

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

Crime risk in freer markets: academic

BY JOSIE GIBSON

The risks posed by white-collar crime and organised crime must be factored into plans to develop Australia as a leading international financial centre, a Monash academic has warned.

Criminologist Dr George Gilligan, a Logan Research Fellow in Monash's

Business Law and Taxation department, said the Federal Government and regulatory authorities must continue to be vigilant about the dangers as well as the benefits associated with greater liberalisation of financial markets.

Overseas experience, in the US in particular, points to increasing organised crime involvement in

financial markets because the risk element is lower and returns are higher than in traditional criminal activities such as extortion and illegal gambling.

A specialist in white-collar crime and financial regulation, Dr Gilligan is heading a major research project comparing the processes and structures of financial regulation in six jurisdictions –

Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia, the US and the UK.

"In particular, I want to gauge different national attitudes toward white-collar crime," he said. "Cultural processes, values and behavioural norms are very important because what might be considered corruption in one society or industry may be acceptable business behaviour in another."

Dr Gilligan said there was a large amount of literature on the formal structures of regulation in most advanced economies. However, there is "little empirical research on the importance of normative factors in the construction of regulatory systems and how they are operationalised".

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London link for Monash

BY DAVID BRUCE

Monash University will open for business in central London following an agreement with King's College London, a founding college of the 170-year-old University of London.

The Monash Centre will ultimately be located in refurbished offices at King's on The Strand, close to Australia House and the Australia Centre.

The new Monash Centre will be the focus of Monash's activities in the United Kingdom and Europe. Like the Monash campus that opened in Malaysia last year, the London centre will be a key component of Monash's strategy of providing teaching, learning and research opportunities for its students and staff around the world.

Monash students will be significant beneficiaries of the arrangement. King's College, London will join the Monash Malaysia campus as a major destination for Australian-based Monash students completing part of their course overseas. Conversely, King's plans to arrange that its students will have ready access to Monash courses in Australia and Malaysia. Monash and King's will plan joint courses and cooperate in the recruitment of students in Australia, Britain and around the world.

Monash and King's will build on current research collaboration and extend their areas of mutual interest.

They will use their combined strengths to attract research funds from British, European Community, Australian and other international sources.

The agreement was formally endorsed by the governing bodies of each institution early this month after being signed in May by Monash vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson and the principal of King's College, Professor Arthur Lucas.

Professor Robinson said the agreement signalled an important new phase of Monash's development. "This agreement brings together two leading universities in a comprehensive relationship to strengthen research endeavours and opportunities, to mount new course programs, and to enable students to move from one country to another while maintaining a continuous educational experience of the highest quality," Professor Robinson said.

"Monash students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, now have more opportunities to gain a truly international education. As they complete part of their studies or research in Australia, London, Malaysia or elsewhere, they will become increasingly part of the broader trend of global higher education."

Associated with the Monash-King's agreement, the Sir Robert Menzies Centre for Australian Studies – currently part of the Institute of Commonwealth

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Open your minds: Art and Design student John Abery was caught on camera recently setting up for the student exhibition in the Switchback Gallery at Monash Gippsland, part of the Monash Open Day 1999 program. The annual event – at Gippsland, Parkville and Peninsula on Saturday 7 August and Berwick, Caulfield and Clayton on Sunday 8 August – gives prospective students a rare opportunity to see and sample university life. Photo by The Visual Resource.

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IT faculty builds its own supercomputer cluster

A wall of computers on two Monash University campuses has been linked with a new software tool, creating an inexpensive supercomputer with multiple applications.

The Faculty of Information Technology recently purchased a large Pentium computer cluster to support research projects in the schools of Computer Science and Software Engineering and Business Systems. The hardware, more correctly called a metacomputer, consists of 60 Pentium II and III processors on both the Caulfield and Clayton campuses, and the two halves are connected by the university's high-speed ATM connection.

The main idea is to marshal the capacity of inexpensive PCs, which are often idle, to create a supercomputing capability.

According to the head of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Professor David Abramson, this technology is of great interest to any organisation with a substantial computer network that has supercomputer-type problems to solve but lacks a budget adequate for a supercomputer.

"Computer clusters are a viable way of achieving supercomputer-like performance at an extremely low cost. Not only do they take advantage of the rapidly falling price and rising number of PC-based workstations, but they also allow idle and unused PC capacity to be exploited," he said.

"This will enable enterprises to squeeze more value from their hardware. For example, PCs in a company's sales department could be used to run the engineering department's complex simulation overnight."

Linking the hardware is the first step in building the cluster, followed by development of the software. Hardware resources must be identified, jobs parcelled and priorities set for the time use on each machine. That's where the new software tool, Cluster, comes in. A network system with a large number of multiple processors, when configured with Cluster, will appear to function as a single, very fast computer.



Professor David Abramson says computer clusters are a viable way to achieve supercomputer-like performance at a relatively low cost. Photo by Richard Crompton.

This type of computational exploration is becoming increasingly important in science and engineering, where it is not always possible to perform real-world experiments.

Cluster is a commercial product based on a research project being undertaken by Professor Abramson in conjunction with the Monash-linked Cooperative Research Centre for Distributed Systems Technology.

Monash's cluster has been used for a number of projects, including:

- crack prediction – joint work with the Department of Mechanical Engineering;
- public health policy simulation – joint work with the MacFarlane Burnett Centre for Medical Research;
- calibration of Australian x-ray primary standard – joint work with the Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency; and
- aircraft dynamics simulation – joint work with Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

BRIEFS

New head for campus in Malaysia

Monash University has announced a new pro vice-chancellor for its Malaysian campus.

Associate Professor Bob Bignall will take up his three-year appointment in Kuala Lumpur on 1 January.

Dr Bignall is currently head of the School of Computing and Information Technology at the university's Gippsland campus and has extensive experience in international education, particularly in Asia.

The current pro vice-chancellor, Professor Jim Warren, will leave Malaysia at the end of the year after playing a vital role in establishing Monash's first off-shore campus.

German prize to Monash academic

Monash University linguist Professor Michael Clyne has been awarded a prestigious German prize for his linguistic work.

Professor Clyne, research director of the Language and Society Centre at

Monash, was awarded the Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Prize for his work in German linguistics, German as a foreign language and German studies.

Presented annually by the government-funded German Academic Exchange Service to non-German scholars, the prize honours academics who have contributed to international scientific cooperation and cultural understanding.

Professor Clyne is the first Australian academic and only the second linguist to have won the prize.

Monash law students help make history

Monash University has made history by becoming the first university to win three grand final competitions at the Australian Law Students Association conference, held in Hobart recently.

The Monash Law faculty team won the mooted grand final, witness examination grand final and the client interview grand final, defeating top students from 35 other law schools in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

London link for Monash

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Studies at the University of London – will transfer to King's College, London. The Menzies Centre is funded by the Australian Government, the Menzies Foundation, the Menzies Trust (UK) and a number of universities including Monash.

