

week six  
semester one  
2013

# toronto

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an inferior form  
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WHOSE INDIGENOUS  
FESTIVAL IS IT?



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## Allies and trolls

This week saw one of the SRC Indigenous Officers urge students to not attend the USU's Indigenous Festival because of inadequate consultation procedures. The Women's *Honi* page was trolled by people personally affronted by the Women's Collective's decision to make the edition autonomous. Meanwhile, the Sydney University Liberal Club declared comments that praised Indigenous success at the Logies to be "reverse racism".

On each occasion, those trying to claim ownership of their own stories struggled against groups falling somewhere on the spectrum between sincere good intentions and outright hostility. The first two cases also exemplify the tension between encouraging and involving potential allies, and maintaining your own leadership and integrity.

This isn't an Indigenous issue of *Honi Soit*, for the obvious reason that

we would not be the best people to write it. Readers of *Honi* this year may have noticed that there has tended to be a lot of queer and women's content compared to mainstream newspapers, likely a reflection of the make up of our team. It's become very clear to us that it is far easier to publish issues that are close to you and your immediate circle of friends. Despite the obvious issues with the USU's Indigenous Festival, it has made us recognise how little Indigenous content we publish from week to week. If this is the last time we mention Indigenous issues, please send us your contributions or letters of complaint.

This week's edition also continues our investigation of the distribution of your SSAF payment by focussing on Sydney University Sport and Fitness' financial support of non-USYD students. Daniel Swain explores his personal relationship with Beyoncé, and Felix Donovan gives

us an idea of the kind of social media campaigns we can expect from politicians in the coming months. We're also showcasing local art, whether it be in Leichhardt, on campus, or as a form of protest outside the architecture building.

Hope you enjoy it!

**Nina Ubaldi**  
Editor-in-chief



WOULD YOU RATHER...

**HAVE SUCTION CUPS ON YOUR  
HANDS AND FEET?**

OR

**BE ABLE TO OPEN AND  
CLOSE DRAWERS WITH  
YOUR MIND?**

**FAQ:**

**Can I climb up walls with my  
suction cups?**

*Only glass ones, otherwise you'll ruin  
the paintwork.*

**How far away from a drawer can I be  
and still be able to open it?**

*Your powers are effective from up to three  
kilometres away. Any further than  
that and the drawers will just kinda wobble  
and twitch.*



## SOUND & FURY

### Somewhere Over the Rainbow

I'd just like to give a massive shout out this week to the NSW government, who of course this week got rid of that death-trap, rainbow crossing on Oxford St, claiming that it was a safety hazard because people might lie down on it to get photos. I for one, completely agree with this explanation, as I often find myself having to fight the urge not to toss myself onto the road all the time; and all those bright colours were just another needless distraction from this internalised struggle. This is the best public safety idea since they started writing 'contents may be hot' on the top of coffee cups (if they don't tell me then how should I know that my hot chocolate is hot!?). Even though people were lying on the crossing at Oxford St when it was blocked off, how are we then supposed to know that lying in the middle of traffic on a busy street is bad for your health? So thanks again NSW government for reminding us that no one is safe, not even from themselves... ever.

Stay safe and always be alert, you never know when you might do something stupid,

Jack Savage

Arts II

### BDS is BS

The SRC shamefully voted to support the decision of Professor Lynch to refuse to assist Israeli Professor David Avnon, citing that because Israel apparently commits war crimes, we should therefore cut ties to Israeli tertiary institutions and its individuals. I proudly voted against this appalling decision to use a broadbrush approach of assuming every Israeli is unworthy of cooperative engagement. Professor Avnon is not some neoconservative reveling in the blood of Palestinian children. Rather he's a notable liberal who since 2001 has supported the cultural integration and promotion of tolerance between Israeli Jews and Arabs in educational institutions. He was studying how a diverse multi-ethnic community such as Australia's studied civics, and asked for Australian academic assistance, which the 'heroic' Dr Lynch refused to him. Yet our 'progressive' SRC opposed cooperating with a noted progressive academic, working towards promoting social concord and peace in Israel, in studying ways of teaching civics in diverse and multicultural communities. Who is better positioned than Avnon to change Israeli society from within, and do the painstaking, indispensable work of convincing fellow citizens and policy-makers that Israeli Jews and Arabs learning with and from each other might actually be worthwhile?

Sam Murray

Arts/Law III

### Euthanising moral baggage

Dear *Honi*,

In future letters attempting to involve any kind of logical argument, Rowan Light ("In opposition to Euthanasia," Week 5 Sem 1) should learn to check his reductive and moralising baggage at the door.

Rowan, you've made a grave mistake in conflating two very disparate issues. Contrary to what you have unfortunately come to believe, there is indeed a difference between young people choosing to commit suicide, and people who look to euthanasia as a preferable alternative to the fixed inevitability of daily, incessant and prolonged suffering. Hasn't anyone told you that your average person suffering from depression isn't likely to be your average person suffering from locked-in syndrome or terminal illness?

There are situations where life is preferable over death, and there are situations where death is preferable over life. There is no universal mandate that life, however feeble and torturous, must be nurtured in the face of death and Mr Light certainly doesn't get to claim that with any objectivity on the basis of his own will for survival. All he has is the right to assert his narrow beliefs, just as the rational majority have the right to reject them and move on from stupidity. It's Darwinian, in a sense. What Rowan seems to be incapable of fathoming is that for some people, there are worse things than death. If he finds the fact that there are supposedly "tens of thousands of young people" struggling with despair a moral affront, then the pain of those in palliative care should probably garner an equally high Cause for Concern coefficient in his books.

Legalising euthanasia in NSW should be first and foremost a question of the legal implications for those who assist in voluntary euthanasia, and a weighing of its legality against potential exploitation and abuse. There is nothing under NSW legislation to prevent a right to refuse medical treatment where that treatment may be useless and may or may not evenuate in death. Bullshit semantics over what constitutes an 'active' and 'passive' death aside, voluntary euthanasia is a form of hastening and/or facilitating death in that situation. Should Rowan ever be in the last stages of an illness or disability, I'm not sure he would like to be told that "there's nothing to be done" if his treatment becomes redundant and it takes an agonising couple of days for his body to starve itself, while his family and friends sit around waiting for him to die. Which reminds me, Rowan, that you should check the definition of 'barbarity'. Sure death can be frightening, but it's not as frightening as the assertions in your ill-thought out letter.

Taking comfort in the imminent extinction of your beliefs,

Connie Ye

Arts/Law IV

### Proud overseas volunteer

I spent two months over the summer volunteering in Ghana, and by the end I had become quite cynical about the potential for the West and Western people to bring about positive change in Africa. However it is quite telling of the glib and occasionally spiteful tone of Ms Behrens' article that I now find myself defending the organisations and well-intentioned individuals behind youth volunteering.

My first problem lies with the implications that profit and personal enjoyment of volunteering activities are incompatible with their charitable nature. Do we ever frown upon doctors and well-paid teachers saying that they love their jobs because they're helping people? Is it unusual at all that egoist and humanitarian motives are intertwined in an economic system that distributes effective outcomes according to where the opportunities for profit-making lie? Humanitarians are being held up to unfair standards.

