

# HONISOIT

SIC FACIUNT OMNES.

WEEK 4 EDITION | 25 MARCH 2009



## Islamic Fashion

HONI'S GUIDE TO...  
**Keys to winning a  
student election**

>04

CAREERS

**An unconventional  
profession**

>06

WACKTIVITIES

**Sing-a-long-a-  
Sound-of-Music**

>15

# CONTENTS



## YOUR WORLD 04

- > **Tom Robertson** shows us how to mount a successful independent Union Board campaign.
- > **News in Brief** your weekly dose of what the SMH missed.

## CAMPUS NEWS 05

- > **Philip Boncardo** explores the ignominious result of the Young Liberal anti-bias campaign.



## CAMPUS LIFE 06

- > **Sriram Srikumar** has a chat with the one and only Michael Jackson - of Sydney University.
- > **Alice Kane** swears she has an excellent job - you decide!

## MISCELLANY 09

- > **Georgia Flynn** writes on Sydney University and its representation in print and on film.
- > **Sriram Srikumar** does some Vox-Popping.

## THE INTERVIEW 10

- > **Robert Callan and Cipi Morgan** talk to John Pilger, activist, writer and filmmaker, about some pointed issues.

## THE FEATURE 12

- > **Camilla Ibrahim** investigates the burgeoning Islamic fashion industry across the world.

## YOUR MUM 14

- > **Paul Mackay** reviews another book from Fisher. What a reader he is!
- > **Lauren Mackertich** finds herself singing a song about a deer, or a doe, or something.

## LIFESTYLE 20

- > **Reviews** - delivering your weekly critical fix.
- > **Naomi Hart** sends us a postcard via Obama.
- > **Cassandra Taylor** thinks that's alright, Wagamama.

## SPORT & COLLEGE 22

- > **George Downing** gives us a round-up of Surreal Sounds.



**EDITOR IN CHIEF** Thomas William Christian Blackduck Atkinson

**EDITORS** Katherine Connolly, Bronwyn 'Chips and Drinks' Cowell, Mark Di Stefano, George Downing, Giselle Kenny, Michael Krasovitsky, Alex Lee, Paul Mackay, Sriram Srikumar

**REPORTERS** Danika Armytage, Camilla Ibrahim, Natasha Kassam, Georgia Flynn, Lauren Mackertich, David Mack, Michael Falk, Cassandra Taylor **CONTRIBUTORS** Alice Kane, Philip Boncardo, Tom Robertson, Kate Laing, Robert Callan, Naomi Hart, Ben Jenkins, Jacinta Mulders, Julia Bowes

**COVER** Paul Mackay **GRAPHIC DESIGN** George Downing **COMIC** Sertan Saral and Patrick Magee **CROSSWORD** Ben Jenkins **PUZZLES** Tom Clement

**ADVERTISING** Publications.manager@src.usyd.edu.au/PO Box 794, Broadway NSW  
**PRINTER** Marrickville Print and Design, Unite E1, 46-62 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015

**DISCLAIMER** Honi Soit is published by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney, Level 1 Wentworth Building, City Road, University of Sydney NSW 2006. The SRC's operation costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney. The editors of Honi Soit and the SRC acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. Honi Soit is written, printed and distributed on Aboriginal land. Honi Soit is printed under the auspices of the SRC's directors of student publications: Mike Mackertich, Patrick Wall, Elly Howse and Samuel Moginie. All expressions are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as the opinions of the SRC unless specifically stated. The Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained within this newspaper, nor does it endorse any of the advertisements and insertions.

\*Spoof advertisement on page 10. Enjoy!

## Iron Chef

Anna Reoch, Arts/Law V

I'm indignant. Can Noah White really not fill four columns with news of how he's been fulfilling his duties as SRC President? Why does Noah feel the need to fill space with his trifling recipes? The worst thing is, they're not even challenging. Pikelets? Potato salad? Really Noah, if you're out to show us that you're a culinary genius (instead of showing us that you're doing your job) you might stretch yourself a little and give us a recipe that is a bit more taxing.

Oh, but that's right - you're not a chef, you're someone who's been elected to a position - which is the only reason you're writing in *Honi* in the first place - not because any of us actually want to read your recipes.

## Not enough 'das?'

Andrew Fox Russel, Arts II

You all want hanging, the whole bloody lot of you. What was it you did that got me so pissed off? Did you go too far in your side jokes about the Socialist Alternative or the E.U? Did you offend my politically correct sensibilities with your famous lack of tact? No. In fact I love it when you do those things. Everyone at this university takes themselves too seriously anyway. No, your crime was this - in the last edition of *Honi* Soit, the front page made a reference to tequila with the epithet "La da da da DA!".

In fact I think you'll find if you check that famous piece of music (which I assume you were referring to), you'll find there are SIX Das, not five. SIX. IDIOTS. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE WITHOUT THAT LAST "DA"!!

Thanks to you I had to spend an entire day running around the University with a pen, manually correcting your incompetence. If I ever find out who you guys are, I am going to de-alphabetise your CD collections while you sleep. Oh, you weren't taking me seriously? Well, quiver, editors. Your time has come.

## The Day the Clown Cried

Julia Bowes, Arts/Law V

Dear Eds,

In my fifth year on campus, I felt my reputation had been sufficiently denigrated by the unshakable nickname

'bobo', which I regrettably shared with a clown. (Also, the time I was mouth raped by a current *Honi* editor at Manning in daylight had done nothing to help). That was until I read the feature in *Honi* Soit Edition 4 (17/3). One can only imagine my horror at discovering that *Honi* had exposed my shameful drug addiction, only meekly masking my identity by changing my gender. More slanderous yet was the brazen way in which *Honi* callously revealed that I originate from the Upper North Shore.

Regrettably, the basis of a defamation suit relies in untruths. In lieu, let me issue the following warnings to my juniors on campus: the combination of a closeted hard drug addiction and a North Shore upbringing may lead to the following side effects - midgetism and a dangerously false sense of intellectual superiority.

## Culture and Whatnot, Mk. II

Ivan Head, Warden of St. Paul's College

THE SPEKKY  
Zen and the Retired Cricketer

The one-hander was the thing. The nonchalant extension of the hand in Zen anticipation of where the ball will flash and land.

It's part persona to anticipate the catch and earn the nickname 'Claw' and the sledge 'Beware the Claw'.

So when the game fades to a brain-trace in the middle-aged former player the Claw still catches the shaving canister that from the cabinet falls or the book from the top shelf of the Fisher Stack.

After his latest Zen miracle he whispers to himself

'Nothing reaches the ground without the Claw's permission.'

## More stuff about that Israel place

Jim Cronshaw, Arts/Science IV

Oh *Honi*,

I wish to briefly respond to Atilla Kandemir's letter, not on behalf of the Socialist Alternative but on behalf of common sense.

The image of Israel as a bulldog is far more fair than Atilla gives it credit for. The elected government of Israel (which is the intended target of the poster), regardless of the particular party, frequently launches violent, nonsensical and aggressive attacks against its neighbours much like a rabid bulldog would against fellow dogs. Suicide bombing is hardly a fair image for Palestine, as very few Palestinians are suicide bombers, nor does a majority of Palestinians support such a reprehensible act.

I also object to Atilla's assertion that

the Socialist Alternative ought to focus on campus issues. If Atilla, or anyone else wants to see a group dedicated to that, they should take a more active role in their SRC or student union. The Socialist Alternative is an interest group directed towards socialism, and it functions as such. It is absurd for her to level a criticism at them because they do not confront such international disasters as RIGHT HANDED WRITING SURFACES. It is not their job, as a socialist interest group, to care about such trivial issues.

I lastly suggest that thousands dying in Gaza as a result of shameful Israeli politics is a tad more important than left handed writing surfaces, so anyone focusing on Gaza over your pet peeve is probably right to do so.

## Awww...

Danielle Fields, Science III

Dear *Honi*,

Just a quick line to say I'm really loving the paper this year! It's interesting and smart, the new layout is schmick and for the first time I really look forward to Tuesdays. Plus, the cover designs are awesome!

Keep up the good work!

Ps. I know some really cool lecturers you should interview - the architecture department is kooky but also a bit fun.

## Editorial

The most vivid memory of my school days was occasionally receiving tattered second or third-hand copies of *Honi*, handed down from elder brothers and smuggled in by debating coaches intent on the corruption of innocent Catholic youth. Oh boy, it worked - the newspaper we founded in energetic adolescent homage lasted only a single edition, after a visit by the censor's blue pen reduced eight pages of ill-edited content to about three paragraphs and a picture of a pig in a blue jersey. Needless to say, we quickly arrived at the conclusion that it's unwise to speculate that the Virgin Mary had a beard.

*Honi* has had a long (and most will argue) a chequered history in the pantheon of student media in Australia. It's history, nonetheless, of the most illuminating sort - a fascinating glimpse into the lives of students for eighty years, as well as the early careers of some of Sydney University's greatest lights. Tradition, for good or ill, is always an element in anyone's experience of this paper. Over the past four editions, you will hopefully have noticed our attempt to capture as much of the feeling of a traditional paper as we can in this format, with a contemporary spin in both the scope of our articles and overall design. Of course, we also try to retain that sense of irreverence that makes it something that students want to read. We'll get there.

That aside, we cast our glance this week to the world of Islamic fashion, get amongst the machinations behind the organisation of the National Day of Action campaign, and introduce our weekly coverage of Sydney University sport. Until next week, readers. *Avante!*

Will Atkinson

## FROM THE VAULT

This week in From The Vault...

*With the National Day of Action playing out for another year, Honi was spurred to delve into campaign rants and literature surrounding prominent political issues in the past. It was certainly vivid - or hysterical, depending on your political leanings - when the Whitlam Government was failing:*

Fraser and his cronies have plunged the country into a grave political and economic crisis in a cynical grab for power. By their refusal to stick to their own rule and pass supply, the conservative parties, in collaboration with the press barons, the multinational and local companies threaten to withhold payment to the government workers, social services, Medibank refunds and essential services. They have even tried to invoke monarchical power vested in the Governor General to sack Whitlam and Labor.

The great defenders of democratic principle have contrived this crisis by using two bogus senators, Bunton and Field, in an anachronistic House of Parliament where Tasmania with 500,000 people has as many senators as NSW with five million. Only the combined might of the trade unions, students, women and blacks can stop Fraser and his wealthy and privileged friends. By strikes, demonstrations and rallies and

other means they can force Fraser to retreat. We cannot sit aside, arms folded when the TV, the press and companies try and bulldoze the the Libs onto us. These forces are not content even with Whitlam's conservative Labor government which itself is desperately trying to to 'sell' pro-business policies like the wage freeze.

Hysterical talk of 'socialism' is used to attack Labor's minimal reforms within capitalism. If Fraser succeeds, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that he would offer Australian troops to Timor, for example. South Africa will once more be in the 'good books' of our trade and sport. Their foreign policy is an open slate for multinationalals. Trade unions will be shackled. Your chances of getting a job will be worse under Hogan-style economic management. The Lib's education policy will reinforce class inequality and privilege.

It is time to stop business-as-usual. Students have an active and proud record in mass-mobilisation for democratic and progressive causes, and if ever there was a cause for skipping a few lectures, here it is. Labor reforms like Medibank and Legal Aid are not enough - but we have a better chance of collectively effecting social change under a Labor government than under a repressive Liberal government. Work towards this.

Published in *Honi* Soit, Edition 5, 1975



## Honi's Guide to... Running as an independent Union Board candidate

Tom Robertson, election supremo and Josh Lyman wannabe, gives us a handy guide to candidature



A Doug Thompson campaigner in the 2008 Union Board election

Independent. So hot right now. Union elections are not rocket science. Get yourself to the ACCESS office in the next fortnight, find ten friends with ACCESS cards to nominate you and you're off to the races. This year is a year of six independents, meaning that, in all likelihood, you only need 250 votes to get on board. You have that many facebook friends for crying out loud. Every campaign is different and there is no 'paint by numbers' approach, but below are a couple of basics to think about before you embark on your tilt at USU glory.

### THE GOLDEN RULE

There is one rule to a successful campaign - work hard. If you are at Manning at 7:30am, if you poster all day, if you lecture bash all day and talk to people about your message all day, if you come back later that evening and chalk every inch of campus and you do it every day for 30 days - you win. I always told my candidates that every hour of sleep they gave up was worth ten votes. The other guys can be the coolest, most popular people on campus - and all it will mean is that they have plenty of people to buy them a drink when they lose. Work is the trump card - it even beats people who wear buckets on their head!

Elections are on in the middle of semester - usually that death week where you have 4 essays due. Get organised and get used to writing essays on a Saturday night, because elections wait for no one's GPA. Only contest the poster boards between quarter to and quarter past each hour - it's the only time anyone is walking past them so why waste your time and posters? Get crap t-shirts - they only need to last a month and then they'll become someone's P.Js. You shouldn't be paying more than \$3.50 per shirt all up - Courtney and Pulp saved themselves a fortune by doing their own screenprinting. If you can - do that.

Get yourself a copy of the uni central timetable so you can organise your lecture bashes. Have a campaign table and make it fun - music, balloons, whatever - it will attract people to it who you can dragoon into working and serve as a good distribution point

for flyers, posters and t-shirts. The last but one of the most important errors to avoid is having too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Someone has to be in charge. If you can, find yourself a campaign manager to help organise volunteers/ schedules to avoid the typical mid election candidate meltdown...

### THE GFC AND YOUR CAMPAIGN

How much does a campaign cost? The Union has a spending cap of \$800: lie or lose. There is no way someone can establish how many t-shirts you printed, as long as you admit to printing some - split your receipts people! Posters are even easier to fudge. Minimum for a union campaign is \$1000, \$2000 is more realistic if you want to compete with people dropping cash behind college bars.

If you plan on being risqué have a few dollars up your sleeve for a barrister for that moment when NLS decided to sue you...

### ITS NOT THE ECONOMY, STUPID

You absolutely do not need policy in a Union election. Roz ran on the platform of \$1 water, a generation of NLS drones have run on the platform of a Centrelink on campus, Courtney printed 60 reams of paper telling you she was all about the environment, Tanner printed off *chucknorrisfacts.com* and Doug ran on the platform that he is good looking. Look around you - apart from Doug's timeless looks and Chuck Norris impregnating the Virgin Mary none of that ever happened. All you need is a brand. Brands are about recognition. Recognition requires consistency.

Pick a colour. Everything you ever publish - shirts, posters, flyers, chalk - everything, should be in the same colour. By the second week of the campaign you want people to subconsciously think of you every time they see that colour. Pick a colour boys and girls will wear. Don't pick garish fluoros and stay away from white - it will blend into the background and no-one will ever notice it.



Pick a theme: be it a joke theme, be it a slogan of three words that don't really mean anything, be it that you are zany and have bad personal hygiene.



Andrew Coleman in the 2008 SRC Presidential election

The best themes are open ended so that each voter can bring to it their own assumptions to help you. Ink was a natural association with newspaper, Hype made themselves the front runners simply by declaring themselves so, Coleman stated corruption as a fact to build off natural suspicions about student politicians. Let people's assumptions and natural affiliations do some of the work for you.

### TO DEFEAT EVIL, YOU MUST BECOME EVIL

All of the work put in during a campaign means nothing unless you win the battle of the polling booth. Those bastards who walk, yabbering at you for the 25 steps to the magical line of electoral safety do it for a good reason - it works. You're trying to capitalise on all the branding you've built up over the last month - but at least 50% of the people who approach a polling booth haven't made their minds up before the vote. You need to fight for every vote so that they stand in line remembering all the posters of yours they've seen and vote for you because it seems to be what everyone is doing. Save your mate's favours for Election Day and make sure you always have at least 3 people on each polling booth. If you don't have that many friends - contest Fisher and Wentworth, that's where 75% of votes are cast.

### THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

All the work involved in a campaign means one thing above all others - you have to know why you're running. The answer to why is the simplest of all - because you genuinely care about the student organisation or publication you're running for. The electorate can smell a self aggrandising fuckwit a mile away, and even if you did manage to fool them you'd still have to do the actual job. The pay is lousy, it doesn't give you any kind of campus street cred and the adrenaline rush of beating the other guy lasts until you're in a 3 hour meeting about the canteen menu at SCA. Do it for the right reasons, work hard and you'll soon be secretly proud when your friends describe you as a hack.

Tom Robertson was the campaign manager for the ink for Honi, hype for Honi and Doug Thompson for Union Board campaigns.

## News in Brief

In an effort to reduce the excesses of executive salaries, the government announced a crackdown on lavish payments given to outgoing executives, known as "golden handshakes." Ordinary handshakes have also come under fire and the government is considering clamping down on other celebratory kinds of hand-related communication. High fives and black-slapping in particular have attracted criticism. According to a government spokesperson, "we're in a recession. No one should be high fiveing, least of all executives."

It has lately been revealed that the Pope thinks condoms aggravate the AIDS epidemic in Africa. This startling discovery was made after a journalist gained access to Benedict XVI's Facebook account and found he started a group entitled 'Sex and Sin caused AIDS.' His Holiness is also a member of the groups "Hands up if you're infallible", and "You know you grew up in Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, in the 1930s if...". His status is 'YES to the new Facebook layout' which has also raised concern amongst Catholic Facebook users worldwide.

The High Court of Australia has agreed to hear a challenge brought by Bryan Pape to the legality of the Federal Government's proposed \$900 tax bonus set for 8.7 million taxpayers. The decision was made despite of the fact that no one cares if it's technically 'constitutional' or not, since everyone has spent it already. Pape also plans to challenge the constitutionality of Christmas, puppies, afternoons at Manning Bar, and has recently received the Miranda Devine Award for being the Lamest Whingeing Fun Buster Ever.



Are you planning to lodge your Visa Application soon?

Are you looking for reliable advice on your Visa Application?

At **In2Australia** we can assist with all types of Visa Applications or queries.

Visit our website at [www.in2australia.com.au](http://www.in2australia.com.au) for a free assessment or contact our experienced Migration Agents.

Email: [info@in2australia.com.au](mailto:info@in2australia.com.au)  
Ph: 02 9333 3600  
Fax: 02 9333 3601

Contact: Emma Gleeson, LLB, BA, DipLegPrac  
Migration Agent: 0741615

Let us help you get **In2Australia** permanently!

## 'Biased' Lecturers and witch-hunting Young Liberals

Philip Boncardo explores the Senate's verdict on last year's Young Liberal campaign to eliminate ideological bias in higher education

In late June 2008, in one of the final acts of the Coalition controlled Senate, a hangover from the 2004 election, was to refer an inquiry into the impact of 'ideological and cultural prejudice' in the teaching and content of University courses to a Senate committee. The Coalition Senators were moved by a vociferous campaign instigated by the Young Liberals that alleged that Universities were the bastion of 'left-wing' lecturers and tutors who were perniciously indoctrinating unassuming students with 'non-mainstream' views.

The committee's final report, published towards the end of 2008, was a scathing indictment of the Young Liberals witch-hunt for non neo-conservative academics and a resounding affirmation of the fundamental necessity for Universities and academics in democratic societies to operate free from political censorship and control.

### THE YOUNG LIBERAL CASE

A total of 28 allegedly aggrieved students (out of a national population of 53,000 undergraduate students) made submissions to the inquiry. Their central allegation was that conservative views were disregarded or sidelined in social science and humanities courses and that these courses instead focused on 'irrelevant' issues such as 'gender', 'race' and 'class'. Sasha Uher – a Sydney University Young Liberal, reported that

one of her education subject readers was "written by the lecturers, so it was overtly left-wing... It was disparaging of neoliberalism... every recommended source was extraordinarily anti-Liberal, including a gendered perspective on neoliberalism, which I completely don't understand". University lecturers who denied that they were 'biased' and out to indoctrinate unsuspecting students were denounced by the Young Liberal campaign leader Noel McCoy as 'ideological warriors... bias deniers [who] are usually the worst offenders'.

**The Young Liberals' evidence of systematic bias was found to be comprised solely of assertion and anecdote... The Young Liberals, if they had a case to make to begin with, had completely failed to adduce any evidence to substantiate it.**

To ensure that University lecturers and tutors ceased inculcating their naive students with 'left-wing' views, the Young Liberals proposed the adoption of a Charter of Academic Freedoms. Amongst other things, the proposed Charter would provide that course materials not be biased, that students be graded according to their work as opposed to their political beliefs, that education unions not have a role in the development of curriculum and that membership of student unions be

voluntary.

### THE YOUNG LIBERAL CASE DEMOLISHED

The Committee prefaced its report by noting that it appeared that it had been marshalled to play a part in a 'University revue'. It reported that the Young Liberal submissions and the rhetoric they employed had a decidedly undergraduate tone. The Young Liberals' evidence of systematic bias was found to be comprised solely of assertion and anecdote. The Committee was shocked to discover that none of the instances of alleged bias had been taken up by Young Liberal students with university authorities. It concluded that these incidents, if true, were instances of poor teaching that should have been reported and dealt with by universities' internal quality control procedures. The Young Liberals, if they had a case to make to begin with, had completely failed to adduce any evidence to substantiate it.

More importantly, the Committee rejected the Young Liberals contention that there was something intrinsically wrong with social science and humanities departments focusing on apparently 'leftist' issues such as gender, race and class. It stated that the role of universities and academics in liberal democracies such as Australia, was not merely to pander to prevailing views, but to analyse and comment on society without fear of professional

or personal retribution and without external political interference. The Young Liberal's campaign was thus tantamount to an attack on academics being able to function as academics.

The Committee noted that as conservative students they appeared to have taken it personally when their ideology was critiqued or challenged in University classes. It also quoted conservative students who had posted on a blog on academic freedom. One of them noted that the problem for Young Liberals was that 'many of them are as irrational and narrow in their ideological positions as the lecturers they loathe, and they aren't able to argue their positions in a reasonable way on the basis of logic and facts'.

The Committee concluded that the Young Liberal campaign for academic freedom was, paradoxically, a politically motivated attack on academic freedom. If Young Liberals are so affronted with their ideology being challenged and critiqued in university courses then perhaps they should take a leaf out of former Howard government minister Doctor David Kemp's book and start respecting academic pursuits and pursue academic careers, instead of attacking academics whose views diverge from their own.

Tell us about  
life as a  
student by  
filling out the

STUDENT  
WELFARE  
SURVEY

GO TO:

[www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)

and click on the  
Student Welfare  
Survey icon...



Completing the survey will automatically enter you into a draw for 3 prizes of a \$50 voucher to the SRC Secondhand Bookshop, drawn on Thu 9th April; Fri 22nd May; Fri 10th July.

The survey is designed to gather information about student experiences and will help the SRC represent issues of concern to the university and government on behalf of undergraduate students. Your name is not required on the survey.



## Michael Jackson works at Sydney Uni. Who knew?

STAFF INTERVIEW **Sriram Srikumar** interviews Michael Jackson, academic and cat herder.

I walked into Michael Jackson's office, expecting to conduct this interview, only to be sat down and interviewed by him for ten minutes.

He also took a Polaroid mug shot of me, which was left to develop on the table as we continued to talk. Whatever you might be thinking at this juncture, this Michael Jackson is the one with much more socially acceptable quirks. Besides, an interview and a photo is exactly what I had asked to put him through – it's only fair that he reciprocated. He is also the Head of the Department of Government and International Relations and my lecturer (have I mentioned how much I love your course? And that I've done my reading for next week already?) I finally managed to ask him the following questions:

### 1. How have students changed since 1974, when you started teaching?

The quality is higher than it has ever been before and that's partly the product of competitive entry requirements. A student once told me that "51% represents 1% wasted effort". He had an attitude that with a solid school network and the 'USYD' badge on his degree he could cruise through life just passing.

There's a lot less of that attitude now. There is, however, a bit of an "Enron Syndrome" where kids think they're the smartest in the class and can get by with an organized mind and some wit. The sooner I can wake them up from that, the better results I get out of them.

### 2. What are academics like to work with?

Well, "like herding cats" is what they say. You see, once you have a PhD you know everything. And anything you don't know is not worth knowing. They have a high level of independence and their first loyalty is to their professional research field. Part of the job is balancing that with the corporate interests of the Department and University.



### 3. What's the best/ worst joke you've had about your name?

My name? What about my name? I once applied to present a paper (titled 'It's Like Serving Time') at a conference and they didn't get back to me so I called them to enquire. They were hesitant to print "Michael Jackson: Serving time" on their promotional material. This was back when the gloved one was on TV getting arrested for... things. I've also had a few double takes at hotels when I try to check in.

## Working for Peenuts

CAREERS **Alice Kane** has a Pee-fect way to use your pharmacology major

I am studying part-time for my final year of a science degree and working part-time in a "pee lab". Officially, my title is pathology aide in the microbiology department of a large pathology

company, but essentially I test pee. In the middle of the night. This may sound gross, and boring but it's actually an excellent job.

In my fourth year out of school and having only a part-time uni load, I decided it was time to find a job in the industry in which I eventually wanted to work – the medical/health sciences. This turned out to be much harder than I thought. There weren't that many laboratory jobs on the net and they all required specific lab experience. I applied for many anyway in the hopes that they would somehow not notice my lack of experience, but unsurprisingly never heard back.

I started asking everyone I knew if they had any connections and a surprising amount did. One family friend gave me the number of the manager at a pathology lab that she worked at when she was younger. I called them up and they had a position vacant for the night shift in the microbiology department! Other people who work there have similar stories of how they got the job – they knew people who worked there or they worked in a different department of the company (eg. data entry or reception) and have now moved into the lab work. But basically, you need to use your connections – it really is about who you know!

I work two nights a week from 5pm until 1am. The laboratory skills and experience are great, and hopefully will mean when I leave uni and enter the real world (argh!), I will have the experience to be considered for those other jobs. Plus I get to wear a lab coat and gloves and use agar plates and test tubes and all the things you would expect of a nerdy science lab job. The other people are all nice, nerdy people like me, which makes the work environment very friendly (even at 1 am). And if I'm really lucky soon they'll upgrade me to faeces or genital swabs. Hoorah.

## RANDOM TUTORIAL #0649

I was in a lecture last year when a student started throwing things at our lecturer. Not big things, I think they were just pen lids and bunched up balls of paper, but nonetheless, projectiles. She, the student, had taken objection to something that was being said and decided the most appropriate form of protest was to hurl things in the direction of the speaker.

The lecturer repeatedly asked her to leave, as did the rest of the class, since she refused to allow the lecture to continue uninterrupted. She spoke over other students and continued arguing with the lecturer.

Threats to call security were made good and whilst the security guys never touched her, they gently made it clear that she was better off leaving the hall, and discussing the problem with them outside – after an apology was made to the lecturer. I don't know what happened after that, but am ready to assume some kind of disciplinary action was taken.

It got me wondering when and why students can be asked to leave a class, and what justifies the intervention of the campus security people. The issue raises important questions about safety and free speech, and the handling of such situations could have a significant effect on a student's academic performance.

I spoke to two tutors who are new to the teaching game, and they said they had never been given any guidelines for dealing with the issue and that the tutor training programs offered by their respective faculties were not compulsory. They had never had the issue raised with them by more senior staff.

A search of the USYD website for an established approach to this issue yielded little – policies on harassment and the responsibilities of staff to maintain a safe workplace could well have a part to play but they remain peripherally related policies. The campus security services told *Honi* that their greatest concern in any situation is the safety of staff and students but didn't elaborate further.

The most worrying aspect of all this is that no-one seems to have a clear idea what the rules are, and if any rules even exist. Such information should be readily available to students, so we know what treatment we can expect and so we are able to suggest improvements to uni policy should they be needed.

*Honi* will continue to ask questions about this and will keep you updated.

**Bronwyn Cowell**

## LE BŒUF

### An aural assault on commuters

Alex Lee will smack you if you're noisy

It's another typical train ride from Redfern to Rockdale, I am pressed into a carriage full of people who seem handpicked by God to annoy me. Lady with her bag on the seat next to you, did you want to shuffle over so I could sit down? That's cool, I'll just stand over you, awkwardly. Oh thank Christ an mX. The true opiate of the masses - every thinly veiled piece of editorial and witless letter pierces the membrane of another brain cell until I am left calm, lobotomized.

But what is this? Have I dozed off and woken up in the 1980s? For there is music blasting off the walls of the train carriage, interrupting each commuters personal reverie. I turn around, expecting to see a brother with a stereo blasting out

*Fuck Tha Police.*

But I'm disappointed.

The boom box may be long gone, but there is a new public enemy. It must have had some pretty bad karma when it was still around, for it has been reincarnated in the form of a handheld music player, the scourge of public transport all over the city.

Or maybe this young man sitting behind me playing You've Got to Show Me Love on his iPhone has been duped by Apple and not received a pair of earphones with his purchase, forcing him to inflict his inevitably and consistently terrible taste in music on us all.

Because if he does have earphones and is choosing not to use them, drastically reducing the quality of his music to a tinny drone, that can only mean one thing. It means that the only sick pleasure he is getting out of this exercise is making us listen to his craptastic playlist, like some sort of sadistic City Rail DJ.

Lady GaGa, Bon Jovi, the Pussycat Dolls slutty remix of Jai Ho, the onslaught continues. I put on my Poker Face as the ghetto blaster rolls over in its grave.

HEAD TO HEAD

Celebrity Aid Concerts

The case for...  
Mark Di Stefano

Celebrities make people watch, listen, dance and donate. Simple. The issue is not whether poverty/AIDS/cancer/natural disasters exist, because they are entrenched into our system of global affairs, it is whether a celeb-driven concert/event gets money flowing to places it usually would not.

It is about taking an issue, and sexing it up. Take poverty in Africa. In 1984, Bob Geldof saw a BBC Documentary about the famine in Ethiopia and decided to get his famous mates together for the recording of the "Do they know it's Christmas?" My guess is they didn't, cause most Ethiopians don't give a shit about Jesus, and obviously Jesus don't give a shit about Ethiopians, but the single raised more than US\$10 million for the cause, and spurred Live Aid.

The ensuing twelve months culminated with a duo of transatlantic concerts, seeing Phil Collins power drumming, Bob Dylan swooning with Keith Richards, Mick Jagger and Tina Turner pouting-off, Bowie and Freddy Mercury bending gender and Led Zepelin reforming for the one off benefit.



1.4 billion people watched, while an estimated 95% of the world's television sets picked up the global jukebox.

Live Aid was the first time the world was united, if only for a moment, on a single issue. Celebrities get the money out of pockets. From there, it is good management and smart investment that ultimately decides whether celebrity aid is a good thing.

The case against...  
Natasha Kassam

One might have hoped that Rudyard Kipling's idea of the "White Man's Burden" had stayed in the 19th Century. But the modern attitude to aid suggests a different story. Sir Bob Geldof and his mates may have brought attention to crucial issues, with their efforts in the 80s. But in truth, the glamorous face of 'fashionable charity' hid sinister consequences.

