



# PixelPapers the Twenty Fifth.

1 October, 2003.

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100+ and 830+ respectively.

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for your contributions to be pasted in, or news & views.  
No attachments please

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PP26 WILL NOW BE ACCEPTED.



## Editorial

Editorial writing is a difficult discipline that requires a great deal of agonising and produces mixed results.

I used to delight in the wisdom and style of newspaper editorials but I feel that of latter years there has been a slide into the mundane and self-serving that is not pleasant to behold, especially when straying into topics like the selling of Telstra or media ownership.

Editorials are often a team effort written by senior journalists but there have been some notable loners. Such a one was Boston's remarkable H.L. Mencken, noted for his telling

phrases and stinging comments. He could write some lousy bigoted stuff also, but he was a memorable writer.

Sometimes it is questionable whether it should be done at all. In future, when the editorial juices run dry, a quiet, reflective empty space will be left under the heading of *Editorial* in PixelPapers.

Congratulations to the Australia Council on reaching the grand old age of thirty years. I remember once noting that young Ozco was something of a surprise in being so old-fashioned, yet so young. For instance this admirable journal must forever be out of reach of the literary trough, for no matter how it is corsetted or primped, it cannot qualify for a grant.

I sometimes wonder about the current shape of Australia's literary landscape if there had been no Literature Fund. I suspect that there would have been fewer books published and fewer literary magazines and nobody outside of a narrow circle would notice much difference! Perhaps, on the other hand, the Fund represents hope to many writers and keeps them going.

It is pleasing that there is now a brief biographical note on the Literature Fund members listed on the [AC website](#). I wonder how they obtained this idea?

Minister for (or against) Communications and the Arts, Richard Alston, has been at it again, criticising the stance of the national broadcaster in its reporting on Iraq with some sixty odd items. Some of the instances cited on Media Watch seem pretty trivial but I could not find the entire list on the ABC website to judge for myself and I doubt whether they will be on the minister's four million dollar website for public viewing. I detect a yearning for the subservient style of television interviewers on Malaysian and Indonesian television where politicians are never challenged and never interrupted, no matter what extravagant lies they tell.

Richard has also criticised the decision to axe two popular new programmes and pointed out that the cost of two episodes of the medical drama, MD would have covered the perceived shortfall in government support.

It is good to see the minister keeping at arms length from a public organisation that is controlled by a board largely of his own choosing.

I've always had some reservations about Richard as the only time I met him, he and another senator were fulminating about the lighthearted treatment by Jon English & Simon Gallagher of the Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera, *The Pirates of Penzance*!

We wish him well in his retirement but trust that he will not be rewarded, as been suggested, with a future diplomatic appointment, as he does not seem to have the temperament for it after being somewhat at war with parts of his diverse portfolio over the years!

Communication has been difficult over the past few months as some of our bigger internet service providers have been caught out with inadequate equipment and strategies to cope with virus attacks. In addition, there has been an unbelievable escalation of irrelevant e-mails offering to sell prescription medicines on-line (chiefly viagra), penis enlargement and anti-aging potions and debt reduction. There have been the usual Nigerian type spiels and advice about winning huge lottery prizes without the trouble of buying a ticket. A relative returned from a holiday to find over 800 e-mails clogging her computer!

Obviously, the so-called spammers have software that automatically scans the net and addresses their pesky messages to all and sundry in the hope of yielding at least a one in a thousand or even a one in ten thousand hit, despite the fact that in some cases, about half the population are unqualified to take advantage of their potions.

## Wordsworth

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## News & Views

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## Joker

Our internet supply has dried up. Are there any contributions?

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