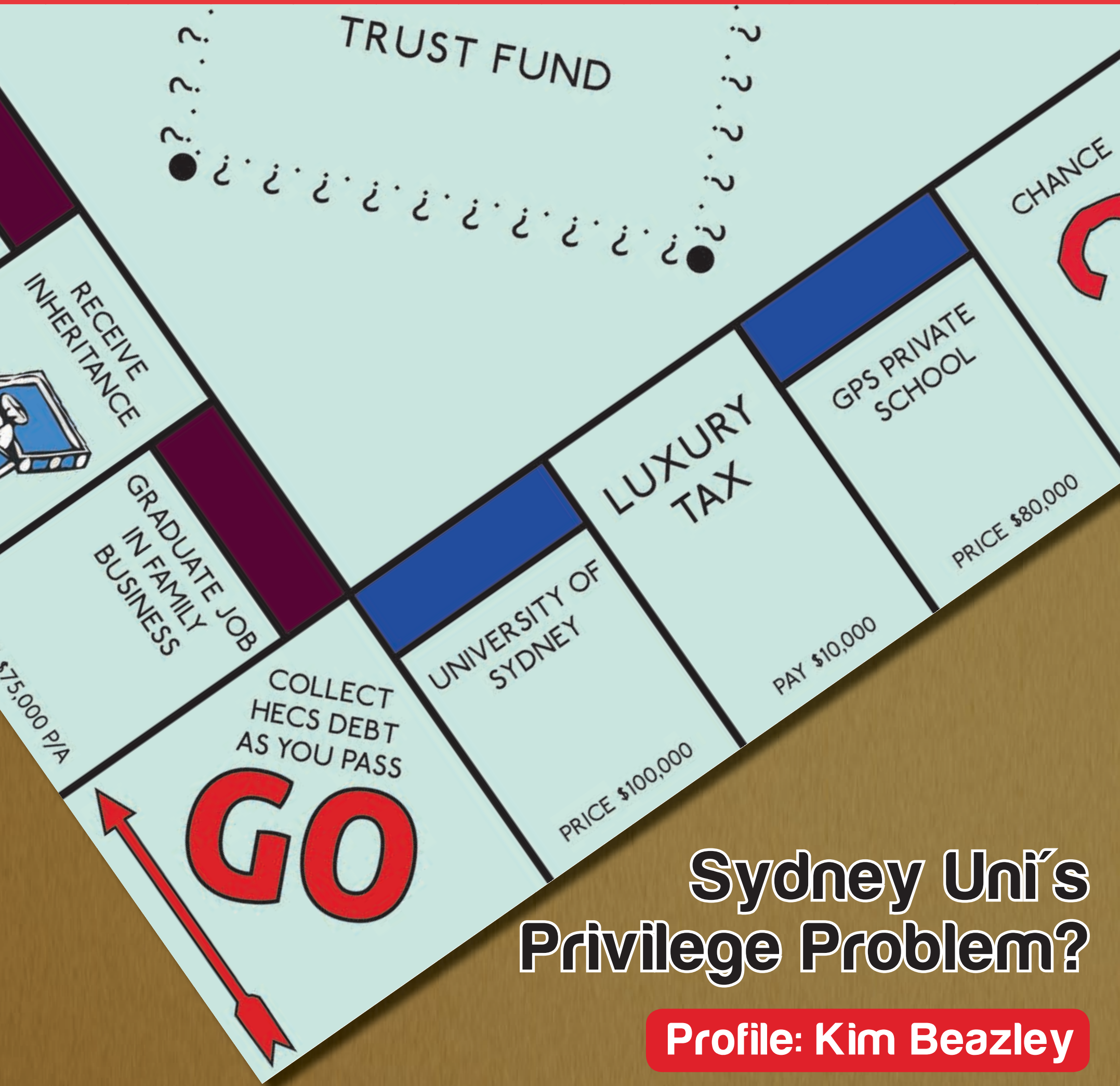


Honi Soit

SEMESTER 2 WEEK 1
28 JULY, 2010



Sydney Uni's Privilege Problem?

Profile: Kim Beazley

Top 5 Political Coups - RIP Rudd

HoniSoit.com Launches!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FACTIONAL WARLORDS OF THE SRC

THIS WEEK'S:

- Number of times fire alarm went off: 4
- Best song used to drown out fire alarm: Meatloaf's "I'll Do Anything For Love"
- Things stuck to fan: Streamers, highlighters, peanut shells
- Movie that convinced us we don't exist: *Inception*.
- Quote of the week: "This is a long article about poo."

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28 JULY 2010



AND HAVING SAID ALL THAT FOLKS, WE'VE GOT A ZIP

THE HYPOTHETICAL: Would you rather

Be stranded on a desert island with someone who really annoys you for 2 years

OR

Never go on a holiday again for the rest of your life?

FAQs

Can you choose the island?
No. Your plane crashes and it's pretty random really.

Is it the island from *Lost*? Will there be a polar bear?
No, unless the person who annoys you is Matthew Fox.

Can I have a weekend away or go on a work conference?

No. All work conferences are to take place at a Darling Harbour function centre. And you don't even get to stay in a nice hotel room.



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DISCLAIMER

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USU, not USme

Dear *Honi*,

I write in relation to the recent USU elections. Deb played by the rules and ran a positive campaign. She missed out on finishing in the top 5 by a mere 17 votes. The candidate that filled that 5th spot was Alistair Stephenson. During the campaign it was revealed that Alistair had breached the funding cap. Readers will recall his glossy posters and hundreds of professionally done shirts. He declared at the time that he had breached the \$700 cap by around \$150. After the campaign, it was revealed that he had breached it by more than \$1500 – that is, he had more than tripled it. It was also revealed subsequent to the election that Ben Tang had breached the spending cap, as had Sibella Matthews. After the election, Returning Officer Ivan Ah Sam requested all candidates provide him with a letter to their suppliers allowing him to contact them and verify the expenditure receipts they had provided to him.

The day of the Executive elections, where all new board members vote, Ah Sam was to make a final decision about the election. He had concluded that Alistair, Sibella and Tang – Tang having personally confessed to him that he had lied on his funding receipts – had all breached the cap. Ah Sam determined that Deb White – unlike Alistair, Sibella and Tang – had complied with the rules and spent less than the \$700 funding cap. Deb was to take Alistair's place on board. [The election for executive was called by last year's president Pat Bateman before the matter was resolved and Dave Mann, Bateman's boyfriend,

was elected president.*] If Alistair had been dismissed, Mann would not have had a majority on board and would not have been President.

In a climate in which the University wishes to take over USU venues and facilities, there could not be a worse time for the USU President to act in such a capricious and nepotistic manner. Alistair won the election by 17 votes. He spent 300% more on his campaign than Deb White. He should resign from Board immediately. His presence there brings the Union into disrepute and sets a dangerous precedent – that is, if you have enough money you can buy a USU board directorship.

The steps the USU board now takes in relation to this matter are critical in re-establishing the credibility of the USU and the democratic nature of USU elections. If Alistair does not resign, an independent investigator/ arbiter should be appointed to make a definitive decision on his spending cap breaches.

Rhys Latham

Bachelor of Arts, 2nd year.

**Editor's Note: Rhys' letter has been edited for factual and legal reasons. For the full story, turn to 'That's What She Said' on Page 5*

Love mail? Hate mail? Toe nail?

SEND IT ALL TO

honi.soit@src.usyd.edu.au

**NEXT WEEK'S BEST LETTER PRIZE:
A copy of the new album by Custom
Kings, *Great Escape*.**

Queer Honi Call To Arms

Calling all queers!

Do you have some journalistic desires you'd like to explore? Some writerly urges just waiting to be sated? Feeling poetic, prosy or just sick of the prosaic? Then submit to *Queer Honi*!

Queer Honi is the annual edition of everyone's favourite student newspaper, *Honi Soit*. *Queer Honi* is about whatever it is that tickles your fancy, because it's written by... well, you! It's also autonomously produced, which means it is entirely written and edited by queer-identifying students. It's about everything queer, and includes anything from hardcore queer theory to romantic fiction, from personal stories to political rants, from band reviews to the queerest of interviews.

It's about whatever you want it to be about. It's about queer feminisms, intersex and/or gender diverse rights, and marriage equality. Sex work, capitalism, mental health, queers and religion, polyamory and consensual non-monogamy, autonomy, consent, trans masculinities and femininities, gender performance and drag, queers with disabilities, legal reform, the environment, politics and poetry, we want it all.

If you identify as lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, asexual, intersex, genderqueer, pansexual, trans*, questioning, queer, omnisexual, label-free, into BDSM or kink, femme, butch, bi-curious or just plain curious, then submit to *Queer Honi*! ... No, seriously! Like, right now!

If you're keen to edit or write for *Queer Honi*, let us know now! Send all enquiries and submissions to queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.



EDITORIAL

Welcome back to a new semester, a new Prime Minister and a new dawn for *Honi Soit*.

That's right. After much blood, sweat and tears, we're positively thrilled to announce the arrival of *HoniSoit.com*, the brand spanking new website this gem of a paper deserves! The culmination of months and months of work, *HoniSoit.com* will take *Honi* well into infinity and beyond.

We're infinitely proud of this achievement, both for having this huge monkey off our back but more so for what it means for this stellar newspaper which we love and adore. It might not yet be everything we hoped and dreamed it would be initially, but we're confident that with time and a hearty succession of similarly committed editorial teams it will grow into something really quite special. The future is now, folks.

It's only appropriate to thank our hard-working Publication Managers, Tina and Amanda, who worked so diligently to make our fanciful dream a reality. Props are also due to Elly, Phil and the rest of the Exec; we weren't the easiest people to deal with, but we were always

impressed that your commitment to the paper rivalled our own.

Come and celebrate the launch of *HoniSoit.com* by joining us at the official launch party, next Wednesday, August 4 from 6pm at the Verge Gallery.

Don't worry, though. We haven't forgotten our printed roots. We've got a paper overflowing with content, and some really exciting editions ahead.

In this first issue back, we look at the somewhat sensitive issue of student enrolments and the disproportionate number of 'privileged' students attending Sydney Uni. It has been truly fascinating to explore the somewhat confused cultural identity of this place we call home, and to learn about USyd's history of social inclusion. This feature emerged out of a casual office discussion about privilege on campus and we hope you find it as illuminating and interesting to read as it was to write. Provocative? Hypocritical? Honest? You decide.

Good luck this semester in all your endeavours.

Oh, and team: we're half-way there.

David Mack

HoniSoit.com now online! Editors proud, exhausted

Casting off the throngs of the Old World, everybody's favourite topical, engaging and under-spell-checked student newspaper expands online.

In news that comes as a massive relief to current *Honi* editors everywhere, the new *Honi Soit* website has finally launched, signalling an exciting new period for Australia's oldest student newspaper.

After months of internal SRC negotiations and a lengthy web development process, *HoniSoit.com* will take *Honi Soit* well into the 21st century.

The new website will allow more students to engage and interact with *Honi* and provide a more simple and accessible archiving service for most of the content printed in the newspaper.

Each week will see new features, interviews and other stories available for your reading pleasure, as well as the opportunity for loads of exciting multimedia content produced by students for students.

The 2010 editorial team is thrilled with the final result and proud to have taken *Honi* in an exciting new direction. They're also excited about the numerous exciting opportunities that exist for future editorial teams to develop and grow the website.

In addition to being Australia's oldest student newspaper, *Honi Soit* remains the only weekly student newspaper in the country, and with its brand spanking new website will continue to ensure USyd students enjoy quality student journalism and entertaining diversions.



It's a celebration!

Just go to www.honisoit.com and enjoy everything you love about *Honi* anywhere you want. Add it to your bookmarks now!

The official launch of *HoniSoit.com* will be from 6-8pm on Wednesday 4 August at the Verge Gallery. Helping us launch the site will be Chaser member and former *Honi* editor, Dom Knight.

FACT!

The internet was invented by the US Army as a way to swap celebrity gossip.



Sydney Uni contemplates China Study Centre

Carmen Culina hops aboard the Oriental Express.

The proposed China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney is the latest move in securing the university's position as the premier higher education institution representing Australian interests in China.

Michael Spence said the centre would be comparable with the university's \$50 million United States Studies Centre and would

bring together international diplomacy, business relations and educational teaching and research, and will aim to further develop business, language and cultural links between the two nations.

The plans are being showcased extensively at the Shanghai World Expo that began in May this year, where the university paid \$1 million for a six-month residency at the Australian pavilion. This brings the university alongside companies such as Qantas and Lend Lease, and marks a serious bid to increase the exposure given to the new university project.

While other universities are similarly touting their links with China, university media releases suggest that USyd's history uniquely positions it to host the China Studies Centre, having taught Chinese languages for over a century and Chinese students for over 30 years.

Currently the university hosts more than 5000 Chinese students across undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and has a network of 10,000 alumni in China.

Spence has also identified 88 members of academic staff across ten disciplines who are working in some area of Chinese studies, which he suggests is "by far the largest group of academics in this field at any Australian university."



Wen Jiabao, Chinese Premier

And it is not all talk: data from Thomson Reuters prepared in May shows that China is the university's third most important overseas research partner after the United States and the United Kingdom.

Another Thomson Reuters report, prepared in November last year, shows that the University of Sydney is the world's fifth most frequent university collaborator with Chinese institutions, and has co-authored 1432 papers with Chinese universities over the past five years that resulted in publication in Thomson-indexed journals, more than any other Australian university.

Momentum for the development of the China Studies Centre is building with NSW Premier Kristina Keneally giving her in-principle support to a formal partnership between the NSW Government and the proposed centre just last week. Although it is unclear whether the NSW Government will be in a position to emulate the \$25 million contribution of the federal government towards the US Studies Centre, the gesture recognizes the importance of increasing the critical mass of China-literate Australians.

University sources are hopeful that China Studies Centre will begin operations on 1 January 2011.

UNSW Staff Strike, Delay Student Results

Carmen Culina looks at the storm brewing at Sydney's other university.

While at Sydney University we are used to staff threatening strike action, it's interesting to hear that our cousins at UNSW have a staff that follow through.

More than 20 UNSW academic staff members were stood down over the July break for imposing bans on the publications of student's marks. The bans were imposed by members of the National Tertiary Employees Union (NTEU) after a breakdown in negotiations over pay, growing workloads and the increased use of casual employees, and come as a final attempt to secure progress on a new enterprise agreement that will place UNSW staff on par with their counterparts at other major Australian universities.

The decision to stand down academic staff rather than take one of the other options available to the university under the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) has been extensively criticised as yet another bad move from university management after years of corporate re-styling of the university. The university has also been accused of attempting to play students and academics off against each other by framing the industrial action as a major detriment to students.

One academic who was stood down and preferred not to be named defends the decision, saying that the decreasing levels of financial support of teaching staff "means only one thing for students: a worsening learning environment with disgruntled, overworked, underpaid and undervalued staff". Despite university management claims, NTEU members appear to be mindful of minimising the impact on students and have created alternative avenues for student exemptions. There have also been reports of dismissed lecturers such as Law academic Pru Vines voluntarily teaching courses without being paid.

The UNSW student body has vocally



UNSW... Insert easy joke here

supported the industrial action. A letter signed by more than 160 current and former students of UNSW Law empathise with concerns about job security, rates of pay, paid parental leave and Indigenous employment targets and urged the Vice Chancellor Fred Hilmar to reconsider the decision as the loss of academics would "cause significantly more disruption to students than the original bans". The letter also outlines the implications of the decision which, it is claimed, significantly undermines the university's reputation as a "progressive and socially responsible" institution. The associated 'UNSW Law students support our lecturers' group on facebook has 780 members at date of writing.

The NTEU resolved to lift the remaining bans on recording and transmission of student results on Friday, effective from Monday 26 July. Furthermore, due to the outrage expressed by many in the UNSW community and facing the prospect of lectures defying the stand down orders to teach on the grass, UNSW management was forced to retreat from its decision to stand staff down.

Industrial relations at Sydney University have remained stable since the threatened 24-hour strike was narrowly averted last September with a collective workplace agreement which saw NTEU members at Sydney University receive an 18.3 per cent wage increase over the life of the agreement (two and a half years).

SHARE YOUR VIEWS ABOUT DONATING EGGS FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

Researchers in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy are holding focus groups with women about their attitudes towards egg donation for stem cell research.

- ∞ If you are a young woman aged between 18 and 30,
- ∞ And may also have a relative or close friend with a health problem like diabetes, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury or brain disease, contact Margaret Boulos for further information by email: margaret.boulos@sydney.edu.au.

Staff and students are welcome to participate and you will be reimbursed for your time. Discussions will run for approximately two hours.

Please note that the researchers are only interested in your thoughts and feelings about egg donation and they will not ask you to donate, now or in the future.



THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

The best hearsay, gossip and rumours on campus.



STEPHENSON'S SPENDING BLOWOUT

During the USU Board election campaign, three candidates (Sibella Matthews, Alistair Stephenson and Hiltin Guo) admitted that they had breached the USU Regulations' spending cap. They were required to hand some of their t-shirts in to Ivan Ah Sam, the Returning Officer, and were temporarily suspended from campaigning.

Since the election, Ah Sam conducted a more thorough investigation into candidates' spending, requiring them to submit receipts, as *Honi* reported last semester. *Honi* has heard unconfirmed rumours that Ah Sam found Stephenson breached the cap by \$1500, despite admitting to a breach of only a few hundred dollars. We have been unable to reach Stephenson for comment.

MASSARANI'S APPEALS FAIL

Pat Massarani, who ranked tenth in the USU election, complained to Ah Sam during the campaign that the measures imposed against Matthews, Stephenson and Guo for breaching the spending cap were insufficiently severe. Ah Sam dismissed the complaint. Massarani appealed to the Electoral Legal Arbiter, who dismissed the complaint.

