dress, the stage was essentially bare. Characters used a series of entrances and exits, adding to the sense of space and business. The costumes were effective in marking a difference between the pragmatic Romans and the sensual Egyptians.

The most difficult part in the play, however, is that of Cleopatra, who changes from a coquettish, fickle, vain, sorceress girl in the first half of the play to a talented and faithful woman steadfastly facing death at the end. But for a certain self-consciousness in the intensity of the final scenes, Debra-Ellen Neilson handled what must be one of Shakespeare’s most challenging roles very well.

Antony and Cleopatra has not been staged frequently. Perhaps it is because of the difficulty of casting with the vast scope of a work populated by characters who are larger than life and in whose hands the fate of the known world lies.

Shakespeare’s story is told with great leaps in time and space, and the rapid momentum of short, bony scenes. The production coped with this by good use of what is a deceptively large acting space.

It’s a write production made sense and conveyed the turmoil of Shakespeare’s most challenging roles very well.

Mr Derek Pearse
**Sport and Recreation**

**Test your health and fitness**

DO you want to improve your volley for tennis, your serve for squash, or simply your health and fitness? Then sign up for one or more of our recreational classes.

Monash Sports & Recreation offers a wide range of classes and levels to keep you interested and active. The classes are designed to help improve your skills, knowledge, fitness and health in the sport you choose, and each class is taken by a friendly qualified coach.

All classes cost $10 for six one-hour lessons and are held before, during and after work.

Some of the classes offered are:

- **Tennis** - Beginners classes cover basic hitting skills and techniques for people with minimal tennis experience. The intermediate classes are for those players who have completed the beginners course or who are not quite ready for the advanced level. In the advanced classes players learn strategies, new techniques and advanced match play tactics.

- **Squash** - Beginners learn basic hitting skills, rules of the game and court coverage. There are also intermediate classes for those who want to improve their skills and all round court ability.

- **Self Defence For Women** - A beginners course will explore the options available to women who find themselves in situations of unprovoked aggression. No martial arts experience is needed. For those women who want to learn a higher level of skill options there is also an intermediate class.

- **Body Dynamics - Aerobic Weight Training For Women** - Catering for women only, this fully supervised class offers the best all round fitness improvements. Muscles will be toned and strengthened, but not bulked, in a fun, motivating class.

- **Aerobic Circuit Conditioning & Muscle Toning** - Catering for both men and women, this new class will cover the best of both worlds giving you a 30-minute weights circuit followed by 30 minutes of aerobic exercise. Taken by a qualified instructor this class should not be missed.

Aerobics has all the right moves

AEROBICS has changed dramatically since the late 1970s, when people flocked to health centres to dance, jump, step and bob their way around a large room while listening to the music.

There are now many different types of classes ranging from low-impact (which has little or no running) to super advanced classes (which go for up to one and a half hours). In between these extremes there are many varied and entertaining classes to keep the mind and body occupied.

So if you are tired of missing that first serve, or feeling puffed walking up stairs, or you just want to stay active and healthy, then come along to our recreational classes.

If you are interested in any of these classes come down to the Sports & Recreation general office and book in. Remember, all these classes fill quickly.

Leigh Branagan
Recreational Officer

THE Inaugural Squennis title

THE first Monash University Squennis Championships were held last month, and despite the cold and blustery conditions many people turned out to watch the event.

Sussan Pascoe won the women's final, beating Jacinda Hart in three sets, 15-6, 8-15, 15-9.

For their efforts the winning couple each received a trophy, which was presented by the Director of the Sports and Recreation Association, Mr Doug Ellis.

After the match, Morgan attributed his loss to a lack of fitness. "It's only a small court but you have to move around a lot and I got tired in some of the longer rallies," he said.

Recreational Officer, Leigh Branagan said he was pleased with the number of people who had entered the round robin tournament.

"Squennis is only a new game but already there is a growing interest in the sport. It is easy to play and is a challenging and interesting game for people of all standards," he said.

"Squennis is only a new game but already there is a growing interest in the sport. It is easy to play and is a challenging and interesting game for people of all standards," he said.