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WEEK 3 EDITION | 11 AUGUST 2009

ST. MICHAELS
COLLEGE

The mystery of St. Michael's

A mysterious tale of the derelict college

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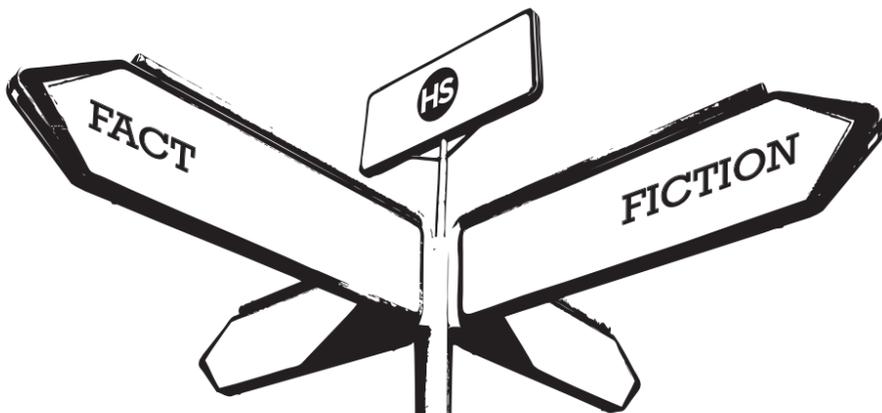
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Step off, Tamsin

Daniel Graham, Arts III

Important News: anyone who contradicts Tamsin Dingley is a whacko conservative whose opinion is not only wrong, but stupidly conceived. Tamsin, I wrote one of the three letters criticising your article last semester. But... I'm not from the right! At least one-third of your 'overwhelming criticism' comes from liberals! Surprised?

So let's recap. You've called me a misogynist (collectively with men whose contribution toward stopping rape ends with them not being rapists). You've dismissed my argument as the rantings of a foolish conservative, which in a way is a worse misunderstanding than being mistaken for a misogynist. Why don't you just go ahead and call me a homophobe now?

J'accuse!

Max Wilkie, Arts I

Occasionally, I read a piece of writing so poorly written and so mind-bogglingly idiotic I want to tear my own eyeballs out and never read again.

As you may have gathered, I've just had such an experience, sadly while reading *Honi*.

In short: Edwina Burn, I hate you.

Your review of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince you've inflicted upon the reading masses is a travesty of writing. Its content alone is a cocktail of every kind of

poor form; when you consider its syntax on top of that, it's enough to make one want to crawl back into the womb.

I did not see a single sentence of actual film analysis in the entire review, which is, after all, what a review is. It seems unjustified sweeping statements and personal attacks are easier to write – where is your justification for “schmaltzy...generic Hollywood trash”? And when, I ask you, was being ugly synonymous with poor acting? Not only do you tell us next to nothing about the film you're reviewing, but you break every rule of common decency I can think of – do not write personal attacks in public, especially when judging their work. Do not call those who disagree with you wrong. It isn't funny; it's poor writing.

Did I mention poor writing? You are inconsistent, your grammar is poor, your sentences clunky. “Third-rate high school production”? Is the world so lacking in originality, of truly inspiring ways to belittle people? And really, even those subjected to New South Wales' appalling English curriculum should know that “that” is never, ever used when referring to a collective of people. It's “people... who loved this film”, I think you'll find. I would have thought that writing “the biggest disappointment... is that this film had so much potential” would have you roundhouse-kicked to the centre of the Earth by your editor (perhaps with support from Chuck Norris) for its blindingly obvious misuse of, well, frankly, words.

As a sidenote, I'm curious to know whether you think both Daniel Radcliffe and Tom Felton gave decent performances or if it's

just the latter – because you certainly gave new meaning to the word “ambiguity” with the trio of sentences concerning the two young actors.

I expected more from the famous *Honi* Soit. This review (honestly, I struggle to come to terms with calling it that) is a mockery of journalism. Kindly go back to writing school.

Green Scarf day

Sevgi Yildiz, History Hons I

Heads up *Honi*, the Green Scarf Day Foundation needs volunteers! Last year, we raised \$25000 in charity for poverty and grief stricken areas such as Palestine, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and we can't do it again without your help on Green Scarf Day, Friday 19th August.

For more information about the Green Scarf Day Foundation go to <http://www.greenscarfday.com>.



Editorial

One of the most important aims of *Honi* is to report campus news and rumours as accurately and engagingly as possible. In doing so, we hope to keep readers informed and keep various parties in power across the University accountable. We do this best when those involved in a story are willing to cooperate with us, and give us information we can rely on. This kind of contribution keeps us accountable and accurate, and it also gives them an opportunity to have their perspective acknowledged. It's disappointing when we don't get this kind of involvement, but we will by no means decide not to run a story without it.

Of course, one of our other aims is to be entertaining and give you a fun and exciting read. This week, Paul Mackay weaves an enthralling and disturbing tale of St Michael's, the abandoned college on City Rd. Mark Di Stefano interviews indie kids Art vs Science, and the regulars are bursting with giggles and intrigue, waiting for your perusal.

Honi is as good as its contributors, and we've been lucky to have been able to publish so many talented students so far. But as always, we want you to get (more) involved. If you read something you don't like, write us something better. Hell, write us something anyway! We hope you enjoy the edition.

HS

Giselle Kenny

FROM THE VAULT

This week in From The Vault...

Geoffrey Robertson is a name that hits you constantly when reading through *Honi's* editions of the 60's. From SRC President and organiser of student frolics to the judicial activist and an elder figure of human rights profiled in *Honi* today, he was never too far away from an interesting idea...

A Sydney University student will be put up as a candidate for the State Election as part of this year's Commemoration Day festivities. This was announced last week by the Commem co-director, Geoff Robertson.

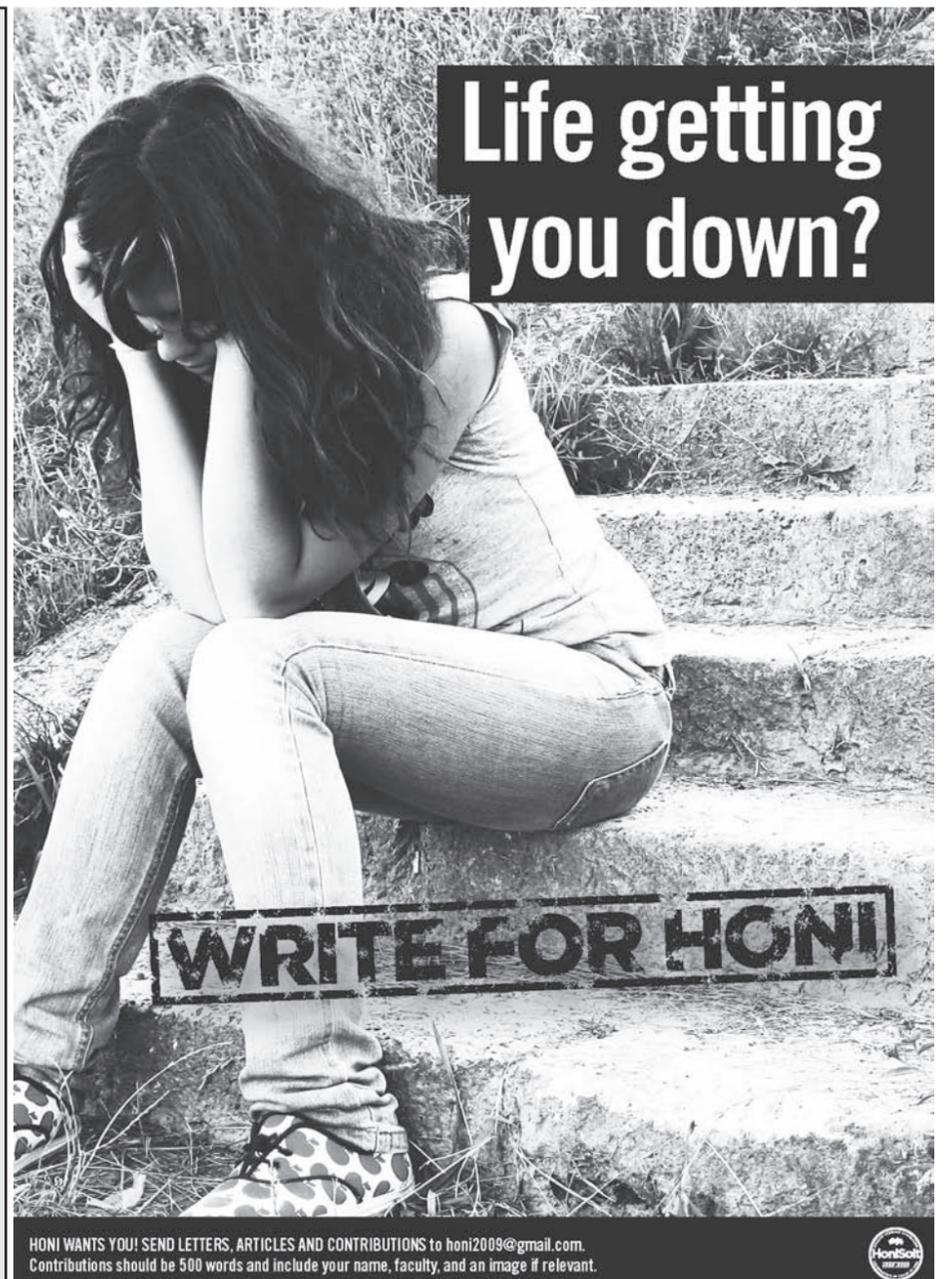
Mr Robertson pointed out that since polling day fell on the Saturday before Commem Day (Wednesday, 5th May) the antics of the “Official Commem candidate,” especially if he was to stand for a closely contested seat, would obtain wide publicity for Commem and its charity appeal. He said that this need not only serve as a publicity stunt – the candidate's campaign could be designed as a send-up of the election platforms of the major political parties (e.g. he could demand things like “Church Aid for State Schools”)

and the occasion could be used to voice genuine student grievances such as tax and transport concessions. Candidate

The candidate endorsed by the SRC Activities Committee, as was the suggestion that the candidate should be Arts representative Bob Ellis. Mr Ellis said that it would be many years before Commem coincided with another election, and the opportunity should not be missed. He promised to ask his present employers, the Australian Broadcasting Commission, for two weeks leave of absence to stand for Parliament.

A stunt planned for Commem Day itself is an Olympic style girl-carrying relay race against the University of New South Wales. Laurel-wreathed and toga-clad male members of the competing teams lined up at 50 feet intervals along George Street. Instead of batons each runner will exchange a suitably attired Greek goddess. The gods and the NSW police dept. permitting, a Bachanalialia will be held for the victors on the steps of the Town Hall.

Published in *Honi* Soit, 1965



HONI WANTS YOU! SEND LETTERS, ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS to honi2009@gmail.com. Contributions should be 500 words and include your name, faculty, and an image if relevant.



Honi's Guide to... Robots

Katherine Connolly wants a robot dog to be her friend.

In 1920, Karel Capek wrote a play about artificial human creations called 'robots', a term coming from the Czech word meaning slave. Nearly one hundred years later, Capek's imaginary workforce of android humans is isn't such a far cry from reality. Japan has a 'workforce' of over 400,000 robots, including 'Saya' an android programmed to teach, who gave classes earlier this year to fifth graders in a Tokyo primary school.



I do not understand this thing you humans call... democracy.

Those in the robotics industry say we're hovering on the edge of an enormous boom in robot technology, and one that is already preceded by an extensive use of robots in military defence. Since 2006 reconnaissance 'TalonBots' have been scouting for roadside bombs in Iraq and 'PackBots' are have been searching Afghani caves for Osama bin Laden. As one U.S military officer puts it, "When a robot dies, you don't have to write a letter to its mother."

Beyond military technology, 'entertainment' robots are becoming increasingly popular. 'Ernie', for instance, is a Sony-produced robotic dog, which barks when startled, cocks its head and lifts its ears when curious and wags its tail when played with. Just like a real dog, right?! Except my dog can't play MP3s, record sound or sync up with my Outlook inbox. Nor can it identify samples of different wines, cheese and hors d'oeuvres, which the 'Winebot', another Japanese robot can apparently do with the precision of a middle-class foodie at a grower's markets. (This robot did, however, get it wrong in the testing

process, when it identified a reporter's hand for a slice of prosciutto.)

Hanson Robotics, an American company, produces robots with faces made of 'Frubber', and are apparently equipped with artificial intelligence, speech recognition and computer vision software. Their models include 'Vera', a humanlike robot created as a depiction universal beauty and 'Yargh-bot', a disembodied, animated pirate head. Hanson creepily claims that their robots will "evolve into socially intelligent beings, capable of love and earning a place in the extended human family."

Creepier still, is that robotics expert Henrik Christensen predicts humans will be having sex with robots within four years.

There's a certain irony to Hanson Robotics being based in California, a state with a Governor that might have a thing or two to say about machines with artificial intelligence that can do stuff on their own.

USYD owns World Uni Games

Alex Lee goes for gold! Actually other people did.

Australia secured eight medals at the 25th World University Games in Belgrade this July.

Sydney Uni students did us proud in the pool and on the court. Robert Maitland (pictured below, right) captained Australia's water polo team to become the first non-European team to win gold by defeating Croatia.

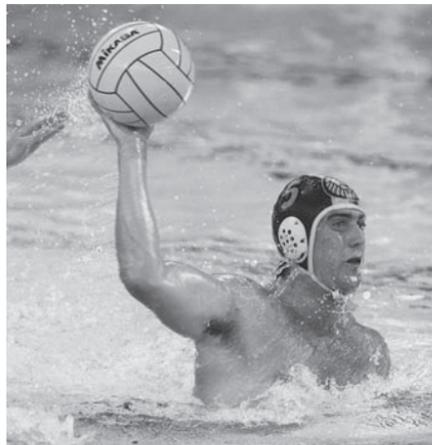
Chemical Engineering/Commerce student Kiera Shiels and member of the Flames basketball program came home with a bronze medal as part of the women's basketball team.

"The level of competition in Belgrade for basketball is the highest ever, and a number of head coaches from sports like swimming, water polo and tennis report the level of competition to be at world standard," Marty Roberts, Australia's Chef de Mission, said.

Matt Jaukovic, 50m butterfly world record

holder and another of SU Sport's big medal hopes was forced out of the Universiade when he contracted a virus.

Australia also won gold in the women's discus, women's 800m, men's 400m hurdles and the men's 4x400m. Kalia McKnight took out silver in the women's 1500m and Cameron Prosser collected silver in the men's 100 freestyle.



Welcome to the gun show.

Escorts in Victoria Park



In recent days Campus Security has begun patrolling Victoria Park from 9pm till late.

A lone figure scans the park atop the staircase, while his jeep's siren lights penetrate the dark recesses between the trees.

When asked about what this meant for Usyd's terror levels, the guard would only say that, "we are just taking precautions."

Honi feels content in knowing that the ducklings are safe at night.

News in Brief

Last week, embattled Leader of the Opposition, Malcolm Turnbull tried really hard to get everyone to notice the Rudd Government's growing public debt. Malcolm was overheard in Parliament House, yelling desperately, 'It's true! Please... so much debt, it's like \$315 billion... look, it's all here in this email I found! No, no, it's real this time!' A weeping, haggard Turnbull was led away by an intern who calmly explained that no-one gives a crap about anything he has to say, because the idea of him having any credibility is about as ridiculous as thinking a McNugget is made of chicken.

In the US, a group of conservative lawyers and members of Congress known as 'birthers', continue to loudly dispute that Obama is 'a natural-born citizen of the United States', as required of a President by the Constitution. Obama's supporters are handling these accusations calmly, and have insisted repeatedly that Obama was born in a manger in Bethlehem, surrounded by farm animals and Three Kings, who were guided there by a star.