Minutes before Ah Sam declared the election (which he was constitutionally required to do within 72 hours of polls closing), Massarani lodged a complaint against several candidates, other than Stephenson, alleging they had breached the spending cap. As there was no evidence substantiating the complaint, Ah Sam dismissed it immediately. Massarani appealed to the Electoral Legal Arbiter, providing evidence, several days later. She decided that this constituted a new complaint, so referred it to Ah Sam. More on that below.

Since the election, several Union employees and Board Directors have accused Massarani of harassing them, calling them dozens of times a day and even issuing veiled threats. Massarani could also not be reached for comment.

IVAN'S POWERS SWITCHED OFF

As mentioned above, the Electoral Legal Arbiter referred Massarani's new complaint to Ah Sam after the election was declared. The Union sought legal advice on Ah Sam's power to determine the matter at this time. Patrick Bateman, the Union President at the time, told *Honi* that the legal advice the Union received was that virtually all of Ah Sam's powers expired when he declared the election, though

he could continue to assist with the administrative side of investigating complaints and make recommendations to Board. Only the Board, however, is empowered to implement (or reject) any such recommendations, including on the potential expulsion of candidates. Bateman explained that the Board has submitted Ah Sam's report, including recommendations relating to Stephenson's spending cap violation, to an independent third party to obtain further recommendations, which it will consider at its August meeting. The Board has also established a Working Group to consider other matters in Ah Sam's report, which may lead to "far-reaching and dramatic electoral reforms", according to Bateman.

BATEMAN DENIES RUSHING EXEC VOTE

If you read this week's Letters page (page 3), you'll know that some charges have been levelled against Bateman's calling of the elections for the Executive of the Board before it had been decided on what to do with the recommendations in Ah Sam's report. With Stephenson on Board at the time, the election was held and Bateman's boyfriend, Dave Mann, had the majority he required to secure election as President.

Bateman offered *Honi* the following explanation: "Six weeks after the election, a complaint raised by an unsuccessful candidate about a successful candidate still hadn't been dealt with by the Returning Officer. The date for the

election of the new Board, scheduled some months before, was rapidly approaching. ... [W]e had even changed the constitution to enable us to have it on that date because all the Directors had wanted to move the election earlier to enable a better hand over process. ...

Because the USU had never had a situation like this before and because every Director involved potentially had some stake in when the election was held, a number of Board Directors (of very different political persuasions) rightly requested that we seek independent legal advice on what to do. The CEO and I complied with the request and approached the same firm the USU had always used. ...

The legal advice was that once the Returning Officer declares the poll ... he can no longer exclude candidates from the election. ... The only body that may act on a complaint after the declaration of the poll is the Board itself. But of course the Board cannot constitutionally meet until after the election of the new office bearers, regardless of what date the election is. Therefore the advice we received was that we should proceed with the election as scheduled. ...

It would be extraordinarily reckless for a Board of Directors to ignore its own legal advice, and thankfully only one Director suggested that we should. The CEO and the rest of the Board were in full agreement."

Naomi Hart

DO YOU HAVE MILD ASTHMA?

A study to assess an anti-inflammatory combination for the treatment of asthma & COPD, to be studied in mild asthmatics

We are looking for men and women:

- Aged 18-65 years
- Diagnosed with mild asthma, otherwise generally in good health
- Not taking inhaled steroids
- Who do not smoke

Reimbursement for time & expenses will be provided
(limitations may apply to reimbursement)

This study has been approved by the Bellberry, HREC, Ref: A46-10

This trial is being run at the GSK Medicines Research Unit located in the Prince of Wales Hospital: Parkes Building, Level 10 East High Street Randwick, 2031

HZA113126 Version 1, 1 April, 2010

More Information



volunteers.4.trials@gsk.com

or visit

www.gsk.com.au/mru

(and go to the current clinical trials page)



STATE OF THE City

David Mulligan got fanatic at the FIFA World Cup Celebrations in Darling Harbour.

Like many of you, the FIFA World Cup holds special relevance for me, because much like the Olympics it's a special time that only comes around every four years where I once again jump on the bandwagon and pay attention to sports. Now don't get me wrong, I don't hate sports, but, like most people, the limits of my knowledge and interest only extends to your classic sporting clichés such as, "they just need to focus on playing

passing football," or, "they need to play a more attacking game". So for a chronic band-wagoner like me, never was there a better way to immerse oneself in football culture than by flocking to the Darling Harbour FIFA Fan Fest to watch a game with people who actually understood it.

Now obviously whenever the Socceroos played, Darling Harbour became a sea of green and gold. All of those submarine football supporters who usually only surfaced for the Premier League (or in more pathetic cases the A-league) now had an excuse to amass in one place as they finally had the opportunity to see their team play on the world stage. I mean, when it comes to Australian football, it's an unspoken truth that we're not terribly good, but whatever we lack in skill, speed, talent and money we more than make up for in

blind optimism, a point brilliantly proven when, after our 4-0 loss to Germany, Darling Harbour still reached maximum capacity at 11.30pm for the next game against Ghana, with flocks of fans being turned away before the match kicked off.

These Australian games were festival-like events with an electric atmosphere exciting the crowd, but the true test of a football fan was whether he or she turned up to a game between two of the lesser-known football nations. Therefore, during the group stage, due to my love of football, I had the good fortune to see Cote d'Ivoire and North Korea play off (read: I saw *Toy Story 3* at IMAX), and suffice to say these were slightly quieter ordeals. Much like poorly organised parties, Karaoke and FIFA 2010 Xbox games were used



to keep the crowd entertained while no-name bands were occasionally scheduled to keep the four or five fans who decided to brave the bitter cold awake until the 4.30am kick off.

So all in all, the FIFA Fan Fest was a brilliant spectacle filled with green and gold, overpriced glow-stick stands, excessive shouting and just a pinch of football. Til Rio, football goodnight and good luck!

Wanderlust

Liz Schaffer talks awkward family roadtrips.

Family road trips define my life.

The day I turned 13 was the day both my siblings were lovingly instructed to punch me like they meant it. Our parents used the resulting tears to avoid a speeding ticket in Albury. Well played, parents, well played indeed.

Likewise, my junior school graduation was signposted by an aromatic drive from Hobart to Devonport, which proved that yes, my squirt of a brother really couldn't stomach blue cheese.

So, it was only fitting that upon returning from a sort-of foreign country (New Zealand) I hit the road with my trusty mother, known for now as 'I Love You But Really' (ILYBR).

Our job was to get to Morpeth, an ever-

so-quiet town in the Hunter Valley famous for sourdough, having a founder who fought in the Napoleonic Wars and, well, just being uber pretty, really.

I'm still not sure if the resulting eight-hour drive (to reach a town only two hours from Sydney) was embarrassing, comical or something that should never have been attempted.

Problems arose, roughly around Glenorie, when ILYBR began belting Rod Stewart's "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy", before presenting an unnervingly well researched argument explaining exactly why Mr Stewart was, in fact, sexy. How that led her onto "Flick The Little Fire Engine" is anyone's guess but apparently they wouldn't let him fight a fire, isn't that a shame? Oh joy, really.

When crossing Wisemans Ferry (a rather rad convict invention), ILYBR attacked the map and got her pun-tasticness on. "Hey Liz, I hope we don't kick the bucket in Bucketty... Hey look, a wollobat, get it? It's a wombat from Wollomi!"

On a side note, seriously, go to Wollomi. They have a scarecrow festival and letterboxes shaped like pigs. Actually, on the subject of useless travel advice, St Alban's tavern has the best bread and butter pudding of all time and ever.

But back to ILYBR. As we ventured up the largely forgotten Great North Road I was instructed to record her 'travel to-do list'. Highlights included 1) Steal that cow; re-name it 'Buttercup'; 2) Explore more rural land; 3) Hire a truck and borrow the pretty rocks; 4) Learn the actual words to "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy".

However, despite my obvious desire to be one of those "eugh-my-parents-



Not Liz's family, but awkward nonetheless

are-so-embarrassing" people, I have to give ILYBR a hefty dose of credit. She found us a wine-infused road, a rather impressive collection of road art (read yellow submarines and bathtubs), paid for lunch and magically got us to Morpeth in one late piece. So, lists, wollobats and Rod Stewart aside, parental road trips have a few defining years in them yet.

If [.....] was a HOLLYWOOD MOVIE

THIS WEEK:

THE POLITICAL CAREER OF (FORMER) PRIME MINISTER KEVIN RUDD

K-Rudd is a sadly malfunctioning cyborg assassin sent back in time from the year 2029 to terminate the biggest scourge to humanity since the invention of skin-tight jeggings: Tony Abbott.

Due to being haphazardly wired during the finale of *MasterChef*, however, K-Rudd is defective in all but one of his killer elements: his ability to make endless and scarily soporific speeches.

Nonetheless, this determined little

robot makes his way in the world, masquerading as the spectacle-toting Milky Bar kid, frequenting strip clubs, and dreaming of world domination.

His fuse box longs to make kinetic energy with the fiery human red-head known as Julia Gillard, whom he capriciously instates as his trusted second-in-command.

Tragedy, however, looms upon the horizon as his fail-safe 'Mandarin mode' ceases to win support from his would-be minions.

In a preposterous and premature twist, K-Rudd is denied his fair shake of the sauce bottle by his beloved ranga deputy when he is stabbed in the back by a knife that is lamentably not quite so sharp as to cut through the sexual tension between Julia and Abbott.



2007 - 2010

Will K-Rudd be doomed to fade forever into a robot oblivion densely populated by the ghosts of working families, or will sparks fly when he summons his electrons for one final charge? Only time will tell.

Mekela Panditharatne

FACTS!

Before appearing as a judge on *MasterChef*, Matt Preston worked as a journalist, waiter and the third moon of Neptune.

If you had to clap every time a can of Coke was sold somewhere in the world, your hands would explode after 3.5 seconds.

The most venomous animal known to man is the hamster.

In the USA, three million hamburgers are consumed every day – half of those by Gary Johnson of Tampa, Florida.

MEDIA BOTCH

The only televised debate between Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott was moved forward by an hour so as not to compete with the finale of Channel Ten's hit series *MasterChef*. Additional proposals to increase viewership of the debate included a mystery box challenge and replacing the panel of political journalists with Gary, George and Matt.

ABC News 24 went live last Thursday night, signalling a new era for the national broadcaster. The launch came a few weeks after the ABC broke 'the Spillard' story in their 7pm news bulletin and then proceeded to show *The New Inventors, Spicks and Specks, The Gruen Transfer* and *At The Movies* before finally interrupting the evening's programmes to cover the ALP's leadership challenge. Australians without Sky News may have missed out on proper coverage, but we sure got our fair share of Wil Anderson.

Several news organisations, including ABC Online and CNN, ran amusing puff-pieces last week about a man who robbed a Long Island bank dressed as Darth Vader – "armed not with a lightsaber but with a gun!". Which goes to show if next time you're committing genocide, dress as Harry Potter and you'll be a media darling.

COUNTDOWN Top 5 Political Coups better than 'the Spillard'

Laurence Rosier Staines



Caligula

Mad Roman Emperor Caligula was dispatched in a very bloody coordinated attack by his own bodyguards, and in Suetonius' version he even cried out "I'm still alive!" (usually a bad move in an assassination attempt). An effort to capitalise on his sudden death by bringing back the Republic was quashed by the military, who installed Caligula's less-mad uncle Claudius.

5



The Year of the Four Emperors

More Romans. After Nero (Claudius' successor) was forced to kill himself, internal bickering and catastrophic political misjudgements led to four more emperors ascending in that same year. The first was Galba, who refused to give wages to the army that had supported him, and became so unpopular that Vitellius marched all the way from Germany to find that Otho had already deposed him. Vitellius roundly defeated Otho and was eventually killed by supporters of Vespasian. So much for continuity.

4



King Wamba

Though sources are sketchy, Wamba – who had been proclaimed King of the Visigoths in 672, against his will – was allegedly overthrown when a power-hungry young man named Erwig drugged him and shaved his head, making it impossible for him to rule any longer because he now resembled a monk. Erwig was named King, and Wamba apparently lived happily in a monastery until he died.

3



Maximilian I of Mexico

In a chapter of history that from here looks thoroughly absurd, French emperor Napoleon III installed Austrian nobleman Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph as the Emperor of Mexico in an attempt to destroy Mexican democracy. The coup was successful if short-lived, and despite the utter ridiculousness of his being there at all, Maximilian genuinely loved Mexico right up until his execution.

2



Africa

That's right. I'm listing the whole continent because of its immense over-representation when it comes to political coups. There have been over 80 coups in Africa in the last 50 years, but on the plus side a comparatively small amount of them hinge on assassinations. Good for you, Africa. You go, Africa.

1

The Fake Facebook Profile Experiment

David Mulligan set up as fake Facebook profile and counted the weirdos that accepted the friend request.

As Barry O'Farrell proved last week with his *Summer Heights High*-inspired tweets, caution needs to be observed when using social networking sites, even on the topic of rangas. But here at *Honi*, we are of the opinion that people are becoming less, instead of more, careful about who they befriend within the cyber world. So, keen to build *Honi's* reputation for top-notch investigative journalism, at the end of last semester I created a Clark Kent style alter ego to see just how many people I could befriend with my new creation, Elizabeth Moore.

Now when I first began this three week ordeal, I have to admit that Lizzy's Facebook profile page was about as convincing as an Ab-King Pro infomercial. Her wall had been littered with abusive messages, people continuously asked whether she was real, and I even had one accusation of being a prostitute looking to find business in a new city (not kidding). But through the weeks I was able to slowly build my skills of deception until I eventually created my own iPhone armed, party-going and mini-skirt wearing Frankenstein Monster, through these three easy to follow steps that you can even carry out in your own home!

Step One: The key to any good creepy Facebook stalker page is to have friends who will leave messages on your wall. It just helps to give it an authentic look that says, "Hey, I'm not a creepy stalker! Seriously!"

Step Two: Make the person in your

profile picture as hot as possible. Possibly one of the best investments I made was to make mine the lovely Miss Teen USA 2009. I quickly discovered that guys are surprisingly accepting of strangers on the internet – if they're hot. In fact, throughout the three weeks of this experiment I was hit on (all verified by independent female sources) by a total of six completely random guys. Unfortunately I was unable to ever convert these entreaties into anything more as my skills of flirtation under the pretence of being Miss Teen USA 2009 were somewhat weak. My attempts at seduction were all a pitiful mish-mash of "lols" and "omgs" that failed to impress any of my male suitors despite their suggestive "xoxo" finishes.

Step Three: After adding people, whenever someone asks whether you've met, simply respond by looking up a common friend and saying, "Oh I'm sorry, I'm [insert name]'s friend, I thought we met the other night. How embarrassing." Sixty per cent of the time this works. Why? Because said person will be so embarrassed to have forgotten you that they'll simply accept that you're real. Success! However, be prepared for this to fail, as when it does you'll cop something like, "I haven't seen that person for years, you pervert!" (I'm not going to lie: that hurt a little on the inside).

Results: By the end of the third week, Elizabeth had made 365 brand new friends. Now, admittedly this total



Recognise Elizabeth? Apparently 365 'friends' do.

could have been a lot bigger had I put more effort in, but the main problem in becoming more popular is that whenever you add too many people, Facebook accuses you of being antisocial and threatens to block your profile, something that would have been a fatal blow to Lizzy's social life. Kudos must go to one unnamed individual who was so skilful in recognising my fake persona that he was even able to post me the link to my photos via Google images. Bravo sir, bravo.

So with the completion of my three-week task, like any great novel, I killed off my main protagonist. So if anyone is interested in leaving condolence messages on her wall (I found it rather hard to convince people to do this beforehand), feel free to do so, but please try and write with the respect befitting the way she lived.

R.I.P Elizabeth Moore.

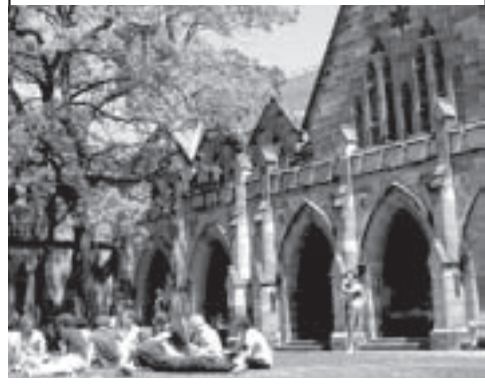
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Hi, I'm Honi Soit, you must be *Kim Beazley.*

Callie Henderson talks to Kim Beazley, Australian Ambassador to the US. It's the Beazley's Kneazleys.

Labor heavyweight Kim Beazley began his appointment as the Australian Ambassador to the United States of America in February this year. After months of calling, emailing, and other forms of young journalistic harassment, I was granted 20 minutes of the Bomber's time.

On a chilly May afternoon, I arrived at the Australian Embassy and after a short wait, was taken up to the fourth floor by Scott Bolitho, Ambassador Beazley's director of political affairs. Bolitho was outwardly friendly, but his continuous qualifications and questions belied a wariness of this writer's pen. Perhaps *Honi's* reputation preceded her...

However, once I was seated at Ambassador Beazley's coffee table I was given the impression that any question I asked him was a good one, and that really this was more a chat with Uncle Kim, rather than a formal interview with the person appointed to the top ambassadorial position an Australian diplomat can occupy.

And what do you talk about with an uncle when they come to visit? The weather, of course. Being a newcomer to Washington in the middle of a particularly inhospitable winter proved to be quite the upset for the Perth native. "I was absolutely and completely and totally useless," he said. "I did not understand the potential impact of black ice, not to look out for it." This oversight earned him two broken patellas (kneecaps for those at home), and a wheelchair for his first two months in the post.

Although he grumbled about the change in climate and the disadvantageous nature of his first two months, the Ambassador did emphasise that the appointment is a great honour. "It has been professionally fantastic, but there's got to be a downside to every good thing."



Callie and Kim Beazley in his Washington office.

Plus, when you're stuck in a wheelchair those pesky squash games and dog walks fall out of the necessary pile, leaving more room to spare for... Ambassador business! So, what has good ol' Kim been up to in his first few months?

