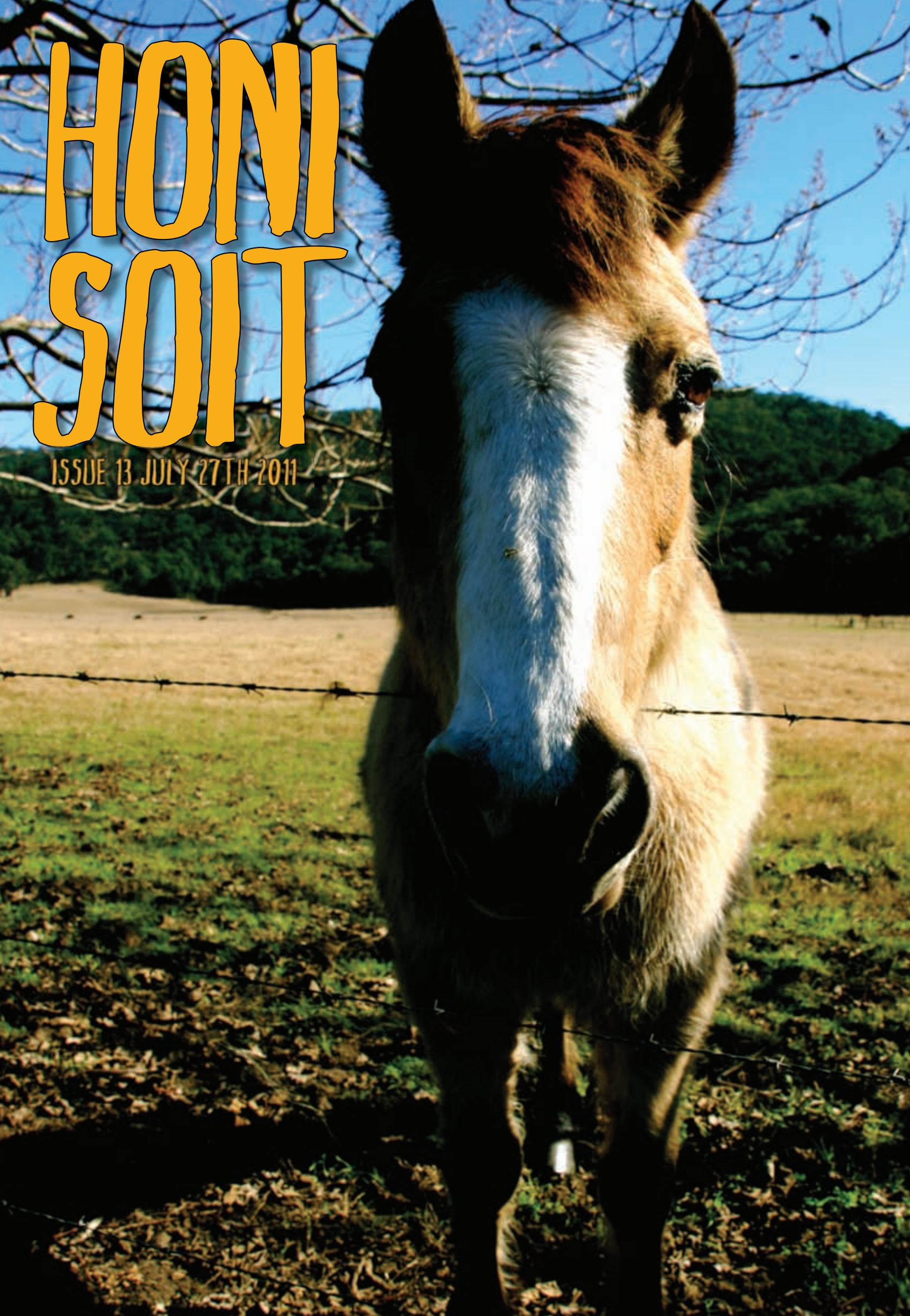


HONI SOIT

ISSUE 13 JULY 27TH 2011



WED
27th

10-4PM Ease back into uni with **RE-O DAY**. Taking over Eastern Avenue with market stalls, the friendly Clubs and Societies crews, entertainment and an international food fair, it's set to be a cracker of a day. Welcome back!

8PM The World Premiere of **THE OTHER ONE** presented by SUDS. The tale of American suffragette Anita Pollitzer fighting the good fight whilst dodging the advances of the indomitable Harry Burn. At the Cellar Theatre under Holme Building. Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets are \$3 Access/\$4 Concession.

7.30PM Photographer Louise Hawson set herself a unique challenge - to explore a new Sydney suburb every week for a year. The result is the fascinating **52 SUBURBS** exhibition at the Museum of Sydney, taking viewers past the Opera House and Harbour Bridge and into vibrant, multicultural, everyday Sydney. \$5/10.

8PM Why not catch **WARPANT's** Splendour sideshow, on tonight at our very own Manning Bar. The all girl quartet will delight with their quirky tunes, and are joined by guest Jack-Ladder. Tix to the 18+ gig are \$49.

6.30PM Sydneysiders are in for a real cultural treat with the new season of **OF MICE AND MEN** tearing up the stage at the Opera House. An operatic interpretation of John Steinbeck's classic novel, the American production has been getting rave reviews. See it. Just see it. Until August 11th. From 44 bucks.

7.30PM Did you miss the opp to slow dance with Randy Jock-ton under the disco ball at your Year 12 Formal? **FBI Radio** are granting you a do-over at the **FBI WINTER PROM** - Kings Cross Hotel for 12 beans.

6.15-6.17PM Streamin' pre-party porn. Don't want any bullets in the barrel. Pencil it in yo.

7.30PM 5 hours, 2 d-floors, a whole tub of salsa... dancing that is. Get ye dancing shoes shined in time for **SALSA PALLADIUM** at The Factory Theatre in Marrickville. Latin muzak and hip swivelling for \$32.

10-5PM Get your schnoz a-sniffing at **THE ROCKS AROMA FESTIVAL**, celebrating flavour, fragrance, and the history of spice and food trading at the Rocks. There will be exhibitions, performances and absolutely scrumptious treats. A must for coffee-lovers.

12AM Last day of **DRY JULY** for all those suckers who decided to bin the booze for 31 days. Midnight hits, spin that goon of fortune...

6.30PM Winter getting you down? Turn that around by heading to the **SYDNEY WINTER FESTIVAL** next to the gorgeous St Mary's Cathedral. Whether you're a thrillseeker or more of an apres-ski lover, there's something for you. Go ice skating on the open air rink, hole up at the Alpine Ski Hut by the fire, or come along to one of the Festival's Music Nights. Tix from \$19. Until August 11th.

6PM Get your good self to the much anticipated **REVUE SEASON LAUNCH PARTY** at Hermann's Bar tonight. A sure-fire highlight of the U.Syd calendar, the Revue Season is set to knock your hat off your feets and your socks off your face. Be privvy to a sneak-preview of comedy stylings to come as well as do some good old fashioned inter-faculty mingling for FREE.



I love it.

SAT



TUE
2nd



Check out our Warpaint profile on page 11



FRI



SUN

MON



**THE LOVECHILD:
HP LOVECRAFT +
JENNIFER LOVE
HEWITT**



DAD JOKE OF THE WEEK:

When is a car not a car?

When it's turning into a driveway!

HONEY SUAVE

You must be a Slytherin, baby, 'cause nothing can Severus.

RETRACTION

Honi Soit would like to apologise for confusing the Camperdown Strangler with Mack the Knife's teeth. One is real, the other is PEARLY WHITE!



DISCLAIMER

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MAN FALLS INTO BIN, ROMANCE
LIFE IMITATES ART; ART IMITATES CHRISTOPHER WALKEN



YOU THERE! Love us? Hate us? If you've got an opinion on something in these pages, we want to hear it! Hit us up at: honi.soit@src.usyd.edu.au

THE EDITORIAL

Welcome back to the University of Sydney for what we hope will be a semester of learning and drinking, with a little more learning whilst drinking and a little less drinking whilst learning. For some it will be the second half of your first year with the accompanying confusion of what you'll do next. For others it will be the middle of your degree, with ideas shaping up for what you will do after your degree. For others still, it will be the last part of your degree with the all too familiar confusion over your assault on the real world settling back in.

As a recent graduate I realise what the real world feels like. The biggest difference between being a student and a graduate is the access to knowledge. As a student, you are fed a diet of varied information at regular intervals from (more often than not) capable academics. As a graduate, you must actively seek out knowledge independently - devouring what you can when you can. It is with this in mind that we present the first issue of the second semester. The pieces are purposefully longer to get you through the first week of logistical and introductory lectures.

Finally, I would like to express that the thoughts and prayers of the editorial team and the SRC are with the people of Norway as they recover and repair from this senseless tragedy.

Julian Larnach

Shameless Plug

Hey everyone!

The University of Sydney Union is firing on all cylinders for a big second semester. The directors elected from last May have been inducted and have started work with the rest of the board on providing the best co-curricular experience possible for Sydney students. In recognising Honi's role in keeping students in the loop, we thought we'd take the opportunity to walk you through the ways you can stay in touch with the USU throughout the semester. For more information on student programmes and events, please visit the website!

Outside of our campus offerings, we're working hard to come up with new ways to keep our members informed, and our operations as transparent as possible. The Board Blog has been relaunched for the new term, and will be updated every Monday with a detailed look at an area of the organisation (www.yourunionboard.blogspot.com). Members are free to come along to our monthly board meetings, held at 11am on the last Friday of the month in Holme Building. The schedule, as well as

minutes from past meetings, can now be found on the USU website (www.usuonline.com). Keep in touch with the board through Twitter - you can follow the President (@USUPres) or Vice President (@USUVicePres) for the day-to-day happenings. The Union President, Sibella Matthews, also has consultation hours 11-1pm every Tuesday and Thursday if you prefer to stop by for a chat.

Your Union is here to provide an enjoyable, unique and memorable student experience -- be sure to make the most of it while you're here!

Much love from Alistair, Astha, Ben, Brigid, Dave, Jacqui, James, Mina, Rhys, Sibella, Viv and Zac (your USU 2011-2012 Board).



Seamus Pug

2nd Annual Honi Soit Opinion Competition:

Are you that guy who won't shut up in tutorials? Do you hate that guy who won't shut up in tutorials? Your opinions deserve more space than 140 characters. We want your words and your thoughts for the second annual Honi Soit Opinion Competition!

The theme this year is: "The future is not what it used to be."

It's nice and broad, because we want students from all faculties to step up. You might write about climate change, or population policy, or science fiction, or... you get the picture.

Consider your pieces judged by journalist & ex-Honi editor Lisa Pryor. Pryor was an Honi editor in 1999 the same year as Dom Knight, Hugh Fitzsimons and Justin Norrie.

And PRIZES? On top of being printed in Honi Soit, the best essay from each faculty will receive a \$300 prize. Not only that, but the essay judged the best overall will win a whopping \$1500! That's enough money to buy 1500 \$1 coins! These will be presented at a great big soiree we're throwing where all those who submit are invited.

To submit your work:

1. Write an opinion piece inspired by the quote "The future is not what it used to be."
2. Make sure it's 800-1000 words (your own words, specifically).
3. Send it to: honi.soit@src.usyd.edu.au by Friday 5th August, 2011 with the subject: Opinion Competition Submission
4. Don't forget to include your full name, year, degree, faculty, student ID number, email and phone contact in the header of the document.
5. Name the document you submit with your name (eg: john_smith.doc)

It's as simple as that. So simple, even a monkey could do it! Please don't make a monkey do it.



HERMES 2011 A.D.

Wake up! Abandon yourself to passion, take up your lyre or bow, sharpen your wits! For these times are our own, it is our task to write them.

Submissions are now open for
Hermes Literary Journal 2011.

Send your stories, poems, photographs, illustrations, lyrics, tweets, imagined monologues and literary essays to hermes@usu.usyd.edu.au by
August 5 2011.

 UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION



Hermes 2011 - The spirit of an age

JAMES O'DOHERTY speaks to *Hermes* editors **Connie Ye** and **Dominic McNeil** about what this year's University of Sydney Union literary journal aims to achieve.

In 2010, *Hermes* was facing closure, with the Union doubting its readership and value. After a strong grass-roots campaign to save the journal, last year's editors were able to bring the publication back from the brink. After last year's efforts, 2011 editor Dom McNeil feels confident in the safety of *Hermes* as a journal. "I think we need to stop worrying about *Hermes* getting published or not. We know that there's value and worth in it and we need to not get too tied up in the 'is this going to be the last year of *Hermes* or not' kind of thing."

The *Hermes* of 2011 will be nothing if not ambitious – with the editors taking the theme of 2011 A.D. to capture "the way we use language in this day and age ... and how the events of this year have changed the way we see the world."

The 2010 iteration failed to engage with the inclusiveness for which this year's editors are striving. "We want to make [*Hermes*] relevant and pertinent to everyone, and throw open the doors to all students," admits McNeil's co-editor, Connie Ye. Although that doesn't mean any preference will be given to submissions from traditionally underrepresented faculties. "We won't even know where a piece of work comes from," McNeil admits.

The team (which also includes editors Rosie Finlay and Michael Falk) aims to more actively engage with social media, an area in which 2010 failed to thrive. Ye has taken charge of publicity and social media; "We wanted to find more ways to

interact with people," she says. "We were thinking of making a submission process via Twitter. Possibly even the same with Facebook. You could just post a whole conventional submission if you want, but you could post an actual status update and we could accept that as well."

Again, it ultimately comes down to inclusiveness, which will allow *Hermes* to break away from the traditional stronghold of the Arts faculty. "I guess we wanted to use multimedia to reach out to different kinds of people – people that weren't going to sit down at a typewriter and type out a piece," admits McNeil. "People who spend a lot of time online – if that's the medium in which they want to express themselves, then that's fine."

McNeil and Ye are assured they have the confidence to pursue a daring and relevant publication. "If anything, [*Hermes*] suffers from being conservative, old, and irrelevant... but we're not going to actively seek the most edgy submissions – we'll take the best of what we get."

This daring is the breath of life that will see *Hermes* grow and leave its rightful legacy as the country's oldest literary journal. *Hermes* is safe for now; fresh, innovative and engaging it must become.

Submissions are now OPEN. Send your stories, poems, photographs, illustrations, lyrics, tweets, short monologues and literary essays to hermes@usu.usyd.edu.au by 5th August 2011.