Australian Intelligence forces uncovered that a group of Melbourne based Australians with links to Somali Islamic extremists in al-Shaabab were planning an attack on Holsworthy army base. ASIO and the AFP are feeling excellent about themselves. 'Yes, well just goes to show, doesn't it?' smiled one operative. 'All those lily-livered liberals having a big cry and getting their knickers all knotted about 'civil liberties' and whatnot shut right up once we busted some bad asses, didn't they?' Yes, we're all very glad you caught them. Fine.

Create your future

Prepare yourself by discovering your graduate options at the GO Expo

4pm-7pm, Thursday 3 September at the Quadrangle, Camperdown campus

More info: www.usyd.edu.au/graduate_options



graduate options expo

- honours
- postgraduate coursework
- graduate entry
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The University of Sydney

Scandal at Snowball

Mark Di Stefano was at Snowball and so were the police.

Lizzy Watt, University of Sydney Union Board Director was removed from last Thursday's Snowball by Manning security for being heavily intoxicated. As she was escorted out by Manning's hired security staff, undercover Newtown Licensing Police were on hand and filming the exit - a worrying piece of footage for both Manning and the Union.

Honi has been assured by USU President Patrick Bateman that the licensing police will not be charging Manning Bar, but should they decide to, the Union could be hit with a significant fine, between \$5,000 - 10,000, and a restricted licence for future music events.

As a student-elected Board Director, Lizzy holds a paid position with the USU. Her duties include not only formulating Union policy, but acting as a student representative of the Union. Snowball is one of the Union's major public events and revenue raisers. Board Directors are not only expected to attend, but to do so in their capacity as student-elected representatives.

Increased security controlled Snowball this year. Approaching Manning's entrance, crowds of students were treated to a quadruple security check. Bouncers required all attendees to provide their I.Ds, be examined by a sniffer dog and empty their bags and pockets. Many male students

were asked to pull their tops nearly above their head in case they had drugs strapped to their body. The event also saw regular uniformed police walkthroughs.

In light of the Union going to such lengths to ensure security and protect Manning Bar's license, having a student removed from the function is embarrassing. This is especially the case given the student involved is a current Board Director. Honi believes Lizzy failed to live up to her responsibilities as a Board Director at this event.

Neither Lizzy nor the Patrick were willing to comment officially, although both asked Honi not to publish this article.



Extra security at Manning

NTEU discontent

Bronwyn Cowell might go on strike.

The National Tertiary Education Union is planning a strike for the 16th September. Their complaints vary, but in general, staff are concerned that Howard-era changes to employment conditions and tertiary sector restructuring will endanger their jobs.

Strike action has been approved by staff at the University of Melbourne, where they are protesting the 220 jobs that have been lost in the university's restructure. It has involved moving towards an American-style system of more generalised undergraduate degrees. Staff at the University of Canberra are concerned about a proposal by the University to offer all new mid-level and senior lecturers seven-year contracts, rather than tenure.

Several universities are currently considering proposals to switch to a system of teaching-only positions, whilst only a small, select group of staff engage in long-term research. This many come at the cost of quality teaching, and reduce the opportunities for students to engage directly with academics and their research.

No formal decision regarding the strike has been made by staff at the University of Sydney. We hope that a compromise can be reached before we face the dismaying possibility of missing 9am lectures.

The Bull's red flag

Katherine Connolly looks at changes to *The Bull*.

The Union Board recently voted to change the format of *The Bull*, based on a proposal put by USU Honorary Secretary, Giorgia Rossi. Giorgia's report outlined twelve recommendations, including reducing *The Bull's* publication from weekly to four editions per semester. Giorgia believes that reducing the frequency of *The Bull* will create a better quality publication that is "vastly differentiated from the SRC's *Honi Soit*." (hey, that's us!)

These changes were passed unopposed and largely undiscussed at a USU boardroom last month.

A former editor of *The Bull* who has read Giorgia's report, believed the changes were mostly positive, the best result being that they would give greater control to the student editors. The biggest problem with *The Bull* at the moment, he claimed, was that "the Union thinks they can change content whenever they like." As for the reduction in the number of issues published per semester, he believes that the success of this will depend on whether *The Bull* will be able to distinguish itself from *Honi Soit*. Otherwise, it runs the risk of "becoming increasingly irrelevant to the student body."

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This is an Art Attack!

STAFF INTERVIEW **Bronwyn Cowell** takes a tour of University Art Gallery, with its Head Curator **Dr. Ann Stephens**.



Please, do take a seat. Just next to the fireplace and under my Van Gogh is fine.

Would you give *Honi* a brief overview of the University's art collection?

The University Art Collection is the largest of its kind in Australia, with over 7,000 pieces. [It's comprised of] the Union's art collection, the Power collection, which was a bequest by John Power in 1962, and the major collection of the University, which dates back to mid 19th century. We don't have a gallery to show the whole collection, and unfortunately most of it is in storage.

It doesn't contain many public artworks. In comparison with Macquarie University and the University of Melbourne, we don't have much public artwork on campus. I am developing a public artwork policy, whereby 1 – 1.5% of the capital works budget for a project is directed towards installing public art.

You have only joined the University of Sydney Art Gallery this year. What is your job description in this position?

Most of my job is developing a program of exhibitions for this gallery, as well as facilitating public events and publications. I have to look after the collection – and not just its physical care and storage, but also research for particular works. I also plan and arrange for the installation of artworks in other university buildings.

Out-ternet

Michael Krasovitsky takes a closer look at the Internet system at USYD.

Access to the Internet at the University of Sydney is appalling. In comparison to other universities, not only does Sydney University lag seriously behind, but it also seems to have the most "unfriendly" policy.

The Internet can be accessed three ways on campus. The first is by a Cisco-routed wireless network. This network, notoriously difficult to make work on your computer, allows you six megabytes of Internet usage a day. This is roughly equivalent to two typical journal articles in pdf. format. If using the Internet for an assignment, one might expect to "run out" of free Internet after an hour.

The second option is the library computers found on level three. This time, there's no download limit. But there is a time limit: two hours. And of course, there's a serious shortage of these computers. If you're looking to access the Internet between 11:00am and 3:00pm, expect to wait for up to half an hour for a free computer.

We have a large group of works in the new law building including a set of Bill Henson photographs, and works by Indigenous photographer Michael Riley.

We have the 150th anniversary of the University's collections coming up – by collections I mean the art gallery, the Macleay Museum (natural history) and the Nicholson Museum (antiquities). To celebrate the sesquicentenary, we're releasing a book with Miegunyah Press, and I have a grand plan to bring the three collections together in a single space. There is a proposal for such a space that's being considered by the VC. The project is unscheduled as yet, but we're looking to build a permanent museum where the tennis courts are now, opposite Fisher library. It's now up to the VC.

There are obviously lots of art history, museum studies and SCA students on campus, and it's important that we provide those students with opportunities to gain professional experience. We have students who work as volunteers here at the gallery now and a lot of the University's museums are staffed by volunteers.

Where were you working before our gallery snapped you up?

I have a few degrees in art history and did post-graduate study here at the University of Sydney. I have taught in art schools and for the last 25 years I have worked as a freelance curator, doing shows for the Monash art collection and the MCA. My full-time job was as a curator at the Powerhouse Museum.

Beyond consolidating the collections, and pushing for them to have a larger, permanent home, what other changes do you wish to make?

I have reduced the number of exhibitions we hold. I want to focus on developing re-

Lastly, the Access labs that are scattered around campus follow the same six megabytes system. Once your free Internet usage has dried up, internet usage will cost you two cents per megabyte. Though using the university web site will be free, any other browsing will cost you.

This situation is totally unsatisfactory. It is also somewhat of an anomaly compared with other universities. The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Victoria not only has an unlimited wireless network, but it also has an exorbitantly larger amount of computers. Furthermore, Access labs around campus allow students to reserve computers in advance, meaning that at stressful, work-filled points throughout the year, students are better able to make use of internet facilities across campus.

The Caulfield campus of Monash University also has an expansive and state-of-the-art wireless network, which runs at 100 megabytes per second. According to a student at Monash Caulfield, Gillian Raleigh, "there is a limit, but it's basically impossible to reach it". Indeed, Monash Caulfield does charge for Internet if a certain cap is exceeded, but even then, the charge is 0.0055

search projects, as well as adding on good public programs. Later this month we are having a late afternoon conversation with Anne Summers, about art and legal issues and where they meet. We want to start public events teaching people about starting their own collection. Roddy Meagher (former University of Sydney student and judge) began collecting as a student; we want to educate people about buying from dealers, from artists, from wherever.

Speaking of Roddy, the gallery is currently exhibiting a collection of works from his private collection. Can you tell me about the show?

This is the first show I've done. I was keen to focus on the modernist strand of his personal collection. I've adopted a broad interpretation of modernism for the purposes of the exhibition. There are several French works in the exhibition that are mostly on paper (giants like Manet and Picasso make a showing), and he has a wonderful collection of Australian works, by people like Grace Cossington Smith, Joy Hester and Margaret Preston.

Is it harder to put together an exhibition of another person's existing collection, rather than curating a show from scratch yourself?

It depends on the collection. Roddy's is quite extraordinary. There would be very few private collections with the wealth of Grace Cossington Smiths that Roddy's has, for example. His collection is also very Sydney oriented, a very cosmopolitan collection.

In his own home, Roddy hangs the works from floor to ceiling, and I've tried to recreate that feeling. It's not very modern, I must admit, more in the vein of the Salon (where works were hung to fill the available wall space).

cents per megabyte. Sydney charges 363% more than that.

Closer to home, the University of New South Wales has an unlimited wireless network. Previously, UNSW had used the same VPN client that Sydney currently uses. They have recently however, upgraded to a more secure and faster system. Bryan Talbert, a student at UNSW told *Honi* that "people use the internet at uni for everything! Downloading music, doing all their research, networking".

So why has Sydney University got such an archaic and user-unfriendly system? One Sydney Student, Clare Giles told *Honi*, "Sydney's shocking with the net. Slow, shaky and so expensive! I basically only work from home now". This represents a real response to the shocking Internet configuration that we've currently got at this university. Though USYD receives the most funding from the Australian government out of all national universities for research purposes, our Internet system is openly and unashamedly expensive and restrictive. This paradox seems absolutely bizarre, and needs to change.

Verge wants you!

Verge is the University of Sydney Union's annual arts festival held in the first two weeks of September. The festival brings hundreds of artists, thousands of students and millions of ideas together to showcase a diverse range of music, visual art, stage, film, and discussion.

The Verge Arts Festival Directors are looking for a savvy bunch of volunteers to help run some of the Verge events. You could find yourself climbing trees, throwing paint, decorating the campus in chalk, serving food and drinks, hanging out with the artists, providing information and directions, decorating cupcakes, showing people how to make jewelry, updating databases, organising RSVP lists and helping with media calls.

Plus, volunteers get sweet perks like free entry to events, a swanky lanyard, a t-shirt, and a killer reference on your CV.

Volunteer for the Verge Arts Festival - 31 August - 12 September. For more information email or phone 9563 6010.

RANDOM TUTORIAL No. 6996

Paracetamol

Paracetamol is the most available drug in the world, coming in many forms and marketed under many names. In Australia, it is principally sold by the Pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKlein under the famous name Panadol, though many generic forms also exist. But what exactly does this drug do, and how does it work?

Paracetamol, or *N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethanamide* is classified pharmacologically as both an analgesic, that is, a pain reliever, and an antipyretic, a fever reducer. A common misconception is that paracetamol is anti-inflammatory. When taken in a standard dose, paracetamol gets absorbed about 10 to 60 minutes after being swallowed. Though its effect on fever reduction and pain relief is well documented, the scientific community is still divided over the specific mechanism of action which paracetamol employs.

It is not part of the non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug family, which features the drugs aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen, but due to its effect on pain and fever, it is often classed as such. Like all drugs of this family, Paracetamol acts to inhibit the enzyme cyclooxygenase (COX), which is responsible for the production of prostaglandins. Prostaglandins are important mediators of pain and fever and so, when "dulled", they limit the expression of these symptoms.

When taken in excessive quantities, Paracetamol can lead to liver failure and even death.

Michael Krasovitsky

HEAD  HEAD

Lady Gaga

The case for...

Mark Di Stefano

I'm here to tell you that you don't need to be embarrassed about liking Lady Gaga. When you're caught singing Papparazzi at the plasma screen at Kings Cross Maccas, or staring with a wry smile at her latest ridiculous PVC, no pants offering, you shouldn't be embarrassed. Au contraire, rejoice in the evolution towards self-reflexive talent in pop music.

Firstly, Gaga is a musician. Not like how Britney or Jessica Simpson are musicians, but like how other 'real musicians' consider their profession. She was a proficient pianist by the age of five and accepted into the Julliard School of Performing Arts at 11. Shunning the path of Yo Yo Ma, she went to a Catholic school with Paris Hilton, where she got straight A's and chose a life as a cabaret singer on New York's Lower East Side. She can read sheet music, play the cello, write hooks for Pussy Cat Dolls and sing in different octaves all in the same day.

Secondly, fashion heavies believe her ridiculous dress is "so in right now". High fashion houses, including Dior and Versace, are scrambling to dress her (or not dress her, either way). If you can't watch a haute couture show and lazily commentate, "bravo darling" while you take another drag on your Camel menthols, then you probably will not get the 'fashion genius' of her disco ball panties. Fabulous.

Lastly, and most importantly, Lady Gaga is scarily in tune with what is required to be successful in the music industry. When music journalists meet her, they all mention her intensity and informed opinions of success. She has a tireless commitment to her craft which involves having a hand in every level of production writing, playing instruments, choreographing live shows and music videos, designing sets and making clothes.

Therefore, she is the perfect pop star: smart enough to play the industry, talented enough to write more albums, low brow

enough to get her kit off and committed enough to reinvent her image.

Michael is bluffin' with his muffin.



The case against...

Michael Krasovitsky

Lady Gaga has peaked. Like the generations of pop stars before her and like those that are yet to come, this 'diva' is following a simple formula of shock and glamour. For the moment, this interesting mix of being both dumb and badly dressed, topped with a good serving of media promiscuity, is absolutely titillating. But soon, Lady Gaga will be discarded, like the thousands of childhood heroes that are mutilated weekly for her wardrobe.

Let's start with Lady Gaga's first big mistake: Her name. Lady Gaga? What the fuck is that? The singer/songwriter/all-round-media-whore's real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta. With a bevy of first names to choose from, not to mention the many ways that Germanotta could be twisted into an exciting stage name, why pick something as transient and awful as Gaga? While it does accurately

reflect the singer's target market, it has no staying power, and certainly no definitive character.

But fine, let's hypothetically say that we're cool with the name. What about her music? Yes it's catchy, but have you ever actually listened to the lyrics? Here are a couple of Gaga's most profound metaphors: "disco stick", "my playboy mouth", and "Russian roulette" which, apparently, is "not the same without a gun". Not the same without a gun? Seriously. Are you actually joking Lady Gaga? Because I'm not laughing. I don't think anyone here is laughing. Of course Russian roulette is not the same without a gun?! You're an idiot, Lady Gaga.

But okay, belief is suspended. I'm cool with your name and your... 'music'. Let's just analyse your fashion for a moment. You recently wore an outfit made entirely of Kermit the Frog dolls. Earlier, you wore an outfit made of plastic bubbles. Some would call you avant-garde, a *provocatrice*. In reality, your fashion is so outlandish and impossibly niche that it is laughable beyond belief. At first, we were a little in awe of your style. Now, we're over it. And we're over you Lady Gaga.

This is one disco stick that's not up for any fun.

Reader's Challenge!



What is the connection between these three hotties?

Email the answer to honi2009@gmail.com for a special surprise.

GAFFEMAN

Are you havin' a gaffe?

During the funeral of former President Coraxon Aquino a number of media outlets, both local and international, referred to the deceased as that of President Arroyo, instead of President Aquino. Well, they sound kind of similar, no big deal, right? Wrong – President Arroyo is the current, living, President of Philippines. But the gaffe went viral, from the Manila Bulletin, to the Philippine Star, to Yahoo! Philippines. Sources close to President Arroyo told Gaffeman she has joined the 'Support Group for People the Media Said Had Kicked the Bucket', started by Jeff Goldblum.

