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Monash University
S.R.C. Newspaper

CHAOS

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CHAOS

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CHAOS

A UNIVERSITY is a University is a University is a University. So might Gertrude Stein have spoken. It still doesn't answer the question, though. In Plato's day the Academy was a haven for men whose chief delight lay in dissecting reality, in applying mind to things as diverse as beauty and politics. The ideal man was an integral member of a small vital community; his world might not be large, but he had a decent hand in guiding it.

The Universities of the Middle Ages, under the hand of the monks, became centres of enlightenment in a world where the intellect was little treasured. A central feature of their discipline was Theology, a plant which blossomed into the vast complexes of Scholastic thought. Here the ideal was to have Man developed mentally, but in a spiritual direction, so that Man became part of Christ.

These same Universities soon became the ground where the seeds of the Age of the Enlightenment were nurtured. With the rise in prestige of agnosticism and rationalism, the University became the home of intellectual humanism. Still, though, a university education was designed to develop the students, and we have the ideal of the "Liberal Education."

Today, let us be frank, the magnificent aim of education has been diverted from the development of the mind and soul of man to the mechanical indoctrination of scientific facts and historic theories; of economic systems and the way to trap a deoxyribonucleic acid molecule.

Now you've heard this before, the pious cry for the return of the "old" ideals, of the liberal education. It can't be done! Sorry, kids, our particular economic system forbids it — unless you have a meaty inheritance to live on, and a hermitage to live in. So, while we must decry the collapse of the Platonic, Scholastic, or Rationalist (take your pick) ideals, we have to live with the fact that unless the world slows up and matches technological progress with mental development, a University can scarcely be anything but a vast degree machine.

"THE soul of Monash is embodied in our administration."

We acknowledge and respect the job being done by a fine group of people in forming the background of this new and expanding University. But we are beginning to wonder whether we may be left at the mercy of the bureaucrats shortly, as many of our leading administrative figures are disappearing over the horizon.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J. A. L. Matheson will be out of the country from June until August of this year so we are told. Doctor Matheson has recently returned to take up his responsibilities after an extended period as a member of the Royal Commission inquiring into the failure of King's Bridge.

However, the Chancellor of our University, Sir Robert Blackwood has also left Australia recently and will not return, once again, until August.

But to top it all off, Professor D. Cochran (who deputised as Vice-Chancellor during Doctor Matheson's recent absence) has left for a study tour of England and America and will not be back until January, 1964.

We sincerely hope that these worthy gentlemen will spread the good name of Monash abroad, and trust that they will; but at the same time it will prove interesting to see who takes charge of our welfare next in this unending game of Musical Chairs!

LETTERS

UNOBSERVANT CRITIC

Dear Sir,

The other day I was travelling up the escalator between the second and third floors of the Arts building, when I noticed a beautiful young Freshette coming up the flight below.

I leant over the bannister to get a better look but luckily for me on second sight she wasn't so beautiful, so I withdrew my head — and only just in time. I came close to trapping it between the bannister and the underside of the next flight up!

It is time the authorities took some action over this. Those escalators must be made safe; decapitation is too strong a penalty to pay for a little innocent indulgence in what is, after all, the University's major sport and subject of study.

And whilst they are about it the authorities could put up some corridor advertisements as in the London underground.

Yours,

LASCIVIOUS SCIENTIST.

Be thankful for small mercies — after all it was only your head.—
ED.

Ascending Triumph

Dear Sir,

It is with much regret that I read the "Chaos" supplement of Sunday last.

I had hoped that Monash — a young University — had found its feet and was capable of consideration as a responsible body of intelligent students. However, since the voice of this institution has insisted on registering its immaturity, I can only assume that there is something seriously wrong.

Not that the supplement itself needs an answer—it is an insult to "Farrago" not by its "satire" (I think the inverted commas are necessary here) but by its uniformly low standard of journalism. The little ode to Fred was the only clever

contribution it boasted and that unfortunately childish and personal.

But what sparked off this controversy? It was an article in "Farrago" of 26th April, intended to bring to the notice of perhaps unwary Monash students the attempt by the S.R.C. to foist upon them a constitution which in its opinion gave far too much power to the clique of students at present in office.

It was an unemotional article, which expressed a reasoned argument against such provisions of the proposed constitution as:

(i) 2-year tenure of office. This would allow members to luxuriate in their positions for 2/3 of an average University course, without fear of being dislodged from their positions, no matter how lazy they might be. Even at Melbourne, there are several members of Council who seem to get by with little or no work at all; how much worse would they be with a two-year term?

(ii) 2/3 majority of students required for passing of motions of Union Meetings.

This would certainly guarantee that the status quo would be preserved.

It is a simple thing to break up a meeting's vote by encouraging faction fighting between sectional groups with vested interests (Clubs, Societies or even Faculties). How much simpler when one needs only 1/3 in dissent?

