

● RATINGS WIN

## Viewers get with force

A group of good-looking homicide cops triumphed over a sex-mad writer and Graham Kennedy in last night's ratings war.

Channel 7's new Aussie drama *City Homicide* won its time-slot in all states and was the nation's third most-watched show with 1.648 million viewers, behind Seven shows *Border Security* and *The Force*.

The homegrown show easily eclipsed the figures for Channel 10's controversial new import *Californication*, starring David Duchovny, which fell short of the million mark with 964,000 viewers nationally and failed to make the night's top 10 shows.

### Nice one

A US woman figured her idea would fetch about \$100. Missouri sports card collector and dog lover Rochelle Steffen gave 22 Michael Vick trading cards to her two dogs to chew. She then put the chewed cards on eBay (timed to coincide with NFL star Vick's court appearance on dogfighting charges). By late Monday, as Vick entered a guilty plea in court, the bidding had reached \$7700. Bidding closes tomorrow.

● BROKEN PROMISE

## A fine mess for love rat

A Malaysian court has ordered a man to pay his ex-fiancee a fine of \$24,925 for breaking his promise to marry her.

The high court in the northern Perak state ruled that R Punnosamy, 41, had caused his former fiancee, S Nagamah, 38, mental anguish and loss of reputation and honour when he broke his promises of marriage.

Nagamah sued her former beau last year after finding out he had married another woman, and claimed she felt cheated as Punnosamy had persuaded her to have sex with him 31 times with the promises of true love and marriage.

● ECLIPSE TURMOIL

# Moon's darkest tidings

Inga Gilchrist

Brace yourself for a relationship crash-and-burn during tonight's lunar eclipse.

Loony lunar forces will evoke sudden endings, eruptions and ferocious sensuality, an astrologist predicted today.

So if you find yourself howl-

ing at the 7.52pm moonshadow you're not alone, said metaphysician Deborah Gray.

The first total lunar eclipse since July 2000 will bring with it a powerful urge to end things, she said.

"Everything will be exaggerated, including passions of all kinds, but particularly passions of endings.

"Everything that's gone before is eclipsed, it's over with."

The effects are spread over a 72-hour period and are strongest at the moment of the eclipse, Gray said.

"You might be sitting with your partner and they say something and you just think, 'That's the last straw'.

"People who are normally

calm, if you push them into an ultimatum they'll react badly."

Workers on the job when the moon turns blood red in the Earth's shadow should watch out, she said.

Restaurant and bar staff can expect irate customers and should calm their own tempers if they want to avoid an outburst.

The natural world will lurch under the same forces, bringing minor tidal waves and eruptions in the total eclipse zone of the Pacific Ocean.

The apocalyptic plunge has an upside, though.

"After the eclipse comes new life," Gray said. "Who knows, you might get rid of one boring partner and get a new sexy one."



### Boyz from the hood keep rap music in the loop

Hip-hop group TTF including One Touch, Safire, mentor Andy Scott and Dee wrote and produced a track for the 22-track compilation CD for mentoring program Underground Loop. The *Underground Loop* CD launch, with performances from the boys, is on this Thursday from 7pm at The Crom, 138 Cromwell St, Collingwood.

Picture: ANDREW MACCOLL

● FLU RISK

## Birdsville off track

Queensland's famous Birdsville Races will not go ahead this weekend because of the equine influenza crisis.

It's believed to be the first time in their 125-year history that the races, held in the outback Queensland town of Birdsville, have been cancelled.

"We've been trying everything to have racing proceed at Birdsville this weekend, but the risk has been assessed... (as) unacceptable," said Queensland Racing Minister Andrew Fraser.

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● NEW RANGE

## Bindi blazes fashion trail

Bindi Irwin launched her international modelling and fashion career in Las Vegas today.

Carrying a python, nine-year-old Bindi strutted down the "crawwalk" at the world's largest fashion trade show, wearing clothes from her Bindi International fashion line.

Dubbed clothing with a conscience, the line is designed for newborns to 10-year-olds.

Bindi, whose TV show *Bindi the Jungle Girl* has been a success in the US, is hoping to help spread her environmental message with the clothes.

### It's true

US marksman Sidney Hinds shot a perfect score of 50 at the 1924 Olympic Games despite being injured part-way through the event. He was shot in the foot by another competitor, who had dropped his rifle during an argument with officials.

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