

HONISOIT

LOOK CLOSELY, VIRGIN'S PRICES ARE AT AN "ALL TIME LOW"!
WEEK 10 EDITION | 13 MAY 2009

Across the Divide

A student view of Indigenous disadvantage

HONI'S GUIDE TO

Viestas tre alloga,
Esperanto!

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DIARY

Damir Dokic
tells all

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Springtime for Mel

Mel Brooks, Union Board Candidate

I spoke to one of the Honi editors yesterday about a problem I had with your election coverage - specifically, that you said I was being run by Courtney Tight, and wasn't a 'real' independent. Let me clarify. I am not being run by Courtney, and I understand that she has also contacted you to make that clear. Any small amount of research into my campaign or Dave Mann's would make it clear that Courtney is publicly supporting Dave Mann, and is providing his campaign with logistical support, not mine.

I mentioned in my interview that I felt Courtney was the best candidate for President - that was because I genuinely believe this to be the case. But the other answer I gave to that question, when asked, was that firstly I didn't think there was a huge difference between the three candidates and that I am more concerned with the strength of the executive as a whole. When pressed by the interviewers, I conceded that I prefer one candidate - but again, this is because having worked on USU projects with all three independent candidates, I believe that she would do the best job.

Moreover, I am disappointed that I was never given the chance to defend myself against the allegation that Courtney was secretly running me before you chose to print that. I don't think that my simply conceding that I thought Courtney would do a better

job amounts to me saying that Courtney is running my campaign.

Given that I gave a particularly candid and honest interview, and have made it very clear that I am prepared to answer questions and would like to have a good and open relationship with any student media covering the election, I'm disappointed and frankly hurt that I wasn't even given the chance to defend myself.

An unhappy punter

Houston Ash, Arts I

As it stands, the sum total of what I have heard from the USU Board candidates can be summarised thus: some rubbish about rickshaws, a curious obsession with food, a whole host of silly/stupid slogans playing on their own banal names (you know Watt I'm talking about), and a ukulele. In short, they are each hopelessly deficient. To borrow the worst slogan of all: man up (you pillocks). To help you along, here's a good idea: the establishment of a permanent, prominently located, elevated, unregulated and clearly marked 'soap box'. Give the folks a platform to spout their bile! But, you ask, what's stopping people from doing this already? Well, I reply, it's the same reason people refuse to cross the road until the little green man lights up, even when there are no cars in either direction. The unfortunate truth is that even the most passionate souls crave permission to speak/

scream/interpretively dance their ideas in public. I pledge my vote to the person who will give it to them.

High five!

Katie Bucknole, Education/Arts III

I congratulate you on a superb 'Honi Top Five' regarding poos. I don't think I have laughed out loud so much for some time. Apart from my high regard for toilet humour and the fact that I was trying to read this to my mother at dinner, I think its brilliance stems from the attention to detail and apparent extent of research into this necessary bodily function - in all of its possible forms and glory.

Thankyou for an enlightening Honi Top Five.

Womyn et al

John Nowakowski, PhD Candidate, Engineering

Sigh. I don't know where to begin with critiques of last week's Honi. First, and I see you've subtitled it "Men's Edition" - must we have this every year? We have a womyn's edition for the same reason we have a queer edition; as an autonomous space for the representation of otherwise oppressed groups. There isn't a "men's" edition because every week is a "men's" edition.

Next, and I have graduated once. I hold a Degree in Engineering already. I loved uni, and Honi, so much I'm back for a second round with my PhD.

Look, I could prattle on for days at you lot, but it would achieve nothing. And please, try to be sensitive to oppressed minority groups rather than making jokes in poor taste.

Confusion abounds

Matthew Gilliland, SRC Welfare Office

I just wanted to rectify your report of the April SRC Meeting. Alma Torlakovic is one of the two SRC WELFARE Officers, and not a Global Solidarity Officer. Her report, theoretically detailing her activities as 'Welfare' Officer, had nothing to do with student welfare, and everything to do with Global Solidarity--hence your understandable confusion.

In fact, Alma was heard to say at the meeting, 'Who cares about Youth Allowance!?'

Apparently it is self-evident that the war in Afghanistan accurately explains student poverty, and that a cessation of hostilities by the ADF will automatically raise USyd students' standards of living. Der.

Hang on a sec...

Hannah Goldstein, Arts III

Last week in her letter to the editor, Sarah Constable criticised my article on the recent war in Gaza that appeared in women's Honi because she deemed

Editorial

Honi addresses Indigenous disadvantage in this week's issue. Our Feature Interview looks at AIME, a charity making a real difference in the area of Indigenous education, and the Feature itself surveys some alarming social indicators of Indigenous disadvantage on our doorstep here at Sydney. Both are enlightening reads.

In addition, this issue contains some thought-provoking contributions from the broader student community, most notably Theodore Ell's excellent commentary on cultural perceptions of Sydney Uni. This is exactly the sort of stuff we'd like to see more of in these pages - so, once again, if you've got something to say, hit the keyboard and send it in!

Keen readers will also notice the paper has undergone a subtle makeover over the past couple of issues. Almost every page has been given a freshened look, and a few columns have had the chop (Fisher Book Review, which was going nowhere, met an unfortunate end during production of our Week 8 issue). A bit like Facebook, we know there will always be room for improvement.

Being at the helm of student newspaper is not easy. By definition, you cannot please everyone. But it is also a lot of fun, and as we approach our one-third-of-the-way mark, the editors are as keen as ever to continually deliver an entertaining and insightful paper. We hope you enjoy it.

George Downing

it not 'relevant to women'. I find this puzzling as my article discussed the deaths of over 100 Gazan women, the injuring of many hundreds more, the deaths of their families, the destruction of their homes and communities, and the devastating effects Israel's siege on Gaza continues to have on them.

Furthermore, my article discussed how both Palestinian and Israeli women have used feminist events, such as International Women's Day and their feminist organisations to condemn the war on the grounds that it has had horrific consequences for women and their communities. However, perhaps Ms Constable feels that she has more of a right to decide what is and is not a legitimate 'women's issue' than these women do.

Women from war ravaged countries have fought long and hard to have their experiences recognised by Western feminism. Perhaps those of us who are privileged enough not to live in a war zone should not be so quick to dismiss them.

Return of the rickshaw

Tom Lee, Union Board Candidate

Honi unfairly labels me racist (Week 9 edition). With rickshaws being such a central feature of my policy platform, my campaign has only served to emphasise the qualities of that vehicle, and by inference, the peoples who invented it.

FROM THE VAULT

The battle to introduce the study of political economy within the Economics Department at Sydney University raged colourfully for many years. Now, celebrating forty years since its introduction, it seems hard to comprehend the scale of infighting that accompanied the move. Honi played a major role as a mouthpiece for the support of the subject amidst heavy criticism from practitioners of more orthodox economics.

You may not be aware that there is currently a dispute raging within the Economics Department about the future of Political Economy. You may not know what the issues are or what the history of the dispute has entailed. Hopefully, this article will shed some light on the subject.

The first point is that it is not a new or superficial issue - it has been going on for 14 years, has involved the sacking of staff sympathetic to P.E. and has taken the time of three major enquiries (1973, 1975 and 1981) not to mention the time spent by P.E. students and staff supporting the struggle.

The basic issue is fundamentally different ideas of what education in economics should be.

WHAT IS POLITICAL ECONOMY?

The addition of the word 'political' to Economy is in reference to the fact that economic theories are not often objective in the sense that pure sciences can be. If economics is the "allocation of scarce resources to competing ends", there are various factors that can be looked at, for instance:

- 1) The Neo-Classical framework looks to the market mechanism as the critical factor. Transactions are analysed in terms of supply and demand functions.
- 2) The Institutionalist approach looks at the relative power of different interested groups or institutions and sees the allocation of resources in this light.
- 3) Marxism sees controlling the means of production as a critical factor.

The current orthodox economics does not consider the Institutionalist or Marxist framework, probably because to do so would admit that economic theories are politically neutral.

WHY SUPPORT P.E.?

One of the appeals to P.E. students is that it encourages thinking about the current crises of our society. Its parameters are wide enough to see that economics could be a tool of society, not the other way round. A Political Economy Department with adequate resources could get on more effectively with teaching about and researching the problems and options.

Published in Honi, 1982.

Honi's Guide to... Esperanto!

Before Elvish and Klingon, there was Esperanto. **Alex Lee** parolas Esperanton.



Mi volas kuni'i kun vi, Dr Ludovic

Esperanto is the world's most widely spoken artificial or constructed language. It was invented in 1887 by Polish doctor* Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof, which is the kind of name that makes you imagine him using phrases like, "It's so crazy, it just might work!" before cackling madly and pulling the lever on his language inventing machine. Seeing the divisions that language barriers created in his home town, Zamenhof created Esperanto, a word that means in its own language "one who hopes". It was hoped that this new universal language would foster world peace and greater understanding between all nations.

Today, with every child learning Esperanto in school and with the abolition of all war in 1900, we can see that the language has achieved all of its aims. I'm sure you will all agree with me, when I say "Havu tason da Penis!"**

So maybe it hasn't taken the world by storm, but with an estimated two million speakers around the globe, it is still the best auxiliary language in the world (just don't tell any lads I said that). The main drawback of Esperanto is that it is relatively easy to learn and by its very nature, is a neutral language and not the property of any particular ethnic group. Whilst there are books, newspapers, radio broadcasting, films, search engines

and a Wikipedia in Esperanto, they mainly exist for the purpose of serving the spread of Esperanto itself, rather than being influential enough so that its use is merely incidental.

According to John Abood from the Australian Esperanto Association, there are around 400 speakers who have learned Esperanto in Australia, and 16 special interest groups, such as the Esperanto Law Association and the Universal Medical Esperanto Association. The AEA are currently involved in a project trying to introduce Esperanto into primary schools, as a precursor to learning both European and Asian languages.

While Esperanto has never been an official language of a recognised country, its come close a couple of times. There were plans at the beginning of the 20th century to establish Neutral Moresnet as the world's first Esperanto state, but then it was annexed by Belgium. Quan Xuanton, a Chinese linguist, promoted the replacement of Chinese with Esperanto, but his efforts have apparently failed. Lastly, the self-proclaimed artificial island micronation of Rose Island used Esperanto as its official language in 1968. Apparently the artificial island micronation of Rose Island doesn't have a whole lot of political clout, because its adoption didn't catch on.

In the 20th Century, it was considered influential enough to be a threat to totalitarian states. Hitler declared it the language of the International Jewish Conspiracy and Stalin denounced this happy-go-lucky language as "the language of spies", with Esperantists executed by both dictators. It still faces criticism today – for being too Eurocentric and therefore not truly neutral, for having no culture (which is kinda the point) and for being sexist,

with words such as doktorino for a female doctor. Abood maintains that Esperanto is more widely spoken in non English speaking countries.

"Esperanto, being an agglutinative language (made up of parts: word roots with prefixes and suffixes), has quite a potential for expression of nuances; furthermore the listener/reader can easily understand the intended nuances. Not only does Esperanto sound perfectly natural, it can also be very precise, one of the reasons for its creation (removal of conflict through clear communication)," he says.

The best thing about Esperanto is the sense of international community. Esperantists have access to a world wide network of hosts via the Passporto Servo, providing free accommodation to Esperantan travelers.

At the moment, there are no known people who speak only Esperanto, but that's not to say that you can't be the first. Here are some phrases you might find useful:

Hello	Saluton
How are you?	Kiel vi fartas?
I want to make love to you	Mi volas kuni'i kun vi
You are sexy	Viestas tre alloga
I'm sleepy	Mi dormemas

So what are you waiting for? With these sweet moves, you can romance an Esperantist today!

*Not a doctor of linguistics...an ophthalmologist. Of course.

**If you answered yes Alex, I do agree with you, I just said "have a cup of penis". Sucked in.

LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

How AA could ruin the election

Tom Clement fires up.



You haven't filled it out, champ

The Union elections have two requirements, which aren't entirely compatible: Affirmative Action (AA) and the use of a Quota-Preferential electoral system. This year AA dictates that three of the elected individuals are women, but how do their preferences flow? Statistically speaking, women receive fewer votes than their male counterparts in union elections, and

this is a direct result of AA (women need only beat the lowest polling female candidates, not all candidates below the top 6). Nevertheless, the way preferences flow from votes for the female candidates could change the outcome of the elections of the men.

The Quota-Preferential electoral system has two ways of distributing votes; the first is to break quota and have your excess votes filter down to the other candidates, the second is to be knocked out of the race, and have all of your votes distributed to the next preference on your ballots.

There is one massive problem with the implementation of AA in this system and it involves the definition of quota. Quota is defined as the least number of votes required to be guaranteed a victory. For example (without AA), the quota for this election would be the smallest whole number greater than the total number of votes divided by 7 (Tom: The maths is $\lceil \frac{n}{7} \rceil + 1$), it's less wordy, and more mathsy, but maybe more understandable). Unfortunately, this is the quota being implemented with AA. Which means a man who actually polls worse than three other men could win the election by breaking quota before* them.

How can this happen? AA states that the election is run as normal, and if at least three women aren't declared elected, then the top three women are declared elected, along with the first three men to break quota. This means that if three girls don't break quota, men can break quota and lose the election!

Need a solution? Easy: Treat the election without any quota, and so preferences only flow from the losers. As soon as two women are eliminated, the other three women are deemed as 'elected'. AA could be implemented with either the top two women having their excess preferences over third place flow, or not. After this, establish the correct quota for a three-person race, and continue the election as normal.

And all of this has a huge effect on preference deals, where high and low candidates deal only with other high and low candidates. And mid range candidates deal with each other ... But that's another can of worms.

*Time references refer to rounds of the counting of the ballots, not earlier in the day

News in Brief



In his infinite wisdom, PM Kevin Rudd has come up with a solution for all of the recently laid-off legal and accounting corporate types – he wants them to move into the non-profit sector in South Western Sydney. Obviously, however, this is will never work. For a start, these forlorn corporate refugees don't know what 'non-profit' means. Honi explained it to a former KPMG employee, who started to cry, screaming "what about my money?! Won't somebody please think of my money!?"



The Federal Government will offer people interest free loans of up to ten thousand dollars to help make their houses 'greener', by installing energy saving measures. Talks are on-going as to whether the loans will be extended to members of the Greens or actual hippies, but it seems unlikely. Honi asked a Labor backbencher who snorted and said it was unlikely because "those weirdos are all so smug and annoying."



Cosmologist Michael Turner was in Canberra last week, to discuss 'dark energy' – the invisible force that is pushing galaxies apart. Turner attended a conference to discuss whether 'dark energy' is in fact a manifestation of the dark side of the force, and the work of Darth Vader. Luke Skywalker has been consulted and is formulating some kind of plan. Spoiler: Darth Vader is Luke's father. Diabolical.

SEND LETTERS & CONTRIBUTIONS TO
honi2009@gmail.com

Only submissions with your name, year and faculty will be accepted.

CAMPUS NEWS

Staying alive at 350

Gerard McCarthy, USU Public Issues Convenor, reports from the 350.org Australian launch.