Under the new arrangement, the Menzies Centre will be bolstered by a \$5 million endowment from the Australian Government, announced in the May Budget. Monash will be the only Australian university with individual representation on the board of the

centre and will have preferential access to its teaching facilities.

The principal of King's Professor Arthur Lucas said he was delighted to have Monash's presence at King's. "Monash will complement the activities of the already thriving Menzies Centre, and we look forward to interactions in teaching, learning and research to our mutual benefit. As an Australian myself, with close links with Melbourne, this is particularly pleasing to me personally."

Monash's first non-Australian campus was established in Malaysia in 1998. The Monash-King's agreement signals the first major international strategic alliance.

Warning on crime risk

Continued from page 1

White-collar crime was back in the headlines recently with the release from a Singapore jail of broker Nick Leeson, whose illegal trading methods led to the collapse of his employer, Barings Bank, in 1995.

Dr Gilligan said insider trading – which involves the misuse of price-sensitive information that has not yet been made public – is an example of how a professional behaviour can be deemed morally unacceptable and be proscribed, yet still remain prevalent in many countries.

"This is not a huge surprise, because historically insider trading has been a structural feature of most financial markets," Dr Gilligan said. "Although it's criminalised in many jurisdictions, levels of prosecution in most countries are very low. For example, there have been only three convictions in Australia and 25 in the UK."

Why that is so is one of the questions Dr Gilligan hopes to answer in his project. He will compare different models of regulation and patterns of regulatory compliance, and try to assess the impact of different political, social, cultural and economic factors.

Complicating these issues are the irresistible forces of globalisation and technology.

"The melting pot of forces affecting markets is very complex and highly interactive," he said. "The levels of control that nation states can exert over their financial markets have been eroded by globalisation and the changing dynamics of capitalism itself – for example, the vast totals of capital flowing through derivatives trading markets."

Dr Gilligan's latest book, *Regulating the Financial Services Sector*, analyses the global and national forces and processes which interact to produce systems of financial services regulation.

State roadshow promotes biodiversity management

A Monash conservation ecologist has been helping efforts to promote the outcomes of a major scientific study on Victoria's box-ironbark forests.

Dr Ralph MacNally, a senior research fellow in the Department of Biological Sciences, recently joined a state-wide 'roadshow' promoting the results of the four-year study to audiences in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Dr MacNally had joined colleagues from the Museum of Victoria, Deakin and La Trobe universities and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment on the project, designed to improve land management practices in the box-ironbark region of central Victoria.

The roadshow had attracted large audiences, he said. "The aim is to ensure research results are communicated directly to land managers, both public and private, to guide them in making better decisions about future land use."



Dr Ralph MacNally.

The state's box and ironbark forests have been severely depleted, with only about 15 per cent of more than a million hectares of original forests remaining.

According to Dr MacNally, mining, agriculture and forestry have all taken a toll on the natural environment in the past 150 years, and the conservation

status of the native fauna is now of great concern.

The roadshow promoted a number of strong messages. These included the need to avoid any further forest clearance and to reduce the disturbance of ground layers such as fallen timber and leaf litter, the value of remnant bushland in farmland, the importance of retaining and encouraging the growth of large, old trees, and the need to protect forested gullies and drainage lines as rich areas for fauna.

"The most important message is that biodiversity management can't be achieved by just setting aside a few reserves or national parks," Dr MacNally said. "A regional and landscape perspective for management is needed to cope with a dynamic ecosystem that provides a kaleidoscope of changing resources for animals."

For copies of the project's information kit, contact Dr MacNally on (03) 9905 5642.



Monash researcher Dr George Gilligan. Photo by Christopher Alexander.

Call to overhaul HK, China laws for businesses

BY JOSIE GIBSON

A Monash University academic has called for urgent changes to Chinese and Hong Kong business laws to remove uncertainties surrounding cross-border insolvencies.

Ms Alice de Jonge, a lecturer in Monash University's Business Law and Taxation department, said Hong Kong's economic links with China would remain the most important factor in determining the economic prospects of both.

However, as the two economies became more entwined, there was an urgent need to address questions surrounding the regulation of cross-border corporate activities, and in particular the rising number of company failures, she said.

Ms de Jonge is researching the growing economic ties between mainland China and Hong Kong, which returned from British to Chinese rule in July 1997.

She is focusing particularly on the emergence of a new phenomenon – H-share companies – and their legal implications for foreign creditors and shareholders.

H-share companies are incorporated in China under Chinese company law. They issue and list their shares, however, on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

According to Ms de Jonge, the H-share market is now possibly the most important gateway used by Chinese state-controlled enterprises to access foreign capital.

Chinese state-controlled enterprises often set up subsidiary companies to issue shares as a way of raising finance. Under Chinese law, these state-controlled companies can issue A and B shares for companies listed on Chinese stock exchanges, and H shares which are listed in Hong Kong.

"The H-share phenomenon exposes shareholders and creditors of the listed company to a number of risks and weaknesses which are specific to the

activities of Chinese state-controlled enterprises," Ms de Jonge said.

"Many of these enterprises are technically bankrupt, and others are on the verge of insolvency. The prospects for failure are real, not only for the state-controlled enterprise itself, but also for its subsidiaries."

With the 1997 handover, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region within China, but retains its own separate legal system, inherited from its British common law past.

As a result, when a company fails, any legal proceedings are complicated by where that company was incorporated, where its shares are listed, and other jurisdictional issues.

According to Ms de Jonge, a company incorporated outside Hong Kong – in China – can be declared insolvent by a Hong Kong court. And when the mainland-based parent company goes bankrupt, it also seems that a foreign creditor could in most cases initiate insolvency proceedings from within Hong Kong.

Given doubts about the efficacy of Chinese laws to protect foreign creditor or shareholder interests, foreign parties could try to seek protection through liquidation proceedings in a Hong Kong court, Ms de Jonge acknowledged. But at least two big problems could arise if this is attempted.

"First, there is no certainty about the attitude that Hong Kong courts would adopt to such cases, in the light of changed legal politics following the 1997 handover," she warned.

"Second, even where a Hong Kong court does agree to assist with insolvency proceedings, in the case of an H-share company most of the company's assets will inevitably be located in the place of active incorporation – mainland China.

"The only way to access such assets on behalf of the foreign creditor would be to request the assistance of a mainland Chinese court – the very thing a foreign party may well be trying to avoid."

For more details on Ms de Jonge's research, call (03) 9903 2587.



What sort of dummy doesn't wear a seatbelt?

The Transport Accident Commission last month used the Monash University car crash facility to launch an advertising offensive on seat belt safety.

Under the guidance of staff from the Monash University Accident Research Centre and the Department of Civil Engineering, a test vehicle was steered by remote control into a concrete barrier at 60 km/h. On impact, the unrestrained

dummy passenger in the back seat was tossed around the cabin, collided with the dummy driver and ended up on the front seat.

