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Fairer tales

AN updated fairy-tale collection has rocketed on to the American best-seller list. *Politically Correct Bed-time Stories*, by James Finn Garner, has three "vertically challenged" pigs building their houses with "materials that were indigenous to the area", three bears living "anthropomorphically" as a nuclear family, and Red Riding Hood's wolf dressing up as Grandma because he was "unhappened by rigid, traditionalist notions of what was masculine". It was turned down by 27 US publishers before Macmillan bought it out.

Yes, actually

TROPPERS through the corridors of State Parliament may see a notice on a board near former NSW Police Minister Terry Griffiths's office just after he left his job when five women staffers retired on stress leave. "Are you tired, stressed or carrying a few extra kilos?" the notice read, suggesting the less radical solution of joining the Parliament House Health Club.

A matter of timing

TERRY Griffiths has good reason to hang on to his seat until the election. If he quits now he would get about \$220,000 as payout from his pension. But after the March 25, 1995, election Griffiths and those elected in the big 1988 Coalition

REPUBLICANS UNDER BEDS ALERT!!



Interesting

THE Sunshine Coast hinterland town of Maleny, known for clear skies and folk festivals, has added to its homely image. The Maleny and District Credit Union will cut lending rates by 2 per cent to borrowers who seek loans to buy environmentally friendly motor cars.

Big Bickies

AN interesting paper from Attorney General John Hanningford's office fell off the back of a Government lorry yesterday. It details pay rates for lawyers when the Crown agrees to meet the legal cost of people appearing before royal commissions and special inquiries such as the ICAC. A single solicitor would get a maximum of \$1,800 a day. A legal team with a "moderate" level of advocacy would get \$3,600 a day. But top legal eagles "at the highest level of skill and advocacy" would get up to \$7,200 a day. No wonder ICAC inquiries last so long.

Blocked out

SOME suncreams may not protect against skin cancer, a senior British scientist has warned. Products concentrating on blocking out UVB — burning ultraviolet radiation — provide limited defence against another potentially dangerous form of radiation, UVA, according to Dr Joseph Lunet of Leicester University. His findings will be presented to a conference in Australia in November.

STOP PRESS

US students killed by car

POLICE have released the names of 21-year-old students from

staffer Simon Trooth of his Australian Republican Movement badge. It is, of course, a practical joke, with the Government-run Australian National Media Liaison Service (ANIMaLS) the prime suspects.

Happy anniversary

MONDAY, August 1 is the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Sex Discrimination Act. Prime Minister Paul Keating will mark the event with a speech in Sydney, followed by a concert with artists including Le Gioie Delle Donne (The Joys of Women), a group of Italian women singers from Fremantle.

Ole fatso

THE future of Spain's bullfighting tradition is in doubt, following

Bugner. The 44-year-old former world heavyweight boxer, now a Queensland resident, will play a torturer and says of his co-star: "I could knock her down with a sneeze."

No tragedy

A YOUNG Australian won a significant British political journalism prize earlier this week. Sydney's Ophelia Field, 22, won the 1994 T E Uley University Award. A student at the London School of Economics, she was presented with a cheque for \$85,000 by Baroness Thatcher. The award, whose founding donors include media barons Conrad Black and Rupert Murdoch, was open to university students under 25.

\$75 show their film excerpts. Mel Gibson, Nicole Kidman and Judy Davis are already signed up and Jon Simon, husband of actress Joy Smithers, hopes to flog the service worldwide when he takes it to Hollywood later this year.

Papa Downer

ALEXANDER Downer will join the celebrations at Sydney's Apia Club today — 34 years after Sir Alexander Downer laid the Italian community club's foundation stone. The Federal Opposition Leader's father was Immigration Minister from 1958-63. A big knees-up is planned afterwards for prominent local Italian Mama Lena, who is celebrating her 80th birthday.