

Teen idols back home



Every year Swinburne provides a scholarship to a Vietnamese student who wins a television quiz show *Way to Olympia Peak*. Just how big this show and the contestants are in Vietnam was a well kept secret. That is, until a group of visiting Vietnamese journalists visited Swinburne last month.

The journalists were almost 'star-struck' when they got to catch up with the past five winners (pictured from left: Hoang Vu Le, Viet Ha Le, Tan Manh Phan, Hoang Lam Do, Dung Van Vo) who are famous teen idols back home.

Winners receive a scholarship to Swinburne, and \$35,000 in prize money.

Way to Olympia Peak is a Vietnamese general knowledge quiz show sponsored by the Korean company LG electronics. The program consists of a series of programs where representatives from high schools across the country are selected to compete against each other. It is televised each

Sunday on national TV, with winners along the way winning prizes for their schools including TVs, computers and other electronic equipment.

La Trobe students deported

The Federal Government has slapped a deportation order on two overseas students studying at La Trobe University.

The pair are twin daughters of Zimbabwe's Reserve Bank governor Gideon Gono and are among eight students attending Australian universities who are to be deported. The twin daughters, Pride and

Praise are studying tourism and hospitality.

Dr Gono, 47, is regarded by many Zimbabwe observers as President Mugabe's right-hand man. It is through his control of the country's Reserve Bank that Zimbabwe pays for the overseas education of more than 300 children of officials linked to Magabe's ruling ZANU PF party.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said it was tough to penalise children "for the sins of their fathers" but Australia had to put the plight of ordinary Zimbabweans first. All student visa applications from Zimbabweans will now be referred to Downer. There are 1512 Zimbabweans on student visas in Australia.

Absent professor

A French tax official cheated the government out of nearly a million dollars Australian by creating a phantom identity as a university professor and claiming a salary for 15 years. We just wonder how many phantom professors there are wandering around Australian campuses.

Making the top 100 grade

The University of Melbourne has ranked in the 100 top universities in the world, according to the prestigious Shanghai Jiao Tong University's (SJTU) Academic Rankings of World Universities 2007.

The SJTU has ranked Melbourne at number 79. Melbourne and ANU are the only two Australian universities in the top 100. Harvard and Stanford take the top two spots with the University of California, Berkeley, this year moving Cambridge out of third place.

Melbourne was again ranked seventh in the Asia Pacific region with Tokyo

University in top spot.

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Peter McPhee says it is pleasing to see that Melbourne is maintaining its strong position in the 2007 SJTU rankings.

"This is a highly competitive, rigorous ranking where Melbourne's strong international reputation for research performance and training gives it a significant edge."

McPhee said the well-resourced American institutions – and in our region, Japanese universities – are taking top spots. **Q**



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