As explained by MUARC director Professor Claes Tingvall, the test crash showed how unbelted passengers dramatically increased the chances of the driver and other passengers being killed or seriously injured.



Photos by David Humfrey.

Taking a little piece of Australia to Spain

BY FIONA PERRY

The bright light, eucalyptus trees, empty heart, broad accents and modernity of Australia seem at odds with the crumbling castles, magnificent cathedrals and complex cultural and linguistic heritage of Spain.

But interest in Australia and Australian literature is alive and well in the former great European empire, according to Associate Professor Jenny Strauss, an honorary associate in Monash University's English department who recently returned from a month-long reading and lecture tour of Spain.

Dr Strauss, who received an Australia Council grant to visit eight universities spread across Spain in Murcia, Vigo, Leon, Oviedo, Pamplona, Barcelona, Lleida and Tarragona, said Spain was now the most active place in Europe for the teaching of Australian literature.

"A lot of Spanish students are learning English and the level of interest among them in Australian literature is high," she said.

"The famous authors such as Patrick White, Christina Stead, Les Murray and Judith Wright are well known. That is partly because the Spanish are now more knowledgeable about Australia due to migration and also because there is still the sense that Australia is an attractive, exotic, adventurous place – the last frontier."

Australian literature was mainly taught as part of post-colonial literature subjects within university English departments in Spain, although full-semester Australian literature courses existed at Barcelona University, the centre of Australian literature in Spain, and Oviedo University.

"You find the level of interest in Australian literature normally equates with the energy of the university staff running the courses, which in most cases, is women," she said. "Arts faculties there are under just as much pressure as they are here."

Visiting writers who are also academics are considered very special in Spain, said Dr Strauss, a poet herself.

Law students prepare to enter the big league

BY FIONA PERRY

Monash law students will soon be working with barristers and solicitors on pro bono public interest and test cases under a new program initiated by a Monash law student in conjunction with the Law faculty and the Victorian Public Interest Law Clearing House.

Under the program, fourth and fifth-year Monash law students can volunteer their time to work with legal practitioners on important legal test cases that affect a significant number of people, raise matters of broad public concern or impact on disadvantaged or marginalised groups.

Believed to be a world first, the program was initiated by a sixth-year law/commerce student at Monash, Mr Michael Rush.

While many barristers and solicitors undertake pro bono work in addition to their private work, the program represents the first time university law

students will have the opportunity to be involved in such cases.

Students will be chosen by legal practitioners according to academic knowledge relevant to a specific case and will be fully supervised in conducting legal research, formulating argument, drafting letters to clients and respondents and assisting in the day-to-day running of a case.

Mr Rush said the program would provide students with invaluable practical experience while they completed their degrees.

"As most law students only come into contact with law firms during their clerkships, this program will allow them to gain practical insights into the legal world, particularly large cases, enabling them to understand and apply the theoretical framework of law taught at university," he said.

"Students will be able to improve and consolidate their research skills and methods and better consider the suitability of a career in the legal profession, all while helping claimants and society generally."

Mr Rush's own pro bono work experiences led him to initiate a permanent program for Monash law students.

Last year he completed three weeks of pro bono work for his uncle, Mr Jack Rush QC, who was approached by the Public Interest Law Clearing House to work on the Stolen Generation case.

Earlier this year, Mr Rush did four weeks' research for barrister Mr Matthew Townsend on a Freedom of Information application.

"Having students to do the legwork in these cases means that case costs are reduced and legal practitioners are freed up to do more pro bono work," he said. "Up till now, student resources in this area have been untapped because of a lack of structured volunteer programs."

The Law Student Pro Bono program will operate in addition to the existing Professional Practice subject run by the Law faculty, which sees senior law students such as Ms Rivkah Mellor and Ms Rosalind Gilsenan working in a community legal service for half a day each week as part of their studies.

According to the students, the practical experience, although exhausting and at times frustrating, is highly beneficial in many ways.

"I think I've learnt more over the last five months doing practical legal work than I have in the rest of my law degree," said Ms Mellor.



Practice makes perfect: Monash law students Mr Ben Ross, Ms Rosalind Gilsenan, Ms Rivkah Mellor and Mr Michael Rush say community legal work is an essential part of their legal studies. Photo by Greg Ford.

Schools



Course information sessions planned

To help Year 12 students make their VTAC course selections before the initial application closing date in September, several Monash faculties are conducting information evenings for students and parents.

Engineering

Thursday 19 August – 7 pm

Lecture theatre E7, building 72
Clayton campus
Wellington Road, Clayton
For more information, call (03) 9905 3404.

Nursing

Tuesday 7 September – 7.30 pm

Nursing auditorium
Peninsula campus
McMahons Road, Frankston
For more information, call (03) 9904 4260.

Tuesday 7 September – 7.30 pm

School of Nursing
Gippsland campus
Northways Road, Churchill
For more information, call (03) 9902 6454.

Education

Monday 6 September – 7 pm

Building F
Peninsula campus
McMahons Road, Frankston
For more information, call (03) 9904 4291.

VTAC applications

Students wishing to use the Internet to browse the VTAC guide and make an application can do so at one of the VTAC Access Points located at Monash.

VTAC Access Points are located at the Prospective Students Office on Clayton campus and in the main libraries at the Peninsula, Gippsland and Caulfield campuses.

For more information, call the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 1320.

Essay contest open

To help promote the study of Asia-Pacific relations and APEC in Australian schools, the Australian APEC Study Centre based at Monash will again hold an APEC essay competition.

The competition was initiated in 1998 to encourage teachers and curriculum designers to include studies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in relevant studies in secondary schools.

All students enrolled in Australian secondary schools are eligible to enter the competition, which closes on 1 October. The first prize is two airfares to an APEC Asian destination.

For more information, contact the Australian APEC Study Centre on (03) 9903 8757.

Temporary wetlands put under the spotlight

Research by a Monash post-graduate student has revealed the importance of temporary wetlands as distinctive and highly diverse aquatic habitats.

Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology PhD student Ms Rhonda Butcher has been studying 16 wetlands of varying permanency in the western Wimmera region of Victoria.

Looking particularly at invertebrates (mostly insects, snails and crustaceans), she is comparing the diversity of ephemeral systems with that of more permanent wetlands. She will also investigate whether commonly used techniques for assessing biodiversity are suitable for conserving invertebrates in temporary wetlands.

Ms Butcher said more emphasis tended to be given to permanent rather than temporary wetlands in Australia because of the continent's lack of permanent freshwater sources. However, Victoria had lost about 4000 temporary wetlands, mostly through drainage, since European settlement, while it had gained some 1800 permanent systems as a result of the construction of artificial ponds and storages.

"While our temporary wetlands are certainly the most numerous type in Australia, they're also the most threatened by human activity," she said.

"Australian landscapes are strewn with pockets of temporary wetlands that are periodically filled by floods or



Victoria has lost about 4000 temporary wetlands, mostly through drainage, since European settlement.

rain. These wetlands and the species they harbour are peculiarly adapted to an ecosystem that is both wildly variable and unpredictable."

