

Editio princeps

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS (QUEENSLAND) NEWSLETTER

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Material for publication in this newsletter should be addressed to the Editor,
PO Box 1524, TOOWONG Q 4066

AT LAST — THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS (QUEENSLAND)

OBITUARY

Rank, V.

Rank, V., a well known verb, passed away almost unnoticed in December 1996. The cause of death was *syllabitis verbis* contracted after a brush with the multisyllabic Prioritise, V.

After a long period of inactivity, Rank, V. was last seen in public in a Queensland Government publication of November 1996 and relatives believe that the shock of being so suddenly used again may have contributed to the demise.

Rank, V. was mourned by a handful of word watchers who paid tribute to its single syllable.

Rank, V. is survived by Rank, N., a cousin.

Professor of silly walks

Some people worry that you will one day be able to get a degree in envelope stuffing. That day is getting closer. On ABC radio, Saturday 1 February, we heard an interview with the Professor of Gambling at the University of Las Vegas.

Whoops ... and whoops ... and ...

The Plain English Campaign's newsletter reported this: *Daily Mail's* 'One-line philosophers' column: 'Don't use a big word when a diminutive expression will suffice.'

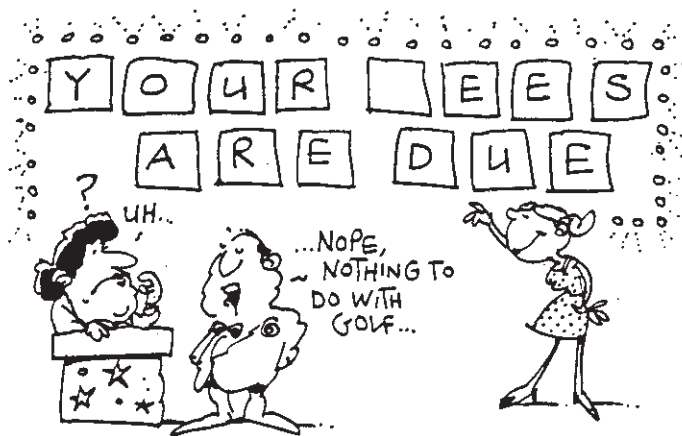
The Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen Award for Creative Cliches

Keith De Lacey for:

'The trouble with the supporters of the Green movement is that they're all tarred with the one feather'.

The Rupert Murdoch Award for the most attention-grabbing headline

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER REASON FOR SEX



Rome c. AD 100

Publisher: There's moisture in these wax tablets, Inkius. Look at the bubbles.

Printer: Very hard to get a good wax tablet these days, Publius. Don't worry, we'll melt it down, puddle it out, refine it up a bit — no worries, it'll come good.

Publisher: Actually, I think I like the bubbles. It gives it a sort of texture.

Printer: O.K., we'll go with the 7 denarii weight wax tablets with the bubbles. What sort of stylus do you want the scribes to use? Wedge, Thin, Greek?

Publisher (absently): Did I mention the lengthy hieroglyphic section in the Egyptian chapter?

Printer: No.

Publisher: Perhaps we could have a papyrus section for that. As wraps. Or perhaps...

Offpress — Our newsletter's name!

The winning entry for the naming-the-newsletter contest was from the (modest) editor, who submitted several of the 19 entries. She hopes that the name has a very special meaning to all those people involved in publishing — and not just to editors. Nicola Evans presented the lucky winner with a bottle of wine, courtesy of Laurie Muller.

Chris Moody of Chris Moody Graphic Design won the design contest with her excellent entry. She too will be rewarded for her creativity at the very next meeting of the Society.

Extract from a journal

(Aimed at people who have a problem with substance abuse).

In this issue being the 7th since taking this job on, the Seventh Tradition is part of it, we have taken the opportunity to print some information to help us all take our inventory on this subject, being self supporting, is tied very closely to Step Twelve and Tradition Five, which is our primary purpose.

The member who supplied this paragraph asks two questions: 'What on earth does it mean?' and 'Could it be true that indulgence in alcohol results in permanent destruction of brain cells?'