



PixelPapers the Eighteenth.

1 January, 2002.

[Verse](#) <> Contributed poetry, old & new

[Prose](#) <> Stories, Articles & First Chapters

[Editorial](#) <> Wordsworth<>News & Views<> etc.

[Screen](#) <> Film & television

[Gigs'n'Ads](#) <>Coming Events, advertisements, etc.

[Live Index](#) <> Contributors and titles of past issues:
86+ and 760+ respectively.

[Contact](#) <> An addressed e-mail blank instantly ready
for your contributions to be pasted in, or news & views

[wacam](#)<> occasional photos

[Back Nos](#) <> The issues to date, sans irrelevant bits



Editorial

The elections are over and we are left with the same minister and certainly the same lack of governmental interest in the arts. Perhaps we are lucky that we did not get the regrettable Senator McMullin or Mr Michael Lee for another trick at the helm. Mr Lee, who lost his seat, is certainly out of the picture.

I cannot recall a sympathetic minister since Wendy Fatin, but her enthusiasm was not supported financially by the federal government of the time.

We must live in hope that Richard Alston will suffer some sort of Pauline conversion and become interested in his minor portfolio, but his past record offers little hope for this to happen. Richard is responsible for the arts at cabinet level (if it ever surfaces there) and the putative minister for the arts is Mr Rod Kemp.

The shadow minister for the Arts is Carmen Lawrence. I can predict, with absolute confidence, that she is likely to be better than her immediate predecessors and certainly no worse.

As previously reported, ABC's Media Dimensions is unlikely to resume this year. It is a pity, not only because of its quality, but also because our media needs such scrutiny. An occasional roasting for shortcomings, plagiarism, blatant self-interest, bias, duplicity and plain stupidity, is healthy. I would not be surprised if there has not been some political interference here.

I wonder what they would have made of *The West Australian* running with a lead story of a school principal being under investigation, on the complaint of an aggrieved parent, for physically breaking up a playground fight between two or three nine year-olds, some weeks ago! Heady stuff from a capital city daily.

In similar case was an ABC segment of the 7.30 Report, breathlessly touted as an Australian equivalent of the Rodney King case in America, where five policeman beat a man senseless with batons. In this case, a Northern Territory man, obviously well out of control, was wrestled to the ground by three policemen and put in a cell, without use of batons and no apparent beating. I would be surprised if this was not almost textbook procedure for such circumstances, aimed at forestalling something worse, but this was not the spin put on it by the reporter. The man's legal advisers also seemed to have been somewhat nonplussed by it.

In both of the above cases, I suppose that it is fair to point out that this is the holiday season and senior executives could well be on holidays, but this raises another issue. Why does the television industry virtually close down from about November to February, treating it as a non-ratings period? We are grateful that politicians and political journalists disappear from our screens, but not for the junk and tired re-runs that are shown. Perhaps it is time for Sir Richard Branson to buy into a Channel!

Media Dimensions also dwelt all too briefly on *Letters to the Editor*, a popular feature of most newspapers. It seems to me that there has been an invasion by the same people who seem to haunt and spoil talk-back radio with racism, bigotry and sweeping generalisations. Judging by the quality of the writing compared with the level of ratiocination and mental functioning, our teachers have done an excellent job with the one and not the other.

PixelPapers 18 is offered cleansed of much of the material which seems to carry over from issue to issue, but I have left some out of date competition information as some sort of guide to what is likely to emerge during the year. News of events of interest to our readers and contributors is very welcome. The events and works of contributors will also be advertised gratis.

The range and quality of contributions is very pleasing.

Wordsworth

metaphor, n. Application of name or descriptive term to an object to which it is not literally applicable. (COD) Metaphors enrich language and perception. In the arts, it is common to talk about music in terms of visual arts, using terms such as colour, darker, light and shade. Sometimes, painting is talked about in terms of rhythm.

