

Flavour of the Month

WE HAVE very much become an instant gratification type society, especially in Western countries, whereby we need things to be constantly evolving. It is very difficult to sustain our attention on anything for too long. We come bored easily and we demand new and better things.

In fact Generation Y, of which I am a member, is largely responsible for our society fol-

lowing this path. You can see this illustrated in many ways. We are constantly hopping from job to job and mate to mate.

News media journalism is very much sensationalised and only pays lip service to the whole truth covering issues which are more entertainment based.

We always want the latest gadgets and technology yet soon afterwards we get tired of it and want something better and flashier.

Recently we have had two cases which the Australia news media have covered in a saturation manner - Schapelle Corby and Douglas Wood. Given the amount of media we have now competing for our attention in print, free to air and pay TV, international media, online media, etc. it was bound to happen.

It was rare to actually get an impartial fully factual coverage of both sides as that would have probably bored a mass audience. In all likelihood for a lot of us in a few months time it will be "Schapelle who?"

With so many resources devoted to these types of cases, many more important and far-reaching issues are ignored. In terms of technology one of the biggest fads at the moment is the iPod which was the most popular item on kid's wishlists last Christmas.

The truth is that there are better and more feature packed products in the market at a

lesser cost but the unbelievable campaign Apple have run have dwarfed these other products.

From Christmas to Christmas we are graduating from DVD players to mobile phones to digital cameras to iPods when only a generation ago we were happy with just getting the next action figure or doll in the set.

Now a device like a mobile phone or computer is on the scrap heap if it is older than two - three years.

Generation Ys are also predicted to have at least 10 job changes in their working life including multiple career changes.

When asked why this occurs, the common theme seems to be boredom. No matter how interesting or fulfilling a particular job or workplace may be, it does not meet our need for things to be constantly new and exciting.

This is also a common theme when young people are asked why they are not sticking to one partner.

Some of these instant gratifying moments are thrilling but when we look back on our lives it will be long lasting relationships that give us the greatest joy and not the "exciting today, forgotten tomorrow" events.

Chris Jacob is a director of Computer Troubleshooters Bayside (www.ctsbayside.com.au)



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Adrian Jackson's Column



Alpine Cattlemen

BRACKS'S decision to ban a 150 year right for cattlemen to graze their cattle in the Victorian Alps seems inconsistent to me.

If cattle grazing is so bad for the high country then why doesn't Bracks ban skiing and its associated business from Mt Buller, Mt Hotham and Falls Creek? The Swiss have been grazing cattle successfully in their Alps for hundreds of years.

Hasn't Bracks and Thwaites seen the 1930's film "Heidi" with Shirley Temple?

Palestine

Australians don't like many of George Bush's foreign policy initiatives but Australians should support his demand of Israel for the Palestinians birth right to a free country.

However Bush may have to back up his talk with action such as freezing Israel's US bank accounts, restricting trade and stopping arms sales as the Israeli Government ignores talk when it suits them.

Despite having only 3 million Jewish and 2 million oppressed "Arab" citizens, the Israeli Defence Force is the fifth biggest in the world.

St Kilda Film Festival

I went to four evening sessions this year including the opening night and the award ceremony and thought the standard of the short films I saw ranged from good to excellent.

However while the opening night filled the Paliat Theatre, the Wednesday and Thursday competition screenings at the George Cinema were half to three quarters full.

I understand attendances got better on Friday, Saturday and the last day Sunday. I thought the filmmakers concentrated too much on inner urban topics but perhaps this reflects a limited life experiences and their budget.

Except for the smoking (cough) in the George's Cafe/Bar this cinema is excellent. My favourites were "The Tooth", "Blandville", "My Sister", "Lucky", "Birthday Boy", "Change of Heart" and "Pest Control" as well as the Micro Movies, filmed on video mobile phones, and the Sound KILDA, pop music videos, - Rock 'n' Roll is still as good as it was 40 years ago when I was a teenager.

I am definitely going to future St Kilda Film Festivals but suggest that they keep 'em short; up to 20 minutes max.

Rod Quantock

Opening night of the St Kilda Film Festival was marred by some silly political crap from comedian and SAP boofhead, MC, Rod Quantock.

He obviously has a chip on his shoulder about the current PM and perceived lack of funding for the film industry however many of the films shown had the Film Australia, Film Finance Corporation and Australian Film Commission logos and they are all Federal government bodies.

I think it's dumb to attack the people that feed you. Later Rod stomped on a one foot high statue of the PM in disgust, but Rod, the PM like your little mate Bob Hawke is 5'8" tall.

The difference between Hawke and Howard is that the latter has not abandoned his wife when she got crook.