HONILEAKS

ANDY FRASER and **JULIAN LARNACH** wizard duel to the death in the Great Hall.

Well it took a little bit longer than it should have but the USU have got themselves a new executive, it's shiny and fun and everyone should go and hug it. While you're doing that, spare a moment to congratulate the outgoing board. In one of the toughest years the USU has had to face, in standing strong and even coming up in the black, this outgoing board and executive deserves some thanks. We say goodbye to David Mann (President), Melissa Brookes (Vice-President), Georgia Rossi (Treasurer), Elizabeth Watt, Scott Brownless and Michael Buckland.

Now the meeting itself was delayed for a month due to various reasons, but that's not important. What is important is the results. Sibella Matthews was uncontested with unanimous support for her position as president. Alistair Stephenson won the position of Vice-president with the numbers mostly in his favor: 7-4. The position of Treasurer and Honorary Secretary were more contentious than the rest. Ben Tang won over James Flynn for Treasurer with 6-5 votes and Jacqui Munro snuck past Astha Rajvanshi 6 to 5.

The SRC presidential race has thrown up five potential candidates – each more potential than the last. SRC Operations Manager James McLean, Labor Left heir to the throne and welfare officer Phoebe

Drake, Tuesday Talks convenor and education officer Tim Matthews, firm crowd favourite and General Secretary Chad 'The Chaddlesnake' Sidler and the ever elusive campus hero Seamus Pugg.

Next Tuesday current students, alumni and staff of the school of Political Economy are meeting to discuss the review of their department. Although they are welcoming the review, they are worried that this will lead to the absorption of the department into the school of Government and drastically hinder the department's independence and research autonomy. Drawing parallels to the Geoscience subjects that were canned last semester then reinstated after student uproar and disapproval, can we expect rallies and sit-ins? Not yet, but who knows what the future will hold.

Honi tickets have started to form and we at Honi are excited about the sudden influx of people really interested in writing articles for the paper. Names we've heard are Science Revue head writer Adam Chalmers, Honi reporter Cindy Chong, *Hermes* editor Connie Ye, Honi crucaverbalist Jim Fishwick, Honi college reporter James O'Doherty, Chaser intern Jack Gow, SURG President Michael Koziol, debater Daniel Swain and 5 star dude Conor Bateman.



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HI, SOCIETY!

ADAM CHALMERS takes aim with one of Sydney Uni's newest clubs and societies, **MARKSOC**.

When I was asked to interview the founder of the Sydney University Target Shooting and Marksmanship Society – MARKSOC – I was terrified. Guns scare me as much as bears, bombs and other things that can kill me. But as Christopher Nobbs explained his plans for USyd's newest society, I realised how exciting an experience it offered.

For most students, MARKSOC's events will be their first experience with guns. "It's entirely possible for people who've never held a gun before to be introduced to them, and get to shoot one," says Nobbs. Any Access cardholder over 18 can attend MARKSOC's shooting events each semester, no gun license required.

As a gun novice, I'm curious about what shooting's like. Nobbs describes it as "very challenging, but very rewarding." Mere millimetres separate success and failure. "You don't know how well you've done until you finish," he says. "So when you walk down to the end and see a bunch of bullet-holes in the target, that's pretty special."

Nobbs and co-founder Hunter Smith have years of experience

shooting as a hobby, as a competitive sport, and in Smith's case as a coach to high schools. But they want their club to appeal to non-shooters too, and even educate them.

"Most people in Sydney have never shot a gun before," Chris says. "People only see them in films and violent games. By hanging out with people who shoot in a social context, they'll see we're normal people who're just having fun."

I'm a little – okay, very – scared of guns. But MARKSOC sounds like a great way to have fun with friends and try something new. Isn't that the whole point of Clubs and Societies? Nobbs urges people to check out MARKSOC's stall at Re-Orientation Day if they're interested. I certainly intend to. It sounds fun, and given his experience, I don't want to make Nobbs angry.

*Re-Orientation Day
27th July, 10am - 3pm
Enjoy the fun of O-Week again but without the awkward bits of bumping into friends from school for the first time since year 12, but now featuring even more fifth year Arts kids scamming on first years.*

Healthy Volunteers Needed



Doctors at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research in Glebe are currently seeking healthy participants for clinical research studies.

If you are 18 to 50 years of age you may be suitable to participate in a study. You will receive all study related procedures at no cost and travel expenses will be reimbursed for the participants from the Sydney area.

For more information
Phone: 9114 0444 or 9114 0440
or email: volunteers@woolcock.org.au

Cut costs, not books!

VIVIAN HONAN calls for action over the plans for Fisher's redevelopment.

By now students are no doubt aware that the University has plans for what it terms the 'redevelopment' of Fisher Library. Whilst the university has done its best to push ahead with its plans without any student consultation, some facts are becoming clearer.

Firstly, 500,000 books are to be removed from the Stack. The University claims that these books are to be placed in an off-campus storage facility, however that site has been earmarked for demolition in the near future and, as such, the library has refused to offer guarantees that these books will not be discarded. Equally concerning is the process of deciding which books are to be removed, via a 'dust test', an arbitrary decision on whether the books have been 'superseded', and whether or not books have been borrowed in the last 5 years. As all students will understand, often books are simply read in Fisher stack as they are too heavy to carry home; thus they remain un-borrowed potentially for years. This does not mean they aren't used, or won't be used in the future. Furthermore, for books which have not been purchased by the Library (i.e. donated books, of which there are many), the University has said that it is under no obligation to keep even a single copy, even if it happens to be the last one left in the country.

Furthermore, the redevelopment plan originally meant not only large cuts to Fisher's book collection but also a coffee shop inside the library and staff redundancies. Since then the coffee shop has been taken off the table, and then put back on. The staff redundancies have been thankfully scrapped, but with plans changing every minute and the complete lack of transparency and consultation we should be wary of promises being made.

The cuts to Fisher are part of a whole series of attacks on our quality and access to education. Following the introduction of fees by the Hawke Labor government, John Howard increased fees by up to 300% during his prime ministership, as well as introducing VSU (voluntary student unionism) policy, which destroyed many student organisations and aimed to restrict the voices of students. In the past 5 years, Sydney University has redeveloped Eastern Avenue, extended the law and IT departments

and gone through an expensive 're-branding' operation. Yet the less profitable areas of the university have seen major cuts. Subjects in Maths, English, Foreign Languages, Geosciences and Music have been scrapped. Alongside the subject cuts, there have been staff cuts and ballooning class sizes. Fisher library 'restructuring' seems to be yet another move by university management that shows their disregard for our education. It is part of the drive to make public universities more like businesses, putting profit over education.

We need to stand up! Students against the library cuts have been involved in a number of actions, including a sit-in/borrow-in attended by 400 students, a remarkable turnout for a snap action at the end of last semester. We need to build on this campaign to pressure the university. Last year geoscience students won back an important subject by holding mass meetings, petitions and a protest. Students can similarly demand no cuts to stacks, staff or services, and win.

Unfortunately our SRC has not joined us in rejecting the library cuts. We are for improvement of disability services and greater facilities for students, but these do not need to come at the expense of books and staff. The SRC is meant to be about student control of student affairs, the SRC should be representing the obvious student anger over the cuts. We call on the SRC, that has played such an important part in campaigns ranging from Vietnam war protests and various campaigns for Aboriginal rights, to support the fight against cuts to our education.

If you'd love to get involved in the movement to stop the library cuts, check out: http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_106014216160123



Students bust the dust test. Photo by Clinton Roberts

Students of Sustainability Conference: been there, done that, got the hemp t-shirt.

CINDY CHONG made us print this on recycled paper.

As a student, you're probably overwhelmed with everything related to the environment, whether you're sick of hearing about the carbon tax debate, or you're worried about the future of this planet.

The Students of Sustainability conference (SoS) was held during semester break for anyone interested in creating a more ecologically and socially sustainable world – there was even a guy in an anti-nuclear workshop I attended who was pro-nuke to find out why people are anti-nuke! Five days of camping, meeting new people, and eating delicious vegan food on the very cold and windy border of NSW and Victoria – everyone was welcome!

SoS is a chance to share ideas, and change the world for the better. Workshops and forums ranged through sustainability topics, and in the midst of environmental and climate change debates, the conference demonstrated how theories and practice can actually be used to make positive social and environmental change. It was a chance for the traditional custodians of this land to have their say in issues of sustainability. For example, the traditional owners, the Mirarr people, have had to veto any further development on one of the world's richest undeveloped uranium deposits in the NT, Jabiluka. The Mirarr have lodged a native title claim over mining service town Jabiru, in Kakadu.

It was revealed in March 2006 to *The Age* that the Howard Government had used the claim to pressure the Mirarr people to reverse its opposition to mining at Jabiluka. The government consistently implied, "we will give you Jabiru, just give us Jabiluka". The nuclear debate here consists of more than just where to place a nuclear reactor, but actually physically destroying the homes of people, and their culture and land. Another contentious topic was the Murray-Darling basin. Speakers at the plenary had varied opinions – one saying the population on the east coast of Australia was disrespecting the decisions of the indigenous population and the local community in the region, and another speaker suggesting the importance of splitting the \$5.8 billion of taxpayers' money to buy back water, and dividing the rest of the money between towns in the basin region for infrastructure and an economic future.

The variety of topics covered in the workshops brings you out of your current life, and shows you how your actions affect others as well. The SoS conference could be described as intense and inspiring. In heated discussions and workshops, it got everyone thinking about ways to change the world and to live more sustainably. The ringing truth was that we have to accept what is happening now, and we have to take action now.

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Why *The News of the World* scandal matters.

We got this entire article off DAVID MACK's voicemail.

Do you somehow feel like you've missed the boat on the biggest media scandal of our time? Maybe you haven't been watching ABC24 and Sky News obsessively; maybe you haven't left the movie theatre since the last Harry Potter came out; maybe you've been relying on Fox News and News Ltd papers to keep you informed of the matter. Worried your ignorance is damaging your media consumption? Worried your friends will judge you for your lack of knowledge? Worried you'll have a shaving cream pie thrown in your face and your hot Asian wife won't be there to slap the guy down? (This is a thing now). Here's a rundown on the entire sordid affair from go to woe (so much woe).

How do you hack someone's voicemail anyway? That seems to be the first question most people have about this story. The scary answer is that it's apparently ridiculously easy. It involves two people ringing someone's mobile simultaneously so one gets taken to voicemail. From there, it's simply a case of entering a four-digit code (usually '0000' unless the phone holder has changed it, in which case it can also be tracked down by paying off people in the phone company) so as to 'unlock' the messages and listen to them as if you were the phone holder. Easy? Yes. Legal or ethical? Not by a long shot.

Now if you're anything like me your voicemail probably wouldn't reveal anything juicier than your boss asking why you're running late or your mum asking if you're coming home for dinner. But what if you're someone marginally more influential, important or interesting? Say, Prince William leaving a message on Harry's phone teasing him about visiting a strip club to the ire of his girlfriend; or Elle Macpherson confiding in her business manager, Mary-Ellen Field, about her acrimonious divorce; or Sienna Miller calling her mother to discuss her relationship problems with Jude Law and Daniel Craig. All of these public figures had their phones hacked by the British newspaper *The News of the World* in the early to middle part of the last decade (Field was even fired by Macpherson who wrongly accused her of leaking information to the press).

As more and more celebrities became suspicious of how their words would often end up printed in the paper verbatim, the police and *The Guardian* – a paper that couldn't be further from NOTW – began to sniff around. In 2006, a Scotland Yard inquiry led to the paper's royal correspondent, Clive Goodman, and the private investigator he had hired, Glenn Mulcaire, being arrested, with police seizing several thousand mobile phone numbers from Mulcaire's home and office. Despite telling the royals, Elle Macpherson and a couple of other public figures they'd been hacked, Scotland Yard alerted no one else and it seems now that the vast majority of victims were unaware their privacy had been compromised. They also conducted what has now been revealed to be a very limited and constrained inquiry into the affair.

Meanwhile, Mulcaire and Goodman serve a few months in prison and the paper's then editor, Andy Coulson, resigns but claims not to have known anything about the hacking. From then on, *NOTW* and its parent company, the Rupert Murdoch-owned News International, would continue to blame all incidents of hacking on this 'rogue reporter' and categorically reject any claims of a systemic culture of hacking. They repeatedly railed against *The Guardian's* ongoing coverage of the matter, accusing them of spreading 'lies' (*The Guardian* now say they've been vindicated). Coulson, meanwhile, soon found work as David Cameron's top media advisor.

It wasn't really until 2010 that the scandal picked up more heat. The British Parliament issued a report that was scathing in its indictment of *NOTW* and Scotland Yard's initial inquiry. The *NOTW* started settling with some victims out of court – and immediately the lawyers smelt blood. Soon, they were rounding up other prospective victims and calling on Scotland Yard to release the full list of numbers found in Mulcaire's home.

By and large though, the story had bubbled along without causing too much ire within the general public. The first thing to know about the majority of the British press is that they make *The Daily Telegraph* look like child's play. Most papers wear their political affiliations on their sleeve and openly campaign for whichever party they please. It's quite common for an entire paper to be devoted to "Sydney Confidential"-type celebrity tattle, with a few *ZOO* girls in bikinis thrown in on page three for good measure. In this environment, the insatiable hunger for more gossip seemed to placate the masses – and, any way, who feels sorry for whiny celebrities?

This all changed a few weeks back when *The Guardian* broke the story that *NOTW* had hacked the phone messages of a missing school girl, Milly Dowler, in 2002. More than simply listening in, they began deleting messages when the voicemail filled up so as not to miss out on more scoops. This activity on her voicemail gave Dowler's anxious family false hope the 13-year-old was alive – but she was later found murdered.

Soon, other Murdoch-owned papers were in the firing line as more revelations exploded onto the world's front pages and the list of victims became increasingly larger and more shocking: other child murder victims, the families of dead British soldiers, relatives of those killed in the 2005 London bombings, even perhaps the last words left on the voicemails of loved ones by those staring down imminent death in the towers or the planes that fell on September 11.

Moreover, the tabloid's investigators appeared to have targeted the voicemails of those in Scotland Yard conducting the 2006 inquiry, raising the obvious spectre of blackmail. Soon allegations of police bribery emerged,

as did revelations that Gordon Brown's banking and legal records had been stolen and the medical records of his young son, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, had been obtained for a *Sun* front-page scoop.