Australian generosity has been lauded for raising over \$100 million for the Bushfire Appeal, but UK studies suggest that such funds are largely diverted from people's other charity obligations. The 'untrendy' causes suffer, while another need becomes a spectacle.

The past fifty years has seen over a trillion dollars in aid gifted to Africa. Note that poverty has doubled since 1980, and 85% of foreign aid is diverted from its initial purpose. Couple this with corrupt governments who use foreign aid for 97% of their budget, and there is no longer a need to be accountable to citizens.

Many claim that development aid in Africa has entrenched poverty and fuelled corruption in leaders. Instead of aid, actual economic measures are suggested, such as trade, foreign direct investment, and micro-financing for enterprise.

Charity execs will use celebrities for awareness, but they are lobbyists, not diplomats. The situation has reached a point where a study is being assembled in The Hague, to assess if the new 'celebrity diplomacy' is hurting international relations more than it is healing. A year of a capitalist economy running amok, and everybody calls foul. Seventy years and no progress in Africa, and everyone remains content. Live Aid, and celebrity charity, is little more than a bandaid, good PR, and one hell of an ego boost.



GAFFEMAN

Oh no. How awkward.

Welsh rugby union coach Gatland reportedly said, "my players dislike the Irish more than anybody else". He insists this was taken out of context, and has appeased Irish and Welsh fans by explaining that he actually said 'my players dislike the Irish more than anybody else, except of course those stinking English bastards, what a festering lot of drewgi siffilitigs and twll tins, their mothers can póg mo thóin.'

A Dallas judge, C. Victor Lander, wrote in the Dallas Weekly that "black folks have been cleaning up white folks' messes for hundreds of years." Lander has denied that this was a gaffe, because he himself is black, and is allowed to stay stuff like this, as well as use the words 'nigger', 'crib' and 'homies' at his leisure, without sounding silly. Gaffeman has forwarded Victor the Obama memo on how a it's post-race world now.

Rabble-rouser Steven Fielding roused some serious rabble last Thursday during a Senate debate by suggesting that a 'double disillusionment' election was possible. No one knows what this is, but Gaffeman can only assume he meant some kind of diabolical magic trick. Nay, illusion! Spicy.

On St Patrick's day, Irish PM Brian Cowen accidentally started reading Obama's speech during their joint address. Realising his mistake, he masterfully handled the situation by saying bluntly to Barack, "that's your speech." Barack launched a charm offensive and took over, almost saving the day, except that the speeches were switched over just in time for Barack to read out the part of Cowen's speech in which he thanked himself for inviting everyone to the party. The White House has denied that Barack is feeling underappreciated and did it deliberately.

DEMAND A BETTER FUTURE  
FREE BREAKFAST  
FOR STUDENTS

Thursday Mornings  
8.00am to 10.00am, until runs out  
Outside Carlslaw Building

[www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)

Brought to you by your Students' Representative Council

Authorised by Noah, 81st SRC President. For more information, email: [education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au) or 02 9660 5222



## YE OLDE RUMOUR MILL



### NLS Union Board Candidate Announced

The dominant political faction on campus, NLS (Labor Left), has decided on its candidate for the upcoming Union election. They'll be running Lizzy Watt and if previous election results are any indication, as the NLS candidate she's a shoo-in. Then again, this year is the first time in living memory that there have been six independent candidates running so anything could happen.

### Revolution Not

Socialist Alternative have withdrawn their support for the annual NUS

opposition to the war in Afghanistan, and alleges that they employed intimidating stand-over tactics to make her rewrite it, forcing the intervention of an SRC caseworker.

Bekki Cleaver, a member of the Women's Collective, has responded to the attack and given her own version of events. Apparently Alma did not heed the request that the two Welfare Officers collaborate on a short report and instead submitted her own long and in the editors' eyes, irrelevant contribution.

Bekki says that it was Alma who became aggressive when she was told



National Day of Action campaign. S.A.

member Josh Lees said the group withdrew because the Labor students who are coordinating the campaign are "conning students into thinking there is an actual campaign going on" when in fact they've "become apologists for the government at every turn". For Kay Dook, the issue is "not being tackled in any way by the Rudd government".

The S.A.'s boycott of the campaign means they have effectively removed themselves from the Education Collective generally. The faction wasn't present at the Collective's AGM. The real question is how this will affect the campaign being run by the SRC. We suspect the National Day of Action is unlikely to achieve much and this will remain the case whether the S.A. is involved or not. Come to think of it, their absence might lend the whole thing a veneer of legitimacy.

### Alma Meltdown

Also ruffling feathers this week is an email many Women's Collective members were surprised to find in their inboxes from SRC Welfare Officer Alma Torlakovic. Alma is a perennially unsuccessful SRC presidential candidate, and she alleges that Bekki Cleaver and Tim Scriven, the editors of the SRC Orientation Handbook, censored the report she submitted for the handbook. She states that they did so because of its 'left wing' content, namely advocacy for gay marriage and

her work was unacceptable and began screaming at her and Tim, necessitating the caseworker intervening.

The Women's Collective was a bit pissed that Alma chose their email list to air her grievances, especially in light of her never having been involved in the Women's Collective and particularly given she was railing against one of their own (Bekki was SRC Women's officer last year).

But forgetting about the forum in which Alma decided to mouth off, the point is that the Welfare officer of the SRC, should consider writing a piece for the SRC handbook that has some kind of even passing relevance to the welfare of students. You work for all of us, not just those who share your political views, so your piece in the handbook is not a chance to get on your hobbyhorse and ride it round the corral.

### Socialist Alternative

"Philosophers have only interpreted the world, the point however is to change it!"

Karl Marx

USYD Club



GOT A RUMOUR?  
honi2009@gmail.com

### Defamation threat

Earlier this year, racist comments published on the S.A.-run website stopwarcoalition.org were attributed to Will Zhang, a member of the Whigs on campus. The comments included remarks calling the deaths of Palestinians on the Gaza conflict "natural selection".

These comments were then forwarded to universities across the country on the National Education List and an online debate ensued about whether Will should be kicked off USYD SRC. Problematically for everyone involved though, Will didn't make those comments, and wasn't even in attendance at the meeting in question at the time. More awkwardly, the guy who did make the remarks came forward. The upshot of all this is that Will is said to be considering legal action against those responsible for the allegations going out over the National Education List. Legal wrangles! Spicy!!

### Whigs and Whigettes

This Union election caper becomes more crowded by the week. Rumour Mill hears the Whigs will be running Michelle Chiang, a Masters of Pathology student from Mandelbaum College, known over that side of campus as 'The Queen of Wentworth'.

### Solidarity in the face of "Solidarity"

A motion proposed by the Socialist Alternative calling for the SRC to condemn Israel and express solidarity with the Palestinian people is soon to come before the council. The motion has been fraught with controversy since its inception. Honi has heard that the Muslim Students Association, Arab Students Association and the Australian Union of Jewish Students held a meeting last week to discuss the motion.

All three groups were reportedly concerned that the wording of the motion and tone of discussion was 'racist and problematic' and a consensus was reached that they would together create and table a counter motion. Honi finds this cooperation in the face of much recent antagonism surrounding the issue very admirable.



## THE COLUMN

My term as student senator has been filled with meetings, budgets, paperwork and financial statements, but there have been some highlights and big issues gracing the agenda that I thought I should share.

### Indigenous signage

In 2006, the University Senate approved a motion to introduce indigenous signage to the university grounds in recognition of the traditional owners of the land. In 2009 this still hasn't happened. In fairness, it is out of a genuine desire for consultation not to offend any interested parties, yet the fact remains that a Union Jack permanently hangs in the great hall, and no indigenous flag flies anywhere on the campus.

### Bradley Review

We are in an exciting time where the biggest review to higher Ed in years will soon affect every student and future student on campus. My position remains to emphasize the reforms to student income support, and to speak against deregulation. The university is not concerned about the effects. Dr Spence was quoted as saying "I do not view this (the 'voucher' system) with alarm. There is already very strong demand for places at the university". But really, as the biggest and most prestigious uni in NSW, surely we should be taking a role in lobbying efforts that concern the entire sector and not just ourselves.

### Appointments

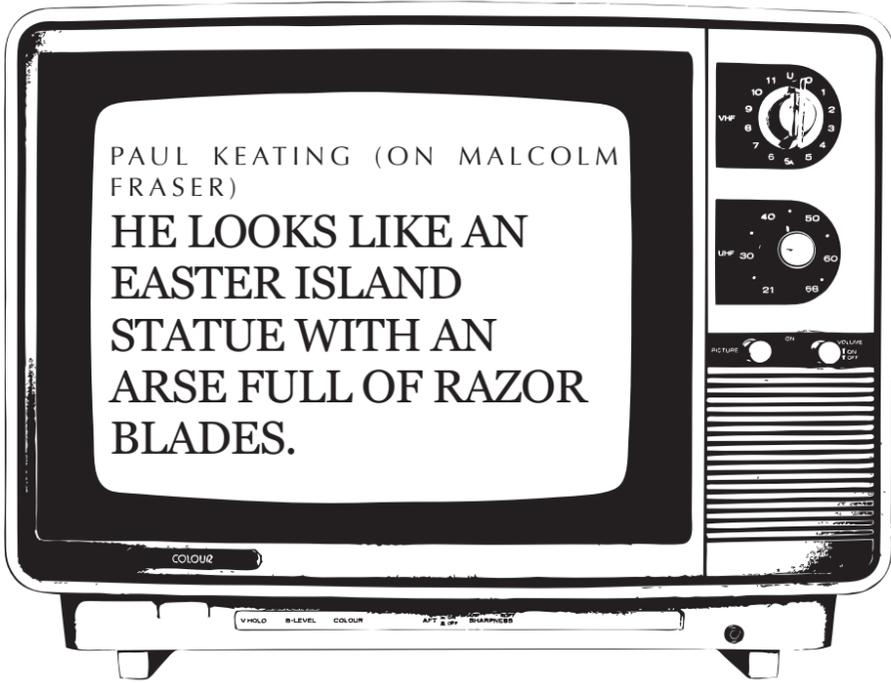
Just a quick point to make about recent appointments to the Vice Chancellor's team consisting of advisor roles, DVC positions and the Provost; all of whom are men. The administration is very concerned about gender equity in the higher admin roles, yet statistics keep proving that Sydney University is not doing enough to recruit women for these types of roles.

As ever, the Chancellor Marie Bashir remains very student focused and the Vice Chancellor Michael Spence open to discussion and debate. Things to note for future will be the new student amenities legislation, once it has been passed by the government, and further reforms within the university administration.

The best way to get involved in helping make a difference to the university is to get involved in the SRC or your faculty for any student representative opportunities on Academic Board. Go to the Demand A Better Future rally on the 25th of March to make sure the student voice is heard in the Bradley Review, for a fairer education system for all.

Kate Laing  
kate.laing@student.usyd.edu.au

# MISCELLANY



## Vox Pops!

Sriram Srikumar upholds the stereotype by lunching at Wentworth.

### QUESTIONS

1. Shag/ Marry/ Kill: UNSW, UTS, Macquarie Uni
2. If you could change one thing about Wentworth, what would it be?
3. What was the last movie you watched?
4. What was your favourite TV show when you were young?

### Nick Education & Arts



1. Kill: UTS, Marry: Macquarie because I have a few friends there, and Shag: UNSW
2. Wentworth needs a better bar
3. Pan's Labyrinth - for the second time
4. Play School - keeping it in the country

### Ben Health Informatics



1. Marry: UNSW, Kill: Macquarie and Shag: UTS
2. Cheaper food
3. The Combination
4. Arthur

### Michael International Studies



1. Shag: Macquarie, Marry: UNSW and Kill: UTS
2. Make the pide shop bigger so that there're shorter queues
3. Zack and Miri Make A Porno. And it was excellent.
4. Hannah Montana

### Jeff Information Technology



1. Marry: UNSW, Kill: Macquarie and Shag: UTS
2. Needs a greater variety of food
3. Watchman
4. Scooby Doo or maybe South Park (kids show?)



**CURRENT  
TEXT BOOKS**



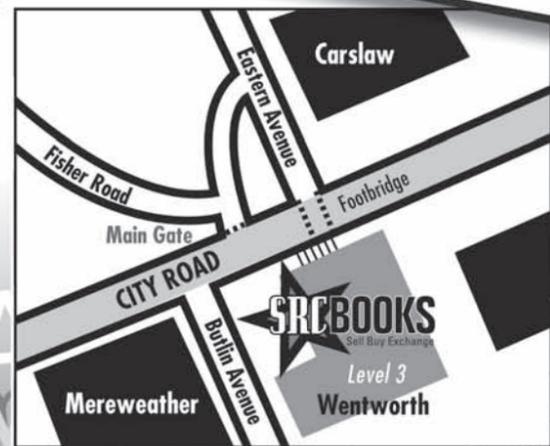
**www.src.usyd.edu.au**

- We Buy & sell textbooks according to demand
- You can sell your books on consignment
- We are open to USYD students & the public

**CHEAPEST BOOKS  
ON CAMPUS  
Guaranteed!**

Location: Level 3, Wentworth Building.  
Opposite the Newsagency.  
Hours: Mondays to Fridays 9am - 4.30pm  
Phone: (02) 9660 4756  
Email: books@SRC.usyd.edu.au

~NEW~  
Search for text  
books online  
www.src.usyd.edu.au/  
default.php  
Call 02 9660 4756 to check  
availability and reserve.



arts literature  
medicine engineering  
health science philosophy law  
economics public



## Cultural Cringe: Sydney University in Popular Culture

Georgia Flynn explores contemporary representations of Sydney University in Australian writing and film

I will always distil the film version of Marchetta's *Looking For Alibrandi* into a single scene: when Josie Alibrandi and John Barton sprint across the sodden Quadrangle of Sydney University.

Only one of them will follow the trajectory of their sprint to the singular aim, defining both novel and film: the desire to study law at the University of Sydney. While the protagonist, who would be the first woman in her immigrant family to attend university, is destined to walk through up Eastern Avenue as a student; the privileged Barton, however, treads a path towards a wasteful, self-inflicted death.

A student of literature may feel cheated, when they compare Sydney University's canon to that of Oxford or Yale; it is impossible to ignore the dearth of literary and cinematic representations. There is to be no Nick Carraway in *Camperdown*; our campus cannot accommodate the excess of the *Elis* of *Gatsby* – or even *Gossip Girl*.

The sight of Lord Sebastian Flyte's teddy bear on Fisher Road would be the focus of mockery rather than a mark of privilege as it is in *Brideshead Revisited*. Perhaps this is a product of Sydney's youth as an institution, even as the oldest University in Australia, 159 years pale in comparison to Oxford's 900-odd years of operation. It seems as if Sydney University lacks the history of decadence and hidden places that inspires literary significance in a geographical space.



Our atmospheric Quad in tinplate.

If *Looking for Alibrandi* is to be believed, the University is more suited for consideration at a distance. Nonetheless, in *Lilian's Story*, Kate Grenville dares to place her ill-shaped, eccentric heroine within the walls of her alma mater. Long before Lilian's descent (or arguably, ascent) to the stormwater drains of Sydney's inner city streets, she observes the inanity of daily life on campus, where 'girls in summer pink copied things from one book into another'.

According to Grenville, the outlandish and the brilliant fail to impress 'the men in tweed', and the novel's more

extreme characters are silenced by the carillon 'snarling out from the bell tower'.

Perhaps the pages of a novel are poorly equipped to articulate the experience of Sydney University students. Or perhaps we baulk at the elitism that so easily defines those distant campuses, which have had more time to grow into their own skins, and who adjudge themselves as spaces worthy of solemn consideration.

