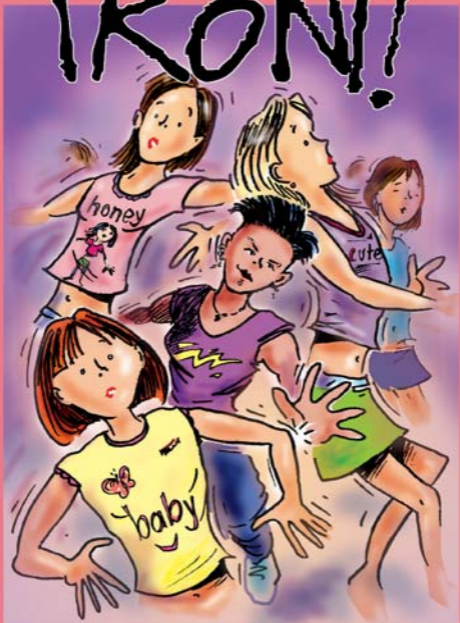


MOVING UP FRONT!



BY
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The music screams in my ears as I push my way through the mass of hot sweaty bodies. It stops, and I stand on my tiptoes to plot my next move to the front of the stage.



Three young innocent-looking girls, dressed in tight T-shirts with words like 'Honey' and 'Baby' printed over their small breasts, and short colourful skirts with **Dangerfield** tags thicker than their puny legs, stand in front of me. I target these helpless girls — preying on the weak is a major strategy in moving closer to the stage — and quickly pass them.

The music starts again, vibrating through the crowd. I glimpse the three girls behind me, and feel sorry for them, as a group of **topless neanderthals** approach. The neanderthals are **slam dancing** crazily.



The three girls hold each other's hands in an attempt to stay together. With one excited jump by the neanderthals, the girls' bond is broken and they fly off in different directions.

I'm not far from the stage now. From here I can nearly see the band if I jump high enough. I smile at the girl beside me, who is even shorter than I am, acknowledging our accomplishment. I'm even more impressed when she punches a Neanderthal in the groin region to hold her spot.

But then I see my friend, Dee, trying to make a sideways assault on the stage. Fighting my way through the crowd, I follow her.



A crowd surfer is dropped just near the front of the stage, forcing the **mosh pit** back. We spot an opening and push into the crowd in front of us. The crowd moves back in, and the mosh pit regains its strength. There are only a few people ahead of me now.

My foot reaches a step. At last, the front!
I step up onto the platform. My eyes are open to new horizons. I can actually see the band. A feeling of elation rushes through my body. I've made it!

VOCAB

Dangerfield — a popular clothes brand targeted at young 'teenybopper' girls wishing to be up with the latest fashions.

neanderthals — males who have failed to fully evolve with the rest of the human race. Often smelly, topless and brainless, they appear to be drawn towards live music. When large numbers of Neanderthals meet, they celebrate with a dance known as 'slam dancing'.

slam dancing — a dance which involves a group of people dancing around in a circle and then running to the centre of it and slamming into each other and anyone else in their way.

crowd surfer — a person who is lifted up to lie horizontally on the mosh pit crowd, relying on those in the mosh pit to carry him/her above their heads.

mosh pit — a compacted crowd of people in front of the stage, who push each other and/or jump up and down to the music.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What strategies did the girl use to try to get to the front?
- 2 What do you think the girl telling the story might have been wearing?
- 3 What did the author mean by a neanderthal?
- 4 What other types of people do you find in a mosh-pit?
- 5 Why do you think the author included definitions in her story? eg neanderthals, crowd surfer etc.
- 6 Who do you think wrote this story? Why would they have written it?
- 7 Did you enjoy this story? Why?

Moving up Front is one of a series of youth focus reading materials written with wry humour and a keen eye for observation.

These readers provide easy and engaging reading on youth related topics. Each of the books in the series can stimulate discussion and broader investigation of topics from the reader's perspective as well as through a series of questions listed at the end.

The book also includes amusing illustrations that support the text and a glossary of terms (essential for the older reader!).

The other two books in the series are *Clubbing is Fun* and *Memoirs of a Job Seeker*.

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