How can a social movement run on a budget slightly larger than most Union Board campaigns change the minds and lifestyles of billions in time to save our planet? For Bill McKibben, the American environmentalist and author of the first book on climate-change 'The End of Nature' (1989), the answer lies in transcending language and culture by evoking a universal touch-stone: humanity's responsibility for our natural environment.

At last-week's Australian launch of the global campaign, 350.org, at the University's lecture series 'Sydney Ideas' McKibben spoke of the "thin-red line" upon which human civilisation and the environment presently stand. The newest research by climate scientists tells us that the emissions target set by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which seeks to maintain atmospheric carbon dioxide below 450parts per million, is catastrophically weak. The ice-caps are already melting faster than natural climate change causes, and we're only pumping out 385parts of CO₂ per million (increasing at 2ppm a year).

The only way to ensure our planet survives another two generations, and we avert the floods and droughts which will kill millions through starvation and disease, is to get our carbon emissions into the safe-zone below

350ppm. That's why, for McKibben, 350 is "the most important number in the world", a message he's distilled into an inspiring 2minute clip available on the web-site www.350.org

Conveyed through simple, universal images the video summons the world to protest on October 24, 2009. Coming together for this universal message on The Global Day of Climate Action demonstrates that as individuals we recognise our collective responsibility to sustain our natural eco-system, and expect our political leaders to set the emissions targets necessary at the next meeting of the UN Panel on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December.

Already the movement is gaining world-wide support with farmers in rural Kenya planting 350 trees in a show of solidarity for the 350ppm target. But to be truly effective, the movement needs you! Check out the McKibben video at 350.org, get involved in campus environmental groups such as The Captain Planet Appreciation Society, PowerShift and the SRC Enviro Collective, and keep Saturday October 24 free to send a global message to world leaders at Copenhagen. We're willing to do our part, now our political leaders need to do theirs!

Major Attempts by SUDS

Alex Lee on 'Attempts on Her Life', at the Cleveland St Theatre, Surry Hills until 16 May

SUDS' major production for 2009, 'Attempts on Her Life: 17 Scenarios for the Theatre' by Martin Crimp, opened last Wednesday night at Cleveland Street Theatre.

The director, 20 year old Harriet Gillies, chose this challenging play due to its wide room for interpretation and the way that it deconstructs traditional notions of theatrical form and language.

Written in 1997, the play follows an unseen character called Anne as an ensemble of 11 attempt to describe, criticise, categorise and destroy her. In each of the seventeen scenarios, her identity transforms.

The cast and crew are all Sydney University students, many of whom have acted in amateur and semi-professional productions around Sydney. Gillies sees that youth and energy as the play's most vital asset.

"Student theatre," says Gillies, "is the perfect place for works that are unique and provocative. We're not bound by decades of repetitive experience. We're not set in our ways; we don't believe the theatre should behave modestly. More than anywhere else, SUDS gives us freedom to experiment, and working with a landmark piece of experimental theatre like 'Attempts' is

the perfect risk to take."

Vivienne Egan, the show's producer says that the audiences for 'Attempts' have been solid in its first week, with 40+ houses and more expected this week. She has been working on the production for 7 months, and stresses how the major is the most important event on the Dramatic Society's calendar.

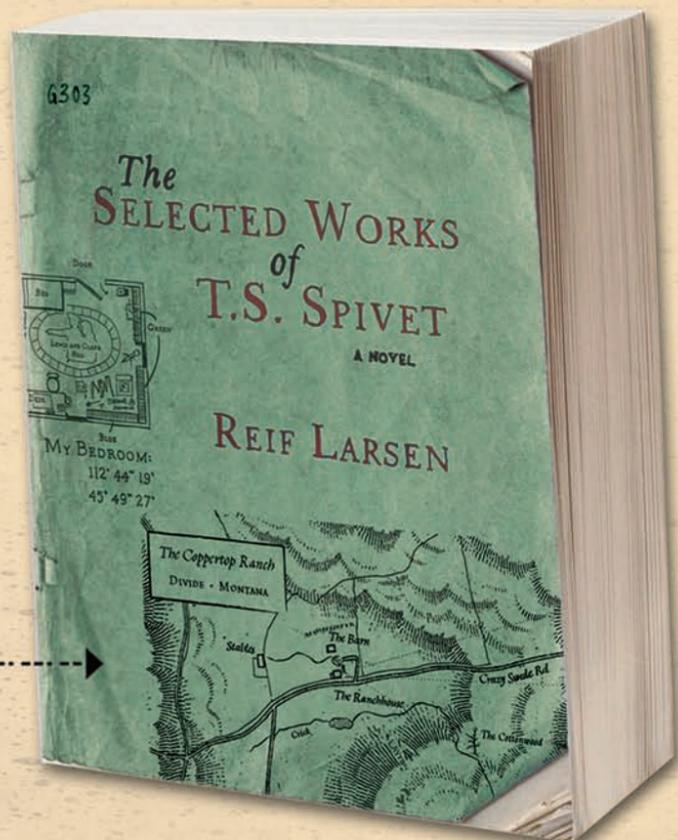
"This is SUDS' big chance each year to show the theatrical community the best of student theatre. It is a chance to spend a long time working on a really challenging piece, with much more money than we can normally use to create some really exciting, innovative theatre." She said.

The major, which cost around \$8500, was funded mainly by the society, with extra sponsorship from the USU Cash4Art grant and the Royal Exhibition Hotel.

So what's next for SUDS? Everything from Shakespeare to Tarantino, says Egan.

"The next few shows look exciting and ambitious, and reflect the wide variety of work that SUDS does - Reservoir Dogs, Romeo and Juliet and 6 Degrees of Separation will I'm sure be as excellent as they are varied."

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RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

Frank's blast from the past

STAFF INTERVIEW Katherine Connolly chats with Frank Stillwell, Honi's favourite political economist.



Frank sporting a Keynesian hairdo

You wrote an article in the Australian last Wednesday referring to student protests for an autonomous Political Economy department. What was your role in these protests?

The student protests began many years ago. Students studying economics were particularly dissatisfied with their course. They thought that the subject was taught in a way that was overly theoretical, biased and unrelated to the challenges in the real world.

They tried to persuade the professors to change the course but when their arguments for reform were ignored they pushed to get an alternative course. So they began a movement for the introduction of studies in political economy that would be more interesting and relevant. They wanted a political economy course that could be studied instead of orthodox economics.

Some of the staff in the economics department supported their demands, against the wishes of the senior profes-

sors. So a strong staff-student coalition was formed. For many years we battled against the University authorities to get approval for the new political economy course.

It was a time of dramatic direct action, as well as seemingly endless departmental and faculty meetings. At various times the students' and protest activities included occupations of the Vice-Chancellor's office, the clock tower in the main quadrangle and the Economics Faculty building.

On another occasion over 4000 students and went on strike for about 10 days in support of the demands from the political economy students and staff. In the end the university authorities relented and we got the right to teach and study political economy.

Have you ever known the department to be similarly threatened in the years since those protests?

In recent years the main threats to the existence of the political economy came from the managers of the Faculty of Economics and Business, apparently more concerned with the profit and loss account and with progressive education.

In its wisdom the University decided to create a new School of Social and Political Sciences and to relocate the department of Political Economy there, along with the departments of Government and International Relations, Sociology, Anthropology and Peace and Conflict Studies.

Do you think the department is better off in the Arts faculty?

This is a much more convivial location for political economy because it means we are less vulnerable to the antipathy

from orthodox economists. We also have the opportunity for developing interdisciplinary links with other social scientists.

Our student numbers have increased dramatically. There are over 600 students enrolled in the first-year undergraduate course this year. Our postgraduate enrolments have also surged, following the introduction this year of a new master of political economy degree.

At a time of global economic recession we are now particularly well placed to develop coherent analysis of what is happening, and its social and political implications. Part of an analysis involves the continuing critique of orthodox economic analysis that places too much faith in the role of 'free markets'.

What's the strangest thing that's ever happened to you in a tutorial?

That's hard to answer, because tutorials often have their unexpected aspects. Personally, I try to create a serious but friendly educational environment in which all students are keen to participate. Indeed, this is the hallmark of our approach in political economy.

The Political Economy program here is the product of student-staff cooperation and, whatever quirky things happen, we always try to find a positive outcome.

RANDOM TUTORIAL #0649

Behavioural Economics: The Endowment Effect

We have trouble letting go. A famous experiment was conducted many years ago in which the participants were asked to choose between a coffee mug and a chocolate bar. Unsurprisingly, most people chose the chocolate bar. Yet, when a set of people were given a coffee mug and then asked whether they'd like to hold on to it or swap it for a chocolate bar, a far fewer proportion wanted the chocolate bar.

Similar experiments have been repeated with students and basketball tickets, monkeys and peanut butter and much else since then and all come up with the same phenomenon: owning something makes humans value it much more, referred to as the endowment effect.

It's not just tangible stuff either. Turns out that pollution permits, licensing agreements, stock- pretty much every kind of asset- is (to some extent) open to this phenomenon. This wipes out the explanation of "sentimental value".

There isn't yet a generally accepted explanation of why we do this. It's just a trend that's consistently popped up in a lot of experiments. Some harp back to evolutionary origins and point out that giving something up was just too risky in the absence of fair, accepted and guaranteed rules of trading (i.e. other monkeys might not hold up their end of the deal, so you held on to your bananas).

This pattern is studied by behavioural economists, attempting to paint a fuller picture of how humans make decisions beyond assuming we act in our best interests. It turns out that we rarely do, there are many patterns aside from this endowment effect which point to irrational behaviour; we prefer the status quo ahead of a better change, we copy group behaviour even if it's not in our best interests and we often see potential gains while ignoring potential losses.

Turns out we have no clue what's good for us.

LE BŒUF

Events managementals

David Krasovitsky arks up at event planners.

Apparently 'events management' is a degree one can acquire from an educational facility. Well let me be the first to say congratulations on finishing your two-week 'intensive' and obtaining your non-laminated certificate which you think entitles you to waste people's time.

The more people you speak to the more stories you hear of events (festivals, sporting events, concerts) being so badly planned that it has infringed on their ability to have a good time. Long queues to get in, long queues to buy a beer, long queues to go to the bathroom, long queues to complain and finally long queues to punch the person responsible for it all. I'm sorry but I don't understand why it seems difficult for these people to organise a successful day out. In the wake of recent events, such as Big Day Out

Perth, where a girl overdosed on ecstasy after taking three that she had in her pocket because she saw a police sniffer dog approach her, I understand the emphasis on security. But it seems ludicrous to stifle people's enjoyment at every stage of the day; entering, drinking, watching, toileting, purely because a couple of pills might go unfound.

At the recent Soundwave festival I arrived at 11:30 and thought that ample time to catch the first band at 12:30. And then I saw the line... After getting in at around 2:30 I was pissed off, sunburnt and angry. On the website it listed that there would be free water available so I was more than happy to pass over my full water bottle to the security guards on entering the event. By this time temperatures soared to over 32

degrees in Eastern Creek Raceway and there was no free water to be seen. Quite contrarily there seemed to be a mass of vendors trying to sell you \$4 bottles of water. After about an hour we located the free water on the fringes of the grounds and observed that in order to obtain free water one needs a bottle. But hold on. This has to be some kind of sick joke. Didn't we give in our water bottles at the front gate for no apparent reason? Next time I'm thinking of forking out for a ticket to a festival, I will ponder my purchase more carefully, remembering that events managers don't seem to be able to organise their way out of a paper bag.

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Email honi2009@gmail.com

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Only submissions with your name, year and faculty will be accepted.

HEAD TO HEAD

The US Studies Centre



The case for...

Paul Mackay

When the Federal Government announced in 2006 that it would be funding a new United States Studies Centre (USSC) to the tune of \$25 million, there was a flurry of competition to earn the right to host the facility. It seemed that for universities, to host what would become one of the leading centres for US studies outside North America, and to be at the forefront of American research and education, was a worthwhile pursuit. For universities, increasing our understanding of and strengthening our relationship with the US was a worthwhile pursuit.

But much criticism followed the University of Sydney's successful bid. There were concerns the centre would be biased, that funding links to the American-Australian Associa-

tion (AAA) would ensure the centre focused on ideological propaganda rather than credible academia. These critics suggested the centre emerged from an American paternalistic drive to force favourable opinion. Such criticisms, however, are largely baseless and simplify the work of the USSC. An academic board was installed to ensure the maintenance of academic excellence and freedom, and indeed no partisan organisation would survive in the Australian academic community, which so demands credibility. Further, it is the Government, not the AAA that controls the Centre's funding, and as such, American-friendly output is not enforced.

While such debate has been played out in our media and academia, the USSC has accomplished much, and continues to add to the University's credibility rather than detract from it. Despite the much-discussed rise of China, America maintains its place as the dominant global power, and its study is as important as ever. With the flagship centre for such study here on campus, we have access to the prime source of information and commentary on the US in Australia, with all the leading-edge research, academic exchange and innovative coursework that goes with it. So far the centre has run a raft of programs and events, completing the most comprehensive study of Australian-American relations ever, formed a partnership with Harvard University

to host the Centre's second National Summit on Sustainable Globalisation and brought to Australia a range of personalities and thinkers who have greatly benefited the broader academic community.

The case against...

Abigail Lemon

In March 2005 the Lowy Institute ran a poll showing that more than fifty per cent of Australians regarded the United States' foreign policy as "extremely worrying". Horrified at this clear sign that the image of Australia's ally was suffering among the populace, the Howard Government and American Australian Association (AAA) created the United States Studies Centre (USSC), a think-tank which openly claims to be committed to "strengthening the relationship" between Australia and the US. Rupert Murdoch, a patron of the AAA explained that the centre was originally established to combat "anti-Americanism".

When a centre that styles itself as an academic institution openly admits to having a clear ideological agenda, this raises immediate concerns about academic freedom and the potential for political bias. Research into how the USSC is funded does nothing to allay those fears. In 2006, prior to Sydney University winning the bid to host the centre, they had claimed the

debate in Australia regarding the Fair Trade Agreement was 'ludicrously unbalanced.' Baume is also the deputy chairman of a company that at the time was expected to fund the centre, and warned that the company would not renew funding if the university that won the bid succumbed to "anti-Americanism".

Australian commentators have criticised the position that this puts academics into. Robert Manne, a prominent political scientist pointed out that "there was not the slightest attempt to disguise the fact that the centre would be seen and judged and funded according to its usefulness and loyalty both in supporting the general foreign policy agenda of the Government and in prosecuting the pro-American side of the culture war". The Vice-Chancellor of ANU also expressed concern about academic freedom, pointing out that when funding comes allied with specific political objectives, this can pose a threat to academic freedom, arguing "How could you be seriously engaged in an institution where that's the objective?"

The problem here is not that the particular position taken by the USSC regarding Australia and America's relationship is right or wrong; it is whether academics will be constrained by this explicit position taken by those that fund the centre.

Sydney's Silver Platter

CAREERS Mark Di Stefano found a purpose in life.