Weeks after a summit intended to thaw frosty relations between the US and Russia, Vice President Joe Biden made very nasty references to Russia's failing economy, loss of face and a leadership that is "clinging to something in the past" in an interview with the Wall Street Journal. After Biden portrayed Russia as a limping, humbled nation, Gaffeman overheard him say to an aide, 'What? Everyone is thinking it.' That may be so, and while Americans just smile and shake their heads at the guy who told a senator in a wheelchair to stand up, the Russians, as usual, are not amused. The Kremlin has released the following brief statement: "It is plot."

South African swimmer, Gerhard Zandberg was disqualified from the 50 metres backstroke heats at the Telkom SA Championships held in Pietermaritzburg. Why? He was wearing two swimming costumes! Which is not allowed, young Zandberg. 'Whot? Whay shouldn't ah haf two swimming costooms?' he exclaimed. The second costume was rumoured to have been powered by a motorized engine, complete with a shark fin, flippers and Gillyweed which put the other contestants at a significant disadvantage.

Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney

Notice of 2009 Students' Representative Council Annual Election

Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2009 close on Tuesday 25th August 2009. Polling will be held on the 23rd and 24th of September 2009. Pre-polling will also take place outside the SRC Offices Level 1 Wentworth Building on Tuesday 22nd of September 2009 from 10am - 3pm. All students who are duly enrolled for attendance at lectures are eligible to vote. Members of the student body who have paid their affiliation fees to Council are eligible to nominate and be nominated, except National Union of Students national office bearers. Fulltime officebearers of the SRC may also nominate as NUS delegates.

Nominations are called for the following elections/positions:

- (a) The election of the Representatives to the 81st SRC (31 positions)
- (b) The election of the President of the 81st SRC
- (c) The election of the Editor(s) of Honi Soit for the 81st SRC
- (d) The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 81st SRC (7 positions)

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: www.src.usyd.edu.au/elections, or picked up from SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth Building).

Nominations must also be lodged online along with your policy statement and Curriculum Vitae (optional), by close of nominations at www.src.usyd.edu.au/elections. For more information, call 02 9660 5222.

Signed Nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination must be received no later than 4.30pm on Tuesday 25th August, either in the locked box at the SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth), or at the following address: PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

Nominations which have not been delivered either to the locked box in the SRC front office or to the post office box shown above and submitted online by the close of nominations will not be accepted regardless of when they were posted.

The Regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available on-line at http://www.src.usyd.edu.au/sites/default/files/SRCconstitution_Aug07.doc.pdf or from the SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth Building).

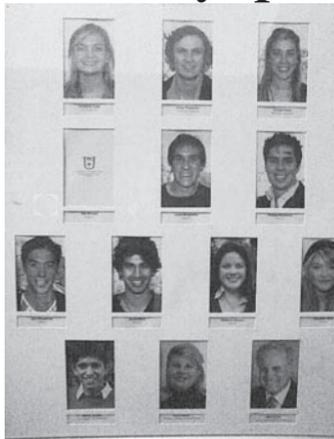
Authorised by Christine Kibble, SRC Electoral Officer 2009. Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney. Phone: 02 9660 5222 www.src.usyd.edu.au



YE OLDE RUMOUR MILL



Mel B: Scary Spice



Mel's disappearing act

The new crop of Union Board Directors have hit another snag after the antics of last semester's elections and the subsequent tussling over executive positions.

Mel Brooks, who ran on a platform of deep involvement and knowledge of the workings of the Union, has been absent without from the Board Director's induction, several board meetings and the Clubs and Societies Committee, of which she is chair.

Some of the meetings she was meant to attend were covered by a statutory declaration that compel her to show up - and the evidence, like the absence of her photo amongst the Board Directors - poses a few interesting questions. Former board directors told Honi that the regulations for the suspension or exclusion of a Board Director are vague, but failing to be present at meetings or pass on an apology that isn't accepted by the directors is grounds for a censure motion or being relieved of duties. Some suggested that Mel might prefer to resign rather than face this process.

The situation is such that if she resigns or is forced to leave her position, either Michael Falk, who lost due to the Union's Affirmative Action election policy to Mel, or Amani Frijat will take her place on Board.

The question remains as to why Mel hasn't plain turned up - a result of the earlier Machiavellian tussling over executive positions that meant she lost her bid for Honorary Secretary? Or perhaps she just has no interest in the nitty-gritty of the position.

So you think you can edit?

With the deadline to register for the SRC elections fast approaching, wannabe Honi editors are busy putting together tickets to contest the editorship in September. We've so far heard of a whopping five tickets planning to be in the running: two independent tickets have formed, one from Labour right, the losing 'Pulp' ticket from last year's election and a Writer's Soc ticket.

The field is by no means locked, so if you're interested in editing for Honi, get writing and start your machinations.

...and the top dog?

At the moment *Honi* hears the following will be pounding the pavement for SRC Prez come September:

Elly Howse: NLS's First Lady has a strong claim. Notably, her party has held the post for years.

Andrew Coleman: The man who created a party is coming back to the table.

Some Socialist: who hates the SRC

Tom Clement: Will go from Prince of the

Nerds, to Lord of the Dungeon.

Doug Thompson: Gorgeous hair, check. Awkward social demeanor, check. Unbridled position collecting on campus? Check.

SRC tension, again

Christine Kibble has been re-appointed as the returning officer of the SRC, after being the subject of heated debate at the last SRC meeting. The SRC Exec is responsible for selecting staff to positions such as returning officer, and their recommendation is put to vote before the SRC, who usually confirm the Exec's choice. However, at the last SRC meeting the motion to confirm Kibble was strongly opposed by a number of SRC counsellors.

Andrew Coleman threatened to lead a walk-out of the Whig faction, which meant the SRC could take no action as they would lose quorum. Mel Brooks spoke of the difficulties she had encountered with Kibble last year, during her campaign for Union Board. *Honi* found it bizarre that Mel had time to attend the SRC meeting, and not compulsory Union events. The SRC eventually reached a compromise, passing the motion on the condition that a new set of guidelines be written outlining the obligations of the returning officer.

THE COLUMN

The NSW government obviously isn't worried that Rudd's climate policy will drive up the price of pollution and eventually phase out coal. They've just invested \$200 million to expand the Eraring coal-fired power station, and approved two new power stations. And they shouldn't be worried. The federal government's CPRS (Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme) is Christmas-come-early for big polluters, who will be able to wave their green flag of legitimacy while going about business as usual.

Under this scheme, which is put to a vote before the Senate on Thursday, pollution will become a legal right and more than \$16 billion worth of pollution permits will be freely given to the dirtiest industries. Dodgy 'offsets' can be cashed in for more permits, and there is no limit to the number of permits that can be purchased from overseas. Individuals who try to reduce their emissions at home will find their efforts rendered useless, as their actions will simply free up more permits for dirty industries.

In the face of looming environmental disaster, climate scientists are now urging we adopt 'below zero' targets. Professor Tim Flannery has said that "the current burden of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is in fact more than sufficient to cause catastrophic climate change". Yet world leaders fresh from the G8 summit are patting themselves on the back for agreeing to stop global temperature increase by more than 2°C (we're currently at 0.8°C) - a target that the EU Climate Change Expert Group tentatively admitted "cannot be considered to be entirely safe".

The CPRS reduction targets of 5 - 25% is supposed to stop us exceeding 450 parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere. But the 2007 IPCC report says in order to reach a target of 450ppm, the Kyoto Annex 1 countries, of which Australia is one, would need to reduce their emissions by 25-40% of 1990 levels by 2020. Um...what happened to the 40%? Are we supposed to be celebrating Rudd's highly conditional promise of taking on the absolute minimum target? And the IPCC 2007 report was based on estimates that the Arctic summer ice would be gone by the end of the century. But scientists are now saying it will melt in the next 5 - 20 years. In August the Sydney University Environment Collective presented an analysis of the CPRS at the Students of Sustainability (SoS) conference in Melbourne. This conference attracted around 400 students, who spent a week participating in forums, workshops, skill shares and demonstrations around the theme of 'sustainability'.

Students were concerned about the CPRS, but persistently asked "isn't it better than nothing?" Well, if better than nothing means being locked into decades of inaction while rising sea levels create millions of refugees, malaria rates skyrocket and the coal industry keeps making a profit, then yes.

Erima Dall
Member of the Environment Collective



Snoring

Katherine Connolly doesn't snore and neither should you.

There are few behaviours more annoying and unforgivable than snoring. Whether it's snuffling in your ear on a cramped aeroplane, through the thin wall of a poorly sound-proofed building, or god forbid, the worst insult of all - tearing from the nostrils of a significant other in your very own bed.

The extraordinary noises that people somehow manage to produce when they snore have always baffled me. If the snorer's shuddering, gargling, choked sounds were played back to them upon waking, they would never be able to reproduce them. What is it about the peaceful state of sleep that means people are suddenly capable of making noises akin to a herd of drunk pigs having an orgy?

The gradual build-up to the full blown snore is the worst part of trying to sleep near a snorer. Each crescendo kills a little bit more hope of further sleep. Usually, it starts with heavy breathing, when the

snorer inexplicably constricts their throat and produces noises a serial killer on the telephone would be envious of. Then, tantalisingly, the wheezing stops, but usually only for a few seconds, before the nose gets involved. Once the snorer has reached this stage all hopes of a peaceful night vanish, because things only get worse from here. Snot starts pooling somewhere in the larynx and audibly bubbles away, accompanied by snorts that start to shake the very foundations of the building.

This cacophony escalates until the snorer actually chokes, splutters, jerks and rolls around. For a couple of sweet, peaceful seconds there is silence, until the heavy breathing starts again. The cycle continues all night. Every cursed snorer's timbre, vibration and gurgle are different in subtle yet identifying ways.

The true cruelty of all this is not just that the non-snorer cannot sleep, but the snorer themselves is blissfully oblivious,

immersed as they are in the very sleep that causes their dreadful affliction. It is those who are considerate enough not to snore that are unable to sleep. Eventually, it is not the actual noise, but the bitterness of this injustice that keeps the non-snorer awake.

There are no real remedies. A pillow over head and fingers in the ear can work, and if you're in close proximity to the snorer a sharp kick will often do the trick, but not for very long.

GOT A BEEF?
honi2009@gmail.com

MISCELLANY

Molecular Cuisine

Phoebe Neill-Wilkins gets a new sensation.



For entree: needle egg

From the outside, Ritual is a simple shop front squeezed next to a fish and chips place in the small town of Shoal Bay. Yet dining there is no ordinary event; it's 3 hour, 20 course, molecular gastronomy experience.

Molecular gastronomy is a fancy shmancy cuisine popularised by Ferran Adria of El Bulli fame, whereby chemical processes are used to alter the structure, look, texture and even taste of food to create truly surprising results. Snails turned into smooth peaks of foam, served on a teaspoon, anyone?

My meal began with an amuse bouche of garlic fairy floss on a sprig of rosemary. The idea was to sniff the rosemary whilst eating the floss so you could experience both flavours. The rest of the menu was divided up into entrée, main and dessert with palette cleansers and interim dishes in between. Booze was selected by chef Carl to enhance and complement each meal. We drank Barossa Valley Quince

Wine, Commissioners Block Pinot Grigio 2008, Flyfly Beer, Pigs Peak Winery Pear Tree Range Calling Birds Riesling 2008 and others.

Every single dish was a warped fusion of flavours that surprised, confused and delighted us. Among the highlights were: Pickled ginger cloud - imagine a cube of ginger-infused shaving mousse. Tom yum sphere - a calcium agent taken from seaweed is used to partially solidify tom yum soup. It looks like a giant red pearl, the kind you find in milk tea, only when you bite into it hot tom yum liquid explodes.

Nitro peppercorn balls in a chocolate cone was in fact a science experiment. Chef Carl brings over a container of liquid nitrogen and places it in the middle of our table. As it smokes coldly before us, Carl drips warm peppercorn ice cream mixture into it by way of a pipette. Wearing thick gloves, he reaches into the icy clouds to scoop out tiny balls of now solid ice cream and sprinkles them into a pure chocolate cone. The effect is instant; icicles grow all over the cone the way you've only seen in *The Day After Tomorrow*.

The meal was delicious yet agonising because initially, each course was too small for our large appetites, so we were still starving after one hour of eating. Yet by the end, we were sickly full. Eating at Ritual is a truly fantastic experience where you never know what is coming next. Just make sure you don't spill any liquid nitrogen down your front.

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Smart Eating

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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 50 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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SRC Elections 2009 Postal Voting Application Form

POSTAL VOTING

If you wish to vote in the 2009 SRC elections but are unable to vote EITHER on polling days Wednesday 23rd or Thursday 24th September at any of the advertised locations, OR on pre-polling day (on main campus) Tuesday 22nd September, then you may apply for a postal vote.

Fill in this form and send it to:

Electoral Officer
Sydney University Students' Representative Council
PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: postal vote applications **MUST BE RECEIVED AND IN OUR PO BOX by Friday the 25th of August at 4.30pm** or they will not be considered, no exceptions.

You may use a photocopy of this form.

Name of applicant: _____

Student Card Number: _____

Faculty/Year: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

I hereby apply for a postal vote for the 2009 SRC elections. I declare that I am unable to attend a polling booth on any of the polling days, OR on any of the pre-polling days, for the following reason: *(please be specific. Vague or facetious reasons will not be accepted. The Electoral Officer must under section 20(a) of the Election Regulation consider that the stated reason justifies the issuing of a postal vote.)*

Signature: _____

Please send voting papers to the following address:

State: _____ Postcode: _____

I require a copy of the election edition of Honi Soit: YES / NO

**For more information contact
Christine Kibble, Electoral Officer 02 9660 5222**



Authorised by Christine Kibble, SRC Electoral Officer 2009.
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney Phone: 02 9660 5222 www.src.usyd.edu.au

Extra-Parliamentary Expenses and the Tax Payers Burden

Bronwyn Cowell is sick of picking up her local member's tab.

Embezzling electoral funds to renovate summer homes. Extravagant dining habits funded by the taxpayer. Frequent luxury holidays covered by travel expenses. Politicians have done little of late to endear themselves to a recession-weary public, as scandal after scandal has come to light revealing politicians taking advantage of the lax regulation of extra-parliamentary expenses and allowances, treating the cash as their own personal piggy bank.



The fortune of this Royal Family is all Thaid up in stocks

Most of the more public falls from grace have occurred back in the mother country. In May of this year, Labour MP Elliot Morley was found to have claimed £16,800-worth of mortgage repayments – only the loan had already been paid off. He was promptly suspended from the Labour party. Tory MP Douglass Hogg spent £2,200 of public money to clean the moat of his 13th century manor house. Once this became public knowledge, and under pressure from his leader David Cameron, he stood down. Then, two Lords were expelled from the House of Lords after agreeing to alter legislation for money – the most mind-bogglingly blatant piece of political corruption you're likely to come across. This is only a brief tour of the UK's Great Expenses Scandal of 2009.

What's the score in Australia though? What do parliamentarians get to spend on the costs of the job? Federally speaking, they get a whole lot. They receive \$32,000/yr to reimburse "for costs necessarily incurred in providing services to constituents". What is actually done with the money is between the member and the tax office – no receipts need be provided, no expenses justified, and there is no public record of where the money goes. Each MP also has postage, communication and printing allowances (the last of which Rudd reduced from \$150,000 to \$100,000 after the last election), and there is no publicly available record of how this is spent either. To this, one ought to add all the other perks of incumbency like car hire, multiple mobile phones and personal organisers, Internet access, subscriptions, the upkeep of

member websites and electoral databases and equivalent services to the member's dedicated staff. The arrangement for state MPs in NSW is comparable.

It is right and appropriate that politicians have reasonable costs of doing their job covered, and yes, that might include more travel or more photocopying than the average professional would engage in. If such expenses were not borne by the public, it would only be the very wealthy and well connected who could enter parliament. Such a great loss to our democracy would far outweigh the money currently spent on and by MPs. Yet this need to level the playing field should not be met by handing our elected representatives blank cheques. More than that, efforts ought to be made to be frugal, and stretch expense dollars further. There should be some sort of system in place where anytime an MP can't explain a significant expenditure, it is picked up quickly, and we can weed out those polities who misuse public money.