One needs only watch the "Sydney Uni Rap" on YouTube or consider the posts on the University's "Sydney Life" site, to conclude that our student body prefers their university culture light, frothy, and available to everyone. These sporadic bursts of self-reflection suggest that our University lives constitute only one, small part of our identities – a part that the discerning gradwand will not dwell upon.

Nonetheless, reading Kate Lilley's *Versary*, a thrill of recognition may strike through the Sydney University student at the words 'G'DAY SUSHI & TOBACCO': a symbol of their daily walk from Camperdown to Central Station. The parenthetical reference does not disappoint an unarticulated desire to see our campus reflected back at us from a literary imagination.

Nonetheless, no longer a fourteen-year-old girl watching *Looking For Alibrandi*, I find comfort in the fact that the imposing Quadrangle can become a glimpsing image: one that forms the

background to the student experience, rather than defining it.



Kate Grenville - one of Sydney's own.

ADVERTISEMENT\*

Be worried.

Get shit scared. Call 132 132  
Insurance issued by Insurance Australia Limited trading as NRMA Insurance.  
When making decisions about an insurance product please consider the Product Disclosure Statement from NRMA Insurance.

# Palestine, the Intervention and John Pilger

Robert Callan and Cipi Morgan from Socialist Alternative interviewed the prolific writer, filmmaker and activist John Pilger, who will be speaking at "Marxism 2009". This is a left-wing conference that will be held over the Easter Weekend (9th-12th April) at Melbourne University.



**Cipi: John, who do you make your films for?**

Most of my films have been made for the Independent Television Network in Britain. From its beginning in the 1950s, ITV established a reputation for documentaries, though sadly that has long faded. I started my television career with a series called World in Action. My first film was The Quiet Mutiny -- it was about often-violent dissent within the US military in Vietnam, and which led to its withdrawal.

**Robert: You have been a long-standing supporter of the Palestinian cause. What did you think about Israel's recent War on Gaza?**

It wasn't a 'war' - a war takes two sides. It was an assault on a virtually defenseless, imprisoned people. "Massacre" is the correct description. It evoked for Richard Falk, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Territories -- incidentally, a Jew -- the Nazis' assault on the Warsaw ghetto in 1942.

Moreover, it had nothing to do with Hamas or with responding to the firing of homemade rockets fired from within Gaza; the Israelis, contrary to media reports, broke a ceasefire and fabricated a reason for their long-planned assault, which had everything to do with Zionism's historic design on the region -- starting with the effective cancellation of the Palestinians' right to exist 61 years ago and the expulsion and terrorising of the indigenous people.

The latest terror was yet another stage in this historic "ethnic cleansing". The Israelis hope to make life so unbearable

for the elected Hamas government.

None of these things has happened. That's what make Palestinians such a remarkable people. As for Obama's reaction - you first have to understand that Obama has assembled the most Zionist administration in living memory: more Zionist than Bush's. During the presidential campaign Obama said all of Jerusalem should belong to Israel -- not even Bush went that far. Noam Chomsky is right when he says that Obama's silence over Gaza was pre-meditated.

**Robert: You have also written about the plight of Aboriginal people in Australia. What do you think about the NT Intervention and the Rudd Government's apology to the Stolen Generation?**

I read an excellent piece in Arena recently by Charlotta Lomas. She wrote that the Rudd apology has actually furthered "the nation's collective forgetfulness" because at the heart of it was a refusal to examine the nature of what was done to the Aborigines.

She referred to "Australia's paranoid nationalism, settler-state nationalism unsettled by the fragile nature of its own sovereignty". That's correct. You see, unless we white Australians give back to the first Australians their sovereignty in the form of a comprehensive treaty, we can never claim our own. Many Australians understand this; it's in our psyche; and it frightens us and produces such transparently racist stunts as the so-called intervention.

At the time of Rudd apology a Sydney Morning Herald editorial described it

as "this piece of political wreckage ... that responds to some of its supporters' emotional needs, yet it changes nothing. It is a shrewd maneuver." I agree with that. That's at least honest. The intervention was a fraud.

The hysteria of the Howard government and the media over Aboriginal child welfare was shown to be false when government statistics revealed that of the 7433 Aboriginal children examined by doctors as part of the so-called national emergency, 39 were referred to the authorities for suspected abuse. Of these, a maximum of just four possible cases of abuse were identified. Such were the "unthinkable numbers". They were little different from child abuse in white Australia.

In truth, the intervention is a familiar land grab -- it's a device with which to roll back land rights gains, especially in the rich Northern Territory, to make way for unfettered mining and lucrative waste dumping.

**Cipi: What are your thoughts on the economic crisis? For example, do you think there is anything in the Pacific Brands saga indicative of Australia's coming years?**

I don't know what will happen in Australia in the future, and I don't think anyone does. At present Australia is less affected by the economic crash than the US and the UK because it is linked to Asia, but as China stops buying minerals and other raw materials and cuts back its manufacturing, the consequences will be felt here. If the Rudd government had political nous and imagination, it would be investing in infrastructure and education projects that provide jobs and benefit both society and the economy.

**Cipi: You've covered horrendous events all over the world. Have you ever reached a point where you are just too shocked or outraged or overwhelmed to carry out your work?**

Too many people in the world have suffered distortions in their lives that have left them in shock and outrage; I am fortunate; I'm a mere witness. And being a witness, I have a responsibility to try to tell the truth, as best I can, about how and why things happen. At times I've certainly felt outraged, even overwhelmed, but communicating in words or film to as many as possible usually fixes that - or a long swim.

**Robert: War, dictatorships, poverty, huge inequality, these**

**are just some of the things you deal with in your work. What inspires you to carry on with your work?**

You say "carry on" as if I carry some terrible burden! The work I do is a privilege; I am allowed into people's lives to tell their stories. At times, I have the opportunity to peer behind the facades of great power and pass on information that people have a right to know. I have quite a simple belief that power should be of the people and accountable to the people. As a journalist, I try to further that. What inspires me? Ordinary people facing extraordinary odds in their lives and overcoming them.

**Cipi: When people see your films they're often shocked and outraged. What would you love to see them do when they leave the cinema?**

Be angry and get active. **HS**

*"Power to the people" will certainly be the essence of Marxism 2009. To get your tickets and find out about other inspiring speakers and events at the conference, visit [www.marxism2009.com](http://www.marxism2009.com).*

# HIJABI HAUTE COUTURE

Lifting the veil on a fashion trend of extremes

They drip with diamonds, carry Chloë clutches and sport Salvatore stilettoes. These women are glamorous, cosmopolitan, savvy – and Muslim.

A few decades ago, the concepts of fashion and Islamic dress codes probably would have seemed diametrically opposed. Fashion trends in Muslim countries have since undergone a revolution and the stereotyped iconography of Muslim women in black, shapeless and uniform 'abayas' (Islamic female robe) is passé. In the booming capitalist climates of Middle-Eastern nouveau riche societies, Muslim women have been prompted to reconcile their Islamic sartorial beliefs with their highly commercialised cultural context. While globalisation has generally been accepted as an inevitable force, many Muslims are having trouble accepting the emerging fashion forms, many of which represent some very threatening moral capitulations.

At the centre of concern is the demise of respect for core Islamic doctrines



that encourage women to be modest, avoid attracting attention and resist materialism. When Muslim women choose to customise their Islamic dress in either contemporary Middle-Eastern or Western styles, the line between honouring and contravening their faith can become increasingly blurred.

“...Some of the fashion doesn't in any way reflect modesty and attracts way too much attention,” says Zeehan Zahari, a veiled Muslim Malaysian International student at the University of Sydney. “In the long run, people would slowly be obsessed with trends which I feel is very damaging... I would hate it if the fashion only emphasizes on material value, fully discarding the main one: Islamic value.”

Zahari explains that there is still room for aesthetic appreciation in Islam, as there are verses in the Qur'an, which state that Allah values beauty. As long as a Muslim woman wears

Despite the dispute surrounding conceptions of modesty, there is evidence to suggest that the hijab, a primary means of facilitating female modesty, has historically been synonymous with social status. Moroccan scholar, Fatima Mernissi, traced the adoption of the hijab from the time of Prophet Muhammad in Mesopotamia through historical and religious documents. She found that prostitutes and slaves were forbidden from donning the hijab, which was associated with respectability, freedom and social standing. The Prophet Muhammad's wives, for example, were allowed to wear the hijab whereas his concubines were forbidden to adopt it.

This social mentality, and the sensibilities surrounding the hijab, are still very much in force in contemporary Muslim societies. Hajjar acknowledges that this has meant that there is a degree of pressure on Muslim women to don the hijab; “There is an identification with the hijab that if you are not veiled you are not Muslim enough... some Muslim girls or women keep on dreaming about wearing the hijab at some stage of their life as though it is as if they are becoming a Muslim,” she says.

In the bourgeois societies of the Middle-East, where social echelons are increasingly fluid and conceptions of social status are progressively dictated by financial clout, the meaning and attitudes of Islamic practice have been consequently affected; “It is very clear that wealth, especially oil wealth, has



A FEW DECADES AGO, THE CONCEPTS OF FASHION AND ISLAMIC DRESS CODES PROBABLY WOULD HAVE SEEMED



something modest for prayer, there is relative freedom in female clothing. It is the stipulation of what actually constitutes 'beauty' and 'modesty' that is subject to broad interpretation and is highly controversial.

Dr. Nijmeh Hajjar, lecturer and coordinator at the Arabic and Islamic Studies Department of the University of Sydney, says that there is no unity of agreement among Islamic scholars as to what actually defines appropriate Islamic female attire and the origins of the hijab: “there is no clear description in the Qur'an about what should be covered; the face of the women? Her whole body? Her hands? Or even some would go further and say that the voice of the women shouldn't be heard in public, they say 'Sawta Awra' - her voice is actually a shame.”

brought some changes to moral values that has bought the hijab back to the forefront of debate,” says Hajjar.

**“In the bourgeois societies of the Middle-East, where social echelons are increasingly fluid and conceptions of social status are progressively dictated by financial clout, the meaning and attitudes of Islamic practice have been consequently affected”**

Due to the sensitivities surrounding the hijab, contemporary Muslim fashion designers therefore have to be aware of the differing conceptions of modesty among different Islamic

denominations when designing their garments. Australian Muslim Lebanese fashion designer, Aheda Zanetti, is the creator of 'Ahiida', a Muslim swimwear and sportswear label that launched the infamous 'Burqini' and 'Hijood.' Zanetti acknowledges the differences in belief by offering garments in both 'slim' and 'modest fits'; “We cater for all types of women that have different needs. From the extreme, modest women that needs to be with her children while swimming, the everyday girl or women that enjoys her swimming with family and friends, to the working or fitness girl that would rather swim laps. We are not hear to judge nor compare the needs of these women, just use common sense and enjoy!,” says Zanetti.

At the time of its release, the 'Burqini' was an innovative and somewhat

THE DEEPLY PERSONAL DECISION TO DON A HIJAB HAS OFTEN SPARKED PUBLIC DEBATE AMONGST COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND POLITICIANS, THIS TENSION IS PLAYING OUT IN AN ENTIRELY NEW FORUM – THE CATWALK. AS DESIGNERS TAKE NOTICE OF AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR ISLAMIC ATTIRE THAT IS AS GLAMOROUS AS IT IS SYMBOLIC, CRITICS WORRY THAT THE HIJAB'S VALUE WILL BE LOST.

**CAMILLA IBRAHIM LOOKS AT WHO'S STRUTTING AND SHUNNING NEW TRENDS IN ISLAMIC FASHION.**



It is possible that this unintentional conspicuity may actually compromise the values these women are trying to preserve. In a context where Muslim swimwear and sportswear is uncommon and the women end up actually making a fashion statement, these garments may counteract their intentions. For this reason, Zanetti has looked to make the garments agreeable for a non-Muslim context: "I designed sportswear not only for the full coverage suitable for the veiled Muslim girl but also wanted it to blend in with the western way of clothing," she says.

Yet it is exactly this mixing of foreign and sometimes conflicting fashion forms that has heated the debate about modern Islamic fashion. Moreover, the social enactment of unconventional fashion becomes particularly problematic for some Muslims when it is paraded by Muslim models in the form of catwalk shows and, in front of an audience containing males. "I feel that this whole concept seems to go against the basic ruling where men should lower their gazes when confronting a woman and treat her with utmost respect... a woman's existence like that is reduced to ornamentation... fashion shows... do not protect women from the highly sexualised capitalist economy," says Zahari.

Online discussions of this topic suggest another, quite antithetical perspective. Some bloggers argue that this fashion trend represents an emerging feminist social movement as modern Muslim women break from conformity and

for disrupting the status quo; "The phenomenon of 'manly women' has become apparent in society... These women are against the normal nature of females. Their deviant behavior threatens other normal girls. This is why we had to launch this initiative to protect society from this menace," he said on Arab Satellite TV Channel, Al-Arabiya.

////////////////////////////////////  
**"Things start to make a little more sense when scratching under the surface of the dictatorial sexual suppression"**  
 //////////////////////////////////////

While Arabs have mastered the art of 'keeping up appearances' and hushing social taboos, fashion and consumer demands are often good indicators of covert realities. At a first glance, some of the fashion exhibited in Middle-Eastern media and runways is incongruous and unthinkable. Fashion marketing seems almost as if operating in a vacuum, promoting obscene products that are completely out of touch with the target market. This beckons the question of the reasons behind marketing campaigns and whether many these clothes are actually purchased or are just of artistic or Haute Couture value. The irony is, these consumers do buy these products and they do wear them over or underneath their 'abayas'.

This might seem totally nonsensical but things start to make a little more sense when scratching under the surface

of the dictatorial sexual suppression. Hajjar believes that the consumer demand for such fashion is perhaps only representative of a wider social dynamic of extramarital relations: "...behind the scenes, relationships are happening... people like to bury their heads in the sand and say 'no this isn't happening' but things are happening and fashion is actually part of that," says Hajjar.

Afsar Ali, a 24 year-old Kuwaiti student studying in Cairo, is not in any denial or as unaware about these social taboos as some non-Gulf Arabs might assume: "A large majority of them live the way they do, in the guise of modesty, not for religious reasons, but for social reasons... The reason they are the way they are is their desire to fit in with the West, while attempting to display a facade of being religious," says Ali.

Like Ali, many Arabs have feeling of resentment toward the nouveau riche lifestyle which represents social decline, disrespect for tradition and a disregard for national identity. He compares the old-money aristocratic Arabs to the nouveau riche Arabs as "sort of the difference between a princess and Paris Hilton". While designer labels might grant nouveau riche women membership to the international elite community, they have lost respect from many other Arabs.

Some argue that the Islamic dress has lost its meaning and is being exploited and upstaged by fickle

**SEEMED DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED. MUSLIM COUNTRIES HAVE SINCE UNDERGONE A FASHION REVOLUTION.**

radical product and Zanetti did receive some backlash. She has been called a terrorist online, she received a death threat and a poster on ShiaChat website commented on her products stating that "this is like playing a game with Allah."

While Zanetti had a generally glowing worldwide response for her products, for some Muslim women, the Burqini has some taken some getting used to; "Do you remember that moment that you wore hijab for the first time in public? You felt simultaneously proud and nervous. Well, be warned: you'll feel the exact same anxiety the first time you walk out in a modest swimsuit. Being shy, I deal with this by staring straight ahead and avoiding eye contact..." Gulsen A. wrote on Zanetti's testimonial page.

assert their female identities.