Two weeks ago I contemplated life after my final year of an Arts degree. My parents had that "see-told-you-shouldn't-have-done-an-irrelevant-degree" face, and I considered honours or postgraduate work purely as a diversion from the realities of the economy and my gross lack of "hard skills".

After seeing the ex-Union President's beautiful face staring at me from the garish lime and blue banners around campus, I posted my curriculum vitae to <http://www.sydneytalent.com.au>

Two days later I was contacted by an 'edgy' recruiting consultant and asked to come in for an interview. After a short 30minute chat with my new contact in the new Jane Foss Building, I was a new employee of the University and would be ready to be whored off to any aspiring organisations.

Although at first I was skeptical about the calibre of organisations that would hire directly through the University, my fears were allayed when within four days I had two interviews slated with jobs that were relevant and prescriptive to my 'career'.

And think about it: how convenient it is for an organisation to tap the source of the "best and brightest students from across Australia". With organisations in Health, Media, IT, E&B and Administration all registered, this is truly a catch all program with results that benefit every party.

Is there a catch? Getting a job through Sydney Talent means that your "employer" is, Sydney Talent. For all work that you complete you will be employed on a casual basis on a flat rate of \$25/hour. With no knowledge of how much an organisation is paying Sydney Talent for your services, one can be skeptical, even a bit angry.

But two weeks ago I was a schmo with one year left on an Arts Degree, working in a bar and living off stimulus. Now I am at least a schmo being stimulated by USYD.



Call for Submissions

SULS' successful annual social justice publication, the 'Dissent' Journal, is seeking submissions for its 2009 Issue. Dissent aims to publish the best in student and academic writing and analysis on social justice issues, both domestic and international, understood from a legal perspective.

Academics and students from all disciplines are invited to contribute to either the themed or general section of the journal.

Theme: 'Human Rights: global goals and local challenges'

Types of Submissions:

- Academic Essays: 3000 words max.
- Opinion Pieces: 2000 words max.
- Fictocriticism/Creative Writing: 3000 words max.
- Photographic Pieces
- Political Cartoons

Please send a brief abstract (250 words) outlining your idea, as well as the category, type of article, proposed length of your submission, your details and degree to dissentjournal2009@gmail.com.

Prizes of up to \$500 will be awarded for the best student submissions.

Final date for submission of abstracts: **Friday 29 May**.
Successful writers will be contacted from the beginning of June.

YE OLDE RUMOUR MILL

Queersoc targeted?



Everyone knows the graffiti tunnel is an artistic free-for-all where you can't complain if your work is painted over the next day. There seems, however, to be something a little sinister about recent adjustments made to some of the Queersoc's murals and advertisements. Thick black paint has been daubed over their slogans, in a way that could be nothing but targeted and deliberate. Nor was there any language in the removed slogans that could have been described as offensive or explicit.

A number of weeks ago an *Honi* editor ran into members of the Queersoc re-doing their graffiti. Donherra Walmsey, the SRC's Queer Officer, claimed that she believed University maintenance staff were responsible,

and that their actions had been witnessed by members of the Queersoc. Last year, Queersoc chalking was removed by high pressure hoses, also allegedly by maintenance staff.

No other society or group's advertising in the tunnel has been touched.

Ghosts of elections past

There's a good chance you'll be reading this surrounded by borderline manic electioneers shoving pamphlets in your face. *Honi* offers you a few scandals of elections past to distract you as you walk the gauntlet into Fisher.

In the SRC elections last year, when y'all saw fit to elect your humble editors to their current positions, an angry group of activists from a certain campus faction surrounded a few workers from Andrew Coleman's campaign. It's still not really clear what was said and by whom, but its clear Coleman's campaigners were intimidated, and there were accusations of anti-Semitic remarks being thrown about. No one here at *Honi* likes anti-Semitism, but we're all for some sort of fiery confrontations on election day.

THE COLUMN

A few decades ago young people demonstrated a widespread disinterest in Anzac Day, while a Lord Mayor of Sydney even predicted it would be forgotten. His opinion was that would be a good thing. Around that time a leading newspaper was campaigning for the demolition of the Queen Victoria Building, and its replacement with a car park. More recently there was a campaign to abandon the Australian flag. An exhibition of new flags, supported by the republican movement, toured the country. The brochure for this included one with these words prominently on it: "F*** off back to fag land".

It would be surely wrong to change just because something seems temporarily unfashionable. How foolish it would be to do this to our constitutional system, particularly when we remember that ours has been one of the world's most successful.

The wise founders of this county realised that the Westminster system, which the British gave us, is one of the world's most successful forms of governance. Certainly none other has been so successfully exported. The founders proposed - and the people approved - that the new nation should be an "indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown." Michael Kirby calls this a "crowned republic." They borrowed federation and a powerful senate from the US and

the referendum from Switzerland.

They never intended that the constitution be set in aspic. They did envisage any proposal for change be fully debated, which means that proponents have to reveal the details of whatever they are proposing. Then they have to persuade the people, as one of our great founders said, that what they are proposing is "desirable, irresistible and inevitable."

Since their landslide defeat in 1999, it has been as if the republicans have been chanting "We want a republic... but we haven't the foggiest idea of what sort of republic we want."

Because they suspect they would lose another referendum, they propose a glorified opinion poll, a plebiscite. This is irresponsible because it invites a vote of no confidence in the constitution, without putting anything in its place. The result would be years of constitutional instability.

As David Koch warned them when they launched their ill fated "Mate for a Head of State" campaign, unless the republicans tell the people precisely what they are proposing, no one is going to take them seriously.

Professor David Flint, National Convenor of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy

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This presentation will provide information on programmes of study, the application process, scholarship opportunities and life in London.

King's College London is one of the world's top 25 universities.*

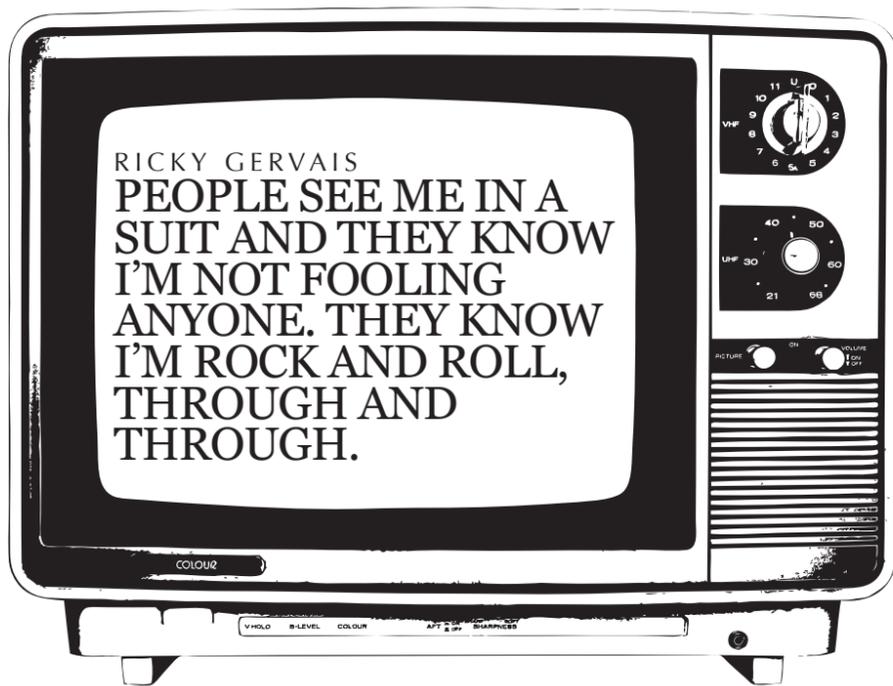
To book your place to the presentation, please contact mark.chan_poon@kcl.ac.uk

*THESE world rankings 2008



www.kcl.ac.uk/international

MISCELLANY



Vox Pops!

Will Atkinson asks around the campaign trail

QUESTIONS...

1. What is your spirit animal?
2. How have you been surviving this year's Union Board campaign?
3. Holden Monaro or Torana?
4. Complete this sentence: If I was running for Union Board this year, my major policy would be...



Zoe Heynes-Bowles, Liberal Studies I

1. An elephant. They are amazing
2. It's been interesting... but my vote is most definitely with Dave Mann!
3. Torana – but I really have no opinion.
4. There should be no sexual discrimination when it comes to who gets elected to board - male or female.



Patrick Poon, Liberal Studies I

1. A hummingbird.
2. I spent all my time at college.
3. Torana. I love the grunt.
4. \$2 shots of beer for everyone, any time of the day or night. No questions.



Stewart Clegg, Eco/Law IV

1. The Leprechaun.
2. By nourishing myself on the leftovers from USU events.
3. Which is the one pulled by international students?
4. Introduction of the Ros Stein carwash.



Jacob Hamilton, Architecture V

1. An owl.
2. With very little sleep.
3. Monaro!
4. The introduction of the carwash.

Smart Eating

ONLINE PROGRAMME

www.smart-eating.com

“Smart Eating” is a free, research driven internet-based self-help programme for promotion of healthy eating. It includes components on:

- Healthy eating
- Family education
- Health assessment
- Motivational enhancement
- Self-help strategies
- Psychological health promotion

Current users of the programme find it easy to use, informative, eye-catching, and useful. We are recruiting subjects for a research study of the programme - both as controls and individuals who identify themselves as suffering from an eating disorder.

Controls are healthy people who would be interested in taking part in 4 assessments of their eating and health. In so doing, they could benefit from knowing whether they have any eating disorder or an associated psychological problem. They will have access to the components of healthy eating, family education and health assessment in the programme which will provide automatic feedback.

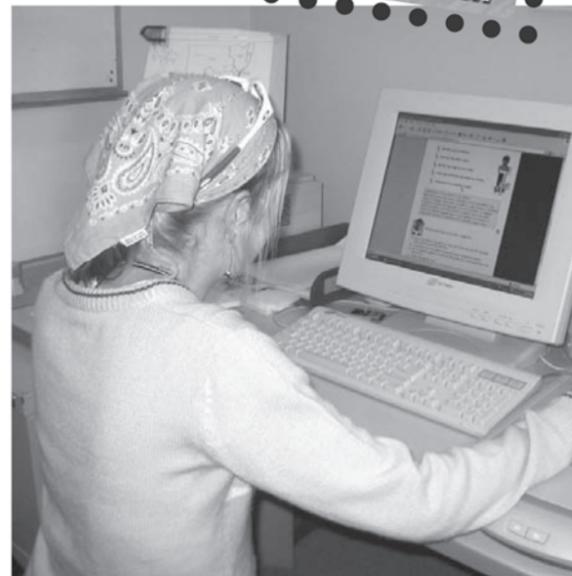
Individuals suffering from eating disorders are also invited to participate in the study by using the programme for self-help. They will have access to all components of the programme and they can monitor their progress at regular intervals. The programme can be an adjunct to professional treatment.

People aged from 16 to 35 years who are interested in participating in the “Smart Eating” programme either as a control or as a sufferer of an eating disorder can register in the programme at <http://www.smart-eating.com>. For further information about the “Smart Eating” programme please contact:

1) Ms. Sau Fong Leung, Lecturer of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on (852) 2766 6395 or email “hsfong@inet.polyu.edu.hk”

2) Professor Janice Russell, Clinical Professor of The University of Sydney on (612) 9433 3555/ (612) 9515 8165 or email “jrusell1@mail.usyd.edu.au”

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Cultural courage: what else is written in Sydney University's stones?

Theodore Ell is thinking that Sydney Uni civilisation is NOT going to pieces



I swear I've been there before

On page 10 of the week 4 edition of *Honi Soit* Georgia Flynn looked at Sydney University through the lens of recent popular culture. Her comments on the writings of Kate Grenville and Kate Lilley and the film of *Looking for Alibrandi* described a general dissatisfaction with the University's standing in the cultural world. She suggested that it seems to lack a rich literary canon of its own and that life here is disconnected from the "history of decadence and hidden places" that appears so rich elsewhere. In short the major drawback Georgia identifies is symbolic sterility.

This judgement is important and certainly there is a general unease, but I feel there is one problem with Georgia's inquiry that holds it back from the heart of the matter: popular culture is not the answer. The thirst for substance that Georgia identifies has probably come about because popular culture has been getting most of the attention. A lot can be gained from understanding and enjoying it, but absolute concentration on it tends to obscure more lasting cultural legacies

from view.

One reason Georgia suggests for the dearth of literary and cinematic representations is the youth of the University; it simply has not been around long enough to have a fascinating history. But in fact it does have a deep and endearing literary background, if only we would take the trouble to look for it. I don't mean only that many writers have begun life here – University brochures and student literary journals constantly remind us of the big names – but that a great deal of writing has come out of this place which we can call "our own." There are even some colourful characters we don't yearn for, to rank alongside the Sebastian Flytes and Gatsbys for whom we do.

There was, for instance, the poet Christopher Brennan (1870-1932), a Sydney-born professor of German and Comparative Literature who had far more personality than the building opposite Manning that bears his name. Even if his poems are mostly not about the University, the fact that his most fantastical work originated here is a reminder of how an imagination can roam freely in this place if it dismisses the old stock problems. The University was even younger then than it is now, yet this didn't bother Brennan in the least. His desire was simply to philosophise and to write and the place allowed him to do it.

The grandeur of many of his poems suits the older buildings well. With a little imagination, the stones themselves could be speaking, and Brennan's quest for a mythical Eden could be played out in any garden around the

campus, "where youth, initiate once," he wrote, "endears / a treasure richer with the years." The poetry might not be decadent or even appealing to literary theory but that is nothing a late night soaking in red wine cannot fix. If we can read Bob Dylan lyrics or Coleridge with the same technique, then there is nothing standing between us and Brennan. And what's more, he is ours alone.

Les Murray's name crops up more often than most, but like the lament that Sydney University is not Oxford, it happens too easily, and we don't think why. It is true that Murray was here for long spells through the 1960s and 1970s and was immersed in the writing scene, working on ARNA and Hermes. What we do not hear as often, however, is that he had an unparalleled eye for the nature of student life, which can be discovered if we take the trouble to look through his poems.

One in particular, "Sidere mens eadem mutato," is a collage of memories that are almost disturbingly familiar. An attachment to the oddities of this place is clear in a reference to "reading Fisher Library [and] addressing gargoyles on the stair," and we can all appreciate "snatching culture between / the cogs of the System." Murray is alive to the grottier side of things too, when he recalls that in his time "kids began smoking the armpit hairs of wisdom." But the poem's most penetrating thought, to my mind, lies in the words, "in my slow-cycling mind an eloquence not yet articulate / was trying to say Youth." That is the essence of so much that goes on around this place: energy, urges, impulses, intense and undeni-

able, lead everyone to a triumph or a mess at some point and yet we cannot define what they meant until much later. To find it written down by someone who was here decades ago is very comforting.

From Les Murray's words it seems that a listlessness about our University's heritage is as much a part of that heritage as Brennan's utopianism. The examples might contrast sharply, but that is only a sign of the richness of the place around us.

