



QUELLE HORREUR: MELBOURNE OUTRANKS PARIS

Forget Paris; Melbourne is one of the world's top university cities, according to the 2008 Global University City Index. Gee whiz. According to the Global University City Index, created by Melbourne's RMIT University, 'There are a small number of cities that clearly exhibit characteristics that mark them as global university cities. London, Boston, Paris, Tokyo and Melbourne for example, are home to a disproportionate number of internationally well-regarded universities.' To gain a ranking, cities have to be home to two or more high-profile universities as reported by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* – Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings; have a population in excess of two million; and be in the top 100 most liveable cities as reported by the *Economist* Intelligence Unit Global Livability Rankings. The rankings are the result of totting up all that stuff, plus education expenditure, student numbers, graduations, research expenditure, patents and commercialisation. London came in as the number one city, just like last year, followed by Boston, then Tokyo, which jumped from fourth last year,

then Melbourne, up from fifth last year, Sydney, up from sixth, Pittsburgh, which is now sixth, and Paris, which dropped from third to seventh. Quelle horreur. Parisian students, shocked at their city's fall from grace, took to the streets – for a coffee at the Café de la Marché and a spot of shopping at Jérôme Dreyfuss, that new boutique in Rue Jacob.

NOT IN MY BACKYARD – UPDATE

The Quranic Society bid to build Camden College in Sydney's outer west was rejected by Camden Council in May, but not, according to Mayor Chris Patterson, on religious grounds. 'There were clear grounds (to do with traffic flow and the loss of agricultural land) to refuse a school of any denomination on that site,' he said. The Quranic Society is expected to appeal through the New South Wales Land and Environment Court.

HIGHLY FLAUNTED

The Western Australian government's highly-flaunted bid to lure up to 1,000 retired teachers back into the workforce has failed miserably, with just two teachers taking up the offer, according to the *West Australian's* Kate Campbell. That's what happens when you do

too much high flaunting, probably. The, um, much-vaunted program offers retired teachers salaries of up to \$90,000, flexible work arrangements, bonuses for going to remote schools and superannuation incentives.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

In Britain, schools that like to exclude the worst students to protect their positions on national league tables may have to keep them. At least, *Grapevine* thinks that's the case. According to a report in London's *Telegraph*, 'The government is expected to announce measures to keep pupils at risk of being expelled in ordinary schools.' Does that mean: (a) the government is expected to announce measures so that pupils at risk of being expelled will remain in schools; (b) the government is expected to announce measures that will require it to keep pupils at risk of being expelled at 10 Downing Street, which is, apparently, much bigger than it looks; (c) the government is expected to announce measures that will require it to put pupils at risk; or (d) who cares – it's just a policy?

This month's Grapevine is by Steve Holden, Editor of Teacher.

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