The threat that fashion poses to patriarchy has become particularly acute in recent weeks. The government of the United Arab Emirates has launched a campaign apparently motivated to "protect" society against the growing number of women said to dress and behave like men. These are referred to as "manly women", a euphemism for lesbians.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has launched a campaign called "Excuse me, I am a girl," which involves a series of workshops, lectures and TV programs that aim at deterring women from "delinquent behaviour". A statement by one of the Ministry of Social Affairs officials, Naji Hay, demonises these supposed 'menaces'



and superficial fashion fads, but the reality is, the hijab will never be exhausted like a fashion trend. Whether women do it to attract men, incite envy, whether they are label queens or fierce feminists, spirituality does not lie on a material level and "at the end of the day," Zahari says, "we all know what is in our hearts." HS

# YOUR MUM



## FISHER BOOK REVIEW

**Paul Mackay** learns that there's more to the Addams Family than he first thought

James Truslow Adams, *The Adams Family*, Boston, Little, Brown, and company, 1930.

Available at Fisher Research: 973 210

The Addams family is a group of fictional characters created by American cartoonist Charles Addams. Gomez, Morticia and their family satirically represent ideal American life, while remaining blissfully unaware of how bizarre the world finds their macabre ways. Since its birth as a one-panel comic in the *New Yorker*, The Addams Family has diversified into a range of media, including film, and stands as one of the most successful comic franchises ever.

Trawling the recesses of Fisher Library I stumbled upon a hardcover issue of *The Adams Family*, but never is the old adage "don't judge a book by its cover" more true than in review of literature. *The Adams Family* by James Truslow Adams, published 1930, has nothing at all to do with the family of loveable Goths and everything to do with the Adamses of American political history.

The author states in the preface that the "chief purpose of the book is... not at all genealogical, and only in a minor degree individually biographical." As such, the book is not a mere succession of biographies of individual family members, but rather a continued narrative chronicling their common traits. Adams – the author – makes it clear early on that he is of no relation to the family in question, which is offered to assure the reader of his impartiality and distance. It is a distance, he feels, which allows him to spend the book's entirety finding new superlatives for these traits. While the book reads beautifully and is full of drama, I found myself questioning the author's notion of historical fact when so much time is dedicated to painting these men in a superhuman light.

No mention then of Morticia, Gomez, Cousin Itt, Uncle Fester, Lurch or the rest of the gang, but nonetheless, a worthwhile read about some pretty impressive Yanks.

## Diary of Noah White

Mark Di Stefano snuck into the SRC President's office while he was caucusing.

I demanded to wake up... and I did.

Breakfast was a delicious and easy Risotto (and it was cheap). Cost is a big concern for me, cause I live in Uni housing, and Centrelink benefits are X below the poverty line and I have never had a real job in my life, I am really conscious of looking after student welfare, and that is why I am running for the undergraduate position on the USYD Senate...you heard it here first.

You will need: 500g of sliced chicken, 3 cups Arborio rice, 1 litre of chicken stock, a deluded sense of self, an onion, sliced mushrooms, sun dried tomatoes, Parmesan cheese, an eight faction member voting bloc, four cloves of garlic, some thyme and rosemary and finally six bottles of wine. Although this meal would cost you \$61.45 from your local IGA, and is against the Federal Labor Government's binge drinking policy, it tasted yum!

After breakfast I chundered in the backyard. Although this could be have been caused by the cabernet merlot infused breakfast, it was more to keep our vegie patch sustainable and vibrant through the recycling of our earth's precious resources. How else

**"I can get my pants off quickly because they are loose-fitting and I am not wearing shoes!"**

Says local man, Humphrey Williams. Williams has always been known for his quick-change skills in high pressure public situations like at the beach with friends or backstage at a school play.

It was only recently though, that the laid-back Sydneysider stepped up his game and bought some proper equipment in his lifelong pursuit of naked legs at shortest notice. The pants in question are only loosely elasticated, allowing for swift removal and (should it be called for), equally swift re-donning.

The elastic is so loose, says Williams, that he could probably take his pants off even if he were wearing shoes.

'Really, the lack of shoes is just a bonus!' laughs the maverick nudist.

More seriously, he notes that he is still going barefoot - afraid that introducing a new kind of experimental shoe wearing pants-shucking without warning might alienate his small but fervent fan base.

"I just feel so free", sighs Williams, wearing (for the moment) his beloved pants. "It's a constant sense of infinite possibility. I could be wearing my pants, you know, but then, if I don't feel like pants, at any moment, I could just...not be wearing pants any more".

can one lose weight, while helping the environment. No seriously how?

Then I did my hair. It took ages.

I like to practice my lecture bashes while taking out the curlers. I made sure my voice would travel the length of a lecture theatre with words like "dis-grace", "fact-chun" and "hi my name's No-ah".

Then I had to choose my T-shirt. Although the 'Demand A Better Future' blue complemented my chipper mood, and the 'Ruchir get the union into gear' shit-brown reflected my presidency, I instead choose the black and fluro green 'Vote Noah'. It's just so edgy.

I achieved a lot during the day at Uni. As I was handing out flyers at Footbridge lots of inquisitive young men stopped for a chat about the new IR laws. While they came for the down-low on dismissal, they stayed to go down-low. Four new faction members – fantastic.

Tonight I made pikelets for dinner. They were delicious and yum (and cheap).

**This article was not written by Noah White.**

**Poorly timed April 1st Handouts Lead to Wide-Spread Prankenings**

A staggering lack of foresight on the behalf of the federal treasury has led to millions of Australian's being handed \$900 on April 1st, the nation's day of pranking. Novelty stores, magic shops and cream pie emporiums have already been inundated with advance orders and are struggling to keep up.

In the past most working families have been unable to budget any money for bally-hoo, tomfoolery or hare-brained schemes, but the government's stimulus package looks set to introduce these groups to a new form of highly decadent japes.

"I'm going to fill a bucket with Moet and put it above my boss's door", explained Katherine Hickey, mother of three and receiver of the \$900 of comedy gold, "then I'm going to key his car with a diamond".

Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan has begged the nation to spend the money in other sectors as only 1.1% of the prank-ware market is Australian owned. However his pleas were drowned out by the sound of whoopee cushions and joy buzzers.

## Dr. Borg : A Tutorial Poem

At the front of the room, sitting down on a chair,  
Was a man in a labcoat with black facial hair.  
His gut was immense, his brain half the size,  
His face was offensive to both of one's eyes.  
'Good morninck, dear cwass' he blubbered aloud,  
'Todaey vee weed Locke, ov 'oom Bwitish are pwoud'.  
The heat made us sleepy, he wrote on the board,  
In Phil 101 with that man Dr Borg.

'Zis Locke he voz smart, he had many ideez,  
Zough when eating smoked salmon he never said pleez,  
For Locke voz a lunatic! Weed if you dare!  
His Essay vill twip you up valking down stair!  
So stick to the weeder! Take notes ven I talk!  
When you're zitting in cwass do not go for a valk!  
We were rather confused, while he wrote on the board,  
In Phil 101 with that man Dr Borg.

His suit was of beige, it was chequered and crossed,  
It looked like a pancake when mixed, cooked and tossed.  
'I am teethink you 'eer, do not went for a coffee!  
Or I'll meelt you and ate you like peeces of toffee!  
In Norway ve listens! Ze teecher eez boss!  
Or Philosovy makes you to be at a loss!  
He scrawled this irrelevance on the white board,  
In Phil 101 with that man Dr Borg.

The day it grew long, the sky it grew dark,  
We wanted to leave and have sex in the park,  
But old Dr Borg, in his creamy beige suit,  
Would not let us go for a casual root.  
'Bee chaste, my jounge stoodents, our eshies forbid  
Sooch eevil een parks ven in night you eez hid.'  
We slept in the twilight, he drew on the board,  
That fuddy Norweg-i-an man Dr Borg.

Students' Representative Council  
The University of Sydney

- Centrelink Advice
- Tenancy Advice
- Academic Appeals
- Show Cause
- Exclusion
- Harassment
- Legal Advice
- ...and much more.

ASK ME ABOUT

Caseworker at  
SCA  
Monday  
Afternoons

[www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)

02 9660 5222 / 0434 998 630  
[help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)

## SCIENCE STUNTS

### HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

#### AIM

To successfully influence complex international geopolitics and diplomacy by standing outside Fisher Library with free newspapers.

#### EQUIPMENT

1 x Shirt with an image of Che Guevara to be worn daily and washed rarely to never  
1 x Wikipedia brief on Che Guevara  
1 x Lapel badge calling for stricter environmental policies  
50,000 x Newspapers, posters and flyers to be printed weekly

#### METHOD

1. Meet daily at dawn to strategise and update one another on the best positions around campus to harass fellow students

2. Link everything back to U.S foreign policy. China's occupation of Tibet? U.S foreign policy. Uni fees too high? U.S foreign policy. Persistent sexually transmitted infection? U.S foreign policy.

3. Wax lyrical about the modern utopia that is socialist Central and South America. Stay blissfully ignorant of the history of brutal Central And South American dictatorships.

5. Return home to a night of furious masturbation to finance reports as you celebrate the downfall of capitalism.

#### CONCLUSION

An unintended side-effect of successfully joining the Socialist Alternative was the kryptonite-like effect one's presence had on any NLS or Labor Party members who were forced to avoid one at all times. Ultimately, it was found that while the Socialist Alternative drastically reduced one's amount of friends, the exponential rise in self-satisfaction was more than compensatory.

## Wackivities!

### Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Music

Lauren Mackertich says so long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye to her inhibitions

When I was 7 years old I wanted to be a nun. Of course I thought being a nun meant abandoning the suffocating confines of speech for constant song, leading a pack of children through Salzburg singing about female deer and afternoon tea and marrying a devastatingly handsome older man with a funny sounding name. Yes, the Sound of Music has a lot to answer for.

This somewhat misguided longing for a life of service along with an irrational fondness for brown paper packages tied up with string was revitalised through Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Music. I really wasn't sure what to expect when I was invited to go along. Turns out it's like a Rocky Horror screening but with more goats and grown men dressed in lederhosen fashioned out of drapes.

The standards for cinema conduct at a sing-a-long are slightly different from the norm. For example,

you're given a whole lot of props to use at various times and there is compulsory choreography for the



more up-beat numbers. Obnoxious reciting of dialogue learnt off by heart is encouraged. Yodelling at the top of your voice is admired. Booing and throwing your Maltesers box at the Nazis is applauded. Men in arse-less habits are not an unusual sight; in fact they were almost underdressed.

This might all sound a little camp or kitsch or even a bit tacky...and

it definitely was. The State Theatre was packed, the vibe was excellent and it was obscenely entertaining.

I was afraid my DIY, very last minute snowflake that stays on my nose and eyelashes costume (a reference for hardcore fans) was going to be a bit over the top. Standing in line for the bar behind a very tall man in a sequined frock who introduced himself as Baroness Von Slut laid my fears to rest.

For those of you who are not as devoted to Maria and the Von Trapps as I am, the film goes for about a million years. Or nearly three hours, which is as good as a million years. The extreme devotion needed to stick it out until the last Von Trapp is over the mountains into Switzerland and away from those nasty Nazis is rare. I've got it. Baroness Von Slut has got it. If you do too you should come along next time Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Music is in town. The Baroness and I will certainly be there.

## HONI TOP FIVE Sydney Buses

01

> 352

The 352 doesn't peak too early like a bad one night stand - instead the route lingers, spicing up the ride on Oxford St, then mellowing into leafy Paddington before reaching it's final destination, Bondi. Though it doesn't run on weekends or at night, this rarefied stroke of transport genius shows you all the best Sydney has to offer.

02

> Metrobus 10

Distracting us from our shockingly poor public transport system is this shiny, red bus! It connects uni students with Leichhardt and Kensington. Unfortunately, the No. 10 Bus treats all universities as equals, making a pit stop at our fine institution before drawing us down to the level of our retarded and less intelligent cousins - UTS and UNSW.

03

> 423

The 423 is much like your mum. She's always available if the price is right. She's generous, reliable and very experienced. But like a lot of washed up old hags, the 423 is averse to trying anything out of the ordinary, sticking to King St, City Road and George St. Plus, it means she can't afford to discriminate with her clientele. I guess it true then - your mum/the 423's a sl...

04

> Redfern Courtesy Bus

There can be no complaints about your company on the Redfern bus, as Sydney Uni has risen above the hoi polloi of Sydney Buses and instituted one of their own, for their own. The Redfern bus will take you from the library to Redfern Station.

05

> USYD Security

Sydney Uni Security is evidently not a bus. Fact. That's what makes this service far superior. It is more like a taxi. Yet, as far as I am aware, it is the only taxi in Sydney that accepts your student card. Why number 5 then? 'Cause now you all know about it, they'll be so overrun with calls they won't be able to drive me from college to house parties in Glebe. Puck you.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report of the President Noah White

president@src.usyd.edu.au

Is it Wednesday? Is it March 25? Is it 12pm? If so go to the front lawns right now!

The SRC is organising a rally as part of its "Demand a Better Future" campaign for a fairer higher education system. The rally will be starting at 12pm Wednesday 25th March on the Front lawns. We are organising this rally because before the election student issues were almost at the top of Labor's list of priorities and the vast majority of students voted accordingly. However now, student issues have slipped to almost the bottom of that list.

We are organising this rally because Youth Allowance payments are over 40% below the poverty line and extremely hard to access. Centrelink won't even recognise our independence until we are 25 and there are even students out there who get married just so they can qualify for Youth Allowance.

We want the government to increase Youth Allowance payments to a reasonable level which someone can live off and to decrease the age of independence to 18.

We are organising this rally because the Government wants to deregulate the way student places are allocated to universities (see my week 2 report). Basically this means that large, popular courses have the potential to become much more overcrowded and small unpopular

courses my have to be culled. The Government wants to increase the amount of students taking up study but doesn't have a problem with doing this at the expense of quality.

We are organising this rally because we still don't have a solution to VSU, which continues to have a devastating effect on campus life (noticed food and beverage prices go up and C&S funding go down? Guess why...). So come along, besides there will be a free BBQ.

The "Demand a Better Future" campaign has, despite the lame name, been one of the most successful student campaigns in a long time. Back when it was launched two years ago it had four demands; Abolish domestic undergraduate full fees, repeal VSU, reduce HECS and a fairer Youth Allowance.

Well we've ticked off number one, number two is in the works and it looks like we will have an at least mediocre solution by next year, number three has started happening (HECS costs for science and maths students were halved with very good results, there was a huge increase in the number of students taking up courses in these areas, which lays the groundwork for further HECS decreases) and number four... well not much has happened on that front yet.

The immediate campaign for student income support (Youth Allowance)

reform doesn't stop at the rally on Wednesday the 25th though, we will be pressuring the Government right up until the budget (around mid May). So listen up for more news about the campaign, about how you can participate and get involved.

In my week 1 report I explained the new student services levy that the parliament is currently debating. Basically this is a levy, which students can defer onto their HECS which will go towards student services on campus such as welfare services, representation, legal advice, clubs and societies, sport, subsidised childcare, etc. These are all services currently offered by the SRC, the Union or the Sports Union on campus and which would not be around for very much longer without this levy (including all the infrastructure like Wentworth, Holme, Manning – yes including the bar).

GetUp!, the grassroots campaigning organisation that ran campaigns such as the "Bring David Hicks Home" campaign and the "Close the Gap" campaign, has recently come on board with the support student services campaign. You can help by visiting [www.getup.org.au/campaign/SupportStudentServices](http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/SupportStudentServices) and sending an email to a senator.

