

SOUND

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ORIENTATION WEEK

FRESHERS TOLD: LEARN TO INTERACT

Three thousand students had their first introduction to university life at Monash yesterday . . . and were offered the solution to one of the major problems they'll confront in their first year.

In his welcoming address, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. M. Swan (standing in for Dr. Matheson, who is on leave), told freshers that the Monash staff attitude was — hopefully — one of sympathy and understanding: an outgrowth of what the paediatricians would call "TLC".

"But in suggesting that students are often in need of tender loving care I am also implying the converse", Professor Swan said. "Believe it or not, the staff could sometimes do with a little T.L.C., or whatever adult equivalent you think appropriate, from the students. We are hopelessly outnumbered, and some of us are old, that is, over 25, or really old, say over 35, or senile — say 45 or more, and it's no joke to be senile and surrounded by 6000 young virile males and 4000 young beautiful and nubile females."

Professor Swan went on: "If you are to enjoy a top quality university education . . . you will have to interact with a great many people who are a lot older than yourselves. I hope you will grin and bear it — and, in doing so, I think you will find many rewards. There is no generation gap here at Monash."

Professor Swan said that University study was a co-operative exercise; the success of a university, and its reputation, were ultimately to be measured in terms of staff-student interactions. No university could be successful if it treated its students as ciphers, as units to be organised and administered by computer print-out. Students were not ciphers, they were people.

"The essence of the good university is that it unites the students, as people, with the staff, also as people, in a common scholastic enterprise."

Professor Swan spoke of experiments now under way in secondary education — in schools such as the E.R.A. at Donvale, the new venture at Belgrave Heights, Swinburne Tech. and Moreland High — and the impact that these will have on universities.

"We have to contemplate that for some students in the near future, perhaps even now, the problems of school-to-university transition will be the exact opposite of what is now usual for many students, a change from a highly regimented school to a more free and open university society," he said.

Professor Swan concluded:

"Freedom to live your own life, to make your own decisions, to decide your own life style is one thing. But where freedom of speech is concerned, and this is the fundamental freedom in a university, only positive freedom will do. This implies not only that you have the right to be heard but so also has everyone else, no matter how bizarre or unpopular their views might be."

(Orientation Week offers ample opportunity for the "freedom of speech" mentioned in Professor Swan's address.

Forums, seminars and discussion sessions cover a wide range of topics of an immediate, "relevant" and "significant" nature:

From "World problems — do Science and Technology Hold the Solutions?," through "What is Women's Lib.?" and "Who should Run the University?" to "Contraception", "Imperialism", "Black Power" and "The Politics of Poverty."

Full details are published in the official Orientation Programme.)

HIGH JINKS OVER MONASH

A late — and spectacular — addition to the Orientation Week Programme will be a demonstration of skydiving by members of the Monash University Skydivers.

Subject to approval by the Department of Civil Aviation (and suitable weather conditions), four parachutists will jump from about 3300ft. and free-fall about 2200ft. before opening their chutes.

The display is provisionally timed for 1/30 p.m. on Friday, March 3, and the probable landing area will be the main sports oval. The skydivers, however, will seek permission to land in the Forum, between the Menzies Building and the Union.

The team will be led by Bob Courtenay, Monash arts student and president of the Skydivers. He will be accompanied by John Parker, another Monash student, and Steve Filak and Russell Jones, members of a demonstration team based at Labertouche.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR STUDENT

Martin Elias, a 22-year-old Monash postgraduate student, hopes to address an international convention of engineers in New York this month.

His all-expenses-paid trip is first prize in a contest conducted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc., New York.

He won it against competition from students throughout Australia and from India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, South Africa and Taiwan.

Martin graduated Bachelor of Engineering (Hons.) last year and is now working for his master's degree. His thesis is "Numerical solutions of linear antennas".

The paper which gained him international recognition was a study of multiloop maximum feedback amplifiers for telephone systems.

Martin will fly to the U.S. on Saturday, March 4, and will be a guest at the IEEE's International Convention from March 19-23.

The trip, and a cheque for \$100, are a reward for the "outstanding work and talent" displayed in his winning paper.

PARKING — GET YOUR PERMIT NOW

It's parking permit renewal time, and those wishing to do so should apply as soon as possible to the Parking Office in the lower ground floor, University Offices building.

Staff permits cost \$10, student permits \$5, and the white parking permit is free of charge.

Early application for permits will greatly assist the parking staff in the execution of their duties.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS FROM MARCH 20

The regular lunchtime concerts in the Robert Blackwood Hall will begin three days earlier than planned. Pianist Janet Roet will play works by Debussy on Monday, March 20.

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra will present the second concert in the lunchtime series on March 23. Both concerts will begin at 1.10 p.m.

Authorised by K.W. Bennetts, Information Officer.