

BYE, BYE BONDY

IT was fitting that Alan Bond should have walked into the Supreme Court in Perth on Monday for his loyal QC Ian Callinan's final hurrah in the nefarious, \$1.2 billion Bell Resources ripoff clutching a copy of Mario Puzo's *The Last Don*

Puzo's latest blockbusting virtual-reality dossier on the Mafia traces Don Domenico's quest for legitimacy in the sun and glitter of Hollywood where the past finally catches up with the Godfather of the Clericuzio family.

However Bond regards the literary or historic merits of Puzo's colourful version of America's Crime Incorporated, one can only assume that his oft-professed sense of destiny has been diverted by the parallels with his, and Western Australia Inc's, casualty-ridden descent from those heady days when greed was good and words such as influence and patronage took on new and tainted nuance.

And this week the word remorse entered the Bond personal lexicon as Mr Callinan, multi-talented Brisbane silk, playwright and fellow art-fancier, expressed his client's deep regret and contrition for stealing \$1.2 billion from the large and small shareholders who entrusted the guardianship of Bell Resources to him and his henchmen.

Remorse, in fact, became the catchcry as his counsel extended apologies to all those who lost money because of his client's criminal behaviour for which Bond admitted full responsibility when he pleaded guilty last December to two charges of failing to act honestly in his duties as a director of Bond Corporation Holdings with intent to defraud.

The charges relate to the \$1.2 billion Bond Corp siphoned off from the publicly-listed Bell Resources in the wake of the takeover of the Holmes a Court flagship in 1988.

The 58-year-old Bond, whose corporate empire once spanned the world in a multibillion dollar chain of brewing, communication, hotel, real-estate, airship and mining assets, was sentenced to another four years jail yesterday by Justice Michael Murray to draw the final, shameful curtain on his role in the biggest corporate fraud in Australian history.



□ Alan Bond, pictured during a visit to the Gold Coast's Bond University, which is unlikely to change its name, despite the criminal disgrace of its founder