## Noah's Kitchen

**So far my recipe's have been fairly vego friendly, well not this week, sorry. Below is a recipe for Spaghetti Bolognese, it should feed four people**

**You will need spaghetti, about 500gms mince beef, 1 large onion, 3 crushed garlic cloves, ½ cup tomato paste, one can of crushed tomatoes, a dash of tomato sauce, ½ cup of red wine (or water will do) and various spices and herbs, 2 tablespoons paprika, oregano, rosemary, thyme, chilli, whatever you want really.**

**Fry the diced onion and garlic in olive oil in a big frying pan until onion is clear. Add the mince and fry until it is nearly cooked and then add the spices and herbs, let them soak into the meat for about a minute or two. Stir in the tomato paste, crushed tomatoes, tomato sauce and wine (or water) and let simmer for about 20mins. The longer you let it simmer the better it will taste! While all this is going on you should cook the pasta, I'm not going to explain this, if you can't cook pasta, you probably shouldn't go near a stove at all.**

**Hot tips: Add kidney beans or lentils to the mince to make it go further. The mince sauce freezes really well, make triple the quantity above, eat a third and freeze the other two thirds and make lasagne with it next week!**

# EDUCATION REPORT

Report of the Education Officers Elly Howse and Rosie Ryan

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Today university students across Australia are getting out on the streets and demanding that the government make our higher education system accessible to everyone, not only those who can pay. How to do this? Our demands are clear; make youth allowance fair, support our student organizations and stop the deregulation of universities.

Youth Allowance is inaccessible and inadequate. Unless you're 25 or over, married or have made 18k in 18 months chances are you probably aren't eligible. Payment rates are still 30% below the poverty line and students are forced to juggle study with long hours of work and are regularly missing meals because they cannot afford them. This puts off many students from coming to university or completing their degrees and therefore hits

those from low socio-economic and indigenous backgrounds hardest. Higher education should be a means for reducing inequalities in our society, not exacerbating them.

Voluntary Student Unionism had devastating effects on student organisations. Under the new Student Services Fee we need to ensure that students' money is directed towards their student organizations and not university administrations and that we ensure student life, representation and support for every university!

Deregulation of course places and demand-driven funding of universities will see cuts to low-demand courses such as the sciences, humanities, nursing and teaching and the rapid expansion and overcrowding of departments such as law and

economics. Rural and regional universities will be hit worst and the gap in quality between different universities will grow. This is disgusting and places profit over equity or quality.

Last Wednesday we held a Degree Auction on Eastern Avenue. Under funded, overcrowded degrees were sold to the highest bidders. HECS debts and mi goreng were auctioned off to students. It was creative, hilarious and highlighted some of the issues we're trying to address in our Demand a Better Future campaign. Education activism does not begin and end with the National Day of Action; the campaign continues throughout the year and will be filled with exciting media stunts and ways to get the government to listen to our demands. Come along to the EAG at 1pm every

Tuesday on the lawns next to Fisher Library to get involved.

Today we will be having a free BBQ and a speak out before marching to where Julia Gillard is meeting with the Vice Chancellors from the wealthiest universities in Australia. Come along! Stand up for your education.

Wednesday 25th March, 12pm, Front Lawns Sydney University.

See you there!

# GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT

Report of the General Secretary Russell Schmidt

gen.sec@src.usyd.edu.au

The US Government is spending \$900 billion to fix their economy, Kevin Rudd is giving \$900 to both dead people and you, but how should we best fire off our economic stimulus? Retailers have figured out there are going to be packs of cashed up punters running around and spending like drunken sailors, so what's on offer?

## Holiday on Kevin

Nothing will stave off impending economic ruin like spending your free money overseas! STA Travel (there is a branch in Wentworth) is one of many companies that have started offering flights for just under \$900 return per person or \$1800 per couple. The options include return flights to LA or holiday packages, including 15

days in India, 8 days in Costa Rica, 12 days in Vietnam, 8 days in Turkey or 10 days in Egypt. And most of these trips leave you with \$ for spending money as well!

## Drive on Kevin

Nothing is less beneficial to the economy than buying second hand stuff, but seeing as there aren't any \$900 new cars, Kevin kinda forced us into this one. Jealous of your mate's shitbox, mid-80s Falcon/Commodore with 200,000km on the clock that breaks down daily and spews thick black smoke into the air? Good news! You too can get one for the low, low price of \$900. Fully sick bra.

## Get drunk on Kevin

No self-respecting student would get a fist full of dollars and not spend at least some on beer. Whilst many older people may consider this irresponsible and wasteful it's probably one of the most responsible ways to spend the money because it will all flow back into Government coffers in excise. For packaged full strength beer you get hit with 38.7% excise, so if I spend my \$900 on beer, \$348 is going straight back to the Government. Bargain, perhaps Kevin should thank me for the cash? However, if you aren't a card carrying patriot and don't care so much about the economy, my tip is illicit drugs of any variety, no tax here which means you actually get what you pay for.

## Breakfast (sans Kevin)

Now for something that won't cost you any of your hard earned tax-payer dollars; the SRC's Free Breakfast! It has been getting bigger and better every week and we will be out in force from 8am each and every Thursday handing out free food to students to highlight the fact that 1 in 8 students regularly skip a meal because they cannot afford it.

# WOMEN'S REPORT

Report of the Women's Officer Tamsin Dingley

womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Gosh, well after a week that's left everyone wondering where the mystical women's room is (and indeed where the women's honi report is), I thought I'd offer some answers.

Currently we're using manning women's room which is on the ground floor of manning building, opposite the rock office. Women's collective meet here at 1pm every Thursday (tea and sandwiches provided.)

The manning women's room is going to be converted into an office so the women's room is moving into the basement of

Holme building. Holme building is near the footbridge on Parramatta road. The women's room is currently being set up there, with carpeting, plumbing and furniture being chosen by the SRC and Union women's department- pretty cool, right?

Holme Women's room is in the basement of Holme building. The easiest way to get there is to enter via Science Road, going past the pharmacy, then down the stairs in front of you and slightly to the right. Just keep walking down the corridors (for a while...), it's the room after

Meeting Room 1 on the right hand side. I'll let everyone know via the e-list when the room is moving. If you'd like to be added to the e-list, email tamsindingley@hotmail.com and let me know.

Finally, there is a non-autonomous (women and men invited) discussion group this Tuesday (24 March) to plan our FightBack-StopViolenceagainst Women campaign. It starts at 4pm and runs for an hour. If 4pm doesn't suit but you'd like to contribute, email the address above. The discussion will be

around the best strategy for the part of the campaign directed at men, for example about consent and alcohol, condom use etc. Location will be announced on the e-list.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Tamsin

# ASK ABE

Hello,

*This year I had to take an unusual enrolment pattern because I have failed a subject that is a pre-requisite for some other subjects. My lecturer told me to make sure my enrolment was right before the HECS census date. I think I've done it all right now, but I don't know what this census is. Do we have to fill in a survey or something?*

Incensused

Dear Incensused,

The HECS census date is like a deadline for universities to process the subjects that students are doing. Despite its name it also applies as a deadline for finalising the subject choices for local fee paying students. Whatever you are enrolled in, is what you have to pay for. It is also the last date that you can drop a class without academic penalty. The HECS census date is the 31st March in semester one

and 31st August in semester two. Make sure that you make your changes as early as possible to avoid any mishaps. International students have different dates for fees. However, the HECS census date applies to them for dropping subjects without academic penalty. As always ask the SRC if you are unsure.

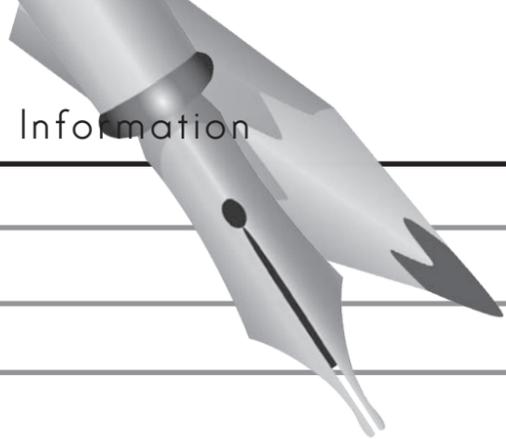
Abe



SRC HELP: 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

Level 1 (Basement)  
Wentworth Building,  
City Road Entry

This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything that may affect their "welfare". This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as a question on the state of the world. If you would like to ask Abe a question send an email to help@src.usyd.edu.au.



# The SUPRA

[www.supra.usyd.edu.au](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au)

## SAAO Corner

From the week beginning Monday the **23 March 2009** we will be offering drop in appointments of 30 minutes on Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm, Wednesdays 10am - 12pm and Thursdays 2pm - 4pm. These are times that students can walk in and expect to see a Student Advice and Advocacy Officer (SAAO) straight away or after waiting for a short period of time.

During other times appointments can be made with a SAAO by:

\* email: Send an email to [help@supra.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@supra.usyd.edu.au). This will be forwarded a SAAO who will endeavour to respond within 24hrs. If possible, please include a telephone contact number in your email so we can get back to you quickly.

\* Telephone: Call the office on (02) 9351 3715. Many initial queries can be solved through a conversation on the phone.

\* In writing: Send a fax to (02) 9351 6400 or post your letter to SUPRA Raglan Street Building (G10) Darlington Campus UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006

\* Website: Fill in the online form at [http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/Adv/Contact\\_a\\_SAAO.html](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/Adv/Contact_a_SAAO.html)

# Student Control of Student Affairs

No doubt by now you will have heard about the new Student Amenities Fee bill which is being debated in the federal parliament. The proposal is the result of a round of consultation about student organisations which the Labor government did in February 2008 about the impact of 'Voluntary Student Unionism'.

In December 2005 the Howard government introduced legislation to the federal parliament making it illegal for student organisations to automatically make students members at enrolment, and automatically charge membership fees (on an opt-out basis). This was so-called 'Voluntary Student Unionism' (VSU), which had a devastating impact on many student organisations' capacity to support students by delivering services and representing students; some organisations, such as at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, even collapsed. This was an unprecedented interference in student affairs, and an attack on freedom of association, continuing from the Howard government's assault on all forms of unionism.

Since the government committed "to rebuild important university student services and to also ensure that students have representation on campus" without making a "return to compulsory student unionism", the legislation has some convoluted and interesting passages.

SUPRA has made a submission to the Senate inquiry regarding the bill (available on the SUPRA website), and has been involved in lobbying MPs and Senators about it.

### What is the legislation?

The legislation allows for universities to charge up to \$250 (\$125 for part-time students) in a 'student services and amenities fee', reversing the aspect of the VSU legislation amendments that made it illegal for universities to charge students for non-academic services. Students would be able to defer the payment of this fee onto the Higher Education Loans Program (HELP), and pay it back as they do their HECS/HELP debts.

The fee would be totally controlled by universities, and there is even a section of the legislation emphasising that universities are not obligated to pass the fee on to student organisations. This is unnecessarily politically motivated, from SUPRA's point of view, since there is nothing in the legislation even suggesting that universities are obliged to pass the fee on to student organisations.

This is the most problematic aspect of the legislation in the eyes of SUPRA and other student organisations. The loss of an independent income stream as a result of VSU means that student organisations are now in the precarious position of seeking funding from the institutions that they advocate for students against. Even though SUPRA's funding agreement stipulates that all the governance of SUPRA is independent and democratic, VSU still compromises the appearance of independence which students need to feel confident that their interests are prioritised.

The legislation has attached to it a series of guidelines, including a series of *National Access to Services Benchmarks* and *National Representation and Advocacy Protocols*. These benchmarks and protocols stipulate what universities must provide, and what they cannot use the fee for. Despite representation and independent advocacy being included in the protocols, there is no guarantee that the services that student organisations provide will be rebuilt using the fee. The guidelines are also not part of the legislation – they are a 'legislative instrument' that can be changed by the minister by giving 15 days' notice to parliament – and it's ambiguous as to whether universities would have to follow them at all.

This does nothing to address the uncertainty from year to year that student organisations have faced in negotiating funding agreements, and actually entrenches the power of universities over funding for student services and representation.

### Why is it necessary?

Although the majority of the debate around the fee has focused on services like sport, catering, and debating, it's important to also discuss student representation.

It is vitally important that, as well as democratic student participation in university governance structures like faculty boards and committees, and Academic Board, that there also be independent student representation. Like most student organisations, SUPRA's represents students on both individual and collective levels,

meaning we provide assistance to students for particular individual needs, but we also have positions on governance structures to be able to feed back about systemic issues



within the university that are affecting students, and can lobby and campaign for legislative changes. Independence is essential for this.

It is important that there are democratic processes governing student representation within university governance structures. At the University of Sydney we see an increasingly corporatised model of governance, which is especially bad for students. Student representation within these governance structures is largely un-resourced, arbitrary, and at times undemocratic. For instance, appointments to Academic Board Working Parties are decided by the Chair, who unabashedly

# Postgrad Pages

tells students that they are there to represent the interests of the University, not those of students.

SUPRA is currently seeking additional funding to re-establish a Postgraduate Representative Network to provide training and resources to students elected to governance positions within the university. This model already exists at many other universities, and Sydney University is far below the standard in its lack of support in this area.

VSU also limits the ability of student organisations to campaign for

legislative changes, or on a broader political level, especially in support of socially disadvantaged groups. Services like autonomous spaces for women and queer students, campaigns for reproductive rights, opposing dangerous mining operations on Indigenous lands, opposing racism and war are all things which have been damaged by VSU. As a part of the broad attack on unionism in the form of "WorkChoices", including workplace rights and the ability of unions to organise, VSU can be seen as a form of political censorship.

That's why amendments to the legislation suggested by ALP and Greens MPs and Senators – for a minimum percentage of fees to be passed on to student organisations – would address the real impact of VSU.

**Rashmi Kumar**  
 SUPRA President and Women's Officer  
 president@supra.usyd.edu.au

## Subscribe to SUPRA it's FREE!

By becoming a **SUPRA Subscriber** you will be able to:

- Access our free, confidential student advice and advocacy service
- Participate in SUPRA events and activities
- Receive regular email updates and electronic publications (eGrad)
- Use the SUPRA Resource and Meeting Rooms
- Access discounted photocopying, printing and faxing
- Vote or run in the SUPRA Council elections
- Actively participate in your representative student association.

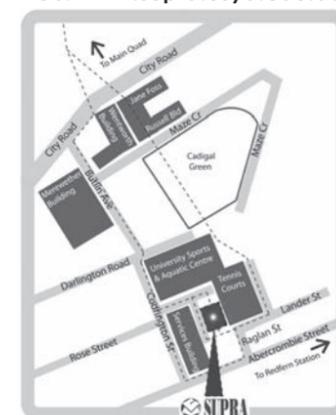
By becoming a **SUPRA Supporter** you will be able to:

- Access all of the above benefits
- Receive a SUPRA Supporter Welcome Pack (including SUPRA highlighter and t-shirt)
- Show that you appreciate the value of an independent student run organisation.

Complete your subscription online at [www.supra.usyd.edu.au/subscribe](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/subscribe) then follow the links if you would like to become a SUPRA Supporter. Alternatively you can complete a form at our stalls or drop into the SUPRA office.



Raglan Street Building (G10)  
 Darlington Campus  
 University of Sydney NSW 2006  
 Phone: (02) 9351 3715  
 Fax: (02) 9351 6400  
 Email: admin@supra.usyd.edu.au  
**Web: www.supra.usyd.edu.au**



## Getting things done in the University

There is an old joke that University administrators like to tell: the Uni would run a whole lot better if it wasn't for all these students. It is funny until you actually find that a number of people working in universities actually believe this adage. This is not to undermine the hundreds of dedicated staff who work hard for students but it seems that some faculties and university staff only work to help students when it is easy.