Much to her detriment, Ms Behrens was unnecessarily cherry-picking and generalising. Whilst such exploitative (with reference to the exploitation of both the volunteers, and recipients of the development initiatives) programs do exist, it is simply not true that all programs function to this nature. There was no concession in the article that positive initiatives existed; simply statistically unsubstantiated or anecdotal claims that volunteerism in and of itself was a self-serving and inutile process.

And here is where Ms Behrens well and truly overstates the perceived arrogance and patronisation in these organizations. Her own examples nitpicked examples from Kenya betray a general idea of Africa as a continent where local communities are pushovers to the demands of foreign NGOs and donors, unable to act as equal negotiating partners. When I was doing human rights projects in Ghana, not only were the locals very assertive about their demands but their cultural practices were impenetrable such that we had to constantly change our outlook and priorities in order to have a more productive relationship with them.

However, I wholeheartedly agree that maybe that in some cases resources may be better spent campaigning against the policies of the IMF and the World Bank. In fact, this was the exact perspective that I took towards the end of my volunteering stint, for many of the unsurpassable obstacles faced by volunteering organisations derive from the mistakes of such global organisations. However, I would not be anywhere near as informed in my criticisms if I had not worked there in the first place. The inequities of the power structures (economically and politically) are relatively widely understood and resented, albeit slow to change. Advocacy NGOs occupy an important position in attempting to alter such structures.

Edwin Montoya Zorrilla

Law V

### Roaming pickets fought for all students

Dear *Honi*,

Debate has raged about the student 'roaming pickets' that shut down lectures during the 48hr strike. I am one of the students who organised and participated in these pickets to compliment the NTEU and CPSU staff pickets at the campus entrances. The reason we did this is to prevent the complete trashing of staff rights and quality education. The University is determined to eliminate job security, let casualisation soar, stop academics combining teaching with research, and kick out the union.

Striking is the only way staff can force the University to take them seriously. We helped enforce the strike by shutting down three lectures and interrupting two others. And we had a ripple effect - on Wednesday Chemistry students received an email explaining, "due to the actions of the protestors in a couple of our lectures this morning, I am having to cancel tomorrow's (Wednesday's) CHEM1101 9am lecture...Lecture 11 will therefore run on Thursday."

This strike came seven months into deadlocked negotiations. But industrial action has finally forced some serious concessions from management, including letting the unions continue to represent staff in bargaining. While not good enough (casualisation still has not been dealt with) it was precisely the disruption of bringing the entire campus to a grinding halt that made the strike powerful. But everyone who went on strike sacrificed three days' pay for quality working conditions for all. I spoke to a casual tutor and single mother supporting two children giving up her entire week's pay to strike. So no, individual lecturers do not have the "right" to run their class. They will enjoy whatever benefits are won, but are making a mockery of those sacrifices by undermining the collective decision to strike. And they are unfairly forcing students to choose between supporting the strike and going to class.

Our tactic was not 'aggressive'. We did cause a ruckus, but we were armed only with passion, chants, leaflets and force of numbers. The real aggression came from management relying on riot police armed with lethal weaponry to drag us out and arrest six people. Unlike management, the police, or scab lecturers, we have the democratic mandate and we're fighting for the rights of all staff and students.

Erima Dall

Arts V

Anyone can write for *Honi Soit*!  
Email all letters and submissions to:  
editors@honisoit.com



# HONI NEWS



FREE

Week Six Edition

"AIN'T NOBODY GOT TIME FOR THAT."

## Indigenous students: don't go to Indigenous week

This year's Indigenous festival has been undermined by a lack of consultation with Indigenous students, reports **Madeleine King**

Sand paintings, art forums, markets, and a discussion of the Freedom Rides are just some of the events that will take place this week, as part of the University of Sydney Union's (USU) annual Indigenous Festival. They are the product of over half a year's planning by this year's directors, Elyse Johnson and Amie Liebowitz, and USU Programs Manager Mona Jindi. But after issues relating to consultation, the SRC Indigenous Officers have called for students not to take part in the festivities.

On the surface, the most controversial issue is that both Johnson and Liebowitz are not Indigenous. Applications opened in July last year and by November the two were notified that they'd been chosen as the Festival directors. Johnson, who majors in Indigenous Studies and topped the state in the subject during her HSC years, is not concerned about the issue.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity, being non-Indigenous – seeing as the university population is mainly non-Indigenous – to not only open up avenues for Indigenous people to be able to showcase and celebrate their culture, but also to provide events that engage with non-Indigenous students," she says.

In an email to *Honi Soit*, Jindi provided the selection criteria for the position, which were predominantly organisa-

tional qualities but included one mention of a "demonstrated interest in and knowledge of Indigenous affairs and issues." She says the advertised positions, sent out via *The BULL*, the USU website, Facebook, posters and word of mouth, was accompanied by the statement that "Indigenous applicants [are] strongly encouraged to apply for this role and all other roles at the USU."

Kyol Blakeney and Chloe Wighton, two of four SRC Indigenous Officers, say they and the Indigenous student community were not made aware the director positions were open. "There was always interest with us at the Koori Centre," says Blakeney, "but we were never given the opportunity to put our foot forward for those coordinator positions ... We didn't find out that it was happening until the last few weeks of semester [last year]."

Blakeney is quick to add that he has no problem with the Festival directors not being Indigenous, but that logistically it would have been easier to communicate and develop the program at the Koori Centre if they had been. "Once the directors found out [around January] that the Indigenous students weren't happy with how it all panned out," says Wighton, "they were really really helpful. Elyse and Amie, they asked lots of questions about what they could do,

how we [the Indigenous students] can be more involved now."

Johnson confirms that they have "been in consultation with a lot of Indigenous groups, as well as academic staff and research staff" to develop the program, including AIME, the Metropolitan Land Council Redfern, Gardeners Lodge Café, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Staff at the University of Sydney.

But it would appear too little, too late. When *Honi Soit* spoke to the SRC Officers on Thursday night last week, most – if not all – Indigenous volunteers had dropped out of the festival.

"It isn't so much a problem with the program of the events they have organised," explains Wighton, "because I think [the directors'] hearts are in the right spot...but it's sort of going over our heads and not involving us in a festival that represents us. We would have liked to be involved from the start."

The lack of consultation from the beginning has caused a chain reaction of gradual disengagement, Blakeney adds, which culminated last Wednesday in the incident that prompted Indigenous students to effectively boycott the Festival after a request from the Koori Centre to have a respected Aunty included as a speaker at the Opening Ceremony

was turned down. Allowing the Aunty to speak was a mark of cultural respect which, when not honoured, disappointed the Indigenous community.

"We warned them that we work together, and we warned them that if something like this happened without us being consulted, we'll stand by each other and all pull out together. And that's exactly what happened," says Blakeney. He believes the problem lies higher than Festival directors Johnson and Liebowitz.

"Now the University has to go through with an Indigenous Festival with barely any Indigenous involvement...that's going to be embarrassing. And that's sort of the point we wanted to make," he adds. Having brought the issue up with USU management, he says he has been reassured things will be done differently next year.

Wighton agrees that the Indigenous student community are "not going to just turn up and put on a show for everybody: we wanted to be involved, to have ownership and real input so that it is meaningful for us as well."

"It would [have been] a good time for us to celebrate as well."