Ms Butcher said Australia's temporary wetlands were actually far more diverse than its permanent systems because that type of environment suited plants and animals that were adapted to extreme, not average, conditions.

Her study focuses on the small invertebrate fauna of these wetlands, since much of the diversity of temporary wetlands lies in the bugs and microscopic animals that make their home there.

Current methods for classifying wetlands tended to exclude invertebrates in favour of approaches using

various combinations of plant, bird, water regime and salinity data, she said.

Four categories of freshwater wetlands – two temporary and two permanent – have been identified by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment in Victoria using water regime, plant associations and salinity.

The two temporary wetlands categories are freshwater meadows, which contain water for about four months each year, and shallow freshwater marshes, which contain water for six to eight months of the year. The permanent freshwater wetlands categories include deep freshwater marshes, which often fluctuate in level but are usually less than a metre deep, and the

permanent open wetlands, or lakes, which usually contain water up to five metres deep all year around.

Ms Butcher's study was conducted at four sites from each of the four freshwater wetland categories. Each wetland was sampled for invertebrate, plant, waterfowl and nutrient data, at one, three and five months from filling.

"There are enormous numbers of animals in these wetlands," Ms Butcher said. "From just four of the temporary wetlands, with only a few minute sampling in each, I collected 220,000 animals (invertebrates). This in itself makes temporary wetlands very important for biodiversity."

This article was reprinted from the CRC for Freshwater Ecology publication 'Watershed', March 1999 issue.

Body chemistry counts in counter pharmacy

BY PETER GOLDIE

What is a pharmacist? A drug preparer and purveyor. A health professional. A retail trader. A counsellor. An information resource. And what makes a good one?

Witness two encounters with local pharmacists. In the first instance, I ask the assistant whether the pharmacist – working some feet above and to the left behind a high counter – would mind answering a question about arthritis medication.

After a few minutes, the pharmacist finishes a computer entry and comes down the steps, taking a position well behind the counter. Before speaking and for no rational reason, I get the impression that the white-coated professional does not feel the question is going to justify the trip down the stairs.

"Hello. Is Voltaren available in Australia in a slow-release form?" I ask, knowing it is in the UK because I've used it but have only found it in a twice-daily version here.

"No," the pharmacist replies crisply and turns back up the stairs.

I am left wondering what's gone wrong. While the information delivered was direct, I don't feel confident about it. Again, I have no rational base for this feeling, and not being able to make a judgment on it pushes me to visit another pharmacy.

Across the one-level shop at the pharmacy counter, the assistant motions to a man dressed in casual slacks and open-neck shirt, leaning in a doorway while speaking on the telephone. After he finishes his call, he seeks me out where I peruse the health tonics. I put the same question about Voltaren.

"No, no. Here we can only get the 25 mg and the 50 mg, but that is not uncommon. You hear of new versions overseas and wait to see if they will be released here." I told him of the UK version and he chatted for a few minutes, explaining why people may find slow-release versions of drugs more useful

than others, and was generally interested in feedback. He would keep his eyes open for it.

Same question, same result, about the same time waiting for the professional. So why did I feel happy with the information, if not the outcome, as I left the second pharmacy (with my \$17 gin-seng purchase)?

The answers to this and myriad other questions surrounding the pharmacist-customer relationship are canvassed in a comparative study undertaken by Associate Professor Louis Roller and Ms Tina Phuong of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Monash University's Victorian College of Pharmacy.

The study rated and compared client perceptions of pharmacists'

"It has been suggested that sensation is the initial phase of the total perception process." – Report into client satisfaction with pharmacists.

interpersonal counselling skills, an area recognised as being key to the safe and efficacious use of medicines by clients and to the entire therapeutic process.

As the study says: "The perception that the patient has of the pharmacist, therefore, has a great bearing on whether this health professional is doing his or her required job."

After interviewing 100 patients from 10 randomly selected south-eastern Melbourne suburban pharmacies, the researchers found that overall perceptions of interpersonal skills of the pharmacists were remarkably high, with an average score above 80 per cent.

They noted that the perceptions expressed in the 1998 study and the

ratings were in line with the results of a similar study carried out in 1994, reinforcing evidence that the general public continues to rate pharmacists very highly on professional traits such as ethics, integrity and honesty.

The researcher focused on the element of good customer relations. "In today's industry, patients demand to know more about the medications they are taking. This may reinforce the view that the role of pharmacist as a counsellor is as important as the role of dispenser."

The researchers say a combination of factors lead to a trusting relationship

which optimises appropriate medication, including the ability to relate to the patient. The public's perception of a 'good pharmacist' may depend not on how much information a pharmacist can divulge to a patient but whether the pharmacist has the ability to empathise.

"The public already perceives the pharmacist as a health professional, but one of the public's most prevalent perceptions is that the pharmacist disappears behind a high counter to work on the prescription, thus reinforcing the view of the 'secrecy of the prescription'. This attitude may then place a strain on good communication and counselling."



Legally speaking: Monash senior law lecturer Dr Bernadette McSherry interviews Monash assistant lecturer Ms Julie Debeljak on indigenous rights issues for her weekly radio program, 'Talking Law', on Melbourne's Radio 3RPH. The hour-long program is broadcast weekly on Thursday evenings at 6 pm and repeated on Saturday afternoons at 3 pm. Photo by Greg Ford.

To fight it, we need to reimagine racism in these globalised times



OPINION

The problem is that each time we think we know what racism is, we argue about it and contest its definition. It never seems to be clear-cut.

In recent public debate, racism has become an epithet, a reminder of terrible things done in the past, somewhere else, a suggestion of horrors too horrible to mention. Stories of fighting

Australians commonly believe racism is a concept not relevant to most of them.

racism trace histories of bravery, of escaping death camps, of surviving slavery, of dismantling apartheid, of recompensing stolen children, of standing up and saying 'no'.

Australian legal documents define racism as something offensive or dangerous, used against people of different gender, religion, colour, nationality. Fighting racism in these documents

To talk about combating racism immediately places us in a quandary. For many people, racism is something very real, tangible and evident in their daily lives. For others, it has been all but wiped out or at least is no longer a serious concern. To deal with racism, argues Monash researcher Ms Ruth Arber, we need to develop a better understanding of what this highly contested term means in contemporary Australia.



Artwork by Elizabeth Dias.

describes the prevention of offensive behaviours, as well as the amelioration of discriminations emanating from them. Racism here is something terrible, though varying in intensity, pathological although redeemable, an ugly social stain but surgically removable.

But at the same time, Australians commonly believe racism is a concept not relevant to most of them.

The Australian story of multiculturalism is underpinned by understandings that these racisms, and the hatreds, exclusions and discriminations which accompany them, are not evident in the times and places in which ordinary Australians live. It is in this vein that the Australian Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, has frequently argued that "there are few nations in the

world that can boast such a record of democracy, such a record of fair treatment, and such as a record of harmonious blending together of people of different racial background" as Australia.