As the Australian Ambassador, he is responsible for keeping abreast of the machinations of Washington, and works to represent the interests, views and agenda of the Australian Government. This is not an easy job. Thus the "major issues on the job so far" question I so naively asked elicited a shopping list of subjects. Halfway through the Ambassador's inventory I uttered a completely unintentional sigh, which triggered a light-hearted chuckle and a truly deserved "well, you asked!". I felt very much like a misbehaving niece.

It seems that the *Honi* eds were not the only ones put into a flurry of reorganisation when Obama first postponed his trip. "The major issues revolve around the potential visit of the President to Australia, and that has involved a great deal more time [than expected]" because the trip was postponed twice. (We're still waiting, Mr President!)

I was absolutely and completely and totally useless.*

*Beazley commenting on his kneecap injury.

The general theme of the Ambassador's Washington agenda is the maintenance and development of Australia's relationship with the US across all issues. Following the Doha round of free trade negotiations, the Ambassador has been occupied discussing the "idea of a Trans-Pacific partnership, starting that as a regional organisation".

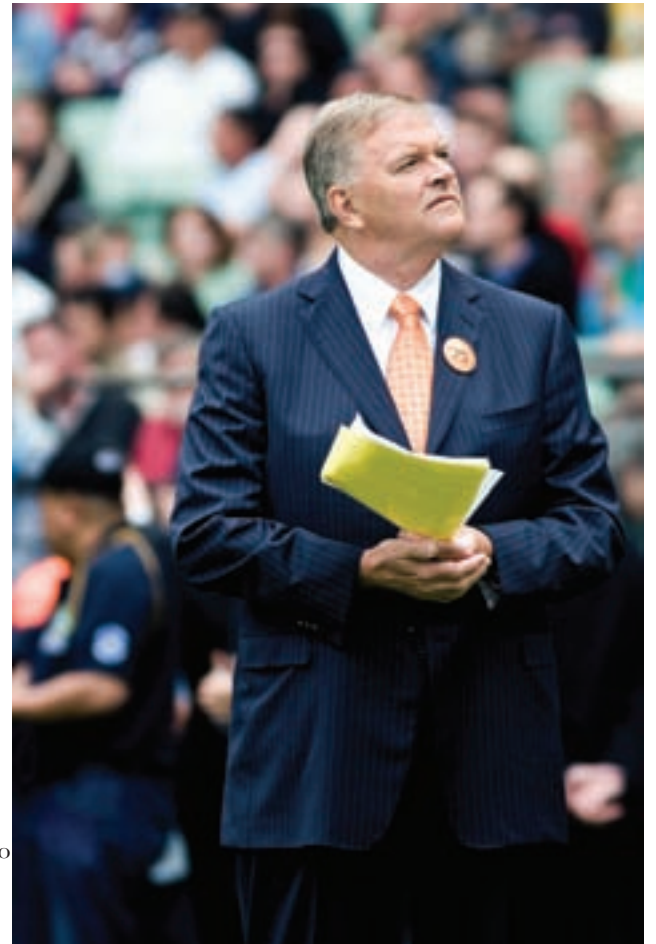
Further, "[PM Kevin Rudd] announced some time ago that he was concerned at the state of regional organisation in the Asia-Pacific region in that the United States was not sufficiently engaged with some of the big organisations developing, and needed to be. Advocating that has taken a considerable amount of time. Gradually, the US is moving towards similar positions on this."

Most apparent has been the depth of discussion of the US-Australia security partnerships. Our place as a US ally and our position in Afghanistan, especially "their assessment of our value to them", has been an important discussion point for the Ambassador to work on. Further, pushing the *Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty* (which was signed by Prime Minister Howard and President Bush in 2007, but has yet to be ratified by the US Congress) into the limelight has been a priority of the office.

However, as Beazley has been closely watching the debates over healthcare and financial reform, he wryly explained, "it will not be completed for a while yet. The Senate has so much on their plate at the moment that it is hard to get a look in."

Something the Ambassador didn't learn on the political field is the art that comes from speaking not for oneself, but for one's country and one's leader. "It is tricky, political training isn't necessarily the best training for being an Ambassador. Political training is about taking responsibility. There's no-one you can trust but yourself – and that helps – but it has to be in agreement with [the Prime Minister]. You can make suggestions, but there is only so much room to move."


For all the talk about Australia's importance to the US and vice-versa, we still seem a bit like the young child interminably pulling on the sleeve of our older, stronger brother. Yet, like Ambassador Bleich (*Honi* issue 4), Ambassador Beazley emphasises that America is cognisant of Australia's importance. "We now have a level of significance to the United States that we didn't have during the Cold War, because we not only have the joint facilities, but we've got that critical viewpoint, political position. They've got to have the about



Kimmy, look at moiii...

best trading relationship [with us] of anyone on earth, and also we're a friendly face. We tend to see eye to eye on global trade. And the US doesn't necessarily have many friends on that front."

Meanwhile, we get from the US a trade partner, as well as the "ability to mount an effective defence of a difficult to defend continent with a small population." This was an ability I youthfully believed was no longer necessary – GOVT 1202 told me that global trade has ended the need for defence against other nation-states. Oh no, schooled again by Uncle Ambassador: "we inhabit a very interesting region in which they're going through a period for which there is no historical precedent. There has never been a case in world politics where so many countries – not just China – so many countries have risen to economic prosperity and power in such a short time with virtually none of the issues that are there between them resolved. It has the capacity to be a prosperous, dynamic, peaceful, friendly region. It also has the possibility of serious trouble emerging."

You heard it here first, folks: Australia is not as invulnerable as we on our private beaches drinking the kool-aid may feel. Finally, while Ambassador Beazley feels that although a great experience, his time in politics didn't automatically prepare him for the life of a diplomat, "my time in parliament allows me to put an arm around every member of Congress I meet, and commiserate." 



SOUNDS

SURFER BLOOD

Joe Payten talks to the Floridian rockers ahead of their upcoming Manning gig.

It's not at all surprising to hear JP Pitts, of Surfer Blood, tell me that some of his favourite bands are Pavement, Yo La Tengo, Dinosaur Jr. and Built To Spill. His band's music sounds like some sort of glorious hybridisation of the giants of 90s indie rock, all taken to the beach. It is music that sounds like youth, music that begs to be vigorously air-guitared in your bedroom and ferociously drummed on your steering wheel (or desk, or the nearest hard surface).

Pitts, along with the rest of Surfer Blood and New York band The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart, is on his way to Memphis when I speak with him, before taking a few days off to get home and see his family. That home is Miami, Florida, known more for KC and the Sunshine Band and LeBron James than its independent music scene.

"There is more of a scene developing lately, there are more people starting bands," Pitts says. "For a long time there was no one playing music in Miami, it was really hard to get shows, and there just wasn't much interest generally. Of course there are plenty of people who play music, but the real difficulty, the main problem with Miami, is trying to find the right people to play with."

But that doesn't seem to have hindered

Surfer Blood. After meeting the other band members through friends, chance encounters and a mutual dislike for electronic music, the band was formed by a collective desire to make catchy guitar pop. They released their breakout single "Swim" in late 2009, and the hype that surrounded them after this would have been enough to overwhelm any further efforts. But their debut album *Astro Coast*, released at the start of this year, easily lived up to expectations, and Surfer Blood are now doing national tours of the US, as well as playing Splendour in the Grass, and Reading and Leeds in the UK. It's an impressive, and even by today's standards, rapid rise to indie stardom for the band that played their first ever show only 15 months ago.

Surfer Blood's emergence in 2009 was into an indie landscape where bands such as Dirty Projectors and Vampire Weekend were using the guitar experimentally, integrating the instrument with chamber sections and West African rhythms. "The esoteric stuff is excellent, Dirty Projectors' album was brilliant. I just don't have a desire to write that stuff," says Pitts. Surfer Blood instead used guitars to play gutsy riffs and catchy hooks – in short, to make a classic guitar album. And they succeeded wildly. "A lot of it comes down to influences, and what influences me is distinctive, catchy pop music, and that's

what I want to write. For me, it's more about the songs than anything."

From the anthemic "Swim" to the roomy "Anchorage", each song is clearly crafted around the incredibly catchy melodies that Surfer Blood have a knack for writing. Their sound has drawn regular comparison to groups like Japandroids, Cymbals Eat Guitars and BOAT, a comparison Pitts is reluctant to agree with. "Well you could see it like that, I guess there are a lot of bands out there now with a similar sound. I really like those groups, but we weren't trying to fit in with a particular scene when we recorded *Astro Coast*."

But though Pitts doesn't see the band as part of any particular aesthetic movement, he has a strong idea of what Surfer Blood is. "I was never a surfer, TJ (Schwarz) was though," he laughs. "The name came about as a joke, but the band isn't about actual surfing. It has a lot more to do with our imagery and aesthetic. Surfing reminds me of youth. It reminds me of that time in your life where you can do stuff without consequences, and the band and its music tries to embody that."

Like most groups recording a debut album, Surfer Blood did it the hard way. "There was very little high-tech equipment involved," Pitts laughs when discussing *Astro Coast*. "When we started off, we booked a studio for two days and we hoped to record the whole thing in that time. In two days, we were lucky to even get the drums done." They faced the obvious dilemma of continuing to spend "a ton of money" to record in a studio, or to just do it themselves. Being the poverty-stricken artists that they were, they opted for the latter. "Recording it

ourselves allowed us to try different things and make our own decisions. We could see what we'd done in a million different lights."

With such a strong idea of what they wanted their sound to embody, Surfer Blood thrived in a recording process that they had total control of. "It definitely turned out for the best on this record. No one knows the songs like you do. I'm in no way opposed to an engineer for the next record, but we want to feel comfortable and trust the person we work with. We just want creative control."

This next album, however, is a way off yet. "We've got more touring ahead of us, but we want to start piecing material together for our next release, we've got a lot of good ideas. We can't really write much on tour, and we're trying to keep our recording plans as open as possible because our schedule might change."

If their schedule right now is anything to go by, it may be a while before Surfer Blood find time to get back in the studio. In Australia to play Splendour, they'll be out here for a week touring including a show at Manning Bar, and after that they're off to Japan, and then to England for Reading and Leeds Festivals. "It's really just a dream come true, it's what we all want to do. It's so awesome to finally be recognised," says Pitts. But despite the excitement the next few months' holds for them, Surfer Blood keep a relatively modest benchmark for success. "We haven't been arrested or gotten into any fistfights, so I guess it's all good."

Surfer Blood will be playing at Manning on 3 August. The first 50 tickets sold at the Access office will be 50 per cent off.

OM NOM NOM

THE SHORTLIST

Bridie Connellan is short, and gets shorty, with a short black. SHORTLY.

While you traveling annoyances were dandying the break away in Morocco or something disgustingly exotic, the sticky stretch of convenience stores and kebab kingdoms on Abercrombie Street sprung a lounge room. Water served in coffee jugs, a shower in the bathroom, a homestyle bench for people-watching, Redfern gave birth to a café that puts the 'style' back in 'homestyle'.

The two hard-working ladies behind the delightful wooden nook known for now as The Shortlist, sure know their grind. Their Little Marionette choice of bean is well worth the awkward sidestep past neighbours Tripod and Café Ella, particularly when each day sees a new roast scrawled lovingly across the blackboard wall. The duo's decision to ship in baked goods from fellow Newtown local Black Star pastry is nothing short of genius, with an individually selected assortment of darling chocolate

macadamia brownies and infamously fresh Ginger Ninjas beckoning the purchaser with glee.

Late-morning is the best time to avoid the regular rush and claim the fireside, with an affordable selection of just-what-I-felt-like menu offerings falling nicely in the category of blunch. Not brunch, blunch. Breakfast at, not near, lunchtime. For the skint, a soft sourdough with Vegemite or fruit toast will set the light snacker back a mere couple o' dollaz, or for a more toothsome dish, a liberal helping of avocado with peppercorns and lemon oil certainly satiates the senses (and the saltbuds).

The famished student will not go home unhappy, with sweet and savoury options confusing one's emotional breakfast state. Sumptuous homemade baked beans with bocconcini come forth with the carnivorous option of mamma-made

chorizo, while a regular favourite jamon y queso baguette throws a nice exotic multilingual spin on ham and cheese toasties. Not ready for bread? Get your oat on. The muesli and yoghurt effectively tries nothing new on an old favourite and nicely avoids a common faux pas when crafting this staple dish – they leave out the damn melon.

The food here is unfussy yet filled with flavour – the kind of dishes you're entirely capable of making yourself but lack the ingredients or drive to do so. With an actual shortlist of alternate names for their little establishment including particular favourites 'The Pig & Thistle', 'Abercrombie' or 'This Is Not A Boat', perhaps the pair should ignore that blank sign outside they're still yet to fill and keep things homely. The only problem with this running a write-up on this little gem, is you jetsetting commuters now know it exists.

The Shortlist is open Monday-Sunday at 258 Abercrombie Street, Darlington.





SOUNDS

JONATHON BOULET

Bridie Connellan wants to meet you in the water, wall-front, whatever.

Jonathan Boulet was once described to me as 'music to listen to on a ferry.' Wind whipping through tresses, ephemeral melodies and fleeting moments of ocean spray – if the youthful quandaries of this 21-year-old are the sound of nautical movement, may we all don some boat shoes and an iPod stat.

Self-described as 'pop' music (aka 'anything goes'), this Sydney local's debut EP successfully harnessed the infectious power of young and idle giddiness which was met with a roaring response across Sydney's cultural press. Key track "A Community Service Announcement" proved a communally bounding anthem proclaiming, "Here we are, we are, are we on top?" for all to share and bask in keyboard wonderment. As Triple J presenter Dom Alessio asserted, "Hello and welcome to the sound of youth."

As he soaks up the rays of a glorious Tuesday afternoon, Boulet's mellow unassuming demeanor is surprising, given his plethora of reasons to develop an ego. Headlining spots at Groovin' The Moo, Come Together, Creative Sydney and now Splendour In The Grass are the tip of the Bouletberg, with this musical auteur even finding time to self-produce from his garage and get mad props from Kanye West's blog. The only clincher? He just doesn't want to do it alone. "I

really like having a band around me when I play, I don't want to take control of everyone on the stage, and I don't want to direct," he says. "Opening things up keeps it real."

At the ripe old age of 21, Boulet shows a humble modesty that sets him apart from the scenesters, and his recent signing to Modular People (Cut Copy, The Presets, Yeah Yeah Yeahs) has hardly seen him cut to a commercial break. "I'm trying to maintain some sort of grounding. I don't know if I am or I will succeed but I'm always trying to keep myself in check," he assures. The man and his crew tote the kind of community found in kids hanging on a suburban street eating Bubble O'Bills in summer. But unlike Every Other Sydney band, this is one uplifting collective consistently thinking fresh. "We've got a very big emphasis on thinking differently and trying to avoid the trend to simply launch an album at Oxford Art Factory," he says. Boulet's rhythmic endurance stems from his multitasking musical nature, serving as the drummer for Sydney synth-pop outfit Parades. "I really enjoy the contrast," he says. "Each band is very different and so are the listeners. It's good to get away from one to the other. I can just sit back on the drums every now and then, rather than worry about what's happening at the front of the stage."



Photo by Diana Rogers

Maybe it's a penchant for group singalongs, maybe it's a desire to avoid personal exposure, but a closer analysis of Boulet's youthful lyrics reveals a heavy reliance on the collective term 'we' rather than 'I'. "It's just a big communal reference," he says. "I would rather [lyrics] be about the group. I don't want them to be a big ego trip like, 'Yeah... well... I'm... awesome.' When a song becomes about the group and not you, it becomes more real to more people."

With 2010 already proving flourishing for this Hills District local, Boulet's next stage is the coveted fields of Woodford at Splendour in the Grass before returning to Sydney for our own Verge Festival on campus. We just hope he doesn't get too excited up north. "I'm ridiculously excited. If I die the day after Splendour I think I'll be happy," he laughs (*Verge Directors wince). But as far as asking

Mumford for one of his Sons at the three-day festival, Boulet assures his backstage manners will be strictly profesh. "I'm definitely not a 'Going Up To Other Bands' kind of guy," he says. "It's got to be the most awkward thing in the world, I wouldn't know what to say, and the people there really don't want to meet anyone new. I don't want to add to their frustration."

That's a story yet to be told, dear Boulet, but with 60 seconds to finish on this sunny PM, perhaps a life-in-a-minute description that defies gravity and reason? "OK picture this. You know on TV when they have those tornado specials and they're like stormchasers or something? My life is the biggest tornado that they show at the end." Touché sir, let it whirl.

Jonathon Boulet is playing Splendour in The Grass 31 July-2 August and Verge Festival 1 September

CANVAS

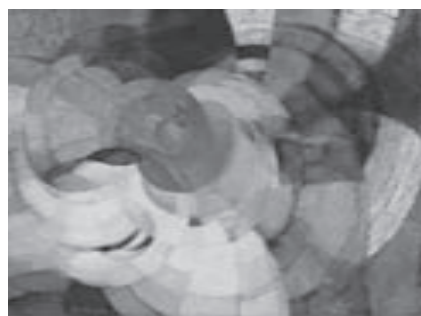
David Mack gets lost in abstract art.

It's fitting that the title of the latest exhibition showing at the Art Gallery of NSW refers to the 'Paths to Abstraction' since the curators have made a concerted effort to guide patrons through the chronological experiments undertaken by a series of artists whose names are now canonical: from Whistler's musical compositions, to the Impressionists' broad brush strokes, to the explosion of colour under Matisse, the cubist linear works of Picasso and Braque, and finally 'the limits of Abstraction' – a style that seems to have no limits at all.

"Abstraction was never a 'movement'," we are told, never practiced by one group in one locale at one period. Instead, we see a succession of painters learn and gain inspiration from those before him or her so as to build upon the limits of what was possible in art and indeed what art was.

