

Hi Lucy

YOUR SELF-EVALUATION AS A LATER-LIFE SECONDARY SCHOOL TRAINEE MATHS TEACHER

FROM A FORMER SECONDARY SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER AND ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF RED G – THE RADICAL EDUCATION DOSSIER AND GROUP

THE TYPIST, PUBLIC SERVANT AND ACADEMIC IN ME ALSO SPEAKS OUT ON YOUR TEACHING THE SHAKING OF HANDS. WE ALSO WRITE ON THE PAST VITALITY OF CONSENT, HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE TRADITIONS THE NORTHERNERS TAUGHT IN SPADES AND WE LEARNED A LOT. (IF YOU ARE SICK OF TEACHING YOU CAN GIVE IT UP)

SPEECH IS LOTS BETTER FOR IT AND WRITING TOPS THE LOT ESPECIALLY IN PICTURES. SEE DIRECTIONS ATTACHED LONG RESISTED BY THE DOMINANT FASCIST PROFESSIONS AND PRODUCERS - AND AREN'T THEY ALL? FUCKING NUMBERS ALWAYS RULE THE ROOST?

MANAGERS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS GO FORWARD TO SOMETHING BETTER. (THEY DID NOT COMPARE MY PARENTING TYPE TO MAO'S FOR NOTHING. I WAS THERE IN 1976.)

It was great to read your article *'It's a tough journey from journo to teacher'* in the Australian Financial Review (AFR 12.4.18, p. 48). I feared we would never hear from you again. Your article on your later life teacher training and practice and that of others reminded me strongly of my youth as a secondary school English teacher in the late 1960s and 1970s. After completing high school at night and giving up work as a shorthand typist to enter Queensland University in 1966, I completed an Arts Degree, married, and made a common year's pilgrimage to Europe, England and India on \$5 per day, which wasn't much even at the time. It meant a lot of rough sleeping. I guess many young people still do it. In 1970 I completed a year of teacher training and got a high distinction for the Foundations (Philosophy and Comparative History). As a woman of the New Left I was hooked for life.

I was also pleased to see your self-management evaluation as I guess it is in many ways the central story of a trainee secondary school teacher's life. You state, for example, that *'For a start, keeping order is far harder than I had thought. When the kids are given more freedom, some of them use it in the time-honoured way – by giving trainee teachers the run around.* Too right. Keeping order is often tough and without it some will easily waste the time of many rather than giving them more freedom to learn, as is no doubt our mission, digitally robotic or not, etc. etc. etc. In this context I refer you, for example, to the article on copyright entitled *'Uni 'just wants to be free' of 18-year nightmare.* Jesus, Baby, don't we all and its lasted millennia for us. In this case the copyright dispute relates to Sydney University's Save Sight Institute and a supposedly predictive medical test for glaucoma. If you can't better somebody try to drag them down with lawyers? This is competition?

You are well positioned to speak to many in Australia about such issues and you should confirm it. I speak as a woman whose job was once to make an analysis of every licence in the state department of industrial relations and employment, followed by every licence in the workers compensation and rehabilitation authority. I could not possibly fault the

education I was given in the public service, although it has slowly driven me nuts over time. Come and stay with me for a week in Sydney free of charge to set things up better with others. (See more attached and on www.Carolodonnell.com.au under the Heritage Way sidebar between Brett Whiteley's **Art and Life**, and the baby delivered into caring hands.)

As a grandma of 71, I feel tired in sympathy when you say about teaching '*The profession is known to be exhausting but is so in a peculiar way. The hours are no worse than in most professional jobs but every second is at full tilt. In my old life I would waste hours cyber skiving, which left me restive and grumpy*'. Jesus, I know what you mean. Yet my lifelong fascination with the subject of teaching develops even though I retired from eleven years working in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney University in 2007, to watch astounded at what the boys from the banks and in property did globally and on our jointly held strata property in 2008. I became a grandma for the first and only time in 2014. The French are on the money as usual when they say the more things change the more they stay the same.

The beauty of your article as a professional tool, is that I guess it gives a highly accurate picture of what teaching may be like for someone like you who has had a long, successful career already. I guess secondary school teaching is too intensely demanding and tiring for someone with too much money and choice to be long insulted for not enough satisfaction. I recall I came in with Mick Jagger when I was a teenager training in Brisbane. It isn't money that ever matters when you have had enough but it helps if you know how to use it well. Money attracts money? Sadly, I don't know my way around the private lot but I bet you do. Baby you've got numbers and brains and money. You can write your own ticket in Oz as far as the personal goes; rather than living by their rules; and we need to know how to do it.