Embedded within this multicultural story is the understanding that Australia has a proud record in the way it has harmoniously blended peoples from all over the world. Racism, it is suggested, is rarely evident in Australia. Thus, the argument goes,

We are haunted
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fighting racism is irrelevant. At worst, it might lead to policies or practices which could destroy the harmonies and tolerances believed to have underpinned the Australian way of life over the last few decades.

Australian national stories describe ways that people from all over the world have worked together to form a new country, a new future. The multicultural dream is one of shared dreams, one voice, Australian. In the face of an increasingly globalised world, it sets boundaries between those inside the nation and those on the outside.

Even as boundaries within Australia collapse, they refragment into new camps of otherness. How safe it feels to belong as one of us. We share in an

Australian history, an Australian dream, and belong to an Australian future. However, this sense of belonging is not universally shared. From national to neighbourhood level, the presence of others helps to define what we are and are not.

We are never certain that these notions of nationalism and multiculturalism are racist concepts.

Similarly, if I'm a teacher sitting comfortably with everybody else, and see a student from a particular ethnic background sitting alone in the playground and failing academically, are these circumstances a product of racism?

The point is that we don't know. Certainly these experiences are not accounted for in any commonly held definitions of racism. Yet there is a 'whispering in our hearts' and 'a strange noisy silence' which suggests that even as we think that situations are not racist ones, there is still something wrong.

We are haunted by the prospect that things are not right, that there's still something else there that defies our definitions.

What needs to be done, then, is a reimagining of racism. We need other ways of thinking and looking that show that racism is not just about individual or pathological incidents, or even about problematic institutional structures. Rather it is to reimagine - to look against the grain - at the ways race and difference are understood and practised within the places and times of the everyday of contemporary Western and increasingly globalised societies.

Ms Ruth Arber is a research student in Monash University's Faculty of Education. This is an edited version of an address on 'Reimagining racism' she gave to the Monash Centre for Research in International Education earlier this year. Monash will host a national conference on 'Reimagining multiculturalism' in October. For more details, contact Ms Anna Dacre on anna.dacre@arts.monash.edu.au

Multimedia academic to promote new technologies

BY MURRAY HOMES

Professor Laurence Dooley has arrived from Wales to take up a key multimedia position within Monash.

While primarily based at the Gippsland campus, Professor Dooley will have faculty-wide responsibilities in the rapidly developing area of multimedia technology.

Professor Dooley said he hoped his appointment would promote new synergies for multimedia developments within Monash.

The Multimedia degree at the Berwick campus of Monash already has both an arts and applications approach to multimedia, while there is a clear role for the other campuses to complement this by providing a technology-based focus.

He also stated that with the highly rated distance education programs based at Gippsland, there was an outstanding opportunity to utilise the potential that the Internet and multimedia technologies afford for flexible learning and teaching including offshore programs, so advancing the Monash vision as a truly international university.

Professor Dooley said there had been a worldwide explosion in demand for multimedia, electronic commerce and information technologies, fuelled by easier Internet access and lower costs.

"The arrival in Australia of digital television in a couple of years' time and its inevitable merger with the web can only further increase this demand in all areas of Australian society.

The proposed new Monash Centre for Multimedia and Electronic Commerce at Gippsland is seen as a major part of this development, with one of the objectives being to offer a technology transfer gateway, which promotes and exploits multimedia and information technologies in both Gippsland and beyond.

It will provide a valuable interface between the university and local and regional sectors of industry, business, commerce and government.

Professor Dooley said evidence clearly showed that more than 50 per cent of new jobs created in Australia over the past five years were directed to business services requiring high-level inter-disciplinary IT and multimedia skills, with all indications that such growth would continue.



Photo by The Visual Resource.

Researching musical cultures

By PETER GOLDIE

When Ahmad Sarmast arrived in Melbourne from Afghanistan in 1994, he carried the musical heritage of his nation in his bags and in his mind.

For nearly two years after his arrival, the Afghan music teacher set about learning to read and write English, making it his fourth language, but was still unable to find work teaching.

"I tried hard to find my place in Australian society and to find a job in my profession as a music teacher, teaching the theory and history of Western music," he said.

A low point in his search for work came when he applied to another Melbourne university for a place, only

to find that his 1993 masters thesis in musicology from Moscow State Conservatory of Music, which was written in Russian, was handed back unread.

At about this time Dr Reis Flora, a senior lecturer at Monash University's Music department, heard about Ahmad Sarmast from a friend, arranged a meeting and was stunned to discover his remarkable background.

"I gave his masters thesis to our Russian speaker in the department," Dr Flora recalls. "She opened the title page and said, 'I don't know what is inside but the person who supervised this thesis is the best known musicologist in Russia.' So there wasn't too much of a problem with him getting in."

While Mr Sarmast was in Moscow, Afghanistan's secular government was replaced by an Islamic administration, then the extremist Taliban forces, making it impossible for him to return.

All the time he was developing his theory that the historic region of Khurasan (incorporating present-day Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and part of Iran) played a pivotal role in the development of both Persian music to the west and Indian music to the southeast.

His evidence lies in archaeological data and in medieval manuscripts dealing with history and music, photocopies of which he brought to Australia. The fate of similar documents would have been uncertain in Afghanistan during the factional fighting of recent years.

"The role played by the music of this region has always been ignored and is said to belong to either the Arabic or the Persian world, but in my opinion in those times this region played an equal role in the crystallisation and development of musical culture for which credit has, to date, been given solely to Iran or the Arab world," he says.

"There were many reasons for me not to go back to Afghanistan; first I studied in Russia, second my profession, a musician, was no longer a profession in Afghanistan," Mr Sarmast explained.

Initially, he says, the Mujahideen administration tolerated music, and although professional musicians were made to feel unwelcome, the government still used musicians for its own purposes. But in 1996, after the arrival of Taliban, any kind of musical activities were banned and the traditional professional musicians carrying the nation's musical heritage were hunted down.

"When the government collapsed, I saw no way of getting back to Afghanistan because many members of the group who brought down the last secular government blamed all Afghan students studying in overseas countries, particularly Russia and eastern bloc countries," Mr Sarmast said. "They accused us all of being communists or godless."

For now, though, Ahmad Sarmast continues quietly working on his thesis, which could overturn the accepted relationships between musical cultures spanning the Near East, central Asia and India/South Asia.



Monash researcher Mr Ahmad Sarmast: His thesis could overturn the accepted relationships between a number of musical cultures. Photo by Greg Ford.



Miranda (Amanda Holyman) and Caliban (Tim Duncan) head an extensive cast of Monash students in *This Island Mine*.

Student actors give new take on Tempest story

The energy of 60 Monash University students has been harnessed for a challenging new Student Theatre production based on a Shakespeare favourite.

This Island Mine, an adaptation of *The Tempest*, will be performed at the Malthouse's Beckett Theatre in Melbourne from 11 to 14 August.