@MaddyKing\_

## SRC backs Israel boycott

An SRC meeting failed to bring about world peace but succeeded in upsetting everybody in the room, writes **Max Chalmers**

The Students' Representative Council (SRC) has approved a motion to support the boycott of an Israeli University. Inspiring heated and at times deeply personal debate, the motion proposed that the SRC support Associate Professor Jake Lynch, an academic who refused to provide himself as a personal contact for the fellowship application of an Israeli academic from The Hebrew University (for the full motion, see page 17). Lynch's actions are part of the global 'Boycott Divestment and Sanctions' campaign (BDS), which aims to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and prevent Palestinians and Arabs within Israel facing persecution.

Those in favour argued that Technion University aided weapons manufactur-

ers in Israel and that a general boycott of the nation, as part of a global movement, would help resist the "apartheid" tendencies of the Israeli state. Those against countered that BDS was anti-Semitic and that relationships between universities fostered understanding – severing them would be counter-productive. They argued institutions such as Hebrew University and Technion in fact produce many of the Israeli academics who agitate within the country for the rights of Palestinians.

Both Palestinian and Jewish Councilors weighed-in on a debate that looked like it would devolve into an all-in shouting match. Chairing the meeting, SRC President David Pink was continually forced to discipline Councilors for

interrupting the speech of others. Unity (the Labor Right faction) member Patrick Massarani was twice cautioned and asked to leave the room by the President. "Call security, David," he responded, before reclaiming his seat.

The issue split Council down ideological lines and before long, each side was accusing the other of racism. With the left and the right sitting on opposite sides of the room and facing each other, the Professorial Board Room could have been confused with the angry cross benches of the Westminster Abbey, Capitol Hill, or even our own beloved Parliament House.

At the end of the debate Jewish Councilor Joel Einstein was seen embracing Palestinian proxy-Councilor

Fahad Ali. No peace in the Middle East, but at least no civil-war at USYD.

@maxchalmers90



President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas reacts to Patrick Massarani



# Largest beneficiary of SSAF gives **INVESTIGATION** scholarships to non-USYD students

Mariana Podesta-Diverio investigates SUSF's questionable use of student money

Sydney University Sports and Fitness (SUSF), the University's sporting programs organisation, has once again topped the list of Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) recipients this year, raking in an astounding \$3.4m. To put this into context, the University of Sydney Union (USU) received \$3.1m and the SRC received \$1.4m; the latter is a pittance considering the legal and support services the SRC gratuitously provides to undergraduates.

This starkly contrasts with the inaccessible fees for SUSF facilities, which includes the gymnasium/aquatic centre (upwards of \$700 for a yearly pass), SUSF-affiliated sports clubs and societies (which require SUSF membership to join), annual membership (\$55 per annum, which doesn't grant you access to the gym facilities), and 'Fitness Assessment and Exercise Programs' (\$100).

Yes, SUSF is the premier sporting body of the University and provides

a range of organised sports options for students who can afford the membership and/or gymnasium fees. So what's the problem? Essentially, USYD students are paying SSAF fees that are subsidising sports scholarships for non-USYD students. One of the managers of the Elite Athlete Program (EAP) estimated that approximately 15-20% of EAP scholarships were given to non-USYD students in the 2013 intake. In some cases, EAP scholarships include the funding of travel expenses for athletes and, along with training expenses, may clock in at around \$5000. An anonymous source told *Honi* that non-USYD recipients of SUSF scholarships may even compete against USYD athletes at the Australian University Games.

*Honi* made several further attempts to contact the three members of EAP management via phone and email but these were unsuccessful. SUSF's school holiday programs make somewhere

in the hundreds of thousands of dollars; *Honi* was denied access to specific information by one of the program's coordinators and couldn't get in touch with the marketing department, who we were told to contact. What is essentially compulsory taxation of the entire USYD student body is being funneled into financially supporting elite athletes who, ahem, don't even go here.

Here's the clincher: why does this happen? By investing in talented athletes from other universities who demonstrate exceptional potential, SUSF is securing competitors who may go on to represent the University of Sydney at a national and international level, thereby securing its reputation as a strong sporting university.

Does this make the expenditure on non-students, rather than our own classmates, justifiable? More to the point: at the very least, don't we have the right to know how our SSAF is being spent?

Annually, the Australian Government's full budget (i.e. how our taxes are spent by the government) is publicly released, therefore ensuring the population's knowledge of where tax dollars are going. *The Charter of Budget Honesty Act* (1998) means the government is, in this area, bound to transparency.

It would be reasonable to think that information regarding the distribution and usage of SSAF within student organisations should be made available to students, considering that millions of student dollars go towards funding SUSF. However, this doesn't seem to be the case. This level of opacity is unacceptable of any student organisation, but is particularly deplorable in the case of SUSF, whose high costs of participation already render it an inaccessible and unrealistic option for many USYD students.

@mapodi

## UNIGATE



### Pro-cuts candidate runs for Senate

A controversial candidate is making a bid to be one of the four academic staff representatives elected to the University Senate. Made up of 22 'fellows', the Senate dictates the shape and substance of University policy.

Professor Simon Chapman, who has served on the Senate twice before, will make a bid to serve a third term after he failed to gain re-election two years ago. In the coming weeks, academic staff will elect four fellows to represent them for the next two years.

But Chapman's candidacy hangs under the cloud of his public support for last year's attempted axing of 100 academic staff by the University. Chapman wrote an article for *The Australian* publicly supporting the Vice-Chancellor's changes and defending the controversial criteria used to determine which staff should be made redundant. When the *Gate* spoke to Chapman, he stood by this position. He said in his department, the School of Public Health, he personally knew of academics who were under-performing and deserved to be removed, saying many of these people regrettably survived last year's cuts. Asked whether he thought this position would hurt his support, Chapman responded that despite the rallies, many academics supported last year's staff reductions. We're a little skeptical.

While members of the Senate could not be drawn to comment directly on Professor Chapman's bid, at least two confirmed their support for the NTEU backed candidates. "I strongly support, and will campaign for, the election of the four academic staff candidates who have demonstrated that they are willing to support and advocate for the interests of ALL academic staff," one fellow wrote.

The *Gate* understands that this year the NTEU has endorsed Professor Marian Baird, Professor Christopher Murphy, Professor Robert Van Krieken, and Dr Gil Merom.

The University of Sydney Senate is an organisation whose power is rivalled only by its opacity. The *Gate* sent a representative to the last Senate meeting where they were allowed to sit in for five minutes of the five hour meeting.

### Time to outsource Liberal tweets?

Not content with the Alan Jones debacle, Sydney University Liberal Club (SULC) has again run into trouble with social media. A tweet by SULC that described the celebration of Indigenous presence on TV as "reverse racism" was denounced by many, including journalist and dreamboat Jeremy Fernandez, and renowned left-wing publication *The Daily Telegraph*. The club promptly issued an apology. When asked by the

*Gate* to identify the source of the Tweet, SULC President and former candidate for Grayndler, Alex Dore, said "As President of the club, it is important that I take responsibility for the Twitter feed...The person who wrote it is regretful of it." Yet the *Gate* can reveal that the April 7 tweet is not the club's first foray into racial politics / racism.

A tweet on February 4 announced that Indigenous crime rates were the actual problem behind Indigenous incarceration. Alex Dore admits that the Twitter feed is "something we need to better control into the future." The *Gate* agrees - it would be better to keep SULC members off the SULC account.