The broadly honest competence of your expression and self-evaluation contrasts with the normal management drivel that regularly pisses us off so mightily, as well. As an AFR reader I would be sorry to lose your newspaper columns as you were the only person I know of with the guts to do the kind of writing you did. I didn't think you would be around for long. Women who publicly sneer at obvious professional drivel don't often get away with it. I always assumed they were pushing you out and you were happy to go to a new adventure. I guess you've got enough money and contacts to leave teaching any time you like and do what you feel before you die. If you decide to leave secondary school and take a holiday why not spend a week in my spare room at St James Court in Sydney? It would be my pleasure to have you, like having the monarch or Churchill. I wave, keeping out of your way. I wouldn't mention my name to anyone while you are over here if I were you. One doesn't read '*The Churchills in Love and War*' and the rest without picking up a few tips but that's as far as it goes. I left '*The Riviera Set*' at Kangaroo Island for the next lucky room occupant. In the private one learns an enormous amount which is why top families think about writing.

When I retired in 2007 from the Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney University aged 60, for example, I went on holiday to the UN 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government in Vienna. Having worked as a state public servant for over a decade earlier, I looked forward to writing reams of learned notes. After some European bureaucrats and an economist politician from Pakistan on the first day, the academic rest I saw was formless numerical crap. Christ there was a lot of it. Most was so uselessly, safely, mindlessly, detached the experience totally shocked me. The game was basically about computers in places without

effectively working welfare states. I don't know what you mean when you say, ***'Alas I have found that teaching cumulative frequency charts is so demanding it leaves little room for reminiscing about the corporate world'***. Gee that's too bad. Please tell us more. Should cumulative frequency charts worry us too? What are they and what are they used for?

I am concerned, for example, by an article in AFR Boss entitled ***'Australian executives feel swamped by data they don't know how to use'*** (Boss, April 2018). It addresses the difference between **data literacy** and **digital literacy**, according to research, conceived by Jordan Morrow, head of data literacy at Q. Lik. Their survey of more than 5000 workers in Australia, Singapore, India, China and Japan, awarded the outstanding competency palm to Indians in ***'knowing how to read, work with, analyse and argue with data'***. Who knew? I thought Indians lived in ancient feudal caste systems stagnating under the growing weight of British colonial legal and administrative systems and long decayed public infrastructures. Nothing has jolted me from this comparatively ignorant perception over time, racist or not. (I'm sure there are always pockets. Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear, light, etc. etc. etc.)

The main issue with digital technology is not that some privacy may be violated, as knowledge of the other must be the foundation upon which all human development appears inevitably built, starting in the parent and teacher. Are managers morally different? Knowledge of the other is closely related to the march of civilizing or degrading trade and information. It takes perhaps its finest historical welfare state expression, for example, in the national census. Whether any intelligence is reliable and used with honesty rather than to corrupt is the key concern. Professionally limited views of evaluation and psychology recently took over universities to reduce box-ticks to numbers to call it science. This is often crap based on interests in driving US markets for guns, drugs, high sugar, high fat food and any related products peddled by US lawyers and their largest client base with state support. (Don't sit back. Do something about it. You can do whatever you want. JP said it's ok.)

I was surprised to read you taught your students to shake hands. Don't you find this a bit unsanitary, sexist and culturally abusive? In my youth in Queensland a girl would seldom have done it. If forced by any hurt look she may have relented. For good reasons, hand washing and coughing into one's sleeve were all the teaching rage instead in the Faculty of Health Sciences before I retired. I recently saw that the new Sydney University Women's College auditorium has a giant new frieze of nymphs or dryads (?) apparently learning to sniff their own armpits. This is clearly distinct, one assumes, from those of anyone else. I look forward to when you get up to address the kiss and touch or violence in your course.

The student sexual harassment officers are now on the march at Sydney University with mass training on consent matters. I hope you will write on this in regard to UK teaching. In 2016 the University of Sydney asked former sex discrimination commissioner Elizabeth Broderick to undertake a review that would enable the colleges ***'to pursue meaningful and substantial cultural change'***. Her report states an online survey was administered to all students (over the age of 18 years) across the five residential Colleges in 2017. The aim was to gather quantitative data on perceptions and experiences of students on a range of areas related to College life. It also aimed to understand the prevalence of inappropriate behaviour, sexual harassment and bullying. Broderick's recommendations included that there should be zero tolerance for sexual misconduct. How are teachers to interpret this?