Yet it's not just about belt-tightening and simple honesty. Overly generous allowances and lavish support for incumbents pose a serious threat to the fairness of our democracy. The argument is pretty simple, and is one that former Democrats Senator Andrew Murray has advanced before, in the Senate itself in 2008:

"[An] incumbent has a natural advantage over any challenger when an election is contested. However, when that incumbency advantage is artificially boosted so that it becomes much more expensive or difficult for a challenger to contest the seat, it becomes a real problem. Despite our democratic system being a plural one in which numbers of political parties and Independents can contest elections, there has been a strong tendency towards dualism and oligopoly. So incumbency advantages further boosted the prospects of the two largest beneficiaries of our system—namely, the Liberal and Labor parties."

Well said. Nitpicking about complimentary tickets to AFL games, private car hire and staff expenses is trivial and fruitless – MPs will always need staff, they'll always need a car and someone to drive them places, and their corporate buddies should be free to give them tickets to the game so long as it doesn't result in favourable treatment. When we hear about expense scandals, let's respond with calls for greater transparency and reporting – not because we're pissed off that MPs get lots of return flights to Canberra, but in recognition of the fact that the health of our system of government is at stake.

Art VS Science

Jim Finn, vocals and keys from Art Vs Science, spoke to Mark Di Stefano about a hard life of partying, inflatable penguins and THAT song. Oui!

What have you done since March 2008? Completed a couple of semesters, maybe gone overseas, if you're lucky got that awesome internship...

On the main stage at Splendour, three young guys have thousands of people in the palm of their hand. Jim Finn thrashes the keys. Dan Williams' arms flail in a blur on the drums. Dan Mac atop a huge speaker stack, screams high school French.

In just over a year they have gone from your average, run of the mill uni students to touring rock band who cant seem to get off Triple J.

Jim, you're back at Splendour, where it all began, how was your set?

Yeah, it was an awesome show, one of the best atmospheres you could imagine. Walking out on stage, the curtain going up, and then hearing all those people at midday on the first day jump around and be stupid. AND yell the lyrics back at us - one of the biggest buzzes ever!

What the hell is with the big blow-up penguins? This has sort of become your thing, how did it start?

Yeah, they are very much a part of our live shows. They have been there from the very beginning as well. Basically what happened was, we gave Dan Williams a blow up emperor penguin for his birthday as a joke. So when we went to our first gig we needed some props to make our stage prettier, we brought him along, and put headphones on him, and he rocked out in the corner. Cause people associated Flippers with penguins, we began to throw them into the crowd for the song and it was great to see these crowd surfing penguins.



Grenouille Vs Pingouin

You must have brought a few now, are they expensive?

Haha, yeah we have started to ask for them back at the end of our shows. They are \$35 each, and we have bought about 40 of them since we began. They have stopped making the big emperor ones though which was devastating. (At this stage we trail off into a discussion about the best place to buy blow-up penguins).



Just so indie.

What would you and the other guys be doing if you weren't playing music fulltime?

Well we would be where you are right now, at uni. Well that isn't entirely true, I have finished my Aviation Flying course at UNSW and have my pilot licence. Dan Mac has completed Psych/Law at Maquarie, and at the moment Dan Williams is doing Law at UNSW (A couple of years ago Dan Williams was at Usyd doing Arts and was a college kid at St Johns). So we would all be doing something very, very different.



The very good looking Dan Williams

I am sure you get this all the time, but what is the story behind Parlez Vous Francais?

Well, it all started before Splendour last year. (At this moment Jim stops to cough up what can only be described as last night's kebab). Sorry bout that. Dan and Dan were talking about this cool catchy line in French that could be turned into a call and response style hook. On the night of the first day, we started mucking round with it and realized it would make a really great song. The next day we worked out a song and people seemed to really dig it.

That's it? Just a random French phrase?

Yeah, well it's catchy isn't it? We just were mucking about and it just stuck. And we are not lying, the Champs Elysee is a busy street.

Is there a music video in the works for the song?

Yeah, we just finished and it should be out next week. It was so much fun to make. We went to this old, rustic town, and set up a battle royale between two mimes. While they mime battle we play in the background. I think we have to thank Michael Bay, because he was the main inspiration for the video. Haha, it should be sick.

The song, Flippers, that really got you onto Triple J, like Parlez Vous Francais has some really catchy lyrics. Notably, 'Use your flippers to get down'. Is it about, well you know....

Drugs?

Well yeah, pills?

No it's not! We get this from everyone, especially in our first interviews. They were like, "so why are you singing a song about getting down with ecstasy." We were like, what? Flippers are pills?

So it is actually about swimming flippers?

Well, it was a couple of summers ago and we just came back from the beach, a mate of ours had all his surf stuff. We were jamming and we asked him for a catchy line, and he said say something about getting down with ma flippers!

Art Vs Science is a band that goes all the way back to high school days, did you guys perform together when you were at St Ignatius Riverview?

Well, me and Dan Mac were in the same year, and Dan Williams was a few years lower. We played in all those stage bands and jazz bands but never as Art Vs Science. But we got together only in March last year, and of course it was the Riverview connection that got us together, but all

this success was about us being mates with similar music tastes.

Are there any bands that you can point to as inspiration for your sound?

It's a bit of everything. Of course there are the dance acts that have really influenced us especially Daft Punk (Dan Mac had a bit of a religious experience when they came out a couple of years ago) and The Presets. But also older stuff like AC/DC and Rolling Stones. When we hear something new and it pricks our ears, one of use will play it to another and it will be like "look what they have done here to produce this sound". We have been told by a lot of people that the second verse of Parlez Vous Francais sounds very Beastie Boys, with Me and Dan Mac rapping over each other.



Shirazglobebook?

The sounds that you produce are very heavy and dark, on the keys especially, how do you do it?

Well, Dan got this old keyboard from his uncle and the only way it produced any sound was if we plugged it into a guitar amp. We plugged it in and the variety of sounds that it produced was so dark and strange. It was quite digital and the sounds would bend and distort, so now we just muck around with different ways to produce sounds those keys.

So when is the first album coming out?

Hopefully early next year. We are working on some new tracks now, and hopefully we can get some great writing done on the road, even around festival time. We will get in a rehearsal space soon and we have some great ideas brewing, so I think it is a very exciting time for the band.

Finally, Art or Science?

Art.

Good answer. HS

THE MYSTERY OF ST. MICHAEL'S

AT 150 CITY RD lies St. Michael's College. It's in a pretty prominent spot, right next to the newly opened Union Plaza, opposite the bus stop thousands of students use each day as they venture home. You may have seen it; glanced at the sorry and worn panel that bears its name. Understandably, you probably didn't spare it a thought. On the surface, St. Michael's appears to be just another run-down building waiting for the inexorable expansion of the University campus to consume it. If you stopped to look, you'd probably be too distracted by the posters plastered to the boards that have long been covering its windows.

The College first came onto *Honi's* radar while researching the construction of the Jane Foss Russell Building. The University's submission to the NSW Department of Planning outlined that the space occupied would be framed on one side by the Wentworth Building, and on the other, St. Michael's College – owned by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Having wrongly assumed that the University owned the land and would use it for this development, *Honi* sought to learn what the space would instead be used for.

But looking past the posters and forgotten walls, we discovered a fascinatingly eerie history. One that carries with it more questions than answers, checkered with rumour and speculation, and tainted by tragedy.

The College was founded in 1903, offering residential accommodation to Catholic students studying at the University. The University Chapel of the Resurrection, attached to St. Michael's, offered a place of worship to the students whose numbers had outgrown capacity at St. John's College, founded almost fifty years earlier. While St. John's became an increasingly progressive and increasingly popular church, St. Michael's remained orthodox. It became a centre for the Australian chapter of the Opus Dei movement during its rise in the 1930s, and stricter fidelity to the Catholic faith was encouraged. But with very little information readily available, the above detail is where *Honi's* initial investigation ended.

Motivated then by little more than curiosity, *Honi* approached the

University's School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry for advice as to where further information could be found. The History Department placed us in contact with Daniel Ederle, a Ph.D candidate who had been researching the progression of Catholic theology at the University.

“It's frustrating for me. John's and Sancta are fairly clear-cut in their history and teachings. Everything I have on St. Michael's is a little hazy. It's a shame, because if the stories I've heard and read are true then I may have to shift the parameters of my thesis.”

When we met with Ederle, he was quickly able to confirm our findings. He supported them with his research into Catholicism at St. John's College, as well as Sancta Sophia, the Catholic Women's College founded in 1926. But he commented that the information about St. Michael's is certainly harder to come by.

“I've had difficulties with St. Mick's actually – which is strange for an institution that started off as a residential college tied to the University. University historians and archivists have always been fairly thorough and kept a decent record, but most of what I've read on St. Michael's and its chapel is fuzzy.”

Ederle was hesitant to share his preliminary findings with us, as most of it he had been unable to confirm. Using much speculation to piece together a series of journals and detail of rumour, he had crafted something of a history, but not one he was confident represented the complete truth.

“It's frustrating for me. John's and Sancta are fairly clear-cut in their history and teachings. Everything I have on St.

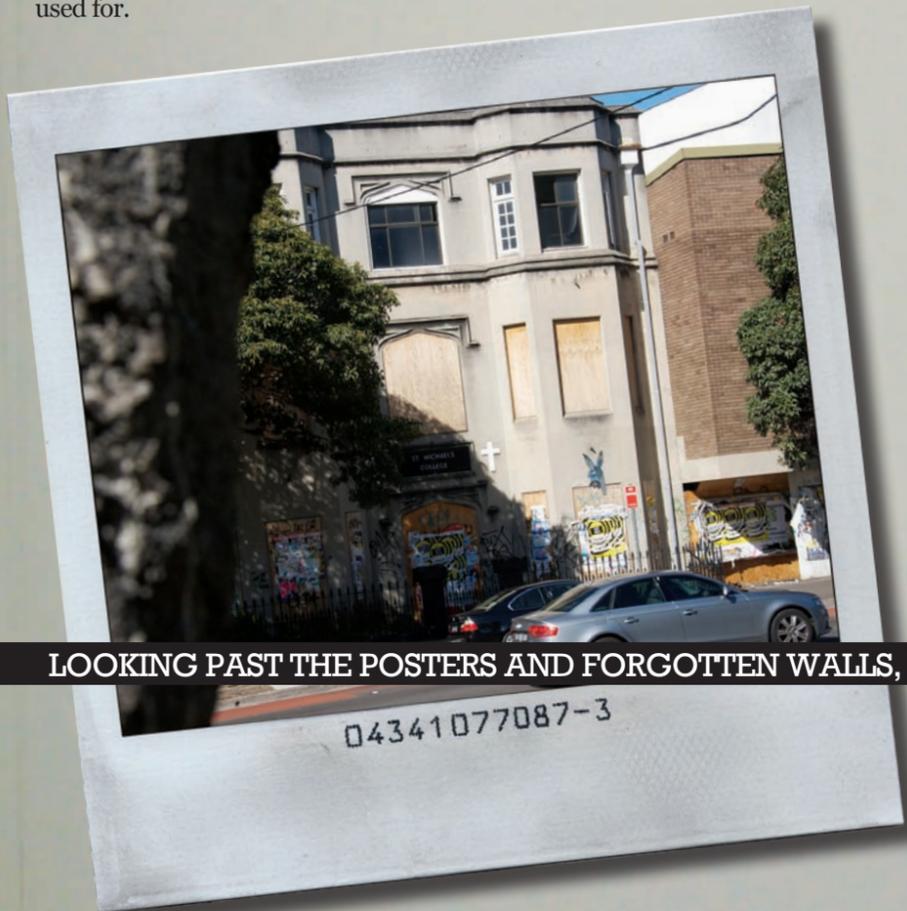
prove his suspicions surrounding the College, it would certainly be a history worth writing, but one that was less based on “catechism” and more on the “supernatural”.

“Well, I don't know if “supernatural” is the right word, but... well it's strange,” he went on to clarify. Ederle mentions that this isn't the first time the College has been shut down, with much rumour and intrigue surrounding its closure in the mid-1940s. Retrieving a sheet of paper from his folio, he explains how useful journal entries have been to his research. This particular entry, from a Paul's College resident, recalls a night he passed the University Chapel of the Resurrection. It details his thoughts on an “increasingly reclusive” St. Michael's College, and his initial horror to hear screams coming from the College's passageway. Finding the source of the noise to be four men behind the Chapel, he tried to get their attention – when he could not, he assumed them drunk and moved on.

While this event isn't particularly noteworthy on its own, newspapers from just days after the journal entry reported four College men missing. A flurry of unenrollment from the College that would lead to its temporary closure soon followed.

But Ederle says, as with most of his findings, rumour is in abundance and facts are few and far between. He is not certain that students did actually disappear, or if they did, that they weren't found. “We know that the College did in fact close down around this time,” he said. “But whether it was because of “disappearances” or University pressure, or financial pressure, I don't know.”

This story doesn't exist in isolation though, with other cases of the bizarre reported in the lead up to the College's



LOOKING PAST THE POSTERS AND FORGOTTEN WALLS, WE DISCOVERED A FASCINATINGLY EERIE HISTORY. ONE THAT CARRIES

Michael's is a little hazy. It's a shame, because if the stories I've heard and read are true then I may have to shift the parameters of my thesis.”

Ederle suggests that the shift would be necessary because if he could

closure. On an attempted prank run through St. Michael's, a group of students were amazed to find they could not enter the premises – not due to locks or doors but an “invisible force” that held them back. The story was dismissed as the fabrication of attention-seeking students.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES, UNEXPLAINED OCCURRENCES AND TERRIBLE TRAGEDY: USUALLY THE STUFF OF HORROR MOVIES, BUT AS *HONI* DISCOVERED, ALSO PART OF THE STORY OF ST. MICHAEL'S.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE MACABRE AND THE SUPERNATURAL TO EXIST SO CLOSE TO SOMEWHERE WE'RE SO COMFORTABLE? **PAUL MACKAY** VISITED THE DERELICT COLLEGE ON OUR DOORSTEP AND FOUND AN EERIE HISTORY WITH MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.

Further, students who left the College commonly recount the feeling of an uncomfortable presence in their rooms, the constant feeling that they were being watched, and some going so far to say that objects would regularly be seen to move unaided. While nothing was ever substantiated, the broader community generally looked upon the College as an unnerving place, akin to the cottages of witches in countless children's tales.

While he was happy to relate these stories, Ederle gives them little credence. As part of his research, he canvassed psychologists who maintain that deep belief in the mystery of a place can often spark imaginations that a person is convinced is real. Add to this the intensity of faith in religious phenomenon within the students at St. Michael's and there exists a perfect recipe for people to experience the fantastical. Yet another explanation is possible gas leaks: odd as it is, many legends of haunted buildings around the world have been explained away as hallucinations induced by mild monoxide poisoning.

Such explanations would certainly fit the pattern of many other seemingly innocuous places in New South Wales where tales of the bizarre have transpired. Take for instance the Monte Cristo Homestead in Junee. Built in 1885, the estate has seen no less eight deaths, including that of a baby who fell down the homestead's staircase, a maid who fell off the balcony and a stable-hand who was burnt to death. These deaths, and the imprisonment of a mentally impaired man, have led many to consider the house haunted. Since, there have been reports of sightings of ghostly figures and lights, as well as similar force fields to those experienced at St. Michael's. Another example closer to home is the Mill Hill Hotel in Bondi Junction, which has allegedly been haunted by former workers for years.

and large gaps in its officially recorded history certainly tickle the imagination.

While it would be easier for us to fall into its bizarre tradition of rumour and speculation and suggest that Ederle has been coerced by the Church, perhaps it is just another in a long line of useful coincidences.

