



PixelPapers the Twenty Second.

1 January, 2003.

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No attachments please

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PP22 WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 1ST FEBRUARY



Editorial

Senator Richard Alston recently announced that he is initiating reviews of several arts funding bodies, including our own beloved Australia Council, to satisfy himself that funds are being spent wisely, although I notice that there is nothing on the ministerial website about the matter. Richard has been remarkably niggardly with arts funding during his tenure, but has not been shy about

launching investigations.

Arts bodies are vulnerable when bean counters run the rule over them as it is difficult to establish artistic benchmarks, especially in areas where the artform is difficult to define. (I don't think that I've ever seen a satisfactory, generally accepted definition of art.) Gate sales, where relevant, are a disappointing sort of guide as they usually demonstrate that the Wiggles or moderately rated rock bands have more pulling power than most art enterprises, no matter what spin is put on the matter.

Arts organisations under attack closely resemble cephalopods, waving their many arms (policy, administration, corporate, evaluation, finance, artform, research, etc.) and releasing enormous amounts of ink before attempting to adopt the colouration and configuration of some government favoured corporate environment. After the event, sans a tentacle or two, (often the artform member) they attempt to grow themselves to fit the vague template discerned from the review process.

For my part, I can't say that I've seen much benefit from the literature part of the Australia Council process for myself or the organisations with which I've been connected. Without funding support, many of the literary magazines have folded and there is little outlet for the creative work of writers. Nothing has been put in place to compensate for this loss and the Australia Council seems incapable of using the new media for literary purposes.

I suspect that if the Literature Board funding were stopped or diverted to other artforms for a space (Sculpture or paintings on *The Lost Writer* theme perhaps?) most would hardly notice.

Political correctness in the literary arts is a theme that has run through these pages and I was therefore delighted and astounded to read Patrick McCauley's excellent article in *The Weekend Australian* of 25-26 January, 2003, entitled *Winners are losers in poets' war*. I was delighted not only by the perception and quality of the piece, but also because it was run in the Oz, despite the fact

that it gives its own poetry editor a serve.

He rails against poetic political correctness and the meaninglessness that it engenders.

McCauley, a poet and writer, runs the monthly poetry *Big Read* at the Celtic Club in Melbourne.

I'll attempt to have his piece for a future PP and would be grateful if any readers could help in the process.

Wordsworth

Mispronunciation is mildly annoying in ordinary discourse, but when it constantly happens on television it is annoying. I don't mind kilometre being pronounced with an invented "om" syllable, as this was cited as being an acceptable alternative when metrication was introduced in Australia. But surely it is wrong and sloppy for a television network such as SBS to habitually use it in its news and commentary. The root words are "kilo" and "metre" and it is senseless to interpose the "om", thereby lumping it with the equally senselessly pronounced thermometer and barometer. We do not introduce an "im" in centimetre or millimetre.

Their crowning blunder is the introduction to the estimable, *News Hour*, with Jim "Leer-er". Jim Lehrer follows a few seconds later identifying himself as "Jim Lair-er".

Our multicultural broadcaster must surely be aware of the correct pronunciation of this German word for teacher as spelt, and must give Jim Lehrer credit for knowing how to pronounce his own name!

Degrees off course

It is amazing how people stumble into the compass metaphor and spin into a meaning that they obviously do not intend. *Holding course* and *off course* are readily understood until people try to fit a number. The full compass is 360 degrees so that if you change course by that amount, you may spin momentarily, but essentially you are continuing in exactly the same direction. If you make a 180 degree turn, you head back in exactly the opposite direction. If you turn 90 degrees you are probably on a different tack altogether.

If you ignore the compass, you may trim your sailing craft and course according to the wind. People who alter their stance according to the prevailing political direction or strength are therefore called trimmers.

This is fine, but if the wind boxes the compass and blows from all directions, then there is a danger of the trimmer adopting many inconsistent positions and getting nowhere and losing place!

News & Views

Shakespeare writes for The Oz!

Not the bard, but novelist and half time Taswegian, Nicholas Shakespeare, writes entertainingly in the *Weekend Australian* magazine of 11-12 January, 2003, of his apprenticeship as a scriptwriter, preparing one of his own novels for the screen.

There is also a photograph by Russell Shakespeare.

The Oz publishes a poem!

In the same issue, *The Weekend Australian* published its first poem for the year, a notable event, exciting some conjecture. Was there, by sheer happenstance, an appropriate tiny space, crying out for a

filler? Or was a usually resident tabloid tyrant away on vacation, allowing a courageous chair warmer to make a literary decision? Perhaps it is an earnest of a change for the better. After all, in broadsheet tradition, there was a time when the Oz published at least one poem per week and sometimes two, three or four.