The production examines the characters and themes of Shakespeare's play and places the action in a distinctly Australian setting.

Prospero and his daughter Miranda live in an isolated area of the central desert. In this dry and seemingly lifeless place, Prospero is given power by the spirits of the land to work on horticultural projects for the good of mankind. With the spirits' assistance comes power, which leads Prospero to seek revenge on those who stole his fortune and made him an outcast.

The adaptation has been written by John Britton and directed by Hilary

Elliott - co-artistic directors of the Monash Student Theatre Department.

The 42-strong cast is drawn from the Clayton and Caulfield campuses and from a range of disciplines including medicine, engineering, commerce, arts, drama and theatre studies and science.

Cast members' experience levels vary, ranging from students on the verge of professional careers to others preparing for their first foray into theatre.

Director Hilary Elliott is aiming to create a highly physical and visual production, aided by workshops on dance, contact improvisation and image-making during rehearsals.

"A key aspect of the project is team work," she says. "Everyone involved has a commitment to the belief that the ensemble is at the heart of the piece."

What: *This Island Mine*

When: 11-14 August

Where: Beckett Theatre, Malthouse

Who: For bookings, call the Malthouse box office on (03) 9685 5111.

ARTS BRIEFS

Exhibition to honour late graduate

Monash University's Gippsland campus will hold a memorial exhibition for one of its students this month.

The show will feature works by Edward (Ted) Gloss, who completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Gippsland Centre for Art and Design.

Curated by his supervisor, Mr Dan Wollmering, the posthumous exhibition is on at the Switchback Gallery from 10 August until 3 September.

Combo Fiasco coming to Clayton campus

Monash University has secured the Australian cabaret sensation Combo Fiasco, for the next Director's Cut of 1999.

The trio perform in the Drama Theatre at Clayton campus for one show only on 19 August.

Combo Fiasco - Charmaine Clements, Tony McGill and Shaun Murphy - recently returned from New York, where they performed sell-out seasons and were feted by the city's notoriously tough critics. Their trademarks are their tight harmonies and satirical renditions of well-known songs, mixing the best of Broadway with comedy and satire.

For bookings, call the Monash Box Office on (03) 9905 1111.

Artists give peace a chance

The 1999 Lucato Peace Prize will be awarded on 13 August to an artist whose work best supports the theme that 'peace is always a better alternative to war'.

The annual prize, awarded to a work on paper, is open to Fine Arts students

at Monash University's Faculty of Art and Design.

The prize honours George Lucato, whose dedication to the cause of peace led to the creation of the award 23 years ago.

The curator of contemporary art (international and Australian) at the National Gallery of Victoria, Jason Smith, will judge this year's award, which is valued at \$1100.

Alaisa McNeill-Young won the prize in 1997 and 1998 - the only artist to win in consecutive years. Alaisa is currently studying for her honours degree in Fine Arts.

Her works and those of previous winners have become part of the Department of Fine Arts collection. The 1999 winning artwork, which will be on display in the Faculty Gallery in the Art and Design building until 3 September, will also become part of the collection.

Finding a home away from home



Three magnificent Roger Kemp tapestries from the National Gallery of Victoria's Great Hall have found a new temporary home at Monash University during the gallery's redevelopment. The giant works have been hung near the Leonard French stained glass window in the Robert Blackwood Concert Hall, continuing their association with French's work (they have complemented the Great Hall's Leonard French ceiling). They are based on original paintings by Roger Kemp. Photo by Craig Wetjen.

Lost in Japan

BY DEREK BROWN

Despite the Japanese love of popular Western culture, from American-style baseball to Hollywood stars like Bruce Willis, Japan will always be a confusing place for Westerners, according to a Monash University academic.

In his new book *Legless in Ginza: Orientating Japan*, Dr Robin Gerster, a senior lecturer from the School of Literary, Visual and Cultural Studies, relates his experiences as a cultural outcast, living and working in Japan.

"The book was partly inspired by my interest in the idea that you can be immersed in another culture but still be trapped inside your body - your own cultural background," he said.

"I have a Canadian friend who has been in Japan for more than 25 years; he lives in a Japanese household, has a Japanese lifestyle and speaks the language flawlessly, but he will always be classed as a foreigner."

Dr Gerster explained that, as an Australian lecturer at Tokyo University, cultural differences made the job of teaching Japanese students difficult at first.

While lecturing in Australian studies at the university and raising issues with his Japanese students, such as World War Two, treatment of indigenous Japanese and poverty Dr Gerster was often faced with a sea of blank expressions.

But it wasn't because the Japanese students were ignorant of the issues, he pointed out, but rather that the Japanese education system had taught them to avoid confrontations.

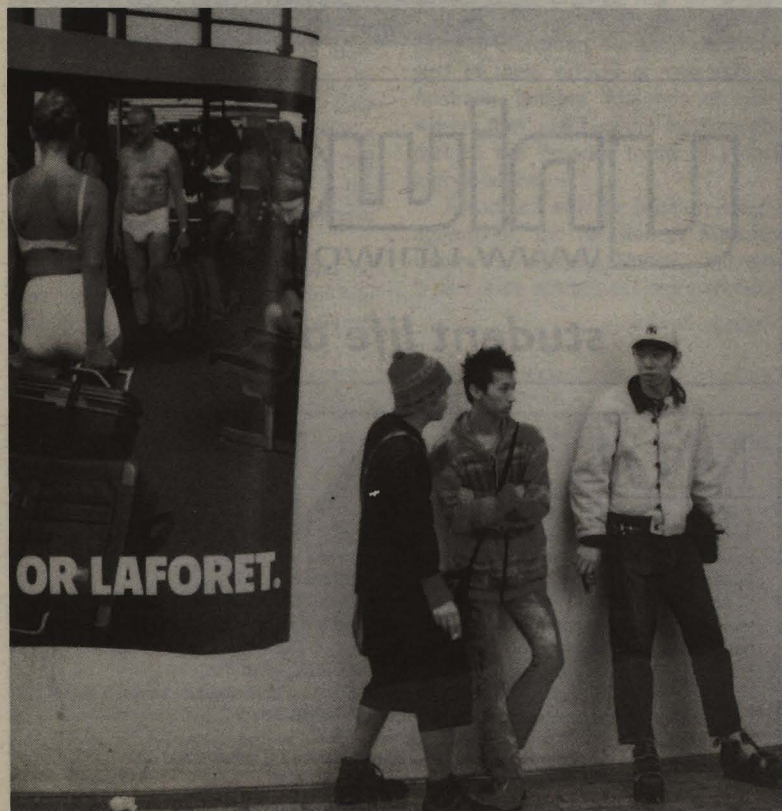
"In Australia we are encouraged to criticise government policy and to debate social issues, but the Japanese work to maintain harmony even if it means suppressing unwanted truths. Many will insist that there is no poverty when there is a great deal, or deny the presence of AIDS when it clearly exists," he said.

