



Affairs of the Heart in the State of Affairs

A PR consultant is a girl's best friend

Her belongings have been cleared out of the House of Collins in Sydney, and **Dominique Collins**, who first met husband Peter when delivering frozen yoghurt to his barristers chambers in 1980, is poised to move into a \$1.5 million love nest with Melbourne's newest banking heavyweight, **Alan Stockdale**. The salubrious abode was bought in the name of **Dominique Fisher**, her maiden name, so clearly the multi-media business she runs has turned the corner and is looking up. Then again, maybe the former Victorian treasurer has lent some financial support knowing the small fortune that will come his way working for Macquarie Bank, the generator of more millionaires than any other company in Australia.

Peter Collins has been on a parliamentary trip to South America for the past few weeks but this has not stopped the rumour mill working overtime about the timing of who was unfaithful to whom in the Stockdale and Collins households. Collins's decision to put out a statement about his wife's affair in the middle of the Victorian election campaign created a few mumbles about his own record on that front.

Ironically, Dominique is using her close friend **Sue Cato**, an accomplished spin doctor and a former adviser to **Nick Greiner** and **Andrew Peacock**, to brief the media and play damage controller after the Collins hand grenade. Cato herself made news when she and former husband **Ian Kortlang** revealed they pocketed \$12 million selling their PR outfit Kortlang to US giant Omnicom. Cato was planning on taking up a big job in New York with Omnicom later this year and also joining her new man, a high-powered American television sports producer. When these love plans collapsed she opted to stay in Sydney and join advertising outfit Pure Creative DMB&B as chief executive.

Given that Cato was Kortlang's fourth wife, she is perhaps well qualified to advise her friend of 14 years, Dominique, on these affairs of state.



Movin' on up: Dominique Collins packs up her troubles.

NEWSPIX

Big Names Open their Wallets for Bracks' Labor

Cliche 1: Politics, thy middle name is Money. Cliche 2: Everyone loves a winner

The corporate community may have shunned it for many years, but now **Steve Bracks'** Victorian Labor Party is suddenly swimming in donations from the big end of town.

Mining magnate **Joseph Gutnick**, who has **Bob Hawke** on the board of his Chinese diamond explorer Quantum Resources and has openly endorsed **Kim Beazley**, kicked in his five-figure donation a few weeks before the election.



Packaging billionaire **Dick Pratt** (left) has had arguably Australia's most exhaustive list of political and public figures on the payroll over the years including **Bob Hawke**, **Gough Whitlam**, **Nick Greiner**, former Victorian treasurer **Rob Jolly** and former Victorian police commissioner **Mick Miller**. However, when Steve Bracks popped in

to see Dick in the last week of the campaign, his team left empty handed. Not for long. The word in business circles is that Pratt, like many other Melbourne business heavyweights, quickly wrote out a cheque once the election result became clear.

The **Packer** camp had some remarkable foresight and actually attempted to set a date for a meeting to discuss donations on the morning of the election. This was a remarkable about-face from when they cancelled a scheduled meeting with Labor mid-campaign after anti-Crown campaigner **Rob Hulls** gave the Melbourne *Herald Sun* a front-page story about more probity checks on Packer's great punting mate **Lloyd Williams**.

Dear Aunty Toby, How Do I Get My Wife Back ...?

Baby I never stopped loving you, sang the Placido Domingo of politics

Paul Keating's heartfelt public declaration of his ongoing love for wife Annita has got many of Australia's agony aunts chatting about whether it was the right thing to do to win back his wife. At the Sydney Town Hall earlier this month, this is what he told the Labor Party faithful when he was inducted as a life member: "I owe a special debt of gratitude, of course, to my family, to my mother, who's here today and

BRIAN QUINN FOLLOWS IN INFAMOUS FOOTSTEPS

After Bitch brought you news of much movement in the bunker of spin doctors IPR Shandwick in the inaugural edition of *The Eye*, we have some more juicy morsels to add. Morale is not too good at IPR Shandwick and the place is leaking like a sieve.

We hear the timing of our news that Carlos Cabal, the fugitive Mexican banker, is paying IPR \$80,000 a month to improve his image did not help in a pitch to a more reputable banking outfit in Australia. Presented with a copy of *The Eye* by the blue-chip bankers, managing director Mark Kerr spent about 45 minutes defending his spinning outfit. The call came back from the reputable bankers a few hours later that they had lost the pitch.