### Final USU candidates emerging

As the *Gate* goes to print, nominations for this year's Union Board candidates are closing. By the end of the week we'll know for sure, but until that time the *Gate* can confirm a couple more names.

Jeremy Elphick has been preselected by Sydney Labor Students (SLS). Elphick is SLS's first candidate to seek election since the group's defection from National Labor Students (NLS). He will draw on strong bases in Film-Soc and PolSoc. Elphick's campaign are claiming he will run with the slogan "Pelphick Thrust." We hope to see him gyrating during every lecture bash.



To be safe, just tweet about your cooking from now on - the SULC twitter account

Meanwhile, Eve Radunz has picked up NLS's nomination. Radunz's candidacy will act as a political barometer, indicating the strength of NLS post-split.

Adding to this, a real life, 'lower-case-i' independent has emerged. Jude Lawrence has approached senior Board Directors asking for advice on a potential run. If he were to take the dive, Lawrence would be entering a field that now boasts at least 10 competitors, several of whom have been on the scene for years and have accumulated a huge debt of political capital.

And as if the Machiavellian stage was not yet adequately adorned, the upcoming election will of course have the flow-on effect of determining the next USU President. Every year a fresh President is elected by the new Board, meaning current Directors often try to influence proceedings in a way favourable to their ambitions. Keep an eye on the candidates associated with Hannah Morris (Independent), John Harding-Easson (Unity), and Tom Raue (Grassroots), who are all vying for the Presidency. When you cast your vote, you may be unknowingly putting one of these three a step closer to realising their ambition.



# Celebrating the First Nations

Darren Lesaguis reports back on the indigenous Pow Wow movement in Canada

On one crisp Canadian afternoon, during my exchange semester at McMaster University, I found myself sitting amongst a large group of students and staff in the formation of a circle spanning the campus lawns. Some had started to sport goose-down jackets in anticipation of an oncoming autumn bite. Others settled for a more decorative use of feathered attire, with dazzling head and body pieces, accompanied by beaded shawls, and ribbon-adorned clothes. It was these people who we had all gathered to see.

A friend of mine, who I met in an Indigenous Studies class, invited me to attend what I would come to understand as a 'Pow Wow.' Emerging from the 1950's pan-indigenous Pow Wow movement wherein the Aboriginal people moved from reservations to cities,

a Pow Wow became a commemoration of the heritage of indigenous peoples. They would come from a variety of different tribes and joined with non-indigenous people to celebrate through music, dance, and food.



Run by the McMaster First Nations Students Association, this Pow Wow aimed to promote the local indigenous

community on campus. We truly joined in the celebration when we were encouraged to dance with the performers and share in complimentary traditional foods – which apparently is universal in its ability to suddenly attract hungry students. But though the free food brought people to attention, it was the dancers that held it. The physical prowess of a leaping and twirling Fancy Dancer in vibrant eagle feather regalia, or the Hoop Dancers' rhythmically intertwining limbs with countless hoops that represented various native animals.

Being a foreigner, I was completely enraptured by the spirit and spectacle of the occasion, though I was not one to limit my knowledge to public displays of celebration. There is much to the history of the indigenous population that remains raw in the Canadian psy-

che, from assimilation policies forcing native children into residential schools, to the manipulation of an *Indian Act* in order to expropriate indigenous reserve land. There is a history that is bloodied by colonial violence and oppression, hauntingly echoing much of the history of Indigenous Australians. The Pow Wow then becomes a force for indigenous solidarity. Through it they are able to reify the significance of their cultural heritage to themselves and others, despite the socioeconomic inequality and systemic racism still experienced by many people across Canada. This was captured in the Hand Drum song of a sole performer whose thrumming drum and voice resounded throughout the campus grounds:

"These words are my own. From my heart, they are my own."

## NEWS Droning on about animal welfare

Georgia Behrens explores the legal and ethical issues of using drone surveillance to defend animal rights

An animal welfare group's use of surveillance drones is set to pose an unprecedented challenge to Australian trespass and privacy laws.

Rights group Animal Liberation has recently announced that it will use an airborne surveillance drone to monitor farmers' treatment of their livestock.

Executive director Mark Pearson told the ABC that drones will facilitate the prosecution of crimes notoriously difficult to prove. "No feedlot in Australia has ever been prosecuted for exposing their animals to excessive heat or cold, but we know ... that this sort of thing happens all the time," he said.

According to Pearson, animal rights groups are currently unable to gather sufficient evidence to bring such cases to court. He said that guilty farmers do not allow groups such as Animal Liberation onto their properties, and that fearful employees are often unwilling to

testify in public. "So this is a very necessary instrument for us to legally obtain evidence that can be used in court."

Farmers, however, have threatened to legally contest this activity. NSW Farmers Association President Fiona Simpson has said that it represents an unnecessary invasion of privacy, while other farmers have expressed concern about trespass on their property.

University of Sydney Torts lecturer, Professor Barbara McDonald, said that any court case surrounding the use of surveillance drones would be virtually without legal precedent. "This technology is so new that it's difficult to know how a court would view the nature of such a device and its activities," she said.

Current legal statutes do not afford corporations – including farmers – a citizen's right to privacy.

Professor McDonald said this because they are not seen to be feeling entities.

"Privacy is about feelings, and whether or not someone will be embarrassed or upset by something about their lives becoming public. As corporations don't have feelings, they would have to prove that it was something inherently private, such as a confidential business deal, for it to be protected," she said.

According to McDonald, courts would be unlikely to view farming activities as worthy of legal protection. But she also said that, if farmers were able to prove that a drone had trespassed onto their land, any footage it had captured would not be able to be made public.

Farmers claiming a drone had committed trespass would have to prove that it had interfered with their use and enjoyment of the land. While airplanes and other high-flying devices are protected from legal action, drones – which reach maximum heights of 30m about ground – could be viewed as inappropriately intrusive.



"It's possible that that argument would be accepted by a court. But it would be difficult...the closest we've ever come in Australia to a situation like that was in 1927, when it was successfully argued that a man who had shot his neighbour's cat had committed trespass with the bullet he used," McDonald said.

"In my personal opinion, we really need to update our surveillance statutes to reflect the new forms of intrusion and surveillance that are appearing all the time. Whether that would, or should, stop Animal Liberation from using drones, I can't say, but I think that it's a cause of concern for everyone that our laws aren't equipped to deal with modern technology."

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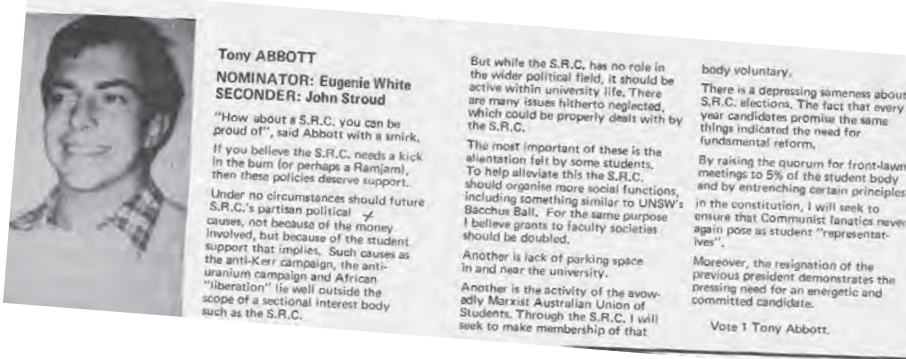
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On September 7th, 1977 the first meeting of the 50th S.U.S.R.C. met to decide and elect officers of the S.R.C., the Executive, and the Finance Committee. During the elections two women—one a representative, the other an undergraduate standing for an officer position had to endure the most degrading sexist comments and

actions I have yet heard of on this campus.