As a Student Advisor, it is easy to be cynical about the processes of universities especially one as dysfunctional as Sydney. We see, on a daily basis, total disregard for university rules and student rights because to contemplate the alternative, actually engaging with student concerns, involves far too much work. For example, even though a faculty keeps ignoring the rules of the university and keeps making bad decisions for students, they see the policy of the University as merely a serving suggestion. Even when they are forced to concede they have made a mistake, they simply change the status of the student without even informing them so any positive outcomes aren't taken advantage of because the student doesn't even know they exist.

Often the University can be cajoled into acting after you threaten to go outside the institution and utter the dreaded words "Anti-Discrimination Board" or "NSW Ombudsman". Nothing like the threat of embarrassing information being splashed across the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald to get some action happening, but it shouldn't have to be that way.

So, what, if anything, can you as a student do to ensure that your request is heard without been palmed off into an abyss of bureaucracy. We recommend the following:

- So often students say they saw a staff member about a problem but can't remember whom they spoke to. If a Student Information Officer or staff member gives you a negative response on what you feel is a reasonable request, ask for their response in writing or at least take down their name so if you appeal it can be traced back to them.
- If you go to the Faculty and get a negative response or are ignored, ask for the contact details of the manager of that unit. It is probably best to email them and make your request directly to them. It is a sad fact that many faculty staff are overworked and often cannot give your request the time it deserves so it is easier to say no than yes.
- If you are finding you are getting nowhere, contact a SAAO at SUPRA. We have contacts all through the University and should be able to link you up with the person you need to speak to, not the person who ignores you.

As I said, there are a lot of good people working at Sydney University but too often student concerns are relegated to the bottom of the pile when they should be the first consideration. If you are experiencing any difficulties, contact SUPRA immediately for assistance.

*This section is prepared by SUPRA's Student Advice and Advocacy Officers (SAAOs). The SAAOs are professional staff employed to assist postgraduates with a wide range of welfare and academic matters. Call 9351 3715 or email [help@supra.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@supra.usyd.edu.au) to ask a question or request an appointment.*

### What's coming up at SUPRA (see [www.supra.usyd.edu.au](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au) for more information)

Fri 27 March	One-on-One Migration Advice 1-3pm (Call SUPRA to make at appointment) - BOOKED OUT
Mon 30 March	Palestine Solidarity Week
Mon 20 April	Postgrad Week - Details soon...
Coming Soon	SUPRA Elections for the 2009-10 Council



## SUDS

*Waiting for Godot*

SUDS Production, until Sat 28th of March, in the Cellar, \$2/\$3/\$4/\$5

"We wait and there's no denying we are bored."

My friends have a joke that a more apt title for Beckett's play would have been "Waiting For Godot to End", such is the overwhelming hatred that exists for this play. Absurdist. Minimalist. Modernist. Postmodernist. Existentialist. The play is a cacophony of 'isms' that seemingly defined a generation of literature while instantly proclaiming its place at the pinnacle of 20th century canonical works.

At over two hours though, there's no denying the play is a chore: it is at once mentally exhausting in its vagueness and soul-destroying in its themes. That doesn't mean it isn't rewarding. This latest SUDS production is ably directed by two first-time directors, Cale Hubble and Timothy Steele, who assure me "the play is not fundamentally complicated, it just has complicating elements that people get distracted by."

It's all very simple really: Vladimir (Todd Backhouse) and Estragon (Here cast as a woman, Caitlin Weston) are occupying themselves as they await the arrival of the unseen Godot. But of course, it's not that simple. It never is. The pair's inability to leave speaks to a broader existential dilemma: "I don't seem to be able to depart," says one character. "Such is life," replies Estragon. You said it.

The acting is solid all round; the pairing of Backhouse and Weston breathes new meaning into the characters' dynamic and each actor has fun with their blossoming comic timing. Kudos also to Matt McGir as Pozzo and Xenogene Gray as Lucky: we greet each of their entrances with a smile, a sure measure of how much we enjoy their stage presence.

Hubble and Steele have emphasised the vaudevillian style of Beckett's original production, playing the theatricality to full effect. The actors perform in the round, surrounded by a sea of gold stars and under a metal Hills Hoist that is springing vines and seemingly more alive than any of Beckett's characters. Electronic pulses reverberate around the theatre throughout like waves crashing on a distant beach, lulling us deeper into a meditative, dreamlike state. When we finally awake, we're grateful for what we glimpsed.

3/5

David Mack

## MUSIC

*Kings of Leon*

Ever since the notorious Sex on Fire was released, I've been subjected to the continual laments of a close friend and fellow self-confessed die-hard Kings of Leon groupie: 'ahh Jacinta, how I miss the days when Caleb Followill was so coke-addled he couldn't stand straight, looked like Jesus and sounded like he was dying.' Despite continual claims that The Kings have grown up and sold out, if their concert at the Sydney Entertainment Centre last Wednesday night was anything to go by, I'll keep coming back craving my hit for a while yet.

No one can criticise the Kings for losing their sound; the opener, Crawl rocked out slow and heavy, with a killer bass line that throbbed over the mosh and right out to those poor sods sitting in Row V (\*cough\*). The frenetic pace was set early with hits from second album *Aha Shake Heartbreak* (2005). Four Kicks and Taper Jean Girl set the crowd into an electric frenzy exacerbated by the strobe-tastic light show. The chaos was alleviated with the wistful lead guitar of Revelry, pulsating thump of Cold Desert and lead-singer Caleb's gravelly drawl in highlight, Milk.

Whoever wrote the set list order deserves some sort of medal; The Kings managed to cater for a crowd comprised of everyone from those who silently mouthed the lyrics to every song from *Youth and Young Manhood* (2003) (impressive, considering Caleb's early incomprehensibility) to late thirty-somethings who screeched the loudest for Sex on Fire, and sat passive for the majority of the rest (SHAAAAME!!!).

Live, the Kings emanated this incredible energy that was so raw, so real and so feverish it can't possibly be encapsulated on any album. And although I'll forever be of the opinion that their sound better suits some gritty underground gig where you can sweat it up in a mosh with a few hundred like-minded fans, essentially they're still their smutty-talking, small-town, amazing bone-structured selves, just with a few million more disciples. Almost annoyingly, Caleb managed to take it all in his stride, sheepishly twanging: 'I don't know what we did to get so many fans.' Awwwww. We still love you too, Caleb.

4.5/5

Jacinta Mulders



## THEATRE

*Ladybird*

"Ladybird ladybird, fly away home. Your house is on fire and your children are gone."

Tomorrow, Dima (Ian Meadows) is going to war. Tonight he hosts his farewell party in his decrepit flat in the slums with his friends. One last hurrah, but what is there to celebrate?

Lera (Sophie Ross) has just 'won' \$25,000. Everyone but her knows it's a scam. Lera is giddy just to see her name in print... all she needs is \$200 to be eligible to 'claim her prize.'

Enter Arkasha (Adam Booth), the hardened drug dealer and moneybags of the group and the gaunt Slavik (Eamon Farren) who arches and writhes on a glittering mountain of gravel and grit which sticks to his skin like jewels.

The set design by Justin Nardella is unforgettable, converting Belvoir Downstairs into a mountainous slumland which seems to push up through from the stage floor to the ceiling, and is lit by the dim haze of television screens littered throughout the rubble.

The cast deliver fearless performances. You can sense that each actor has been given the space to fill out each character to make it their own, testament to the directorial job of Lee Lewis. The result is living, breathing theatre that is exhilarating to watch.

The characters of Lera (Sophie Ross) and Dima (Ian Meadows) leave a haunting imprint of loss and wasted life as the consequence of abandonment. Dima's father Waster (Slava Orel) drank his way through his childhood, whilst Lera's own mother encouraged her to prostitute herself during her teenage years. The repercussions of such traumatic childhoods is beautifully evident the blue eyes of actress Sophie Ross which betray her hardened exterior, to reveal a child trapped within, desperate to be saved.

Julia (Yael Stone), Lera's university educated cousin is metaphorically speaking, the 'ladybird' of the play. Like the ladybird that Dima delights in discovering, Julia initially seems beautiful, out of place and promising good luck. But as the night gets darker and longer, the lasting message of the piece seems to be that while ladybirds bring good luck, their insect counterpart of the cockroach brings decay... do not confuse a cockroach for a ladybird. But Dima does, every time.

The Australian premiere of 'Ladybird' is now showing at Belvoir Downstairs until 12 April.  
\$23/\$29, Cheap Tuesdays - (min \$10)

4.5/5

Danika Armytage



## Themed playlists are the new mix tape

Giselle Kenny-G and Katherine Connolly make their own rules

Many believe that a good mix tape follows countless strict rules. The pressure of adhering to these can be oppressive. So stop trying to 'up the ante' with the second track and then take it down a notch with the third so you don't blow your watt, and just pick a wacky theme. It can be anything! For instance...

### Songs about Roads

#### 1. Thunder Road, Bruce Springsteen

*Well the night's busting open/ These two lanes will take us anywhere/ We got one last chance to make it real*

#### 2. Highway 61 Revisited, Bob Dylan

*Ol' Howard just pointed with his gun/ And said that down on Highway 61*

#### 3. Born to Run, Bruce Springsteen

*The highway's jammed with broken heroes/ on a last chance power-drive*

#### 4. Route 66, The Rolling Stones

*Well if you ever plan to motor west/ Just take my way that's the highway that's the best/ Get your kicks on Route 66*

#### 5. Goin' Down the Road, Woody Guthrie

*I'm a-blowin' down this old dusty road, Lord, Lord/ An' I ain't a-gonna be treated this way.*

### Songs About Gender Identification Crises

#### 1. Lola, The Kinks

*I'm not the world's most masculine man/ But I know what I am and I'm glad I'm a man/ And so is Lola*

#### 2. Get Back, The Beatles

*Sweet Loretta Martin thought she was a woman/ But she was another man*

#### 3. Dude Looks Like a Lady - Aerosmith

*Ooh what a funky lady/ Ooh he was a lady*

#### 4. I'm A Boy - The Who

*One girl was called Jean Marie/ Another little girl was called Felicity/ Another little girl was Sally Joy/ The other was me, and I'm a boy*

#### 5. Walk on the Wild Side, Lou Reed

*Plucked her eyebrows on the way/ Shaved her legs then she was a he*

## THE POSTCARD

### The change we can believe in

Naomi Hart was at the Woodstock of presidential campaigns



I met Demera and her mum at a bus stop on Castor Ave in northeast Philadelphia. Demera was a two-year-old girl who was deaf, and her mother – whose name I never learnt – was proud of how proficient her daughter already was in sign language. Her mother couldn't afford to look after Demera, who instead lived with her aunt – but her mum travelled for hours on run-down buses every weekend to visit her. I asked the mother whether she was voting Democrat in the upcoming election. She paused. 'I'm not sure who's with which party – the Democrats or the other one. But I'll be voting for Obama.'

In October-November 2008, I worked as a volunteer on the Obama for Pennsylvania campaign. I doorknocked, called voters, helped coordinate town meetings and organised other volunteers in the Frankford area. Frankford is riven with disadvantage: high crime rates, dilapidated schools, simmering ethnic tensions and rampant unemployment. Many of the houses I visited had missing windows, broken front doors and litter strewn across the lawn.

Of all the electoral wards in Philly, the 53rd and 54th where I was stationed routinely have among the lowest voter turnouts on election days. But 2008

told a different story. I repeatedly encountered people who had not voted for decades but were making the effort this time.

I met Kathryn Purcell, for example, a woman in her 40s, on my first day of doorknocking. She told me that she couldn't remember the last time she'd voted because she never felt like her vote counted. This year, not only was she determined to get to the polls herself, but she'd organised a group at her church which was working to mobilise the community to vote or volunteer for the blue candidate. She exclaimed that she was 'Obama all the way!'

Volunteering in Frankford entrenched my respect for Obama. Even apart from his admirable policy agenda, his leadership and ability to speak to the values of the middle class engaged and inspired voters who otherwise felt disenchanted with politics. He persuaded them that they – and their children – had enough at stake in the democratic process that it was worth giving up a few hours of work and wages to participate in it. Perhaps Obama's greatest achievement, in Frankford at least, was not that the neighbourhood voted for him, but that they voted at all.

GASTRONOMIST



## wagamama

Cassandra Taylor heads to Wagga. No wait, Wagamama.

One Saturday night, my boyfriend and I found ourselves with a Wagamama gift voucher for \$50 that expired in 24 hours. I was intrigued with Wagamama, having seen its modern black, white and red décor from afar many times, however I had never been inside. They have a philosophy captured in their motto "positive eating + positive living", which was revealed throughout various aspects of the meal.

The restaurant is set out in a fashion that I imagine resembles a mess hall for workers at the peak of the Industrial Revolution, which is by no means a bad thing, although it does promote food grocking. Orders are taken electronically and sent to the kitchens immediately, so that chefs can begin preparing your food, which I loved.

We'd planned to go crazy and get entrees and mains, but Wagamama doesn't do entrees, so I ordered 'amai udon' and an apple, mint and celery juice. The food came quite quickly and tasted very good, although I felt it needed a little soy sauce, which was conveniently provided. We then shared

a dessert tasting plate which had fruit skewers and chocolate dipping sauce, little brownies with lemongrass and coconut ice cream inside and wild-berry frozen yogurt between squares of sponge topped with sesame seeds. In case you've yet to surmise, the dessert was amazing. So amazing, in fact, it would be enough to make me go back.

The staff were very polite and relatively attentive, which always contributes to my experience. The only real downside was that Wagamama don't take reservations for less than 10 people, so I spent half the day stressing that our \$50 would be wasted. Thankfully there was plenty of room and the best part of all was that we only had to pay an extra \$15 to cover the bill.



### Sock It To Me Anusha Rutnam

\*Unisex Solid Calf-High Sock \$13

What I have to say about these socks comes dangerously close to being a plug for American Apparel (and honestly, I don't think they need it) so let me begin with a counter-plug:

The Oxford St branch's storefront is so visually noisy. Seriously guys, why make it hard for yourselves? Everyone loves the AA ad campaigns, they're cool, they're hip, they're with it – so why not just have them blown up super big in the window?



With that done let me say that these, ladies and gentlemen, are the best socks I ever had.

And let it be known I am no spring chicken in this area. In fact the quest to find durable, funky coloured, no skulls, no stripes, no that-golfy-emo-print socks is not so much a shopping trip for me, it's a lifestyle.

Anyway these socks tick all the right boxes and the colours are delicious. (I plan to buy a new pair every week until I have a sock rainbow, possibly creating a lip-smackers-esque collecting craze).