(iii) When 2/3 majority, S.R.C. will consider the motion: even having obtained this landslide majority (the agreement of two students out of three), one can be sure of nothing.

The S.R.C. can still shelve the motion, with the trite old phrase: "Council notes the opinion of General Meeting" (but does nothing—"after all, they have two years to forget about it!").

No, there is definitely much that the Monash student should give considerable thought to, and, after all, "Farrago" only brought it up because, as it said, "certain proposals in the draft constitution are disturbing and need examination by all Monash students."

The lack of publicity in "Chaos" may be due to S.R.C. control or to lack of literate copy. Which is it? Surely "Chaos" staff members

are not illiterate, unless, of course, they don't consider their Constitution of sufficient importance to warrant printing?

Then there is the other alternative—and we did note with interest how "Chaos" rush to the defence of its honourable S.R.C., but surely —no, it's unthinkable!

However, it doesn't really matter what "Chaos" or S.R.C. say, as long as you individual students give careful thought to any constitution before approving it—and I'm sure all the clubs, societies and faculties of democratic inclination at Monash will not be silent when the constitution is voted upon.

Yours fraternally,

BILL PEARCE,
SCIENCE, MELB. UNIV.

Dear Frere,

May I first point out that the "Chaotic Farrago" affair was not a "controversy"; it was merely good-humoured rubbishing of a rival University. May I also point out that, had you bothered to read the last issue of "Chaos" you may have found SOMEWHERE in the print under the heading of "Expose," critical reference to the very constitution of which you write.

Perhaps you could channel your unobservant criticisms into more constructive regions. Obviously you take an active interest in journalism and with such budding potentiality, you should surely join your cohorts on "Farrago." YOUR PAPER NEEDS YOU.

ED.

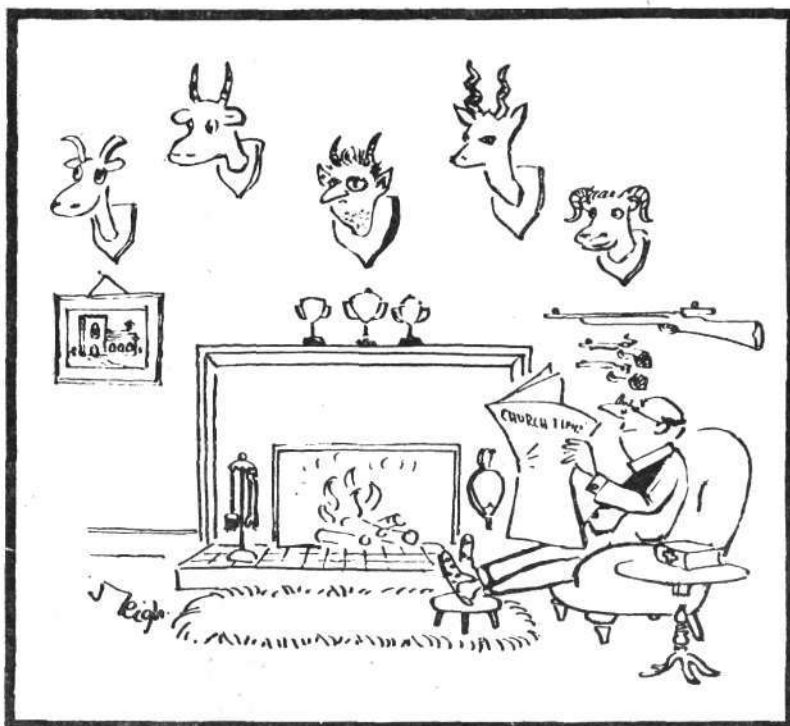
Common Employment

Dear Sir,

With the May vacation just three days away, I would be grateful if you would include in your next edition of Chaos, a reminder for students to register with the Board should they be interested in employment during this period. Students may see Mr. Sweeney, Warden of the Union, to arrange formal registration.

Although the number of positions available during the short vacations are rather limited, we hope that we shall be able to help all those anxious for employment.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK DOWNES,
Secretary.





A REVIEW:

JULES ET JIM

FRANCOIS Truffaut has said of his film 'Jules and Jim' that his aim was "to succeed in making a film of the purest love possible . . . a story told in half tones, sad in its outline but funny in detail. If it succeeds it will be a hymn to love and more still: a hymn to life."

But it doesn't succeed like this, because artists have a habit of making their characters in the image of themselves, or at least they can never altogether keep themselves apart. For, in this film, as much as in "400 Blows," or "The Mischief Makers," there is the recurrent theme of people seeking out the limits of their experience and their feelings.

Jules and Jim are friends in the fullest, richest, most delightful sense, and their friendship is of a rare and unusual kind; they just seem to think and act in the same way. But friendship, like everything else, must come to an end, and perhaps these two grown-up boys realize it; Truffaut certainly does, and conveys the feeling as a slightly sad edge to their happenings. It is more as though his "hymn to life" is being sung by one without faith.

