

How you all helped save Fred Basset



PRIZE POOCH: Owner Chris Lawrence with her basset hound, Chaser, in Kilburn. Picture: SIMON CROSS

JESSICA LEO

FRED BASSET has been rescued from going to the dogs.

In one of AdelaideNow's biggest polls, *Advertiser* readers have voted to keep their favourite comics.

But only a late groundswell of support has saved Fred Basset. The lovable hound had appeared in serious trouble early in the vote.

The *Advertiser* comics page will be revamped tomorrow with the addition of a new cartoon, *Insanity Streak*.

To make way for it, something had to go and we asked readers to head to Adelaide-



Now and vote to save their favourite. The comic strips on the chopping block were: *The Wizard of Id*, *Fred Basset*, *Broomhilda*, *The Politician*, and *Beyond the Black Stump*.

AdelaideNow was inundated with nearly 17,000 votes, making the cartoon poll one of the biggest in the site's history.

It was also one of the closest, with *The Pol-*

itician polling just 13 more votes than *Broomhilda*, which managed 17 per cent of the overall vote.

Dog lovers united to save *Fred Basset*, which finished with nearly 4000 votes and 22 per cent support.

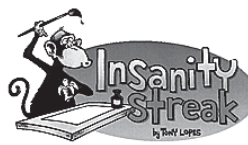
The most popular cartoon was *The Wizard of Id*, which amassed 23 per cent of the votes.

Insanity Streak cre-

ator Tony Lopes says he's looking forward to his cartoon - which he describes as being able to "take the reader anywhere" - being part of the revamped page.

"It's going to be exciting to be part of it, especially with such a passionate readership," he told *The Advertiser* yesterday.

"The one motto I work with is, above all make them laugh."



**Don't miss Insanity Streak
IN The Advertiser TOMORROW**

Teachers cut back on reports

LAUREN NOVAK
EDUCATION REPORTER

REPORT cards and parent-teacher interviews are the latest casualties in the pay dispute between teachers and the State Government.

Teachers at several schools have cancelled meetings with parents and report cards are being sent home without comments on students' performance.

The move follows the cancellation of camps, discos and out-of-school activities at schools last month and a decision to boycott administration and data-collection duties.

While the teachers' union maintains its industrial actions are not meant to affect students, the Opposition and parents say the latest move has crossed the line.

SA Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said: "This isn't going to impact on the (education) department, activities such as this are solely going to disadvantage children and parents."

Australian Education Union state vice-president Marcus Knill said the

Education Department required teachers to formally report to parents three times a year, including making two written reports. He said the union advised teachers to fulfil their obligations but supported them "curtailing" extra work. He said teachers continued to provide student feedback "on a daily basis".

The AEU and the Government have been in mediation in the Industrial Relations Court for most of this month with no breakthrough so far. The AEU wants a 21 per cent pay rise for teachers over three years. The Government is offering 9.75 per cent.

A spokeswoman for Industrial Relations Minister Paul Caica said he could not comment during mediation.

Opposition Education spokesman David Pisoni said it was "outrageous" for teachers not to be making comments on report cards and he was concerned students would be pulled out of class and parents forced to take time off work so interviews could be held during school hours.

Mr Pisoni said he had heard end-of-year graduations and school sports events also were "at risk".



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