The Sydney Morning Herald

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Music to our ears: Edo stays

By KELLY BURKE

He's in the super league of his profession and in demand worldwide. But he's staying put.

Edo de Waart, Sydney Symphony Orchestra's outgoing chief conductor and artistic director, announced yesterday he would still call Australia home after all, despite a succession of triumphant overseas debuts.

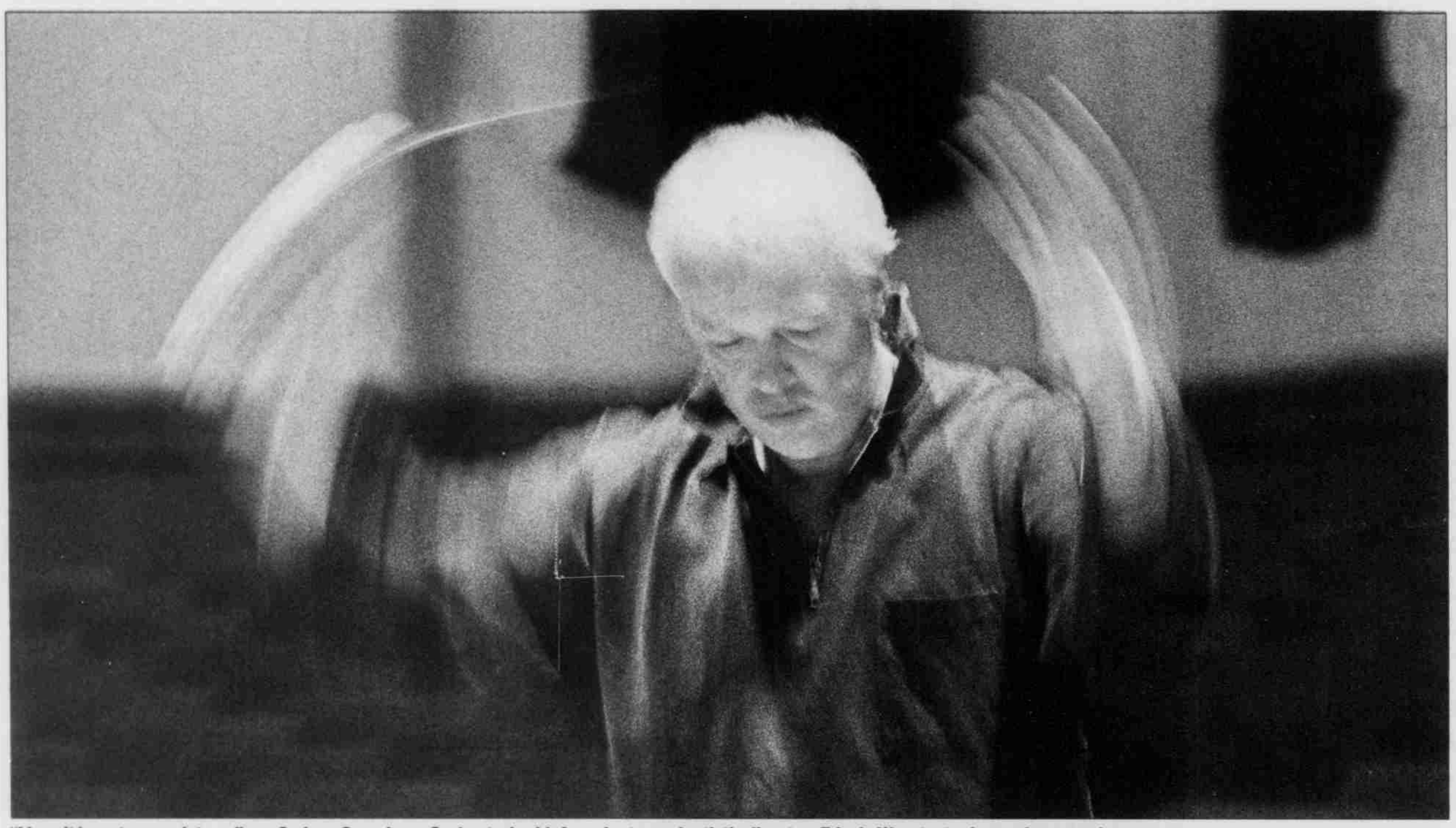
The 57-year-old Dutch maestro made it clear more than a year ago he would not be renewing his eight-year contract with the SSO. September 2000 was his designated date of departure.