The first woman was confronted by [redacted], the Dentistry rep. who decided to "have a bit of fun", and exposed his genitalia to her as well as urinating against a tree. She was harassed and intimidated, all because Mr. [redacted] wanted some fun. The other woman, a representative, was also outside Council Chambers waiting

Due to possible defamation risks, the alleged tree-pisser's name has been blacked out (it wasn't Tony Abbott).

to make her election speech when Mr. [redacted] decided to have more fun. After harassing and intimidating her with such phrases as "fucking rag", he decided to re-enter Council Chambers to continue consuming his well stocked beer provisions.

Not only did he physically intimidate two women outside council chambers, but verbally intimidated women inside chambers as well.

I am disgusted and disturbed that Mr. [redacted], a person elected by Dentistry students, should stoop to such actions at a meeting of Council.

If this is the person that Dentistry students wanted as their representative, then I am left with no alternative but to move a motion at the next council meeting censuring and demanding disciplinary action against Mr. [redacted] by Council.

Barbara Ramjan,  
President,  
50th S.U.S.R.C.

## Politics Of Deceit

It was Goebbel's theory that if you say something often enough people will believe it, and certainly, the Nazis' branding of all opponents, communist or conservative, as "enemies of the fatherland" is echoed, not very surprisingly, by "Honi's" attacks on "enemies of student interests".

"Honi Soit" has been remarkable for its consistent and absolute disregard for the truth. Articles have been uniformly from the left while those few critical letters have been derisively titled or ridiculed in postscript.

But I refer particularly to the letters of Miss Ramjan and Miss Martin et al in the "Honi" of 13.9.77. Not only are the motives attributed to [redacted] and myself false and malicious but they are justified with "facts" that are bare faced lies or gross distortions.

I really don't think urinating against a tree is such a terrible crime. It was quite late at night, the nearest toilet was several hundred yards away and there was no one of delicate sensibilities about—or so it seemed. It seems strange that [redacted]'s actions should so offend those who now proclaim "Sexuality Week".

The woman passer-by referred to by Miss Ramjan must have been several yards away and [redacted], after all, was facing the tree. Her eyesight is exceptional! The claim that [redacted] "exposed his genitalia" is a deliberate lie.

Inside the meeting room [redacted] and other opponents of the left were subjected to continual abuse particularly from one Jenny Ryan who is not a member of Council but was allowed to rave in the foulest language without rebuke or caution from the chair. Her remarks to [redacted] were particularly insulting. Miss Ramjan's claim that [redacted] was drunkenly insulting women is malicious and untrue.

This sort of cheap smear has been a feature of this year's "Honi" and under normal circumstances would hardly merit a reply. But most people are incapable of a brazen and outright lie and accept most of what they read and hear as approximate truth—so some of the mud sticks.

The extreme left's constant exploitation of what they see as the "guiltability of the masses" is further evidence of their fundamental contempt for ordinary people.

yours sincerely,  
Tony Abbott.



# The struggle for Recognition

Rafi Alam reports on the movement to officially recognise the first people of Australia in the Constitution

Australia is unique in the post-colonial Western world for not acknowledging their indigenous population in their constitution. While the United States recognises the sovereignty of Native American tribes in trade and diplomacy, and the Canadians outline the various indigenous groups that lived and continue to live in the area, the extent of the Australian constitution and the Aboriginal people is, as of 1967, *no longer* denying them the right of citizenship.

The Recognise movement is attempting to redress this omission. A part of Reconciliation Australia, Recognise is a movement to include references to the first people of Australia – the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders – in the Constitution, and to remove existing discrimination.

Examples of discrimination in the Constitution outlined on their website (<http://www.recognise.org.au>) include:

- **Remove Section 25** – which says the States can ban people from voting based on their race;
- **Remove section 51(xxvi)** – which can be used to pass laws that discriminate against people based on their race.

On the other hand, the Recognise movement also wants to insert new clauses into the Constitution in order to protect Indigenous rights and preserve

the history of the first people:

- **Insert a new section 51A** - to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to preserve the Australian Government's ability to pass laws for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- **Insert a new section 116A**, banning racial discrimination by government; and
- **Insert a new section 127A**, recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were this country's first tongues, while confirming that English is Australia's national language.

One of the Sydney University Students' Representative Council's Indigenous Officers, Chloe Wighton, works for Recognise. She told *Honi* that:

"I did know about the recognition movement, but not how it affected me as an individual or as an Indigenous person ... It blew me away that these discriminatory sections still exist in a country as developed as this."

Chloe also noted that, despite bipartisan support, "It can't go ahead unless we have support across Australia and there are some parts of Australia that have more racial issues."

However, in a briefing from Recognise, it was noted that the movement is achieving many successes across Australia. 135 000 people have signed on

to the movement, and in 2013 77% of Australians support recognition in the Constitution, 15% more than in 2012.

Recognise doesn't propose an explicit position on Indigenous sovereignty or on a treaty, but assures people that Constitutional recognition does not negate either of the former proposals.

But the Recognise movement currently has a broader base than Indigenous sovereignty and a treaty, and this will be demonstrated in the Journey for Recognition at the end of May. Campaigners will walk and cycle across the whole of Australia in order to garner support for the movement. Considering the breadth of the movement right now, however, there's no doubt this will boost the movement's prominence and bring Australia one step closer to recognising the real history of this country.



## NEWS IN REVUE

Bro Reveleigh tramps the dirt down

A journalist I met in London town

Who wrote: In Grantham, near two tracks of steel,

A plaque is locked in brick. Its text is short:

An aptly modest monument of zeal.

All wrinkled sneers and cold dispassioned cheers,

Tell that her memory those passions read

Which yet do thrive, surviving in arrears

Of soldiers, strikes and cheaply buttered bread.

Respect the quiff of Britain's staunch dispatcher.

Respect those stinking trash heaps of despair.

Respect the Baroness' iron stature.

And on the plaque these golden words are there:

"My name is Margaret Thatcher, bairn-milk snatcher:

Look on my shop, ye Mighty, and forswear!"

## WINTER 2013 THE LADY RETURNS...

MERYL STREEP

JOSEPH GORDON LEVITT



EAT THE POOR

Cartoon: Bryant Apolonio



## NETIQUETTE

# The battleground of online opinion

Andrew Passarello has fought valorously in countless troll wars

We've all done it on occasion. You're halfway through a controversial opinion piece and you scroll down to see the comments. Perhaps you'll hop onto Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit and see what's being said about the latest news. Perhaps you'll even vote in a poll just to see the current results.

There's something about the raw, unfiltered flood of public sentiment that can cause your heart to race.

For years, websites providing product or service reviews have had to employ safeguards to stop companies or organisations submitting positive reviews about their own offerings, or negative reviews about their competitors.