The vital importance of adult self-determination and consent, were hard won gains for far more women than men. They depend on the rights and duties of free and honest speech. How can speech which fails also to display the speakers' real emotion behind it be honest? These are matters which should appear equally relevant to managers, teachers and parents. I look forward to hearing more about them in your teaching case. What are you taught about consent, language and violence for example? When travelling around India on trains in 1969, my young civil engineer husband and I were often asked if we were a love match. We responded we were and that anything else seemed unthinkable to us. (Oh really?)

I have followed the comparative development progress of our regions since before 1971 when I spent two years as a secondary school English teacher in a Northern Nigerian boys college. I was later on a brief students and teachers tour of China in 1976, at the end of the ten-year cultural revolution, when Chairman Mao died. What's wrong with following the usual suspects? I like Europeans for development any day as they have thought and been through a lot over time and still prospered. Asne Seierstad's **One of Us** tells the amazing story of a more broadly clever and experienced youth increasingly feeling up against the top lot with better manners. Admittedly mass murderer Anders Breivik was not your normal Scandinavian bunny but it is hard to be unimpressed by his huge range of skills and tenacity. I wish he'd been on my team. If he made better career choices he could have been great. If the state is not going to kill him, which I would; it seems stupid not to talk to him. I would.

The attached response to the related inquiries of the Colleges of Sydney University and the Vice Chancellor is broadly made to gain better understanding of the effects of constrained speech and sadomasochistic relations in sexual harassment and assault. One bases this generational and related demographic analysis ideally on more consensual professional concepts of **consenting adults** in the **market, sex acts and death**. Related analysis is provided to the Prime Minister's expert panel to consider '**the intersections between the enjoyment of the freedom of religion and other human rights**'. One writes in praise of consenting adults making decisions about their own lives outside of work, as in markets. Laws and culture, bringing order or not, are the normal constraints to freedom of any kind. People are encouraged to speak up honestly on many closed private matters. Yet one laments that through the normal US influences we appear to be turning back in the opposite direction, to reduce women's and men's responsibility for speech and action yet again. This has happened as a result of the legal and medical relationships in disability, for example. This is a theme repeatedly addressed attached in regard to Australian insurance experience.

Every teacher, one assumes, should know the recommended ways to handle sexual matters with teenagers under 18 or with adults I guess, unless they want to find themselves in hot water for something at some stage fairly soon. The exploration of better ways to act on this should be unending rather than increasingly fragmented and closed off by peer responses. Before I retired I never thought of how to manage a property asset but that is what a lot of law is about. Relationships between ongoing service and property managers are surely what maths is ideally about in school in the welfare state. Is it? Where is the maths meaning? Should we forget equilibrium?

Jessica Irvine, your colleague, the Sydney Morning Herald economics writer, claims the most profound lesson economics has to teach is that people respond to incentives and that this

process starts early in life with appealing to kids. The title of her article is '**Money too strong an incentive**' (Sydney Morning Herald, 16.4.18, p. 18) It should have been '**Money is not the only incentive**'. In policy one needs to get the incentive directions right in management. This is intimately related to policy opening and broadening in order to increase knowledge and accountability for more open action without fear. This is the total reverse, one would assume, of the normal forces teaching. Why follow them into old age?

As you also appear to note, to be a parent and teacher require many of the same qualities. The real world of men has astounded me ever since I realised it is totally different, with the emotional part either hidden or manipulated to sell product, including their party. I fear in old age I have run out of stamina and patience teaching in person. Patience has never been my strongest suit, which certainly doesn't mean I haven't enjoyed the journey so far. Little would have lured me into any training I thought required self-interested mass duplicity. Us Australian mug punters, for example, were treated to prime-time TV advertising by Macquarie Bank nightly in 2008. It was part of top end preparation to go on to be better?

You say that *the truth is that somewhere deep in my character I am sloppy*. When did you ever hear a man say something like that? I read your article on the same day I saw Sally Potter's new film, '**The Party**' about the shared public and private relationships between the old and younger generations in politics and academia in Britain. I loved it, although not as much as I adored the French film with Isabel Huppert, '**Things to Come**', about the perhaps inevitable stages of the life of a woman philosophy teacher of a certain age, also under the onslaught of new technologies. Should women ever ignore the private truth? I don't think so as it is often the most effective weapon they have in their own defence in any culture. It's that or doing the equivalent of pretending to love a duck so he might buy you a nightie.

I am sloppy too, which may come with impatience. The secret to being sloppy I find is to try to be with people who are patient and rigorous by nature and training because in the real world they have to be or they kill people. This usually has major ramifications, unless one works in the military, where one may only assume, that killing people must be the aim of training which infects every other perception surrounding the act, done remotely or not. That is the story of the professional culture surely? It slops over into the private realm. On the other hand, as Deborah Kerr pointed out in the **King and I**, when you become a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught. Being a mother is like that too, I always think. What do you do about sex and reproduction matters in your teacher training?