But it's not all bad news at IPR with disgraced former Coles Myer chairman Brian Quinn signed up as a client. Quinn was released last Monday amid a flurry of publicity, but we doubt even the man who defrauded Coles Myer of \$4.46 million to renovate his mansion in suburban Templestowe can afford \$80,000 a month for IPR. 80,000 pesos might be more like it - unless some of his well-heeled friends chip in.



Will Annita turn up her nose at Paul's coffeepot and cuddlepie tributes?

people. That puts a lot of pressure on her.

"My advice to men who want their woman back is to look like they can make it on their own ... to in a way recreate themselves. This gives the woman real freedom of choice so that if they reject him he won't go to pieces." Psychologist and marriage counsellor Henry Briffa, from the Drummond Street Relationship Centre in Melbourne, believes the Keatings' marriage may be "tragically over. Clearly there is a psychological connection that is still there," he said. "The pressures of public life on a relationship must be enormous and the transformation from having all that power must be a tremendous change to endure for both of them. The kind of hectic life that being prime minister and first lady brought must not have left much time for a relationship. Losing office must have caused a big change in the amount of time they had together." He said Paul's public declaration of his love for Annita is a growing phenomenon for public figures. "Historically there is something about a public expression of love that is quite romantic." However, in terms of this succeeding for Paul in winning his wife back, Mr Briffa said is was too hard to say.

The Book of Love in the Men's Room

Monogamy is not natural for men - trust me, I'm a woman

Publisher Random House has had a tough year after being ordered to pay out \$277,500 in damages to Federal Treasurer **Peter Costello**, his wife **Tanya** and Federal Minister for Employment Services **Tony Abbott** and his wife **Margaret** for 33 defamatory words in *Goodnight Jerusalem*, the memoirs of author



Toby Green

Bob Ellis. Now they have bitten the bullet and published *The Men's Room* by psychologist Toby Green after the first 8,000 copies of the book were pulped in August following legal threats by

women mentioned in the text.

The book is based on therapy sessions with seven high-powered men including solicitor **Ross Turnbull**, Sitel executive **Randal McDonald** and former ninemsn creative director **Ronny Rohlman**. We are not sure if it was the former partners of Ross, Ronny and Randy who took action, as Random House is more secretive than the Kremlin on this one.

Ms Green — yes it's Toby the woman — is an American psychologist who describes her book as "pro-male, for men and by a woman", which sounds a bit like having a column called *Bitch* written by a man. She is expecting a torrent of abuse from feminists as her book sets out to "explain to men

what women are all about". Many women would agree with her view that "monogamy is not natural for men", however, she partly blames women for pressuring them into marriage before they have sowed the proverbial wild oats.

Green does not agree with futurist **Phil Ruthven** — possibly the highest paid man on the Australian corporate speaking circuit — who believes the one thing Australia's chief executives have in common is a huge sex drive. *Fortune* magazine ran a cover story earlier this year on the problem of excessive sex drive among American business leaders and quoted one psychologist who claimed to have seen three Fortune 500 chief executives that year.

Ms Green is not sure about this theory as some CEOs throw everything into their job and "are all used up by the end of the day ... however, for some men it is a power and ego trip that spurs them on sexually".

Bitch has heard many tales about the sexual exploits of our top CEOs. There is one top 50 CEO who ran off with his secretary last year, another who was caught having an affair with his fitness instructor and what about the 70-something chairman who is a real Casanova. Maybe their wives should read *The Men's Room*.

SCRATCH AN ITCH: HEARD, SEEN OR DONE ANYTHING THAT MIGHT MAKE A BITCH ITEM? E-MAIL US AT: bitch@theyeye.com.au

my father, who's not. My sister and children are here. My wife who was with me for 25 years isn't. But, of course, she always will be with me, always. And when I used to come home from those branch meetings at 11 o'clock at night, there'd always be a cup of tea or coffee, and if you were lucky, a bit of a cuddle as well. I'll always love her for that, always." After rapturous applause, he added: "When you're married for 25 years, you never really get unmarried, I don't think."

Toby Green, author of a new sex therapy book for men called *The Men's Room*, believes Keating has played his cards badly. "He needs to look like he's got a life rather than doing over-the-top grandstanding," she said. "Annita might not want him to make loving statements in the press in front of hundreds of



THIS FORTNIGHT'S TIME BOMB

One of Australia's wealthiest families is hunkering down for an almighty battle with the Australian Tax Office. Tax investigators from Brisbane are combing the family's documents, company returns and financial transactions. At stake: possible unpaid tax running into eight figures.