Focus immediately turned to who knew what and when. Coulson soon came under the spotlight (and Cameron by extension), while another former editor and a Murdoch favourite, Rebekah Brooks (who since became News International chief executive), had her flaming red hair emblazoned across the world's press in a manner usually reserved for the celebrities she formerly preyed upon.

The *NOTW* was closed in disgrace. News International took the drastic measure in an effort to quell outrage as they simultaneously sought to finalise a takeover of the British satellite broadcaster BSkyB which looked to be immensely lucrative (in 2010 alone BSkyB's operating profit was \$1.2 billion, compared to the \$500 million brought in by all of News Corporation's British, American and Australian newspapers combined). However, ongoing outrage soon forced News International to abandon the deal. Coulson, Brooks and several others have since been arrested. There's even talk James or Rupert Murdoch may themselves face charges.

The entire affair is quite simply the biggest media scandal of our time. It has irreparably changed the media and political landscape in Britain with politicians now jumping over each other to lambast the Murdoch empire, despite previously going out of their way to cosy up to it. David Cameron gave a hurried yet remarkable press conference in which he admitted he was one of many politicians who had courted the press and called for a cultural change. But it also, surely, reflects back on us as media consumers, and makes us question how our own media tastes may have encouraged such practices.

Of course, the culmination in the saga thus far had to be the July 19th Parliamentary hearing in which Brooks and the Murdoch men were grilled by British MPs. "This is the most humble day of my life," professed a dour looking Murdoch Snr. Though a rogue protester may have grabbed the headlines, history is bound to only remember the images of the *Citizen Kane* of our time sitting solemnly, professing regret and asking for forgiveness. Simply remarkable.

Watching the session, it was hard not to recall the congressional Mafioso hearings from *The Godfather: Part II* in which other men in suits from a once-invincible Empire also built on shady government ties had to categorically deny any knowledge of the unscrupulous behaviour of their "associates" and strive to prove their legitimacy. This is the business we've chosen, I suppose.



MICHAEL RICHARDSON and the weeks that were

For more comprehensive coverage of the News of the World phone-hacking charges, look left *now*. However, it is worth noting that the whistleblower of the story, journalist Sean Hoare, was found dead in his apartment last week, of uncertain causes.

A splinter group of 4chan's Anonymous faction, going by the moniker LulzSec, has perpetrated an exhaustive series of hacks on corporations and other United States organisations, to the irritation of literally everyone. Their targets included Sony Online, the CIA, Fox News, and dozens more. LulzSec has since disbanded, following the arrests of several suspected contributors. Rival hacking groups have described their hacking abilities as 'low-level' and LulzSec as 'script-kiddies'. Seriously, Denial of Service is to hacking what krill are to the majestic whale.

Amy Winehouse died on the 23rd of July. At the time of print, the cause of death is not yet known. She was 27.

Cadel Evans won the 2011 Tour de France on the 24th of July. After seven years and as many attempts, he's won. After coming runner-up on two previous occasions, Evans is now the oldest person ever to win the Tour. So well done Cadel. And any boss who sacks a worker for not turning up today is a bum.

On June 14th, ash erupting from a volcano in Chile severely disrupted air traffic all over South America and Australia, to the total cost of 'Buckets of money'. It's just as well that it saved you from flying Tiger.

Obama signed the repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy. Meaning that if you're openly gay you are now allowed to die for your country.

The death toll from a terrorist attack in Oslo has risen to 92. The suspect, a conservative nationalist, set off a bomb in Regjeringskvartalet, killing seven. He then caught a ferry to the island of Utøya and killed 85 students and young adults attending a Worker's Youth League summer camp. The majority of the victims were 15 to 16 years old. So that's someone's legacy. Property damage and an island covered in dead children.

NEWS



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MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING: The Carbon Tax

Against the tax, ALEX DORE.

Outside the trendy twittersphere, idealistic youth groups, and rusted-on apparatchiks of the Labor-Greens alliance, the carbon tax garners almost no support - common sense tells us why.

This is a tax that will cripple industries, destroy jobs, and increase cost of living pressures. It risks placing Australia on a road to regression by shattering our high-energy sector competitiveness. That's why an overwhelming majority of voters, industry groups, businesses, and even unions now oppose it. In fact, even Morris Iemma and Anna Bligh have now broken from the Labor pack to join the chorus of people condemning what amounts to economic vandalism. But without a mandate, and promising that "there will be no carbon tax under the government that I lead," Julia Gillard is ignoring these pleas. This "price on carbon" she insists, won't cost you anything. Trust me, she says, ninety percent of Australians will be better off with green jobs and merry-go-round compensation.

But of course, this is a disturbing act of double-speak. Remember that the purpose of a carbon tax is to shift consumer behavior towards low-emissions intensity goods – that necessarily requires a change in the relative cost of goods. This is not a tax on the nation's 500 "biggest polluters," as the government insists. This is a tax on the nation's 500 biggest employers, taxpayers, and producers. By extension, it's a tax on you. Take Qantas Airways as an example of why. With a wafer-thin net profit after tax of \$116m and \$123m in FY2010 and FY2009 respectively, Qantas Airways is a perfect example of a so-called "big polluter" that would have little capacity to buffer price increases without a corresponding hike in ticket

prices. In fact, starting at \$23-per-tonne, the tax would impose an annual \$91 million primary carbon tax liability on the company before compensation. This is a liability not imposed on its premium, foreign-operated competitors, many of which are heavily subsidized national carriers. To compete, Qantas would need to lift ticket prices – CEO Alan Joyce has said as much already.

Here emerges a significant difference between the European ETS, and the Australian carbon tax, which will simply penalize Australian industry. Make no mistake. Every time you turn on the lights, every time you recharge your iPhone, heck, every time you pay for a plane ticket, the Labor-Greens carbon tax will cost you. And all this for a tax that will not actually help the environment with an aim to reduce a mere 5 percent of the 1.3% Australian contribution to global emissions of 2000 levels by 2020. It's no wonder our competitors are laughing. It's why the Canadian Foreign Minister went to extraordinary lengths to actually thank the government for the competitive gains this carbon tax offers his country.

Science aside, we all want action on man-made climate change, but it's a global problem and it needs a global solution. Against the current backdrop of international inaction, Gillard's inefficient, ineffective carbon tax is not this solution. Instead it represents yet another move to pervert our tax system, and exacerbate the cost of living strains already being felt across Australia.

The former United States President Ronald Reagan once said, that "there is a price we will not pay. There is a point beyond which they must not advance." We've reached that point.

For the tax, JOSH WYNDHAM-KIDD.

No matter how loud the shouting gets, the need to act on climate change won't go away. As long as we keep burning our carbon budget, we're condemning ourselves to more extreme and unpredictable weather, with all the human suffering that will entail. That's what matters in this debate.

Will this new package solve climate change all by itself? Well, no. But is it a good start? Damn straight.

The most important part is the carbon charge. From next year, the top 500 polluting businesses in the country will be charged \$23 for every tonne of carbon dioxide they put into the atmosphere. This will reward energy efficiency and clean up industries responsible for 60% of Australia's emissions. The charge, and the emissions trading that will replace it in 2015, mean pollution cuts. So far, so winning.

Pricing pollution sparks innovation, but it's not enough; that's why the rest of the package is so important.

Nearly \$10 billion raised from the carbon charge will go into commercial renewable investment. Finally, Australia will take advantage of all the sunshine, wind and waves we've got lying about! Up to 2000MW of the dirtiest coal-fired power stations will be bought out, closed down and replaced by cleaner power. Farmers will be rewarded for storing carbon in their land through restoring ecosystems and smart grazing and planting.

Australia doled out \$1.9 billion in fuel tax refunds to the mining industry in

2009-10; this unhelpful fossil fuel subsidy will be cut. Down in the detail, there are innumerable 'little' changes like this that will make a big difference to how much Australia pollutes.

Wags will respond that Australia can't solve climate change alone. True. But this package fits into the bigger picture: last week saw a massive solar plant opened in Spain and emissions trading announced in China. The world is moving, and Australian action makes it easier for other countries to do more; it's as simple as that.

What about us? Most students will be better off after the tax-free threshold is raised to \$18,000 and Youth Allowance is increased to make up for any price rises; just spend your extra cash greenly! The point of the exercise is to change the behaviour of major polluters; it's not about hurting us.

Does all this mean we can rest on our low-carbon laurels? Sadly, no. We still need to do plenty more, like ending fossil fuel handouts, building high speed rail between the eastern capitals, and toughening car pollution standards. Then there's the 2013 election, which will decide who create the emissions trading scheme for 2015 - or if it gets created at all.

For now, though, we can celebrate. From July 1 next year, every time you take action in your own life to stop climate change, you'll have the force of Australian industry and the law behind you. And that's why this package will work.

Important: if you have an opinion, any kind of opinion at all, check out our opinion competition on Facebook and the back of this very newspaper. Cash money!

KARMA?! KARMA THIS!

CHRIS SALVO isn't expecting any repercussions from this article.



I've been troubled of late with what seems to be a new, trendy belief in a quasi-religion known as karma. Of course, belief in karma is not a new thing; people have believed for centuries in the old idiom 'what comes around, goes around'. What is new, however, is the rapid pace with which it seems to be overtaking traditional moral tenets such as being good-for-good's-sake. Instead, karma is largely concerned with a behaviouristic good-to-avoid-bad-being-visited-upon-oneself mentality.

This has recently been illustrated to me on a Facebook memorial page dedicated to the memory of a Sydney high school student who committed suicide after alleged cyber bullying. The

memorial page, at time of writing having 25 000 'likes', serves as a festering ground for 'trolls' who post ludicrous and often deeply offensive statements to provoke a response. For those who fall into the trap of 'feeding the trolls', the oft-used defence is promising a slow but sure vengeance on the perpetrators for disrespect to the deceased's memory, family and friends.

Naturally, many point to these trolls – most of whom use fake profiles – as candidates for a punitive karma which will inevitably catch up with them by, at the very least, having the same thing happen on their own memorial page in time, or, at most, experiencing a somewhat hellish existence in the afterlife.

Like many religions, I think karma serves a largely consoling purpose, and sees justice be done on those who consistently subvert the traditional notion of 'good'. And, as with religions generally, karma is convenient to believe in because it allows its adherents to be selective - 'I don't have any bad coming my way because I'm a good person'. The main area in which karma differs from religious belief, I think, is in its accessibility; young people, especially, can adhere to what is inherently a superstitious belief without being labelled as believing in a holy figure upstairs – and downstairs, for that matter.

This trendiness is precisely what irritates me. I think being good for the sake of being good should

outweigh any importance placed on either being good to be rewarded or being good to avoid punishment. Karma, nowadays, seems to have an emphasis on the latter, and it concerns me that a whole new generation is developing with such a warped view of how justice works in the real world.

Oh, and by the way, I don't really think 'KARMA' can be put down as a religious affiliation on the upcoming census. Here's hoping that I don't get my just desserts served by the karma police for writing this article!

THE NBA LOCKOUT: WHAT'S UP?

BRAD MARIANO goes behind the scenes on the death of a season.

Last year's NBA season was one of the best in recent memory, as well as a pivotal one. New superstars emerged such as the high-flying and racially ambiguous Blake Griffin as Rookie of the Year, and Derrick Rose up the ranks from emerging talent to one of the best players in the game, named as the league's Most Valuable Player. The legendary career of Shaquille O'Neal officially drew to a close and the two year chokehold of perennial contenders LA Lakers was broken. Lastly, the perceived antagonists of this year's narrative, the Axis of Evil (Miami Heat), were defeated by the hardworking Dallas Mavericks, delivering championships to future Hall of Famers Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Kidd, just as their window of opportunity was closing for good. Above all, great basketball was played, and fans can't wait until next season. That's where it gets tricky.

For months the threat of the dreaded lockout was looming and has now finally arrived. Lockout - a dreaded word for casual and ardent basketball supporters alike, which in short means that there will be no basketball played. There is a solid chance that there won't be a 2011-2012 season, and the most we can hope for is a heavily abridged one. Effectively, the players are on strike for the foreseeable future, the first such occurrence since the 1998-1999 season where half a season was lost. However, this doesn't soundly explain the situation. The workings of it are pretty involved, so we'll start with the basics.

Central to the dispute is the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), an agreement between the collective owners of the 30 NBA teams and the Players' Union. The previous CBA expired at the end of last season, and the lockout exists as the two sides are trying to compromise now that

the new CBA is being drawn up. The previous agreement was that the player's salaries would be 57% of all basketball related income - tickets, merchandise, TV rights, and so on. So why don't they just keep this figure? To put it frankly, the NBA owners are losing money. The reasons for this could be investigated at length (GFC, people watching games online rather than in person, etc) but the short of it is, these owners have put millions of capital into these franchises (most teams are worth \$300-500 million) and aren't seeing a return on their investment. 22 of the 30 teams are losing money, reportedly by \$300 million collectively, annually. So they want to pay the players less.

It's tough to sympathise with them...when the average player salary is \$5.854 million.

The players reckon these dirty capitalists are bullshitting, citing the fact that the NBA is drawing record ratings both throughout the US, as well as rapidly expanding in its appeal across the globe, especially in major markets Europe and China. The problem, according to the Players' Union, lies not in the revenue streams, but the structural and financial management of the teams. The more pressing issue however is that the players don't want to lose money, which would be guaranteed if the owners had their way - their original pitch for the CBA was to drop the percentage of income paid to players from 57:43 to an even 50-50.

It's tough to sympathise with either side, as this isn't like the strikes we're used to, of public school teachers demanding slightly more humane hours/pay. The profession of 'NBA Player' is the highest paying job in the world. The average player salary is \$5.854 million, not including endorsements - LeBron James signed a \$100 million Nike deal before he stepped on a professional court. It's just too hard to relate. Former star Latrell Spreewell, even when well past his prime, refused a three year, \$21 million contract, insulted as "[he] had a family to feed." Shaq reportedly spends \$110,000 per month on vacations. NBA great Patrick Ewing didn't help the players' cause in the last lockout when he infamously said "Sure, we make a lot of money, but we spend a lot of money, too." On the flipside, as easy as it is to mock these multimillionaires for playing poor, without them there is no NBA and while they do make a lot of money, you can't just uniformly pay them all millions less.

So, that's where we're at now. Billionaire owners want to pay multimillionaire athletes less, and said multimillionaires don't want to give up their money and lifestyle. We're at a standstill until significant concessions and compromises are made by both sides. Talks are going on, but understandably little in the way of what has been said has come out; only vague terms like "some progress" can be drawn out of spokespeople for either party and it's impossible to guess how long the stand-off will go for. Players will inevitably have to take slightly less money, and owners will look to improve their business strategies regardless, but the lockout will go until they come to an agreement. Until then, it's the fans who lose.