TripAdvisor, Yelp and Urbanspoon all suffer from this. But have a read through the exclusively awful comments on the *Sydney Morning Herald* or ABC's *The Drum* and you'd be forgiven for thinking the major political parties are paying some of these virulent individuals to share their 'opinions' online.

That's because they probably are. It might not be as nefarious as a whole department of the Liberal or Labor parties being dedicated to posting comments and voting in online polls, but as simple as a parliamentary staffer unable to resist an opportunity to defend their boss in a comment thread.

Most recently, readers of the Australian 'sub-Reddit' discovered evidence of an astroturfing campaign by the Liberal Party on the website. Besides the vague sentiment amongst users that there had been an influx of recently created "right wing" leaning accounts on the site, it was evident that some of these accounts were run by the same people, all post-

ing the same Liberal Party talking points, while having the exact same professional background, age, and writing style.

Online polls in particular are troublesome because they can, at a glance, appear to indicate the general popular opinion on an issue or topic. But they are so vulnerable to manipulation that their results are indicative of nothing much at all:



It would appear that Australians aren't sure of much, or so it would seem if you only glanced over the numbers quickly.

When targeting the important young adult demographic, not only will traditional television and print advertising fail to be effective, but online advertising is often sabotaged by 'tech-head' users with 'Adblock' and other tools.

The only way political parties can get their message across is when people are simply not expecting it. Hence the online astroturfers, and the frequently rigged polls on popular news websites.

This is the new battleground of online opinion; it's going to get increasingly hysterical as the election year progresses.

# New mental health and awareness society

Lawrence Musklita has warm feet towards mental health

It's customary, when writing an article about mental health, to start by bombarding the reader with stats like 45% of Australians will suffer some sort of mental health difficulty within their lifetime or that only one third of these people choose to seek professional help. But that's a bit dull.

Everyone knows what a big (and growing) issue mental health is. The University knows, the SRC knows, the

USU knows, and you know. But why isn't more being done about it?

Sure, there are some solid services on campus (CAPS, headspace and the Psych Clinic) and certain individuals who've pushed for more vigorous mental health policy. But in terms of a concerted effort from students and student organisations, there hasn't been a lot of activity. Until recently.

Third-year social work student Mi-



these chicks don't even

know the name of my band

LOUISE MILLAR

**How long have you been playing music?** I dilly-dallied with piano and flute from a fairly young age, but got into playing guitar and singing about five years ago.

**How would you describe your sound?** Soul-ish, folk-ish, acoustic-ish. More 'ish' than anything else.

**Who/what influences you?** Artists of all forms whose work I respect or revere a little – from the people I have surrounding me, to people like Justin Vernon, Marina Abramovic, Michael Dransfield...

**What do you do outside of music?** The majority of my energy goes into writing. Ideally in five years time I'll be in the middle of a forest, getting by with music and poetry. I'm studying social work, so hopefully that will stay as a focus point too.

**If you could score a film, what would it be about?** A disorderly, endearing collective of kind ghosts.

[facebook.com/louisemmillar7](https://facebook.com/louisemmillar7)

[soundcloud.com/louisemmillar](https://soundcloud.com/louisemmillar)

# #froyolo

Alisha Aiken-Radburn uncovers the dark underbelly of the froyo industry

**Offence:** Employing King Street as a major trafficking route for frozen yoghurt and the intent to control King Street to streamline this distribution.

**Incident Report:** Students have been unable to travel up King Street without the threat of attack from an advertisement promising "FREE TOPPINGS!"

First Zwirl, then Mooberry, and two blocks later, Wowcow. With the recent opening of Yogurberry next to Dendy, it is clear the Big Four are taking steps to monopolise the strip with their yummy desserts and multitude of toppings. It is inevitable that frozen yoghurt will become to King Street what seedy clubs are to the Cross. Think of the first years!

The choice of cute, kitsch franchise names and bright, colourful signage is unmistakably a ploy to lure impressionable undergrads.

In their first year of business alone Wowcow recorded revenue in excess of \$700,000. This profit, however, has not been without victims. Jack Stephens, a

first-year Science student told *Honi* he has been forced to turn to government welfare to support his Yogurberry habit, "I kept piling on the Oreos and Gummi Bears and ... it turned out to be \$8-9 a hit. I'm struggling to pay my rent now."

Their cut-throat business tactics also extend to the treatment of their employees. A Mooberry casual described being significantly traumatised by their in-store policies, "They force me to encourage customers to 'check-in' on Facebook for complimentary toppings."

*Honi* is currently monitoring the potential for a turf war with Thai La-Ong and Thai La-Ong 2.



kaela Higgins is one of the founders of MAHSoc, a newly-formed Mental Awareness and Health Society. Describing her motivations for starting MAHSoc, she says, "I felt a lack of support for those struggling with mental health and I felt like I was in a position to do something about it, having battled through mental health issues and made it to the other side."

"The impact of mental health issues is enormous, and the stigma around it – even on a progressive campus like USYD – obstructs the recovery process."

MAHSoc's aims are two-fold. Firstly, to build awareness for mental health and remove the stigma around it by running

campaigns and lobbying campus organisations to do more. Secondly, to create a support network for people who are struggling. This means providing a safe, welcoming space for people to hang out and do something active each week, whether it's going to a comedy show, a cooking class, or ballroom dancing.

This isn't a replacement for professional help. In fact, the society sees itself as a portal to help and aims to encourage those who are seeking help by informing them on the services available and their options.

MAHSoc will start running events late this semester. If you're interested in being involved, email [mabsoc.sydneymail@gmail.com](mailto:mabsoc.sydneymail@gmail.com).



# Crazy in love

Who run the world? Beyonce does, according to **Daniel Swain**

My only problem with Beyoncé is I don't see any problems with Beyoncé. I lie when people ask me how often I listen to her music because the answer is "Beyoncé's music is always playing in my mind."



Cartoon: Mikaela Bartels

At parties I commandeer the playlist and cue her entire discography. People complain, naturally, but they just don't understand that there are no diminishing marginal returns to Beyoncé.

YouTube has finally given up on recommending me non-Beyoncé videos. I have actually paid real currency to see a Beyoncé-themed drag performance. Twice. I love Beyoncé so much I have listened to Michelle Williams's solo music out of solidarity. Twice. And I am the kind of cowardly dickhead that usually pretends to only like pop artists 'ironically' or 'for their genre.' But my feelings about Beyoncé aren't ironic or framed by condescension: I am Bey-sotted.

Friends are often surprised to discover my hysterical fandom only started recently. I always liked Destiny's Child as a kid and thought 'Crazy in Love' was a fabulous pop song but mere interest hardened into obsession when I heard 'Ring the Alarm.' From her 2006 album *B'Day*, the song is a desperate confrontation of an unfaithful lover; it's brilliant, under-appreciated, and totally strange.

I have never heard a pop singer sound so honestly enraged. In three and half minutes she covers at least a dozen different varieties of spousal anger: acrimony, fury, wrath, disappointment, contempt, spite, etcetera. Beyoncé actually shouts the chorus over sirens and distortive crackling. For someone who is no great acting talent (even I can't recommend watching *The Fighting Temptations*), her interpretation of an aggressive freak-out is calibrated, meaningful,

and affecting.