There must be hundreds more examples of writing – and not just poetry – in which the character of this place has a full-blooded role. On this point Georgia mentions the prose of Kate Grenville, but Grenville's impressions of the University seem so vicious that it is small wonder a reader leaves *Lilian's Story* in unease. I have no specific reply to that problem but I hope someone will go hunting for one: there must be something sweeter out there in prose.

I don't believe there is anything to be gained by complaining that Sydney is neither Oxford nor Yale (and Georgia does not complain, she merely observes that it happens). If there is a sense of being "cheated" of a literary inheritance it is only because a lack of dedication to exploring this place means we are cheating ourselves. A Sydney University Sebastian Flyte might not have been spotted with his teddy bear on Fisher Road, but my answer is that it has not been tried yet, and we shall see.



Mentoring success

George Downing sat down with Ella Bancroft, Sydney City Program Manager of AIME – The Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience

AIME was the brainchild of your brother, former Sydney media student Jack Manning Bancroft. Three years after he graduated he's the CEO of one of Australia's fastest growing charitable programs and one of Sydney's 100 most influential people according to the (sydney) magazine.

Why did he start AIME?

The statistics on indigenous education are pretty horrifying. In February 2008 the federal government released a report titled 'Raising the School Leaving Age,' which found that only one in every five indigenous students complete year 12, and indigenous students are three times less likely than non-indigenous students to sit the HSC. Added to that, the average indigenous year nine student has the literacy and numeracy of a non-indigenous year three student.

The idea of AIME came about five years ago during the Indigenous Games at Sydney University, which is basically a forum for indigenous students from around Australia to play sport, bond socially and form networks. Jack was one of the organizers, and on the last day of the games he got some indigenous high school students down to check it out and mingle with the competing uni students.

Inspired by this, he organized 25 of his friends to pair up with 25 school students in a trial mentoring program at Alex Park, a community school in Alexandria. The program got a hugely positive response from teachers and students, as well as the parents and mentors involved. From there it grew and grew. We've got five offices around NSW, and are hoping to expand nationally within five years with 26 planned sites in every state and territory. Participation in the program has tripled since our first year, so were sitting on a pretty solid growth path.

There have been a number of indigenous education initiatives across the country, of which AIME is one of the more successful. How is AIME different?

There are three big goals that the program sets out to complete, and we're accountable to each of those goals. If we don't fulfill them our organisation will basically cease to exist. Those goals are to increase year 10 completion rates, increase year 12 completion rates, and increase university admissions for every high school student involved in the program. Those goals are written into our Annual Report, and are the key part of the contracts we sign with both schools and universities. Added to that, it a completely volunteer-based program, comprised of young people putting their hands up to make a difference.



AIME's targets education to bridge the indigenous and non-indigenous inequality divide. But the areas of health and housing, for instance, are similarly in need of urgent attention. Why education?

Statistically speaking, each year of school a student completes, regardless of race, will mean they earn more money in the long run, which in turn has a direct impact on individual health and welfare. So if you can target education and get a kid into uni or at least finishing year 12, they've got a better chance of enjoying a good standard of living than if they'd dropped out earlier. So AIME's objective is to utilise education as an enabling force that will ultimately boost individual health, housing and so on.

AIME's 2008 Annual Report has recently been released. What are some tangible results of the program?

The program has been successful across the board. In 2008, 100% of the indigenous year 9 students at Marrickville High School completed the year, and all those students have returned to sit year 10. I was speaking

to our contact teacher at the school and she mentioned in her eight years of teaching she'd never seen that happen before. And this year, two of the students who were mentored in AIME's pilot program have started university which is a fantastic outcome.

AIME's core program involves university student volunteers mentoring an indigenous student for one hour a week over a 17 week period. Do you think there's a bit of a role model effect in mentees look up to their mentor?

Absolutely. So many of these kids have

first-hand the plight of these people. Most people find that interaction really rewarding and are pretty surprised they have never met an Aboriginal person. And the idea of cross-cultural learning between uni students and indigenous people has a host of benefits. It's also great in establishing a mentor community – I did the program for three years and met so many amazing mentors, many of which have ended up being really good friends of mine.

Jack was a resident at St Paul's College and has been successful in mobilizing a lot of the college community to participate in the program.

College students are living on campus which is really accessible to a lot of our mentoring sites, and the program is also not a huge time commitment, which I think is appealing for busy students. When students hear 'volunteering' it's natural to be a little intimidated of the time commitments involved, but given that AIME's program isn't really time consuming at all and the results are visible immediately – one hour of mentoring a week can literally keep an aboriginal kid in school – I think that's a big part of the appeal.

Can anything more happen at a policy level to further tackle the issue of indigenous education?

AIME purpose isn't so much to seek policy change but rather mobilize people who want to make a real difference in their community. I think the problem falls on everyone, not just the government or charities or whatever. This program gives people the power to stand up and literally enact meaningful change. We're not sitting around talking about what should be done, were on the ground inspiring kids to get through school. That's why AIME is different and that's why it's been successful. HS

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GETTING INVOLVED

AIME is a not-for-profit charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. AIME Indigenous Corporation provides a six-year Mentoring Program for Indigenous Australian students to access while undertaking their high school studies from Year 7 through to Year 12.

AIME partners University student volunteers in a one-on-one mentoring relationship with a high school Indigenous student, for an hour a week over the course of a 17-week program.

For more information email admin@aimementoring.com or visit www.aimementoring.com

ACROSS THE DIVIDE

A STUDENT VIEW OF INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

It's not an uncommon story to hear around Sydney University: 'recently, in true Arts student form, I was having a couple of sneaky drinks at the veritable heart of our educational establishment. Upon leaving Manning Bar, a good friend asked me of my general direction so that we might walk together. When I informed her that I was heading to Redfern, as I had left my bicycle there, she was astounded and voiced her concern for my wellbeing. Admittedly, it was around 5:30, and so it was getting dark, however, the reasons my friend had voiced her concern for me was due to her perception of Redfern, shaped by past events in the news such as the Redfern Riots, as being a dangerous place, especially for a white person and at night.'

What was the reason for these conceptions about Redfern? Why has this location, and its inhabitants, received such a bad name? In particular, what are the reasons for this stigma against our indigenous neighbours who inhabit such an important place in the backyard of our university? Most likely, it is the violence and crime that is associated with Indigenous Australians that causes the responses, after all, inmates of indigenous descent comprise approximately 25% of the national prison population, and Indigenous Australians are thirteen times more likely than non-Indigenous to be incarcerated. But what is the reason for this excessively high over representation of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in our gaols?

In late February, the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, issued the Closing the Gap Report. The report outlined the major

guilty or prejudiced. We feel that many of us just want to give in because it's too hard, too shameful, and after all – what exactly do indigenous people need to combat disadvantage?

POPULATION

When talking of disadvantage in our indigenous communities, it is important to recognise why these problems are so important. We must first understand the size of the population when determining the effect and degree of disadvantage. The Australian Bureau of Statistic's most recent figures show that there are approximately 520,000 Indigenous Australians spread across the country. It is estimated that Australia has 22 million inhabitants of which around 2.5% are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander birth. Whilst this percentage of our population might seem small, it is a group that faces great inequity and disadvantage, as is reflected by the high proportion of Indigenous people in our gaols, for instance, which makes these population figures so important.

~~~~~  
**We do not wish to be regarded with sentimental sympathy, or to be 'preserved,' like the koala bears... We do not wish to be 'studied'**  
~~~~~

The median age of Indigenous Australians is 21, compared with 37 for non-Indigenous. That means that the average uni student would be approximately halfway through their life by now if he or she were of Aboriginal birth. The indigenous population over

HEALTH

Many indigenous mothers and children live in environments of relative socioeconomic disadvantage and this has adverse impacts on their health and wellbeing. Smoking is more common among indigenous males and females in every age group when compared with the non-indigenous population, as is diabetes and respiratory, aural, oral and ocular disease. In 2004-05, \$1.17 was spent on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health for every \$1.00 spent on the health of non-Indigenous Australians. The relatively high premature mortality rate among Indigenous Australians, however, suggests that current expenditure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is not sufficient to address their health needs. In the 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, for example, 21% of Indigenous Australians reported they had needed to go to a dentist in the last 12 months, but had not gone, and 15% had needed to go to a doctor, but had not gone. Reasons reported for not ac-

cessing care include lack of availability of services, transport and distance to services, cost, and language and cultural barriers.

cessing care include lack of availability of services, transport and distance to services, cost, and language and cultural barriers. Yet to do this, it is desirable that there be more Indigenous individuals manning the ranks of the healthcare and educational services. In 2006

Indigenous Australians were under-represented in almost all health-related occupations and comprised 1% of the health workforce (for parity, it is desirable that this figure be brought to at least 2.5%, corresponding to



THE MEDIAN AGE OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IS 21, COMPARED WITH 37 FOR NON-INDIGENOUS. THAT MEANS THAT THE AVERAGE UNI S

areas where Aboriginal Australia fell far short of mainstream Australia; being health, education, employment, living conditions and most importantly, life expectancy. For anyone with a conscience, the life expectancy gap of around 17 years should be abhorrent. Widely reported domestic violence and poor health standards in Indigenous communities led to the Howard Government's Northern Territory intervention, which has been continued by Labor. It's easy to flood people with statistics on Indigenous disadvantage, without actually acting upon them or recognizing them for the deep problems they represent. We all think we've heard the facts before and many of us are numb to them: the intellectuals crippled by debate, the young people apathetic and desensitised, the older generations either

the age of 65 is estimated at 3%, contrasting with 13% for non-indigenous. This reflects poorer health within the indigenous community in Australia, influenced by a lack of education and socio-economic standing. The average life expectancy of Indigenous men is 59 years, in contrast to 79 for non-Indigenous men; for Indigenous women the average life expectancy is 65, contrasting to 84 for non-indigenous. The largest concentration of Indigenous inhabitants in 2006 was Sydney, with approximately 42,000 of which significant concentrations are at Parramatta and most tangibly for Sydney University students, South Sydney and Redfern.

cessing care include lack of availability of services, transport and distance to services, cost, and language and cultural barriers.

~~~~~  
**That being said, the figures of the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Indigenous Australians are beginning to complete their education and to higher levels in greater numbers**  
~~~~~

On the other hand, the rate of Indigenous Australians who visited a dentist was 0.6 times the rate for non-Indigenous Australians. Moreover, Indigenous women were twice as likely as non-Indigenous women to report fair/poor health. Here, the oft quoted saying, "prevention is better

their relative population). Indigenous students were also under-represented among those completing graduate courses in health. They were, however, better represented in selected welfare and community service occupations, comprising 3.6% of people employed in this sector.

EDUCATION

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Education is considered to be a key factor in improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. Higher levels of educational attainment are thought to directly impact on health by improving a person's health-related knowledge and their ability to efficiently use this information. Educational attainment is also associated with better employ-

MIDIE

SINCE THE ELECTION OF THE RUDD GOVERNMENT, THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC APOLOGY AND THE 'PROGRESS' MADE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, INDIGENOUS ISSUES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS HAVE BEEN FRAMED IN A POSITIVE LIGHT. THE UNIVERSITY HAS EVEN PLAYED ITS ROLE BY PUSHING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS OFFICER IN NUS, SUPPORT FOR THE KOORI CENTRE AND CADIGAL PROGRAMS AND PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MENTORING EXPERIENCE. BUT **CASSANDRA TAYLOR** AND **MATTHEW GALLAGHER** FOUND THAT NOT ONLY WERE THEIR NON-INDIGENOUS FRIENDS' EXPERIENCES WITH INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA CONFINED TO THE WALKWAY FROM USYD TO REDFERN STATION, BUT THAT THEY COULD NOT BE BLAMED, BECAUSE TOO FEW INDIGENOUS STUDENTS WERE GETTING A PRIVILEGED EDUCATION AT THE SANDSTONE SANCTUM OF THE INNER WEST

ment prospects and higher income which, in turn, may serve to increase access to health-related services and products". It is a worrisome fact that indigenous students are far behind the bell curve when it comes to reported attendance. Only 36% of indigenous 17 year olds regularly attend secondary school, compared with 66% for non indigenous.

Yet whilst education of Aboriginal Australians is important and completion rates need to be improved, to see benefits in indigenous welfare and a rise in university and TAFE admissions, more needs to be done. What about education of non-Indigenous Australians? Aren't we part of this issue as well? What many lack is an understanding of indigenous cultures. Recently, the *Sydney Morning Herald* published an article suggesting that university students and staff

undertake a compulsory Indigenous studies unit; it argued that many non-Indigenous Australians lack education of Indigenous culture. Maybe this idea isn't as far-fetched as it seems.

EMPLOYMENT

In 2008, the national unemployment was 4.2%. In contrast, approximately 15% of Indigenous Australians were unemployed. The occupation that employs the largest number of indigenous people is 'laborers and related workers'. Nationally, the median weekly individual income of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over was \$278 in 2006; just over half the median income for non-Indigenous Australians. Whilst these figures would certainly be influenced by the level of education of each of the groups, it cannot be ruled out that these statistics are influenced to some degree by racial prejudice.

Whilst there is still a considerable gap in employment, wages and qualifications, there is some hope as more and more Indigenous Australians are beginning to

own their own home. In 2006, around 12% of Indigenous households owned their home outright. A further 24% owned their own home with a mortgage. In comparison, 36% of non-Indigenous households owned their homes outright and 35% owned with a mortgage. Even though there is a considerable divide between the two Australia's which does need redressing, the fact that Indigenous Australians are taking charge of and owning their own habitations is a good sign.

SOLUTIONS

Previous solutions to bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia have ranged from ignoring the divide to forcefully closing the gap. Paternalism, currently reasserting itself in the N.T. intervention, has largely failed across our history and had devastating consequences for those affected by past policies. Simply throwing money at the issues that exist is a largely unviable and unwelcome solution. All else aside, if any meaningful advancement of disadvantaged Indigenous communities is to be made, empowerment is essential.

There is perhaps no one solution for closing the gap and empowering our Aboriginal compatriots, nor is this a problem that can be solved over night. However, one possible solution to address the disadvantage faced by the Indigenous community is in encouraging an increase in the proportion of Indigenous personnel in the health and social services. With a higher proportion of Indigenous people in these areas, indigenous individuals are more likely to utilise these services, obtain earlier treatment and prevent life threatening

divide between Indigenous and non indigenous in our society is to encourage and aid education amongst Indigenous Australians; or at least allow/help the Indigenous community to help itself. That being said, the figures of the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Indigenous Australians are beginning to complete their education and to higher levels in greater numbers, which shows that whilst there is a long way to go to bridge the gap, things are beginning to move in the right direction.

Whilst there is still a considerable gap in employment, wages and qualifications, there is some hope as more and more Indigenous Australians are beginning to own their own home.

For truly meaningful progress to take place, however, we ought to turn to the indigenous community, after all - what do indigenous people want? How do they see these issues? Professor Mick Dodson, indigenous academic, activist and Australian of the Year 2009, wrote in his speech, 'The End in the Beginning: (Re)defining Aboriginality', of the construction of Indigenous identities by non-Indigenous people, which change Aboriginality from being a 'daily practice' to a 'problem to be solved'. These definitions, which he describes as ideological tools, are missing one crucial element: an Indigenous voice. In restoring the Indigenous voice to its rightful owners, he argues, they are liberated.