But at a time when the world's elite athletes will be packing up their medals and exiting Sydney en masse, one of the world's elite conductors will be preparing for a further three years of top form performances.

"I realised I love it here too much to go," de Waart explained at his Sydney Town Hall press conference yesterday. "First and foremost, I love this orchestra – it's starting to show results . . . and the more I see of this country, the more I realise how much this country means to me."

SSO chairman Mr Leo Schofield said the maestro's decision "should be seen as the highest of compliments" for Sydney.

PAGE 21: Full report



"I love it here too much to go" . . . Sydney Symphony Orchestra's chief conductor and artistic director, Edo de Waart, at rehearsals yesterday. Photograph by NICK MOIR

COLUMN 8

THE TUMULT has died down (somewhat), but news still comes out of the election. Bill McKeown, of Paddington, speaks (probably) for all left-handers when he complains that in each booth at his local polling place, the official pencil on a string was fastened to the *right-hand* side of the booth. The string didn't reach to the *left-hand* side, so he had to use the pencil from the unoccupied booth to his left. Is this a sinister plot to disenfranchise the dextrally disadvantaged? Next time, why not fasten the string at the *centre* of the desk?

MORE information has come in from readers about changes in politicians' e-mail addresses (Column 8, yesterday). We were wrong about Gareth Evans. He has merely moved from one provider to another – from *gareth.evans@bigpond.com* to *gareth.evans@smallfish.com*. Some others:
kimbeazley@nocigar.com.au
adowner@abigdowner.com.au
oldfield@outfield.com.au
bob.carr@oh.no.com.au

AT BATHURST City polling booth, the One Nation workers set up their table and posters at the gate of the polling place, not six metres away as legally required. The Libs, Labs and Nats and their posters were correctly placed. Out came the officer in charge of the polling place and banished One Nation to the legal distance. The officer's name? John Howard. So, John Howard successfully stood up to One Nation.

SAD news in the Marketing pages of *The Australian Financial Review*: The Drumstick ice-cream we have known for 20 years is no more. The makers, Peters & Browne, for some complicated reasons involving brand name rights, will now call it the Trumpet. It's not that long since Darrell Lea changed the chocolate-coated sultana that we've bought for 40 years as Chocolate Vimms to (drum roll, sigh) Chocolate-Coated Sultanas.

EVERY household has a couple of discarded pairs of spectacles, and today you can get rid of them. Lions Clubs International has declared today World Sight Day, to try to eradicate reversible or preventable blindness and encourage people to have regular eye checks. The spectacles? In Martin Place today there'll be a mountain of them that Lions Clubs have collected for Third World countries. Add yours to the pile or leave them at OPSM stores.

WITH the motto *Walking Class Heroes*, the Pedestrian Council of Australia has proclaimed tomorrow Walk to Work Day – walk as far as you can, then catch public transport. Good luck.

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GST sums flawed, secret paper reveals

By PAUL CLEARY
Economics Correspondent

A secret Treasury document admitting that the Coalition's GST sums need more work gives weight to rising demands for a better compensation deal for low-income earners.

The paper, obtained by the *Herald* under the Freedom of Information Act, makes the surprise admission that there is "considerable scope" for more research into the GST's impact.

It concedes there "are arguments" in favour of assessing how the tax would affect individual types of household – despite the Treasury's deliberate decision not to account for different income groups.

Treasury's published assessment of the community-wide impact of a GST is an average cost increase across the population of just 1.9 per cent. It calls this a "common price impact", which assumes that the rich, middle-class and poor have identical spending and saving patterns.

But the paper concedes: "Different people do indeed buy different things."

It is one of 12 documents identified in a search by the *Herald* under the FOI Act. Treasury has claimed an exemption for 11 of them and days before Saturday's poll it deferred the release of the paper given to the *Herald* yesterday, claiming its caretaker role prevented the release of such a politically sensitive document.

