

SNITCH

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"A REMARKABLE three-part documentary series of six fabulous adventurers, each with a unique and challenging intellectual disability." Ring any bells? It's an ABC television blurb for a work by Michael Noonan, the Queensland University of Technology doctoral student ticked off by some and praised by others for his unconventional take on disability. But *Unlikely Travellers*, the doco that began screening on ABC on Monday night, was not at the centre of the storm. Gary MacLennan, one of two Noonan critics whose careers at QUT did not survive the controversy, had saluted *Unlikely Travellers* as warm and beautiful. What MacLennan and fellow critic John Hookham did not like was Noonan's new project, originally titled *Laughing at the Disabled*. Even so, the two works overlap in casting and it will be intriguing to see how a national audience responds to Noonan and his stars.

AUSTRALIAN students flying the flag in the US are obviously value-conscious: if you're going to make the long trip, you may as well go to the best university in the world. According to figures released to Snitch by the US consulate in Sydney, 2797 Australians studied there last year. Top destination for 895 graduate students was Harvard University. New York, Columbia, Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley, filled out the top five. Our 1341 undergraduates went for options closer to home: UC Berkeley was the most popular destination. The University of Southern California and UC San Diego were also in the top 10.

FEEL oppressed by powerful university bureaucrats? Spare a thought for the Iraqi scholar whose campus has been taken over by a militia group, the Mahdi Army. Antoon De Baets from the Network of Concerned Historians (whose work has appeared in the HES) has put out a discreet appeal for help from any university that may be able to offer the Iraqi safe haven. Visit www.concernedhistorians.org.