Joker

Polar Bear goes into a bar and says, " Can I have a gin

and.....

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.tonic please?"

The barman serves him and says, "Why the large pause?"

Polar Bear says, "Don't know, I've always had them!"

net anon

A mama mole, a papa mole, and a baby mole all live in a little mole hole.

One day the papa mole sticks his head out of the hole, sniffs the air and says, "Yum! I smell maple syrup!"

The mama mole sticks her head out of the hole, sniffs the air and says "Yum! I smell honey!"

The baby mole tries to stick his head out of the hole to sniff the air, but can't because the bigger moles are in the way so he says, "Geez, all I can smell is....

Scroll down.....

Get ready.....

You may never forgive me for this one...

MOLASSES!

net anon

EVER WONDER WHERE WE ARE HEADED....

...why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens
our skin?

...why women can't put on mascara with their
mouth closed?

...why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic
Wins Lottery"?

...why "abbreviated" is such a long word?

...why doctors call what they do "practice"?

...why you have to click on "Start" to stop
Windows 98?

...why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?

...why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?

...why there isn't mouse-flavored cat food?

...who tastes dog food when it has a "new & improved" flavor?

...why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?

...why they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

...why they don't make the whole plane out of the material used for the indestructible black box ?

...why sheep don't shrink when it rains?

...why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?

...if con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the

opposite of progress?

...why they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?

AND...

In case you need further proof that the human race is doomed because of stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Myer hairdryer: Do not use while sleeping. (darn, and that's the only time I have to work on my hair).

On a bag of Chips: You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside. (the shoplifter special?)

On a bar of Palmolive soap: "Directions: Use like regular soap." (and that would be how???.)

On some frozen dinners: "Serving suggestion: Defrost." (but, it's "just" a suggestion).

On Nanna's Tiramisu dessert (printed on

bottom): "Do not turn upside down."

(well...duh, a bit late, huh)!

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding: "Product will be hot after heating." (...and you thought?????)

On packaging for a K-Mart iron: "Do not iron clothes on body." (but wouldn't this save me more time?)

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication." (We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.)

On Nytol Sleep Aid: "Warning: May cause drowsiness." (and...I'm taking this because?????)

On most brands of Christmas lights: "For indoor or outdoor use only." (as opposed to...what?)

On a Japanese food processor: "Not to be used for the other use." (now, somebody out

there, help me on this. I'm a bit curious.)

On Nobby's peanuts: "Warning: contains nuts." (talk about a news flash!)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts:
"Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts." (Step 3: maybe, uh...fly Delta?)

I don't blame the company. I blame the parents for this one: On a child's superman costume: "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly."

On a Swedish chainsaw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals."
(...was there a lot of this happening somewhere?)

Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread the stupidity and send this to someone you want to bring a smile to (maybe even a chuckle)...in other words send it to everyone. We all need to smile every once in a while.

net anon

(THE FOLLOWING WRY GEMS FROM NET ANON ARE OFFERED FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT AND REFLECTION.)

What a difference 30 years makes:

1972: Long hair

2002: Longing for hair

1972: The perfect high

2002: The perfect high yield mutual fund

1972: KEG

2002: EKG

1972: Acid rock

2002: Acid reflux

1972: Moving to California because it's cool

2002: Moving to California because it's warm

1972: Growing pot

2002: Growing pot belly

1972: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

2002: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

1972: Seeds and stems

2002: Roughage

1972: Popping pills, smoking joints

2002: Popping joints

1972: Killer weed

2002: Weed killer

1972: Hoping for a BMW

2002: Hoping for a BM

1972: The Grateful Dead

2002: Dr. Kevorkian

1972: Going to a new, hip joint

2002: Receiving a new hip joint

1972: Rolling Stones

2002: Kidney Stones

1972: Being called into the principal's office

2002: Calling the principal's office

1972: Screw the system

2002: Upgrade the system

1972: Disco

2002: Costco

1972: Parents begging you to get your hair cut

2002: Children begging you to get their heads shaved

1972: Taking acid

2002: Taking antacid

1972: Passing the drivers' test

2002: Passing the vision test

1972: Whatever

2002: Depends

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of the year's incoming freshmen. Here's this year's list:

The people who are starting college this fall (2001) across the nation were born in 1983.

They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.

Their lifetime has always included AIDS.

Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.