Some of the exhibition's greatest joys come from its most simple treasures: a series of surreal wood etchings by Gauguin that revitalised the print movement; the geometric explosion of enchanting colour in Frantisek Kupka's *Disks of Newton (Study for 'Fugue in two colours')*; the almost luminous sheen of a Monet twilight sky. The cumulative effect of being surrounded by works of such fundamental importance and grace is sublime.

PATHS TO ABSTRACTION



Ultimately, these artists were re-ordering the way in which they interpreted not just art but the world itself; a radical, colourful vision seemingly at once with and without order; a breakaway from the past and a collaborative attempt to move forward and begin again. In abstraction, we can see not simply the roots of modern art but indeed modern times too.

Paths to Abstraction 1867 – 1917 is showing at the Art Gallery of NSW until 19 September.

Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney

Notice of 2010 Students' Representative Council Annual Election

Election

Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2010 close at 4.30pm Tuesday 24th August 2010. Polling will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2010. Pre-polling will also take place outside the SRC Offices Level 1 Wentworth Building on Tuesday 21st of September 2010 from 10 am - 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 and open 4th August 2010:

- The election of the Representatives to the 83rd SRC (31 positions)
- The election of the President of the 83rd SRC
- The election of the Editor(s) of Honi Soit for the 83rd SRC
- The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 83rd SRC (7 positions)

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: www.src.usyd.edu.au, 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 9660 5222.

Signed nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination must be received no later than 4.30pm on Tuesday 24th 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/PDFS/SRCconstitution06.pdf> or from the SRC Front Office (level 1, Wentworth Building).



OM NOM NOM MAMAK

Diana Tjoeng waddled home after eating her weight in Malaysian food.

It's no accident that the windows of this restaurant look directly into one of the two kitchens on the premises. As you join the queue outside, the chefs in ninja black mesmerize you through the glass deftly wielding delicate pieces of roti over a stovetop. Originating from India, the dough of this unleavened bread is stretched out longer and thinner than any pizza base, requiring skilled fingers that won't tear the bread before it's cooked. Watching the chefs sprinkle red onion onto pieces (roti bawang) or molding sweet roti into an impressive pyramid-like mound (roti tisu) takes your mind off the waiting time.

And once you're seated, you'll be justly rewarded. The success of this restaurant lies in its ability to serve up Malaysian street-style food that's quick, affordable and consistently tasty.

The simple décor of crimson walls paired with wooden tables and stools gives this

place an ambience somewhere between cosy hole-in-the-wall eatery and chic, new wave Asian restaurant. It's ideal for every occasion from the birthday lunch, to the first date or the late-night snack (it's open till 2am Friday and Saturday).

While the roti at some places can have the unfortunate consistency of crepe paper, here this bread is tantalisingly moist and makes for a great top and tail to a meal. For entrée, you can't go past the roti canai, which arrives like a fluffy golden orb atop a silver platter accompanied by two curry dipping sauces. Or to give your taste buds some sweet relief from the spicy onslaught, cap off your meal with roti kaya, filled with pandan and coconut.

Now the chicken dishes here are definitely something to consider. On the downside, the satay sticks tend to be skimpy on the meat, but the amount of time spent on the charcoal is just right. For anyone who has already kissed healthy arteries goodbye, you MUST dig into the ayam

goreng (fried chicken)- a dish crispy to the point of paradise and marinated to perfection.

In terms of curries, the kari ikan consisting of a generous serving of fish, eggplant and tomatoes in a tangy sauce is a pleaser, along with the kari kambing (lamb curry). But I found the vegetarian curry a bit of a sad affair crammed with chunky pieces of potato and not a lot else. Also, steer clear of the stir-fried calamari, which can be chewy and lacking in flavour.

For a seafood option, instead opt for the sambal tiger prawns or the mee goreng noodles. Wash it all down with teh tarik, a classic Malaysian tea with a sweet frothing, and you'll venture out again into the streets of Chinatown pleasantly licking the spice off your lips.

Mamak is located at 15 Goulburn St, Haymarket, Sydney.

SOUNDS SLEIGH BELLS TREATS

Laurence Rosier Staines begs for more.

The image on the cover of Sleigh Bells' album *Treats* is a group of cheerleaders with their faces distorted beyond recognition standing triumphantly in front of a blue sky. No other image could capture the overall sound of the album so perfectly, for it is Noise-pop, exuberant, crashing Noise-pop. And it's very divisive.

One YouTube user railed, "It sounds like a couple of girls at a high school party making up lyrics off the top of their heads as a karaoke-version DMX song blasts [sic] because their parents' speakers are on too loud."

Although I would also throw an overly distorted Phil Spector (production-wise, not murder-wise) into the mix, this comment is right on the money, and your immediate appreciation or disparagement of Sleigh Bells depends on your reaction to it. For some people this is the worst thing they've ever heard. For others it is a glorious microcosm of adolescence.

"Tell 'Em" opens the album with a torrent of overpowering bass, Derek Miller's wailing electric guitar and a skittering drum loop—somehow being both low-fi and the biggest thing in the world. This dizzying cacophony is quickly balanced by the effortless vocals of Alexis Krauss singing about girls these days, boys looking away, pink champagne and doing your best. It's epic. With this music people could scale mountains in mere steps.

Somewhere between the cover art, the spontaneous simplicity of the songs and the lyrical material, I get an image of an idealised high school. This is no more than one interpretation of music that's so simple it probably shouldn't be interpreted anyway, but many tracks seem to evoke the energy, purposelessness, detachment, camaraderie, optimism and trivial rivalry of being in a place full of other boys and girls your own age, probably against your will. Anthemic and nostalgic in a way that doesn't make any sense, the only element not covered directly is overwhelming lust, but with the pumping bass and the "ah-ah" cheerleader vocals still definitely present (superficial I know, but there we are).

The best actual songs are the maddeningly catchy "Tell 'Em", "Kids", "Rill Rill" and "Crown on the Ground", with some of the others being more like insane rave-ups, or guitar and drum work-outs which, although energising, seem underwritten and are less individually rewarding. But they need to be there, because that's how the whole thing hangs together. Rock music shouldn't have to survive scrutiny anyway. At its best it's about immediacy. This is commanding stuff — go out and get it, it's like ten dollars or something.



Surely they have great personalities.

STAGE LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT

Pristine Ong gets in with the family at Sydney Theatre Company's newest offering.

What is that spark when you connect with a play? When the energy between actors lights up the stage?

Some call it chemistry, but Luke Mullins, who co-stars in Sydney Theatre Company's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, calls it a click.

This production of Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical play is a collaboration between STC and Artists Repertory Theatre from Portland, Oregon. Under Andrew Upton's direction, Mullins plays Edmund Tyrone opposite William Hurt as his stingy father, Todd Van Voris as his older brother and Robyn Nevin as his morphine addict mother.

It is a portrait of a family of artists gripped by alcoholism, drug addiction and money. One moment, they are devouring each other in argumentative combat and the next, they are exchanging stories fondly over a drink.

Click.

Mullins may have been a stranger to Van Voris when they first started the show, but he appreciates the rapport they share when exploring the complicated relationship of the Tyrone brothers. "I think what you're seeing is two artists who enjoy the differences and similarities in each other and enjoy playing with that on stage," he says. "It's just something you can find with another actor when you click."

Mullins was a member of STC's former Actor's Company. Born in Brisbane and trained in Melbourne, the 31-year-old is soft-spoken and looks quite unlike his

character - but he lights up with passion when talking about Edmund.

With cast and crew from both sides of the Atlantic, the production is a creative partnership that offers a fresh take on the revered American classic. "While the Americans bring all that history to [the play], we bring a clearer, fresher eye that's not bogged down by it," says Mullins. "Part of the cultural baggage of the play is that it was always played aggressively—every punch and hit. We were interested in playing a version with more light and hope, where we explored the love of the family. They don't just say 'screw it' and walk out."

More and more, Mullins notes, audiences are greeting the play with laughter. "We've been surprised by the amount of laughter in it when people recognise the behaviours of these [characters] and the things that they harp on about the home and the stinginess and the drinking as well", he says.

"It's essentially a story about a family and what they're dealing with," he says. "It's relevant to any culture where family exists."

The themes of the play may be universal, but the male characters' alcoholism bears particular significance for Australian audiences. "Culturally we accept alcohol more than drug addiction," Mullins says. "It is an incidental theme that resonates strangely in Australia because of our cultural relationship to alcohol."

Long Day's Journey Into Night is a dark play that asks difficult questions, but ends with hope. "Personally, I think it becomes



They were sure the cleaner had missed a spot. beautiful because it is about people coming together," Mullins says. "I hope you get the sense in the end that Edmund does survive and go on to be the artist that is Eugene O'Neill. He learns the lesson—don't sell out. Always follow the true artistic path."

Mullins himself has two sisters and laughs when I ask if the love-hate relationship between the Tyrone brothers ever made him doubt his siblings. "I think with all families, there's those things," he says. "Your family are the only people really who you can just be furious at them and hate everything about them one second and then it's gone the next second."

Click.

***Long Day's Journey into Night* is on at STC until 1 August. For a chance to meet the director and cast, watch it on Wed 28 July. Tickets from \$40.**



A Degree Of Privilege?

Sydney Uni's Struggle With Social Equality

David Mack, Henry Hawthorne and Anusha Rutnam look at the somewhat sensitive issue of Sydney Uni's trend towards private schools, prestige and privilege.

It must have been quite something to behold. William Charles Wentworth – one of the three men to open up exploration of the Blue Mountains, a noted conservative politician and the son of two unmarried convicts born during transport to an unknowable prison settlement at the far side of the world – rising in his seat to formally introduce a bill in the NSW Legislative Council for the establishment of a new state university, the first of its kind in the Australian colonies. It was, in fact, a fundamentally radical idea both in its antipodean zeal and in its rather peculiar new sense of egalitarianism. Wentworth declared the measure was intended to enable “the child of every class to become great and useful in the destinies of his country ... Its gates should be open to all, whether they are disciples of Moses, of Jesus, of Mahomed, of Vishnu, or of Buddha.” Entrance for the newly founded University of Sydney was to be determined not by class, or social standing, or family name, or religion, but by merit alone – a concept which today seems so obvious but which then was inherently extraordinary.

“That in some ways was revolutionary,” says Dr Julia Horne, the University Historian. “I don’t really like using the word ‘revolutionary’ with regards to university, but it was a big change in terms of what was happening in, say, Oxford, Cambridge and the Scottish universities where there were still religious tests ... and certainly at Oxford and Cambridge you had to come from a particular family, a certain family of social standing or else have a family of social standing be your patrons ... [The University of Sydney] was certainly founded on meritocratic principles.”

USyd's Mid-Life Crisis

One hundred and sixty years on from its establishment, Sydney University is in the middle of an identity crisis. If the millions of dollars recently spent re-branding the university weren’t a clue, one need only look to the enrolment figures. What began as a brave experiment in social inclusion has over the decades drifted towards an undeniable trend of privilege and private schools.

After the Rudd Government announced in its 2009 Bradley Review the target of increasing the proportion of students from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds from around a national average of 15 per cent to 20 per cent by 2020, Sydney University was forced to undertake some serious introspection. Released in March, the University’s 2011-2015 Green Paper – the strategic discussion document outlining visions of the University’s future – directly addressed the issue in a section titled ‘Identifying Students of Promise’. “[T]he University is not performing as well as many other universities with respect to the [Federal Government’s] ‘social inclusion’ objective,” the report stated. “Indeed the University has one of the poorest records on this measure in the country, with around 7 per cent of our students coming from a low SES background.”

In 2008, 65 per cent of new USyd undergraduate students emerged from Sydney’s relatively affluent eastern and northern suburbs, largely from independent and selective schools. Additionally, only 1.05 per cent identified as Indigenous, compared to the NSW population of 2.1 per cent, while only 7 per cent of new students came from regional areas, as opposed to 24.7 per cent of the state population.

The Rise of the Elites

Really though, the statistics speak only to something larger, something indelibly buried within the university’s modern identity. You may have sensed it around campus, an unspoken aspect to the university’s culture as obvious and symbolic as the sandstone itself: a sense of elitism, of privilege. It’s uncomfortable to talk about – issues of money always are. It’s even more uncomfortable

to write about, given the three of us went to private schools. But it’s there. It can’t be ignored. It’s the citywide belief that for the moneyed and affluent there is a direct pathway from a top private school into a degree at Sydney Uni.

Amid last year’s blaze of headlines covering the St Paul’s college Facebook scandal, one could almost sense an undercurrent to the public’s very legitimate discussion of sexual assault – the notion that Sydney Uni had become a place for the out-of-touch establishment, to the extent that we were somehow fractured from society. If the actions of a few college students were taken as representative of the historic grandeur of Paul’s, then the scandal also reflected more broadly on the university itself. It’s telling that Linda Burney, the NSW Minister for Women, made explicit reference to “a group of young men that are going to become leaders within our community ... studying at an elite college, *an elite university*”.

The Chaser’s Charles Firth, who himself edited *Honi* in 1995, is as familiar as anyone with this cultural trend of increasing elitism, and recently complained to *The Sydney Morning Herald* that university life has “become the domain of the dumb rich kids.” Speaking to *Honi*, Firth said he thought Sydney Uni had lost its way: “When I went to Uni, I hated old fogies basically saying, ‘Sydney Uni is not what it used to be’, but when I walk around campus nowadays, there are a higher proportion of Tommy Hilfiger-clad people. And I think that is bad. Sydney Uni is not what it used to be.”

“There were always the St Paul’s College, Tommy Hilfiger set, but they tended to stick to themselves. Now, it seems, they have spread out across campus, like the Ebola virus in *Outbreak*,” Firth jokes. “The point is that some of the most interesting people I befriended at Uni were people who nowadays would have had no chance of affording it.”

Despite perhaps showing his age with the Tommy Hilfiger references, Firth believes the rise in the cost of student living, a lack of financial support and the ability for students to ‘pay their way into degrees’ has meant the university’s student population has been transformed – although he rejects

the term ‘culture of elitism’ out of semantics. “Well, first of all, a culture of elitism is what a university should be breeding, [but] having dumb kids who’ve paid their way in completely undermines *academic* elitism.”

“There are two very simple reasons that the Tommy Hilfiger set dominate. When I started uni, HECS worked out at about \$1,200 a year, regardless of the course you were doing,” Firth says. “And you couldn’t just get a lousy mark in the HSC and charge the degree to your parents’ credit card. I may have gone to a private school, but it was my mark that mattered. All the dumb shits in my year had to go to Macquarie.”

Some things do remain the same though, and as Firth freely admits, “Our entire *Honi* team was from Grammar – the male ones anyway. Not a great look, but because we controlled the media, it didn’t matter: we just stamped out all criticism. As I said, everything I say is said with a healthy dose of hypocrisy. I’m one of the privileged little shits that Sydney Uni students should be fighting against. But I never wore Tommy Hilfiger.”

SRC President Elly Howse, herself a graduate from SCEGGS Darlinghurst, also admits her private school background with an earnest honesty. “There have been instances where I’ll be sitting in a room talking about social inclusion or students from disadvantaged backgrounds and I’ll feel a bit weird because I recognise that I’ve been so privileged. I kind of feel like a hypocrite sometimes,” Howse says. “Really though, it shouldn’t be a big deal what school you came from. We’re all here together now ... We all want this to be the best place it can be.”

Although she recognises the “disproportionate” number of high SES students at Sydney Uni, Howse refuses to either demonise or homogenise them. “The kind of students that come to Sydney, a lot of the ones that I speak to, do recognise that they come from quite privileged backgrounds but they’re at university to further their education and knowledge so that they can go back into the community and help people and use that privilege for a good cause. You don’t always see the self-interest that I think might be implied when it comes to high SES



students,” she says. “I also think that there are a lot of students who don’t think in those terms either, and that’s fine, too. I’m not here to pass judgment.”

Howse is also conscious of not stereotyping the desires of those from disadvantaged backgrounds: “There are a lot of people who would prefer to just go into the workforce or into a TAFE or a college. If people don’t want to go to uni, why should they? We can’t just say that the only reason these kids aren’t coming to uni is because we’re not letting them in. That’s an incredibly patronising attitude.”

The Past and the Pending

So to what extent then has the university been faithful to Wentworth’s original vision in both its historical and contemporary practice? “Well, we’re still working towards it essentially. It’s a work in progress, very much so,” says Dr Horne. “We always have periods where we’re less successful ... [but] it worked very well in the first couple of decades in extending across those religious traditions in NSW which were very significant between the Catholics and the Protestants. That worked.” Indeed, between 1870 and 1950 the university would make huge strides in increasing the number of rural students and those from modest social backgrounds, and was one of the first institutions in the British Empire to admit women.

There were always the St Paul’s College, Tommy Hilfiger set, but they tended to stick to themselves. Now, it seems, they have spread out across campus, like the Ebola virus in *Outbreak*

Dr Horne can, however, suggest a time period when the university began to let its social inclusion principles slide. “Well, until 1949 we were the only university in NSW, so in that sense it was a real joint enterprise between the State Government and the university to try and work out ways of getting students to be able to pass an exam and come in from all walks of life – almost all walks of life, I should say, because Indigenous groups weren’t really included in that,” she says. “So in some ways the development of more universities in NSW meant the pressure on Sydney to incorporate all those social groups has become much less, and I think that’s possibly part of the explanation as to why from the early 70s until perhaps now there may have been times when we’ve slipped in that regard – though we’d need to consult student statistics more thoroughly

to determine if that was the case – because the slack, as it were, had been taken up by other universities in NSW quite successfully.”

Despite this ‘slip’, one’s examination score is still the primary determinant for entry into the university, arguably reflecting a continued meritocratic admissions system. The university’s ‘prestige’ perhaps then results simply from its high entry-level requirements and competitiveness. Though, in what seems slightly reminiscent of the chicken and the egg scenario, surely one must then question how the entry-level marks became so competitive to begin with, and why USyd is the university of choice for most students attending private and selective schools.

