

Have your say



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The Advertiser Little reason to whine over school subject

AT BEST it is a simplistic argument. At worst, it is just plain ignorant.

To suggest it is inappropriate for schools to run winemaking classes for students is nonsense.

Wowsensism doesn't even come close to describing the bold statements made by the usually conservative - and constructive - Australian National Council on Drugs.

Quite simply, it is a gold-plated example of political correctness at its worst. Rather than being hypocritical and introducing teenagers to the evils of alcohol as implied, the courses educate those with a very real, enthusiastic disposition to be involved in the field.

Just how on earth are our next generation of vignerons, wine marketers and retailers meant to learn the first, basic steps in their craft?

The winemaking programs have been successfully running at several schools in Adelaide and in the Barossa Valley for the past 20 years without incident. They are not unsupervised quaffing sessions. The class run at Nurioot-

pa High School has been producing chardonnay since 1994 and its 1999 shiraz won a silver medal at both the Barossa and Hobart Wine Shows.

A heady endorsement of its standing. Grammar School principal Anne Dunstan is to be commended for vigorously defending her school's actions.

She is spot on when she states the course is not an endorsement of alcohol, but rather an application of the science involved in winemaking.

Her school, like others also offering the classes, is acutely aware of the dangers of abusing not just alcohol, but all drugs.

With SA's manufacturing sector declining rapidly, the wine industry is one of the few shining lights of our economy.

Rather than suggest schools should refrain from nurturing the ambitions of those with an intense interest in the field and teaching them in a controlled environment, they should be encouraged and assisted wherever possible.

Lofty ambitions

REGIONS such as the Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula are among the jewels in this state's tourism crown.

They are home to some of our best wine, food and landscapes. For these reasons, they are already identified by authorities as worthy of promotion and protection.

Now a push to gain World Heritage recognition for agricultural land in the Mt. Lofty Ranges region is gaining momentum.

Such status would bring economic benefits including international media attention, growth in visitor numbers, higher prices for local

No gain in quit

IAIN Evans, your announcement to retire from politics within the next 12 months was unnecessary and is somewhat mystifying. What advantage was it to anyone? You presumably wanted to get in on the act that Martin Hamilton-Smith instigated, to disrupt the Liberal party and cause further disunity within its ranks.

In private business if an employee told his employer he was going to drop out in a year's time, he would probably face the sack now.

BARRIE REDMAN,
Walkerville.

Pay to replace

ANY politician who decides he, or she, no longer wants the job any more should pay for the full costs (of all parties as well as the electoral commission) of the by-election. Evans was elected to represent his electorate for four years. If he is in a pet because he is still in opposition and wants to take his bat and ball and go home, his electorate is probably better off without him. But SA taxpayers should not have to pay for his pique.

LEIGH TRUELOVE,
Sunlands.

Drop upper house

Former prime minister Bob Hawke recently reiterated his wish to see state governments abolished. I totally agree but I would go a step further.

My wish is to see all upper houses, including the Senate, also abolished. This has been so in Queensland for many years and works satisfactorily.

There are several reasons for my belief. Federally, the House of Representatives has 150 members and unannouncedly passes a bill. It then passes to the Senate which has 76 members. The Senate rejects the bill, which implies that its members are more intelligent and deeper thinking than those in the Reps. Why have a House of Reps/Lower House if bills can be overturned in the Upper House?

Further, the Senate is a "states' house", but it is clearly governed by party political factionalism and no consideration appears to be given to states' matters.

Further still, from July 1,

TEXT TALK

PITY our politicians aren't as concerned about our grossly overpriced utilities as they are about cheap cigarettes.

G. TURNER, Port Pirie.

SO the Adelaide Crows have the 19th man, now all they need is to find 22 men to play football.

JEFF, Port Lincoln.



Australia has coming into the Senate the likes of Jacqui Lambie, who cannot rationally articulate sensible policy and Ricky Muir who does not appear to have any grip on relevant issues for the furtherment of our country. There are others.

It is frightening that it is the likes of these who have future legislation in their hands by having the balance of power.

GARY MILLAR,
Mitchell Park.

Bolt was misread

THE modern age has brought a rush to judgment with a speed that rarely captures the facts. Malcolm Turnbull, and letter writers did not read what Andrew Bolt wrote before railing against him.

Instead they relied on Labor commentary and the rapidly falling media like the ABC, The *Guardian* and Fairfax in general for their source of non-facts. Comparing what Bolt actually wrote with what others say he did reveals that apparently none of these commentators can read and understand English. Since most of them are of the Left there will be no admissions or apologies coming either.

JAMES HEIN, Hackney.

Jobs sent away

IT astounds me how the Government thinks.

It says it wants to get young people off the couch and not dependent on welfare so what does it do, it sends jobs overseas.

Ships that could have been built in Australia are now

FAIRTALES were not for children when they were folk tales being collected by the Brothers Grimm. They were violent, gritty and adult.

After being sanitised for children, they became movies. Now they are morphing back to cool adult stories.

DIANNE YOUNG,
Craigmore.

Cut off from pain

AS part of his self-declared "huge" safety net, Treasurer Joe Hockey has set aside a fund of \$229.6 million over four years to cover the emergency needs of the 550,000 people who the Government's own modelling predicts will be in difficulty because of the changes to the Newstart Allowance.

This represents 2.3 per cent of the population, which seems like a small number, but isn't. According to these figures nearly one person in 40 is going to be rendered destitute by the changes outlined in this budget, and yet the Government has no hesitation in proceeding as if it just doesn't matter.

This degree of detachment from the suffering and social dislocation that they are going to cause is almost pathological, and when you consider the implications in terms of the long-term damage to society as a whole, truly terrifying.

W. HODGES,
Salisbury Heights.

Complaints futile

WRITING to the Prime Minister, as proposed by Minister Koutsantonis ("KA-SHING IN", *The Advertiser*, 5/6/14), complaining and seeking relief from excessive electricity prices, would be futile.

The Commonwealth has no constitutional authority or responsibility for electricity supply in the states. The so-called National Electricity Market was set up and operates under states' legislation, for which South Australia has been the bellwether. Any action is within the hands of our own state politicians.

What needs to be done is glaringly obvious. The present fragmented, inefficient and inherently unreliable system here needs to be consolidated under single ownership and control.

Apart from anything else this would get rid of the ridiculous generator bidding arrangements that now enable generators to manipulate prices for their own benefit.

We also need to get rid of retailers. The argument that they give choice of supplier is nonsense. The only choice they give is who sends the bill and how much extra you pay.

A full, open and public inquiry into electricity supply arrangements in South Australia would be a good start.

BRUCE DINHAM,
Hawthorn.

Utopia is real

IN reply to Allen Arthur ("Price to pay", *The Advertiser*, 7/6/14) I would like to point out that for the duration of their studies university students do not earn a regular income. But if they are fortunate enough to secure a highly paid position because of these extra years of study, and after having endured financial disadvantage, then they will be paying a higher rate of taxation than the average wage earner into Government coffers.

As for "free education is for utopian believers living in an unreal world", if this is so the many countries in the world that do offer free, or more affordable, higher education apparently must be part of that unreal world full of utopian believers.

On the contrary, I would say that these countries are in the real world with realistic values, investing in the future.

D. WESTELL,
Salisbury North.