When a metaphor is inappropriate or unknown, it confuses and fails. For instance, a beginning is sometimes described as, "kicking off", which derives from the opening play in some codes of football, but it seems to be inappropriate when it is applied to tennis matches and the commencement of the tour of a symphony orchestra. Getting something "off the ground", a term borrowed from aviation, is hardly appropriate when applied to resource projects which depend on mining under the ground.

I have not been able to sort out the origin of the increasingly common "back to back", used to describe consecutive events, usually sporting victories. Perhaps an American reader could elaborate.

userid, n. I have previously dealt with this piece of computer jargon, but repeat it for new users. If you syllabify it as use-rid then you must be puzzled. It is, of course, short for *user identification* or user ID.

discombobulated. This joky term is of recent coinage and hardly to be taken seriously as it simply means, confused, nonplussed, perplexed or discomfited.

reticence, n. Reserve in speech, avoidance of saying all one knows or

feels,...disposition to silence, taciturnity. (COD)

reluctant, a. Struggling, offering resistance, hard to work or get or manage:
unwilling, disinclined to do. (COD)

News & Views

New U.S. Poet Laureate

Billy Collins, a university professor of literature, has taken over from the Stanley Kunitz as America's poet laureate. Kunitz was remarkable, as one of his published poems dates back to 1914 and he filled the post for the second time, last year, at 95 years of age! There was no mention about the reason for his withdrawal from the position.

In an interview on PBS *The News Hour*, re-telecast on SBS, Collins discussed accessibility as a factor in modern poetry and stated that there was very good, plain spoken poetry being written in the United States today.

He likened poetry to travel writing. The reader enjoys an experience in delving into the poem to find what it has to offer.

He likes to write a poem at a sitting but owns, like the rest of us, to subsequently polishing and tweaking the work.

I've previously fulminated on the subject of Australia's lack of such an office and also our notion that literature has no place in prime time television. PBS seems to devote about ten minutes of *The News Hour* to literature, which is a pretty good slice of prime time.

Dr Lindsay I presume.

Congratulations to Hilarie Lindsay, formerly state president of the NSW Fellowship of Australian Writers for many years, on successfully completing her PhD thesis on Winifred Steger.

In writerly fashion, she has shaped it to be published by Simon & Schuster next June as *The Washerwoman's Dream*.

The last time I saw Hilarie was in the Mortlock Library in Adelaide, where she was doing some of her research and I was attempting to find something about my Cornish great great grandfather, James, who expired in that city in 1875, a short time after leaving Clunes in Victoria.

[Top](#)

Joker

(I REPEAT THIS JOKE FROM PP15. ACCORDING TO A RECENT REPORT, A VARIANT WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES AND WATSON IN THE LEADING ROLES, WAS VOTED THE FUNNIEST JOKE EVER BY THE BRITS.)

The Lone Ranger and Tonto are camping in the desert, set up their tent, and are asleep. Some hours later, The Lone Ranger wakes his faithful friend.

"Tonto, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Tonto replies, "Me see millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" asks The Lone Ranger.

Tonto ponders for a minute.

"Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What it tell you, Kemo Sabi?"

The Lone Ranger is silent for a moment, then speaks.

"Tonto, you Dumb Ass, someone has stolen our tent."

A Lawyer's good wishes and festive greeting.

Definitions:

Net anon, also referred to hereafter variously as 'me', 'myself' and 'the wisher';

You, similarly and also referred to as 'yourself' and 'the wishee'.

Statement:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious/secular traditions at all.

As well, please enjoy a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2002, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only

"America" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual preference of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting the following terms:

This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and it is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

No reindeer or barns were injured during the making of these greetings. #

Things To Say If You Get Caught Sleeping At Your Desk

net anon

15. "They told me at the blood bank this might happen."

14. "This is just a 15 minute power-nap like they raved about in the last time management course you sent me to."

13. "Whew! Guess I left the top off the liquid paper"

12. "I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm!"

11. "This is one of the seven habits of highly effective people!"

10. "I was testing the keyboard for drool resistance"

9. "Actually I'm doing a "Stress Level Elimination Exercise Plan" (SLEEP) I learned it at the last mandatory seminar you made me attend.

8. "I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work related stress."