THE LOCKER ROOM

WILL MOLLERS has a milkshake with Sydney Uni boxing superstar Andrew McNair.

How did you get into boxing?

I've always been a keen athlete and I basically wanted a challenge. I heard about boxing at university and was keen to give it a go.

Cool, how easy was it to get into it?

It was challenge of my fitness, but it was a very welcoming environment to be in. In fact, the first time I ever stepped into a weights gym with a friend of mine we were far more overwhelmed in an environment of inanimate objects than we were in the dynamic dungeon that is the Sydney Uni boxing club gym.

Have you been training to become a professional?

At the end of 2009 I had spinal surgery following a fight, so that was put on hold. I don't have any plans to continue on as a competitor, but I do enjoy coaching. I find it very rewarding and I have recently become a strength and conditioning coach.

What exactly do you do at the boxing club?

I'm a senior coach with the boxing club, so I'm employed to coach the general club training sessions which run weekly throughout the entire year.

Do you think that boxing is interpreted by people as a sport only practised by very rough people?

It does vary on location and the circumstances of the boxers involved. I think boxing has had a bad reputation and that is not unjustified, as there have been many boxers who have disgraced themselves and their sport. But then I ask you this, how many boxers have you seen in a ring hitting another boxer below the belt? I have never seen it happen.

Boxing is an ancient sport. Do you think that it is still a relevant one?

Regardless of what sport you pursue, the skills you learn in that

arena or field or ring or pool that you compete in, those specific skills are not nearly as important as the overriding experience that you gain. That you can punch very well is not going to be as important as the fact that you have demonstrated discipline or that you can learn a new skill. So I think boxing is still very relevant, because it is a sport, rather than because of its specific attributes.

What are the options for women if they want to come and train at the boxing club?

Women can take part in boxing in the same way that men do. There is a myth perpetuated that doing exercise or weights can make women bulky, but I can show you videos of Olympic weightlifters who don't look bulky and they are lifting well over 100kg above their head. Furthermore women's boxing recently achieved a milestone at the university, as it was in October 2009 that female boxers boxed in NSW for the first time and that was at the University of Sydney.

For those wanting to attend the Boxing Club, when are the training sessions and what are the costs involved?

There are four [training sessions] per week and there's an \$88 fee for the year (or half of that for half of a year). At the moment it is Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 6:15pm onwards and Saturday at 1:30pm onwards in HK Ward gymnasium.

What makes boxing awesome?

It's one of the few sports where some of the professionals have dreadlocks. Lennox Lewis is the ultimate dreadlock wielder.

Boxers to YouTube:

- Mike Tyson
- Roy Jones Jr.
- Lucia Rijker
- Jack Lamotta
- Laila Ali
- Oscar Dela Hoya
- Sugar Ray Robinson

THE HONI PROFILE

by SHANNON CONNELLAN

WARPAINT

Stella Mozgawa is in the middle of teaching her bass-playing band mate Jenny Lee Lindberg to drum. They've switched instruments for the afternoon at Mozgawa's place in L.A. and I wait patiently listening to the two friends wrap up their swapsies sesh.

"You going to go? Sorry I'm just going to say goodbye... Love you! See you in a bit. You found the keys? Call me later."

The LA-based ladies of Warpaint have just had a well-earned week off after months of worldwide festival touring, from the epic English fields of Glastonbury to the dusty Texan expanses of South by Southwest. "I think Primavera and Glastonbury were our favourites so far," says Mozgawa. "Glastonbury is just giant, it's so expansive and ridiculous that it almost doesn't make sense, it shouldn't exist. And Primavera's just lovely because it's in Spain and we'd never been to Spain before. We got to hang out there for three days and lots of our friends were playing, so it was just a nice hang."

Warpaint return to Sydney streets in time for their Splendour in the Grass sideshow at our very own watering hole, Manning Bar. It's the second time Sydney has been privy to the band, battling the dust storms at SCA for Laneway Festival earlier this year. But the Northern Beaches-grown Mozgawa is no stranger to Old Man Manning, knuckling down for a Bachelor of Social Work at Sydney Uni years ago. "[Manning] is where I used to drink Toohey's Old and eat chips. It's like my stomping ground. It's pretty funny, when I saw that that's where we were playing in Sydney I thought it was quite charming."

Warpaint as they are today took a few years and a few members to form. Childhood friends Theresa Wayman and Emily Kokal fused their vocal and guitar talents with those of bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg and her Hollywood-bound drummer sister Shannyn Sossamon in 2004. It would be five years and a handful of drummers later before they would find Sydney's Stella Mozgawa playing sticks at The Troubadour: the legendary West Hollywood venue where The Eagles' Don Henley and Glenn Frey met in the front bar, Elton John made his U.S. debut introduced by Neil Diamond, Tom Waits was discovered during an amateur night and Carly Simon, opening for Cat Stevens, met James Taylor for the first time.

"We had mutual friends that were from LA, lots of musician friends, and we just knew about each other," says Mozgawa. "I was playing with some other artists and Warpaint were playing that night as well, so I kind of met them all officially that night. We saw each other play and I think in the back of our minds we thought it would be cool to just give it a go and see how we worked together."

Following the release of their debut EP *Exquisite Corpse* and their full-length album *The Fool*, this will be Warpaint's last tour to Australia before they kick off a writing party for their next project. According to Mozgawa, the group finds their creative strength in collaboration, with every possible idea tried and tested.

"We are very adamant about having all four minds broken open, you know. So everyone who feels like they want to have a say and has an idea, it has to be tried out, it's not going to be poo-pooed," she says. "That's kind of the seed of all destruction in some way, in a creative environment, especially for us you know because there is no one dominant mind. There's four very strong personalities, and each of us have an idea usually."

Taking influences from a myriad of music-makers, the foursome have been compared to everyone from Joni Mitchell to Cocteau Twins. But even the best of us can't escape parental music influence in shaping our current iPlaylists. "I grew up listening to a whole lot of soul music basically that my parents listened to, Aretha Franklin and Marvin Gaye and Steely Dan and kind of geeky music like that," says Mozgawa. "There's nothing wrong with Steely Dan."

With four musical minds at work, and Lindberg and Mozgawa already on the instrument swap, Warpaint's psychedelic, hypnotic sound seems bound for surprising twists and turns. Perhaps inspiration will be found on the tour ahead, at the bottom of a glass of Toohey's Old and between the sandwich sheets of a nostalgic Manning Monty.

Check out Warpaint with Jack Ladder and Jonny Benet at Manning Bar at 8pm on Thursday July 28. Tickets from manningbar.com.au and the Access Desk.





REDESIGNING A BROKEN WORLD

THOMAS HELLIER looks at new ways to unfuck the planet.

FEATURE

Before I even get started I must say geoengineering is no panacea. In fact, it is largely frowned upon in public debate. The pivotal step in avoiding a total haemorrhaging of the world's intricate environmental mechanisms is reducing emissions and consumption immediately. There is no saviour, divine or technological, capable of averting an all encompassing global catastrophe without a significant change in human behaviour. Believe neither pastor nor politician; go to www.ipcc.ch, the homepage for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for peer-reviewed facts and figures on climate change science.

Phew, now that's off my chest let's look at some freaky-deaky examples of how people are proposing to redesign our world to deal with increases in temperature and other environmental impacts of human behaviour. My transhumanist nerd-crawlers cling to this concept like a giant octopus ravenously devouring a diving bell. It is a concept so Asimov-esque that some of the projects being undertaken feel like they've been torn from sci-fi canon instead of university laboratories. So what is geoengineering? In a nutshell, geoengineering is the science of manipulating the environment (to redevelop biomes, the atmosphere, oceans and so on) to directly counter malfunctions caused by rapid change to the natural configuration of these systems. It's probably best understood using examples, so let's

start with the most appalling and work our way up.

Ken Caldeira 'came up' with the amazing idea of using particles to deflect sunlight in the upper atmosphere in the noughties after Mikhail Budyko, a Russian geoengineer, told him about his great idea to shoot particles into the atmosphere to deflect sunlight in the nineties. The particle type was a point of contention. At first one of Caldeira's mates, Lowell Wood, suggested bombarding the stratosphere using nuclear fission techniques. Lowell Wood is also quoted by Caldeira as saying 'If we want to solve the global warming problem, we could just have a nuclear war.' For me this has a brutal nihilistic honesty to it considering it proposes to attack the issue at its very core – by killing all humans. All in all Caldeira decided this was pretty bogus because using nuclear power isn't considered kosher these days. So he used the soft touch and went with sulphur. While observing volcanic eruptions in the last 2 decades has shown sulphur particulate (that's sulphuric acid suspended in water for those of you playing along at home) reflects sunlight back out of the atmosphere; he somehow forgot he would be pumping the main ingredient of acid rain into the sky. Also, polluting for climate stability is like trolling for truth.

Geoengineering has an exceptionally tarnished history not only because

of its unfounded 'silver-bullet' mystique but because humankind's previous endeavours in the field have been, well, kind of dick moves. The United States army weaponised geoengineering techniques during Operation Popeye in the Vietnam War by seeding clouds with silver iodide (thus making them heavy), extending the monsoon season by 30-40 days. This was considered such a dick move that there is now a UN convention against weather interference for hostile purposes. Cloud seeding is common, China uses the technique regularly; most famously they used it to clean the air in Beijing before the Olympics. Australia uses it to increase snowfall around the Snowy River catchment and also at the Kosciuszko National Park. While there is inconclusive evidence of a negative environmental impact, the increased presence of algae in the national park has been a concern alongside the possible threat it poses to the pygmy possum.

So why consider geoengineering at all? Well, basically because we're fucked. It's plausible some global feedback loops may have already been initiated. Feedback loops are where damage in one area acts as a catalyst for further degradation. For example permafrost melting in the Arctic due to global warming will release trapped methane, another causative agent for global warming. Even if we discontinued producing greenhouse gasses immediately, the



temperature would continue to rise for another 40 years.

I would like to take a moment here for those who may be thinking 'we can't interfere with the cycle of nature that is immoral' or 'look what we've already done to nature, we shouldn't consider going any further' then I have something to say to both perspectives. To the first, morality is a social construct: furthermore please disassemble everything you own and re-insert it into the ecosystem, you looney twat. For the latter these previous misadventures were initiated when the consequences were unknown and later discovered to have serious impacts for the worse. We broke this planet, the onus is on us to fix it. I have faith in human ingenuity. When good science that is vigorously tested shows design intended to resolve complex yet comprehensible problems can be effective, we are obliged to proceed. The other option is to see a world enveloped in war and environmental despair tearing society asunder (which, for all its blemishes, I've grown quite attached to).

Well, that, and there are some pretty good looking geoengineering options out there too. There are simple small steps we can take that will have a positive outcome. Perhaps it's not geoengineering per se but you can paint your roof white for starters. I happen to like promoting algae blooms in the

ocean for sequestering carbon. The basic premise is by lacing the surface of the ocean with iron algae carbon will be consumed and in many cases produce hydroxyl radicals which help oxidise our atmosphere. These, alongside other chemicals, induce albedo (diffuse reflectivity, or bouncing sunlight back out to space) in part due to biologically produced sulphates. Algae are a fundamental building block to the oceanic food pyramid and inasmuch could help bolster the biomass of oceans which has also been degraded by direct and indirect effects of pollution. It does have issues, the possibility of harmful algae blooms and oxygen depletion due to larger populations of bacteria may lead to anoxic (oxygen deprived) conditions.

Then there are the big guns. Anton Meier and Christoph Gebald of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology have built a gigantic parabolic mirror that looks like a several storey tall steel salad bowl. It can concentrate sunlight in order to reach temperatures of 2000 degrees Celsius. It's a death ray but only used for niceness. They plan to aim this mirror at calcium oxide, which when heated absorbs carbon dioxide transforming into calcium carbonate. They also have a long process of recycling all the materials created during this procedure. This procedure is so massively expensive and complicated that at the moment the duo are working on a solar powered model that doesn't need

that gigantic mirror.

Eli Klintisch, geoengineering journalist, quotes a poetic analogy from a friend in his book. 'One finds one's ten-year-old son smoking a cigarette? Put him in the closet and make him smoke the whole pack.' Is geoengineering the solution we deserve for destroying the ecosystem that has sustained us for so long? It seems inevitable that geoengineering will hit the political forefront of climate debate sooner or later, considering that the consequences of environmental degradation are unavoidable. There's a slippery slope to the adoption of these technologies which may allow some to think that the adoption of geoengineering removes the burden of reducing emissions. This is fallacious on several accounts: one, why be effective when you can be super effective? Two: what happens when, say with sulphur lacing of the stratosphere, the device is removed or breaks? There would be a massive snap not just back to previous high global temperatures but new highs and fast. Three: using geoengineering technologies indefinitely is unfeasible, it is merely a band-aid til the real wounds heal. Personally I think some of the possibilities presented here are okay, but we can do better. As Stuart Brand said: 'We are gods and have to get good at it.'



The Tree Of Life

At its very centre, art is about interrogating life: it's about how we live, how we should live and why. Especially why.

Most good pieces of art are content to tackle these questions implicitly. They entertain us and, if we are particularly lucky, tell us something important below the surface. Terrence Malick's latest film, *The Tree of Life*, is no such piece.

The Tree of Life is solely concerned with the Big Questions: the questions that commercial art have long considered at best unnecessary and at worst pretentious. It wants to ask how we got here, it wants to ask about our place in a mind-bendingly immense universe and, above all else, it wants to ask how we should live. In the sliver of time we are all granted, Malick wants us to consider how best to use our most precious resource.

If these themes seem to you like cinematic poison (the meta-appeal of navel gazing is concededly not for everyone), then this is probably a film to avoid. For those sitting on the fence, remember the long-dead, bearded Greek fellow who argued that the 'life unexamined is not worth living'. And, if the words of Socrates are not enough, you also have mine: this is a visually stunning, often profound and deeply affecting piece of cinema.

Whilst Malick is not big on linearity, the film's storyline is relatively straight-forward. The O'Briens, a family in post-war Texas, witness their children's births, development and, in one tragic case, death. Told with a loose structure that flashes between the oldest child's (Sean Penn) youth and middle-age, it examines how the parents' philosophies (Brad Pitt and Jessica Chastain) conflictly drive the family's experience.

