



Picture: Dean Marzolla

High fashion: Bianca McLennan gingerly tries on the new Sass shoes

The new height of fashion

By ELLE HALLWELL

EVEN seasoned catwalk models struggle to walk in them, but Sydney women can't get enough of the six-inch heel. Young women desperate to emulate their favourite celebrities are racing to chain stores, which are now selling copies of skyscraper designer heels at a fraction of the price. Withner's "Sassy" shoes, which boast a whopping 15cm stiletto heel, have been walking off shelves, according to sales assistant Leslie Mitchell. The shoes, inspired by YSL

and Christian Louboutin pumps, are some of the highest heels currently available in chain stores and cost less than \$200. Podiatrist Paul Bowles from Randwick's The Foot Spot said any heel higher than 4cm was unhealthy. Bianca McLennan said while she and her peers had embraced the sky-high shoe trend, the 15cm Sass shoes were too high even for her liking. "A lot of my friends are wearing high chunky heels," she said. "I've probably stacked it a few times myself, but it's been after a few drinks."



Ouch: If the 15cm Sass heel fits...

No maths for our top kids

By education writer
MIA WILING LAM

THE State's brightest school students have been knocked back from studying advanced maths because of a severe lack of qualified teachers.

A shortage of school funds and declining interest from peers is also stopping Year 11 and 12 students from studying Extension 1 and 2 HSC maths courses.

Professor Nalini Joshi, president of the Australian Mathematical Society, conducted a survey of maths teachers and discovered that students, some from selective schools, were missing out on advanced maths.

She said the teacher shortage was potentially disastrous. "Most of the qualified head maths teachers are getting close to retirement and, when they go, there will be nothing left," she said. "We'll be looking at a major disaster if (governments) don't do something now."

She said the issue was extremely worrying in the public system.

"There's quite a lot of budgetary pressure on schools and so when there's only a small pocket of students who want to do Extension 2 Mathematics, quite often the high school won't offer that option because they don't have the number of teachers," she said.

The head maths teacher at a

public high school in Sydney's south, who did not wish to be named, also confirmed that students were being steered away from studying maths.

He said when student numbers dropped below a certain figure, most principals chose not to staff the subject because of the cost to the wider school community.

Australian Education Union federal president Angelo Gavrielatos said the nation was experiencing an acute maths-teacher shortage, but the severity of the problem was being masked by the high number of teachers teaching outside their subject areas.

"People who are not trained to teach maths are teaching maths and people who are not trained to teach science are teaching science," he said.

A survey released last week by the AEU shows more than half of all new teachers are asked to teach outside their area of expertise.

In response to the shortage, the Rudd government has offered HECs debt discounts of more than \$10,000 to university students studying maths and science.

But Professor Joshi, who is also head of mathematics at the University of Sydney, said more needed to be done.

"I don't think halving the HECs debt will have much of an effect because students think about their debt really only after they finish university," she said.

Lessons in gambling

STUDENTS as young as 17 are taught how to gamble and play Lotto during Orientation Week activities at one of the nation's top universities.

The *Sunday Telegraph* has learnt that NSW Lotteries spent almost \$8000 sponsoring O-week events at the University of NSW last week. But the NSW Government agency was marched from the

university grounds on Wednesday after more than 50 complaints were received.

"Students are being taught how to use Scratchies before they even buy textbooks," said Charishma Kalyanda, president of the UNSW student representative council. Under a deal Lotteries staff sold raffles for Scratchies and handed out Lotto leaflets.

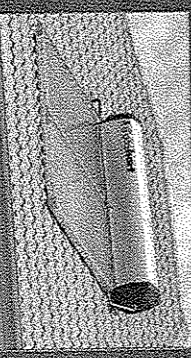


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