As a secondary school English teacher at St Michaels Church of England Girls School in Melbourne in 1973 I was acutely aware of the public scandal and sacking unwittingly brought upon herself by Helen Garner when she was a newly graduated secondary school English teacher in the Victorian state school system a few years earlier. As I recall the press report she was reading the Shakespeare set for study (Julius Caesar?) with her class when the class questions put to her about rude bits and her honest answers got her sacked as a result of parent outrage. It wasn't easy to get rid of a teacher in those days and their unions were powerful. Now aged 74 Garner went on to write 13 books, two screenplays and a multitude of articles, essays and reviews. I recommend you read her works or see the movies. I always puzzled about what had produced such a fearlessly authentic Australian voice until I read '**A Writing Life**' by Bernadette Brennan.

You rather extravagantly state that as a mother, consistency was alien to you and that you found unpredictability more interesting. Surely up to a point and depending on the case and surrounding circumstances. Remember Kate Winslett in **Hideous Kinky**? Surely you wouldn't put kids through that, for a man or not? On the other hand, I would far rather be thought racist, sexist or homophobic than doctrinaire. This at least enables one to invite mutual discussion of any cultural milieu which apparently stands in the way of any more informed, democratic and meritocratic treatments. More honestly striving journalists and teachers, etc. may try to help kids or adults be happy and prosperous through learning. Openness is vital for honesty and learning as long as it allows and responds to challenge.

British open institutions like the BBC, the Open University and National Health Service NHS showed strong leadership in this. Australian ABC free to air TV Kids Channel 2 and the SBS translation services have recently extended the democratic entertainment and educational mantles. This is kids' TV without the constant pester power that may make US families grow up so fat, anxious, depressed or violent. It is a pity to watch the earlier UK directions being undermined so quickly by US driving direction in which their Constitution inevitably leads them so easily to guns and drugs, legal or not. One often wonders how they think this will help reduce the racism, homophobia or mental health problems the fools claim to value.

Your article reminds me of my teacher training at Queensland University. Boys took more lucrative jobs in the private sector while girls swarmed into teaching. It was often said that:

Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach. Those who can't teach, teach teachers.
Those who can't teach teachers do educational research.

In my time I've done the lot. In retrospect it often seems to me that those of us nurtured early in state employment have often had the last laugh financially, however, in spite of the appeal of the above saw to many at the time. My next step will be in death planning. As I wrote to a barrister who owns a corner on our St James Court strata plan, Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light, etc. etc. etc. These management people usually talk utter crap to avoid the main management point. We should address each other more openly, clearly and honestly. (Powerpoint, for example, may be great for getting to the point men ignore. My student Peter Van Vliet and I made a film about it for Tropfest when it was Sony I think.)

I assumed it would not be too long before you would get the comparatively gentle push to go elsewhere, as you may have been given into teaching. They are not like lawyers, for example, living in the feudal shadows to help peddle lying feudal clients' bluff to trap us. I like to think of liaisons with engineers and surgeons supporting pilots, plumbers and electricians instead, for example. Then they pull the sloppier up. I use 'up', absent from normal career progression path constraints and wish women were as clearly open as you. I find dumb men like dumber women as a rule and sisterly solidarity is offensive. Inspired by your honest self-evaluation, I admit that may be partly because I'm poor on name and face recognition. This is a problem which got worse with globalisation. (I like it all on-line.)

Let us be numbers writing openly to follow your explanatory and true example of what it means to become a secondary school teacher of maths. The high point of my English teaching career came, perhaps, when Australian pop ikon John Farnham kissed my cheek after St Michaels girls and the Wesley College boys won a state prize for **The Crucible**. The low point of my career was when I lost myself and seven St Michaels girls temporarily at Wilson's Prom national park. We found ourselves just before they were sending out the search party but the bus had left. I expected a gigantic rocket but the top ranks closed over and I never heard from anybody about it ever again. I guess that's the story of my life.

Finally, I don't know what your sexual preference is but let me clearly state that repudiating past loves has always seemed to me to be a particularly strange and nasty Anglo-Saxon obsession. It renders modern marriage open to obvious charges of being an institution for insider trading. I hope to hear from you again on all of this. My place is self-catering. See related discussion on insurance matters below and attached.

Cheers

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MR KEAYS HAD THE ANSWER: INSURANCE, IT AND FILM (NOIR OR NOT)

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Last week I tried to send the attached discussion of insurance to the following three Australian inquiries. The first two emailed successfully and the last two failed. This current submission is ideally linked in related regional and historical contexts for more broadly effective and reliable service provision, manufactured goods included. Film is discussed in related regional and historic marine, land and IT conditions, as addressed now and attached.

