

Shedding a tear for 'A Cry in the Dark'

A few minutes ago the gripping tale of Lindy Chamberlain's ordeal reached a happy ending on my video screen. Eight years after the bizarre episode of a dingo disappearing with a seven-week old baby girl, on September 15, 1988, the parents, Lindy and Michael Chamberlain, were vindicated of all charges against them (Lindy for the murder of the baby, Azaria, and Michael for acting as an accomplice to the murder). Tears drowned my face towards the last half hour of the movie presentation. Although the movie had been available for months, for some unknown reason I had not chosen it for viewing.

The story was, however, frighteningly familiar, the most talked about event of my four year stay in Australia. The key factors were: 1980, summer in Australia, camping time at Ayers Rock, a dingo took the Chamberlain baby, callous rumours of Lindy Chamberlain (Chamberlains were Seventh Day Adventist Church members) sacrificing the

baby by cutting her throat and concocting the story of the dingo. Charged solely on the analysis of the baby's clothes by a forensic expert in England (the baby, was never found), Lindy was convicted of murder, sentenced to life imprisonment and hard labor. Michael was sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment, a sentence suspended.

From the first day the news hit the headlines, it was the talk of the workplace, including mine, the Australian National University. The movie indicates outback prejudice and malicious gossip in addition to reckless journalism convicting the Chamberlains. Yet in the nation's highest learning institute, the consensus was a guilty verdict for Lindy Chamberlain. Geographers, historians, and pet lovers offered their opinions: Dingoes would not take babies! All were ready to jump at Lindy, most likely due to her expressionless face and hard stare at opposition, carried to our living

rooms by newspaper headlines and the television screen. The rumours were rampant: the Chamberlains were protecting their two boys, who could have killed the baby; otherwise, the boys would have been allowed to tell their story.

Imagine, to lose your own baby to the horrific death of a dingo's teeth, and to have the whole country and world against you, taking away your innocence. There was a reasonable doubt at all times during the inquests and trials, and yet the jury, court, intellectuals, common workers, and journalists convicted Lindy Chamberlain. Even when she and her husband were acquitted of all charges, the hearts of the people in Australia and the world did not seem convinced of their erroneous judgements. Meryl Streep's sensitive depiction of Lindy Chamberlain certainly restores justice and innocence to a wronged person.

Jennifer W. Jay

Library noise is harassment

There seems to be a lot of talk about "library harassment" as of late and I wonder exactly what is being classified as "harassment" by those who have been filing complaints. It would seem to me that the most common form of what I classify as "library harassment" would have to be that of the student lacking library etiquette.

What is library etiquette? Mere consideration for those who have the misfortune of studying around you. There was once a time when a clear of the throat or a glare meant that you were being too loud in your whispering or had been whispering for just a touch too long. Now a clear of the throat means you have something in your throat and a glare might be referred to as "library harassment" by some. The mere act of taking twenty or thirty steps so as to leave the carrels and enter a stairwell or lobby where one can converse without having to whisper not only benefits those sitting around you but conveniences you in that you do not have to whisper.

What can you do? As with all forms of etiquette, peer pressure seems to be the answer. I would encourage all of you who have been "harassed" by those around you who are ignorant of library etiquette to attempt to inform them. If you can't find the words, I

encourage you to allow me to do the deed. by all means, clip this letter. Rip it out if you have to, all that's left is for you to pass this letter on to that person and then enjoy some peace, quiet, and learning. I

would like to see nothing more than a page torn out of *The Gateway* being passed to a person who needs, to be educated in library etiquette.

Phil Yoo
Business IV

The Bridge is covered in Christmas rhyme

Twas a month before Xmas, and all through the university,

Not a student was stirring, they were busy commenting on perversity.

The theologians had all been yapping by the chimney with care,

With the hope that THE BRIDGE would soon fall into despair.

The article on Mayor REIMER, I think we call all agree,

Should have been more prudent, one with more glee.

The paper is sexist, every paragraph horrid profanity,

But to make light of the world, is but to keep ones sanity.

The inquisition grew, the Engineers knew not where to turn,

They were branded heretic, monster, and in hellfire would burn.

The dogma of the day was Commandment number one,

But even God must have a sense of humor, laugh and have some fun.

Through history and time, one thing has stood clear,

People are not easy to change, especially a Geer.

It's a proud heritage which some would dispute,

While others say little, yet others are mute.

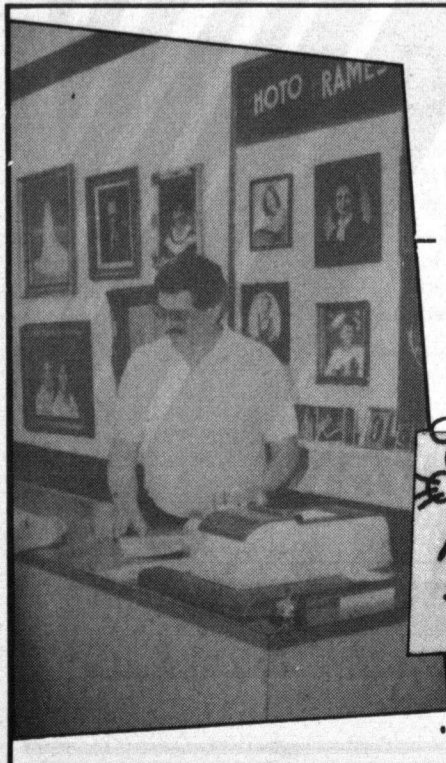
For all you champions of morality, mighty upon your steed,

Who have distain for vulgarity, yet would see the bastards bleed,

The freedom of expression is innate, it shall not pass,

And if you don't like THE BRIDGE; don't read it; otherwise shove it up your —

Bill McLeod
Engineering

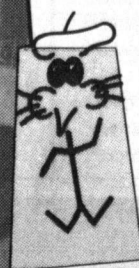


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