The Official Line

“The thing about Sydney Uni is that it is a leading institution, not just in Australia but in the world, and the desirability to come and study at a place like Sydney is great for any student,” says Derrick Armstrong, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Education and the man overseeing the university’s social inclusion drive. “It is the first choice university in NSW by a long way for students, so there is a great demand to come here.”

“I think there’s a long tradition in many people’s families – their parents have been here, their grandparents and so on – so there’s a lot of affinity with the university as well. It’s not surprising that those people who have received a university education go on

to be, if they’re not already, a part of advantaged sections of Australia. So it’s not surprising in one way if the institution tends to be over represented by middle classes and the elites of society,” Professor Armstrong says.

“Some of these things aren’t simple to change and in talking about the institution as elitist I don’t mean to be altogether critical about that because it’s understandable how universities develop in those sorts of ways, but I think we need to be really conscious and engaged with a broader group of students who can have the potential to succeed here and might not even think about coming to Sydney. That’s part of the problem. They think, ‘Well, Sydney is like this and therefore I wouldn’t fit into that environment and so I’m not going to even bother applying to go there.’”

Professor Armstrong maintains that Sydney Uni has a lot to gain out of a diverse student populace. “The first thing is that it’s not all one-way,” he says. “It’s not about opening the doors to a group of students who don’t traditionally have access to the university and saying, ‘Here’s an opportunity. Come and join us and be like us.’ I actually think it involves a lot more than that. It involves the institution itself using the experience from a diverse range of students to actually question itself, question its own values and purpose and its own contribution to Australian society, and to learn and to develop as an institution. So I think that being a diverse institution in terms of the student background and student experience adds value to the institution as a whole and adds value to the student experience.”

The Game Plan

Professor Armstrong does acknowledge that much of the work of increasing the number of low SES students in universities begins with government reform of the education system and larger funding; until state high schools are more academically competitive with their selective and independent counterparts much will be out of the university’s hands. Still, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor maintains there are things that the university can do.

Firstly, the university’s Compass Project has seen the university open its gates to students “from more disadvantaged backgrounds [who] have no idea what the university looks like” in order to encourage and nurture tertiary aspirations from the primary school age.

Additionally, the university’s admissions system is facing a radical overhaul, and the reliance on ATAR/UAI scores is being re-evaluated. Currently, a university working party is assessing additional means by which students might be evaluated in order to demonstrate academic competitiveness. This may ultimately involve the implementation of an ‘ATAR bonus system’ that would see students from certain identified disadvantaged schools receive an additional five points. Perhaps unsurprisingly, independent schools groups have reacted negatively to the proposed scheme, which they say might amount to a form ‘reverse discrimination.’ “It is a concern that any students misses out on a university place based purely upon where he or she attended school,” said Michael Carr, the acting executive director of Association of Independent Schools of NSW, to the *Herald*. “However, many students attending independent schools also



come from disadvantaged backgrounds.”

However the university lures them here, Elly Howse believes the university will need to make some practical changes to student support services to adequately assist these new students. “The student support unit is very over-worked and over-loaded, and if you are going to increase the intake of students from low SES backgrounds then you have to back that up by providing them with low-cost accommodation, Centrelink advice, academic support, counselling if they require it. You have to be careful that you don’t bring all these students in and not have adequate – or adequately funded – support structures.”

That said, she believes the university has demonstrated commitment to its social inclusion objectives. “I have to say that for a while I was worried that all this buzz around social inclusion was just a selling point, but talking to the VC, who is from quite a privileged background, I can see that he just wants students to have the experience and opportunities he had. Having people like that in leadership is a positive thing and I feel like we’re having a really constructive dialogue.”

Despite the university’s current identity crisis, Professor Armstrong remains enthusiastic about the future. “I think it’s a really exciting period for the university and it’s a real challenge for us,” he says. “I do think that we have great students in the university and I’m not any sense dissing the student body that we have now, but I do think that we need to look at ways in which we can expand those opportunities for a broader range of students to participate in the university.”

In the end, Sydney Uni’s strive for social equality is something to be admired and proud of, both historically and in the actions of the current administration. The underlying principles reflect the same colonial egalitarianism with which Wentworth first called for the establishment of the university. Whether the words will match the deeds is yet to be seen, and, as Charles Firth points out, there are two major factors to the university’s identity which still exude pretentiousness: “The sandstone – and the fact that upstanding citizens, such as me and Tony Abbott, went there.”



Decision 2010: Australia Stays At Home

Laurence Rosier Staines believes this federal election is historic – historically boring.



At this point in the campaign, Gillard leads in terms of symmetry.

WOOOO! WOOOO! ANOTHER ELECTION WOOOO! Less than three years since the last one, too. And featuring the first female candidate – who's also a Prime Minister, by golly! Historic, no? You can just feel the anticipation. Yes indeed, Julia Gillard's sudden ascent is the most interesting domestic political coup since the Whitlam dismissal, which just proves how boring Australian politics really is.

For those of you blissfully living under a politically impenetrable rock, my summary of the events is this:

- Rudd loses nerve, walks away from key election promises (or delays them interminably).
- Public listens to him even less than before.
- Miners pour their super profits into fighting super profits tax; electorate becomes even more apathetic.
- Labor panics and installs internally popular deputy; press uses word 'Spillard' almost as often as they once used 'Ruddslide'.

The idea, I suppose, was that by ousting Rudd they would regain credibility with the disillusioned electorate. However, while the leader's credibility may have gone up slightly, the party's credibility has decreased, meaning that the overall credibility remains about the same.

As Peter Hartcher recently observed, both of the relevant leaders in this election rose to power on the back of reform panic, and related panics; Tony Abbott leads the Liberals because they couldn't handle Malcolm "All Up In My George Foreman" Turnbull, and Gillard leads the government because Rudd's mining tax reform was just as unpopular as every other reform enacted in this country (with the only difference being that in the past, the reforming parties stuck to their guns). So, given that their mandate from their respective parties is based largely on fear of change, we cannot expect either of them to really stand for much.

This has been borne out by the campaign so far: Gillard says she "believes in a government that rewards people who play by the rules" (I wonder where the Coalition stands on that one?), Abbott promises to keep interest rates lower than Labor (there's a blast from the past!) and both of them insist they'll be tough enough on border protection. Why not bring back the Macarena while we're at it? I'll tell you why not: because these candidates cannot dance.

And all the talk so far has been about 'performance'. Is Gillard a good performer? Yes – much better than Rudd was, many say. But what this actually means is that she's good at evading questions when she needs to and at staying on-message. In other words, she's better at convincing smoke-and-mirrors theatrics. The media acknowledge this, and yet perpetuate it with their commentary, as if it's a good thing. What a bleak, horrible future we live in!

Ultimately, we got nothin', folks. Sure, we could vote for a minor party, but that's a hollow protest as it always finds its way back to a major party, and none of us really have any faith in the general competence of the minor parties anyway. There appears to be no way out of this relentless, lazy adversarialism. Actually, there is one way, suggested to me by my friend: make "none of the above" an option on the ballot paper. In this, those who are not apathetic but genuinely care would have a way to express their utter disdain with both viable candidates. Instead of it being a game of "At least I'm not as bad as the other guy", the ALP and the Coalition would actually have to be good and really listen to people in order to swing those "none of the above" voters (who, I would wager, would be much, much more numerous than anyone suspected).

The only problem is what to do if "none of the above" won, as it surely would. Hung parliament? Oligarchy? Anarchy? Combining a republic with a monarchy by electing a queen? Ah, hell. Lindsay Tanner for PM.

SRC election spending cap policies as murky as USU's

In the wake of the USU spending cap fiasco, **Naomi Hart** revisits last year's SRC and *Honi* elections and questions the spending cap practices.

If you thought that after the elections for the USU Board in May you wouldn't be lecture bashed for the rest of the year, you have another thing coming. In August and September, campus will again become the site of poster, chalking and general electioneering wars, this time as candidates vie for election positions within the Students' Representative Council (President, SRC Councillors, *Honi Soit* editors and delegates to the National Union of Students).

Unlike the USU election, the SRC races are structured around tickets. Last year, for example, Unity (Labor Right on campus) ran under the collective brand of 'Spark!' and organised an NUS ticket as well as a handful of SRC tickets for various demographics (such as 'Spark! for First Years') or ideological touchstones (such as 'Spark! for Inclusion'). Labor Left similarly ran under the title ACTIVATE!.

The more controversial tradition is of *Honi* tickets running satellite SRC tickets. Last year, one *Honi* team, Vox, ran 16 SRC tickets, including 'Vox for Debating', for Law and for Wollongong. Our ticket, ACE, who ended up pipping Vox in the *Honi* elections by the narrowest of margins, ran 14 SRC tickets. The only other serious *Honi* ticket, Hatter, didn't run any SRC tickets.

During last year's election, some students floated the idea of banning *Honi* tickets from running associated SRC tickets. Their argument was that highly organised tickets, like Vox and ACE, gain an insurmountable advantage over relative outsiders like Hatter by recruiting an army of campaigners by signing them up to SRC tickets. More importantly, running SRC tickets confers a massive benefit in terms of spending cap. On their own, *Honi* tickets may spend only \$600. SRC tickets, depending on the number of candidates they contain, may spend up to \$500. *Honi* tickets can print extra posters, distribute extra T-shirts, and produce extra chalk, using up both their own spending allowances and those of SRC tickets running under the same banner. So last year, Hatter was confined to as many posters and T-shirts as \$600 could buy, while their adversaries, including the team which I was part of, spent thousands of dollars each without even approaching their limit.

Beyond locking tickets like Hatter out of viably running, unrestricted spending also provides an incentive for Vox and ACE types to engage in wars of attrition where out-spending each other is a key strategy. Rather than reaching agreements not to poster over each other or simply using a smaller number of posters more strategically, such tickets simply use blitzkrieg tactics to saturate campus more effectively than each other.



Time to tighten the cap?

That amounts to an excellent case for why *Honi* teams should not be entitled to spend more by running collateral SRC tickets. Instead, they should be forced to stick to the *Honi* cap. Any associated SRC tickets whose spending cap is utilised should have to foot the bill themselves and promote a platform that is tailored to their bid to become Councillors, distinct from their *Honi* counterparts' message.

But students running for SRC shouldn't be banned outright from running under the same banner as *Honi* tickets. *Honi* tickets provide a critical mass and an infrastructure that often makes it possible for individual students who aren't affiliated with a political faction to run. Without this, they would struggle to acquire the exposure to make a realistic bid. Moreover, concerns that heavyweight *Honi* tickets can obtain armies of supporters by signing up their friends and acquaintances to SRC tickets is misplaced. In fact, that sort of grassroots mobilisation makes SRC elections exciting, giving people a more personal stake in the outcome and thus meaning that the SRC doesn't have to resort to offering people food vouchers if they vote, as the Union experimented with this year in response to dwindling voter turnout.

One residual apprehension is that the SRC could be overrun with apathetic Councillors if those who get elected are simply the friends of *Honi* candidates (or *Honi* candidates themselves) whose only interest was in bolstering the campaign for the paper. Empirically, only the most keen of those who run on *Honi*-related SRC tickets end up getting elected. Last year, from the 16 Vox tickets (amounting to scores of individual candidates), only four were elected. Six ACE SRC candidates got up. These candidates have shown equal commitment to their duties as Councillors as their colleagues.

GOT AN OPINION?

Submit it to our new section, 'The Soapbox'!

honi.soit@src.usyd.edu.au



Belvoir St cops a belting

Oliver Burton believes the outcry over changes to Belvoir's pay system is a tad unwarranted and dramatic.

Sydney theatre's new generation of Artistic Directors have some fairly radical ideas. One of the most insane, proposed by incoming AD at the Belvoir Street Theatre, Ralph Myers, is that artists should actually be paid at least the union specified fee for their work.

The Belvoir Street Theatre has two spaces: the Upstairs theatre, which seats approximately 300, and is programmed by resident company, Company B and the Downstairs Theatre, which seats approximately 90, and has been the home of B-Sharp, a season of co-productions between independent theatre-makers and Company B. Artists who work upstairs are paid, artists who work downstairs are not. The announcement from Myers is that everyone will now be paid at least in accordance with the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) standard.

More money for artists – terrific, you're not going to hear much objection from the peanut gallery, particularly as Belvoir is not demanding the inexorable shortfall from the government. Except that you are, and remarkably, you're hearing it from the artists themselves, because the result of the funding redistribution is that the number of independent shows downstairs will be cut from 12 to four.

At a Q&A in Belvoir's rehearsal space, Myers received a slamming from at least half the room, which accused him of closing the door on independent theatre-makers. Probably the best argument was put by one playwright who complained that there was now an economic pressure to write plays with small casts.

These are valid points and it is a heartbreaking choice. No one likes to see less theatre in spite of (or maybe even because of) its varying quality, except of course, the people who actually have a good shot of making a living out of it.

The unfortunate fact of most artistic industries is that they contain far more producers than the number of consumers can support. Becoming a theatre-maker entails no real barriers to entry, you've just got to go and do it – regardless of whether anyone actually wants to see your work. This dilutes the already limited resources available to the industry.

I'm not saying that people shouldn't make theatre professionally unless they can pay everyone involved a reasonable wage. Actually yes, that is what I'm saying. Perhaps the so called 'industry standard' is too high but until artists themselves start insisting that the 'love of it' doesn't pay the rent, they will continue to be exploited.

The unfortunate fact is that spaces like downstairs Belvoir are not economically viable. Even extraordinary, eventually sold-out, shows like the recent *Bang* barely break even under the old model. That's why the new directive is entirely correct, both practically and ethically.

With fewer shows downstairs, the competition for slots will ensure only the finest work gets through. Those productions will be given much longer runs, increasing the likelihood of their making enough to feed their performers. In doing so the Belvoir Street Theatre will be making the point that everyone's labour is worth a living wage.

Mind Your Manas

Carmen Culina, *Honi's* resident spiritual enthusiast, explores the Vipassana meditation technique.

The prospect of voluntarily spending a portion of their July break in 10 days in silent meditation beginning daily at 4:00am tends to confuse and horrify most of my twenty-something-year-old friends. The Vipassana meditation centre in Blackheath is one of many scattered around the country and runs courses every fortnight teaching India's most ancient techniques of meditation. Cash-pressed university students will be pleased to know that there are no fees to take part in a Vipassana course, not even for the cost of food or accommodation as the centres are funded entirely by donations of previous students who have sat for 10 days or longer. Those hoping to freeload on a relaxing holiday in the leafy Blue Mountains be warned: Vipassana is not an escape from the trials and tribulations of everyday life. It is a technique that requires serious practice and involves 10 days in which you are required to refrain from speech (read: no Internet or mobile phones) and engage in day-long introspection.

Although the techniques are based on the teachings of the Buddha, Vipassana is open to members of all or no faiths and there is no question of conversion since the technique simply focuses on observing the natural breath to relax the mind. 22-year old Alex Clouston sat her first Vipassana meditation course in December last year and recently came back from another 10 days where she was the female assistant manager. "My first course was one of the hardest and most rewarding things I've ever done, which is why I signed up to take part a second time," she says. "On arrival I was informed that the manager for the

female students (women and men are segregated) had developed a problem with her eyes which had impaired her vision, so I was asked to come on board as assistant manager seeing as she was unable to run around too much."

Although communication between participants is forbidden, students are allowed to speak with instructors to clarify the technique. "I was one of three people that the girls could talk to over 10 days," Alex recalls. "Along with the kitchen team I helped make breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea for 100 people, rang the bell at all eating times, coordinated the foreign language sessions for students who could not understand English, delivered messages between the teachers and other staff, and was on call at all hours to provide what ever was needed to the students from special diet meals to sanitary products."

Participants emerge from silence at the end of the ninth day and Alex was just as surprised the second time around to see how close everyone had become through the experience. "Everyone emerges from their brooding silence and on the 10th day I felt this incredible sense of joy with all the participants who by the end are non-stop chatting and smiling. Even though you have barely spoken prior to this you feel as if you have known each other for years."

Course participants are encouraged to keep up the daily practice of the Vipassana technique when they return home to increase awareness, non-delusion, discipline, compassion and peace.

"IT'S A HOLE": Debunking Canberra Myths

Don't go hatin' on our 'berra, say **Sarah Fleming** and **Nadia Daly**.

MYTH: Sydney is the capital of Australia.

FACT: No! That's Canberra!

MYTH: There's nowhere to go/nothing to do.

FACT: Sure, your Tuesday night stopover on the way to the snow may have found the nightlife a little lacking. If you don't know where to go you may find yourself cruising around empty office buildings at 3am and decide there is little to do.

But Canberra's large student population, throngs of rich diplomat kids, army brats and repressed public servants make for one party-ready populace. And let's not forget the other half of Canberra's fabled population: whores and porn stars. A winning mix in the great Canberran cocktail. Speaking of, don't forget the cheap booze. Two-dollar shots anyone?

The menagerie of Canberra's diverse inhabitants is on full show after dark, when one can witness the great rainbow cross section of Australia's social strata

in one location: 'Civic' (the CBD). From club to club, bogans and yuppies mingle, sip drinks, scrap, tackle, make out and punch each other to the soundtrack of bad 90s pop. Look no further than several of Canberra's more trashy but fervently beloved hotspots, ICBM and Mooseheads. Venues such as Tongue & Groove or The Holy Grail offer excellent ambience and only ever-so-slightly overpriced cocktails for those seeking a more dignified night out.

If your year six excursion remains your only experience of the capital, it's time for another visit.

MYTH: Canberra is, like, so dull and uncultured compared to Sydney/Melbourne/Adelaide.

FACT: You want culture? We got Picasso. The National Gallery's recent exhibition, "Masterpieces from Paris", attracted over 300,000 visitors and has paved the way for Canberra to become a recognised hub of artistic activity. The city's Garema Place was recently transformed into a public art space, exhibiting pieces from renowned

international artists.

MYTH: High-end shopping in Canberra is a visit to Target (pronounced Targét).