In their book, *Aborigines Claim Citizen Rights! A Statement of Case for the*

conditions. In some instances, particularly in remote communities, this would also be necessary due to language considerations.

An increase in the amount of Indigenous individuals in community positions such as the police and teachers would also help address many of these issues. If a greater proportion of the teaching positions were filled by indigenous teachers, higher retention and success rates of educational institutions in the Indigenous community would be encouraged. In addition, many of the problems and disadvantages faced by the Indigenous community are closely related to education. Better education seems to result in better health, employment, all-round well being, and a longer life span. Therefore, perhaps one of the most important ways to help empower and bridge the

Aborigines Progressive Association (published 1938), J.T. Patten and W. Ferguson wrote, "We do not wish to be regarded with sentimental sympathy, or to be 'preserved,' like the koala bears... We do not wish to be "studied" as scientific or anthropological curiosities... Why do you deliberately keep us backward? Is it merely to give yourselves the pleasure of feeling superior? Give our children the same chances as your own, and they will do as well as your children! We ask for equal education, equal opportunity, equal wages, equal rights to possess property, or to be our own masters... Keep your charity! We only want justice". HS

UNI STUDENT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY HALFWAY THROUGH THEIR LIFE BY NOW IF HE OR SHE WERE OF ABORIGINAL BIRTH.

DIARY OF...

DAMIR DOKIC



Hello Diary,

I sit in my cell, writing this on some toilet paper and in my own blood. So although my time in Sremsca Mitovika prison has changed many aspects of my life, my letter writing techniques remain unchanged.

What a crazy time for old D-Dok, wouldn't you agree Diary? First Jelena admits to Australian press that I beat her. Of course I beat her. Just like my parents beat me. Then she beat Ivanovic 6-4, 6-2. But does the brat get in trouble for that? No. There the Australian media goes again, taking sides and blowing things out of proportion. I mean, if you're going to report on anything, report on the years of physical abuse that I subjected the girl to. Handy hint: use the ball machine, it leaves less bruises.

Oh man, they do not feed you well here in this prison. I am so hungry, I could eat a horse. Then again, I had old Konjica for dinner last week, before smearing her loyal innards over my naked chest singing "Tamo Daleko" under the full moon, so I guess even if I was at home, horse would not be on the menu at Chateau Dokic tonight. Note to self: dip into tournament savings again and buy new horse.

And now they say "Oh Damir, you cannot threaten to blow up the Aus-

tralian Embassy!" "Oh Damir, you cannot keep bazookas underneath your bed!" First of all, as any man will tell you, a bazooka is necessary for shooting cockroaches and firing at the television whenever Home and Away comes on. Every time that stupid Jodie Gor-don comes on I can see her looking into my soul, judging me with her filthy convict eyes. Note to self: buy new television.

But what they do not understand is that I am a powerful man. I can snap my fingers and command an army. An army of rats that I have trained at my tennis academy for the last five years, each armed with a tiny racquet, and hundreds of tiny poisonous balls! And we will descend on the tiny island of Australia and make our way to the headquarters of Tennis Australia, stopping briefly at Summer Bay to slice the heads off all the lifesavers. Then, summoning the powers of every bird with my magical flute I will storm the gates of the Rod Laver Arena atop a giant eagle and---ohhhh. I just pooped myself.

Damir out.

GAFFEMAN

Gaffe early, gaffe often.

Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) argued passionately against the Matthew Shepard hate crimes bill passed last week by that pesky Democratic Congress. Foxx, thought it should at least have a different name, because the gay-bashing and murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998 was "a hoax... because he wasn't gay"! Uh oh. Someone doesn't know the different between hoax and hate crime - not to worry, Gaffeman is sure Matthew Shepard's mother explained the subtleties to the confused congresswomen. Mrs Shepard sat a couple of feet away from Foxx as she made the remark.

Backbench Tory MP Daniel Petit from Quebec City leapt from obscurity and into Gaffeman's web after he described Quebecois as a bunch of "illiterates" when it comes to the English language

during a parliamentary hearing. Unfortunately, recent statistics show that Quebecois were more likely to be bilingual than the rest of Canada, so while nobody likes those fruity Francophones, Petit's colleagues have been left scratching their heads, wondering what his comment is all about.

Epic turncoat, democratic hero, the congressman formerly known as R-PA, Arlen Specter (D-PA) is still a little confused about which party he's in. When asked about the contested Minnesota Senate Race, Arlen told the New York Times "there was still time to do justice and declare Norm Coleman the winner". Norm, a Republican, was glad for the vote of confidence, but Al Franken, Minnesota Democrat, was not impressed.

New system to replace Sharia Law



The Canadian Government has stepped in with a solution to ease the rising tensions in Pakistan, with the proposition of a radical new system of governance based on principles of midriffs, sass and 90's pop hits with a country twang.

The new system, dubbed Shania Law, will see Canada's second biggest musical export step into the role of President. The singer is reportedly pleased to have been given the important position, claiming that she hasn't had such an influence on global affairs since the release of her album 'Come On Over' in 1998.

Twain reportedly has a lot of insight into the reasons behind the violent expansion of the Taliban.

"If you look at the title of, like, the

capital city of Pakistan, you can see why those Taliban people are so upset. Islam-a-bad? I would blow people up too if someone called Ontario Christianity-a-crap! I'm sorry, but as I would say, that don't impress me much. When we rename it Twainville and open up my theme park there I'm sure people will feel much happier", she said, speaking from her stronghold in the Swat Valley.

The world's leaders wait with bated breath to see results from this mastermind - who will start to issue edicts tomorrow through the release of her first album in eight years. The album features the starlet singing covers of popular songs such as "You Can Leave Your Hijab On (Or Not, it's Up To You)" and "Everybody Must Not Get Stoned".

With rumours that Celine Dion is set to take over rule from President Karzai in Afghanistan, the two are set to finally bring peace to the troubled region, with Twain expected to rule with a moisturised fist.

Speaking to advisors in her recording studio, Twain is heard to have said with a giggle and flick of the hair, "Man, I feel like a dictator!"



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SCIENCE STUNTS

HOW TO SCORE TIX TO SPLENDOUR

AIM

On May 14, successfully purchase four tickets to Splendour in the Grass.

MATERIALS

- A fast computer with unlimited net access and bandwidth- a reliable connection is more important than a fast one.
- A supercharged credit card (camping = \$372, non-camping = \$240). There is a four ticket limit, so make sure that piece of plastic has \$1500.00 of positive territory (this is assuming you want camping tickets - recommended - and take into account that god forsaken booking fee).
- Three other friends on similar computers, with their bank details

METHOD

- Register at QJump the night before, <http://www.qjump.com.au/register>.
- Wake-up at 8am. Start up your computer and be ready by 8:30am. QJump is notorious for opening the line at 8:30am, so wait early!
- Type in all name and DOB details perfectly. Every letter and every number is important.
- Add \$5.95 for carbon offset tickets. The box will be pre-selected; so un-ticking the box is extra effort that will go into destroying the environment.
- Un-panic. Don't hit the refresh button when it is 10am. In the last few years tickets have sold out in 3-5 hours. This is not U2 or P!nk. Persistence past seconds and minutes and into hours will usually pay off.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Wayne, Kele and Perry are not good enough, who can we expect for the second announcement?

Perhaps the most reliable guide in recent years has been the line-up for Summersonic in Tokyo, held at the start of July. I would put my money on Kasabian, The Klaxons and N.A.S.A being the lead-off hitters in the second call.

Oh, and Karen O will probably make the trip, while Thom Yorke definitely won't!

Wackivities!

Maxx Black Adult Parties

Danika Armytage gets a little frisky



Honi gets the vibe

Recently a friend invited me to her upcoming birthday party. Before I had a chance to respond, my usually soft-spoken and demure companion grabbed my hand and squealed, "Ooo-oo! You must come. It's a Maxxx Black party! It's like a tupperware party, but with sex toys!"

Now, I've never been to a tupperware party but I'm pretty certain that they were like an olden-day answer to a 'girl's night in'. A salesperson comes to a home residence to be greeted by gleeful and consumption-hungry womenfolk who coo over the new and innovative ways to store leftovers.

Well, the olden days sucked and it's time to swap the ergonomic self-stacking bowl collection for a suitcase of pearl crammed dildos. Introducing the Maxxx Black party! They don't call it the 'naughties' for nothing...

WHAT ARE MAXXX BLACK PARTIES?

Following the tupperware party model, the parties promise to be the 'Ultimate Girl's Night In.' You make a booking, get at least 10 of your lady pals over to your place, plenty of champagne and on with the show!

A female consultant from Maxxx Black will come a-knockin' equipped with a suitcase of sex-toys informed by chatting to you and sussing out what you and your girlfriends might be into. A suitcase may contain anything from delicious spreadable body condiments, diamanté handcuffs, costumes, books, dildos, and ALL that vibrates.

I'm told that the parties are ideal for women entering the 'adult toy' world but who don't know where to start. Have you stared out over walls of vibrators? It's an intimidating shopping experience!

First, there's the question of proportion; 'semi-realistic,' 'stubby,' 'pocket rocket,' or 'slim'? Or maybe the 'big boy,' or 'jumbo' dimension is more up your alley (ahem). And then there's the question of whether you are targeting the g-spot, clitoris, anus, or heck, all at once? For all these ins-and-outs (crude), this is where the consultant comes in.

SO WHEN IS A MAXXX BLACK PARTY OCCASION?

The website suggests the following favourites: 'Suddenly Single' (beats the generic block of chocolate and Hugh Grant film), 'The Office' (that'd fuel the water-cooler gossip), birthdays (a 21st with a difference) and 'Yummy Mummies' (...not going there).

Only restriction? The only penises permitted are silicone, steel or rubber - no boys allowed!

HONI TOP FIVE Pandemics

01

> Plague of Athens

In 430 BCE, the Plague of Athens, aka typhoid fever, killed over a quarter of the Athenian population. This is widely regarded as one of the main reasons for the decline of the empire. The only reason that the pandemic, seen at the time as divine anger at the Athenian military, eventually ended was because victims died too quickly for the disease to spread.

02

> The Black Death

The Black Death, starting in the early 1300s, is estimated to have killed 75 million people since its outbreak. Theories of the origin of the Bubonic plague's outbreak vary from rats entering Europe on Italian merchant vessels to Italians fleeing fighting in the Crimea. Either way, it was definitely the Italians.

03

> The Spanish Flu

Killed potentially 100 million between 1918 and 1920. Spain, a neutral country in WWI, had no press censorship on news about the disease, unlike the US or other parts of Europe, meaning the most reliable information came from Spain. This created the impression Spain was the worst affected country, resulting in this pandemic's misleading name.

04

> H2N2 Influenza A

In 1956, The H2N2 Influenza A virus, "Asian Flu", was the first recorded bird flu to reach pandemic status. It reached a category 2 status pandemic and began with a genetic mutation in wild ducks spreading to humans in Guizhou, China. By 1957, it had spread around Asia and America killing a total of between 2 and 4 million people.

05

> Potential pandemics

This spot is reserved for some of the potential pandemics waiting to take hold or to expand: Viral haemorrhagic fever, SARS, Influenza H5N1 (Avian Flu), Influenza H1N1 (Swine Flu), antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS... You name it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report of the SRC President, Noah White//president@src.usyd.edu.au



The Budget

Honi goes to print on a Monday, the federal budget is announced Tuesday night and Honi is then delivered the next morning on the Wednesday. Hence I'm going to look stupid if I try and predict what's going to be in the budget, but I'm going to do it anyway.

There have already been a raft of announcements from introducing a paid maternity leave scheme (yay!) to significantly increasing defence spending (hmmm...) however there has been absolutely no mention of what the government intends to do for education.

The government already spends the same amount on defence as it does on education, even before throwing an extra few hundred million dollars at it, what's even more startling is that the federal government gives more money to private, primary and secondary schools than it does on universities.

If you're asking why the government should increase spending on education, you obviously haven't been to class lately... or in the past 10 years really. Our universities have a major problem with overcrowding; even our own institution has departments where the student:staff ratio is greater than 40, which is more than twice the average. Some faculties have become more adept at hiding this fact. A common practice is to abolish tutorials and replace them with "seminars" which most of the time is just a fancy word for a giant tute. So when your faculty follows

the example of the law faculty and does this be aware the real reason for this.

The Government's plan is to seriously expand the number of undergraduate students across Australia, with this will come even more serious overcrowding and funding shortfalls if the amount of funding to universities is not increased to match.

Sadly, my prediction is that the money that is needed won't come. The people that will blame this shortfall on the recession simply fail to see that the higher education sector is the engine room of our economy and an adequately funded education system will protect our economic stability in the future.

The other issue that there has been a lot of talk about in the lead up to the budget is student income support. A few weeks ago there was a letter in this paper that told readers they should "get a job, earn the \$18 000 or so and then bludge off the government" instead of taking other measures such as getting married to get youth allowance. Well soon you won't be able to do that either. The Government is considering taking away this provision after which the only way for someone to qualify as independent for youth allowance will be to be 25, get married or to work full-time for 2 years.

The reasoning behind this is that the Government thinks that there are people who are exploiting the Centrelink system by qualifying for youth allowance through the \$18 000 workforce participation test but

could be easily supported by their parents or other means. While there is some legitimacy to this claim it ignores the fact that some people do not receive assistance from their parents regardless of their income, more seriously though it means that many people who currently receive youth allowance will not receive it in the future and yes, some that shouldn't be receiving it will no longer receive it but many more that are in need of it also will be kicked off.

A few people have asked me why students deserve more income support at all; after all, students are in general a more privileged bunch than the rest of society; people from low socio-economic backgrounds are seriously underrepresented in higher education. This is all very true and I take the point.

However, I strongly disagree that the campaign for increases to youth allowance are just about those students who make it to university. Income support (or the lack thereof) is the most upfront and major barrier to a tertiary education.

The campaign is as much about the people, who dropped out of uni, decided not to go because it would have been too much of a strain on their finances or didn't even think about it because they didn't even register it as a possibility. This is particularly important now that the government has set targets for the participation of students from Low-SES backgrounds in higher education.

NOAH'S KITCHEN

A Recipe For Democracy

You Will Need:
A Union board election,
13 candidates,
policy statements for each,
a polling booth (there are several around campus),
union membership (free and you can get it from any polling booth),
a pencil,
and a ballot paper.

Method:
First read the policy then decide which candidates you like (ask questions campaigners that are hanging around or even the candidates themselves if you need to).

Then take yourself to a polling booth and fill out a ballot paper. Pop it in the ballot box.

Voila, democracy.