"I suspect that my book, which is quite critical of some aspects of Tokyo University and of Japanese culture, might upset some people I knew there. I like Japan, but I am not blind to its faults."

Dr Gerster, who has written three books and published in both Australian and Japanese newspapers and journals, will appear at the Melbourne Writers' Festival this month.



Monash lecturer Dr Robin Gerster, above, says that despite the way many Japanese have embraced popular Western culture, from fashion to advertising, Japan will always be a confusing place for Westerners.



What's on

A round-up of events and activities around Monash campuses

August

11-14 Student theatre production - *This Island Mine*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Malthouse, Beckett Theatre. Contact the Malthouse Box Office on (03) 9685 5111.

12 Centre of Southeast Asian Studies - 'Demonstration and discussion of Randai, West Sumatran folk opera, as community entertainment and medium of cross-cultural communication', by Indiya Mahjoeddin and players. Seminar room SG03, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 11.15 am.

12 Lunchtime concert series - A concert of Hindustani classical instrumental music. Religious Centre, Clayton campus, 1 pm to 2 pm.

12 Centre of East Asian Studies - 'Print culture and national consciousness in post-war Taiwan', by Mark Harrison, PhD candidate, Monash Asia Institute. Seminar room S807, eighth floor, south wing, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 4 pm to 5.30 pm.

13 Music seminar - Two studies on double emigration and creativity: Wolfgang Fraenkel in Shanghai (1939-1973)', by Adjunct Professor Andrew D. McCredie, Monash. Elizabeth Burchill Rooms, G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton campus, 4.30 pm.

13 Making Music Series - Monash Sinfonia, Viva Voce and Monash Women's Choir, conducted by Bagryana Popov (Australia) and Toshiyuki Kudo (Japan). Music Auditorium, Clayton campus, 8 pm.

14 Making Music Series - Monash Sinfonia, Viva Voce and Monash Women's Choir, conducted by Bagryana Popov (Australia) and Toshiyuki Kudo (Japan). Music Auditorium, Clayton campus, 8 pm.

19 Centre of Southeast Asian Studies - 'Betawi Moderne: Songs and films of Benjamin S. from Jakarta in the 1970s', by David Hanan, School of Literary and Visual Communication, Monash. Seminar room SG03, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 11.15 am.

19 Lunchtime concert series - 'Performing arts songs and lieder', by Angela Brewer (soprano) and Angela Dhar (piano). Religious Centre, Clayton campus, 1 pm to 2 pm.

20 Accounting and Finance - 'Trading bank lending in Australia 1975-1997: An empirical investigation', by Dr J. Wickramanayake, Monash. Room A1.37, Caulfield campus, 11 am to 1 pm.

20 Rigg Estate concert series - Sonatas by Mozart, Brahms, Haydn, Scarlatti and Rachmaninov. Insa Fritsche (violin), Darryl Coote (piano), and Lachlan Redd (solo piano). Music Auditorium, Clayton, 8 pm. Free concert. Bookings: (03) 9905 9034.

23 Accident Research Centre - 'Smart slip resistant systems', by Mr Richard Bowman, CSIRO. RACV Conference Room 101, first floor, building 70, Clayton campus, 1 pm to 2 pm.

26 Lunchtime concert series - 'Works for cello and piano by Martinu, Seiber and Brahms', performed by the Cooke/Kimer duo. Religious Centre, Clayton campus, 1 pm to 2 pm.

26 Centre of Southeast Asian Studies - 'A time of change: Japanese/Southeast Asia relations in historical perspective', by Yasuo Hanazaki, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Saitama University. Seminar room SG03, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, 11.15 am.

27 Accounting and Finance - 'The evolution of management accounting', by Professor Lokman Mia, Griffith University. Room A1.37, Caulfield campus, 11 am to 1 pm.

28 Rigg Estate concert series - New Monash Orchestra and Monash Sinfonia, with guest conductor Volkmar Fritsche (Germany) and a program of concertos including Shostakovich's *Concerto for Piano and Trumpet*, Bach's *Concerto for Oboe and Violin*, Poulenc's *Concerto for Two Pianos*, and Mozart's *Haffner Symphony*. Robert Blackwood Concert Hall. 8 pm. Bookings: (03) 9905 9034.

September

2 Lunchtime Concert Series - Works by Mozart, Poulenc, Sutherland, Brod, Holford, Hamilton, Benjamin (piano solo), with Darryl Coote and Anne Gilby (oboe). Religious Centre, Clayton campus, 1 pm to 2 pm.

3 Music seminar - 'Inter-relationships between composition and improvisation in twentieth-century Australia', by Ms Jennifer Game-Lopata, Monash. Elizabeth Burchill Rooms, G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton campus, 4.30 pm.

INPRINT

Russian Postmodernism: New Perspectives on Post-Soviet Culture

Mikhail N. Epstein, Alexander A. Genis and Slobodanka M. Vladiv-Glover
Berghahn Books (RRP: \$50)

Throughout the communist era, Russians were subjected to decades of censorship and other forms of cultural repression that isolated Russia from Western literary and artistic movements. But, as the authors of *Russian Postmodernism: New Perspectives on Post-Soviet*

Culture point out, Russia has since caught up "with a vengeance".

From religion to pop songs, literature to sexuality, this book defines, analyses and collates the history of postmodernism as a movement within the former Soviet nation. Through a series of well-informed and researched sections, including an index of Russian postmodernists and their notable works, *Russian Postmodernism* provides a detailed cultural overview of modern Russia.

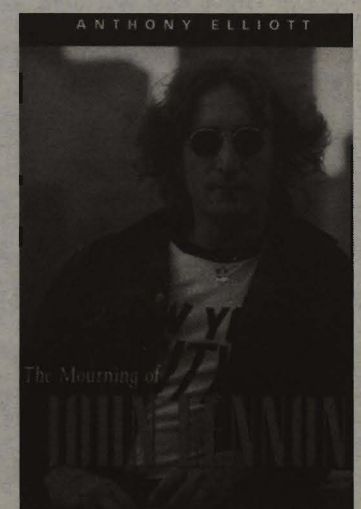
Dr Slobodanka Vladiv-Glover is a senior lecturer in the Department of German and Slavic studies at Monash University, and recently lectured on Russian postmodernism at the University of St. Petersburg. Mikhail Epstein is an Associate Professor of Russian Studies at Emory University and Alexander Genis has had essays published in both American and Russian journals and has edited a number of Russian periodicals.

The Mourning of John Lennon

Anthony Elliott
Melbourne University Press (RRP: \$24.95)

John Lennon - Beatle, peace activist and songwriter - stands out as one of the most significant cult figures of this century. For the generation that grew up with him, Lennon has become both a repository for unfulfilled dreams and a scapegoat for disillusionment.