But if there was some sort of curse or conspiracy floating over St. Michael's, it manifested itself in the most horrible of forms in 1992. The College had reopened under a new rector in the 1970s, distancing itself from the old College's reputation and seeking to provide a more inclusive home for Catholics on campus – which it had successfully done, growing in number once more. The unthinkable happened when a fire broke out in one of the main dorm sections, and with the fire doors inexplicably jammed, many students found themselves trapped. Sixteen students died in the fire. The ensuing Inquiry revealed no wrongdoing on the part of the College and that the tragedy was a devastating accident. Again, enrollment declined and it wasn't long before the College was forced to close its doors once more.

Boarded up, sealed off, *Honi* wanted to know more about the inside of the College. At dusk one winter evening, *Honi* braved unwelcoming mystery by sneaking inside. It was a bizarre experience. Doorways were concreted over, and there were odd side rooms that seemed to have little purpose. The building was in a state of disrepair, and there were odd sketches over many dorm rooms. In the cool, but fleeting daylight it was easy to dismiss these as harmless graffiti, but as night fell, they took on a far more sinister character.



brought in a light and the electricity has been off for years.

Coincidence? Does a simple, reasonable explanation lurk behind St Michael's boarded up doors? Or is had something more untoward gone on that night – the same thing that has been haunting the College since it opened?

Honi sought a final comment from Ederle, to recount our experience and regale him with our theories. But he declined to help us any further, saying that he was instead focusing his thesis on St. John's College and Sancta Sophia.

Michael's will again go untold.

While it would be easier for us to fall into its bizarre tradition of rumour and speculation, we're inclined to suggest our experience is perhaps just another in a long line of coincidences.

Regardless, it is interesting to consider that an establishment so close to the familiar and the mundane has a past fuelled by the possibility of supernatural influence and eerie canards.

At 150 City Rd, St. Michael's College and the University Chapel of the Resurrection

CARRIES WITH IT MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS, CHECKERED WITH RUMOUR AND SPECULATION, AND TAINTED BY TRAGEDY.

Most of these stories and accounts seem almost laughable, at least when reading of their occurrence on paper. Whether or not there is something to be spooked by in the history of St. Michael's is open to contest. But the constant and unconfirmed reports of unusual events

Even more bizarre, was the gusts of wind that intermittently disturbed the College's deserted halls, whilst the weather outside was a still as when *Honi* entered. But most alarming of all, was that a friend who awaited *Honi* on the outside saw lights flickering on and off – no one had

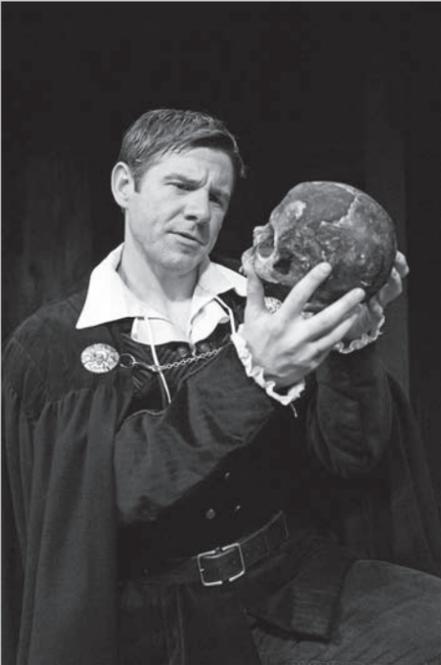
When pressed he explained it was due to the limited information, and his finding it difficult to write meaningfully on the subject.

The loss of this resource means, sadly, the true and accurate account of St.

continue to stand, boarded up and full of intrigue. And probably ghosts. **HS**

DIARY OF...

A METHOD ACTOR.



Are you talking to me? I said, are you talking to me? Of course you're not, you're just a diary. I, clearly, am the one talking to you.

Diary, it has been a busy week for me, as you more than anyone knows. Ever since I left acting school I have just been inundated with offers. Offers like Chris, would you like to serve these people, Chris, I think it's your turn to clean the beer taps. Or here's an offer Chris, would you like me to introduce my fist to your mouth? Because I will if you don't stop insisting that our customers address you as Stanley Kowalski.

I saw a play at the Belvoir last week, the one by what's his name, Brendan Cowell. Eurgh, just terrible. It was so obvious that he hadn't had any formal voice training. He just didn't have the machine for it. The voice is an instrument don't you know? Like the lyre, or the pan pipes. That's when people say to me Chris, do you play any instruments? I say just say one, my own voice.

These last few weeks I have been preparing for a role of a lifetime at The Globe itself. As I type I am on board a plane to Denmark, where I plan to assassinate the Queen's dear son. Then, using my superior acting powers, I shall assume his position as the Prince of Denmark, and await the moment where my new uncle kills the king.

Oh no, that simply won't do. I shall have to kill him myself, and play both roles on the night.

The role is of course, the Great Dane himself, Hamlet. And I shall gain international notoriety by also playing the King's deceitful brother, Claudius, a feat which no man has done before. That would have Branagh turning in his grave. That freshly dug grave that I have just put his mangled body in.

Now all that is left to do is get the part.

OPINION

Sarah, it was initially about your uncle's money, but I really do love you now

Sarah. Please, you have to listen to me. I can't stand this anymore. Yes, I initially spent time with you just to get a share of your rich uncle's money, but I've since fallen in love with you, and I need you to believe me.

Okay, granted when I read in the local paper that your billionaire uncle had died, and you were his sole living relative, sure, I hatched a plan to meet you and charm you with my working class ideals, but that plan has since blossomed into a full blown love I want to shout from roof tops.

I know right at the start we both thought we were too different to ever genuinely be together. You were a rich, privately educated girl, soon-to-be an investment banker, and me, I was a gardener at a local sporting high school whose life just didn't seem to be fulfilled anymore. When you met my friends, they were all so relaxed and happy in their lower class lifestyle, drinking cheap beer and eating fast food, and you were confronted, but for the first time you realised that you don't need money to make you happy. Then when I met your friends, they were all so hollow, with their college educations and their country club memberships. Remember how they were mean to me because I was poor? But you stood up for me because you're not like them, and that's when it turned from a plan to win your uncle's money, into a plan to win your heart.

I tried so hard to prove myself to you. I started reading books and watching foreign cinema. I even got my sassy gay friend to dress me in a different way. Then you asked me why I was acting strange, and I pretended everything was normal, but you saw right through my strategy, and I learned that I should always just be myself.

I know you're angry at me right now. I know your best friend, who I accidentally almost slept with that one time when there was a mix up and I told you that I wasn't good enough for you and that you should marry Chaz the doctor who is boring and mean, but if you can find it in your heart to forgive me, I will love you forever. It's not even about the money any more. You think I still want the money? I don't. I just want to make you happy.

Also, I owe a lot of money to some Colombian drug lords who think I'm actually a woman— but that set of hilarious hijinx for a different time.

Evil chess grandmasters ousted by benevolent supercomputer



After 200 years of oppression from their Chess Grandmaster overlords, Moristovian citizens look forward to a changing of the guard this week, following the victory of supercomputer, Deep Blue, at their national elections. Many in the international community believe this to be a hard earned victory for the people of Moristovia who have long lived under the shadow of the world's most brutal dictatorship.

Long time haven of evil chess grandmasters, Moristovia is often described by outsiders as the final bastion of Medieval ideals in Europe. It has made democratic elections not only illegal, but consider them to be witchcraft. Few diplomats have ever been granted an audience with the Moristovian government, and until 1979, diplomats were required to hold a chess ranking of 1675 or higher before being allowed on Moristovian soil. A diplomat from Germany, representing the interests of Western Europe in 1978 lost his ranking while in the country, and with his diplomatic immunity revoked, was summarily burned at the stake for treason, the last foreigner to be charged under these laws.

Late last year, when Deep Blue announced its desire for the Moristovian presidency, then Grand Master Jevgeni Komoroff shouted from his ivory palace that "It's not human! I don't care if it's not evil, it won't beat me!" 5 days later, as the armies of Deep Blue marched on the Moristovian capital, Komoroff agreed to allow for democratic elections.

The International Chess Association has described Deep Blue as largely unbeatable, due to its ability to calculate 400,000 moves per second, and also its strong polling amongst women and young people. Its message of "Hope, Change & A Strong Pawn Skeleton" has trumped the Grandmasters' message of "Repression, Oppression & Depression" amid the global financial recession.

Deep Blue was unavailable for comment at this time as it was probably buffering.

Kyle Sandilands replaced by rape victim's mother

Austereo executives have announced that the mother of the rape victim will take over the position of Kyle Sandilands as host of 2Day FM's breakfast show.

"Ever since this scandal happened, our ratings have soared, but it's was time for an update," said CEO Paul Nicholson.

"What happened that day was that Kyle Sandilands, the Shock Jock of Sydney, met his match: sassy, outrageous and willing to exploit the rape of her own daughter for less than five minutes of radio time? That's the kind of edginess we look for here at 2DayFM."

Jackie O, who is still in hiding at her husband's farm, will be replaced by a dictaphone with eyelashes and a blonde wig stuck on it. The dictaphone, that is said to bear a striking resemblance to Ms O, is set to play at random the phrases, "Oh stop it!" "That is so mean" and a selection of shrill laughs.

Leaks have revealed the new show will be called Mum and Robo Jackie, with all new segments planned.

"We are going to amp up the shock value to 11. We're talking Refugee Jelly Wrestling, How Much Poo Can You Eat?, and Homeless Knife Fight, where we get bums to fight each other to win a piece of poo, which they can then eat to win the aforementioned competition."

Sandilands' spokesperson report that the embattled radio star is unmoved by his sacking, claiming that it will free up more time for him to rule the underworld.

FOR MORE FUNNIES, CHECK OUT PROJECT 52.

HONI RECOMMENDS:



August 12th | Herman's Heroes
Headliners: Dave Bloustein, Julia Clarke & Chris Rock

August 19th | Make Way For Ducklings
A brand new original sketch show

August 26th | Casablanca Redub
An oscar nominated redub with JazzSoc

September 2nd | Story Teller's Club
Sydney's best comics will spin some yarns

**COMEDY EVERY WEDNESDAY
HERMANN'S AT 8.30PM
\$5 ENTRY IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT**

SCIENCE STUNTS

HOW TO BECOME AN AUSSIE HIP HOP ARTIST

EQUIPMENT

- An honest perspective on life. Honest to the point of mundane.
- An ethnic background. Preferably indigenous Australian, then you can rap about struggling against white Australia and how much Anthony Mundine is an inspiration.
- OR/ A white bread background. The more populous category, if you can't claim some sort of wog, embrace your white, upper middle class Mosman youth, like Bliss n Esso.
- Be aged in the awkward 25-45 years bracket. Aussie Hip Hoppers are the same age as your youngest uncle.
- Have a mate with a Mac. When you have a successful album you have to remix it with some string midi tracks.

METHOD

1. Relocate yourself to an urban centre that isn't Sydney or Melbourne, preferably to Adelaide or Perth or Brisbane or Darwin...
2. Choose an MC name and make it a dumb pun. For example The Herd's lineup: Urthboy, OziBatla, Berzerkatron, Traksewt, Rok Poshtya and my favourite Toe-Fu.
3. Pen some lyrics in a Spirax notebook
4. Make sure lyrics are so niche-y Australian that people in different states won't understand you. Take for instance Draph't's cultural zeitgeist, Jimmy Recard: Like mirror mirror on the wall // Like Wirrpanda on the ball (Wirrpanda is an AFL player for WA's West Coast Eagles).
5. Send your mix tape to Triple J unearthed or FBi.
6. Perform at Manning Bar, the home of Aussie Hip Hop. Muse has Wembley, you have Manning.
7. Give back to your community. Build an inner suburban gym, run a workshop against domestic violence, spend an hour of your week chatting to illegal refugees at Villawood, then rap about it.
8. Put all your efforts towards creating one catchy song... then disappear. Remember Joel Turner, 1200 Techniques, or Pez? Yeah, neither do we.

CONCLUSION

If you want a life of westy bogan groupies then become an Aussie Hip Hop artist. If you want to get hot, party skanks, see this week's feature interview.

Wackivities!

Creative Anachronists

Bronwyn Cowell ventures into the Kingdom of Lochac.



My stick is bigger than yours, sir!

Most USYD students will be somewhat familiar with the Creative Anachronists – they're the folk who spend each O-week dressed in medieval costume, staging mock sword fights on the front lawn. Most students give them a wide berth and make a beeline for the Subski tent.

But delve a little deeper, and you discover that not only does the group go by a different, infinitely grander name – The College of St Ursula – they're actually a chapter of a worldwide group known as the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Established in the US in 1966, the Society now claims about 30,000 paying members from countries across the globe, and devotes itself, so says its website, to 're-

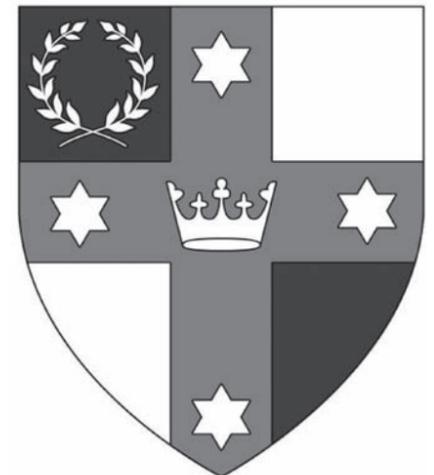
searching and re-creating the arts and skills of pre-17th-century Europe'.

The world of the Society is split up regionally into 19 kingdoms, with names that would sound entirely at home in the pages of Harry Potter or Tolkien, like The Kingdom of Drachenwald, The Kingdom of An Tir. Australia and New Zealand make up the Kingdom of Lochac.

Each kingdom has a king and queen, who have risen to the position through winning one of the many competitions and tournaments the Society holds each year. The Kingdom of Lochac is currently ruled by King Gabriel and Queen Constanzia. The leader of a chapter is called a Seneschal.



Australia? Nay, it's the Kingdom of Lochac!



The Kingdom of Lochac's coat of arms

So they wear funny-looking clothes, have an oddly feudal structure, and joust. That it? By no means. These guys meet regularly to feast, dance and generally party like it's 1499. The 'Creative' in the name refers to the fact that the group doesn't aim for absolute historical authenticity and accuracy in its activities. Instead they seem to just enjoy getting away from the technology-soaked real world to hang out with other men and women who are into tunics, coats of arms and swordplay.

To find out more, you can go via the Union's Clubs and Societies page (via www.usuonline.com), or hit <http://ursula.sca.org.au/>.

HONI TOP FIVE Syntax concepts

01

> Third conditional

The first and second conditional refer to the future. The third conditional refers to not only the past, but a past that didn't happen. For example, "If you had been there, you would have seen him do the dumbest thing". To make your sentence correct, both conditions (1. If you had been there 2. You would have seen the dumbest thing) have to be false.

02

> Splitting the infinitive

An infinitive indicates the form of a verb. In English the infinitive is "to", like "to work, to play". So when you split the infinitive you take the "to" away from the verb by placing an adverb in between. For example, "to boldly go", "to never look back". Splitting the infinitive used to be frowned upon, but now is commonplace in our abridged chat.

03

> Oxford comma

The Oxford is the optional comma in a list before the "and", or "or". For example in this sentence the Oxford has an asterisk, "By the bolt, by the yard,* or in remnants". Who gives a fuck about an oxford comma? We give a fuck about an oxford comma, pretentious indie fuckers. Having said that, it's really unnecessary, and seems to simply accentuate the final noun. If your last point is the most important, it's probably better to mention it earlier on.

04

> Dangling modifier

A dangling modifier dangles when you have left out either a word or punctuation mark that is crucial to the meaning of your sentence. "One morning I shot an elephant in my pyjamas" (Groucho Marx). The elephant was in your pyjamas? These dangles are usually found in newspaper headlines due to editors looking for efficiency, but omitting a modifier. For example, "local high school dropouts cut in half". Murder!

05

> Preposition stranding

This occurs when a preposition (on, beneath, behind, with, from...), is left at the end of the sentence. "That's the dude I saw the film with". This construction doesn't exist in most European languages, which tend to use the words 'whom' and 'who' to a much greater extent. Whereas English allows us to say things such as "It's you I'm jealous of", most other languages would stress this being constructed as "It's you of whom I'm jealous".