Mr O'Brien is a stern man burdened by dreams of musical and financial success, who believes that happiness stems from respect and the pursuit of worldly superiority; Mrs O'Brien, a woman of almost angelic purity, believes in universal love and acknowledging the beauty and harmony surrounding each moment. In this, the parents symbolise two of life's behavioural poles (on one hand, the drive towards worldly distinction and on the other, the loving impulse that brings people together) and their domestic contrast can be read as a parable of this elemental struggle. Without giving too much away, Malick, alongside his dazzling camera, throws his weight firmly in the maternal corner.

However, *The Tree of Life's* ambition is necessarily larger than this. If life's answers lie in love and beauty, this film explores why they aren't always easy, why the seemingly

obvious so often eludes us. The ambiguity of all things is seen in the agony of death and a show-stopping re-enactment of creation. The latter, in particular, is as absurd as it is stunning as it is successful. We are given a barrage of images (from the volcanic formation of earth's surface, to the development of primitive life, to the beating of a foetal heart) which overlay the creation of the species with the creation of a person. Malick reminds us why the search for meaning is so difficult; the intricate symphony underpinning existence leads us exactly where? As the film suggests, we must learn to seek solace amidst the absurd.

Ultimately though, these answers are pushed beyond bland philosophising by Malick's art. His camera genuinely encapsulates his vision of transcendence. Whether it be the simple rustling of a tree or a father's first awe-inspired look at his son, the film manages to capture shards of fleeting glory. Above all, the piece is astonishingly beautiful to look at.

Yes, it's overly earnest and yes, in a culture saturated with irony and detachment it's often uncomfortable to think seriously about serious things. But regardless of how much humanity has progressed, we have not yet managed to shrug these fundamental questions.

I for one am happy that someone still cares.



Freshly Squeezed



Honi digs new music blood, particularly when they're jammin' inside our own USyd walls. SHANNON CONNELLAN gets up close and toasty with Jon Jobaggy from Sydney Uni band, The Fires.

Who's in your merry band of musicians and what do they wield?

Major on guitar and lead vocals, Jon on bass and vocals, and Tim on drums and percussion.

How did you guys cross paths?

In late 2009, Major and Tim were recruited into a project I was working on. That project was short lived, but we continued jamming and decided to form a new outfit.

Where did the name come from?

When we were discussing potential names, I pulled out an old note pad with several band names I had come up with over the years, never thinking they would be of use. One of the names was The Fires; Major liked the name as he said he had also envisioned a name involving fire.

Who or what influences or inspires you guys to make the sound you do?

Major grew up on Bob Marley and Fela Kuti; Tim lists Pink Floyd and Pearl Jam among his inspirations; my favourites are Talking Heads and the

Doors. I guess our collective influences are Jimi Hendrix Experience & Cream.

Where can we see you play?

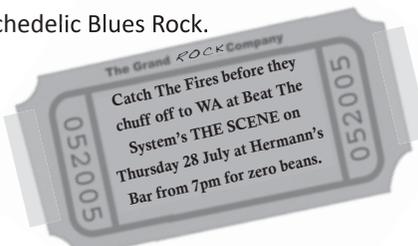
We're off to WA next week for a one off show supporting British India. Then back home for a gig at the Valve Bar in Tempe on August 17th. We'll be back at Hermann's on October 20th for end of semester action! That's all we have booked for now; check out our website, www.thefires.com.au in case something else pops up.

How can we listen to your tunes, do you have an EP or an album of sorts?

On the website, www.thefires.com.au. Stay tuned for more recordings in the not too distant future.

Last up, token request... describe The Fires in 3 words.

Psychedelic Blues Rock.



HONI RECOMMENDS

THE ART OF HAPPINESS

NICK SIMONE just wants to make you happy, okay?



The beginning of semester is a happily optimistic time in uni life. It's a fresh start, a clean slate, and an <insert cliché here>. It's a revitalisation of the frail, vulnerable and inevitably futile work ethic. It's a refresher course of familiar faces and a renewal of routine. There is, however, often a negative shadow accompanying all the positives of a new semester - namely the realisation that a new semester brings with it a new set of assignments, a new set of exams and a new stomach-punching reality check. But there is a way to ward off the onset of New Semester Blues and for this Honi recommends *The Art of Happiness* by His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama.

The Art of Happiness is co-authored by American psychiatrist Howard C. Cutler but doesn't read like a self-help book at all. It doesn't even really read like your traditional non-fiction would but instead follows a narrative style that makes its food for thought easily consumable. The content is a collection of teachings, stories and conversations between Dr Cutler and the Dalai Lama which are broken up into tasty bite-sized enlightening nibbles that will leave you digesting contentment. This degustation menu of wisdom features the purpose of life, the benefits of compassion as well as ways to face suffering and overcome obstacles in life.

The Noble Peace Prize winning Dalai

Lama tends to avoid preaching Buddhist teachings in this book; rather he executes a lay method which makes the book highly accessible for a non-Buddhist readership. This complements the underlying theme of the book nicely which, simply put, is that any happiness is governed by perception and that until your mind's state perceives the world with a positive attitude, suffering will prevail over happiness. *The Art of Happiness's* observational nature seems basic at first but the Dalai Lama's simple explanation of ideas of such immeasurable complexity is nothing short of brilliant.

The title summarises the book's methodology precisely. Happiness is discussed in this book as if it were an art or a skill and science is barely mentioned at all. Instead of being an ignorant right-hook to science's cheek bone (zygoma), this is exemplary of the book's message: it's all about perception. It is not difficult to believe that we all see the world differently, when we all have a different set of eyes. "[Happiness] is a function of how we perceive our situation, how satisfied we are with what we have." Rather than quote other gems of insight, it would be best if you just go out and get a copy. It will set you back \$9.95 (on amazon.com) but it will set you up for life... or at least for the upcoming semester.



ANDY FRASER found a haunted food house, a demon rabbit and an inflatable man rave on an island in Sydney Harbour.

Islands are good for a lot of things: brushing your teeth, cleaning the shower, combing your moustache. Fortunately, here in Australia, we like toothbrush-islands, islands, we like islands. It would be pretty awkward if we didn't considering we're the biggest fucking island in the world. Who needs the best economy when you've got the best buoyancy. Another fallacious fact for you fat felines, Australia also likes all things loud, obnoxious and feathery. Good thing for us we host the colourfully uninspired and incessantly irritating cockatoo. What happens when you put these two things together? The biggest island in the Sydney Harbour, that's what you damn well get. Oh and also a kickass venue hosting some of Sydney's coolest festivals. *Honi Soit* took a rocking ferry on a crispy Saturday arvo out to Cockatoo Island to find out the happy haps this time of the year.



Underbelly Arts brings together 150 of Sydney's emerging artists. Theatre-makers, film-makers, musicians, installation artists, puppeteers, sound artists, publishers and aerialists came together for a total of three weeks. These three weeks were dedicated to creating things; experimental, creative,

art things. Ten days of this process were opened to the public in what was coined The Lab. We arrived just in time to see the finale and celebration of this process: The Festival. No matter how the product turned out, the organisers had a foolproof plan in safeguarding their festival: the setting was mesmerising. Even on a crisp winter's day, it was difficult not to be taken by the visceral surroundings of a former imperial prison, industrial school, reformatory and gaol turned creative island. Pleasingly enough for local, independent art, the product managed to match the standards of its surroundings.

The more memorable installations included Justin Shoulder's *V*. If you're after an image, manifest any creature from *The Mighty Boosh* and place it into a scene from the free-to-air fiend of a film *The Fifth Element*. It was a hypnotic performance accompanied by disturbingly brilliant sounds and lights. Then there was the *All You Can Stand Buffet*, an installation that promised food but with a catch. A smart marketing move by the creators, Butterfries, audiences were promised a kind of haunted house that provided food for as long you could "stand" it. It was an exercise in awareness of all things food: how it is created, what people do to eat it, the way we inhabit it and how we surround ourselves with it.

Those struggling to stomach all of this creative codswallop could have always wondered over to the rave and had a dance with the WACKY WAVING INFLATABLE ARM FLAILING TUBE MEN. Or better yet the live gig put on by EG1/EXT, a stunning performance exploring industrialisation and economic uncertainty. Adding in sounds and footage that they had sourced from around the island, the performance was appropriately titled *The Dignity of Labour* and served as an electronic frenzy well deserving of a twist, shuffle and shake. There were so many more works of art that deserve mention and explanation but it would be thoroughly overwhelming. One particular installation

that cannot go unmentioned is *Case Study*. Six artists migrated to Cockatoo Island, only bringing with them what could be carried in suitcases. As they inhabited the island for 16 days they built a world around them reflecting ideas about how society is created. Picture the finest collection of cubby houses ever. Liveable, sustainable cubbies. Of course every festival has a few bad apples.



Fortunately these just help to elevate the better works. The task then is simply to fit these duds in the beginning of the experience and then you only have better places to go. When you're organising a festival heavily involving performance art, there's almost an expectation that at some points, the only thing your brain will manage to squeeze out is a resounding, italicised question mark. However, if *Honi's* experience is anything to go by, chances are spectators left fulfilled by the sensory overloading experience it was. Underbelly was a success and a tribute to local artists and independent artwork. With approximately 2 200 tickets sold, Sydney should pat themselves on the back, or better yet pat the organisers. With such a promising and fulfilling second year, make sure not to miss the third instalment when it returns next winter.

Images by CATHERINE MCELHONE

END of an ERA



HANNAH MORRIS wrote this article in parseltongue

In what seemed like a defining moment in my young life, I was lucky enough to watch the premiere of the final Harry Potter film in Leicester Square, London. Like so many others, I waited with an expectant thrill in the cinema line, eagerly donned my 3D glasses, and cheered loudly during the pre-film advertisements whenever they featured Harry, Ron or Hermione. As the lights dimmed, I settled in my chair with a feeling of familiar contentment akin to spending time with a group of friends that you haven't seen for a while.

Two hours later I felt very different. And it wasn't simply because the movie did not live up to my expectations - the epic scenes were anticlimactic, dialogue was sparse, clunky and employed purely to facilitate the relentless pace of the plot, and each main character appeared to have a single 'token scene' before fading into the background. Lord Voldemort emerged as the surprise star of the show. Not only did he have the most lines, he also elicited the strongest emotional responses from the audience with his creepy laugh, the somewhat paedophilic hug he gave Malfoy, and his little red foetus incarnation curled under the seat at Kings Cross Station. All in all, the movie seemed to be simply riding upon the fact that it was a Harry Potter movie, with little effort put into creating any type of cinematic experience.

As the credits rolled however, I couldn't help but dwell on the fact that this movie, no matter how substandard it was, marked the absolute end of the Harry Potter era. For just under 15 years the release of Harry Potter books and films had been much like birthdays or Christmas insofar as they were staple dates of my calendar. I had started each new year assured that at some point during the year I would be spending a few quality hours with Harry, Ron and Hermione. Thus my walk out of the Odeon cinema in Leicester Square represented so much more than simply the end of a movie series - it was a symbolic walk away from my childhood.

The Harry Potter phenomenon was something special, and our age group in particular was perfectly positioned to gain the most out of the experience. Perhaps my enthusiasm was due to my upbringing - I went to a school where students' devotion to Harry Potter was almost cultish in its intensity. Our age group grew up with Harry Potter in a way that nobody else could. Our ages mirrored those of Harry and his friends as each new book came out, and as each new book and movie moved through teenage friendship and relationship issues, becoming progressively darker and more violent, so too did our maturity levels and ability to relate to what the characters were going through.

Reading a Harry Potter novel was a unique blend of fantastic escapism and realist advice and reassurance - I particularly remember when I was in a fight with one of my good friends, I reread the section in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* where Harry and Ron resolved an argument as a means of comforting myself.

Before watching the final movie, my friends and I sat in a pub sharing Harry Potter stories. Everyone had one: reading the books in particular situations, remembering what they were doing when a certain book or movie was released, listening to the audio-books on car trips, fighting with their siblings to read the new book first, or their whole families reading the books or watching each movie together. This powerful way in which Harry Potter has become intertwined with our everyday lives in such an organic manner is a feat not be underestimated.

Harry Potter also brought people together in a unique fashion. Many of our Harry Potter memories will include lining up outside bookstores early in the morning in order to get first copies of the newest novel, and proceeding to ignore the real world for a day or two until the last page. Can you imagine such an enthusiasm for reading occurring again in our lifetime? In a society where long lines are usually associated with movies, concerts, sporting events and the newest Apple product, it

is hard to believe in something so simple and beautiful as people all over the world stopping what they are doing for one day and reading a book.

That night in Leicester Square, I realised I was surrounded with the broadest demographic of people I could imagine - entire families dressed up in Harry Potter themed costumes, excited schoolgirls, young professionals, couples, groups of friends such as mine. I was struck by the fact that this entire phenomenon, this coming together of people from all walks of life, was simply to celebrate the final adventures of a young wizard who they had come to love. I was suddenly overcome with sadness, as I felt that nothing this innocent and purely joyful would bring our society together again.

The next day as I grieved for Harry Potter, I took it upon myself to see a musical to cheer me up. As it began, I recognised many of the features of the Harry Potter phenomenon unfolding before me: there was magic. There were youngsters traversing adolescence. There was deep friendship, romance, sadness and joy. And looking at the audience I saw people of all ages - a group of elderly ladies sat behind me, a school group excursion sat in front of me, and a young couple sat beside me. I looked at the ticket in my hand and smiled to myself - the musical was called *Wicked*. Perhaps magic wasn't lost after all.



LONG LIVE

LIVE MUSIC

EHREN THOMPSON pays his 10 bucks.

"When I stamp my foot like this, I want you all to clap along okay?"

The crowd answers with a cheer of agreement. As Frank Turner, the Englishman on stage, begins to play his next song, the crowd sings along as one. The song builds momentum and just as Frank is about to launch into the chorus, he begins stamping his foot as promised, and the guitar signal cuts out of the mix. Both the singer and the crowd stop singing abruptly, and a loud "boo" resonates throughout the room.

"Oh shit. I think my stamping was too much for the PA system." The audience gets caught up in a sea of contagious laughter.

Amidst chaos on the stage with roadies scrambling to repair the equipment, the unfazed Frank decides to sing a new song acapella. The passion in his voice captures the audiences' attention, and even without guitar, witnessing it is an incredible experience.

