

Corby case wrapped up

MERCEDES Corby's defamation case against Channel 7 formally ended yesterday with NSW Supreme Court Justice Carolyn Simpson congratulating both parties on reaching an undisclosed settlement.

Lawyers for Ms Corby told the court they had accepted a confidential payout from Seven in her high-profile defamation claim.

Ms Corby, the sister of convicted drug smuggler Schapelle Corby, last week won her defamation suit against Seven, its program *Today Tonight*, presenter Anna Coren and reporter Brian Seymour over interviews with her former best friend Jodie Power.

Actress busted for drugs

OSCAR-winner Tatum O'Neal has been busted buying cocaine and crack.

The troubled actress, 44, was nabbed yesterday by New York detectives just blocks from her Lower East Side apartment.

"When the police approached, she asked them: 'You know who I am, right?'" a source told *The New York Post*.

"Then she said: 'I'm researching a part — I'm doing this for a part' as a junkie." Then she said she'd been clean for two years, and that she'd just came out today.



"Can't we just forget about this?" the sources said she begged detectives.

O'Neal was expected to spend the night in custody after being charged with possession of a controlled substance. The dealer was also charged.

O'Neal is actor Ryan O'Neal's daughter and has three children with her former husband, tennis bad boy John McEnroe. She became the youngest winner of an Oscar at age 10 for her role in *Paper Moon*. O'Neal admitted a long battle with addiction in her 2004 memoir *A Paper Life*, writing of boozing and drug-taking was in her DNA. Her mother, late actress Joanna Moore, was an alcoholic hooked on amphetamines.

Fines for pool death

AN NSW resort was fined \$150,000 over the electrocution of a 13-year-old boy at the hotel's pool in 2002.

The local boy and a friend were in the pool of the Salamander Shores Hotel on the NSW Central Coast without permission in December 2002 when they threw a tennis ball over the pool fence.

The boy, 13, suffered an electric shock as he tried to climb the fence, stepping on a corroded pipe that was electrified.

In the NSW Industrial Court last month Justice Anna Backman found Salamander Shores Hotel Pty Ltd and three directors failed to assess the risk from live electric cabling. The directors v fined \$12,000 each.

Maybe the binge ban should start in Canberra Meet Rudd's Young Labor Party animals



Dead marines . . . aftermath of a Young Labor group's weekend of partying at the Pinnacle Apartments in Canberra

EXCLUSIVE

By JOE HILDEBRAND Political Reporter

THIS is the disgraceful aftermath of a two-day boozefest by a group of Young Labor members that left their Canberra hotel rooms trashed and staff and guests disgusted.

Pictures obtained by *The Daily Telegraph* show what the group left behind, with almost every surface of one suite covered in empty liquor bottles.

The scenes of drunken carnage are in stark contrast to the Government's hardline stance on youth binge drinking and its tax hike on alcopops.

Witnesses at Canberra's Pinnacle Apartments said the group held wild parties until as late as 5am last Friday and Saturday nights while they were in

town for a Young Labor conference. It is understood that on each night up to 50 youths crammed into just one apartment, drinking, shouting, playing loud music and prompting a torrent of complaints from staff and guests.

Many were wearing Young Labor T-shirts with the party logo.

"Both nights the behaviour was appalling — drinking, raucous and boisterous conduct throughout both nights, littering the property and leaving several of their 'partying' rooms in disarray," one witness said.

"Despite countless warnings — on arrival from staff and security on both evenings — they continued to arrogantly ignore requests."

In one case, when a female staff member attempted to tell them to be quiet, one of the partygoers propositioned her, saying words to the effect

of: "Come in and join us." Another reveller became argumentative on Sunday morning as he checked out when management declined to hand back his credit card until they had checked for damage.

An observer said the group had disgraced Labor and hurt its credibility as a party that is both supportive of workers and tough on booze.

"The Young Labor group is deplorable and exhibits a direct hypocrisy to Labor itself," the witness said.

Young Labor refused to comment officially yesterday.

However a party source confirmed there had been complaints at the hotel and these had been compiled with — something witnesses deny.

He said the revellers were from the left wing and members at another venue had been perfectly well behaved.

Workload enough to drive PM's staff to drink

By ALISON REHN

KEVIN Rudd yesterday denied his demanding workload had forced the resignation of six diary assistants in the first six months in office, and once again defended his frenetic schedule.

There is concern the Prime Minister, who works 15-hour days which stretch even longer if he has evening engagements, is burning himself out.

Federal Government ministers, staff and unions reportedly told Mr Rudd to take his foot off the pedal and slow



MEMO TO KEVIN: We expect you to work hard, that's what we demand of the person who runs the country
Alison Rehn, OPINION: Page 19

which is complaining of being overworked. But yesterday Mr Rudd defended the workload.

He also explained the reason he had churned through six diary assistants was because of the change of government, rather than management style.

"When a new government takes over, one of the first things that happens is that

PM&C [Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet] provide you with temporary staff," Mr Rudd said in *Question Time*.

"What we've done is slash the number of ministerial staff by 30 per cent. That saves the taxpayer \$15.4 million in the current financial year."

Deputy Opposition leader Julie Bishop accused Finance

Pinnacle Apartments management said they were unable to comment.

It is believed up to 80 per cent of the rooms at Pinnacle were booked by more than 100 conference-goers.

Most checked out on Sunday, after which the photos were taken.

The images are at odds with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's tough stance on binge drinking, which resulted in a 70 per cent tax rise on pre-mixed drinks that is estimated will rake in the Government an extra \$500 million.

The measures have since attracted controversy.

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Daily Telegraph
Vote: Is Labor's binge-drinking stance hypocritical?
dailytelegraph.com.au

Minister Lindsay Tanner labelling public servants lazy during an interview, in which he said complaints from public servants they were being overworked raised questions about the former government.

In *Question Time* Mr Tanner said: "I was asking why it is that the Rudd government is setting a strong agenda and the answer is simple and that is there's an awful lot to do. The thrust of my comments . . . related to the former government and that if there were public servants struggling with additional work under the former government, the reason is the former government didn't do very much."

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