As an exercise in film-making technique, Truffaut's work is superb. He

I
LOVE
JULES and JIM

integrates direction, camera-work, music, to create a strangely unusual and at times quite beautiful effect. It is almost as though one was peering into a faded, dim snapshot album of 1912, and being able to make out these two characters caught doing all sorts of mad things, and reading the narration in subtitles like captions, and trying to imagine what they really were like and what they were thinking.

It is, in fact, a perfect period-piece, using sometimes the speeded action of early cameras, cutting-in actual newsreel shots of the period, and with a thread of music running through in a quaintly jaunty melody, which is at times quite nostalgic.

Though the theme is simple enough, the story is not without complexity, for the two friends meet a girl, who is at first an even stronger welding force, for she is one of them. But later, when she is married to Jules, the two realise that she has been the price of their friendship, and even though Jules lets her take Jim, all but a little of the old feeling remains.

At this point, the film loses its hectic pace, which is replaced by a searching intimacy, focussing again and again on the girl, for through her an uncontrollable surge of emotion has torn deeply into the trio. For the rest of the film, Katherine is experimenting

with her love for Jules and Jim, and to do this is as fatal as it is tragic.

But in her can be discerned once more the problem of a person exploring the boundaries of human relations and external feeling, only here it is stated openly, as in Truffaut's earlier work.

by Bill
Bostock

New Appointment

THE appointment is announced today of Mr. F. H. G. Gruen to the Chair of Agricultural Economics at Monash University.

Mr. Gruen is Senior Research Fellow, Department of Economics, in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. He will take up his new appointment at the end of this year.

The Reserve Bank of Australia through its Rural Credits Development Fund has undertaken to provide £20,000 over four years towards the establishment of the Chair.

Mr. Gruen while on army service completed the degree of Bachelor of Arts as an external student of the University of Melbourne. He graduated as Bachelor of Commerce in 1946 and also holds an M.S.C. (Agricultural Economics) from the University of Wisconsin and an M.A. from the University of Chicago. Prior to his appointment to the Australian National University Mr. Gruen was Acting Head of the Economics

Section in the Department of Agriculture of N.S.W. He is a past president of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society and a member of the Council of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

Mr. Gruen, who has published many papers in agricultural policy, wool futures market, and the economics of speculation, farm management and in other fields, at present lives in a small pastoral property near Canberra. He is married with two children.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J. A. L. Matheson, announcing the appointment today, said he was delighted Monash had attracted such an experienced agricultural economist. Dr. Matheson also said the Reserve Bank of Australia's generous support was very much appreciated and was of great assistance to the University in its formative years.

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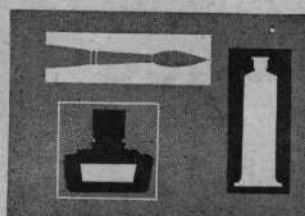
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Ventura Bus Lines have decided to run a bus along Blackburn Road, from Monash to Blackburn Station, leaving Monash at about 6.20 p.m.

This bus will start on the 1st day of 2nd Term and will run for a couple of weeks at least, as an experiment to see whether the demand for such a service is sufficient to warrant a permanent run at this time.

It is in the interest of all students who at some time or another will use this bus, to use it during this experimental period, and so persuade Ventura to keep the bus running.

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The Undergrad's Primer

This is John.
John is a student.
Study, study, study, John.
John is called 'undergraduate.'
Why is John below a graduate?
Isn't this erotic behaviour?
John is doing a course in Engineering.
This means that he will be able to build bridges and drive trains.
Build, John, build.
Toot, John, toot.
John has already been a student twice before.
He is working towards his third diploma.
The professors are putting him through the third degree.



John has a dog.
His name is Scottie.
Scottie sits on the end of John's bed while he studies.
John thinks it is unusual for a dog to study anyway.
John is a normal student.
He has fixations, frustrations, and is perfectly mal-adjusted.
John often dreams of Scottie.
Dream, John, dream.
Play, Scottie, play.
Freud would have something to say about this.
John has a friend.
Her name is Ophelia.
She is an undergraduate, too.
In her case the title is more suitable.
She is a normal student, too.
She wears no make-up.
She wears tight trousers.
She wears big fur boots.
She wears tight black sweaters.
Pose, Ophelia, pose.



John and Ophelia play.
They are conducting a normal undergraduate romance.
Pet, pet, pet.
Neck, neck, neck.
Trouble, trouble, trouble.
Ophelia should pay more attention in Biology 1.
John and Ophelia study.
John and Ophelia play.
John and Ophelia drink coffee and smoke reefers and talk of free love.
John pays for the coffee.
John pays for the reefers.
Why should he pay for everything?

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but rarely understood.
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longing
And the living feeling of belonging;
For what is numbered in our
seventh sense.

So fly fond heart, for all is hence.

Ian Mullens

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