The Mourning of John Lennon is a detailed study of Lennon's life and



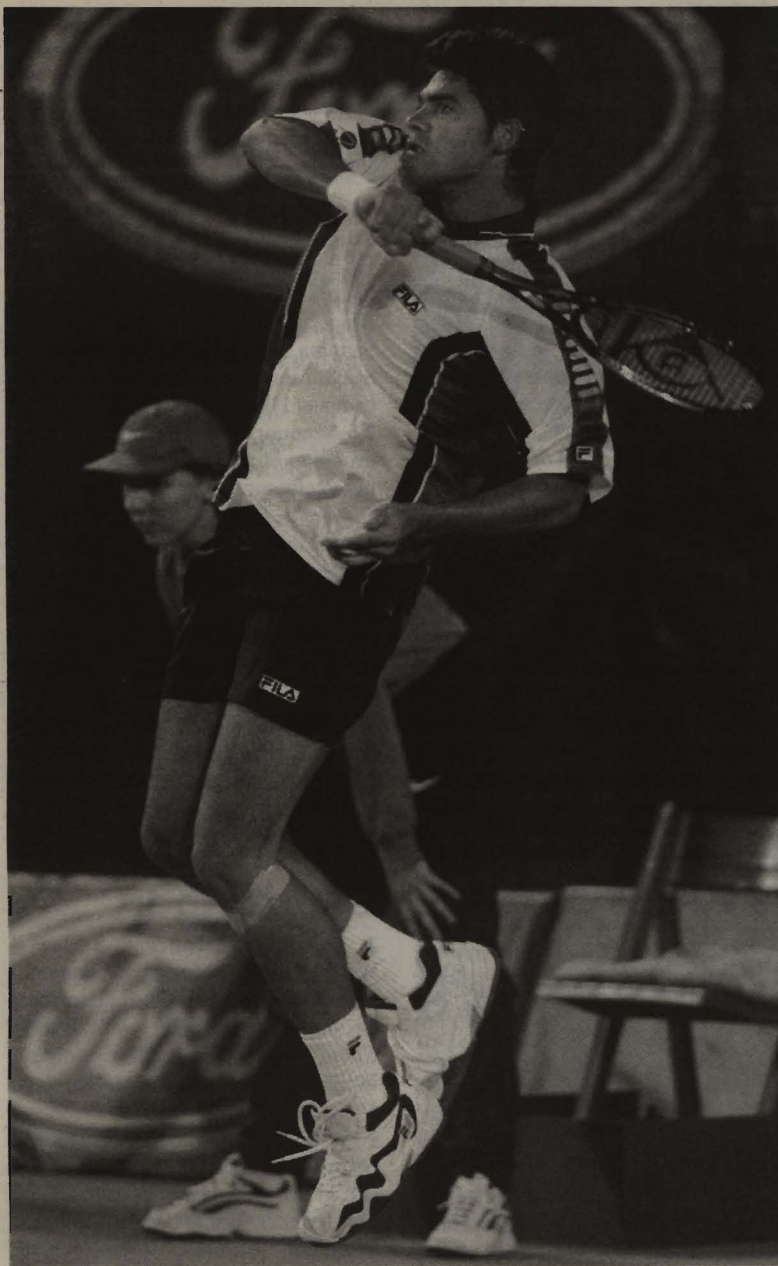
work, from Beatlemania and the Fab Four to Yoko Ono and avant-garde films, in which the author analyses the various forces, both psychological and social, that have shaped John Lennon as a modern legend.

Referring to Freud's theories on repression, mourning and creativity, Dr Elliott explores the way we, as a society, have used Lennon as a symbol to express our own internal conflicts.

Dr Elliott is a research fellow in the Department of English at Monash. He is editor of *Freud 2000* and *The Blackwell Reader in Contemporary Social Theory* and coeditor of *Psychoanalysis in Contexts*.

All books featured in 'Inprint' are available or can be ordered at Monash's four on-campus bookshops.

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Tennis injuries are not restricted to amateurs, as top player Mark Philippoussis learned to his dismay at Wimbledon this year.

New report aims to lob injuries out of tennis

BY COREY NASSAU

Sports lovers around the world felt for tennis ace Mark Philippoussis when he was forced to retire from a commanding position in his quarter-final match against Pete Sampras at Wimbledon earlier this year.

The Australian tennis star was lunging for the ball when he felt something click in his left knee. Tests later revealed he had torn a cartilage.

Such an injury does not surprise Ms Erin Cassell of the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC), who is well aware of the relationship between lower limb injuries and the physically tough world of competitive tennis.

Ms Cassell has co-authored a new MUARC report, 'Lobbing injury out of tennis: A review of the literature', aimed at helping reduce the incidence of tennis injuries. The report reviews formal research literature and informal sources that describe measures to prevent tennis injury, and assesses their effectiveness.

Tennis is the third-most popular sport in Australia behind aerobics and golf, attracting more than 362,000 participants over the age of 15 each year. But for a non-contact sport, it is highly competitive and physically demanding.

"The sprinting, stopping, starting, bending and stretching nature of the

sport puts repetitive stresses on the musculoskeletal system and requires both aerobic and anaerobic fitness from players," Ms Cassell says.

Over-exertion results in players placing increased demands on their bodies, according to Ms Cassell, and this is what causes most tennis injuries. On the professional circuit, she says, this is further exacerbated by the pressure to perform.

"There is a great pressure, particularly among the younger players, to practise hard to meet high expectations of performance. This translates into players placing unrealistic demands on their bodies, which often results in injury," Ms Cassell says. "More than half of the injuries are to the lower

limbs, and most of these are to the knees and ankles."

Tennis requires a variety of physical attributes such as speed, power, endurance and balance. Without proper conditioning, warm-up programs, appropriate footwear and attention to environmental conditions, the likelihood of injury is increased, Ms Cassell warns.

"Both the competitive and social player should undergo a conditioning and training program to cope with the demands of play and reduce the risk of injury," she says.

For copies of the report, contact the Monash University Accident Research Centre on (03) 9905 1808.

Teams shape up for AUG

Monash University will field a strong team at the 1999 Australian University Games in Perth next month.

The competition, the biggest sporting event staged annually in Australia, traditionally attracts the cream of Australia's university athletes and provides a competitive proving ground for future national champions.

Fifteen Monash teams have qualified for this year's games, which will

run from 26 September to 1 October. Monash won the competition in 1998.

The men's teams that have qualified include basketball, Australian Rules football, hockey, rugby union, tennis, touch football, volleyball and waterpolo.

Qualifying women's teams include hockey, netball, soccer, tennis, touch football, volleyball and waterpolo.

Both the men's rugby union and the women's hockey sides came top in their qualifying rounds.

Monash will also field teams in aerobics, athletics, diving, judo, kendo, swimming and taekwondo, and could win wildcard entries into two other sports.

The Monash University team is expected to comprise 280 students and support staff.



Monash wingman Darren Junkeer shows the form which has helped his team to a place at the Australian University Games in Perth. Monash's women's hockey side, thanks to the efforts of players like Tamzine Rollason, is also through to a games berth. Photos by Greg Ford.

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