She loves vocal weirdness, and can grunt, groan, and growl across three octaves. Her moving ballad, '1+1' is punctuated by little whistle-pitched, cooee upticks at the end of every phrase. And it works.

The secret to her voice is her capacious lungs. Apparently, her crazy stage-dad made her sing while jogging when she was seven. What's a lost childhood when you can melisma while dancing difficult, energetic routines? It's what

"I love Beyoncé so much I have listened to Michelle Williams's solo music out of solidarity. Twice."

makes her vibrato so reliable and rich, and what allows her to sing with clarity at great speed. (She's surely got one of the best words-per-minute rates of any vocalist in show business.) It's why she doesn't edit her breathing out of her vocal tracks: no one breathes like Beyoncé.

But Beyoncé also understands that pop is about more than music. She can't sing as well as Mariah Carey or Adele. But she can dance. She can't dance as well as Usher but she has charm. She has the sexuality of Rhianna and the likability of Taylor Swift. And, as she consistently reminds us, she works hard.

She controls every detail of her output and views that control as a feminist statement. In some ways that's more important than her songs about girls running the world, or that she tours with an all-female band, or that she publicly talked about the importance of returning to work after having her daughter, Blue Ivy.

It is typical that one of the songs on her upcoming album is called *Grown Woman*. Maturity is an important theme for Beyoncé and for her, maturity means independence. She sacked her dad, the aforementioned crazy, as her manager two years ago. She stopped wearing the atrocious outfits designed by her doting mother several years before.

Some thought this autonomy was undermined when she named her recent tour 'Mrs. Carter' after her husband Jay Z's real surname. (I would have preferred 'Mrs. Z.') But this underestimates her capacity for irony and complexity. Her last album *4* is devoted to the problem of maintaining selfhood when you're in love. One of its best tracks, *Countdown*, is largely about the ecstasies of a lifelong commitment based on mutual respect but also features this cocky zinger: "Yep, I buy my own and if he deserve it, [I] buy his shit too."

This newfound marital bliss is part of the reason she recently came out for

marriage equality. And also because she has more gay fans than anal sex. (And also because she's not an idiot). In some ways it's odd that a straight-laced Christian from Texas would attract a gay following. Perhaps it's because in the Beyoncé oeuvre, pride isn't a sin. Queer musician Antony Hegarty's haunting orchestral cover of *Crazy in Love* proves that Beyoncé sings about romance and desire in ways that are universal and transposable.

With all of the adulation, there was bound to be dissent. She was rightly called-out for lip-synching at Obama's inauguration, and for her basically unwatchable, self-directed documentary, *Life is but a Dream*. Both criticisms, indeed most Beyoncé criticism, are about authenticity and credibility. She seems boring and contrived, lacking real emotional content. She gives pretty shallow interviews, and only ever talks about her life using guarded celebrity platitudes.

But these objections misunderstand her role. Beyoncé behaves more like a royal than a diva. She actually realises the figurative possibilities of that music journalism cliché: the Queen of Pop. She manages to be present and removed, to give us constant access but minimal con-



tact. No one that famous and exposed has ever been so stable. Other than the actual Queen.

Like Elizabeth II, Beyoncé projects sincerity and authority, confidence, character, ego and humility. In a recent promotional video entitled *Bow Down* she plays a postmodern mash-up of Marie Antoinette and Lewis Carroll's Queen of Hearts. Let those critics eat cake, the best interpreter of Beyoncé is Beyoncé.

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Felix Donovan explains how Obama's social

# winning hearts, 'lik

It's August 2012, and the Republicans are in Tampa, Florida. The bombastic Chris Christie spoke the night before; now Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan takes the stage. For 'Moderate Mitt' turned 'severely conservative' Romney, Ryan is important. He's the young ideological warrior to Romney's political weathervane. He appears before the packed stadium, thunders, "Mr Chairman, delegates, and fellow citizens, I accept the calling of my generation to give our children the America that was given to us."

In Virginia, the President is on his MacBook. He is sitting with Teddy Goff, the digital director of his campaign. Goff is explaining Reddit's 'Ask Me Anything' forum to him. It's a spontaneous question forum in which anything can be asked, Goff says. Users can submit questions, and they can vote for particular questions that they'd like to be answered. He warns the President: users punish question-dodging, self-promoting, or unauthentic answers. They reward the original, honest response rather than the prepared remark. This is not politics as usual.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah", says the President.

Goff is confused. "All right, you know how this works?"

"No. I have no idea."

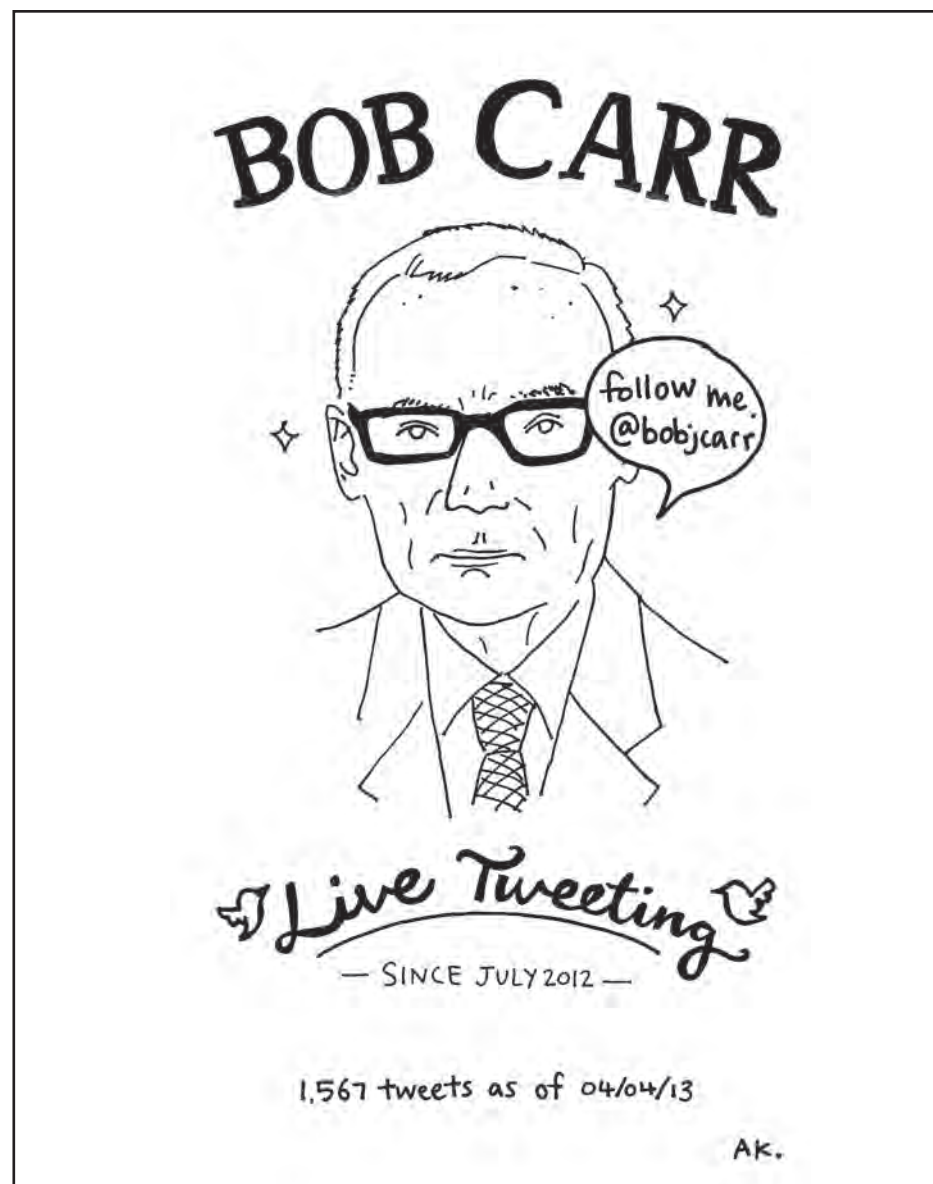
And he posts into Reddit, "Hey everybody - this is Barack."