The CD was introduced the year they were born.

They have always had an answering machine.

They have always had cable.

They cannot fathom not having a remote control.

Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.

Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.

They never took a swim and thought about Jaws.

They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.

They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

They never heard: "Where's the Beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel",

or

"de plane Boss, de plane".

They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J. R. even is.

Michael Jackson has always been white.

McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers.

They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

net anon

MORE FROM THE MIDDLE AFRICAN MENDICANTS.

A SCANDINAVIAN PERSON SEEMS TO HAVE WANDERED INTO THE ADDRESS.

From douglas ken01

3/5 RIDER HAGGARD

CLOSE, JO, BORG

SOUTH AFRICA.

Tel no. +27-834377724

fax No.874-762960312

URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL
(RE: TRANSFER OF (\$ 152,000.000.00 USD
JONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY TWO MILLION DOLLARS

Dear sir,

We want to transfer to overseas (\$ 152,000.000.00
USD)

One hundred and

Fifty two million United States Dollars) from a

Prime

Bank in Africa, I want to ask you to quietly look

for a reliable and honest person who will be

capable and fit to provide either an existing bank

account or to set up a new Bank a/c immediately

to

receive this money, even an empty a/c can serve to

receive this money, as long as you will remain

honest

to me till the end for this important business

trusting in you and believing in God that you

will

never let me down either now or in future.

I am MR douglas ken01, the Auditor General of prime
banks in Africa, during the course of our auditing

I discovered a floating fund in an account opened in the bank in 1990 and since 1993 nobody has operated on this account again, after going through some old files in the records I discovered that the owner of the account died without a [heir] hence the money is floating and if I do not remit this money out urgently it will be forfeited for nothing. the owner of this account is Mr. Allan P. Seaman, a foreigner, and an industrialist, and he died, since 1993. and no other person knows about this account or any thing concerning it, the account has no other beneficiary and my investigation proved to me as well that Allan P. Seaman until his death was the manager Diamond Safari [pty]. SA.

We will start the first transfer with fifty two million [\$52,000.000] upon successful transaction without any disappoint from your side, we shall re-apply for the payment of the remaining rest amount to your account,

The amount involved is (USD 152M) One hundred and Fifty two million United States Dollars, only I want to first transfer \$52,000.000 [fifty two million

United States Dollar from this money into a safe foreigners account abroad before the rest, but I don't know any foreigner, I am only contacting you as a foreigner because this money can not be approved to a local person here, without valid international foreign passport, but can only be approved to any foreigner with valid international passport or drivers license and foreign a/c because the money is in us dollars and the former owner of the a/c Mr. Allan P. Seaman is a foreigner too, [and the money can only be approved into a foreign a/c

However, we will sign a binding agreement, to bind us together I got your contact address from the Girl who operates computer, I am revealing this to you with believe in God that you will never let me down in this business, you are the first and the only person that I am contacting for this business, so please reply urgently so that I will inform you the next step

to take
urgently. Send also your private telephone and fax
number including the full details of the account to
be
used for the deposit.

I want us to meet face to face to build confidence
and
to sign a binding
agreement that will bind us together before
transferring the money to any account of your
choice
where the fund will be safe. Before we fly to your
country for withdrawal, sharing and investments.

I need your full co-operation to make
this work fine. because the management is ready to
approve this payment to any foreigner who has
correct
information of this account, which I will give to
you,
upon your positive response and once I am convinced
that you are capable and will meet up with
instruction of a key bank official who is deeply
involved with me in this business.
I need your strong assurance that you will never,
never let me down.

With my influence and the position of the bank official we can transfer this money to any foreigner's reliable account which you can provide with assurance that this money will be intact pending our physical arrival in your country for sharing. The bank official will destroy all documents of transaction immediately we receive this money leaving no trace to any place and to build confidence you can come immediately to discuss with me face to face after which I will make this remittance in your presence and three of us will fly to your country at least two days ahead of the money going into the account.

I will apply for annual leave to get visa immediately I hear from you that you are ready to act and receive this fund in your account. I will use my position and influence to obtain all legal approvals for onward transfer of this money to your account with appropriate clearance from the relevant ministries

and

foreign exchange departments.

At the conclusion of this business, you will be

given

35% of the total amount, 60% will be for me, while

5%

will be for expenses both parties might have

incurred

during the process of transferring. I will send you

all my phone and fax

numbers as soon as you indicate interest in this

businesses

I look forward to your earliest reply through my

email address, douglas_ken01@al-is-lam.com

yours truly,

Mr douglas.

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