



# Up to parents to take control of the bullies

WHAT a sad reflection of where we're at (Baby-faced thugs, January 11).

It's been more than 25 years since I left school, but there were bullies back then.

The difference was when the teachers or principals found out, they had power to do something about it and the parents more often than not supported that.

Either we've become too soft in society today or we've taken "rights" in the wrong direction.

Children quite often give no respect but expect the earth in return (they will push until they find a boundary, which is fair enough, they're growing).

Boundaries need to be set by parents and teachers need the ability to discipline (a form of teaching as much as praising).

Jumping on the legal bandwagon is a poor boundary to teach our youth.

**Grant Guesdon** Bondi Junction

## Consequences needed

AS A teacher, let me tell you we are powerless to do anything.

I thank the Department of Education and the union for making teaching a toothless tiger.

I won't advocate for the cane to be reintroduced but I do advocate for suitable punishment (that in itself is a dirty word in education).

I want to see consequences for negative actions and I want to see parents supporting the school in dealing with anti-social students.

SO, THE prevailing logic is "let's wind the clock back and bring back corporal punishment".

What do you geniuses do when some psycho teacher decides to occasionally whip your own kid with a cane?

Having gone to one of Sydney's supposedly better schools and been taught by a person so described I can assure you the cane is not always a gentlemanly discipline of a whipping of your fingertips.

**Hank Stanmore**

From my perspective, the only time certain parents complain is when their children are suspended for the 20th time and they don't want to deal with them at home so they appeal the suspension and threaten legal action. Then the department relents and students return with no consequences.

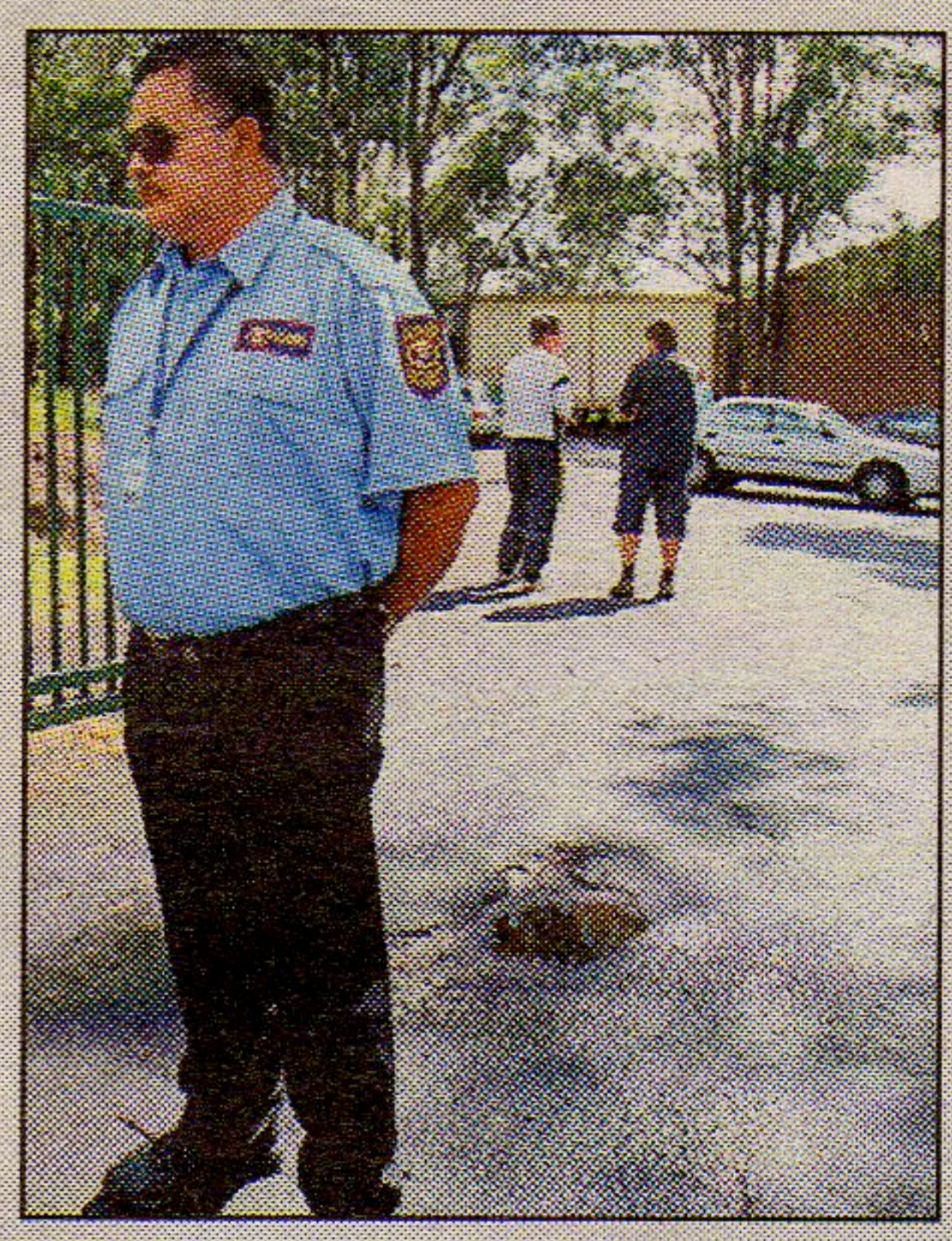
The "you can't tell me what to do" attitude has to stop.

I am personally sick of it and as a parent there are consequences for my children should they treat any teacher, or any older person, with derision and disrespect.

Teachers are not surrogate parents, babysitters or jailers.

We are not the flogging horse for society's ills.

Interesting to note, most of the people blaming teachers wouldn't



**AVO: Part of school security**

dare change roles with them and sit in a high school classroom.

**Anissa Jones** Canberra

## Lack of discipline

THE main problem is that responsible adults are not allowed to discipline children in an effective manner, so kids are now thinking they can do anything they want.

In other cases, children are just left to their own devices by inadequate or lazy parents.

I had to take out an AVO on three kids who were running riot in our neighbourhood and broke into our house and then proceeded to harass myself and my kids incessantly for months.

The AVO did work and their behaviour changed.

Unfortunately, I would assume that they have simply moved on to harassing others.

Quite clearly the parents are to blame in this case, not the kids.

I do think we really need to look at how children are disciplined as the current regime, the result of too much political correctness, is clearly not working.

**Tim Beaux** Windsor

## Courts in charge

IT'S BEEN a long time since I have been to school, having left in 1958, but I remember that bad behaviour was not condoned and often resulted in being on the receiving end of the cane.

Teachers were fearsome and did not tolerate bad behaviour.

Thanks to the do-good child psychologists, corporal punishment has been outlawed and the students now hold the whip handle.

The courts now have to do what the school system used to be responsible for.

There is only one thing to do and that is to throw power back to principals and teachers to deal with bad behaviour in-house, without resorting to court proceedings. The other problem is many teachers are indoctrinated with a left-wing agenda where they don't believe in corporal punishment. Old teachers are now retired or forced out because of their "draconian" ideology.

**Dick Filmer** Manly Vale

Write your own letter to the editor expressing your views on the matter.