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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



There is no doubt that the picture of the "typical student" has changed dramatically over the past 50 years. Students, by and large, are no longer exclusively from

the upper echelons of society and able to rely on their family to support themselves through their years studying.

In 2006, Universities Australia (the peak body of universities in Australia, formally called the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee) conducted a study of the finances of undergraduate students in Australia. The full report can be found at www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au, under publications.

The results show that 70.6% of full-time undergraduates are engaged in some kind of paid employment, of these students an average of 14.8 hours was worked per week. 39.9% of full-time undergrads and 54.1% of part-time undergrads reported that the paid work they were doing had an adverse effect on their studies, with 22.7% of full-time undergrads and 33.0% of part-time undergrads regularly skipping classes because they needed to attend employment. Despite the high levels of employment, students are not living lavish lifestyles. The average income per annum for a full-time undergrad sits at \$12 560 (\$242 per week) while the average expenditure per annum is \$15 950 (\$307 per week)

The report paints a very clear picture. Employment for students is practically unavoidable and it has become a necessity for students to keep up with the cost of their studies and with their living

expenses. It has become necessary for universities to recognise this and make sure they can keep up with and cater to the changing student demographic.

In the past our University has generally not been very flexible when it came to making arrangements for students with employment commitments. However that seems to be changing, and with the SRC's encouragement I am hoping that in the near future the University will make steps towards helping students juggle their various commitments.

One of the biggest helps when trying to juggle work and study commitments is being able to plan ahead. Until recently, personal timetables for classes could only be collected by students 5 days before the semester started which didn't help students who were trying to make sure their shifts at work fitted around their classes. The timetable unit (the people who are responsible for giving you your timetable) have since implemented a policy of releasing semester one timetables 10 days before semester starts (it can't be any earlier because of restrictions with enrolments) and semester two timetables during the first week of semester one exams. Well done to the timetable unit for implementing the change.

Sometimes it is necessary to delay or change the time of an assessment because of other commitments you have. For this reason the University has a "Special Arrangements" Policy. It allows students to ask their faculty to change the date of their assessment because of other commitments including jury duty, religious holidays, representative duties but unfortunately it does not include employment commitments (in fact explicitly rules it out).

The SRC has been working with the Academic Board (which has the power to change the policy) to make allowances for employment commitments within this policy. A student asking to change the date of their assessment because of employment commitments would be required to demonstrate the necessity of that employment.

This could be by providing a letter from the employer stating why it is necessary, or demonstrating that attending that particular shift is essential to remaining in that job or is essential as otherwise the student would not be able to meet basic living costs such as rent costs. While this won't simply let student reschedule an exam because they need to work it will give students who find themselves having to choose between their job or passing/failing their degree a way out of their situation. This change has not been implemented yet but I'm hoping that it will be by the end of the year.

The final change which is in the works is to the period that students are allowed to defer their degree for. Currently this stands at a maximum of 12 months. However due to the more stringent requirements to qualify for Youth Allowance via workforce participation (now students will have to work full-time for two years) there is a need for allowing students to defer for longer periods.

At a recent Undergraduate Studies Committee the SRC argued for allowing students to defer for more than 12 months (up to 24 months) with the permission of the dean of their faculty. I am glad to say that by and large the University administration has been on the side of students when it has come to talking about these matters.



NANNA JIM'S KITCHEN

Noah ran out of recipe ideas so I apparently have to fill in.

Nanna Jim is getting his dance on tonight and sober and drinkless is no way to greet Nanna Jim. So before you come out rocking with me here is a recipe for some cocktails that will get your night started at your house.

Goonade: Lemonade and goon, 1/3 lemonade and 2/3 goon

Guavoon: Goon and guava juice. For the classy.

Goon and Multi V. For the health conscious.



QUEER REPORT

Report of the Queer Officer, Donherra Walmlsey // queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

I can't believe it's second semester already! Where did the break go? For about 15 Sydney Uni students, 8 days of it went to QC – Queer Collaborations – the annual national queer conference, which this year was held in Canberra. It was a great opportunity to meet queers from all around the country, get inspired, skill and experience share, and of course have lots of fun.

I think everyone who attended took a lot away from the conference (and not just the flu which everyone miraculously seemed to catch) – for many NSW students it was the idea of building stronger cross-campus connections which really captured the imagination.

This has led to the initiation of a monthly meet-up, beginning this month, which is pretty exciting, and hopefully something which will continue to build momentum over the coming semester.

The other major recent event on the queer calendar was the National Day of Action for Equal Marriage, which occurred on

Saturday 1st of August. Attendance at the rally, which started at Town Hall and made its way down to Darling Harbour Convention Centre, inside which the ALP National Conference was in progress, was variously estimated by the Sydney Morning Herald as 1500 and the New York Times as 2000 – that's right, our rally got into the NY Times. I think that's pretty damn cool. It was an excellent turn out, and it is only through protests like this that we can continue to show the government that their current position is not good enough and put pressure on them to change it. As Anthony Albanese said when speaking on the issue inside the conference – this is not the end, it's just the beginning, and it's only a matter of time before this ridiculous legislation is reformed.

I have heard some say that the protest did not achieve its aim, in that all the ALP have committed to following Conference is to review of relationship recognition. This is clearly totally inadequate, but hearing a senior minister within the party speak in favour of equal marriage gave

me confidence that if we continue to campaign, continue to keep this issue in the media and continue to influence public opinion through raising awareness and stimulating discussion, this is something we can achieve.

Marriage equality, however, is far from the only issue facing the queer community. Mental health, feeling isolated from friends and family, accepting one's sexuality or gender identity are just a few examples of the other issues queer people face.

There are a lot of great support services available if you are dealing with any of these – the SRC counselors, ACON and Twenty10 are all excellent places to turn to if you need help – and if you're just looking to build a network of queer friends then come along to and of the events run by the Queer Action Collective: Discussion Group 11am Mondays, Games Night 6pm Mondays, and QuAC, the weekly collective meeting, 1pm Wednesdays, all held in the Queerspace in Holme Building. Identity, a 6 week

program run by the Union is also a great way to meet new people, and will be starting this Thursday at 6:30 in the Queerspace.



Myself and Co Queer Officer, Morgan Snow at Pride Week

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Something in the air: Trade Unions, Union Carbide and Thiess.

For those of you who follow current affairs or political debate, you will no-doubt know about the political football that is the union movement and organised labour. We are told to be constantly vigilant and on the watch for the ever-present 'union thug'. This bogeyman argument is used to demonise the unions but as some members of the SRC have recently found out there is more to it. The SRC has been involved in supporting a community protest being conducted by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) at Thiess's site at Rhodes.

Recently four workers formerly employed by Thiess, a mining and construction company were sacked at the company's soil remediation plant. The workers were sacked because of a supposed downturn in work. What the company wont tell you is that those workers had recently rejected an Enterprise Bargaining

Agreement which offered them a 1% pay rise (so a pay cut in real terms) in return for trading in Rostered Days Off (RDOs) and having onerous conditions imposed on their annual leave. These four workers rejected this sub-standard agreement and requested a union negotiated deal. Big ask apparently. Since the union has become involved they have also found out that the company The four workers were promptly sacked, all have young families and mounting debts and were replaced by backpackers. However, as pathetic as the treatment of these workers is, it only gets worse when you consider the work they were doing.

The workers are actually part of the dredging and remediation on what used to be the Union Carbide site. For those who don't know, Union Carbide manufactured Agent Orange, the chemical weapon used in the Vietnam War, amongst other noxious chemicals. The Rhodes site was where Union Carbide dumped their toxic waste. Mmmm. Union Carbide is also the company responsible for the

Bophal disaster in India in which they accidentally released pesticides into the air that killed 3,000 people initially, plus another 15,000 since with over 500,000 people exposed to the leak (as estimated by the BBC).

So how does the remediation take place? They dredge the soil and pump it out of the Parramatta River and let it sit in contamination pits before burning the soil releasing the dioxins into the air. As the company shut down the unionised plant, they now truck the toxic waste in unsealed trucks up a public road that is heavily used. The trucks spill this toxic soil all over the ground and now the Local Council has had to send a street-sweeper up and down the road constantly. But wait, there's more!

There are currently apartment buildings which are already built and sold, but which the owners cannot occupy because the State Government has deemed the dioxin levels too high for public exposure. To add insult to injury,

the site at Rhodes is in the top 10 most dangerous sites in the world in terms of dioxin levels. The employees were forced to take regular blood tests to monitor their dioxin levels and were periodically stood down if their levels were too high. There are currently employees who are not allowed on the site because of the dioxin levels in their blood.

It is time to move past the simplistic scare campaigns and base reductions to recognise that unions have a vital role in Australian society. Perhaps some of these companies aren't the immaculate corporate citizens they make out to be and maybe the union movement isn't the nasty, brutish group of people we are constantly told they are? Trade unions have and will continue to stand up for the health and safety of their members and of the community; this isn't something we should be scared of, it's something we should celebrate.

If you would like to get involved, please contact me at gen.sec@src.usyd.edu.au

WOMEN'S REPORT

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



A man wearing a long dark coat peers from the shadows under the trees near the playground. There's a pile of cigarette butts on the grass beside him- he's been standing here watching for a while. He keeps his hollow eyes on the two girls as he approaches. They're young, perhaps 14 and they laugh as they swing side by side. He's older than them, bigger, his smart coat suggests authority, and they're intimidated as he approaches. "I'm a friend of your mother" he says to the smaller of the girls. "She's been crazy recently, worried that you're sleeping around. Haha, you know your mother- so paranoid! Why don't you tell me about

your sexual experiences and I'll tell her you're behaving and she needn't worry? Go on little girl, confess you naughty secrets to me..."

Everything said on the radio is scripted. The spew erupting from the mouths of Kyle and Jackie-O is not 3 hours of brilliant comedic adlibbing but scripted rubbish that has been checked by lawyers. Presumably the admission of rape by a 14 year old girl was (probably) not scripted -as that would mean the manipulation of a child for the sake of media hype; no publicity is bad publicity. Assuming it wasn't a publicity stunt, you are forced to ask until what point was the conversation scripted? They knew the child was 14 and that the mother, Kyle, and Jackie-O were going to be asking her about sex.

No, they probably weren't expecting a confession of rape but they PLANNED to have a 38 year old man ask a 14 year old girl about her sexual experiences. Are you kidding?

It's interesting to me that the scandal is around the radio idiots and not that a 12 year old girl was raped. I left South Africa 6 years ago because the crime was terrifying. 1 in 3 women in South Africa will be raped. Nearly 60 children are raped everyday in South Africa- that's 5 children every single hour that are raped, tiny tiny babies are raped. I have seen women running up the street screaming, being chased by men (I was powerless - the police don't come when you call). I have seen many dead bodies on the side of road. I cannot go back to my home.

Ever. Opening the paper everyday and reading about another baby that was raped was killing me.

Now I'm in a country so much more together than South Africa. A country that works (more or less) with reliable electricity, public transport, welfare, landline telephones, a postal system and yet we don't give a damn about this 12 year old who raped, and then forced to confess it by her monster of a mother on national radio? She is a small girl who was raped! We have a chance to respect women and be sensitive to issues that torture women all over the world; I would implore Australian men to grab the opportunity. Take a stand against the media's complete disregard for women and minimisation of child rape

ASK ABE

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

Dear Abe,

I have been put on Stage 4 cos I failed some subjects and the Faculty of Science have excluded me. I am really stressed. I thought I had things back on track this semester but then we had an emergency near exams. Things are okay now and I can write about all this in a letter. Is there anyone to just look at it and tell me if it is okay? If they don't like it I will be excluded from university.

The other really big problem is I am not enrolled. It's like they have cancelled my enrolment. The same happened to my friend on Stage 3. This doesn't make sense. How am I supposed to do well, like I plan to, when I'm not enrolled in the units of study I'm currently attending?! Its troubling my studies as I don't have access to any lecture material online or anything on webct. Plus when I go to tutorials people ask why I'm not

on the role and its embarrassing. I want to be able to do well this semester but how can I when the faculty have made it clear they don't want me to be here? Is there anything I can do? Please help me. This has made the whole stage 4 thing much more stressful.

From
Stressed & Anxious

Dear Stressed & Anxious,
I hear you. Facing a possible exclusion is really stressful. SRC caseworkers can help you develop the best letter possible and advise you on supporting documentation and laying out possible solutions so that you are confident of success this semester. The best thing is to make an appointment to see someone - call 9660 5222 or come to drop ins from 1-3pm every day this week.

About the enrolment being cancelled, I am not sure what the technical term for this is but I agree it makes no sense. The faculty have told me they will reenrol students when they have made an appeal. They are basically pressuring you to get your appeal in early. This is not fair. You have the right to take 20 working days to develop and submit your appeal. It is important that you make the best appeal you can so don't rush it and put in one that is not strong.

I suggest you work on your appeal with an SRC caseworker asap so that you can put in appeal soon. You can indicate that supporting documentation will be following if you cant get it in time. Once your appeal is in they should enrol you again.

Not only does this not make sense, it is unfair and, the SRC believes, clearly against the policy. The Faculty of

This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything that may affect their "welfare". To ask Abe a question send an email to help@src.usyd.edu.au.

Science is the only Faculty that is being so hard. No other faculty cancels student enrolments at Stage 3, and in the past students have been able to have their enrolment as normal as soon as they have indicated they are appealing a stage 4.

If your friends are in a similar situation, get them to write to the SRC caseworkers (help@src.usyd.edu.au) so they know how many people are affected and can help them too.

If you cant get lecture notes etc go and ask the lecturer for copies - there is absolutely no reason why you should not have them. You can tell them about your situation so that they don't keep asking about your enrolment.

Good luck with it all.
Abe

The SUPRA

Have you got a problem with your landlord?

One of our SAAOs addresses the situation where a student lives in a house and the landlord or a manager lives there too.

Many students come to see staff at SUPRA with accommodation problems and one of the most common situations is that of having a problem with their landlord. This is especially the case for international students but equally many local students have problems with their landlord or the managing real estate agent.

What is required by law in Australia if you are renting a room in a situation where the landlord also lives in the house/unit/townhouse

- In most cases a landlord will ask you to sign a document which outlines the terms and conditions of your tenancy – under Australian law this is called a contract – some students have brought to us a variety of documents like this but they have had different titles on them, for example, some have been titled: 'lease agreement'; or 'lease agreement – terms of agreement' or 'boarder's agreement';
- no matter what title is on the document it is actually a contract. The minimum terms of your tenancy which should be identified in the written contract are:
 - the address of the premises you will be living at;
 - the rent you are paying and if it is weekly or fortnightly;
 - what the rent includes (e.g. whether electricity, gas, hot water, or the internet are included in your rent);
 - the amount of bond you have paid;
 - the commencement date of your tenancy; the date your tenancy ends;
 - the conditions under which your tenancy continues if the end date is reached (that is, whether your tenancy continues past that date with existing terms and conditions applying or whether there is a need to sign a new contract);
 - how and when the bond will be returned;
 - the amount of notice that will be required if you wish to vacate the premises;
 - sometimes other conditions are specified such as who to notify if you notice something is broken and needs repairs.
- other matters may be covered in your contract but the above are the crucial parts which MUST be included;
- if you were not given a document to sign don't worry – the verbal information you were provided with plus the advertisement for the room are part of your understanding of what you are renting and the terms of the tenancy – just make sure you write down what you were told as soon as you can after you move in as that will then become your record of what the

terms and conditions of your accommodation are;

- there are usually other provisions (perhaps on a different document) which are called 'House Rules' – there is no requirement to have 'house rules' but they do generally help all residents to understand what is acceptable behaviour and what is not acceptable behaviour – for example, that no loud music can be played after a certain time;
- these house rules also constitute part of the contract you have signed as they contribute to the terms and conditions of your tenancy;
- You should receive written receipt(s) for all monies that you pay to your landlord and the receipt should be itemised so that it identifies the components of the monies you paid. For example, an itemised receipt should not only specify the total paid but it also should itemise what amount was for bond, what amount was for rent in advance and, if something like a key deposit has been paid, it should specify what amount was paid for the key deposit.