(This recipe will only work on Wednesday 13th May)

EDUCATION REPORT

Report of the Education Officers, Elly Howse and Rosie Ryan//education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

It's been a busy three weeks for us in the SRC. Two and a bit weeks ago on Thursday 23rd April, we had the National Sleepout across Australia to raise awareness about the difficulty students have in accessing Youth Allowance and also the massive housing shortage which currently plagues cities such as Sydney. So a group of up to 45 students from every university in the state came to sleep out in Martin Place for the night. There was a lot of media coverage in all of the states, but we take the cake for meeting Fifi Box when we were protesting outside *Sunrise* at some ungodly hour (ie. 6am).

The Federal Budget will be released on Tuesday 12th May and we have to show the government that students urgently need more funding for tertiary learning and more funding so we can support ourselves. The cost of actually attending university is the no.1 reason for why students a) don't

want to attend university or b) feel they have to take a year off to work. So fingers crossed for some goodies in what will be a very 'tight' Budget, according to PM Kevin Rudd.

In other news, the government just released a Defence White Paper which talks about what funding needs to be allocated in order for the defence force to upgrade itself to better 'standards'. According to the newspapers, it's \$300 billion over ten years. That's \$300 billion less available for the government to spend on healthcare, education, welfare and foreign aid.

What are the priorities of this government?

They seem so focused on 'border security' and 'balance in the Asia-Pacific region' than on teaching our children and adults, saving lives and generally helping people.

Universities are drastically underfunded, the hospital system is in a shambles and the government is putting more people on the dole by getting rid of the CDEP programme in indigenous communities. All of this in a global financial crisis! Military spending like this is not a necessity – it's a luxury. So before Rudd and his lackeys take a final look at the Budget this Tuesday, let's hope they think about their priorities. For \$300 billion, you could bail out NSW's ailing healthcare and hospital systems. For \$300 billion, you could ensure that universities and TAFEs receive the funding they deserve and urgently need. For \$300 billion, you could increase the pension, Youth Allowance, Austudy, Abstudy, and the single parent payment.

This Budget is going to show Rudd's true colours. And from where we're sitting, it's not pretty. It's like Howard never left!

The Education Action Group meets every Tuesday at 1pm on the Chancellor's Lawns. We also have a facebook group, so search for it and join!

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Report of the General Secretary, Russel Schmidt//gen.sec@src.usyd.edu.au

SU Campaign and the Law School

Last week with my polemic against chairs I became the self-appointed spokesman for the silent majority of students in the USU campaign, but this week I want to attack something of more substance. The 'law school café'. Several candidates have such a policy, frankly, it's not very interesting. What I want to know is what does everyone want to call it? I'm getting behind 'the bench' considering 'the uni' (see last weeks for an explanation of 'the uni') currently boasts way too many former High Court justices and more than I care to count on the NSW Supreme Court, toff toff. If 'the bench' is doomed to fall by the wayside, like most of my brilliant ideas, please, for the love of god, do no it call it the fucking 'Mallesons/AAR/Clayton Utz/Deacons Café'.

The new Law School is pretty disappointing for such a shmick new building, from its faux-UN lecture theatres with toolish microphones to the lack of independent study space;

but it only gets better. Nearly every lecture theatre, nearly every corridor is named after a massive corporate law firm. Can't find the Sydney University Law Library? Neither could I, it's the 'Freehills' Law Library'. Cack. Renting the naming rights to University property is just another step in the overwhelming push towards the corporatisation and commercialisation of our education. Why would a University and Faculty that trades off its 'wanker factor' more than anything else want to degrade itself so?

The Budget and Education

Earlier in the year I made a couple of jokes about the Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon and how he had been given a bum wrap; I apologise, turns out he really is a tool.

The Government released the Defence White Paper, a twenty-year strategic military plan. It calls for \$300 billion dollars to contain China and strengthen our role in the region. Just for shits and giggles, lets

check out what \$300 billion dollars gets you; some submarines that are quieter than the Collins Class ones, which are so noisy they are useless. Phew. Other gems include cruise missiles, to help in an increasingly unstable Pacific region, as if we can just drop some missiles on Suva and the Government in Fiji will just stop being overthrown or if we bomb Deli or Port Moresby the corruption will end.

But any moron can complain, but what we really need is a vision. Rudd said he had one; it was called the 'education revolution'. We should be investing in education, improving income support, reducing staff-to-student ratios and upgrading infrastructure. In times of recession education acts as a shield; people return to study and increase their skill set which means the economy becomes more flexible and efficient on the upswing. We have a generational opportunity to transform the value this society puts on education but instead

of seizing this opportunity with both hands Rudd is squandering it. Instead we are going to throw money into a bottomless pit to ensure that we have a robust military that has slightly less noisy submarines, planes that could fly without crashing if only the RAAF could attract some pilots and finally we'll increase our 'cyber warfare' capability, whatever that might be. I'm sure this is a massive deterrent to the Chinese military with its 3 million PLA soldiers, 4 million paramilitaries and nuclear weapons.

We apparently have \$300 billion for defence, but nothing to improve the quality or accessibility of our education system when we need it most? Perhaps all the law students could get together at the phantom law-student only café and duke it out about if/when/how we introduce a Charter of Human Rights? My only request would be that we have some sort of general right to be free from stupid decisions by the government.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Report of the Women's Officer, Tamsin Dingley//womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Suncheon is not a city for the sensitive Westerner. Inside this rural South Korean municipality, day to day sensory experiences include the pungent smell of sizzling silk worm snacks, the candid screeches of 'American Person!' by young children in their local dialect, and the venomous stench of the regular 5pm onslaught of the insecticide truck whose duty it is to carpet the city in toxins every night of summer. Despite the fact that such experiences were not always pleasant, it was through such regular confrontations with local anomalies that I began to appreciate the character of

Suncheon; a city so steeped in social and cultural heritage that surviving day to day existence became a case of 'assimilate or abort.'

It was for this reason that the incredible experience that I had staying there was largely indebted to the amazing people we met, and who introduced us every wonder and banality of local life. After all, it's not every day that you get to bow before a gold Buddha for an hour in the incense infused darkness of an island temple for New Years instead of getting trashed/high/salacious with your friends. Other memorable experiences included

delicate mulberry leaf tea in the company of a resident Buddhist monk, watching the liquid sun rise over the ocean from behind the paper doors of a cliff-top monastery (with accompanying 3am wake-up call, courtesy of giant gong), and bemused subjugation to the wailing screech of a Korean opera singer singing in Italian for three hours. It was such instances of cultural befuddlement which seemed to define my experience of Suncheon. While I loved aimless autumnal mountaintop wanderings around elaborately painted turquoise shrines and revelling in copious

amounts of pastel pink honey rice cakes, at times I found it confronting being faced with a city which, at the other extreme, could be so obstinate, so blunt and so raw. Despite this, if ever you find yourself there (a fact somewhat unlikely), my advice would be to fling yourself into the chilli diet, inevitable instances of cross-cultural confusion and bracing eccentricity of street life with eyes closed and arms open. Sure, you may get scalded along the way, but you'll surface ten times more attuned to the poignancy of cross cultural diversity.

ASK ABE

SRC HELP: Level 1 (Basement) Wentworth Building, City Road Entry 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

Hi Abe,

I feel really depressed. I'm quite overweight and am trying really hard to get to a normal weight but it's just not working. No matter what I try to do just fails. I want to sort things out but I really don't have very much money, so I can't go to Jenny Craig or any of those other fancy weight loss places. I can't get any Youth Allowance because even though my parents don't give me any money Centrelink reckon I'm still dependent on them. Is there someone else who can help me?

Science 2nd Year

Hi Science 2nd Year,

Depression is a really common illness among students. It's really great that you acknowledge it, so that you can start being treated for it. The university has a free counselling service and a doctor's surgery that bulk bills. The issue of being overweight is a serious one in that it may compromise your overall health, not for the way you look or what other people think of you. While every piece of advertising screams the opposite to you, it may be very difficult for you to believe me. After going to the doctors or counsellors unit, get yourself a Low Income Health Care Card. This is available to anyone who earns less than \$450 per week, whether

they are on a Centrelink payment or not. This entitles you to cheap pharmaceuticals (about \$4), free ambulance, free dental, free optical (lenses and frames) and some other discounts. If you need help applying for the Health Care Card just talk to one of the SRC caseworkers.

Abe.



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

SAAO Corner

As an independent student association SUPRA hires professional and independent casework and research staff to help postgraduates with welfare issues affecting them as students. We affectionately call them SAAOs, which stands for Student Advice and Advocacy Officers. The SAAOs offer a free service to anyone who is a subscriber to SUPRA, and seeing as subscription is free to all postgraduate students we reckon it's pretty much the best deal for postgrads on campus!

The SAAOs can help by giving confidential advice and advocacy on issues like how to lodge an academic appeal, defending oneself against an allegation of plagiarism or misconduct, working through problems with a landlord, making fee refund applications, responding to a requirement to show cause, and many many more issues.

If you have a specific issue you would like to see the SAAOs address then email us via help@supra.usyd.edu.au and we'll do our best to get you an answer.

Philosophical Strike

Last Wednesday I was lucky enough to see Hannah Forsyth, PhD student in the Department of History, speak about the 1973 Philosophy strike at this very University. In July of that year, two women graduates of the University of Sydney clashed with the Philosophy department and Professorial Board over a proposed course in feminist theory. The course, to be taught by Elizabeth Jacka and Jean Curthoys, represented a brand new direction in intellectual theory, one the department had yet to acknowledge at all. Hannah argued that the women challenged the Professorial right to decide what was legitimate knowledge, and who had the right to teach it. When the department, then the Professorial Board (forerunner to today's Academic Board) tried to smother the course, the two women, plus a number of others, pitched a tent in the quad and began a strike. Eventually, they were successful – the University Senate recommended that the course go ahead.

The strike highlighted the limits of a model of knowledge in which age and experience were the only determiners of the value of knowledge. That is, it introduced the idea that informed student demand could play as important a role in the intellectual life of a department as knowledge handed down by the God-Professors. It also demonstrated the limits of the old model – tenured and conservative professors had the ability to quash entire new fields of

study merely by virtue of their god-like powers. Though this new conception of universities was ultimately changed by the economic rationalism of the 1980s into the odious consumerist model we have now, the Philosophy Strike was a tantalising glimpse into what could have been.

For more information on this fascinating moment in the evolution of both our University, and tertiary education in general, contact Hannah herself at hfor6587@usyd.edu.au

Nicholas Irving
Co-Activities Committee Convenor
activities@supra.usyd.edu.au



LAST DAY...

**to nominate for SUPRA
Council**

**Nominations close for general
councillors for the 2009/10 SUPRA
Council today (13 May 09) at 5.00pm.**

**For more details visit
www.supra.usyd.edu.au.**

**** SUPRA Queer Film Night & Election ****

What's on: *The Secret History of Queer Australia* and election of the SUPRA Queer Officer for 2009/10

When: Friday 15 May, 6pm – 8:30pm

Where: SUPRA Office, in the Raglan Street building

Cost: FREE!

Food & drinks provided!

**So head on down to the SUPRA Office on Friday 15th May ... bring a buddy!
We'll be expecting you!**

Postgrad Pages

Stigma Around Plagiarism

According to central University records, for the full year of 2007 there were 217 findings of plagiarism against students at the University. These included 40 'unspecified' findings, 72 cases of 'negligent plagiarism' attracting a formal warning and usually a light academic penalty, 96 cases of 'dishonest plagiarism' which also generate a warning letter and often lead to a harsher penalty, and 9 findings of 'student misconduct' usually used only to hear and determine the most serious cases. Centralised recording of statistics only commenced with the introduction of the Student Plagiarism: Coursework policy in the 2006 academic year. As such it is not possible to compare statistics across a long time span, however the number of cases are significant and it seems they may be increasing.

For students accused of plagiarism there is a stigma that can attach to the accusation. This stigma and the need to protect students from unduly harsh attitudes is an increasing concern for SUPRA. The potential strength of response against those accused of plagiarism is forcefully demonstrated by high profile public cases. Within the Australian context plagiarism accusations against the Shadow Deputy Prime Minister and the Dean of the Conservatorium of Music at the University of Sydney were perhaps the two most prominent examples in 2008. Without going into the specifics of these matters or arguing the fairness or otherwise of allegations, what was common to them both was that they made statements in the public realm which were said to be copied line for line from other sources without acknowledgement. They were both roundly criticized and shamed in public.

There is an argument to say that as figures in authority in whom the public needs to have trust, they can and should be held to a higher standard and must expect strong criticism where they make errors. There is certainly something in this position, however what interests me most from the perspective of students is that the response in both those matters was so forceful. The word 'plagiarist' attached as an insult that tarnished and was difficult to shake. Coverage had a strident tone within the public media, and even within the relatively restrained confines of the academy these were

cases generated considerable strength of feeling. Within the academy plagiarism is seen as straight out theft. And where it is supposed to have been perpetrated against members of the academy themselves it elicits personal and sometimes almost visceral responses.

As a professional advocate employed to support students I can sometimes sense the extraordinary effort at restraint on the part of academic staff within meetings where students are confronted over an accusation. I have empathy for the academic staff position. Their livelihoods can depend on their ability to produce and publish original work worthy of publication. If their work is used without acknowledgement they are denied the recognition which is ultimately a cornerstone of their careers. There is a need for students to be aware that this is how many academics see the issue of plagiarism. Likewise there is a need for understanding of the student position.

Students can be under pressure to perform and when accused of plagiarism need to be treated with empathy. In most cases it is possible for matters to be dealt with as educational issues with a warning and counseling and additional help. There are confidentiality requirements built into policy and restrictions on who can have access to certain files. Students should not expect an accusation to be made known widely amongst other staff or students. And if asked to a meeting or sent an allegation postgraduate students have the right to have a SUPRA Student Advice and Advocacy Officer present to assist and offer support.

By Adrian Cardinali, Student Advice and Advocacy Officer

SUPRA publishes a Factsheet 'Coursework Students: Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty' available from our office or online at http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/Adv/Fact_Sheets_and_Links.html with details on how to avoid plagiarism and what to do if you face allegations of plagiarism. You can also contact a Student Advice and Advocacy Officer for advice on (02) 9351 3715 or via help@supra.usyd.edu.au.

What's coming up at SUPRA (see www.supra.usyd.edu.au for more information)

NOW	Nominations now open for the 2009-2010 SUPRA Council. For details see www.supra.usyd.edu.au
Fri 15 May, 6-8.30pm	SUPRA Queer Film Night 'The Secret History of Queer Australia' @ SUPRA Office
Thurs 21 May, 4pm	SUPRA Women's Officer Election
Thurs 28 May	SUPRA Annual General Meeting and End of Semester Party- put a note in your diary now!

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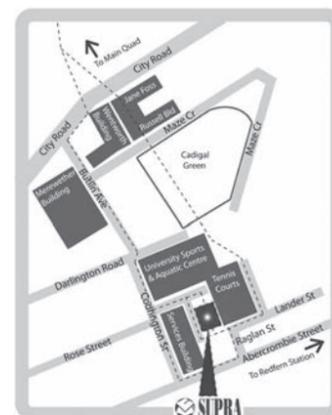
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Email: admin@supra.usyd.edu.au
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OPERA

Jerry Springer: The Opera

When one hears the name 'Jerry Springer', what comes to mind? A formulaic mix of innane babble and profanities functioning within a cyclic story line? It seems to me that Jerry's stage is an arena where groups of Neanderthal invertebrates humiliate themselves in order to entertain other members of the lowest common denominator, all at the whim of the puppet master Jerry, who is both the Dr Phil and the Vince McMahon of moronic behaviour.

