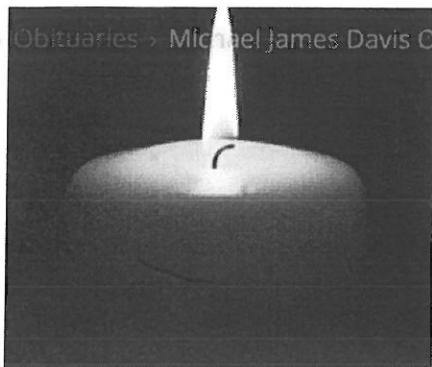


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# Michael James (Boggs) Davis

Location: Sydney, New South Wales

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## Obituary

DAVIS, (BOGGS) Michael James 1.12.1947 - 10.6.2011 Passed away after a long illness Beloved son of Patsy and Wallie (deceased), adored brother of Stephen (Beau) and Frances, dear brother-in-law of Steven and dearly loved uncle of Patrick, Kate, James,

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## Flat out in the cause of science

A Florida zoologist frustrated by a lack of live animal specimens spends every evening scouring roads in a nearby national park for flattened frogs, splattered snakes and other wildlife hit by cars.

Stan Juterbock, an assistant professor on sabbatical from the Ohio State University at Lima, says he turned to the roads after failing to find enough specimens for a research project.

His search for what sanitation workers call "road pizza" is proving successful; he has found as many as 58 dead frogs on a 1.5-kilometre stretch of highway.

## Let's face it, what's in a name?

The sudden elevation of the unfortunately-named Mr Richard Face to Bob Carr's shadow Ministry, where he will attend to the shadowing of the Chief Secretary and assist in law and order matters, has had people scurrying to the handbooks to find out who he is.

Mr Face is an ex-highway patrolman but the more remarkable fact is that he prefers to be called Richard even though his first name is Jack.

## Doug sets the record straight

Some people were puzzled by former National Party leader Doug Anthony's reference to the new leader, Mr Charles Blunt, as being refined and intelligent. Wasn't the old National Party refined and intelligent?

"We certainly weren't refined and not sure we were intelligent," said Mr Anthony, "although we kept our wits about us."



Mr Anthony took the opportunity to set the record straight about his farming. He is a cattle farmer, not a pig farmer, although he does own pigs that his brother-in-law farms.

"The media liked to think I was a pig farmer and I didn't bother to correct them," he said.

He has finished building the house he started before going to Canberra in 1957. He plays golf and tennis and says he "manages" Mrs Anthony's concert pianist career. She is now practising Mendelssohn, Mozart and Bach for a coming concert.

Mrs Anthony thinks he should write his memoirs but Mr Anthony says he is not interested in criticising old politicians.

## Senators come to cross words

There has been some curious by-play in the Senate involving Liberal Senator Bronwyn Bishop and Environment Minister Senator Graham Richardson.

Senator Bishop has been asking whether Senator Richardson had requested that a Washington Embassy employee should be dismissed. The employee, Mr Michael Davis, wrote speeches for the ambassador.

The Foreign Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, told Senator Bishop that Senator Richardson had

"assured me - and he is an honourable man - that he made no such request".

Senator Evans said that Mr Davis's employment had not been terminated; he had resigned.

Senator Bishop did not let up and said again that Senator Richardson had sought Mr Davis's sacking because Mr Davis was a supporter of Botany Mayor Ron Hoenig in the Kingsford Smith preselection, subsequently won by Mr Laurie Brereton.

She added that the Mayor of Drummoyne, Mr Peter Fitzgerald, was told by Senator Richardson: "As for Davis, I'll get him."

She said that at the time of the threat "Mr Fitzgerald, a supporter of Mr Hoenig, was discussing with Senator Richardson the inappropriateness of Laurie Brereton as a Federal Labor candidate".

Senator Richardson mounted a spirited reply, saying he had nothing to do with Mr Davis's dismissal.

Showing that as Environment Minister he has a fertile imagination, he claimed that I was a close friend of Mr Davis and had reported the matter in this column.

Senator Richardson may become close friends with people after meeting them very briefly but I tend to take a little longer to decide who my friends are. But I digress.

Senator Richardson then moved on to Senator Bishop and described

her in a most ungentlemanly way, making reference to an incident most of us would rather forget - the picture of Senator Bishop wearing football shorts and kicking a football that appeared on the cover of *The Australian* colour magazine.

He claimed she had employed a PR consultant "to make sure that there are photographs - no matter how unsightly we may find them - of her in football jumpers in magazines; to make sure that there are mentions of her in gossip columns; and to make sure that, generally speaking, we know she is alive."

## It's a blackboard jungle out there

Three people have died and 13 have been injured in a series of attacks on teachers in China's Hunan province, a newspaper reported in a front-page article headlined "The Disgrace of the Cradle of Civilisation".

*The Guangming Daily*, the national newspaper for intellectuals, said that from the start of 1988 through to last month, officials reported 156 incidents in the province in which teachers were beaten up, otherwise injured or humiliated. The incidents led to three deaths and 13 serious injuries, it said.

"A section of cadres and the masses look down on learning, and their concept of despising education has not fundamentally changed," the newspaper said.

Intellectuals, once considered the elite by China's illiterate masses, have had low social status since the communists came to power 40 years ago. During the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution they were labelled "the stinking ninth class".

The Chinese Government says it is committed to improving living standards for teachers, whose pay is usually only half that of factory workers.

## Ray will tell a fishy tale

It will be standing room only at the Australian National University on May 25. In Seminar Room A Mr Ray Sutton will host a rivetingly interesting chat under the theme "They treated us like a piece of stale fish".

He will surely hold a capacity audience's attention with his discussion on "Reflections on Labour Movement Animosity Towards the Boy Scouts 1920-1940." Book early to avoid disappointment.



## In politics it's a dog's life

Deputy NSW Speaker Lady Wendy Machin has ignored the turmoil in her National Party's federal wing this week and has confirmed she will not be changing her dog's name.

The brown kelpie, which answers to the name of Sinclair, will not be renamed Blunt. She confirms she had thought some time ago of calling the dog Wal but dismissed the idea. "Sinclair is a great dog - he has one ear up and one down and is very good at tracking down oysters," she said yesterday.