

I have learnt that images are powerful devices through my study of this module. Images are able to create meaning, raise issues & can alter one's perspective. Through the use of various techniques composers of "The Truman Show" by Peter Weir, an article "Mourning in America" in Time dated 24-09-01 & ~~the~~ a picture of the 'Tampa Incident' (children overboard), in The Sunday Morning Herald, dated 15-09-01, has effectively shaped & challenged my understanding of image, by helping me reflect on ideas.

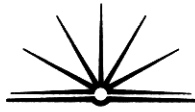
'The Truman Show' is a satire for the media of society & Peter Weir communicates many issues through the film.

Illusion & Reality is an issue presented by Peter Weir, through powerful images. The illusion is that the society of Seahaven, Truman's world, created by Christof is the idyllic "Utopia". This image is created through the creative utilisation of the muted pastel colours of the buildings, white picket fences, the high-angle shot of Seahaven, which highlight the neatness of the town, with manicured lawns, the beautiful green &

blue, of the land, sky & ocean, ~~The characters are~~  
~~overly~~ friendly which in its own right has connotations  
of serene happiness, contentment and peacefulness. The  
characters are overly friendly with their smiles &  
exaggerated greeting "In case I don't see you, Good after-  
noon, Good evening and Good night. Together Christof  
is able to manipulate Truman & the audience that  
the world he is living in, is a perfect one of reality.

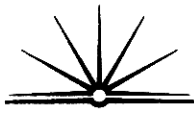
However as the <sup>film</sup> ~~program~~ progresses, Weir takes the  
viewer behind the scenes and reveals <sup>Seahaven</sup> ~~the illusion~~  
to be fake world. This is achieved when there is  
a mid-shot of the cast & crew relaxing behind the  
scenes in the elevator shaft. This indicates that the  
world created for Truman is a total facade & the  
people are only actors. Therefore ~~emph~~ emphasising that  
images are able to create false meaning.

Another issue raised by Weir is ~~the~~ the  
power and influence of the media. In the 'promo'  
scene there is a montage of key events in Truman's  
life, along with the voice over "1.7 billion people were  
here there for his birth, 220 countries tuned in for  
his first step"



& with ~~easy~~ synchronised music, it creates an image of ~~truman~~ obsession & emphasises the extent of the influence of the media. The satirical midshot of a mother neglecting her child to watch 'The Truman Show' highlights the power the media has in ~~controlling~~ controlling our lives. These ~~images~~ are showing that images are very influential.

Weir also raises the issue of ethics of the media. In a ~~picture~~ in the background ~~there is~~ of Sylvia's room there is a picture of Truman behind bars. This suggests that Truman is a prisoner 'a prisoner in practice' & ~~highlights~~ This notion is enforced when Christof manufactures ways to keep Truman on the island. This ~~emphasising~~ emphasising the ~~more~~ unethical acts of the media. Also on the bridge scene when ~~Markus~~ Truman ~~is~~ confides with ~~the~~ Markus, Weir takes the viewer behind the scenes & ~~we~~ see the dialogue of Markus detected ~~to~~ by Christof, which raises the idea that the ~~the~~ media has no concern for the feelings of ~~the~~ people.



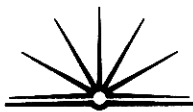
Secondly, The "Tampa Incident" (children overboard) in The Sydney Morning Herald-dated 15-09-01, ~~the~~ raises issues of the ~~media regarding~~ ~~their~~ government is relation to manipulation & influence.

The ~~photo~~ falsified <sup>image</sup> ~~photos~~ of the parents throwing their children overboard, was made ~~it~~ out to look as if they were doing so to gain asylum, but in real fact their vessel was sinking.

The failure to reveal the entire truth depicts the manipulation of the government, ~~it~~ to influence social opinion to gain support ~~to~~ on their legislation in relation to asylum seekers & where ~~to~~ only the current government stand to gain.

Finally the Sept 11th bombing presented us with many images, some of which were present in the article 'Mourning in America', in Time dated 24-09-01.

In this article death is a dominant image. The image of death is easily created by placing photos of the victims against a black background. ~~Black~~ The colour black itself has connotations of death & destruction.



The photos together with the black background is able to ~~an~~ evoke feelings from the public in mourning the dead.

Through the use of various <sup>features</sup> ~~techniques~~ The composers of The Truman Show, 'The Tampa Incident' & 'Mourning in America, have been able to effectively, <sup>been</sup> able to shape & challenge my understanding of images.