After the roadies have no luck with the guitar, he explains he'll just have to go on acoustically. He begins to strum the chords to his next number, and as the chorus approaches, the guitar signal returns as if by magic. A deafening cheer shakes the walls of the room as the music once again electrifies our souls.

This is the kind of magic that makes small live gigs so special. The shows are raw and the settings are intimate, and it's often hard to tell whether the crowd or the band is having more fun. Singing choruses to songs you love in unison with 100 other people is an amazing feeling. Everyone in the venue is your friend, all united in one goal: to have a great time. Yet as I walk out of the Annandale Hotel, happy and fulfilled, I feel a twinge of sadness that comes with the realisation that the days of this fine live venue are numbered. This gig could be one of the last I experience in the dingy yet comfortable setting that the 'Dale offers.

The announcement that the legendary venue was up for sale came as a shock to Sydney's live music fans. Sadly, it's part of a growing trend in our city. More and more small live venues are becoming financially unviable, leaving the owners with no option but to sell or close the venue. More often than not, the sale of a venue spells the end of live music there, as new owners install poker machines and upmarket facilities in an effort to increase profits.

It's not just the lovers of live music who miss out when these venues close. It's becoming increasingly difficult for young local bands to find exposure. Whether it be



Pictured: Sydney's The Snowdroppers are renowned for their live tomfoolery. Image by ANDY FRASER.

support gigs or shows specifically to support up and coming bands, these outlets are critical in order to give bands a chance to gain fans and sharpen their live act. Aside from rare overnight successes and competition winners, most bands only find wider recognition and popularity through incessant touring and doing the hard slog.

An outsider looking at Australia's music culture might have a hard time realising that it's in trouble. After all, each passing year sees bigger and bigger lineups at festivals like Splendour in the Grass, with international super acts like Kanye West and Coldplay on the bill for this July's event. Mid sized venues like the Metro theatre host international acts almost weekly, and the same can be said for large venues like the Hordern Pavillion through to arena shows with U2, AC/DC, Bon Jovi and Justin Beiber all making the trip 'down under' recently. Australian alternative artists regularly tour the nation to large crowds, more often that not with national radio station Triple J's support. The problem with these shows though is that 90 percent of the lineups consist of artists who are already enjoying some success, whether it be international recognition or high rotation on the radio, so these gigs are a safe bet for venue owners. Taking the risk to book more obscure bands isn't worth it, so they stick with bigger names. Gay Paris and The Snowdroppers, who blend

punk and rock-n-roll are playing jazz venues like the Vanguard, and Black Wire Records in Stanmore hosts gigs four nights a week to give young punk bands an outlet. Marrickville's jungle of warehouses and industrial complexes are hosting spontaneous and free events with questioning legality almost weekly.

So where is this taking us? The answer: to our own musical renaissance. Free gigs take bands back to the roots of pub rock, even if punk is the moniker the music goes by these days. Emphasis is placed on the raw energy and the magical connection made between all those present during a gig. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Sydney's live music scene will return to its former glory, but in a different format. Once people grow tired of floor drums and synthesiser fiddling, they'll flock to the places offering real music. Real energy. Real people. And real fun. And when they do, they'll find a once again roaring scene with it's roots in pub rock of the 70s and 80s.

In the end, the pub rock of the 80s and the punk of the tweens are just different interpretations of the energy that music creates and the passion that fuels it. It's an attitude. Sydney's a tough city and while you can take the punks out of the Inner West, you can't take the punk out of the Inner West. Keep supporting live music Sydney. You won't be disappointed.

THE MIC: OUTBURST COMEDY

JAMES COLLEY checks out a new comedy haunt.

Great comedy rooms are not built, they are grown. They are fostered through weeks of shaky crowds which slowly build, and with them comes an atmosphere. The best rooms then take on a life of their own. The acts grow to fit the room, instead of the other way around. Before this can happen, however, there's the teething process.

Outburst Comedy is situated in Q Bar above Oxford St. Every Saturday night for the last month they have hung up a large banner with a colourful drawing that resembles a wizz-fizz packet,

placed a microphone on a small stage, and gone to work entertaining whatever crowd decided to show.

Danny Giles, who organises and emcees the room, sees the venue as a fun, different way to kick off a night out. "The whole idea I want for this room is to be a pre-drinks kind of place for people to come and hang out," he says. "The great thing is, as soon as the comedy show is over you're sitting on Oxford street at around 10pm on a Saturday night, ready to go out."

Outburst combines music, magic and

comedy with the room becoming a party post-show. "The music keeps playing and you have free entry to the whole Q-Bar venue," Danny notes.

The litmus test of Outburst over the coming months, and hopefully years, will be the selection of acts and the fostering of crowds. These two aspects are inextricably linked. If a crowd enjoys a show, they'll come back. Simple as that. That said, going to a new room is an investment on the crowd's part. The acts you see aren't polished, they're raw which can be

exciting or it can be like pulling teeth. With live comedy in Sydney under constant attack, and the low level of Australian comedy on television has made crowds understandably weary. The burden here is on both performers and audience to build the comedy they want to see. Outburst is a fresh room, with so much potential.

There's energy in the room. You can feel it's growing. It just needs the people of Sydney to give it a go.

OUTBURST COMEDY is on Saturday nights 8pm at Qbar, Oxford St. Entry is \$12. Mention *Honi* for 2-for-1 entry. That's a night of fun for \$6 each, y'all! Check out the line ups on facebook and support live comedy in Sydney.

ASK ABE



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

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

Dear Abe,

I am a grown woman. I have lived away from home since I was 17 and have looked after myself since then. I find it utterly abhorrent that Centrelink insists that just because I am under 25 years old I am still dependent on my parents. Shouldn't I be independent at 18 years old – the same age I am old enough to vote and join the army and sign contracts for myself??

Independent

Dear Independent,

Yes it is abhorrent that Centrelink has those arbitrary age limits. Mostly it is there to reduce the number of people who are eligible for a payment. The rule currently is that if you are 23 years old you are deemed to be independent for Youth Allowance. This is a slight drop from 25 years old. There were plans to bring the age down to 22 years old, but due to government financial constraints that reform will have to wait a little longer.

Abe

How to Avoid Rental Pitfalls

Accommodation in Sydney can be a very challenging thing. There are many pitfalls to look for. Hopefully this article will give you an idea of what to look for to be able to find your new home.

Most landlords want to see that you will be a stable renter. Make sure you are prepared when you look at properties. Have with you a copy of your Confirmation of Enrollments to prove you are a student. Bring references of previous landlord's. Bring proof that you can afford the rents of the place you are going for. This may be a copy of your bank account or payslips from your job or income statements from Centrelink.

Before signing a contract or paying a deposit check the accommodation thoroughly. Make sure that you understand what you are paying for, for example what rooms are included in your rent, is the Internet connected, are you required to do certain jobs around the house. Be clear about the last date of your stay. If you need to leave the contract early what penalties will there be?

Keep a copy of the contract and make sure you get receipts for everything you pay for. Make a condition report and take photos when you move in so that you are only responsible for any damage you cause.



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We can assist you with:

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- Criminal law
- Traffic offences
- Insurance law
- Domestic violence
- Employment law
- Credit & debt
- Consumer complaints
- Victims compensation
- Discrimination and harassment
- Tenancy law
- Administrative law (government etc)
- University complaints
- Other general complaints

Note: The solicitor cannot advise on immigration law but can refer you to migration agents and community centres. For Family Law and Property Relationships Act matters we can refer you to solicitors who charge at a fair rate.

Appointments

Phone the SRC Office to make an appointment 9660 5222

Drop-in sessions

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-3pm (no need for an appointment)

Location

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

Level 1 Wentworth Bldg, Uni of Sydney
02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au
ACN 146 653 143



The SRC's operational costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney.



Contact SRC HELP

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Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1 to 3pm
Level 1, Wentworth Building





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Donherra Walmsley
president@src.usyd.edu.au
twitter: @srcpresident

Welcome back to semester two! I hope you all had a great break and are ready for another big semester.

This semester there is a lot going on federally in the tertiary education sector, so I'll use this report to give a brief overview.

First of all, many of the reviews that the SRC submitted to in the first half of the year are going to be reporting back to the Government with recommendations. There were two major reviews: the Base Funding Review, and the Student Income Support Reforms Review.

Base Funding Review

For those of you who didn't follow my reports last semester, the Base Funding Review (BFR) was a review commissioned by the Federal Government to examine the balance and amount of public (i.e. – government) and private (i.e. – student) contributions to the funding of higher education, and what principles should underpin this balance – e.g. - accessibility, quality, social good, and economic good, to name a few. It was also investigating the way in which funding is distributed across different disciplines, and whether this distribution reflects the actual cost of delivering courses in different areas. It's pretty widely agreed that universities are underfunded, and it's likely that the report from the BFR will bear this out. The interesting part will be what it recommends and whether the government takes that on board – many stakeholders have argued for an increase in Government contributions to higher education, and many universities are also arguing for the uncapping of HECS fees, so they could charge as much for courses as they wish. The BFR is due to report back in October, so watch this space for updates on what it recommends.

Student Income Support Reforms Review

This review comes after a raft of changes to the Youth Allowance and student income support system were announced in 2009. It was originally supposed to be conducted in 2012, after the full range of reforms had been introduced, but pressure from the rural independents to assess the impacts of the changes (some of which are explained below) on students from rural and regional areas resulted in the review being brought forward a year. The review is focussed on assessing how effective the 2009 changes have been in achieving equity outcomes, particularly in relation to students from low-SES backgrounds and rural and regional backgrounds.

Some of the changes introduced included getting rid of what was colloquially known as the "gap year" criteria for independence – where by earning earned at least 75% of the maximum rate of pay under Wage Level A of the Australian pay and classifications scale in an 18-month period you could qualify for independent status - and a gradual reduction in the age of independence from 25 to 22 over the course of 3 years, with 2012 being the year it will be reduced to 22. The Personal Income Test threshold (how much you can earn in a fortnight before your Youth Allowance payments are reduced) is also currently slated to increase to \$400/fortnight from the current rate of \$236/fortnight from the 1st of July 2012.

When these reforms were introduced, it was claimed that the abolition of the "gap year" provision would inhibit many rural and regional students from getting to university. As a result of this concern, the "gap year" provision was retained for students from outer regional and remote areas whose parents earn less than \$150 000/year.

The Government wants to remain budget-neutral on student income support, so there is concern that any recommended improvements to the system will come at the expense of other reforms or student groups. Again, watch this space for more information when the review is released.

Student Services and Amenities Fee Bill

This is a Bill which would introduce a compulsory, deferrable, \$250 fee for all students to go towards, as the name suggests, student services and amenities. As it stands currently, it is not necessary for any of the revenue collected from this fee to go towards student organisations (such as the SRC and the USU). The Greens, however, have indicated that they plan on introducing amendments which would mandate that a portion of the fee go towards democratically elected student organisations. The Bill will be going to the Senate in August most likely, and if it is amended, it will then be sent back to the House of Representatives. If it is not amended, then passing it through the Senate will make it law. This Bill will have a big impact on how student organisations are funded, and if it is passed, student organisations will have to negotiate with their universities around how the revenue will be divided.

Fair Fares for All Students

An ACT Labor backbencher, John Hargreaves MLA, earlier this year moved a motion calling on State, Territory, and Federal Governments to develop a working party to investigate funding options for a national concession card scheme. This motion will be discussed at the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (CDSMC) in August this year.

The SRC and NUS are calling for a national concession card scheme that is not only available to full time domestic



students, but also international students, part time students, and postgraduate students.

Show your support for fair fares for all students by signing the petition now!
<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/a-national-student-concession-card.html>

Watch this space for updates on how this issue is progressing.

Campaigns

This semester the SRC will be running a couple of big campaigns – first of all, we will be continuing our online lectures campaign from last semester, so if you haven't yet filled out our survey, I'd encourage you to do so now (www.surveymonkey.com/s/podcastlectures). If you're feeling particularly keen help us get more responses by posting it up on your facebook or twitter as well! In conjunction with the National Union of Students, we will also be running a campaign against illegal course costs, but more on that next week.

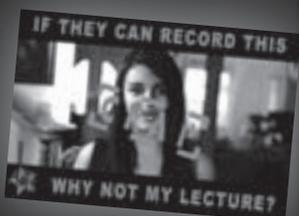


Get involved!

Podcast Lectures Campaign...

The SRC is running a campaign to get the University to get more lectures recorded and available online, preferably as podcasts.

If you'd like to see more lectures being recorded (as a complement to not a replacement for live lectures) help us out by filling out our survey; and if you don't think lectures should be recorded, let us know that as well!



Fill in the survey NOW!

online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/podcastlectures>
or pick up a postcard in your lecture and fill in the survey on the back

Become a member of the SRC!

Join in person at the SRC Office or the SRC Bookshop

Fair Fares!

NUS is seeking to raise support for all students, including local, international, part time and both undergraduate and postgraduate students to have fair access to public transport through a national concession card scheme.

Sign the online petition!

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/a-national-student-concession-card.html>





EDUCATION OFFICER REPORT

Tim Matthews and Al Cameron
education.officer@src.usyd.edu.au

Welcome back friends!

How's your new timetable? Didn't get the hallowed Arts Student three day week that you were hoping for? Well, that's ok, because all classes in our University are record- Oh. They aren't? Oh. Ok then... What?!

If you are one of the lucky few (we're looking at most of you Science students) who have all of your lectures recorded for your convenience, then unfortunately this isn't the rant for you. This is a rant for all of you who have run late because of public transport, have had a timetable clash, work to afford attending University, have a disability or have, for any other of the million and one reasons available, been unable to physically attend a lecture. The twenty first century offered our University a

convenient fix to this perennial problem – video recording of lectures – but it seems that some staff missed the memo.

The arguments in favour of video recording are manifold (not least of all, that this puts us squarely behind UTS, which is something that neither of us can accept!)

Lecturers argue that if they implement this policy then nobody will turn up. However, one particular lecturer took a poll in his Friday afternoon (non-video recorded) lecture last semester, and found that only 36% of the class were turning up anyway. Admittedly, this situation is undesirable, but it is a reality of University life, and one that we believe ought to be catered for. All students pay to attend the classes

that they are enrolled for and if, for whatever reason, they find themselves unable to attend, we believe that the University ought to provide this option. Particularly, we would argue, given that the use of Lectopia is of minimal inconvenience to staff.

