

# VOTES THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE



## And the winner is...

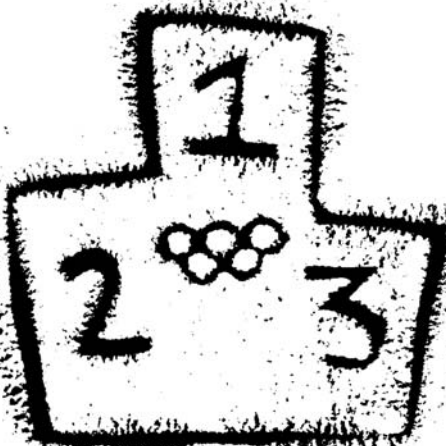
BEIJING, China – Beijing has won the right to stage the 2008 Olympic Games, recording a landslide victory in the face of worldwide concern on China's human rights record. The president of the International Olympics Committee (IOC), Mr Jacques Rogge today announced the results of the final vote for the 2008 Olympics. The Chinese capital prevailed on the second round of a secret International Olympic Committee ballot by receiving 56 votes, three more than the required majority and 34 votes ahead of second-placed Toronto. This result is now final.

## Shareholders vote to reject take-over offer

Sydney, Friday: Bread and Circuses Limited held its Annual General Meeting yesterday in Darling Harbour and some 2,340 angry shareholders attended the meeting. The meeting was quiet enough to begin with. Early motions included the granting of shares to employees and a reduction in the number of directors from nine to seven. These motions were passed with little or no objection from the shareholders.

However, there was uproar after lunch when Mr Jones' offer to buy 50.1 per cent of the company was discussed. Mr Jones had offered \$1.25 per share, or \$765 million to buy a majority holding in the company. One after the other, shareholders made presentations to the meeting arguing against acceptance of the offer. The directors were embarrassed, since they had earlier recommended that the shareholders accept the offer.

A vote was taken late in the afternoon with 71 per cent of the votes against the takeover. Hence, the company must now reject the offer. Harry Achilles of the 'Reject the Jones takeover' (RJT) group said,



'The offer is outrageously low. We cannot understand why the directors recommended accepting it.

Our actions today have ensured the success of one of our most promising companies. No company or government official can change the lawful vote of our shareholders.'



### Union members vote to strike for 24 hours

Melbourne, Thursday: The Steel Riveters and Allied Trades Union held a stop-work meeting yesterday. The meeting considered the lack of progress on negotiations about improved working conditions. Union officials reported that

management was refusing to meet with them to discuss important issues.

The meeting considered three motions. Members passed the first two unanimously with a show of hands. The third motion requires workers to carry out a 24-hour strike commencing tomorrow. That motion met some opposition from the 'get sensible' faction of the union. Union officials report that the strike motion was eventually passed by a small majority of members.

The union decision can be changed at another similar stop-work meeting.



1. Why do you think voting was used to make each decision?
2. In each case determine whether or not the vote is final, or whether it can be overruled by another individual or group.
3. Provide examples of other situations in which Australians use a voting system to make an important decision.
4. Describe any voting experiences you may have had. Describe the event, numbers involved, type of discussion held, voting procedure, such as a show of hands or a ballot, and the outcome.