



TE WAHA NUI

"The Big Mouth" — an AUT journalism publication

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Student media bites back

by Claire Cooper

Student magazines have a cutting edge and can challenge mainstream media, claim the editors.

One student editor scooped two prizes at the Qantas Media Awards last month, despite recent media criticism that the student press is no longer a force.

Matt Nippert, last year's deputy editor of Victoria University student magazine *Salient*, won the best junior general feature and overall junior magazine writer of the year awards.

NZ *Political Review* editor and *Independent* columnist Chris Trotter said on a recent Radio New Zealand *Mediawatch* programme that student media had lost its prominence.

"Students are not as much in the political scene as they used to be," he says.

"Students in the 21st century don't see themselves as newsmakers as much as they did in the past."

Mr Trotter, 1981 editor of Otago University student magazine *Critic*, says this period was "the hey day of the crusader journalist".

Mr Nippert says: "There is still some good stuff coming out. Chris Trotter is living in a nostalgic past."

Currently studying for a graduate diploma in Journalism at Auckland University of Technology, Mr Nippert proved his point when he won the awards.

Mr Nippert submitted a four-story portfolio. The winning feature was on war historian Anthony Beevor.

The other stories were on Wellington's homeless, TV3 news presenter John Campbell and crime risks in inner city Wellington.

The articles, published in *Salient*, were described by judges as "stylish, sparky writing which hits the spot".



PHOTO: KIM REED

STUDENT EDITORS: From left, Patrick Crewdson, Dan Trevarthen and Matt Nippert

With a Bachelor of Commerce honours degree and an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in political science, Mr Nippert is now in high demand.

"There's a large pile of business cards from editors who happened to hear I'm presently unemployed," he says.

"These awards prove there's the potential to compete with — and even to beat — the big, professional boys."

Editor of Massey University student magazine *Satellite*, Dan Trevarthen, says student media still has "fire in its belly".

"Particularly those with bigger budgets. *Critic* is doing a good job of providing student viewpoints on

issues," says Mr Trevarthen.

Current editor of *Critic*, Hamish McKenzie, says student media are still at the forefront of the issues.

"It hasn't gone downhill, based on what *Critic* and *Salient* have been like for the past three years.

"I think Chris Trotter has a selective memory about the newspapers he used to edit. There was a lot of shit, like there is today. But there is also very good stuff published today."

Mr McKenzie also says that Mr Nippert's success "is proof right there that student journalism is still going strong and will continue to be strong".

AUT journalism student and for-

mer *Critic* editor Patrick Crewdson says: "There are a lot of talented people working in student media."

Editor of Unitec's student magazine *Inunison*, Megan McKeachie, doesn't think the level of student media has slipped.

"You've got to think of the nature of the institute the magazine is targeting," she says. "They have totally different atmospheres. It's about what students want to read."

"Students are not as politically active as they used to be. The nature of the student has changed."

Student magazines: edgy or bland? — Page 8

Street walker bylaw hits legal snag

by Amanda Cameron

A move by Manukau City to be the first council to outlaw street sex workers since prostitution was decriminalised last year has run into a legal snag.

The council is pushing a draft bylaw that would make it an offence to solicit, pimp or seek commercial sexual services in public places.

Social workers say such a law change would result in criminal charges against street kids who survive on casual prostitution.

Catherine Healy, national co-ordinator of the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective, says it would make the lives of vulnerable teenagers even worse.

The Manukau City Council had planned to adopt the draft bylaw at a meeting on May 27 in readiness for public consultation.

Instead, the council voted to send the bylaw back to the drawing board on legal advice that it may be unenforceable and unreasonable because prostitution is now legal.

In a legal review of the bylaw, police and council lawyers suggested it may be difficult to enforce the bylaw without Government support.

Manukau Mayor Sir Barry Curtis and five councillors plan to request an urgent meeting with Police Minister George Hawkins to seek such support.

Council clean environment manager Mohammed Hassan says the council hopes to solve the legal problems before the October elections.

Threat to teen street walkers — Page 12

High-rise evacuation sparks alarm worries

by Jean White

Fire safety experts are calling for inner city high-rise buildings still relying on an outdated alarm system to be upgraded to a safer method.

The call comes after more than 2000 students got stuck in the stairwells of a 16-storey building during a recent fire drill at Auckland University of Technology's Wellesley campus.

The AUT Arts Faculty building (pictured) has an older-style system with a single alarm, and everyone tries to leave at the same time.

Russell Dixon, fire safety officer at Auckland City Central fire district, says while most buildings have updated to a staged evacuation system, some buildings in Auckland still have the older single alarm system.

Fire drill highlights faults — Page 7



PHOTO: PAUL ROSSER

NZ journo back to Iraq

by Ben Christie

Auckland journalist Jon Stephenson is heading back to war-torn Iraq this month for the third time in less than a year.

Covering Iraq may be a big risk, but he is a man with a mission.

He dubs this conflict "the Vietnam of our generation" and believes it will be a defining period of history.

"I believe we will come to view Iraq as a major political and strategic error, just as we now regard Vietnam," he says. "It will be seen as the defining war for our generation, just as the Vietnam War was for people of John Kerry (Democratic Presidential candidate) and George Bush's generation."

Mr Stephenson says it took some time for the war in Vietnam to pop up



Jon Stephenson

on people's radar screens and that the conflict later became a festering wound for the political power brokers.

"People in the US began to ask, how did we get into this? Vietnam politicised a generation, and the war's political fallout in America was immense."

Mr Stephenson (41), a former AUT student, is reporting for the *Sunday Star-Times*.

Taking no chances, he has done a media survival course with Special Forces in Britain.

Shoestring journo — Page 9

Ruia Mai signs off

Eight years of Maori radio news from Ruia Mai comes to an end this month when the news service goes off the air.

Ruia Mai was the first station to broadcast only in Maori and is proud of what it has achieved.

Presenter Kingi Taurua says broadcasting in te reo Maori is important.

Inside this issue of *Te Waha Nui*, Lucy Campbell looks at the history of Ruia Mai and what happens next as Radio Waatea takes over the Maori news service contract.

Ruia Mai silenced — Page 15