Things can change once you move in

When a student first moves in it all may seem fine. A common problem which arises with a landlord is that their demands and behaviour toward the tenant will change. Students find that a landlord may change or add new house rules. Australian law requires that you be given notice of any change in house rules and that you be given a reasonable amount of time to change your behaviour.

This means that a landlord cannot change rules one day and expect you to comply with that new rule immediately the next day. Differences of opinion can develop over what is a reasonable amount of time though.

From our experience at SUPRA in helping students who have landlord problems that many landlords bring up changes in the household that are simply unreasonable and which were not part of the original understanding the student had at the commencement of the tenancy.

Types of unreasonable behaviour and/or demands by landlords which have happened to University of Sydney postgraduate students

- Landlord entered the students' bedroom without seeking permission;
- Landlord became rude and arrogant in their attitude;
- Landlord charged a student \$15 for replacement of a saucepan and then cleaned it and put the cleaned (old) saucepan back in the kitchen pretending it was a new one;
- Landlord has unreasonable expectations

regarding cleanliness and argues with students over issues such as "how the kitchen should be cleaned";

- Landlord issued a notice students in the house to attend a meeting at 8 am on a weekend day to 'show them how to clean the kitchen'; students were also notified that "failure to attend would incur an extra \$5 on their rent that week".

Tips to remember:

- take photos of the room when you first move in and keep them in case the condition of the premises at the end of your tenancy becomes an issue;
- if your landlord's behaviour becomes unreasonable and unfair make a complaint to the website or agency you got their details from – so if you got the room from a listing with the University's Accommodation Service make a complaint to them and ask that the landlord no longer be permitted to list their premises with the University;
- if you found out about your room via a website like Gumtree.com, then make a complaint via their website – if the website you found your room on does not have an option to lodge a complaint don't seek a room via that website ever again;
- keep all your documents, receipts, the copy of the advertisement for the place and any other information about your room in a proper file and in a safe place in case a dispute comes up;
- seek information from SUPRA and/or the Tenants' Union of NSW and/or the Department of Fair Trading as soon as you can – even if there is not a problem at the moment there might be later on.

What you can do if you have a problem with your landlord:

- come to SUPRA for assistance and advice about what you can do in such a situation;
- call the Tenants' Union of NSW's Tenancy Advisory Hotline on 9251 6590 or 1800 251 181 or go to their website www.tenants.org.au – their website has information available in many languages and you may find it easier to read in your first language if you are an international student;
- call the Department of Fair Trading on 13 32 20 or go to their website www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Tenants_and_home_owners/Renting_a_home/Resolving_renting_problems.html - their website has information available in many languages and you may find it easier to read in your first language if you are an international student.

Postgrad Pages

Until Darth do us part

On Saturday, August 1st, 2009, I got married at Darling Harbour. Like all newlyweds I was happy, excited and yes, a little bit nervous. It was a gloriously sunny day and I was surrounded by my friends, colleagues and thousands of well-wishers. What more could I ask for? Quite a lot actually. There was one glaring point which put a dampener on the whole day; my marriage isn't legal. For the very simple fact that the person I chose to marry was another man. Yes, I'm a queer, poofter, homo, nancy boy, fag... and very proud of it, thank you very much. I like men and have done since I was a wee little lad performing marriage ceremonies for my Star Wars figures in the sand-pit.

"Han Solo, will you take Luke Skywalker as your lawfully wedded husband..." Princess Leia was bride's maid, Chewbacca was best man, it was beautiful. Little did I know that something as innocuous as two men declaring their eternal devotion to each other in the presence of Darth Vader would be something that would become such an issue in my adult life. Growing up I thought I would fall in love (check), shack up (check) and then take the ultimate step... betrothal to the man I chose to spend the rest of my life with. (uh-uh, not for you, son!)

Fast forward to August 1st and Darling Harbour. Here I was fulfilling my sand-pit dream and getting married, not in the presence of Darth Vader, but in very close proximity to Kevin Rudd and his Labor cohorts. Far be it from me to make any comparisons...

Yes, the occasion for my nuptials was the Same Sex Marriage National Day of Action; a rally which began at Town Hall and marched to Darling Harbour to protest outside the ALP national conference. There were over 2000 queer and queer-supporting folk in attendance, mirroring demonstrations of various sizes in all capital cities around Australia; all of us demanding equal marriage rights for same sex couples. Very importantly, part of our demonstration involved over 100 couples getting hitched in a mass same sex wedding; including yours truly. Why did we feel the need to make such a public and political statement? Simple. It has been 5 years since the dark days of the Howard Liberal government passing a law prohibiting same sex marriage; a law that the current Labor Federal government refuses to lift. Why, Kevin, why?

It was 40 years ago this year that the Stonewall riots took place in New York; an inspiring time in history

when homos, dykes and gender-benders said enough was enough. Standing up to rampant discrimination, violence and police brutality these pioneers fought back and ushered in the modern gay rights movement. On reflection, civil rights for queer-identifying folk have come a long way since then but have we come far enough? Not on your life. We as queers cannot stop protesting until we have the exact same rights as our straight brothers and sisters. This means not only equal rights when it comes to issues such as access to our partner's superannuation, but full, equal, marriage rights. We will not stop protesting until Australia follows the lead of countries such as Canada, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and South Africa and makes same sex marriage legal. We are not second-class citizens and the Federal government needs to fully acknowledge that. A Galaxy Poll conducted earlier this year showed 60% of Australians in favour of same-sex marriage (including 64% of Labor voters and 50% of Coalition voters.) With the majority of Australians supporting equal marriage rights it is only a matter of time before the Federal

government has to listen to it's constituents. All of us, whether we are queer-identifying or not, need to stand up against social inequality.

In June of this year the Federal Senate voted to send the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill (2009) to an inquiry. This Bill was lodged in the Senate by Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young and seeks to amend the federal Marriage Act so that same-sex partners are able to marry in Australia (as well as recognising same-sex marriages legally entered into overseas.) Submissions are being received until Friday 28 August 2009 with the inquiry due to report by 26 November 2009. If you believe in equality send a submission

to the inquiry telling them why this discrimination must end. (Online submission forms can be found at: <https://secure4.ilisys.com.au/austroj/onlinesubmission.htm> as part of the Australian Marriage Equality website.)

The time to act is now. We need to let every little boy and girl in their sand-pit know that they too can grow up to marry the same sex partner of their dreams. And hey, if it's good enough for Luke Skywalker and Han Solo, who is the Federal government to argue??

Jason Judge
SUPRA Queer Equity Officer 2009/10
SUPRA Secretary 2009/10
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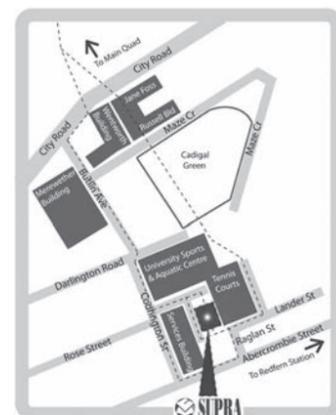
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ALBUM

Lungs, Florence and the Machine

The new Florence and the Machine album *Lungs*, released mid-July of this year, is a brave and inventive release, one which broadcasts enthusiasm and energy onto the listener.

The singer, Florence Welch, has one of the most distinct and powerful female voices in contemporary music. Her voice is the greatest instrument of the band, transforming from a roar to a hushed reverie in an instant. The backing music complements Welch's distinct tone, consisting of a harp player and echoing drums which reverberate throughout the album.

The album is at times hard to listen to: instruments and melodies combine in a way that doesn't quite sync. You do, however, get the feeling this is the aim of the record, and the uneasiness of the music echoes the tension in the lyrics: "Leave all your loving, your loving behind. You can't carry it with you if you want to survive" ("Dog Days are Over").

The album overall has tremendous range and you don't feel as if you are hearing the same songs repeated with different lyrics. The dynamic tempo of the music, lead by the drumming and the sudden and instantaneous changes in melody make this album one that doesn't relax.

The album is not another offbeat musical release behind a band with little talent. Instead, the album it is mesmerising and memorable. It is better appreciated after a couple of listens however, as the music is at times clashing and overly-full.

Welch states her inspirations for the record as American gospel music and the power and roar of this style is immediately recognised on the album. After Triple J's Hottest 100 of all time list, featuring only two entries containing female vocals, Florence and the Machine's *Lungs* is a timely reminder of the power and musical importance women have in music.

4/5

David Krasovitsky

FILM

Public Enemies

"I like baseball, movies, good clothes, fast cars and you. What else you need to know?" So goes Johnny Depp playing John Dillinger, infamous bank robber of 1930s as he tries to chat up a coat-check girl he fancies. It's a great line, and Depp delivers it with his characteristic drawling flair, but by the end of the movie it's still all we really know about his character. He cuts a fine figure in a nice suit and can deliver a line to a broad like nobody's business. It's perhaps the biggest flaw in *Public Enemies* that Dillinger never really moves past the swashbuckling, debonair gangster of old-school Hollywood. Though his character is certainly cool and fun to watch as he charms reporters, and swings, coat flying over the desks of cowering bank tellers, he remains ultimately one-dimensional.

Christian Bale's character, an archetypal stiff-jawed FBI agent suffered from a noticeable lack of personality, so for most of the movie the cat-and-mouse chase between the two protagonists felt lackluster.

The film had interesting insight into the workings of a fledgling FBI, trying to capture a man who moved and committed crimes indiscriminately across state borders in an era in which federal crimes did not yet exist, however there were other, perhaps more interesting historical elements that were left unaddressed. Most noticeably, the public's adoration of Dillinger as a Robin Hood-style figure during the worst economic crisis of the twentieth century was largely ignored.

The film undoubtedly looked good – costume and set design brought to life the grit and glamour of 1930s Chicago which is lucky given the film put such a premium on style over substance. Unfortunately, the camera work is often overly shaky and stylised which meant the frequent, extended shoot-out scenes were confusing and difficult to follow.

This story had great potential, but was ultimately never quite able to do Dillinger's remarkable life justice.

2.5/5

Katherine Connolly

RED CARPET

The Helpmann Awards

On Monday 27 July, the who's who of the manic yet magnificent world of Australian theatre united for the 2009 Helpmann Awards. The Sydney Opera House, a new venue for the ceremony, proved a more fitting home for the event than its previous host, Star City Casino, and one that the ever-sophisticated Robert 'Bobby' Helpman would no doubt have approved.

A sea of flashing cameras greeted the myriad of egos that graced the red carpet stairs, from Cate Blanchet to ex-Idol star Rob Mills, as well as Sesame Street Puppets from the new musical, Avenue Q.

The night saw 41 Helpmanns awarded to the stand out acts of 2009. The clear winners were Sydney Theatre Company's *War of the Roses* and producer John Frost's new mega musical *Wicked* which both took out six awards including best play and best musical respectively. Opera Australia's *Billy Budd* took out three awards whilst Aboriginal arts put its stamp on the industry with brothers David and Stephen Page from Bangarra Dance Theatre claiming best Original Score and Best Choreography in a dance production.

Although unbearably long, the six hour ceremony was punctuated with tight performances from current musicals including *Wicked*, *Chicago* and *Avenue Q*, and a not-so-tight show from Drag Duo Courtney Act and Trevor Ashley. John Bell and Michael Gudinski received the JC Williamson Award for outstanding contribution to the Australian live entertainment and performing arts industry, and there was also tributes to those lost in the past year, most notably the wonderful Rob Guest, reminding all just how family-tied the industry really is.

The afterparty at the Argyle in the Rocks cemented the night as one of extravagance, drag and sequence. Australia's theatre, opera, dance and musical theatre industry is, ticket sales aside, as alive and wonderful as ever. *Avenue Q* and *Wicked*, both Broadway hits, open in Sydney this month, so be sure to get tickets and see what all the fuss is about.

3.5/5

Laura Manning



Hip, hip, Thonet!

George Downing takes a seat on the world's most famous chair.

It's unlikely you'll be excited as we are about the 150th birthday this year of a piece of furniture. Maybe you'll be a little more enthused to learn the Thonet Model No 14, designed by German cabinet maker Michael Thonet in 1859, better known as the 'bistro chair', is one of the most innovative pieces of furniture ever produced, in terms of its production technique and strikingly beautiful design. It has, according to British designer Jasper Morrison, 'the freshness of a new product, because it has never been bettered.'

Lenin vented his politics on one, Le Corbusier furnished his modernist homes with them, and Brahms sat on one to play his piano. *Honi* has eaten many a steak sandwich perched on a Thonet, and you probably have too. We're not alone - anecdotally, the Thonet is thought to have seated more people than any other chair in history.



Take a load off. Please, I insist.

When Thonet created his masterpiece in the 19th century, his vision was extremely bold. The demand for affordable, easy to produce furniture at the time was strong, and Thonet spent years perfecting his answer the call, perfecting his radical design. The genius of the final product lies in a number of key areas.

The first is production. Thonet used advanced steam technology to bend the timber for the back of the chair in a smooth, clean arc, an innovative method that he kept close to his chest. Secondly, he pioneered an era of flat-packed mass production a century before Ikea, by using a few simple parts - six pieces of wood in total, packaged in an easy-to-assemble way so unskilled labourers on the factory floor could throw them together in no time.

A third and astonishing achievement of the chair is its unique ability to age beautifully - the chair itself actually gets more comfortable with regular use, a result of the screws and glues softening over time. All of which makes it a good choice for café owners and design nuts looking to invest in some seating, but alas, the anniversary and retro brilliance has pushed the price of the Thonet sky high. So here's three cheers for Thonet, still stylishly seating the masses, 150 years on.



London calling

Oliver Lindholm is smug about jetting off to the UK for two weeks—courtesy of *My Overseas Experience*.



Just some chums cutting around London, innit?

Without sounding too sanctimonious, I won a free trip to the UK over the holidays, you probably didn't.

Ok, hold the Molotovs! Before you hang me by my undies from the tallest tree on campus, let me tell you how easy it is to win a prize like this, and what you're missing out on by not even trying.

First, check out the University's "Scholarships and Prizes" webpage. This page usually has very few hits, so you've already gone above and beyond just by visiting it. The few that do visit the webpage are driven, so your next task is to stand out. For this application with 'My Overseas Experience', I had to submit a thoroughly embarrassing video—just a really quirky short film about your aspirations, dreams, fetishes...erm, nix that last one.

Ten Australians who did just that, travelled from London to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Edinburgh to Manchester, and Bath to Brighton, I even made it over to Windsor, Eton and Loch Ness! We saturated our-

selves in British culture, "stealing" the Elgin Marbles before single-handedly deciphering the Rosetta Stone. Then being thirsty, we would typically retire to some hole-in-the-wall pub to begin the night's festivities, and that's when the real dousing would begin...

In fact, I'm going to cut myself off there. This is definitely something that you have to experience for yourself.

In summation, My Overseas Experience is a seriously cool company. In their inaugural competition they sent about 20 students from 20 different universities to the UK—all expenses paid. We saw all the sights, partied all night, and just generally had loads of fun. The best thing however is that My Overseas Experience is planning to do it again next year—you could be in the running!

To get a better idea of what to expect, check out the blogs of all those that participated at www.myoe.com.



Black Star Bakery

(Black) Five Star quality, reports **Jacinta Mulders**

Black Star Pastry is the best bakery in Newtown.

First off, anything that has simultaneously managed to take its name from a Radiohead song and find itself positioned on the same street as hatted restaurant Oscillate Wildly and the Courthouse Hotel automatically gets cred for being cool by association. However, Black Star has come to hold its own among these inner-west institutions by virtue of the incontestable quality of every baked good that issues forth from its almost sacrosanct ovens.

