

12 Ps of profiles

Marcus O'Donnell Jour 202

1 + 11

- place
- plot
- puzzle
- pilgrimage
- position
- passion
- paradigm
- paternity
- partners
- particularities
- process



Abstract ↔ Particular

- Anecdote ↔ Meaning
- each element gains power in clusters
- effect is cumulative
- circling/stalking your subject

Place

- Scene-setting must add colour to the writing as well as color to the characterisation
- Place can be incidentally important
- Place can represent conflict or contrast

- The lemons growing out the front of the Gallop family home in riverside Victoria Park are plump and ridiculously yellow. "I don't know what Bev puts on them but they're spectacular. The whole garden is her work," Gallop offers of the neat, thriving surrounds of their three-bedroom Federation house.
- The couple bought the place in 1986 when Gallop – then a university lecturer and Fremantle councillor – won his Victoria Park seat in a by-election. There is no sign of packing just yet, and you sense it will be a wrench to get them out of the home in which they raised two sons, Tom and Leo, both now in their mid-20s.
- Bev Gallop is sitting on a couch in the family room sorting through photo albums. Good Weekend asks for some shots for this story including, we hope, a picture from the 1980 wedding of Tony and Cherie Blair.
- Bev is a thoughtful woman who has been more than happy to remain almost invisible during her husband's premiership.
 - Robert Wainwright *Good Weekend* "Out of the Blue"

Plot

- "Characters are in themselves plots"
 - Paul Ricouer
- Gallop plot: Rise/Fall/Recovery
- Contemporary: Sea change/self healing
- The plot needs to be expressed both
 - Succinctly
 - Cumulatively

- On January 16, without warning, Gallop resigned. At the peak of his political authority, and less than a year after being re-elected to lead a state in the midst of an economic boom, the modest, usually buoyant and likeable leader decided he could lead no longer: "Living with depression is a very debilitating experience which affects different people in different ways," he said at the time, flanked by his wife, Bev, and youngest son, Leo. Staff and colleagues stood behind him, some of them weeping. "My doctors advise me that with treatment, time and rest, this illness is very curable. What has made this announcement all the more difficult today is that I love being premier; I love the work, I love the state, and I love its people." With that he walked out on a 20-year state political career.

• Robert Wainwright *Good Weekend* "Out of the Blue"

Puzzle

- What is the conflict or "complication" - Jon Franklin
- How do the pieces fit?
- Gallop:
 - success/sadness
 - competence/breakdown

- McGinty, another mate from university days, says he had no hint of Gallop's personal battles. "It was simply not noticeable. He is naturally a positive and buoyant person who could be a bit grumpy on occasions, like cabinet meetings on a Monday after the [West Coast] Eagles lost."

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Pilgrimage

- Pilgrimage/Journey is a hackneyed metaphor but expresses a profound reality
- hero's journey - key to myth & movies
- stories are about the movement of a character from one place to another or from one state to another
- one of the most interesting/scary things about life is change

- Three aspects of Gallop's pilgrimage:
 - Perth to Sydney
 - journey to recovery
 - journey to political success

Process

- Don't just tell the what tell the how

Position

- Where is this person in the world?
- Location - WA
- Status - Ex-Premier
- Belief - Social Justice
- Network - Political leaders

Paternity

- Parent's Family
- WA Colonists
- Also history of ideas and mentors

- James and Richard became pioneering market gardeners and vignerons. Two homes, Gallop House and Dalkeith House, are heritage-listed legacies of the family's prominence.
- The colonial character was also strong on his mother's side. His maternal great-grandfather was a convict named Charles Davis who, after gaining his freedom, became a cray fisherman in the port town of Geraldton.
- Gallop's childhood was far more carefree than that of his predecessors. One of three siblings (older brother Laurie and younger sister Sue), he grew up in a war-service home in the same coastal town 400 kilometres north of Perth. Weekends were spent with his mates on the sporting field, summers on the beach with his dog, or fishing and crabbing with his Uncle Ike, the lighthouse keeper.
- The only dissent in the household appears to have been the opposing politics of his parents: father Douglas, company secretary for the Geraldton Building Company, was a staunch Menzies Liberal, while Eunice was an equally ardent Labor supporter. "Dad always pleaded reason, and Mum was an uncompromising, take-no-prisoners trade unionist," Gallop laughs. "Our two families were a mixed bag politically: National Party supporters, trade unionists, even a communist. It was a healthy atmosphere in which politics was discussed freely."
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Partners

- life partners/spouses
- friends
- business partners

Passion

- Desire - inner life takes outward form
- Hidden Passion
- Obvious Passion
- "pieces about people who reveal an obsession with one corner of human experience or another" (David Remnick)

- Winning a Labor Party conference vote on banning logging in old-growth forests convinced him he had what it took to be leader. "I had to stand up for that decision. I put my leadership on the line. It would have been a devastating blow if I'd lost, and who knows what I would have done then."
- But political leadership has its frustrations. Elections, he says, have become almost presidential, there are too many "tricks" played to stay in power, and he hates what he calls soundbite politics. "You know what leadership is about? It's decisions; you are making decisions all the time, literally all the time, and every decision carries an alternative. You have to live with the consequences. That's where the stresses come in."
- Besides saving the forests, Gallop's legacy includes the protection of Ningaloo Reef, infrastructure investment, electoral reform, recognition of gay and lesbian rights and education reforms to ensure students stay at school or in training until the age of 17. "Overall I'm happy but, being a perfectionist, I think I could have done better," he says.
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Particularities

- gestures
- image
- mood
- tone
- momentary particularities
- look for the change in register

Paradigm

- What is the pattern of life here?
- Actions and anecdotes reflect a deeper framework
- Join the dots

- It's a Friday and Gallop is addressing health workers at the University of WA. He has already opened a restaurant and an art exhibition during the week, as well as attending the Citizen of the Year ceremony - "A good backbencher's week," he laughs.
- Tomorrow he will present the keynote address at a Buddhism conference. Buddhism? Is this part of his healing? "I'm actually interested in all the religions. My hero, I guess, is Mahatma Gandhi, who said you should let all the winds and breezes of all the cultures and religions blow through your house, but don't let them blow you off your feet. I quite like that expression."
- How does he describe himself religiously? "I used to use the expression that I was a lapsed Methodist non-denominational sceptic who thinks Christianity is a good thing. I was very proud of my description, especially when Kim Beazley said, 'That makes you a modern Anglican.'"
- The community health speech transcript given to the assembled media bears only passing resemblance to his 70-minute oratory. Caught in the moment, free of his political shackles, Dr Geoff Gallop, rather than Premier Geoff Gallop, is on the podium and back in his element: educating. Though many in the audience are expecting to hear solutions to medical issues, Gallop has taken a wider view: he wants to talk about social health and the role of government. The argument is as complex as it is simple: that society is healthy only if it can make its myriad individual communities healthy - cities, towns, suburbs, neighbourhoods, households.
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