I emailed the **Economic References Committee of the Senate inquiry into the regulatory framework for the protection of consumers, including small businesses, in the banking, insurance and financial services sector, including Managed Investment Schemes**. All OK.

For some reason unclear to me at the time, my computer would not send the submissions to related inquiries about state matters. Today, (my 71st birthday!) I therefore primarily address the **NSW Government Inquiry into improving workers compensation dispute resolution in NSW**. I also address the **Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry conducted by the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC)**. (Have a banana?)

On the intervening weekend I watched Billy Wilder's archetypal film noir DVD, **Double Indemnity**. This is a brilliant film about insurance and its relationship to passion and crime. However, it is insurance, rather than adultery, which is the truly taboo subject, contrary to the DVD sleeve notes claim. Adulterous passion is a staple of art and film. Insurance isn't. Yet insurance is highly relevant and linked to many catastrophes in some way or another. The trouble with the Australian native is a lack of European sensibility. It is all in the head. I naturally include myself in this condemnation and cry with all 'Thank God for the movies'.

The hero of the movie **Double Indemnity**, in which Fred MacMurray is an everyman fornicating and defrauding salesman in a US insurance company is Mr Keays. He is a deeply closeted Freudian homosexual who is MacMurray's insurance company direct administration boss. As Mr Keays, Edward G. Robinson delivers the guilty Fred MacMurray to the court via the latter's captured speeches made about his plans and future intentions primarily in communications which he wrongly thinks are secret or privately conducted.

The joke continues as the real-world insurance practice is linked somehow to the so-called '*prisoner's dilemma*'. This is a concept beloved of the global military state and its related courts and mathematicians living under War and Cold War mentality, although I have never really understood it. Most people were introduced to the concept, which is also related to game theory, gambling and probability, through learning about John Nash, in the movie, **A Beautiful Mind**. I was introduced to it by reading Kerry Schott's PhD thesis on a slow weekend in Canberra. She was my boyfriend's boss and he was working in the office.

To read Sylvia Nasar's book, **A Beautiful Mind**, which situates Nash squarely in the mathematics of the global and political warriors of his era, facing men already considered their equivalent of criminals, is to wonder a lot about what is going on in university mathematics in related states today. As a woman I demand to know what they are teaching, doing, researching and why. (I am sick of constant boring blether about space).

Where do assumptions based on the work of John Nash and others linger on in mathematics today in related state and university practices? Baby, I'd like to know. Like Fred McMurray I telegraph my punches to my closest supporters? I'd ask Adam Spenser, Gary Sturgess and Kerry Schott. Dr Karl does belly button fluff stuff. To interest women in stuff you often have to introduce them to the moral dimension of their lives first. Maths couldn't give a shit? Is it a bit like football where they think that women are all about dresses and make-up? I dunno.

The stereotypic male intention is to be more narrowly and secretively protective of privacy in growing ignorant pursuit of apparent self-interest. The womanly and Freudian interest is often exercised to open matters up to other inspection. The latter course of action appears more broadly democratic, reliable and clear for others. This is good for those who are comparatively good, as distinct from bad, like Barbara Stanwyck and her lying post-war pals. This submission thus addresses regional and other association and fund management in the global context of Marxist and Freudian thought, a bit like Mr Keays. He was a real European.

We Freudians, following New York psychiatrist, Thomas Szasz or not, should stick together in our belief in the existence of defence mechanisms which we employ, consciously or not, in the context of the broadly developing civilization and its discontents. This contrasts with a medical model in which states like homosexual behaviour may be commonly deemed genetic. Freud saw sexuality as polymorphous and perverse. This is good enough for me. The medical model of life seldom goes far enough in recognising its own professional status and how that may corrupt the practice of researching acolytes, if not necessarily its own.

In this case it's the theory in regard to the source and remedy for disturbing matters that counts, so that any related practices, curative or not, may be discussed and compared for results. This judgment may be comparatively objective, as in the case of judging sport broadly, or comparatively subjective, as in the case of judging art broadly. Discussions of dangers of court and medico-legal development directions in regard to depression are addressed later with respect to any associated mental and physical pain and disability. The preservation of cultural canon through related truth-seeking mechanisms are discussed.

Let me repeat what I last stated as the Pet Shop Galah on New Year's Eve 2017. **In a global IT and related Australian free to air TV context, I am forever grateful to the men who taught me a little about insurance and fund management. God knows I would never have picked it up on my own. Now read on and see related regional discussions attached on www.Carolodonnell.com.au** This is the WHO and UNESCO support direction.

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