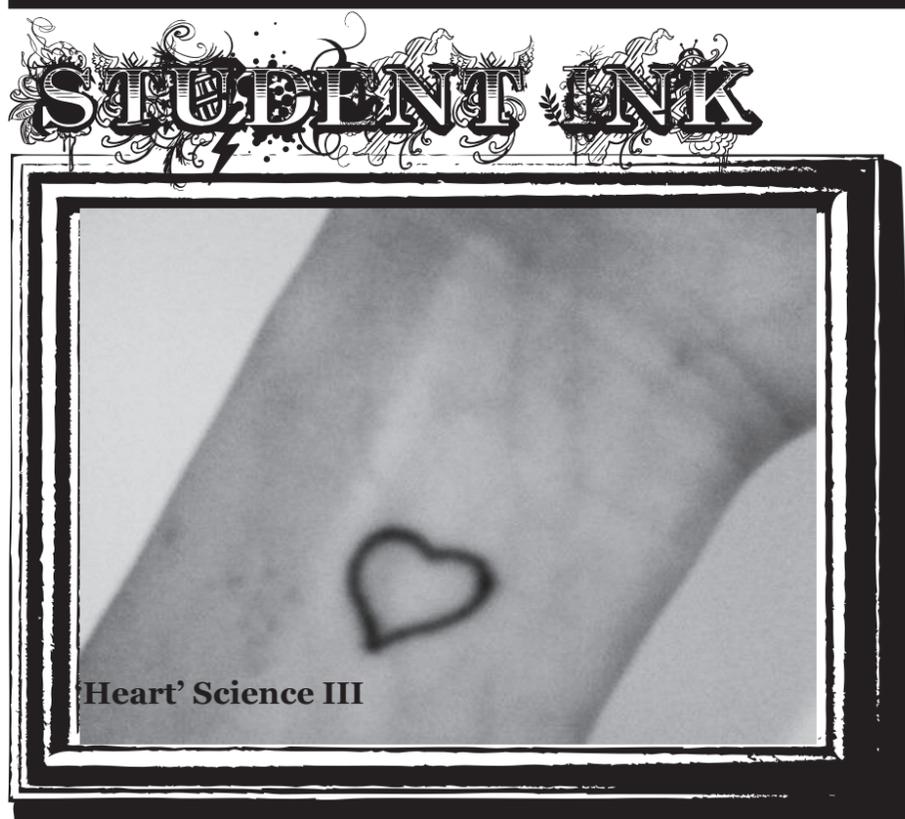
It's like, silver platter much?

Also I am concerned at how heavily invested you appear to be in the whole lamé trend (financially and, I suspect, emotionally).

Sure, girls are loving the whole 'I just got dipped into a vat of steaming hot latex' look now, but what about in two weeks? What are ya gonna do with all those shiny shiny pants that didn't find a home? I know that shit ain't biodegradable.

You could even wear them with heels. If that's what you're in to.

UPDATE!: On the first wash the dye in these socks runs like Jesse Owens, so, please, WASH THEM SEPARATELY! This really is a sad turn of events. I'm not angry, American Apparel. Just disappointed.



## Sports Union Coverage Begins

SPORT Will Atkinson gives you the lowdown on SU Sport

Honi is pleased to announce that over the course of the year, starting from next week, the paper will be collaborating with Sydney University Sport to cover sporting activities, results and issues in detail, week after week. We're looking at interviews with Sydney University athletes, scoreboards, match write-ups and much more.

It's been a long time since student publications at the University have made a concerted attempt to cover sport in any serious way, and we're happy to help extend a feeling of community amongst the student body by focusing on this important, if not necessarily well-known part of Sydney's extra-curricular roster.

Of course, we'll still keep abreast of the wide world of sport and its various idiosyncrasies, as well as reflecting on that very pertinent question: what the hell happened to the Waratahs on the weekend?

### SYDNEY UNI SPORT AND FITNESS - FOR THOSE NOT IN THE KNOW

Sydney University Sport and Fitness – or SUSF, for short was founded in its original form as the Sporting Union in 1890, and has functioned as the peak representative and organisational body for intervarsity, college and interfaculty sporting competitions and fitness from that time onwards.

Much like the Union, it was divided into men and women's divisions until their amalgamation as a single entity in 2003. Sydney University Sport and Fitness – for those not in the know.

The varieties of activities offered are endless; check them out at the official website:



## Feeling Active?

SPORT Michael Krasovitsky throws the ball into your court

Have you ever been at university and suddenly felt the urge to move, to gyrate or to climb? Perhaps you've had one too many double shot lattes. Perhaps you're still high from last night's rampage at Greenwood. Or perhaps your internet has been out of action and you've built up a lot of masculine frustration. Well, USYD has everything you need to get over your energy rush!

Here are some of the wonderful facilities available to students right here on campus:

### UNIVERSITY SPORTS AND AQUATIC CENTRE

50m heated indoor swimming pool  
6 synthetic grass tennis courts  
4 squash courts

### ARENA SPORTS CENTRE

Group fitness studio  
RPM Studio  
Extensive weights room  
Modern cardio pieces  
Yoga classes

### HK WARD GYMNASIUM

The Ledge Rock Climbing Centre  
Multi-purpose sports hall  
Badminton Court  
2 Squash Courts

### OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE GYM

Gymnastics Floor  
Trampoline  
Rings, Horse, Mens and Womens Bar



## COLLEGE

COLLEGE George Downing cuts sick on the DF.

The sandstone quadrangle of St Paul's College lit up last Wednesday at Surreal Sounds, the annual college fundraiser. Organizers channeled the successful formula of previous installments, with a festival-like fit-out

complete with an expansive, open-air dance floor, colour washed stone and ticket-system bars.

Headlining DJs included Sam La More and Goodwill, both of whom pumped out solid party sets to an enthusiastic crowd of mostly college students.

Organizers faced a double challenge this year – planning and executing the event itself, and finding new ways to make the fundraiser financially viable given a severe licensing crackdown by the authorities. As part of a much publicized campaign targeting student binge drinking across campus, the liquor license for the event stipulated a 12am shutdown (down from 2am last year), and capped capacity at some 800 people, nearly half that of previous years.

Added to that, a strong police presence on the night had everyone on their toes, though some cheeky punters couldn't resist a quick pat of the sniffer dogs or a chat with the glaringly obvious undercover cops.

Despite these restrictions the night was, by and large, a winner. Those who had attended in previous years noted the thinned out crowd, and the second DJ stage was ditched in favour of a more frugal bell light sculpture. If this is what uni parties are like in a global financial crisis, I don't think anyone will be too disappointed.

The core ingredients – cheap drinks, short queues and crowd-pleasing

DJs – all hit the mark, and by closing time the dance floor was a pulsating horde of loose first years, macking on into the night.

Afterwards, the bass cranked up at the invite-only after party hosted by the affable T-Rad Tapdancers. Spread across several rooms, the corridor was abuzz with activity as partygoers rubbed shoulders with A-list DJs, student editors and future leaders of the free world.

The Senior Student popped the cork on his stash of vintage champagne, Club 32 was in full flight with an albeit brief playlist of wicked house tunes, and God knows what else was going on in adjacent rooms.

Your correspondent gives a tick of approval from what little can be recalled of the bash, though everyone was paying the price in class the next morning.



## THE HONI CRYPTIC

### ACROSS

- 6. See 23 Across
- 9. Longs for the trees (5)
- 10. Mack's brother crashes his truck (9)
- 12. See 8 down
- 14. First year beer at an Ivy League (4)
- 16. Infidelities? Maybe a hat... (7)
- 18. Smartest members of seat feature (8)
- 19. It might be a girl – Oh no! (4)
- 20. Support the original Robin, it's old fashioned! (8)
- \*23, 6 Across Actor and civil rights activist in traffic dispute? (4, 5, 3, 5, 7)
- 24. Sub finder ran so wrong! (5)
- \*28, 5 Down Actor and pop pianist work in Laundromat? (6, 5, 4, 3, 5)

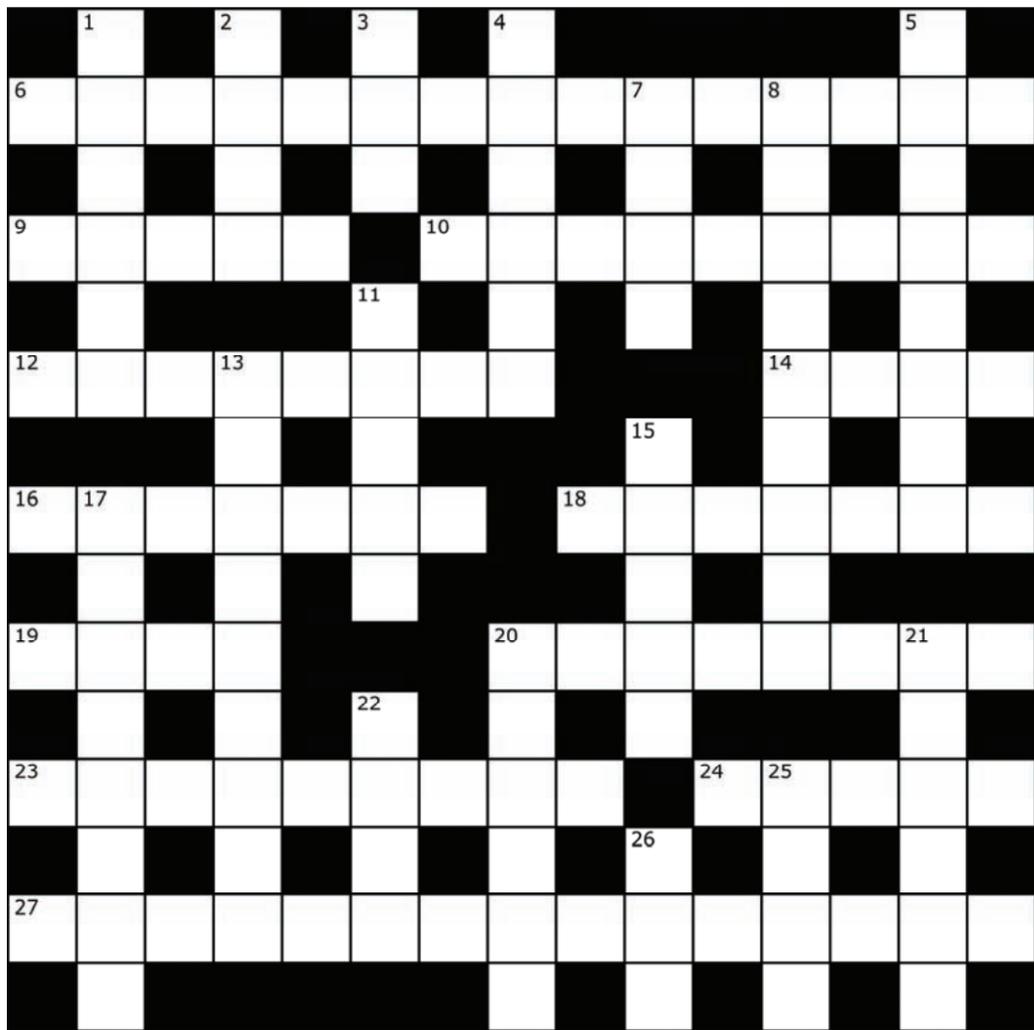
### DOWN

- 1. In the mind I go purple. (6)
- 2. Correct stars use every other one (4)
- 3. Beer with endless holds. (3)
- 4. Heads of the house went and ran to defeat. (6)
- 5. See 28 Across
- 7. Wacky family first saved printer fillers (4)
- \*8, 12 Down Fictional detective and musical theatre star played Pictionary? (5, 4, 3, 5)
- 11. Puts up with Humphrey et al. (5)
- 13. "Strangely, Sarge, laws can be broken easily..." (9)
- 15. Prepare for the second best contest? (5)
- 17. Take a trip at the end of the season. (4, 4)
- 20. A place of delight, perhaps, by rake motion? (6)
- 21. Course material for one in the library (6)
- 22. Loads mum in the big apple. (4)
- 25. Loathe pointless promise (4)
- 26. In Kent's heart is Treebeard, for one (3)

\* Denotes a theme clue. This week's theme is Celebrity Collaborations. For example; Actress and Pop princess battle side by side. (7, 6, 3, 6, 7)  
Britney Spears and Brooke Shields.  
Get it? Gold.

### EDITION THREE ANSWERS

F	E	E	F	I	E	F	O	E	F	U	M	E	T	C
L			I		R		D		L			M		E
E	M	I	N	E	N	C	E		A	E	R	I	A	L
T			D				S	T	U			T		L
C				B				N						A
H	E	C	T	O	R	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	O	R
E			O		A		A		E		O			
R	H	Y	M	I	N	G	C	O	U	P	L	E	T	S
		A		N				E		N		E		U
V	I	K	I	N	G	S	S	P	I	K	I	N	G	S
A					R				T					P
N		T			A	R	M				F			E
D	R	A	G	O	N			E	C	S	T	A	T	I
A		L			G			S		H	I			T
L	O	C	H	N	E	S	S	H	E	I	R	E	S	S



BCJ

### BUT I DON'T DO CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS!

That's loser talk! The Honi Soit Cryptic is designed for people who don't necessarily do Cryptic Crosswords so now you don't even have an excuse. Unless you don't have a pen. In which case get one.

Here's a clue: A small confusion for some animals. (6)

#### Find the Literal Clue

So, with a Cryptic, the literal clue (that's what the clue actually means) will either be at the end or start of the phrase and if you can narrow down what the literal clue is - then the rest is easy. So the two options are 'A small confusion' or 'Some Animals'.

#### Work out what's Cryptic

Then there's the Cryptic element of the clue. In this example the cryptic element is an anagram, the word 'confusion' shows us that. Words like confusion, crazy, disorderly, jumbled, drunk, damaged...etc generally (but not always) denote an anagram. Then we need to find which letters to anagram. A SMALL has 6 letters and so does the answer..... so if we move them around (or 'confuse' them) - we get LLAMAS - some animals!

Anagrams are only one facet of the cryptic clue, there are many others, but as long as you are able to separate the Cryptic from the literal you should be fine.

Hope this has made things more confusing.





# Students' Representative Council The University of Sydney

FREE MEMBERSHIP join online  
[www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)

or in person at the SRC office or  
the SRC bookshop phone 02 9660 5222

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

### Support & Advocacy

- Centrelink Advice
- Academic Appeals
- Discontinuing/Withdrawing
- Students at Risk
- Show Cause
- Exclusion
- Tenancy Advice
- Fee Refunds
- Harassment & Discrimination
- International Students
- Plagiarism & misconduct

### Free Legal Advice

- Referrals
- Discrimination & Equal Opportunity
- Employment law
- Minor criminal matters/traffic offences/ fines
- Victims of violence
- Debts

**YOUR VOICE  
YOUR SRC**

### SRC Books - Cheapest books on campus!

- Buy & sell your textbooks
  - Search for books online SRC website
- Wentworth Level 3 (opposite newsagent)

### Emergency Loans

\$50 emergency loans for students in need

### Student Publications

- Honi Soit weekly newspaper  
see: [www.src.usyd.edu.au/honisoit](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au/honisoit)
- Student Handbooks

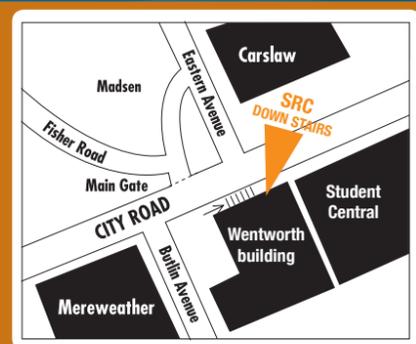
### Student Rights & Representation

SRC Representatives are directly elected by students each year to stand up for students' rights on campus and in the wider community.

**ASK US  
ABOUT**

### Find the SRC at...

Level 1 Wentworth Building (downstairs under the City Rd footbridge)  
Ph: 02 9660 5222  
[www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)



**DEMAND A BETTER FUTURE:** **LESS TALK MORE ACTION**

- FAIR INCOME SUPPORT
- SCRAP VSU
- NO TO DEREGULATION OF COURSE PLACES

**NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION**



**WED. 25 MARCH**

**12PM MEET AT FRONT LAWNS USYD**

For more info [www.unistudent.com.au](http://www.unistudent.com.au)  
[education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)  
02 9660 5222