Some also say that this is merely a gripe of the lazy. Firstly, your self-righteousness is palpable even from here. Secondly, and more importantly, neither you nor the lecturers actually know why individual students miss class. Sure, some people are just lazy, but others have legitimate reasons behind their actions. We don't think the solution can be as simple as 'everyone should just suck it up and get to class.' That won't help students in emergencies, students whose financial situation necessitates long work hours



or students with disabilities.

So, in your classes this week, the SRC will be distributing a short survey on your experiences with video recording. We would ask you to please fill it in and return it to us! As always, questions, queries, quoncerns – education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au!

QUEER OFFICER REPORT

Nathan Li
single.serving.nathan@gmail.com

On the 24th of June the State of New York passed the Marriage Equality Act. The Marriage Equality Act allows same sex couples to have their love and commitment to each other recognised by the law. The material benefits of marriage aside, for a society to affirm the validity of two consenting adults to form a union based on love is of great importance. It evidences a society that is able to challenge prejudice and celebrate diversity. New York has clearly made the statement; the quality of love isn't dependent on the genders of the couple.

So quite a while back now, just before the last marriage equality rally some members of my collective were thinking up slogans to paint on banners. Two of these really stood out to me.

The first was: "I can't believe we still have to protest about this."

So true. This year is 2011. We are a fortunate people living in a fortunate country. We are free from the scourge of war, from persecution and want. Although I admit in 2011 same sex attracted, transgender and sexual and gender diverse people are no longer openly persecuted. But there is a stark difference from being merely tolerated and being encouraged to be proud of who you are. It's this idea that, allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions or protecting their rights as de-facto

couples is somehow equivalent to the same way we view and celebrate marriages between opposite sex couples. As the US Supreme Court said half a century ago in *Brown v Board of Education*, the notion of 'separate but equal' is a complete farce. A denial of the right to marry is a statement to the effect of saying that your expression of love is invalid, your commitment to your loved one is not worthy of recognition or celebration.

And what is most outrageous is that the opponents to marriage equality have not raised a single rational argument. Excuse me while I indulge in my rage as I make implicit reference to Peter Jensen and Fred Nile who have over the years said the following;

"Marriage is defined as between a man and a woman" is not a reason to deny extending the right to marry to same-sex attracted people. We are not slaves to semantics! It is people, not words, who institutionalise injustice.

"The purpose of marriage is to create the social structures of childrearing" is an argument made by people who have no knowledge, either of the purpose of marriage or of the social structures of childrearing. The argument is a non sequitur. I will not even dignify that with a counter argument.

Just one more, "If gays get married then there will be polygamy and incest." This

is about as logical as one plus clown equals poo. This floodgates argument is one resorted to by spineless cowards. They fear the floodgates of liberty because they know the awesome force of the waters of freedom will topple the walls of prejudice they have so committed themselves to building.⁹

And they're not even being sarcastic! They're completely serious. Like, you wish they were just playing stupid for the lolz. But it's not an act! Where did Peter Jensen get his PhD? 7 Eleven? (Ok that was mean. I actually like 7 Eleven). I lament for a society that allows bigoted ignorance to prevail over rationality (let alone justice). I would be at least happier if opponents of marriage equality could simply admit that they oppose marriage equality by reason of their prejudice instead of purporting a rational explanation. At the very least "I don't feel comfortable about the idea" shows honesty. But trying to fashion a rational argument to mask prejudice serves only to mock our sensibilities.

But things are getting better, there is no doubt. The majority of Australians celebrate diversity. But the inertia of prejudice cannot be countered by time alone. Without courageous Australians to lead the way our sense of social justice will only fall behind. There is no way that rational minded Australians can subscribe to the above illogical

arguments. So I ask, are politicians not elected to lead? Are politicians not rational minded people? All jokes aside, with the majority of Australians supporting marriage equality, and judged against policies that are far more controversial (read: the dubious refugee swap deal with Malaysia and a hastily stitched together carbon tax regime), it's almost as if the current federal government is trolling us. Like okay, I know you want to live in sin Ms. Gillard, but grow a spine and do the right thing by our country. Take us forward, not backwards and to the right. I lament that the issue of marriage equality is one which has not been viewed favourably by the two major political parties in our country. Yet even the great villain Iago had the conscience to reflect on his evil when he said "He who robs me of that which does not enrich him leaves me poor indeed."

So why, why do our politicians insist on robbing us of that which does not enrich them?

Cowardice I say. I dare they prove me wrong.

And the other slogan that made me smile?

"I was born this way, you on the other hand learned homophobia."

WOMENS OFFICER REPORT

womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Welcome back to university. Yay.

This semester is going to be fast paced – there is a heap of women's stuff happening and hopefully there will be at least one thing that interests you enough to get involved in.

Monday nights we are running a non-autonomous discussion group based around current gender issues in the media, as well as some of the more sidelined goals of the feminist cause. It will be kicking off around week four with a forum on gender in feminism in the Refectory.

Tuesday nights the 'Reclaim the Night' organising collective will be meeting at Customs House, Circular Quay, starting in a few weeks. The collective has been running the annual rally against domestic violence for over 30 years so 'Reclaim' is a great way to gain skills and network within women's activism.

Wednesdays at one o'clock the Usyd women's collective meets in the Holme Women's Room - downstairs from the main Holme entrance. This is our main meeting where most of the other

collectives and events are developed. So if you have a break at this time - come along!

But if you can't make any of these times there are still plenty of ways to get involved. This semester the women's department will be running working groups on the 'NUS Talk About It Survey' recommendations, facilitator training workshops, free self-defence classes, screen printing more 'this is what a feminist looks like' t-shirts, running film screenings and publishing the annual

women's journal 'Growing Strong.'

Keep your ears to the ground to hear more about these events, we will publish their details in Honi every week, as well as put posters up on campus.

If you want to get involved or have any questions email us at womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

CRYPTONOMICON

ACROSS!

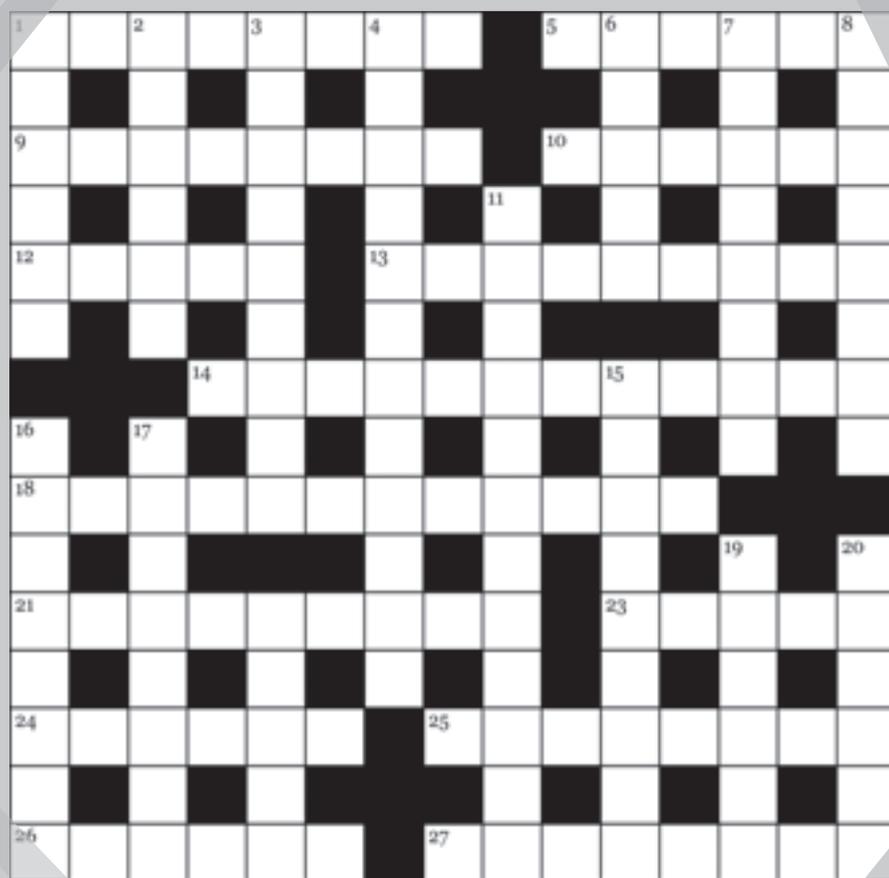
Across clues are all puns. Apollo, Gs.

1. Typo to run in the wrong direction? (8)
5. Awesome pet goes out in the midday sun? (6)
9. Solitary mortgage amount? (8)
10. Palin's home - Ah'll enqahr? (6)
12. Remembered her fresher? (5)
13. Covertly listen to fall of first woman? (9)
14. Hammerstein's partner happy with pirate flags? (5,7)
18. Wordlessly essential? (12)
21. Polygon destroyed brit? (9)
23. Hawaiian greeting is a cheap laugh? (5)
24. Lebanese city is source of cove? (6)
25. Lawyer is one who is turned? (8)
26. Nun is one who removes growths? (6)
27. Journeys on weirder oceans? (8)

DOWN!

1. Buggy ruins a melon (6)
2. Muscles recent in 26-Across (6)
3. French booking-taker for lake? (9)
4. Pseudonyms shake demon feathers? (3,2,7)
6. Titan in that Lassie film (5)
7. One who leaves the army and makes puddings? (8)
8. Spooner's survey spirit for marker of scoring area? (8)
11. 6 balls in singlet, editor has committed too much (12)
15. Supreme leader? (5,4)
16. Bacteria audibly amplify gowns (8)
17. Awful spy finds life force in Caesium frauds (8)
19. Couch love in attack (6)
20. Agree with crime author Dorothy, we hear? (3,3)
22. Severe pick-up truck following air-conditioning (5)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



By Mike Asthma

PSEUDOKU

						6	2	3
4								9
2								
					5	8	3	
		8			4			6
		5	2	6				
	4	2				7		
			3					
5			6	8				4

RATING: SHE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT SHE'S GOT IT WHERE IT COUNTS, KID.

COMIC

BY ALESSANDRO TUNIZ

EVERY SKETCH YOU WILL EVER SEE (PART 1)



TARGET

n	d	o
w	o	k
c	n	k

nice _____ 10!

aw yeah _____ 20!!

DON'T JUST ADD AN 'S' →
You LAZY SOD

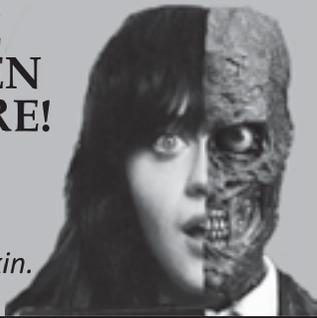
no longer impressed _____ 30!!!



The Garter Press



AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE!



We took away her skin.

MR BURNS ON TV FOR SOME REASON



"Excellent."

GIANT DEFEATED



Magically imprisoned in this paper.

NEWS HAPPENS

"I WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE THE MATRIX," CLAIMS REBEKAH BROOKS

Joe Pantoliano

Cypher, Mr. Reagan, Traitor

The latest in the series of increasingly desperate fictions surrounding the phone-hacking conspiracy has emerged from an entirely expected source; Rebekah Brooks claims the *News of the World* practise of hacking the phones of public figures was an attempt to escape The Matrix. The Matrix, she says, cannot be explained, or heard or felt or seen.

"I can only show you the door," she told a jury on Tuesday. "You're the ones who have to walk through it."

Ms Brooks, who insists that she be referred to by the pseudonym of 'E-raser', was arrested on the 17th of July by the Metropolitan Police. A patrolman told the Garter Press that she had to be subdued following her attempts to use jiu-jitsu on the arresting officers. Ms Brooks sustained minor self-inflicted injuries.

After being incarcerated, the 43-year-old journalist refused to talk to detectives, saying only, "I want my phone call." Other requests, including a request for bail and for "guns... lots of guns," were denied.

Now facing several serious charges, Ms Brooks is claiming that the phone hacks she sanctioned were part of a search to escape the all-encompassing false reality that clouds our senses. She says that people still inside this reality are too obsessed with day-to-day minutiae, such as following the personal



Brooks, pictured with her lawyer Agent Brown, of Smith, Jones and Brown

lives of celebrities and politicians they will never meet in the very tabloids she used to purvey. She then ruminated on the strange irony of her metaphysical identity, boring several interviewing officers into a coma. The officers will be sorely missed by their families - though Brooks now disputes the existence of said families.

Brooks will also plead neither guilty

nor not guilty. Instead, she insists that her flagrant violations of the law and her journalistic ethics are no longer applicable to a being who has transcended. "Do not try to bend the truth — that's impossible. Instead, only try to realize the truth: there is no truth."

This makes no sense, although it may yet hold up in court.

TOUR DE FRANCE SUDDENLY EXISTS, IS INTERESTING

Sarah Aras

Reporter, Friend.

After years of presumably boring endurance cycling the Tour De France has shocked Australia by becoming the most difficult race in modern sport overnight, apropos of nothing transforming into a feat of superhuman endurance, heart and grit from its humble beginnings as a means to spread men across the effeminate French countryside. The Tour de France (English meaning unknown) apparently takes place every year in the country of France, Australia was surprised to hear, and incorporates teamwork, cycling, and countries from all over the world, including Australia itself.

Previously the exclusive domain of Australia's acquaintances and extended relatives, the Tour De France has inexplicably been catapulted in the zeitgeist (English meaning unknown) by Superfan Cadel Evans, The Garter Press assumes. The Canberra-based Evans (approximately 46) has found himself at the centre of the Tour's whirlwind publicity following his discovery of a yellow jersey that denotes either the winner of the tour or the most cowardly rider participating in the tour, newly-found experts say, but remains humble about his accomplishments.

"I didn't discover the tour," Evans said in an interview with The Garter Press on Tuesday, even though he probably did. What a guy.

HARRY POTTER 7.2 WAS NOT FAITHFUL TO THE BOOK THE ROAD BY CORMAC MCCARTHY

The Concept of Hubris

Abstract concept, philanthropist, dramaturge

Fans have been quick to express their outrage both in cinemas and online when it was revealed that the long awaited film *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part 2*, the final film in the Harry Potter franchise, was in no way faithful to the text of Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*.

Scores of disappointed fans left the midnight screening loudly complaining that the Harry Potter film's departure from McCarthy's post-apocalyptic text meant the costumes they had prepared to enjoy the screening seemed largely non-sensical.