Breakfast is done with a wholesome simplicity: nothing excessive or frivolous. Instead, croissants are baked lighter than air and taste perfect accompanied by the smooth coffee doled out by chilled out staff members. The fresh baked sourdough is cut thick and comes with a choice of self-service homemade jams, including a delicate pink rose petal which is the definite stand out. In addition to a variety of freshly filled baguettes, lunch-time cravings can be satisfied by selecting from a variety of gourmet pies, sausage rolls and quiches. Even the basic beef pie gets an epicurean re-working with melt-in-your-mouth-pastry and a peppery sprinkle of cinnamon on top.

As if the food wasn't enough to reel you in, the ambience entices with its unpretentiousness and homeliness. Although things can get a little crowded inside, this is cer-

tainly one facet of the bakery's charm, and it's often just as enjoyable to munch while perched on one of the assortment of stools which litter the surrounding footpath.

This tiny bakehouse seems to go by the precept that breakfast is not breakfast and lunch is not lunch without some sort of sweet confection to top it off and render you absolutely dizzy with deliciousness.

Tantalisingly placed behind the glass fronted counter and overflowing onto the bench, the huge range of sugary morsels will more than satisfy any preferences. Innovative twists on traditional favourites include the illustrious Ginger Ninja (gingerbread men with painted on dark chocolate ninja belts and head gear) and chocolate caramel tarts which are topped with a sprinkling of sea salt.

Rather than the sadly common gluggy and overdone apricot/blueberry Danish, at Black Star you'll find raspberry galettes and strawberry crumbles, elderflower cheesecakes, custard flans, and a very dark and dense flourless chocolate cake.

Convinced? This devotee is only just getting started. Join the cult at 277 Australia St, Newtown.

STUDENT LINK STUNNER



Fashion

Celluloid Chic Anusha Rutnam

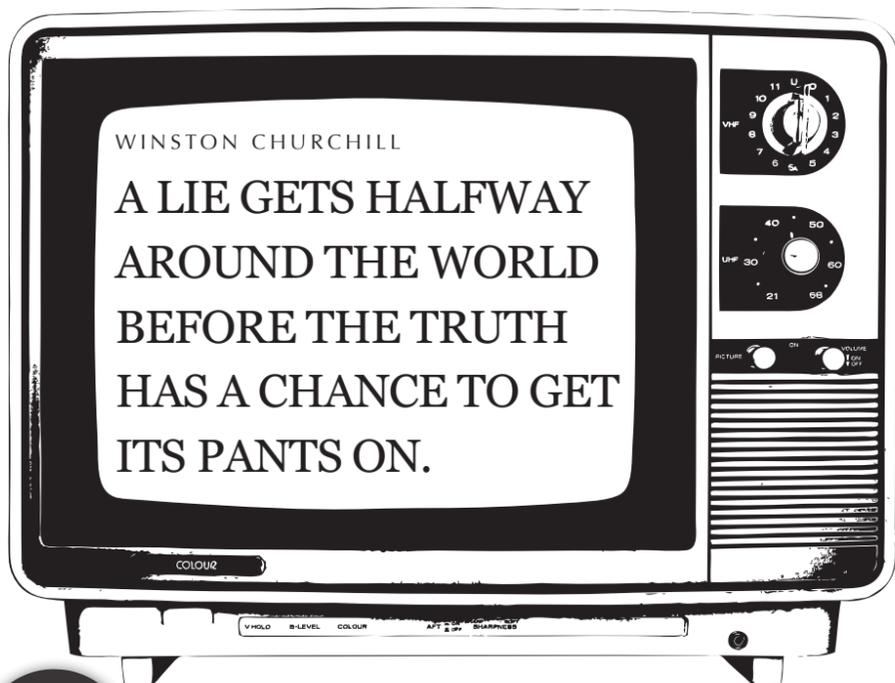
While watching *Confessions of a Shopaholic* (and a note to readers, don't) one is struck by the fact that its creators have done a fairly poor job of showcasing what should be the film's second star: fashion. It is surprising that what the film fails to convey through fashion is precisely what it's costume designer, Patricia Field, has made her trademark; a sense of fantasy. Far more successful was Field's romp in the film *Sex and the City*, where both the medium of film and a truly fabulous budget were well utilised.

The relationship between film and fashion has historically been an interesting one, undoubtedly shaped by the fact that the lengthy delay between the shooting and release of a movie means that costume designers have to stay several steps ahead of current trends. In the 1930s this situation was particularly problematic for the producer Samuel Goldwyn. When the fashion powers that be in Paris decreed that longer skirts were where it was at, Goldwyn was left with masses of unusable footage of short-skirted actresses. To ensure he would never face such difficulties again, Goldwyn paid Coco Chanel \$1 million to assist in predicting future fashions for his films. As you do.

Explicit references to current trends is not, however, a must in the creation of a fashionable film. The period film *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967) contains what are arguably some of the most chic costumes in film history, and yet one may well ask 'Did the early 1930s really look that much like the late 1960s?' But watching Faye Dunaway rob banks in those sensational geometric knits and trademark berets, one finds that it doesn't really matter.

In more recent times designer name-dropping has become a staple feature of many fashion-conscious films. A scene in *Clueless* sees the main character, Cher, appealing to a mugger who demands she crouch on the ground. Referring to the crimson body-con dress she wears, Cher pleads "You don't understand. This is an Alaïa". Her assailant responds, "An A-whata?" For the benefit of the mugger and any unschooled members of the audience, Cher explains, "It's, like, a totally important designer". You said it, Cher.

THE TIMESLAYER



THE WEEK AHEAD

//THREE THINGS WE'RE DOING THIS WEEK

1. Buying some more \$10 Penguin Classics.
2. Missing a lecture. Fuck you, 9am Monday.
3. Giggling at the Snacks n' Shit blog. Rappers are so crazy.

Snowpops!

Mark Di Stefano chats up some Snowballers.

1. Who are you here to see?
2. What do you think of the security at the door?
3. If you could take any substance on a night out, what would it be?
4. The Presets or Cut Copy?



Christina, HR in Surry Hills,
Lucy, Meco III
Ally, Meco IV

1. Grafton Primary!
2. Yeah it was a pain especially when you have a bag full of makeup.
3. Vodka
4. The Presets



Jeremy and Jim (far left and right),
Science I

1. Ajax and Bang Gang
2. We were too pissed to enter, so we had to take a walk round the block and there were cops everywhere!
3. Our girlfriends
4. Definitely Presets, cause we're here with all of our people.



Mike 'Dule' Mackertich, Science IV
Courtney Tight, USU II

1. Courtney.
2. It is sad for the Union.
3. Love and H2O
4. They both sound the same



Carlo, Angry Manning Barman I

1. I'm here to take your order.
2. What do you want?
3. Tooheys New?
4. Beers it is.

COLLEGE

Dear Honi,

Joe Payten reads us a letter from a sad college kid

I'm in my first year of uni and College, and having heaps of fun. Like, we get drunk so often, it's mad.

But one thing I've noticed is the rift between College kids (of whom I am the perfect archetype) and the wider uni community. I mean, just because we went to different schools doesn't mean we can't be friends – I have heaps of mates from other private schools.

One thing I don't get is that even though my College friends and me have really cool fashion sense, people still make lame jokes about us in Honi Soit and stuff.

Like, on any day of the week I'll wear a nice Ralph Lauren Polo Shirt and Nudie jeans, but it's not snobby because I'll humbly dress it down with a pair of Rabens or something. And everyone seems to pay me out for this! I mean, how else am I supposed to dress?

And if only they could see how hard my College friends and I party, they would love us. Man, we party so hard. Like, we'll go out and just drink Heinekens and Jagerbombs all fuckin' night. And I'd

be totally happy to shout them drinks at Cargo, because I know the guy on the door and a few guys behind the bar, so I could totally hook them up.

And they always make sarcastic comments, like, 'College kids are such drinking legends so they never come to class,' but if I can be totally honest with you, they're right. Like I said earlier, I party really, really hard and sometimes I'm just too hung over to go to class.



Daddy says I'm very handsome and clever.

But what's it to them? That's not a reason to hate me, is it?

And it's not like it really matters anyway, because I already do a fair bit of work at Dad's bank, and he thinks if I go for an internship there I'll probably nail it, because he says I'm actually pretty smart.

It's almost like they hate me because I can get a job without having to work really hard, which is petty.

You know what, it's practically discrimination! They hate us just because we went to private schools on the North Shore and now we go to College. Yes, my Dad's a CEO but you wouldn't even know it – like, even though we could if we wanted to, we never went to Aspen for our family ski trip, we'd always just go to Thredbo.

I'm sick of it – my parents did not spend a relatively minor amount of their income on my privileged education for me to be teased by kids who probably don't even have a trust fund.

In fact, I don't even care any more. If they don't want to accept me and be one of my

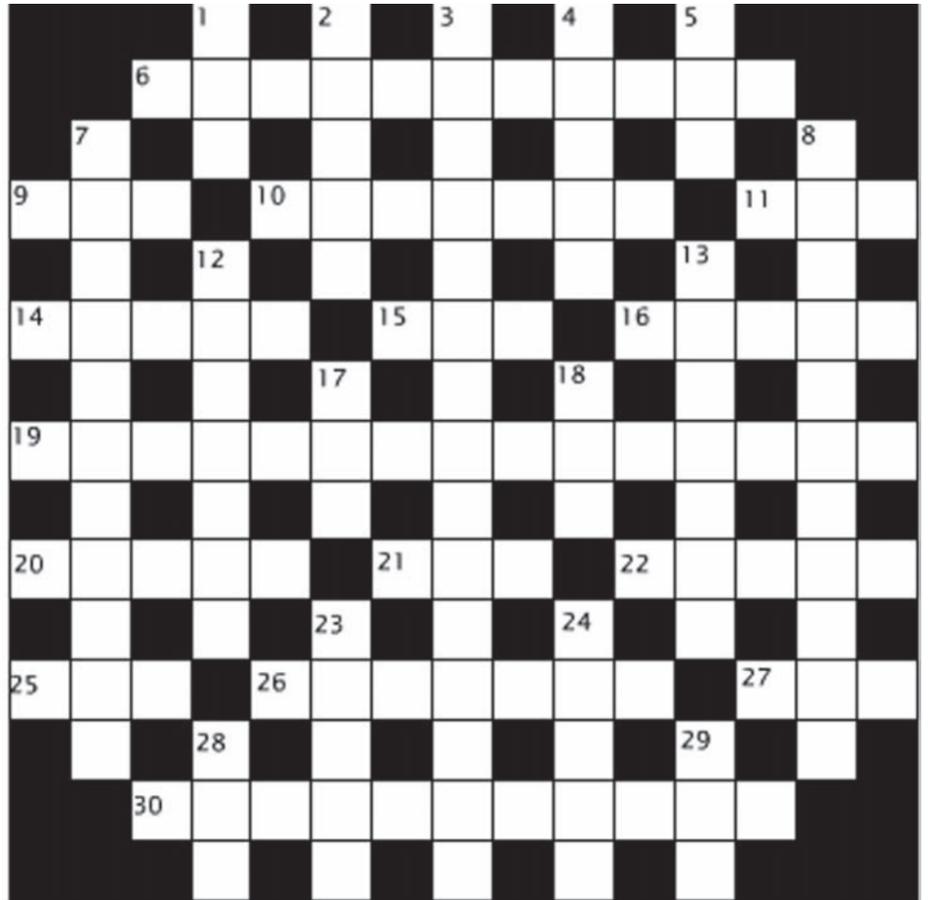
friends, it's their own loss, because they won't be able to utilise my connections in the banking industry.

I wish all the haters would just give us College Kids a chance.



HONI CRYPTIC

1. Tasteless toffee center (3)
2. Minister six hundred sharks' bodies (5)
3. Animals' occult is mistaken for clerical errors (15)
4. Frank and cross take over (5)
5. Queer love with two batteries (3)
6. Fan fiction with no heart, previewed with high and low scores, followed by fuss (11)
7. "Behold", you said, "Drum ends, thou crazy horse". Obnoxious (11)
8. Lift up tap before bird and store run wild (11)
9. Mouth is a gross swamp (3)
10. Give birth to an alien weapon (7)
11. Hit label (3)
12. "Land!" You straddle the carpet with a terminal cry (7)
13. Calm, hits mixer for highest points (7)
14. A shindig about love (5)
15. Old German key (3)
16. Fight after Brett gives poor introduction of himself? (5)
- 17, 18 Nasty grab at scoundrel (3,3)
19. Well done "au gratin" with Italian halved shallots, all mixed up (15)
20. Front part snake, back part belt (5)
21. Dog, perhaps; a dog is a man's best mess? (3)
22. Remove the repetition out of dance and add kinky action for large hole (5)
23. Power cows cry up the acid level! (5)
24. Don't stop the French maid's head rock man (5)
25. Big Father? (3)
26. Tea off nothing on second, overseas after rough start (7)
27. Alberta evenly touches the net (3)
28. Big PM? (3)
29. I see, said Slippery (3)
30. Body of water in scene Ed directed? Hopelessness (11)



SH

PUZZLER

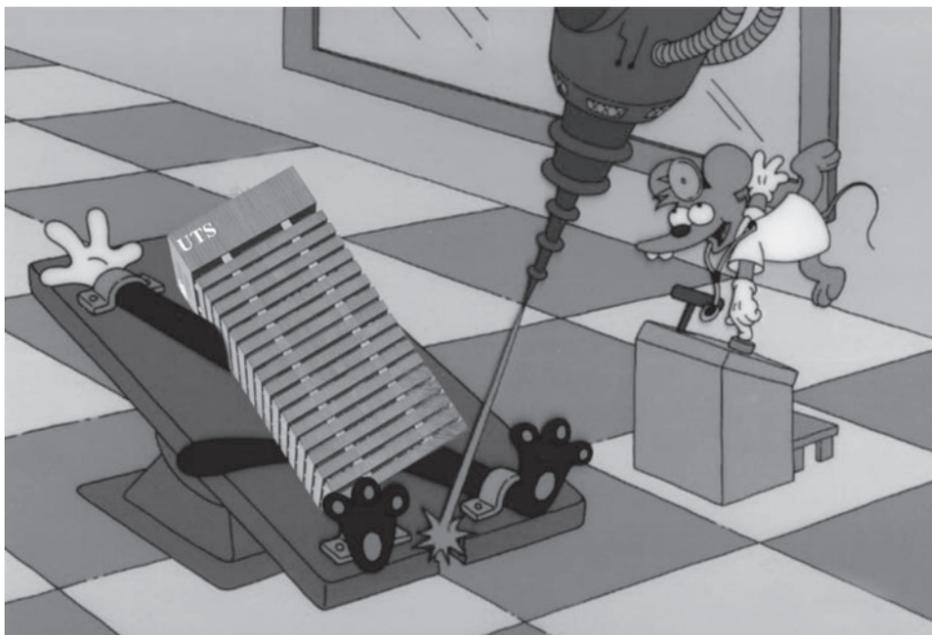
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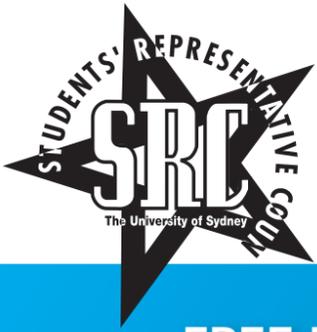
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ANSWERS

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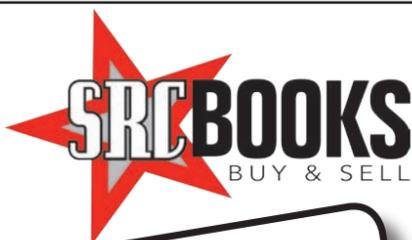
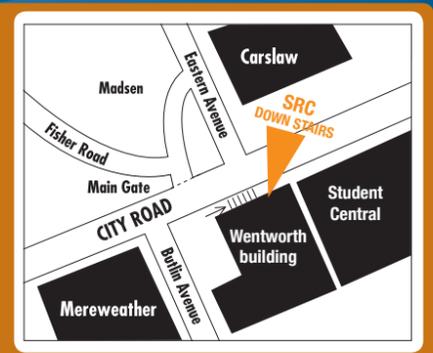
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