But the titles of the other documents reveal alternative Treasury analysis of the tax package based on the Household Expenditure Survey, which shows different spending and saving patterns across a range of household types and income groups.

This survey, which Treasury claims is unreliable, shows the top 20 per cent of households spend just one-eighth of their income on food, whereas the bottom 20 per cent spend a quarter.

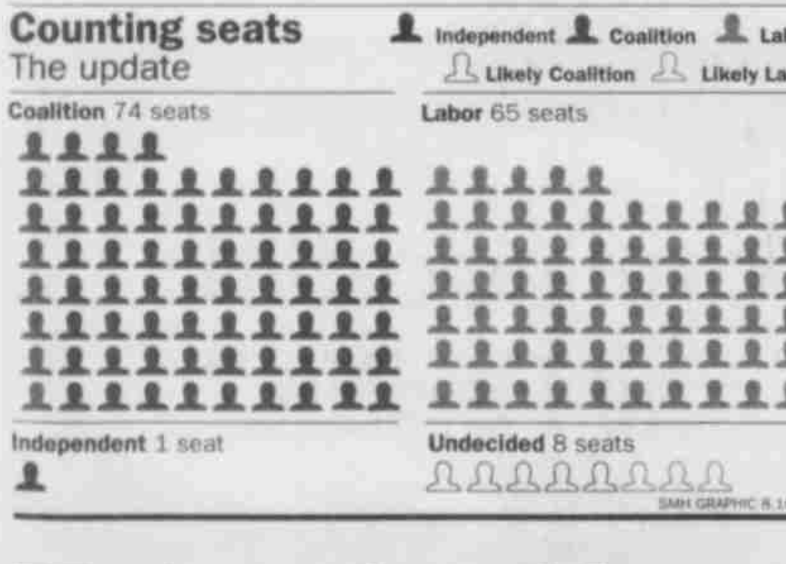
Following revelations in the *Herald* last week of Treasury's secret analysis, the Australian Democrats demanded that compensation measures in the tax package be recalculated. They also demanded that the analysis be released.

The Democrats will decide the fate of the tax package in the Senate. The party's leader, Senator Meg Lees, said last night: "It's very clear that Treasury needs to do more work. Absolutely."

While the Government comes under pressure over the GST, its election position improved yesterday when:

- Fresh counting showed it ahead in most undecided seats, suggesting a final parliamentary majority of about 10;
- Labor grew increasingly confident that its star recruit, Ms Cheryl Kernot, would scrape over the line in Dickson; and
- The outgoing deputy Labor leader, Mr Gareth Evans, announced he would remain as a backbencher, admitting he should not have suggested quitting Parliament on poll night.

PAGE 12: Analysis.



One Nation: I'll run it my way, says Hanson

By GREG ROBERTS

Ms Pauline Hanson declared yesterday she would take control of One Nation and "run it myself", moving the party's national headquarters from Sydney to Ipswich.

This will diminish the influence of party powerbrokers Mr David Oldfield and Mr David Ettridge, putting One Nation under the control of Ms Hanson, the party's newly elected Queensland senator, Mrs Heather Hill, and its Queensland campaign manager, Mr Peter James.

Speaking publicly for the first time since losing her seat in Parliament in Saturday's election, Ms Hanson denied that One Nation's failure to win any Lower House seats signalled its demise.

"No way in the wide world," she said. "Everyone's wanting to get behind us. Our support, if anything, has risen . . . We are the third-largest party in Australia with the polling we received."

Bystanders abused Ms Hanson as she spoke outside the Ipswich office she vacated yesterday. "Good riddance," one shouted. "Hopefully we've seen the last of you," said another.

Earlier, Mr Ettridge, One Nation's national director, suggested Ms Hanson's name could be dropped from the party name, and said there was no need to move One Nation's headquarters.

Mr Ettridge had also suggested Ms Hanson would be paid a six-figure sum to be the party's full-time president. But Ms Hanson said "nothing had been discussed" and Mr Ettridge had no right to make the claim.