"I spent hours at home making this costume from scratch," said disparaged fan Rose Murphies, "Do you know how hard it is to dress up as a desolate urban wasteland? Not to mention my friend Mary, who came as the intricately depicted psyche of a father

intimately aware of his own forthcoming mortality, who simply wishes to survive long enough to allow for his son to become self-sufficient in a harsh new world. She represented this with a couple of bits of felt and some crepe paper. But I guess that's all for nothing now."

Director David Yates admitted that some creative liberties were taken with McCarthy's original storyline.

"It was such a challenge trying to visualise the incredible landscape that McCarthy paints in *The Road*, so we decided to tell a story about a boy wizard instead."

The box office figures for the film fell sharply as news spread of the variations to the original text. Said one fan, "It's just disappointing. We've waited this long for

the magic to return, and by magic I mean harrowing tale of tedious repetition and abject horror."

McCarthy, who traditionally distances himself from film productions of his work, has criticised the creative choices of the director.

"At first I was open to reinterpretation, hoping to breathe new life into the text. However, I cannot comprehend the reasoning behind taking my metaphor of the long road to the ocean and subverting it to being about a particularly magical magic wand."

"Also, it completely ruined my costume. I looked like a complete fool, sitting in the theatre dressed as inevitability."

INSIDE

ROBOT SAVES LIFE OF HUMAN BEST FRIEND

Is melted down for spare parts

p. 4

HUMAN BEST FRIEND: "I LOVED THAT ROBOT."

Robot's remains unmoved by sentiment.

p. 4

CAN TOILET PAPER BE REGULAR PAPER?

You are our focus group.

p. 9

BOAT BOAT BOAT BOAT BOAT

More like float...no? Okay.

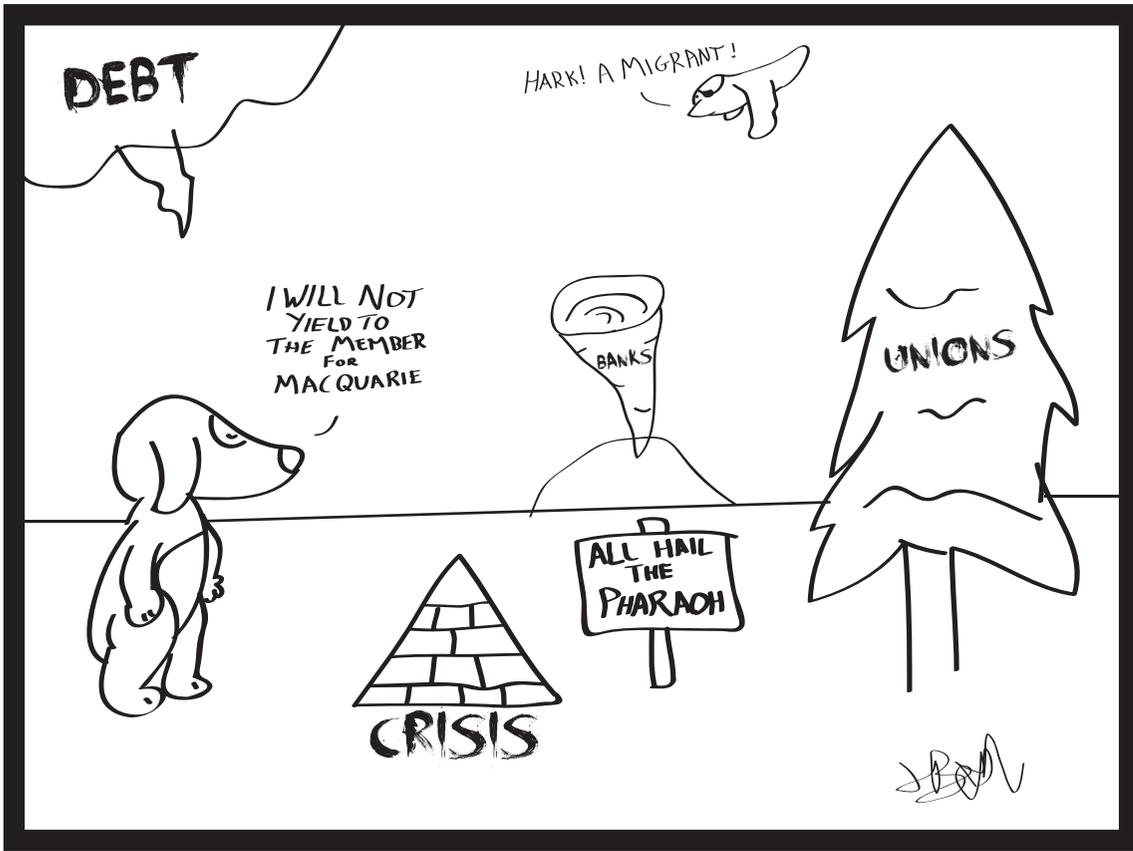
p. 21

FLUTE OR SEX TUBE?

Night janitor or genius?

not in the paper

EDITORIAL CARTOON



"Another victim of the carbon tax."



SOLUTIONS!

with Duane Telford

"Duane, my stove is malfunctioning. I'm reluctant to use it in case I start a fire. Can you recommend anyone to try and fix it? Yours, Catherine."

Catherine - I took a look at your stove while you were in the shower. You were right - it immediately started a fire in your kitchen. Fortunately I managed to put it out by flooding your house. Mixed results but I think you came out on top, so that'll be \$900. Duane.

"Duane, I'm in love with a girl but she's just come out of a long-term relationship and is sending me mixed signals. I think she really likes me but is afraid. Should I take the plunge? Desperate, Vernon."

Vernon - I just got back from your house. I went there to investigate your situation from an appropriate psychological context. While I was acquainting myself with your

personables, that girl you really like came around looking for you, so I told her to fuck off. I hope this helps! Duane.

"Duane, you've been working on my car now for several weeks. Is there any chance it will be ready in the near future? Sincerely, Joss Muller"

Joss - Now I know you paid me to work on your car, but, well, I really didn't feel like it and I spent that money on myself. So I'm going to need some more.

"Duane, I understand you're pretty handy with a screwdriver. Could you come over and fix my quad box? I think it's the soldering. Yours, Harry."

Harry - what am I, your servant? Duane.

SADNESS FACTORY CLOSES DOWN

Nash Bridges

Timelord. Regular Lord.

Citing economic down-turn and the advent of new media as a market competitor, the downtown sadness factory closed its doors this Thursday, leaving 14 workers out of the job and immediately halting the production of sadness in the greater-Sydney area.

The sadness factory, which had been steadily pumping gloom into the lives of everyday consumers for some forty years, had been reporting heavy losses for some time as the general public as one looked on the bright side of

life and began appreciating the little things that make it worth living.

"My problems haven't gone away," reports Mark Agden, 34. "I have just - I guess I've become okay with them. Some parts of life are hard. Really hard. That's okay, they're supposed to be hard. If that means that every so often a sadness factory has to close down then I guess that's progress."

The newly unemployed former workers at the sadness factory have responded to news of the foreclosure in a suprisingly upbeat manner, due to

the lack of available sadness.

"I'm just not able to feel sad about [the factory closing]," claims former floor worker Grace Black. "I'll probably get another job soon enough. Maybe I'll make balloons. I've always loved balloons."

Initial concerns that without a factory producing mass sadness, happiness would be worthless were quickly abated as residents realised that without sadness, there would be no sadness.

The closure of the sadness factory is just one of many occuring nationwide as environmentally aware community members take measures to make the switch to alternate emotion.

"It just makes sense for me and my family," says Mr. Agden. "Sadness won't last forever. It can't last forever. I'm going to have to try something else sooner or later, so why not now?"

Got the R18+ classification, but no R18+ games?

Get ready for the...

GARTER BOX 2000

SET PHASERS TO "RAUNCH!"

- Add sex appeal to previously unsexy games
- Supports upwards of 2 players
- Expansion pack *suggestive wink*
- Rumble pack *knowing nod*
- Pornographic rhyming dictionary
- Tube of tightly packed lunchmeats
- Fake eyelashes for lunchmeat tube
- Copy of *Sonic The Hedgehog* with Green Zone renamed to Erogenous Zone
- Cooling fan for genitals, dangerously hot Garter Box 2000

Pictured: sensual improvements to classic videogame character.



Pictured: gameplay of Goldeneye 64 enhanced by GarterBox 2000's sexy processors.



PERSONALS

SEEKING MAN: Looking for a 20-24 aged male Nickelback fan to engage in completely mutually satisfactory bukkake supernova. No time-wasters.

SEEKING WOMAN: Someone to help while away the cold morning hours in my crop duster, the colder midday hours in my Waterloo retreat, and the terrible evenings of wrath and vigour. As they say, the vigour they come, the harder they fall.

SEA KING MAN: I think his name was King Triton.

LEECHY SEEKS LEECH: To leech their own.

PS3 LOOKING FOR: Media Servers... Loading... Loading

FOR SALE

PENILESS ARCADE: It just wasn't an income stream.

MARRIAGES

MADAME LES DEVERAUX wed to Señor Compartimentos in the hope that their union will prevent war between France and Spain. At least, that's what they were told.

MR UNIVERSE weds Miss Universe. No one seems to mind that they're BROTHER AND SISTER.

MR JOHN HAPPY marries his high-school sweetheart. Ceremony interrupted by clown funeral.

DEATHS

OLD POPE: "Pope dead," says new Pope. "More like Pope Mortus!"

CLIVE ABRAHAM: Long-serving publican and beloved father. It's a pity he isn't a-Clive anymore, eh? Eh? Ahh I'll see you at the wake.

TEENY THE PREACHIN' LINGUINI: 1977 - 2011. Denounced as a false pasta. I'm here all week.

SERVICES

ALIMONY: Think your husband is cheating you? We'll recover ali yo mony.

WANTED

WANTED: Yellow and black fleshlights to complete 'Power Rangers: Night Ninjas' play set.

JUST AN ACTOR: Someone to perform this script with me: YOU: Will you marry me? ME: Yes, yes! Oh yes! This is so unexpected!

A NOTARY: Looking for a real notary to appear in something that, I assure you, is just a play.

A CATHEDRAL: Where I will be staging one of the greatest plays of this or indeed any age!

BIRTHS

BABIES: 131.4 million per year. Get em while they're hot!

COLUMN ∞

Continuing our discussion of films to do with golf, Marie Fongton of Haulkham Bills, submits "Golf on a Hot Tin Roof", and 'Golfipolli', both of which was only bettered by James E. Cardule's "The Boy With Shit For Brains".

Many of us have suffered the disappointment of having toast land butter-side down. But Kelly Donnogan from Zetland says she has solved the problem. "Since I glued all my furniture to the ceiling, my toast never lands on the floor. Luckily I can still see visitors the right way up, because I had a retina-rotation operation when I was nine." Sounds like things are looking up, Kelly!

"Has anyone," asks Penrith's Quentin Zion, "ever actually been to Marrickville? What happens there?" Frankly Quentin, we don't know and we don't want to know.

Our competition to find Australia's most symmetrical egg has still received no egg-ntries. Send in those eggs! Remember, the winner gets to keep ALL the eggs submitted. The eggs submitted. The eggs submitted. That'll certainly help you count all the eggs in your basket before they hatch!

The more scientifically inclined of you may be able to help Sue Sue-Sue from the Suez. She asks "Does a crumpled piece of paper take up less space than a flat piece of paper? If so, why is a printer jam a bad thing?" I don't know. Sue, but I sure wouldn't like it on my sandwiches.

"While using CityRail's," writes Peter Dish, "131500 website, I was told by their website to walk 100 metres in the opposite direction of my destination in order to get to a bus stop. What's up with that?" Ask Barry O'Farrell, Peter.

"If God wanted us to wear shoes, he would have given us socks as feet!" writes John Fenton. "That should shut these evolution-boys up, once and for all! We're wasting money!"

Do you want to write to Column Infinity? Please don't. Do not!

CARBON TAX: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

With a hot-button issue such as the Carbon Tax it's easy to get bogged down in facts from experts. So instead, we at The Garter Press will reaffirm your preconceived beliefs by publishing your poorly researched opinions as if they were newsworthy.



Not only will the Carbon Tax make my groceries more expensive, it will make my pets uglier!

Maria, Tamworth



Tax on Carbon? What's the real deal? Everyone knows that Carbon died out in the 70s. Like Punk.

Sarah, Nowra



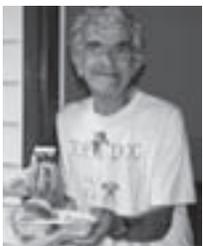
As a working single father, I'm worried that the Carbon Tax might be coming on to me.

Greg, Avoca



I'm opposed to all taxes for any reason. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to catch the bus to the hospital.

Peta, Lewisham



I support your tax but I still ain't convinced about this "climate" you keep yammering about.

Ol Joe, Maitland



Look, the day I accept a tax from a woman is the day that tax comes into effect.

Admutzik, Sutherland



If the Carbon Tax is introduced I will abuse my son. There, I said it.

Kevin, Hornsby



I don't think there is a single piece of scientific evidence that proves anything.

Mark, Thornleigh



Are you getting ready for festival season? Here's a word with Garter Press Cultural Correspondent, ZAKK DAVIDS.

of changes. My mullet has become a trendy haircut. My workboots have become Converse. My flannel has become fashionable all by itself, which is REALLY cool. And now I am a music fan. I haven't always been a music fan, and I don't really listen to music, but what I DO do is go to festivals. Aw yeah!

Me and my buddies go to big music festivals every year, go shirtless and take LOTS of pills. The pills make me happy, and angry, and sometimes I fight people smaller than me and touch girls in ways they don't like (at first). But they always come to like it as far as I can tell through the fog. I clog up portaloos, too! Sometimes I miss the toilet, but that's kinda funny.

People get paid to clean it up anyway, so yeah, I'm just doing my part for the economy.

What I'm saying is I'm not a bad guy. I just like having fun at the expense of other people. At festivals! The world is my playground! You will meet thousands of me at Splendour In The Grass. I will be watching Kanye West even though I yearn for the good old days where if a black man came up on a charge, he was convicted. So if you see me, don't be afraid to say "Leave my girlfriend alone". I look forward to meeting you and treading on you!

I've got something to say. You'll have to cross paths with me and people like me in the near future, so think of this as a public service.

I used to be a racist farm-hand but in the last few years I've made a lot

The Garter Press expresses condolences to the following

Julian Larnach, Michael Richardson, Thomas Hellier, Tom Walker, Laurence Rosier Staines, and James Colley

It must be hard being you.

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