

TODAY'S PEOPLE

EDITED BY ANTHONY DENNIS

ignore the changing facilities and appeared among the audience wearing only a towel around his waist.

He thankfully did not, to her knowledge, reveal *all*, though the next minute she looked up he had changed into his civvies.

In a decidedly unsavoury display of sexism, she observed that Hampshire has a "lovely chest" and, through the tight-fitting towel, "nicely-rounded buttocks". The comments will, of course, be sent in triplicate to the offices of Marcus Einfeld forthwith.

One of the mysteries of Tuesday night's performance of *Aida* was just why Phillip Adams — now on holiday — left long before the show's end. We can only presume that Adams, one of Australia's keenest collectors of Egyptian artefacts, found the sight of papier-mâché pyramids a cultural travesty.

Idiot box blues

■ *Knock, knock who's there etc?* For almost a year the national broadcaster's John Derum has for some reason experienced extreme difficulty in gaining entry to his place of work.

On several occasions the host of *The Oz Game* has had to work desperately to persuade security guards at Gore Hill to let him in. Now he has been "counselled" by a senior ABC official that he will be allowed entry in future free of trouble.

On second thoughts, maybe Auntie's security knows something he doesn't — his weekend show *That's Australia* has just been axed even though it rates better than the ABC news bulletin.

When asked for his reaction, Derum replied: "I suppose to ensure my continued access to the ABC for-

the recording of *The Oz Game* I should diplomatically say: 'No comment'."

The only shred of advice we can offer ABC security is that perhaps, considering the legions of staffers who seek lush pastures, they should consider refusing permission to those who wish to leave the premises.

Art for art's sake

■ *Warning: potentially blasphemous content to follow:* Among the entries accepted for exhibition in this year's Blake Prize for Religious Art is a work called *Iconoclast* by 18-year-old Karen Gross.

It depicts Kylie (The Singing Budgie) Minogue as the Virgin Mary and Clive Robertson (pictured) as Christ. The two, wearing religious robes, form the centrepiece of a

triptych, and are flanked by the coils and circuits of a television set.

Another entry is *First Supper* by Susan White, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*. It features an Aboriginal woman as Christ. She wears a T-shirt emblazoned with an Aboriginal flag and is flanked by female disciples. Judas is represented by a blonde woman in dungarees with a money bag, a can of Coke and a hamburger. The other disciples content themselves with traditional plain buns.



Milestones

■ *And so say all of them etc:* The candles on the birthday cake of Michael Willesee, son of the multi-millionaire television commentator and breeder of nags from Michael Senior's former marriage to one-time Miss Australia, Joan Stanbury, were lit the other night to celebrate the kid's 21st birthday.

The party, held at Middle Harbour Yacht Club, was attended by most of the Willesee clan, including Terry, Don and, of course, father Mike.

The young Willesee has just finished a communications course at the Mitchell College at Bathurst and has secured a job — starting at the bottom — at the Mojo advertising agency.

The boss of radio station 2Day-FM, Noel McGurgan, conscious of the Willesee equine connections, recited a speech in which he noted that young Michael had impeccable breeding, being by a Logie winner out of Miss Australia.

All the presents were neatly wrapped so we cannot say whether a thoroughbred was among them.

DEPARTURE LOUNGE

■ *Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye etc:* After half a century, Howard Craven of 2CH could well become the first disc jockey ever to retire voluntarily. He spins his last disc on his final morning in radio today amid an impressive array of on-air farewell messages from the likes of fellow broadcasters John Laws, Mike Carlton, Brian Henderson and Bert Newton.

On the day before he spins his last Mantovani track — sure to be an emotional moment for all except heavy metal fanciers — Craven was in reflective mood when *Today's People* called. He agreed that it was something of a novelty for a radio announcer to leave of his own free will.

Although Craven's musical tastes haven't much altered over the years — he still loves swing music from the 40s — the changes he has witnessed in radio over the years haven't all won his approval.

The announcers are far more aggressive these days, he says, and there's far too much talkback. He has, of course, never taken a talkback call in his life! Worst of all, he believes the ratings system has become an obsession. "They nearly have a hemorrhage if you drop a point these days," he said.