She left no doubt of her wish for One Nation to become a Queensland-based party, controlled by herself. "We have got a State executive here in Queensland and we want to expand on that," she said. "I'll be looking at heading it here in Queensland and running it here in Queensland myself. David Ettridge will still have his office and his role in NSW."

Ms Hanson said "of course" she would have greater control of the party. "Not being an MP, it will lighten up my responsibilities and my ideas and I will be able to have more input into it."

But she defended Mr Oldfield, saying he was not responsible for her failed campaign. "David Oldfield did a very, very good job. He was not my campaign director for Blair so he had no input into my campaign personally."

Ms Hanson said she would not ask Mrs Hill to vacate her Senate spot for her.

"I have always stood on the

Continued Page 12

Seizing control . . . Ms Hanson with Heather Hill yesterday.

Dollar surges as Japan acts

The Australian dollar surged more than US4c to a three-month high of US62.58c in London trading last night.

The rally, sparked by Japan finally taking action to solve its banking crisis, also led to a 2 per cent rise in the Australian sharemarket yesterday afternoon.

Japan extended its parliamentary sitting period, which was due to end yesterday, to pass legislation allowing the use of taxpayer funds to support its beleaguered banks and hammer out a package to revitalise the world's second largest economy.

Japan's sharemarket surged by more than 6 per cent, its biggest one-day rise in almost a year.

The Australian dollar had dipped to as low as US56c at the end of August. After its high point last night, it fell to under US62c.

PAGE 31: Full report.

Union duo blamed for sabotaging Patrick wharf deal

By BRAD NORINGTON
Industrial Editor

The productivity of wharfies at Patrick stevedores in Sydney has "collapsed" because two union officials are waging a campaign of non-co-operation, according to the company.

Patrick claims Maritime Union of Australia branch officials Mr Jim Donovan and Mr Glen Wood have breached an undertaking given by their union's national secretary, Mr John Coombs, to accept work changes in good faith following the settlement of this year's protracted waterfront dispute.

The company's general manager, industrial relations, Mr Bill Clayton, has complained to Mr Coombs that wharfies say they are acting under directions from Mr Donovan and Mr Wood in refusing to work 12-hour shifts and operate machinery with reduced manning.

According to Patrick, only the MUA's Sydney branch is causing problems – some container rates have fallen to 10 an hour compared with Melbourne's 25.

This morning, Patrick will seek to have the permit allowing Mr Wood entry to its sites revoked in the Industrial Relations Commission. The company alleges he has been "threatening and abusive" and repeatedly directed Patrick wharfies to disobey management instructions in breach of their enterprise agreement.

Mr Wood, an MUA organiser, works for Mr Donovan, the State's deputy branch secretary.

The continuing conflict on the Sydney wharves reflects suspicions among wharfies about Patrick and exposes resistance at the MUA's branch level to the peace deal negotiated by the union's national leadership.

Mr Donovan said that every claim made by Patrick against himself and Mr Wood would be answered. Accusing Patrick of imposing "misery and slavery" on workers, he said his branch was trying to protect long-held gains while the company tried to make changes by stealth that went beyond the terms of the agreement.

Mr Donovan said a major problem was that his branch was not involved in negotiations for the MUA's enterprise agreement conducted at a national level. "We weren't told there was going to be 12-hour shifts in the agreement," he said.

Mr Donovan said he had directed wharfies not to work on Monday's public holiday, despite being rostered for shifts, because wharfies always had five public holidays a year and this was meant to continue.

He said Mr Wood was easy to work with and only used abusive language if provoked.

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WEATHER

TODAY Sydney 11 to 19. Fine and mostly sunny. Winds tending south-easterly. **Liverpool** 8 to 19. **Richmond** 8 to 19. **NSW:** Showers in the south-east, mainly fine along the coast and inland. **Sunrise** 5.24 am. **Sunset** 6.03 pm.

TOMORROW Sydney Fine and sunny with an expected maximum temperature of 21. **NSW:** Mainly fine and cool to mild. Chiefly light winds. **FULL DETAILS** Page 29

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