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MIK GRIGG  
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Some girls have all the luck.

Matrimonial miss

Looking for another reason to be happy you live in Melbourne and not Baltimore or Washington? We've got it: no pro-marriage propaganda.

Since February, unsuspecting Baltimore and Washington DC commuters have been assaulted by ads featuring beaming young brides and grooms with headlines promising, "Married people earn more money", "Kids of married people do better in school", "Married people live longer" and "Marriage works".

Is it a marketing ploy to have singletons sobbing into their Starbucks by 8.30am? You'd think so, but no. Instead, it's an initiative from the abstinence-advocacy group, Campaign for Our Children, who all wear T-shirts proclaiming, I GAVE MY WORD TO STOP AT THIRD. No they don't really, but they could afford to: the group is eligible to receive funding via George Dubya's \$US870 million largely "faith-based" program, Helping America's Youth. The idea behind this campaign is that if teens learn to respect and look forward to marriage they might not get pregnant before tying the knot, or perhaps, more specially, they might not have sex before tying the knot (it goes a little something like this, "No. Don't. No. We can't. No. Stop it . . . I do").

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority hasn't taken an official position on the ads, but, according to New York magazine, MTA spokesperson Tom Kelly quipped, "The campaign must've been invented by someone who's not married".

What? We didn't say anything.

P.S. Our fave quote of the week comes from a joyful and incredulous Drew Barrymore. On gracing the cover of the latest US Vogue she exclaimed: "I'm so excited! You don't understand. I'm five foot four inches - and I eat macaroni and cheese!"