7. "Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem."

6. "The coffee machine is broken...."

5. "Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot."

4. "Boy, that cold medicine I took last night just won't wear off!"
3. "Ah, the unique and unpredictable circadian rhythms of the workaholic!"
2. "I wasn't sleeping, I was trying to pick up contact lens without hands."

AND THE #1 BEST THING TO SAY IF YOU GET CAUGHT SLEEPING AT YOUR DESK:

"Amen"

[Top](#)

[Top](#)



Vale Nigel Hawthorne.

The world is saddened by the loss of this marvellous actor, remembered by the Americans for his role in *The Madness of King George*, and the rest of the world for his part as the scheming civil servant, Sir Humphrey Appleby, in *Yes Minister* and *Yes Prime Minister*.

He nearly made it to Australia to take the leading role in a film scripted by Peter Bibby, based on a short story by Lloyd Davies, but the project lapsed.

Christopher's Crits.

Christopher Mulrooney, an occasional contributor from Los Angeles, is also a film buff. He has posted his thoughts on many of the films that he has seen on his website at

<http://cmulrooney.tripod.com/alliwell.html>

(If there is anyone out there who has similarly run the rule over Australian films, I'd be happy to provide a link.)

History of Britain SBS *****

This was a magnificent series, presented by Simon Schama. He is a marvellous presenter, with the rare talent to be on camera much of the time without being obtrusive, using a mix of voice over and speaking direct to camera. He is an academic and knows his stuff, allowing him to be ironic or frivolous with some authority. For instance, he trots out the little known information that Tudor Queen Mary was in fact married to the arch enemy, catholic King Phillip of Spain, who backed off and left her after he found that he could not assume Britain's throne, and that, ironically, Mary joyed in false symptoms of pregnancy, that were really manifestations of the tumour that took her off to an untimely death.

I enjoyed his assessment of the ruthless and bloodthirsty Plantagenets who laid waste to much of the land, in spite of the fact that two members of my family (assuming that I am not descended from Vivian servants!) married lesser Plantagenet princesses and must therefore have been in high favour during the dynasty.

The clever camera work and weaving of footage of old buildings, artefacts, paintings, features and clips of some simulated battle scenes, made it a rich experience.

I'll gladly watch it again next time around.

Faces of SBS

There is some controversy and a mixed reception for the new station sign for the channel, that features screen-filling close-up clips of the faces of some SBS viewers, rather like Juanita Hall (Bloody Mary) in the film version of South Pacific or the princess in Star Wars, pores and all. It is somewhat unnerving, even when the subjects break into a smile.

Critics, given the Channel's delight in the mildly risqué (I've heard their evening film selection characterised as Sex Before Sleep!) and globular objects and parts thereof symbolising their world coverage, should be glad that it is the front end being portrayed and not a Yoko Ono type presentation!

Catastrophe SBS

This two part exposition of David Keyes's theory that the so-called dark ages of history were in fact a real period of darkness and semi-darkness caused by the enormous amount of fine debris from the explosion of Krakatoa in 535 A.D. It also caused the separation of Java from Sumatra and took at least 36,000 lives. Watching it a second time around and reviewing the evidence that the programme provided, convinces me that this will be the new orthodoxy in world history. The event shaped the world as we know it.

If you have not already seen it, look for it a third time around.



[PixelPapers The Seventeenth](#)

[PixelPapers The Sixteenth](#)

[PixelPapers The Fifteenth](#)

[PixelPapers The Fourteenth](#)

[PixelPapers The Thirteenth](#)

[PixelPapers The Twelfth](#)

[PixelPapers The Eleventh](#)

[PixelPapers The Tenth](#)

[PixelPapers The Ninth](#)

[PixelPapers The Eighth](#)

[PixelPapers The Seventh](#)

[PixelPapers The Sixth](#)

[PixelPapers The Fifth](#)

[PixelPapers The Fourth](#)

[PixelPapers The Third](#)

[PixelPapers The Second](#)

[PixelPapers The First](#)



[Letters or Submissions](#)

[Top](#)