In the case of *Jerry Springer, The* (so-called) 'Opera', the performance lived up to the show's reputation for IQ-destroying, crass anti-intellectualism. There are several instances where it is impossible not to laugh at the complete absurdity of an opera where the most common lyric is an expletive and where songs are titled with such literary marvels as 'Chick with a Dick', and 'Mama Gimmee Smack on the Asshole', the more common feeling is one of confusion. Surely such a blatant disregard for the genre of opera is a complex piece of satirical mastery designed to critique theatre using some hidden profound meaning? No.

Instead of clever jokes and subtle references, the audience is confronted with dull predictability interspersed with humour designed for uneducated masses, and singularly unsuited for such an honorific backdrop as the Sydney Opera House, or any Opera House for that matter.

Despite strong performances from star David Wenham and an excellent turn from David Bedella, the theatrics were unable to conjure up a level of excitement that would be necessary to add life and spark to the already foundering a plot. My companion for the evening, Maxamillian Traber, described the performance as "so dull I already have trouble recalling exactly what took place."

The London production won four Lawrence Olivier Awards. How is it possible for this disgrace to the name of theatre could be the subject of any commendation, let alone some of the most prestigious awards in the musical-theatre world?

The only redeeming feature of the evening was the chorizo and ricotta calzone pizza served at opera bar, complemented by a fine 2007 Delta Vineyard Pinot Noir, both of which were cleansing enough to wash away the bad taste of *Jerry Springer, the Opera*.

1/5

Charles Crane

VERSED NOVEL

Depot Girl, Shé Hawke

Shé Hawke insists *Depot Girl* is not an autobiographical story. But the tale of Tina, the Greek, myth-loving, lesbian bus driver, betrayed by her long-term female lover seems all too vivid to be a work of fiction. Hawke, a lecturer in the increasingly popular Gender & Cultural Studies department here at Sydney University, has undoubtedly used her own remarkable experiences as someone negotiating her place on society's edge, to create an environment that confronts what it means to be "other." Set in rural New South Wales, a world of macho rugby players, racial tensions and wild weather, *Depot Girl* is at times a foreign place. Misconceptions about life in small towns are quickly tested, but what becomes overwhelmingly apparent is that everyone does indeed know everyone else's business. Also, that carrying on an affair in a town like this is not such a great idea—particularly when you're cheating on a bus driver.

The verse novel has always faced challenges when it comes to public appeal and narrative flow. Not likely to contest the popularity of *Twilight* any time soon, when reading examples of verse novels it becomes clear that some stories would be better suited to another medium. However, with *Depot Girl* Hawke carves out an enthralling multi-faceted storyline, poetic in its delivery. Indeed, the genre here is a powerful tool, allowing Tina's story to transcend our expectations of life, love, betrayal and rural bus drivers. Taking the verse novel to new heights, Hawke's story is not only a brilliant example of exciting Australian writing talent, but at just over one hundred pages, you can read the entire book on the train and remark to your friends about your super intelligence. Nominated for the 2009 Miles Franklin Literary Award, *Depot Girl* gives worthy credit to the often under-valued English language to create an incredible and hyper-real emotional roller coaster.

Depot Girl is available now from the Co-Op Bookshop.

4.5/5

Chloe O'Toole

FILM

Wolverine

Hugh Jackman has utterly massive trapezoids. That was the most impressive thing about the trailer for *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. However, whilst I have to admit to being quite enamoured by the mass-poon magnet from Waitara, I had other reasons for wishing to see this paen to andimantium. Chiefly, I thought it might emulate the dense and powerful narrative of *Batman Begins*. Perhaps that was a little bit much to ask, as *Wolverine* was at least partially produced by Jackman's own production company, whose previous credits include the laughably short-lived *Viva Laughin...* and that's it.

Nonetheless, the film has auspicious beginnings. After killing a man who turns out to be his own father, James Howlett (Logan, later *Wolverine*) and Victor Creed (Sabretooth), flee into the Canadian wilderness, chased by the obligatory angry mob. We next see them fighting in the American Civil War, the first battlefront in an exceedingly excellent title sequence montage that encompasses the fields World War I, the beaches at the D-Day landing of World War II, and the jungles of Vietnam.

From then on, things just get hasty. Logan and Sabretooth hastily join the X-Team. Then things go catastrophically wrong, and vengeance is poured into Logan's veins like liquid metal (I imagine that's how the screenwriters envisaged the symbolism working anyway). On the whole, the plot is novice sudoku by the numbers and the shock twist is contrived yet brutally abrupt. The constant focus on *Wolverine* means that characters like Gambit are decidedly throw-away, which seems a terrible injustice.

Furthermore, the film has a very stock-standard feel, more *Spiderman* than *Dark Knight*. Sure, there are some well-conceived action set-pieces, but there are only so many times *Wolverine* and Sabretooth can run at each other like men digitally enhanced to look like they're running like dogs. Liev Schreiber makes more than a decent fist of Sabretooth, but has to endure oneliners so hammy he's probably contracted swine-flu. The film is fun for playing spot-the Aussie... oh, that guy's from *Underbelly*, she goes out with Koby Abberton, she was at my Year 12 Formal (not with me obviously) but that doesn't redeem it. The problem is it knows what it wants to be too well: a crowd-pleaser. Nowhere is this more evident than in a bemusing scene featuring a fat suit that would put Fat Bastard to shame. In conclusion many elements of *Wolverine* feel underdeveloped: the characters (even the title one), the plot, the whole experience. Jackman's traps aren't though. They're huge.

2.5/5

Joseph Smith-Davies



Atonality, right?

Michael Krasovitsky explains.

Does music have to sound good? Or are we able to enjoy a dissident collection of notes strung together without mention of key? This is precisely what Atonal composers seek to do: without reference to tonal centre or the serial twelve-tone technique, they create music that is originally and wonderfully nonconformist.

Atonality breaks all the rules. To begin with, classical music (in the broadest sense) is based around key, a reference which takes a certain musical note as its harmonic centre. This note plays a unifying role in the piece of music, and all musical developments are tied musically back to it. This ensures that there is a continuity of pitch and that, to put it simply, the piece sounds good. Of course, our concepts of 'sounding good' are based on what we have been exposed to (that is, they are not inherent), but regardless, classical music aims to create music that is, by using key, aurally pleasing.

Atonal composers approach music very differently. Key ceases to play the unifying role that it does in classical music. Rather, notes are seen as possessing an inherent musical validity which are not confined to conventional pitch rules. Notes are liberated from their place in the key and, in theory, are seen, or heard, merely for their own musical value. From here, composers are able to arrange and rearrange pitches in new and unrestricted ways.

Atonality began in the first ten years of the twentieth century. At its inception, atonal music carried with it a musicological revolutionary spirit: its father, Arnold Schoenberg, led the revolt against the staleness of "ambiguous chords" found in tonal music while others, such as Alban Berg, consciously composed without reference to traditional diatonic harmonies, which they saw as overused and archaic. Having developed significantly between the wars, atonality was nevertheless condemned in Nazi Germany as Bolshevik and degenerate. Indeed, Entartete Musik as it was pejoratively referred to, became a rallying point for anti-Nazi intellectuals during the Second World War.

Since the Second World War, atonality has been defined by dodecaphonic composition, that is, composition based around a twelve-note sequence. This twelve-tone technique, developed by Schoenberg, represents a further major break with conventional musical practice as it argues that every note in the chromatic scale be sounded as often as every other note. Music of this sort, which is available on youtube.com for starters, appears to have little order or sense. Behind its dissidence however, lies a rigid structure and carefully planned sequences. Today, atonal music continues to hold 'rogue' status in the musical academia. While it is difficult to get into or to appreciate, it is, in its apparent disorder, regarded as musically sophisticated.



The Clipper Café

You'll find **George Downing** back there soon



Every once in a while you stumble across a café that stands apart from the pack. It could be its striking décor, the funkiness of the staff, or the simplicity of a produce-driven menu. The new Clipper Café on Glebe Point Road hits this mark perfectly. From the outside you catch a pastel-striped awning, whitewashed timber interiors, and a couple of retro bikes hanging from the ceiling. Walk in, and there's a horde of regulars tapping away on black MacBooks, adorned in thick Persol frames and Bassike t-shirts, hunched over crema-rich espressos aside a plastic-bound issue of *Monocle*. (*Monocle* is, perhaps, the coolest magazine in the world, and Clipper clearly has a thing for it with an interior clothesline displaying the last dozen or so issues.)

The coffee is great, roasted locally especially for the café. The food simple and delicious – poached eggs with prosciutto cooked perfectly, and the best I've had for a while. The aforementioned crowd is mostly cosmopolitan law students. Plenty of other places along the bursting Glebe Point Road café strip could be described similarly, but the Clipper Café fills a niche because it's a child of New Glebe (the gentrified, cobblestone-and-planter-boxed streetscape as opposed to its drab former self). Amongst a horde of grungy, peeled-paint institutions like

Badde Manors and Well Connected, Clipper would fit nicely in the back streets of Chelsea, or closer to home, Paddington. It just works. 'Interior design is a big turn on for me,' says co-owner and café entrepreneur Adriano Matteoni. Whatever floats your boat.

Clipper is Matteoni's 6th café in as many years, in an impressive portfolio that includes Piccolo Padre in Rozelle, Poppys in Balmain and Charlotte Café in Birchgrove. So what's it like opening a place so close to Sydney Uni? 'Students are everything for us,' he tells Honi. 'The name "Clipper" was a brand of lighter I used while studying in Glasgow.' Even that's kind of cool.

For all its on-paper pretentiousness, Clipper remains relaxed rather than smug, unlike nearby Toby's Estate. Last time I was there, the chirpy barista, who turned out to be co-owner Joffin Babu, made my coffee as we chatted about the coolness of *Monocle*. He handed over a cup stamped with the edgy Clipper logo, and as I was heading out, a homeless guy strolled in and started watering a pot plant on the windowsill with a discarded water bottle. It seems everyone is captivated by the warmth of the place.

STUDENT INK STUNNER

"Evil Eye" - Dimitri, Sports Science II

Fashion

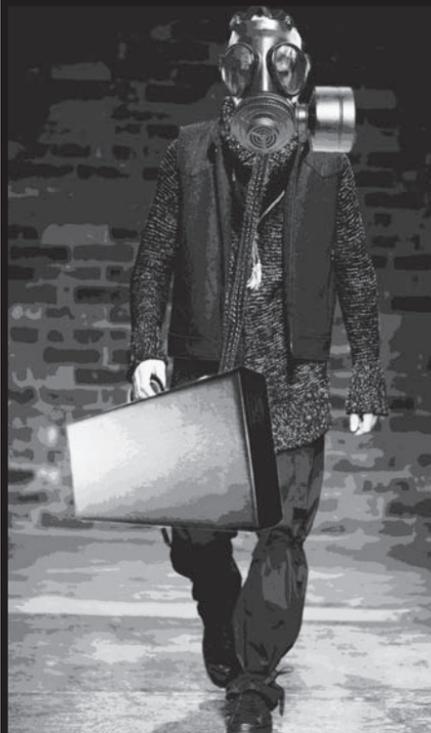
ROSEMOUNT AUSTRALIAN FASHION WEEK

Part II

Australian model and Ambassador for L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival, April Rose Pengilly, presents a round up of all the action at Sydney's version (continued from last week's column).

The men at RAFW 09/10 were, this year, largely ignored in terms of innovation and original design. I saw some scarves, a couple of hats. As one of my fashion-obsessed male friends quipped between shows, "Really, how many different ways can you do jeans and a tee?" In the case of the former, it seems that skinny is still innny. Oh, and one poor model was sent onto the runway with his entire face concealed by a gasmask, attached to a hose, leading to the briefcase he carried. I'm sure I'll see that standing behind me in the line for overpriced popcorn on my next trip to the movie. Actually, with this whole Piglet Flu thing, Gasmask Chic might not be that far off... but I digress.

As far as your 'do goes, next season is about getting your hair UN-



did. Models flaunted textured and disheveled hair, with stylists once again taking "inspiration" from beyond our shores. Michael Lo Sordo's collection of crisp white and neon pieces was toughened up with messy wet-look hair à la international shows Emilio Pucci and Alexander Wang. You can recreate these looks at home with sea salt spray and a good moulding product (Recessionista tip: simply dunk your head in the sea and borrow the crusty gel your boyfriend has kept to remind himself of the good old slick high school days). If you're looking to take it one step further, copy the Ellery look (which is, in turn, copying models Alice Dellal

and Nick Cave's son Jethro) by flipping all that dirty matted hair over to your left side. For added cred, shave the right side, and cry hardcore Cobain-esqe tears as you try to grow it out for the next 2 years.

Of course, to avoid the complete junkie look, grunge hair was paired with polished make-up. Skin was clean and dewy, most lips were nude (not actually nude; nude in the sense that they have a colour called "Nude" put on them. Whatever... Just smear foundation on your lips.) and eyes popped with either smoky blacks and greys or bold royal purples and blues.

Must-have pieces for the season are:

- + A long white or black blazer with shoulder pads (think Balmain and Victoria Beckham, NOT Pauline Hanson)

- + Black biker boots (for men and women, all styles are deliciously unisex)

- + Creatively ripped denim (Recessionista Tip: slash the front of your black 2004 Lee Supatubes, or cut a dangerous amount of denim off an old faded pair to create iddy biddy shorts and join The Cassette Society)

- + A sequined, neon or just plain superglam one-shoulder mini-dress. Pair with your biker boots and stomp like you're trying to scare snakes on a bushwalk.

- + Leggings (Any kind. They're not going anywhere.)

- + 1970's shades (again, big sunglasses for the ladies, or his 'n' hers aviators)

- + A little black dress (if the LBD/Diet Coke ads all over Sydney haven't inspired you to look at this classic in new ways, the coverage from the Little Black Dress Show should do the trick. Hello, an entire show was dedicated to them!)

- + Individuality... Yes, it's a cliché, but after watching show after show of recreated/deconstructed/modernized/pared-down classic pieces, it became clear that in these turbulent times, we must strive to express ourselves creatively and through any possible outlet.

So get inspired by what you've seen at RAFW, but remember to have fun with it, because the one trend I noted at every show was a sense of escapism (most notably at Romance Was Born... No surprises there!) and a willingness to persevere with what you love no matter what.

On The Down is born

FANTASY SPORTS Patrick Effeny was bored. Go figure.

So I was bored shitless at work on Friday, hanging out for 5 o'clock. Office jobs, as many of you may know, are a soul-sucking, ball-vice way to pay the booze bills, but in return offer security, cash and free internet. So New Guy (that's his name, New Guy) and I came up with a sport. In a matter of a week it has developed to a semi-professional level with standards on the increase and rules fully developed.