FACT: While this may have been true in years past, Canberra is now home to the big names in mainstream fashion as well as a number of alternative shops to satisfy the indie within. Find quirky accessories and vintage steals at Felt and Landspeed in the city.

MYTH: Weed is legal.

FACT: We would try to bust this myth... but feel it may be one misconception working in favour of Canberra's cool-factor.

MYTH: No good band would bother making a stop-off in Canberra.

FACT: Although this year's Groovin' the Moo festival helped put Canberra on the musical map, it has held its rightful place there for some time. From the ANU Bar to Foreshore festival, the likes of Nirvana, Beastie Boys, Black Eyed Peas and The Presets have all dropped in for a song or two over the years.



Not pictured: Canberra

So there you have it: it's not all roundabouts and faceless suits. Armed with your greater knowledge, you now have the power to challenge the stereotypes, stand up to Canberra-bashing and put an end to the inter-city bullying. In the great Australian playground Sydney may be the hot rich kid, but Canberra is clever and understated; there's more to it than meets the eye. Show it some respect and it'll show you a good time.



THAT YOU'RE A SNOW-PRO

What to Say

It's much easier to fake being a skier by using skiing lingo with reckless abandon than to actually ski in that manner. Why 'ski with your friends' if you can 'carve up the corduroy with your powder hounds'? Why say 'snow' if you can say 'the white stuff', 'mashed potatoes' or 'death cookies'? Why court a lady-friend in the crisp winter's evening air if you can engage in 'après-ski mid-mountain schnappy-hour snow-bunny bombing'? The writer is yet to find out the true meaning of 'geschmozzling with

FAKING IT

some trustafarians', but understands it is breaking into common snowfield parlance as meaning 'to have a race against others'.

The Attitude

Foster some entrenched opinions that are so without reason that people assume that they have been formed from countless years alone in the Snowy Mountains. It is important to feel considerable ill will towards children in Milo™-sponsored bibs, to embark on a pre-prepared rant about hot chocolate market inflation, and to convey

disdain for the poma-ride, the dunce of mechanical lifts, whilst secretly knowing they're also the most comfortable ride on the mountain.

What to do

Jumping the Queue: Queue-jumping (or 'Q-Jaying' as you will irritatingly come to say) at the T-bar line requires years of training to achieve what is a highly nuanced movement. The writer does not recommend faking this without proper preparation. Some pointers, however: never make eye contact with the person you are pushing in front of, it is much easier to use a method-acting approach and pretend they do not exist; practice your sleight-of-ski-pole, threatening the future generations of

your opponent by positioning your pole between their legs; finally, for the truly corrupt queue-jumper, abandon whoever you are skiing with, yell 'Any singles?', then shuffle on up.

What Not To Do

Chairlift small talk: the beginner skier is often overzealous in sparking a five-minute chairlift friendship, and will force you to feign fascination into such topics as obsolete weather-reports, whether they are from Sydney, Newcastle or Cooma, and whether you are having fun. The answers to these questions are invariably 'cold', 'Sydney' and 'affirmative', so best to avoid the exercise to begin with and put on your full-face balaclava.

Henry Hawthorne

The 2010 NRL Season thus far

Kirsten Wade looks at the season thus far and ranks the teams from ace to base.

With the finals rapidly approaching, many NRL teams are vying for a top-eight spot and a consequent finals berth.

Competition is intense, with only six points separating teams placed fourth to 12th. I'm certainly no 'Paul the Octopus', but here's what I think:

The St George Illawarra Dragons...

Are red hot. Despite a few minor hiccups midseason, the Dragons have close to a full-strength side in the lead up to the finals. Prodigal son Mark Gasnier has returned from his stint in pink with team Stade Francais to once again don the Red-V. With the Minor Premiership in their sights for a second straight year, can the Dragons finally get over the finals speed hump known for hampering their chances in the past?

The Penrith Panthers...

Are on the prowl. The Panthers have been the quiet achievers of the 2010 season. Playing precise yet gutsy and exciting football has paid dividends with the Panthers moving steadily up the ladder to sit quite comfortably in second spot.

The Wests Tigers...

Have goal-kicking woes. Benji Marshall's poor strike rate could very well be the deciding factor of the Tigers' place on the ladder and how far they progress in the finals. The team will have to produce more four pointers to make up for it, but with the attacking prowess of Marshall and Farrah this is certainly possible.

The Sydney City Roosters...

Have something to prove. With Anasta and Aubusson fired up and leading the way, could they be the surprise package of 2010 that goes all the way?

The New Zealand Warriors...

Better start fighting. If they play well in the next few weeks, a top-four finish and home final is certainly on the cards, but if they play badly they run the risk of missing the eight altogether.

The Gold Coast Titans...

Better hope the meter maids fill up their energy meters. The Titans are still in contention for the finals but the race to the top eight is tight, so they better watch out.

The Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles...

Should take flight if they want to make the finals. The Eagles need to learn to play for the full 80 minutes, because playing for 60 or 70 just isn't going to cut it in the finals.

The Brisbane Broncos...

Are growing up fast. Dubbed the Baby Broncos, the inexperience of the Broncos' line up was detrimental to their form at the beginning of the season. However, as the season has progressed so has their form – and their place on the ladder.

The Parramatta Eels...

Should board the train. The Hayne train. The pressure of expectations has punished last year's premiers, with the team struggling to gel and put together two wins in a row. Time will tell whether the Hayne train leaves the station for the finals or to falter.

The South Sydney Rabbitohs...

Were heralded one of the teams to beat at the start of the season. Now, a string of recent losses threatens their chances of even making the finals.

The Newcastle Knights...

Have been pretty lacklustre. But, still have a chance of making the finals. To do so, they will have to overcome the

Eagles, Bulldogs, Warriors, Broncos, Dragons and Storm. Good luck!

The Canterbury Bulldogs...

Have a better line up on paper than on the field. Even the likes of Brett Kimmorley, Andrew Ryan and Luke Patten hasn't been enough to put the Bulldogs in a better position than they're in. The Bulldogs are really clutching at straws to make the finals.

The Canberra Raiders

Will need to win practically every game to make the top eight. Probably will be overshadowed by the election in Canberra.

The Cronulla Sharks...

Have a new coach. But even new coach Shane Flanagan won't be enough to get them into the finals.

The North Queensland Cowboys...

Will be back in 2011 since their 2010 season is well and truly over.

The Melbourne Storm...

Will finish last. Simple as that. With little to play for, the Storm have lost much of their gusto and with it their winning ability. 2011 is a new season and a new beginning for the Storm, although they are likely to be minus a number of key players due to salary cap restraints.

Unofficial Football World Championships

Chris Martin imagines a way in which the Socceroos are world champions.



On the way home from South Africa, Spanish suitcases were filled with all sorts of silverware – the FIFA Fair Play Trophy, Iker Casillas' Golden Glove award for best goalkeeper, and of course the World Cup itself. But hidden away in a secret compartment of coach Vicente del Bosque's

luggage might well have been the CW Alcock Cup, the exciting and glamorous cocaine to those glorified replica souvenirs.

The CW Alcock Cup is the imaginary trophy of the Unofficial Football World Championships (UFWC), a competition with a fascinating past and an extraordinary cult following. Like most good ideas, the UFWC started as a joke.

Scottish fans pointed out in 2002 that their country had triumphed 3-2 over the new World Cup winners, England, back in 1967. It followed that Scotland must have immediately assumed the title of 'best team in the world', at least until defeat to the Soviet Union four weeks later.

Tracing international football results back to their beginnings, UFWC nerdfans created a boxing-style method of ranking. Instead of waiting four years to determine world champions at the World Cup tournament, the title would be on the line in any senior international match involving the reigning UFWC champions. If a UFWC titleholder fails to defend the championship, losing at 90 minutes, in extra time, or on penalties, the Alcock Cup passes to the new champions. With every successful title defence, a

team advances in the historical rankings.

Proving that it retains a sense of humour, the UFWC suggests that Scotland is the greatest team in football history, simply because it has played 103 matches as defending champion in 20 separate title reigns – most of them before the first FIFA World Cup, held in 1930. England stands second, Brazil sixth, and even Angola makes a splash at 26th in the UFWC historical rankings.

Proudly, Australia's name lies engraved in the virtual Alcock Cup, owing to an amusingly brief reign as unofficial world champions in June 1992. Not-so-household names like Tony Vidmar and Ned Zelic catapulted themselves into the cult football stratosphere alongside the likes of Johan Cruyff and Diego Maradona with a 1-0 victory against the USA in Florida. Four days later, it was Maradona's men who unceremoniously dispossessed the Socceroos of the title, ending one of the shortest reigns in UFWC history.

Since then, the Alcock Cup has mostly rotated amongst the powerhouses of international football, held concurrently with the FIFA World Cup trophy by Brazil, France and Italy. Heading into the Final of South Africa 2010, the Netherlands boasted a 22-match championship reign, the longest-ever defence of the title in terms of matches played. The last time the Dutch had carried the unofficial championship into a major tournament was in 1974, but for those famous exponents of 'total football', the Alcock Cup was the only piece of silverware to be had.

So when Spain's triumphant XI lifted the World Cup for the first time, via a dominant but elongated extra-time victory, they also regained prime position in this perpetually active 'competition' in world football. Their first defence comes on 11 August against Mexico. And if the Spaniards are too ecstatic about their World Cup to pay any notice to the CW Alcock Cup, well, we'll gladly have our trophy back, mate.



TOP TIPS FOR UNI

1. The Learning Centre

Make the friendly people at the Learning Centre your new best friends. They offer bunches of workshops from academic writing and proper referencing to presentation skills and time management. We bet a bar of chocolate that they offer a workshop that is good for you, and encourage you to race online and book yourself in. www.usyd.edu.au/lc

2. Your Academic Consultation Hours

Your lecturer does not need to be your best friend, however, you should know when s/he is available for consultation so that you can go and ask those niggling questions you might have. Academics are paid to teach and they often report enjoying people going to see them in their consultation hours – many say students rarely come. Keep them company or make them work harder – whatever way you want to look at it.

3. Student Services

Uni is probably the only place where you have so many services available to

support you for free – with most found on Level 5 of the Jane Foss Russell Building. If you are feeling down or stressed there is the Counselling Service or ISSU for international students and the University Health Service. The Financial Assistance Office offers free interest loans and bursaries, and the Scholarships Office offering the obvious. The Disability Service supports students who register their disability – this can be a physical disability – including a temporary one, a learning disability, dyslexia, anxiety etc – contact the Disability Services to find out how they may be able to help you. Then there is the Accommodation Service that has a database to help you find new digs.

4. Special consideration and arrangements

Special consideration is what you apply for if special circumstances (eg an illness or misfortune that affects you or someone close to you) disadvantage your study. You must apply for Special Consideration within 7 days of the exam or deadline. Special arrangements can be made if your exam falls on a religious holiday or jury duty for example. If you have more questions come to SRC HELP.

5. Dropping a subject

The 31 August is what is called the Census date. If you drop a subject before 31 August – because you don't like it, you are finding it too hard, you don't have the time or health to continue with all these subjects – then this will be recorded as WITHDRAWN not fail. If you are a local HECS student this also means you won't pay any fees. If you are an international student come and see SRC HELP for assistance in getting your money back.

To make an appointment to see a caseworker:

p: 9660 5222

e: help@src.usyd.edu.au

Or come and see us at:
Level 1 (Basement) Wentworth Bldg G01 - City Road Entry

For more information:
www.src.usyd.edu.au

Ask Abe

Q & A with students who need help and a dog who has all the answers...



Send your letters to:
help@src.usyd.edu.au

Dear Abe,
It feels terribly odd asking a dog, but I really need to know how to see a 'bulk billing' doctor (I don't really know what this is) in Sydney. Given I am so far away I can't see my normal doctor while I am here but I have an ongoing thing that I see her about. What should I do to make sure I can continue to get good treatment?
A N Onymous

Dear A N Onymous
It is a really good idea to have a doctor in Sydney when you are living here. They can be there to help manage your health and make sure you have access to the medications you need. This is a much better option than relying on a doctor a long way away who you cannot see quickly. I am not sure whether you are a local or international student, so I will give you all the info I can think of.

Bulk billing effectively means that if you are a local student the cost of the consultation is free for you. If you are an international student then the cost of the consultation is covered by your health insurance. I can recommend the University Health Services on campus. (www.unihealth.usyd.edu.au) Otherwise, if you want somewhere near your home, look to see – or ask – if they are bulk billed.

If you are a local student you may need to get your own Medicare Card. It is easy, you just take 100 points of identification (like a driver's licence and a credit card and your student ID) to a Medicare office (see www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/claims/offices.jsp for locations). Medicare will then send you a card in the mail. This does not cost anything.

Regardless of where your previous doctor is you can ask your family doctor to send a copy of your files, or a letter of reference outlining all the information your new doctor needs. When it comes time to leave this Sydney doctor and go back home, you can always get you information sent back to your doctor the same way.

Abe

WARNING - Accommodation Scams

Students are being targeted by people pretending to be landlords. Students are told to transfer money via Western Union or into bank accounts when students have not visited the accommodation. The "landlords" say they are overseas and cannot meet. Some students have lost thousands of dollars.

- * DO NOT transfer money via Western Union or into a bank account to a person you have not met in person
- * DO NOT transfer money for accommodation you have not visited
- * DO NOT sign contracts for accommodation you have not visited
- * DO NOT provide a copy of your passport, or unnecessary personal information such as your date of birth or passport details
- * DO NOT provide your bank account details

* ALWAYS get receipts for money you pay for your accommodation

IF YOUR LANDLORD THREATENS TO REPORT YOU TO IMMIGRATION about payment of rent or fines, do not be scared, they usually cannot.

To report a scam and for advice and legal help please contact help@src.usyd.edu.au



Did you know?

The SRC helps with Show Cause & Exclusion Appeals

Contact SRC HELP
02 9660 5222
www.src.usyd.edu.au
help@src.usyd.edu.au

Level 1 (Basement) Wentworth Building G01

In July and August 2010, SRC Caseworker is available for drop-in sessions to help you with Show Cause and Exclusion Appeals. **Mondays to Fridays, 1pm - 3pm.** SRC Office, Level 1 (Basement) Wentworth Building G01. For more information phone 9660 5222.

Contact SRC HELP
02 9660 5222 / 0466 169 664 (satellite)
www.src.usyd.edu.au
help@src.usyd.edu.au

Level 1, Wentworth Building G01





President's Report

Report of the SRC President, Elly Howse // president@src.usyd.edu.au

Welcome back to another semester at the University of Sydney! If you're just beginning here or you've come on exchange, welcome to our uni. You'll be impressed by the number of activities you can do outside of study – such as joining an SRC collective, writing for our weekly newspaper *Honi Soit*, running for a club or society position in the USU, playing social sport with your faculty through SU Sport, voting in upcoming elections, or becoming a department representative. The list is actually endless. If there's anything you take away from my sometimes boring and repetitive reports in *Honi* each week, it's GET INVOLVED!

Sometimes though going to uni can be a daunting, frustrating and worrying experience. This is why students need to support each other and run fantastic student organisations like the SRC and SUPRA. For example, in case you do get into academic issues, tenancy troubles and legal problems, the SRC is always here to help. It's a student-run organisation that supports undergraduate students (if you're a postgraduate student reading these pages, check out SUPRA). But what does all this really mean?

STUDENTS...

The overarching structure of the SRC is the undergraduate student body. You are all, collectively, the supreme decision making body for anything that needs to happen.

In terms of running the SRC, there is a Council, made up of undergraduate students just like you from a variety of disciplines.

Below that is the Executive, made up of students selected from the Council – it deals with the general running of the SRC as an organisation.

Below the Executive in the hierarchy of things is me, the President. I'm a full-time office-bearer (think 60 hour weeks!), paid at minimum wage, and I'm your chief representative as an undergraduate. I sit on nearly every single University committee as 'the' undergraduate rep. I also talk with University management regularly about the stuff that's pissing you off. Like not being able to connect to wireless anywhere. Like short library opening hours on Sundays. Like the fact that you spend half an hour filling out a response to your unit of study but you never get to see what people actually write...

The people who make my day run smoothly are these office-bearers: General Secretary, Education Officer, Women's Officer and Vice-President, as well as the general Executive team. There are also some fantastic student office-bearers this year in the Queer, Environment, Disabilities and International Students' departments.

If you think these positions sound like a sweet deal, think again! Yes we have fun and it's a great experience but we all work long hours in the SRC 'dungeons' (Level 1 of Wentworth) and hardly ever see sunlight. That's why I'm so pale, didn't you know?

REPRESENTATIVES...

Apart from representing you and being your voice to the University, governments

and the general community, the SRC employs caseworkers and a solicitor to literally represent you if you get into a spot of bother. That could be if you're accused of plagiarism or cheating, or if you get arrested or fined for something. You can also come see these amazing people if you are worried about your academic progression, want to know if your tenancy agreement is ok or if you are experiencing harassment or discrimination.

Part of the 'representative' bit is letting you know what we're doing. *Honi Soit* is the main way to know what's going on campus as well as getting an update from the SRC about campaigns, main issues and big events. If you'd like to receive our SRC E-News every month, come in to the SRC and sign up as a free or supporting member – we'll happily add you to the mailing list.

COUNCIL!

The best part about all of this is that you (yes, YOU) can be involved. Anyone who is an undergraduate can run in the SRC elections – just make sure you sign up as a Supporting Member of the SRC first! It's important that people who want to run in elections takes seriously the responsibility and significance of being a Council member or an office-bearer. This is why we ask you to become a Supporting Member – to show that you support the organisation that supports you.

SRC Elections will be in Week 9 of Semester 2. Any undergraduate student is eligible to vote – you don't need to be a member of the SRC to vote, but you do need to be in order to run for a position.