It all started when I threw New Guy a coin. He caught the coin and threw it back. I caught the coin, and threw it back. The coin went back and forth a few times until I dropped it. New Guy then announced that I had lost. "Lost what?" I questioned.

Thus the sport of 'On the Down' was born. A refreshingly simple concept bore the fruit that is the number one game in our cubicle square, and this ain't no flash in the pan. 'On the Down' is here to stay, with the rules already drafted, world rankings established and a 'On the Down' world cup already in the works for 2011.

For all those wishing to participate in the simple but highly rewarding game, here, in recipe form, is how you do it:

INGREDIENTS

At least two people (three, four, five, even eleven way 'On the Down' are all acceptable by the International Regulators for 'On the Down' and 'On the Down' Related Operations [IROTDR])

An object. No real shape or size is specified, thus the variability and last-ability. So far 'On the Down' has been played with coins (all Australian denominations have been used, though we haven't ventured into foreign coins), mugs, phones, iPhones, pens, water bottles and babies.

METHOD

Throw the object to a previously specified height and catch below the same height. Ascertaining what the correct height is based on skill, experience and environment. The thrower is not restricted to a classical throwing method, and can use flailing arms, baulks or genital flashing to put the opponent off. Similar to Basketball, but not similar enough for copyright infringement.

The catch must be made "On the Down". This means the catcher's palm must be facing the thrower, and the catch must be made while the person's arm is descending rapidly. Thus the name, get it?

Best out of any predetermined odd number is the winner. A tie results in sudden death. By assassination.

Have fun!

Now that I have shared my darkest secret with all of you, you must all share yours with mine. Email me. You know the address.

Crouch, hold...MERGE!

STATE OF PLAY Antony Faisandier is at break point



Too much sport?

Sport is one of the great loves of my life, but it's getting a bit like a clingy girlfriend – even though you might like her, she doesn't give you any space, she keeps on releasing overly enthusiastic advertising campaigns, and she's composed of rival groups of professional male athletes. The analogy breaks down upon inspection, but the point is still valid. Sport needs to get out of my face.

TO ILLUSTRATE MY COMPLAINT

The Super 14 is set to become the Super 16, which means that instead of 16 weeks of a competition nobody watches, we'll get 18, and it will still end up being won by some fly-speck village from New Zealand - like Christchurch.

AFL and Rugby League are shaping

for a stonewall over Sydney's West. Millions of dollars are being poured into winning the unspoiled riches of Penrith, and I can't help but think that the victor is going to be disappointed when they get there.

Cricket has a new face now. 20/20 is so prevalent that there isn't just one major Indian League stealing everyone's players, but two. There is a rebel league. The 20/20 mainstream is big enough for there to be 20/20 rebels. How the hell did that happen? I don't watch it; my mates don't watch it; that means there are at least three people not watching it – where are the alleged cricket-mad throngs who make these ventures profitable? (Obviously, the answer is India, so I'll take my beef up with them. Get it? Beef? Hindu country? ... *cough* ... I hate 20/20.)

I'm a sports nut, but of the tournaments and codes mentioned above I care about approximately... none. I don't give a fig about the A-League; I watch the Trans-Tasman netball occasionally for the sake of satire; and I can barely get excited about the Ashes (unless we pick Callum Ferguson again, that guy is sick).

I'm tired of watching sport, but I know that at its heart it's like having a big night on the cans and swearing off booze forever – if they just gave me a breather I'd be right back there next weekend.

COLLEGE

Honi's guide to college watering holes

Joe Payten slams back a few in the name of research.



Shit got hectic

There is a very good reason that College kids don't go to Manning, and its not just that they don't know where/what it is, or that none of them have Access cards (both of which are, however, good reasons).

For those unfamiliar with the Intercol

system, within the walls of St Paul's, St Andrew's and St John's Colleges are licensed premises, where those who choose to indulge in their regular social events can experience a heady mix of drunkenness, inebriation and possibly fornication. Yes, this all sounds infinitely rewarding, however navigating the College social scene can also be a dangerous experience for the uninitiated, so here it is: your guide to the Intercol pubs.

The Highlander, the licensed premises of St Andrew's, is a pub in the same way that, if I got a liquor license for my room, invited you over and sold you cans of beer, it would be a pub. Whilst open occasionally on a Wednesday, the Highlander on a Sunday is infamous, when the Drew's common room is transformed into a massive party venue, whilst still maintaining that unique we've-given-our-common-room-a-name-and-now-we're-selling-beers-out-of-it-therefore-it's-a-pub ambience that it's known for. What better way is there to spend a Sunday night than slamming cheap vodka shots and getting naked? It certainly beats watching the insufferable Rove.

The Dail, open Wednesdays, exists es-

entially so that Johnsmen, Johnettes and their guests can drink, get naked, give each other bad haircuts and come up with creative ways to get charged with public disorder later in the night, all in the comfort of their own home. Be prepared to consume copious amounts of rum, and take your pants off if 'Eagle Rock' plays (which it definitely will, more than once). Its proximity to the Grose also means that, should you actually happen to get ejected from the premises you can easily kick on at what has been called "one of Sydney's finest pubs" (citation needed).

The Salisbury is the drinking venue that the students of St Paul's, and their subsidiary residence Women's, call home. The Salisbury on a Wednesday night is legendary. The pretentious sandstone surrounds become home to students from all over campus, who gather in the beer garden, in costume that wouldn't be out of place on a Mardi Gras float, and consume vodka red bulls like it was Kevin Rudd's shout. Later, the interior resembles a rave cave, playing host to the resident DJ set, before patrons partake in the ritual migration to King St., where they can kick on at the Marly or dabble in some Turkish cuisine.

Each of these fine establishments sells drinks so cheap it's probably illegal (and you don't need an Access card!), puts on a great night on a regular basis, and everyone is welcome. If you don't believe me, ask the kid asleep in your Thursday morning tutorial.

SEND LETTERS &
CONTRIBUTIONS TO

honi2009@gmail.com

Only submissions with your
name, year and faculty
will be accepted.

THE HONI SOIT CROSSWORD

ACROSS

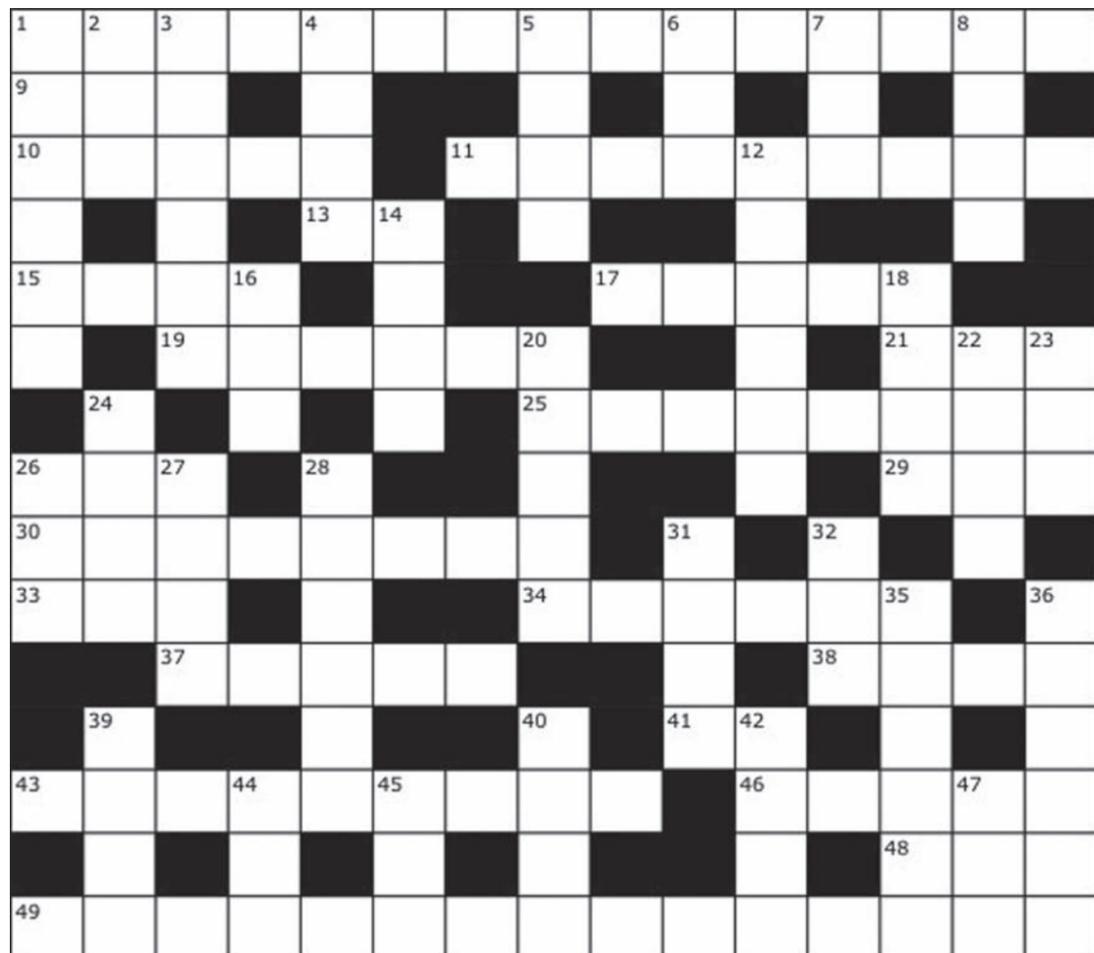
1. "Ren...render pooves about", he said fronts around (8, 7)
9. Age. See 2 down (3)
- 10, 46 across This comic actor is certainly penniless, so says 1-across (5, 5)
11. Mount Panorama, for one, is a copy shelf, so says 1-across (4, 5)
13. Therefore, a needle pulling thread (2)
15. This girl's lovely, so say The Beatles (4)
17. This princess is said to be level (5)
- 19, 31-down. This Hollywood offspring is a lot of poo, so says 1-across (6, 4)
21. Enquire about music (3)
25. Declare a measurement to declare (8)
26. Ghost cries victory in noughts and crosses? (3)
29. Label you're it (3)
30. This confectionary is brown being unsuccessful, so says 1-across (8)
33. To and hairdo? (3)
34. Complex thesis causes robberies (6)
- 37, 12-down This folk musician calms the warden, so says 1-across (5, 6)
38. Singer seems to be a piece (4)
41. Thanks to all beginners (2)
43. Parents are stupid and angry, so says 1-across (3, 3, 3)
46. See 10-across
48. Oppression ends? That's positive! Or negative? (3)
49. Muscle-bound beach-goer is a small patch of grass and forbidden, so says 1-across (6, 3, 6)

DOWN

1. Account about the left (6)
2. Listener moved. See 9 across (3)
3. Jumps safes (6)
4. Apparently lifts beams (4)
5. Late, like de commercial (4)
6. Food pill after roughly 3.14 (3)
7. Alternatively, we heard a paddle (3)
8. And so on to the top of the hill, we carve! (4)
12. See 37-across
14. Greases massage fluids (4)
16. Eureka! An 80's band! (3)
18. Limitless government funding tirade (4)
20. Laugh, right, then be quiet? That's mean! (5)
22. Poo solo? (4)
23. Potassium? A drug? Gee, they told me there'd be beer! (3)
24. This animal makes a tedious noise (4)
26. Sour and in poor taste (3)
27. Where you can find the words "Pulp Free", for instance, or a glove that doesn't fit? (2, 1, 1)
28. This superhero is carpet prohibition, so says 1-across (6)
31. See 19-across
32. These actors suck the cockheads (1, 1, 1)
35. A foot in the door seems a sure thing! (4, 2)
36. Neal Downward starts fire killing mate (6)
39. Four, as it were, worn by a ballerina (4)
40. Sounds bloody conceited (4)
42. Is A.A. interfering in the East? (4)
44. Space creature in special friend (3)
45. A relative dead without energy (3)
47. Caviar, caviar, caviar your boat, gently down the stream? (3)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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



BMFD

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

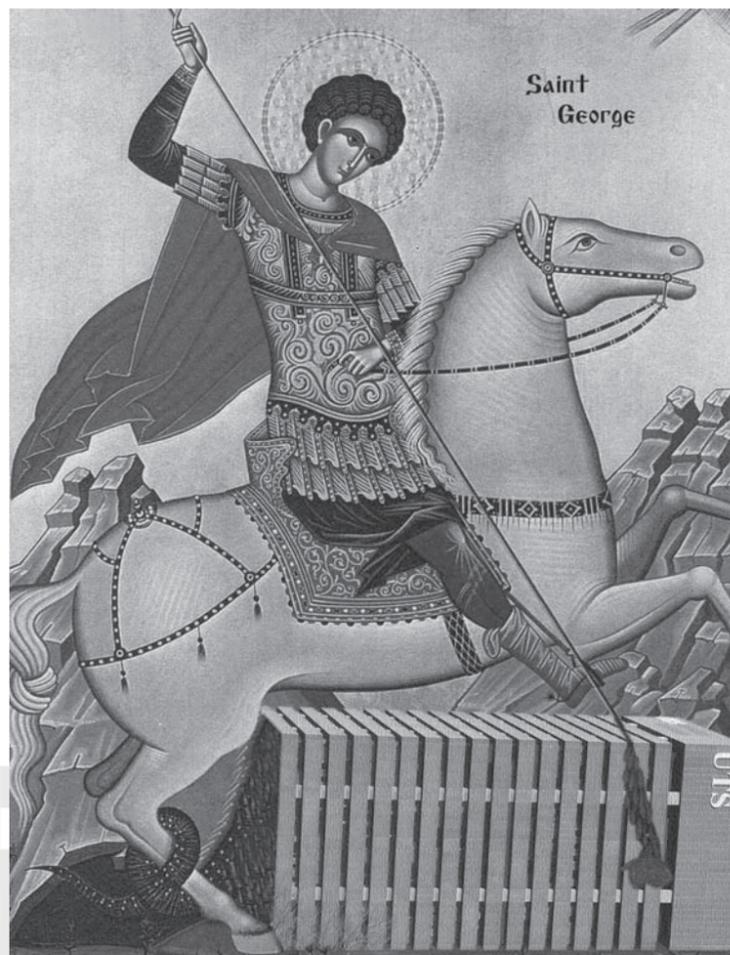
So, with a Cryptic, the literal clue (that's what the clue actually means) will either be at the end or start of the phrase and if you can narrow down what the literal clue is - then the rest is easy. So the two options are 'A small confusion' or 'Some Animals'.

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.





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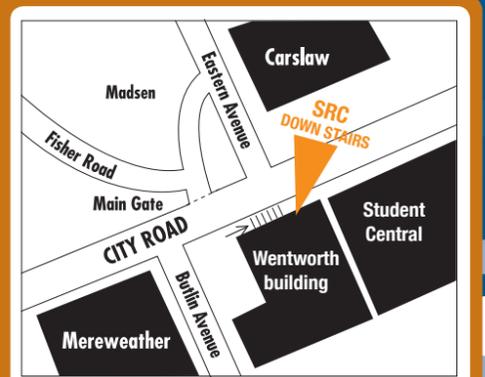
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