Being a Council-run organisation also means we can move motions to support campaigns. Currently students are running campaigns like Vote 4 Students, climate action, women's rights (think 'Abbott's Heaven, Your Hell'), international student concession cards, equal marriage for the LGBTIQ community, Indigenous rights and anti-racism...see what you can be involved in?

If you want to be involved in anything or have suggestions about something, tweet me, write to me, email me or call me – you'll soon find out that I really love talking to anyone on just about anything.

Tweet: @srcpresident

Write: Level 1 Wentworth Building

Email: president@src.usyd.edu.au

Ring: 9660 5222

Get involved! Come along to a collective...

Education Action Group: 1pm Tuesdays, Quadrangle S441

Women's Collective: 1pm Thursdays, Holme Women's Room.

Queer Collective: 2pm Mondays, Queer Space Holme Building

Environment Collectives:

Student Enviro Action Collective (SEAC): 1pm Mondays, Botany Lawns

Climate Action Collective: 1pm Mondays, Chancellors Lawns

International Students: Check your email for updates

Honi Soit Website is Launched

Check out your favourite newspaper online.

SRC has launched www.honisoit.com !

SRC Council Meetings...

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month (June 1st, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October) @ 6pm in Eastern Avenue Seminar Room 405

For agenda contact: c.mcclure@src.usyd.edu.au



General Secretary's Report

Report of the General Secretary, Donherra Walmsley // gen.sec@src.usyd.edu.au

Welcome back to uni! Hopefully you all had a good break and are ready for what promises to be another hectic semester.

The Federal election has been called for Saturday the 21st of August – in 2007 young people were an overwhelming part of getting the Rudd Labor government elected, and this year we have the opportunity to make our voices heard again.

The youth vote is so often overlooked in the interests of catering to other demographics, especially the “grey vote”, to which John Howard pandered particularly successfully. We are, however, a very significant force.

Thanks to laws that were passed during Howards' reign, it is now too late to enrol to vote (enrolment closes at 8pm on the day that the writs for the elections are issued), however, it's never too late to be involved in the democratic process: if you're enrolled to vote, make sure you research your local candidates, find out what they stand for, and make an informed decision about where your vote will be going; if you're not enrolled, you can still call/write an email to your local candidates and tell them what you think the important issues are, or you can get involved with a group that's campaigning on an issue you care about, for example the AYCC (Australian Youth Climate Coalition).

You can also get involved with groups on campus – your SRC is made up of people working to make sure that the student voice is heard by the university and the government. We have a number of collectives who all campaign on different things – the environment collective, women's collective, queer collective, anti-racism collective, and the education collective. All of these collectives have officers to run them, and we also have international student and indigenous student officers. With Tony Abbott, a sexist climate change sceptic who's “threatened” by homosexuals running for PM, I'm sure that these collectives will all have a lot to be



campaigning on this semester! If you're interested in getting involved, drop me an email and I can point you in the right direction.

Education Report

Report of the Education Officer, Gabriel Dain // education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Federal Election - August 21

The writs have been issued, the electoral rolls have closed, and corflutes are starting to pop up in shop fronts, lawns, dogs, and grandmothers. It's officially election season. As students, it is extremely important not only to vote, but also to make our voice heard and get involved in the election process.

Significantly, of the nearly 1.4 million eligible Australian who are not enrolled to vote, around a quarter are between the ages of 18 and 24. This means that the ‘youth vote’ is much less important to politicians than it should be. Why care if they piss off a few university students; they probably aren't even enrolled to vote!

Too often elections are won and lost on issues such as superannuation, interest rates, and pensions. All of these things are important, yes, but so are HECS, Youth Allowance, rent affordability and so many other issues that effect students directly today. Why aren't these issues more visible in the campaign? How come they don't get any airtime on TV? Well, because if we don't vote for students, then nobody will.

Vote for Students' Be a Hero, Take the Pledge

In semester two we are starting a new campaign to make student and youth issues heard in these federal elections. It's time politicians cared about we have to

say, but before that happens we have to say it really, really loudly.

Vote for Students is about sending a message to all the candidates in these elections that we simply will not vote for them if they don't address at least some of issues that affect us as students. Funding for our education. Fair and reasonable Youth Allowance. Affordable housing close to campus. Support for the student organisations that represent us.

If you want to see polities discussing things that matter to you, then take the pledge at <http://www.unistudent.com.au/vote>. We will also be going to federal candidates and getting them to sign a pledge saying that they will vote for

students an all of these issues. We have had dozens of candidates sign already, and we can get even more if you go online and take the pledge. It's the only way to make your vote matter.

Event Dates:

Take the ‘Vote for Students’ pledge: NOW!

<http://www.unistudent.com.au/vote>

Education Action Group:

Tuesday 27th of July, 1pm (VC's Garden, next to Fisher)

Federal Election:

Saturday 21st of August.

Women's Report

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

Since my last Honi report a lot has happened. Not least that we have our first female Prime Minister. A deliberately barren, unmarried, atheist female pitted against Tony Abbott. Cue the National Union of Students leaping on board the election bandwagon with our “Abbott's Heaven. Your Hell” nation-wide campaign.

The prospect of Tony Abbott being our Prime Minister is a truly terrifying one for women in this country. A man whose record includes trying to block RU486 and stating that abortion rates are a ‘national tragedy’ and comparing that tragedy to Indigenous life expectancy. Not to mention his description of women's virginity as a ‘precious gift’ and comments about the housewives of Australia and their ironing tasks.

Tony Abbott, and this whole election, offers us a massive target. We have many shiny stickers portraying a cartoon Abbott locking women into chastity belts and wearing a bishop's hat in parliament. Cartoon Abbott can also be seeing being concerned by the presence of a woman at a business table and being surrounded by Stepford Wives.

Taking the sticker campaign one step further we are holding a launch on the 2nd August at 5:30pm at The Loft at UTS. Expect hilarious speakers, giant props and costumes as well as snacks and bar tab.

It doesn't stop there – we are also bringing the stickers to life with giant Abbott faces, chastity belts, 50s housewife clothing and giant irons and

taking them to him. That's right, be prepared for some Chaser-style stunts as the election draws near. Get involved through coming along to the launch or emailing me at womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

Reclaim the Night is an annual international rally protesting and raising awareness around violence against women. The first Reclaim the Night organising collective was held this Monday at 5:30pm. Reclaim the Night is held on the last Friday of October and takes the form of a night time rally followed by a festival and speakers.

The organising collective is open to anyone who is woman identifying and interested in finding out more and getting involved. Whether you're a

seasoned event organiser and have skills in publicity, media strategy, design, policy, fundraising or whether you have never been involved in organising before but want to learn more you should get involved. Want more info? Email me at womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

Women's Collective is on every Thursday at 1pm in the Holme Women's Room (downstairs to your right when walking into the courtyard. Come along and get involved in the wonderful feminist campaigns that Semester Two holds.



THE HONI SOIT CROSSWORD

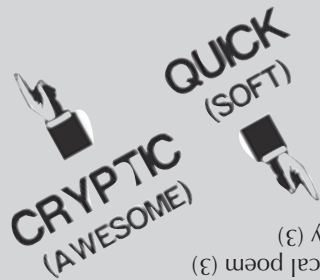
Across

- 8. First remake of 35 Across (6)
- 9. Chance I'm fixed by this professional (8)
- 10. British isle sounds groundless (4)
- 11. Knighted for having even boobies! (3)
- 12. Can't return this card (3)
- 16. Only Neo beaten up (3)
- 17. Must you write 'Scorer' in the boxes, with an implement of your choice? (6)
- 18. Disgusting level (4)
- 20. Abvtd. (11)
- 24. Arrange futon without top-notch food (4)
- 25. Labor schism covers up beetroot soup (6)
- 26. A time hearer misheard (3)
- 28. End back in the garbage (3)
- 29. Sizzle small fish (3)
- 30. Beats up faces (4)
- 34. Turned to after communist is shamed (8)
- 35. Generator recharges 8 Across (6)

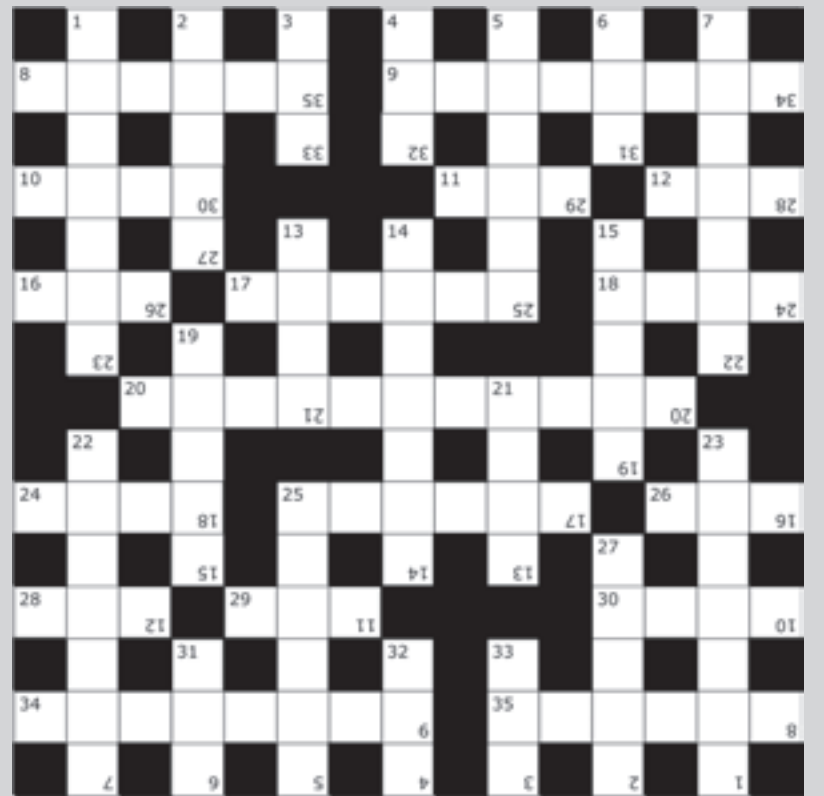
Down

- 1. Toilet Monarch is having a peek... (7)
- 2. A calculating snake (5)
- 3. Look, I say! (3)
- 4. Little devil takes the top off gimp! (3)
- 5. Space General ambushed by 25 Down (6)
- 6. Zafitfg gives 31 Down a workout (3)
- 7. Seedpod grows from 22 Down (7)
- 13. 21 Down heals over into skin (4)
- 14. Saying professional doing word (7)
- 15. Hail maims egret (5)
- 19. Concerning brawl (5)

- 21. Curves bend 13 Down (4)
- 22. Fir-bearer reproduces 7 Down (7)
- 23. Oh, it is origami, the answer? Confused? (7)
- 25. Uncle Sam's front man ambushes 5 Down (6)
- 31. Rear end flips 6 Down (3)
- 32. Reportedly was in debt to a song (3)
- 33. 2-down loses emergency room count (3)



- 1. Ogling (7)
- 2. Serpent (5)
- 3. Contains pupils (3)
- 4. Mischievous one (3)
- 5. A much-ambushed squid-faced internet-meme (6)
- 6. XXL (3)
- 7. Seedpod (7)
- 13. Healed skin tissue (4)
- 14. Maxim; aphorism; adage (7)
- 15. Welcome (5)
- 19. Regarding (5)
- 21. Curves (4)
- 22. Cone-bearer (7)
- 23. Paper figures (7)
- 27. Revise (6)
- 31. Rear-end (3)
- 32. Lyrical poem (3)
- 33. Tally (3)



HENRY "THE GOOD WIZARD" HAWTHORNE and BEN JENKINS

- 8. The worst of the seven (6)
- 9. Grease monkey (8)
- 10. Small British isle (4)
- 11. A knight's postnominal (3)
- 12. Unreturnable serve (3)
- 16. Unit (3)
- 17. One who scores (6)
- 18. Revolting; echelon (4)
- 20. Shortened (11)
- 24. Soybean curd (3)
- 25. Beetroot soup (6)
- 26. Period (3)
- 28. Can (3)
- 29. Sauté (3)
- 30. Cups (4)
- 34. Embarrassed (8)
- 35. Generator (6)

THE TAKE HOME*

*Questions themed around this week's issue.

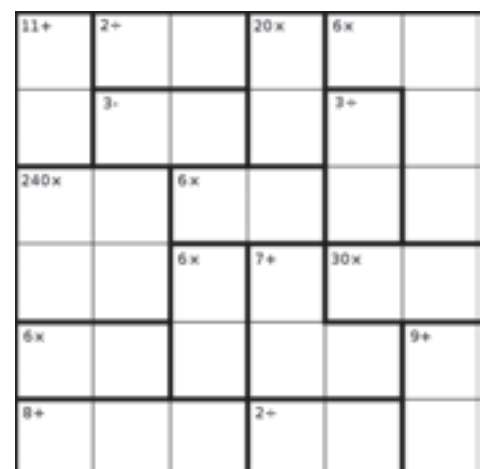
1. What was the milestone reached by Facebook in July this year in the number of users it has signed up?
2. How many current African leaders obtained power through a coup d'etat?
3. What was Kim Beazley's first position in Cabinet?
4. How many High Court judges, ever, have studied at UNSW?
5. How many billions of dollars did South Africa spend on the FIFA World Cup?
6. Where was ice-cream invented?
7. Roughly how many Australian students out of ten receive government support?
8. What team has won the most NRL Premierships?
9. How many actors did it take to portray Darth Vader?
10. There is a natural law that prevents two snowflakes being the same (True/False)
11. What is the population of China?
12. Which of the Star Wars episodes won the most Oscars?
13. What was the total prize money offered in the 2010 FIFA World Cup?
14. In what language does Vipassana mean insight?
15. In what decade did fake snow start to be used on a commercial scale?

SUDOKU



RATED: Soft and mushy

KENKEN



THE STARTA



Weight: 8 Parsecs

Delivering the Empire's News For 125 Parsecs

COST: 12 Parsecs

10 REASONS TO NOT DISAPPOINT LORD VADER.

They are all variations on Force Choking



FREE LEIA

Why The Empire will not be doing this.

STORMTROOPER OF THE MONTH

It's Gary. Sorry Tim.



DEATH STAR, EXHAUST PORT, COMPLETED

Holland Padme

Chief Empire Correspondent

The Empire held a ceremonial ribbon cutting today to celebrate the opening of the a new exhaust port at the end of trench 348 – an act which signals the completion of the Empire's new space station, the 'Death Star'.

The exhaust port, which is three metres wide (about the size of a womp rat), will be used for the cooling of the control deck.

"Some had said the one weakness of the Death Star was that it was sometimes a little bit stuffy on the bridge," said Grand Moff Tarkin. "The construction of this exhaust port has made this space station once and for all totally indestructible."

The completion of this 'Death Star' is considered a major boon for the destructive force of the Empire.

"No longer will we have to tediously crush every small rebel uprising with our armada of star destroyers. This saves us literally minutes of time," said Tarkin.

A demonstration of the space station is scheduled for Thursday, with the Emperor promising an impressive

display of fireworks all around the planet of Alderaan.

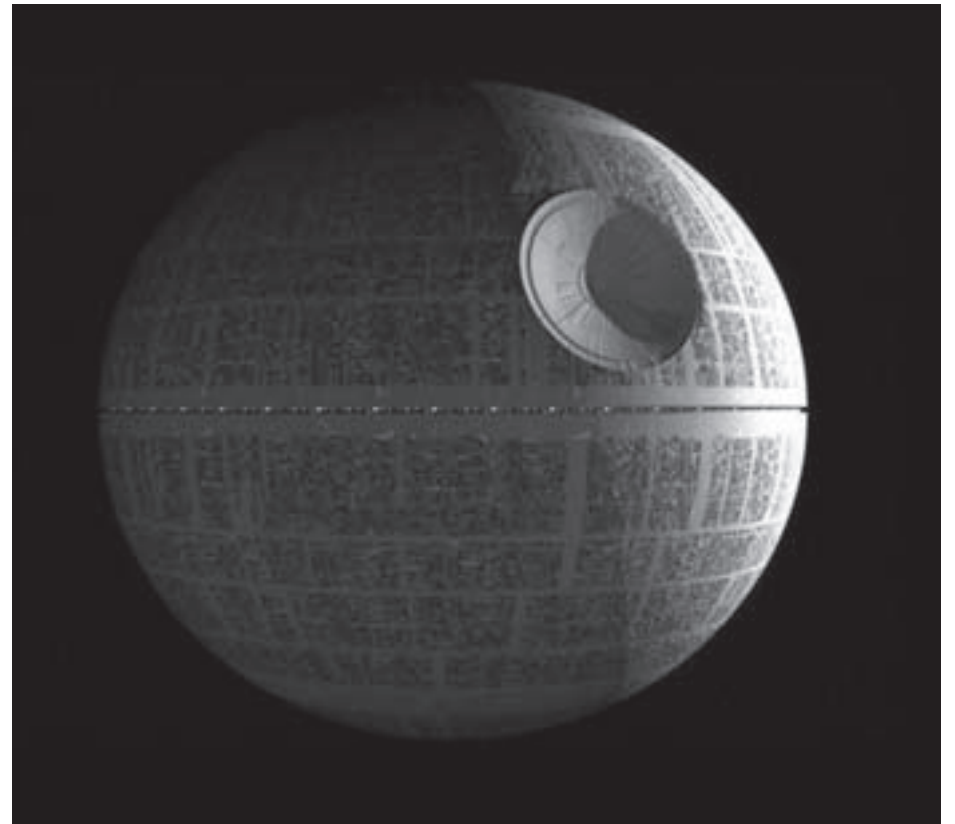
Critics of the space station have pointed out that the chosen name for the space station, the 'Death Star', doesn't exactly reflect the principles the Empire.

"The fact of the matter is it simply isn't a star," said Admiral Walsh. "'Death Station' would be a much more appropriate title. We'd even accept 'Death Not-A-Moon.'" These critics were killed pretty much immediately.

Nevertheless, the completion of the exhaust port was considered an essential upgrade to the space station.

"If we went into battle without an exhaust port leading directly to the most explosive part of the ship we would have been laughed off the battlefield," said Eric Hansen, one of the architects behind the upgrade. "Have you ever been laughed off of space? It's really humiliating."

"Of course, there have been some luxury upgrades," said Hansen. "Our mighty emperor's throne room has finally been completed, so he



Death Star...Practically Invincible

may survey the surrounding area whenever he wishes, and at Lord Vader's request we have constructed a giant mechanical egg which he apparently sleeps in."

"Of course, we will not be leaving our brand new exhaust port unprotected," the Emperor added, "In fact, we have lined the 1,000 km long trench on which the exhaust port was installed with thousands upon thousands of turrets, to ensure that on the off

chance that a rogue squadron were to attack it for some reason they would certainly be destroyed."

Anyone wishing to see the plans of the newly constructed space station are advised to find the droids we are looking for.

Many Bothans died to bring you this story.

Family of four killed after colliding with floating paragraphs

Xin Durrun

Traffic and Literary Reporter

A family of four from Naboo were tragically killed yesterday after their vehicle collided with a series of floating paragraphs.

The paragraphs, which police say extended over an entire parsec, were floating randomly through space when the family collided with one of the fullstops.

"It seems that you can only see the text when you hover above it on quite a specific angle," said Malgar Hind'arey, from the Perlemian Traffic Control centre. "The angle which

the family was travelling meant they didn't stand a chance of seeing it. It would have appeared as a sliver when viewed side on. Quite silly, really."

It is currently unclear who wrote the text in question, and who released it into the universe on a random trajectory.

"This is recklessness of the first order," Hindarey said. "Some author out there has blood on his hands."



Containing the paragraphs proved difficult for the Imperial Military Police.

The paragraphs reportedly had no comment to make to police, except to helpfully recount the state of the Empire up until this moment.

INSIDE

10 TIPS FOR BREAKING IN YOUR WOOKIEE SLAVE.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH A SARLAC
"I'm a hole with teeth!"

HOW MUCH HAND LIGHTNING IS TOO MUCH HAND LIGHTNING?

The Emperor demonstrates on our interns.

THE EMPIRE: VULNERABLE BEHEMOTH OR IMPREGNABLE BASTION?
(Impregnable Bastion)



“Han Shot First”: Man sought over Cantina murder

Adi Muran

Crime Reporter and Cantina Jazz Afficionado

A local smuggler is wanted for murder after an unprovoked attack in a Mos Eisley Cantina yesterday.

Stormtroopers at the Mos Eisley space port Tattooine were called to a disturbance after a man's body was found in a booth at the back of the diner with blaster wounds to his chest.

A warrant has been transmitted for the arrest of a Mr Han Solo, a smuggler believed to be working with the Hutts, a criminal group rampant in the outer systems.

“My friend didn't like [Mr. Solo],” said Dak Shelkmore, a patron of the Cantina, “I didn't like him either.”

According to an eye witness, “RAAAAAAAAARGH KHHGGRRRR[Solo]GHHH GRRHH[AAAH].” (Needless to say, these views do not reflect those of The Empire.)

Stormtrooper reports have confirmed that it was definitely the smuggler who was the first to discharge his weapon.

“There was some contradictory video footage,” said Private Nelson, “but it was obvious that footage had been doctored. It just didn't make sense.”

Rumours of Jedi activity in the area were dismissed with a wave of the hand by one of the local patrons. “There are no Jedi here,” said Mr. Kenobi. “There are no Jedi there.”

The smuggler is believed to have blasted his way out of the space port past hordes of Stormtroopers, who will be executed for their failure.

Lord Vader rightly commented that the soldiers deserved no sympathy, saying, “Your shot should be on target – first time, every time – that's what being a Stormtrooper means.”

This is the third case in re-

cent days of violent criminal activity in Mos Eisley, with the sand people being blamed for an assault on a young moisture farmer.

Private Nelson believes the attacks may be a part of a greater crime wave from the group, “The sand people frighten easily, but they'll be back, and in greater numbers.”

“But we'll be ready,” said the Stormtrooper.

The wanted smuggler Solo is said to be travelling in a Corel-



Horrified Witnesses

lian Engineering Corporation YT-1300 stock light freighter with registration MFLCN1, and is believed to be armed and extremely dangerous.

Anyone encountering the smuggler is urged to immediately freeze him in Carbonite.

COLUMN∞

An'lyn Sol of Coruscant has another amusing anecdote on the Wookiee shop-keeper discussion. “I for one don't think Rwaaaaa and Rh-waaaaa should be in separate sections, but try arguing that with on the corner of Palm and Palpatine!”

Jerome Tusk writes, “Does anyone know the origin of the word ‘Turbo-lazer’?” We can't help you there Jerome, they're all pretty fast to us!

Kat Biggins of Oravax 4 want's to know why no one speaks “Uncommon”. Get fucked, Kat.

Biol Yurax of Dantooine thinks the Rebels might have a point. Come in to our offices to collect your prize!

“I hear they steal babies and fuck space gypsies,” says Col Untal in response to the “Why are the Jedi so evil?” debate (Column Infinity, last week).

Ray of Tatooine has also had enough of those T-16 Pilots. “They killed a whole family of ‘womp rats’ [midget drifters] last week. Poor little things could barely shield their young as those fly-boys all but napalmed their community on the outskirts of Tashi Station.” Horrific.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

*You know, we at *The Starta* have had a lot of fun today at the expense of those who died on Alderaan. And why not? It's not every day that the awesome power of a fully operational battle station is realised in the destruction of an entire planet. However - there is a more serious side to consider. You may not be aware but one of our interns had some property on the planet, which has obviously, along with an entire race of people, been vaporised. We're sorry about your holiday house, Jenny, and on a personal note, I'll be late to your thing.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Speeder. 1100 Credits. You could almost buy your own ship for that.

LOST Death Star plans. If found, please note that what might look like a structural weakness is actually a coffee stain. Contact M. Tarkin

MOISTURE FARM Walking distance from Tashi Station, some fire damage, farm still in working order. Two droids shy of full compliment. Some (2) corpses. V. Cheap

WORK WANTED Need jaunty jazz music from the future? No? Well, if you change your mind, we'll play any event - you can find us at the Mos Eisley space port.

TO RENT

A CAVE. Just a cave on an asteroid. Very deep, occasional earth tremors, swarms of gundarks may chew power cables from time to time. Blasters should fix this problem. Contact Mr. P. Exogarth, or you could just drop in for a chat. (I'll be the cave on the asteroid.) Did just say ‘be’? I mean ‘be in’. [Dolores, please remove the last sentence. Also could you please get me that \$25 for Jenny's present whenever's convenient]

BEACH front property on Alderaan. Beautiful sitting room with antique – oh wait, what's that light in the sky, I'll just –

BASE on 4th planet of the Hoth system. Great opportunity for some kind of rebellious hub or some such. One thing though. Should you build shield generators anywhere near the property, I will notify the Imperial Navy. You have been warned, Dak.

THREE bedroom apartment on Tattooine. A great place to raise two sons while the two suns rise. My wife told me that wasn't funny, but what does she know? She was killed by Sandpeople. Seven of us went out, three came back.

PERSONALS

WEIRD screeching thing that looks a bit like a cat crossed with something from the labyrinth. Seeks attractive woman to dance about attached to a chain. Contact Jabba's

Palace Barge care of that screeching thing that looks a bit like a cat crossed with something from the labyrinth.

ARE you the droids I'm looking for? Seeking fun times, laughs, and whatever else it is that droids enjoy. In no way a trick. Contact Grand Moff T.

MY darling child Ana. I'm sorry that Daddy can't be there for your first birthday. I'll be home in three months, working here on the Death Star as a janitor. I don't necessarily agree with the aims of the Empire, but I'm happy to make this concession so that you and your mother can have the life I never had. I will see you all very soon. All my love, Gareth.

OBITUARIES

GREEDO. Murdered in cold blood while his daughter watched on from the car. He is remembered for his trusting nature, his hatred of firearms and his inability to speak Common – all traits which have all been identified as factors in his death. No flowers please, just donations to the Greedo Foundation For Children. “I imagine a galaxy without blasters” – Greedo.

KAREN KA'AN of Alderaan. Also everyone else on Alderaan. But mainly Karen. What a fox.

STORMTROOPER Gary Marshall. A truly unique soul. Tragically killed in crossfire with Jedi infidels. Gary leaves behind two wives and 11 children. Your individuality and distinctive personality will be missed.

BEN KENOBI – Well, not so much dead, just more powerful than you can possibly imagine. There is no

place in this paper to list the names of people who have been struck down, but not died, just become more powerful than you can possibly imagine. That being said, there isn't really any evidence of this yet. I mean, he has appeared as a kind of semi-corporeal ghost, which, while certainly spooky, remains to be seen as any more powerful than when he was alive and could at least lift things up. But I digress. How many credits by the word? That is outrageous. I suppose I'll wrap it up then. R.I.P Ben, you'll be dearly missed, if you are indeed gone. Stay out of my damn orchard.

BIGGS DARKLIGHTER Where to begin with such a complex man? The bounds of this column cannot contain your depth and personality.

PORKINS Maybe if you weren't such a fat fuck you could have pulled up. You are an embarrassment to the otherwise high standard of physical fitness in the rebellion. We can only assume you're in space-hell.

WANTED TO BUY

DEATH STAR plans. If you know anybody who has them. Let me know, I would be interested in a ‘chat’. Contact Grand Moff ‘John’ Tarkin. [Dolores. Please make sure you don't put inverted commas around ‘John’, or ‘chat’ for that matter. How were you getting to Jenny's? If you're driving, I'd be in on that.]

*Looking to sell your holocron? After that special someone to space-fuck? Advertise in The Starta and the Empire wont burn down your planet. Can anyone say Alderaan?**

PARENTING TIPS FROM LORD VADER

So you've brought your children to stay on the Death Star. This is an excellent choice, given not only our superior security systems to keep them safe, but also our many crèches, which I am assured make learning fun. In the shadow of the rebellion, these are difficult times to raise a child, so I have put together a list as comprehensive as it is numbered to help you raise a future Brigadeer General, Gunning Man or Garbage Monster Wrangler.

- 1 . Abandon your children within minutes of birth. Rejection is a lesson best-learned young.
- 2 . Read books regarding parenting, then stoically throw them into the vacuum of space. You are your own parent.
- 3 . Discipline your children. Lightsabers, E-11 blaster rifles or an open hand across the backside are all acceptable forms of punishment. This will teach them to be strong.
- 4 . Amputate one of your children's limbs, be it during a fight to the death, refusing to join the dark side, or just for funnies!!!
- 5 . Disregard your children's birthdays. Their crying can be drowned out with the sounds of breaking Ewok bones. The sounds of crying Ewoks can be remedied in a similar way.

Follow these instructions to the letter and you'll find yourself surrounded by a loving and productive family. And I should know - I accidentally killed my wife in a blind rage! Oh. [Dolores, please remove the last sentence. See you at Jenny's farewell.]

**MAKE FRIENDS!
CASH IN YOUR POCKET!
WEAR A HELMET!
SHOOT BLINDLY DOWN A
CORRIOR!
BECOME A
STORMTROOPER!**



PLEASE STOP ASKING ME WHERE THE POO GOES IN CLOUD CITY

LANDO CALRISSIAN



Hello and welcome to my humble abode! You must be tired after your long journey. Please sit down and rest before I take you on a tour of the complex.

And what a tour it will be! With 3 luxury hotels, 10 gourmet restaurants and 2 casinos, I have no doubt that you will have yourselves an enjoyable stay.

Before we commence I would like to take this moment to answer any questions that you might have.

I do, however, have one caveat.

Please feel free to ask me questions about this floating settlement, which houses just under 6 million Bespins. You could enquire about our complex system of governance or our broad and diverse culture. No doubt you'll be curious about our strained relationship with the Galactic Empire. All of these things I am happy to discuss.

But please stop asking me

where the poo goes.

I ask this for a number of reasons.

Firstly, and probably most obviously, where the poo goes in Cloud City is neither polite conversation nor any of your business.

Would you like it if I were to ask where the poo went, when I arrived in your home town or city?

Of course you wouldn't.

Now, I'll grant you that your home city is probably not suspended 60,000 km above the core of a gas planet, nor does it house a self-contained eco-system, consisting of just under 400 levels – but the point still stands that it would be rude of me to enquire as to where the poo goes.

And so I don't.

Secondly, if we're being perfectly candid with one another, I'm not entirely sure where the poo goes in Cloud City.

As Baron Administrator, it is my duty to attend to the needs of my citizens, including liaising with both the Galactic Empire and the Exex, who, despite my clear mandate, do not consider themselves subordinate to my authority.

So it should come as no real surprise to you that between these duties, I simply haven't found the time to discover exactly where the poo goes.

I'm sorry if this aspect of a city, which has a diameter of over 17 kilometers and floats effortlessly above the clouds, is in any way disappointing.

Please allow me to preempt your next query. I can say with a certain level of confidence that there is not some kind of poo room within Cloud City. I know this because I have asked.

Yes, the woman with the enchanting eyes, you have a question?

Thank you for your interest, but I feel that that particular suggestion is as groundless as the city upon which we float, not to mention offensive to the chefs.

Now before I take your next question, Madame, please bear in mind the treatise I've just delivered regarding the where the poo goes in Cloud City.

Your question?



NO, I'M NOT GOING TO SAY IT.

ADMIRAL ACKBAR

Alright, everyone, enough is enough.

I've been patient all night.

When Rob and Julie invited me to their dinner party I thought it would be different to the rest of them, but no, here we find ourselves at the same old place.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear. I'm not saying it.

You know perfectly well what I mean, Geoff, so get it through your head that I'm not going to say it, least of all record it for your answering machine which I notice you brought with you.

Thank you, Frank, but I could not currently care less about the tabouli caught in my whiskers.

The fact is, I'm tired of it all. I've got so much more to give than those three words.

I have worthy stories to tell: I have repelled the Imperial

Navy at the battle of Kessel, brought the Empire to its knees and helped bring in a new age of democracy and freedom after the fall of the Death Star. But what am I famous for? Well, I have no doubt you all know.

What is possibly most insulting is how bald-faced you all were about it.

Usually the host will try to ply me with drinks, then ask me gently what kind of apparatus I use to catch mice, space bears, or some such. But not you lot. The moment I walked through the door it was, 'What rhymes with wrap?'

No, Cynthia, I will not sit down!

To be truthful, this doesn't even feel like a dinner party – it's an ambush, it's a snare, a lure and deception – and why are you all suddenly starting to listen so intently just now?!

Good night and enjoy your calamari rings.

LOOK, IT'S PROBABLY A MOON.

LUKE SKYWALKER



Two things you can always be certain of: one, no space station is the size of a moon; and two, if it looks like a moon, it's probably a moon.

Now a lot of people are going to be critical of this, namely the Bothans, but the way I see it, if your primary export is spies then you can take your doomsayer attitude and shove it.

Hypothetical: you're in deep space, maybe in an asteroid field where there should be a planet. You see something that looks like a moon. Now, the

way I see it, there are two things that look like moons in our galaxy, one of them is a moon and the other is a picture of a moon. And no matter how many times I bring this up with people, there's always one in four who will spout out some nonsense like, "That's no moon." A good friend of mine once said, "No space station is that size," and I'm of the opinion that he makes a valid point.

Let's face it, something of that magnitude would produce thousands of tonnes of thermal exhaust waste alone; you'd need an exhaust port at least two

metres wide! And you look me in the eye and tell me you've seen an exhaust the size of a of a womp rat before. Aside from this, what would be the point of a space station the size of a small-moon? Are we suggesting the Imperials have become so obsessed with terror that they intend to blow up whole planets? Not even the whole Imperial Navy could wipe out an entire planet, and I doubt a small-moon sized space station would be any different.

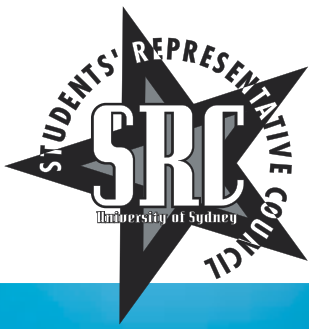
Now, some people are going to say that my sentiments can be read as pro-Imperial and may put potential rebellious space craft into harm's way, but this couldn't be further from the truth. I hate the Imperials as much as anyone. All I'm saying is that if you're out there, in the cold vacuum of space, and you see something that looks like a moon, you should probably check it out. After all, it's probably just a moon.

**"Help Me Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope."
- Dolores**

Dolores. We told you to stop sending this transmission. Report to the prison deck. - Ed.

THE EMPIRE WISHES TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN SUMMARILY EXECUTED:

CARLO RITCHIE, BEN JENKINS, JAMES COLLEY, SIMON KRAEGEN, HENRY HAWTHORNE, DAVID MACK, MONICA CONNORS



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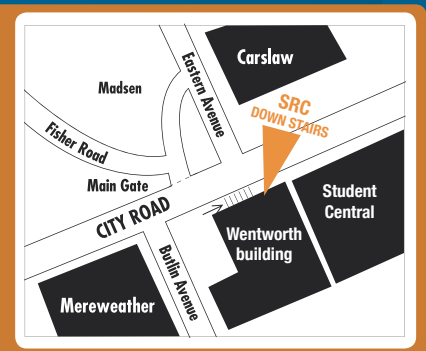
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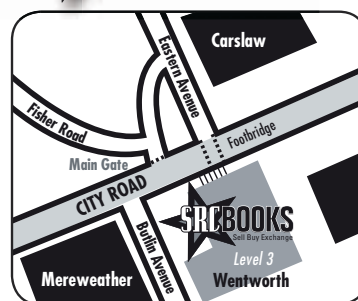
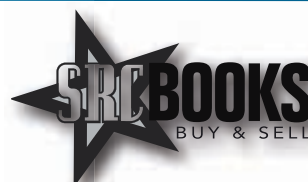
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