Obama fields questions for forty-five minutes, on corruption and basketball and beer-brewing.

Within hours, over five million people have read the Reddit interview. The Democrats have thirty thousand newly registered voters. And on Twitter, it seemed the world had forgotten that Ryan was rabble-rousing in Florida.

\*\*\*

"A lot has changed since 2008," Teddy Goff told me and a small group of Australians, just weeks after the conclusion of the Obama campaign, and just hours after going shark diving. More people than ever are socialising and getting news online. There is a dramatic and well-documented shift towards people living their lives digitally. That includes accessing their politics digitally. Thirty five million people 'like' Obama's Facebook page. More people are seeing his



Cartoon: Andrew Kim

status updates than his television commercials or public addresses.

However, as Goff points out, "more has stayed the same." We are social animals, and digital media simply represents a new sphere in which we are building relationships and crafting identity. We still seek out entertainment and enjoyment. Obama's digital campaign, Goff explains, focused on giving people a 'good experience'. Facebook is not a lecture theatre; Twitter not a town hall. Different expectations govern these new digital political spaces. People don't want to be lectured they want to feel engaged – talked to, not at. And if they're not given a good experience, they can leave with the greatest ease, without appearing rude or blocking the view of the person seated in the row behind them.

Obama's Facebook page wasn't just a space to proselytise for the cause of liberalism, but a place that people wanted to be connected to. Obama's posts

were often Big Brother-style video perspectives from staffers and volunteers, or photos of campaign "moments". "Give people a good experience," says Goff, "and they'll come back."

Some continuities have gained new significance amidst dramatic changes. Money has flooded American politics, Goff observes, but the impact of that is not clear. What is apparent is that it advances the disillusionment felt by voters, and aggravates their distrust of Washington. In October, the average Ohioan saw over one hundred political advertisements on television each week. If they answered the phone, they knew it would be one of the campaigns or a pollster. So they don't pick up, they shut off to advertisements. The campaigns spent millions talking to voters who weren't listening.

The one source voters will always listen to, and always trust, is their friends. So Goff designed a tool that, if given permission, would access a person's

Facebook friends – and rank them in terms of political importance. It would use information provided by the electoral roll and the campaign's database – information about where a person lived and who they voted for and if they were registered and whether the campaign had contacted them before. Then it would ask the person to contact their twenty most politically important people, to tell them about a boy from Long Island who ran for public office in Chicago and now sleeps in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House.

\*\*\*

In an interview with *Slate*, Julia Gillard was asked which lessons she would take from the Obama campaign for the forthcoming Australian election. "The organisational techniques," she nominated, "like our political party's social media strategy."

The Labor Party is "new to the game", according to Gillard's digital organiser. "We are learning as we go," he says, "digital media has not been a campaign priority before." Labor will be running two digital campaigns this year: one out of the National Secretariat and one out of the Prime Minister's Office. The Secretariat's digital presence focuses on promoting the achievements and ongoing campaigns of the Party. Its online efforts are geared towards action: "join the fight," its website urges; donate whatever you can, its emails ask. Simple infographics showing strong economic performance have been designed and disseminated by the Secretariat team. The most successful example is a graph whose bars are national flags showing Australia's low debt-to-GDP ratio relative to other OECD nations. Teddy Goff says that a similar graph detailing America's improving employment numbers was published every month online, on each occasion reaching millions of people. Focus groups have suggested that the infographic persuaded thousands of voters that Obama was a good economic manager. Wayne Swan will hope the Secretariat's graphs can do what he has not.

The Office's digital campaign is more varied. Although its purpose is simply to promote the Prime Minister, there is no "unified strategy," its digital organiser says, "no single philosophy". But it is



cial media campaign has inspired Julia Gillard

# likes' and retweets



growing more sophisticated. Email subject lines are tested. In the Obama campaign, an email titled "Romney is going to outspend us," was five times more likely to be opened than an email titled, "Donate to the Obama campaign." Demographic groups are targeted. Parents are more likely to be on Facebook in the mid-morning than at any other time of day, so family-related messages are posted then.

On a more philosophical level, the Office makes a sharper distinction between Twitter and Facebook than Teddy Goff did. Comparatively, Twitter is "not a great tool", Gillard's digital organiser says. On Facebook, posts are shared, they get 'liked' and go viral, they reach friends of Gillard's 'friends'. However, when Gillard posts something on Twitter, only the Press Gallery and politicians are listening. Goff thinks there was some value in that. Influencing journalists and thus the news agenda is important for a campaign. For Goff, Twitter's function is complementary to that of Facebook, serving to generate positive media that is later disseminated by political supporters.

Of course, there are limits to an Australian appropriation of Goff's gospel. America has a distinct political culture, and what flourishes there may not find fertile soil here. There, individuals build their identities around being Red or Blue. They are not necessarily more politically informed, but they are certainly more politically impassioned. Two million people gathered outside the Lincoln Memorial to hear – and only hear, because the overwhelming majority of them couldn't see – Obama's first inaugural address. The key difference is the movement's "manpower", says Gillard's digital organiser, its "scale." But that's not quite it. It is more about engagement, enthusiasm, the willingness to 'like' a politician's status update, to share their photo, to talk to friends about their policies.

Politics is personal, now more than ever, and, as her digital organiser concedes, "Gillard is not Obama." The mass-based personal pull of Obama inspires historical hyperbole – Gillard fails to secure the loyalty of her own front bench. That enthusiasm gap is evident in the digital space. Australia's population is only fourteen times smaller than that of America, and yet Gillard's Face-

book audience is two hundred and thirty times smaller than Obama's. Goff could post an Obama quote on Facebook and watch as millions of Americans saw it within minutes. He could draw on a photograph archive stacked with images of Obama in the presence of adulating crowds and adoring children. The Office, although it is promoting a person, is not personality-focused. It can't be.

\*\*\*

It is fashionable to believe in a kind of Obama exceptionalism. To set him apart is easy; first African-American president, first to support gay marriage, more cerebral and more inspiring than any since John Kennedy, an almost preternaturally formidable campaigner, and, for the citizens of Utah, the first Muslim occupier of the Oval.

The Party and the Office don't want to believe it. To them, Obama may

have been the face of his digital campaign – an incomparable face admittedly – but the brain, the organs, the gristly bits – they can all be cloned. This optimism guides the Labor Party's digital strategy. It offers hope to a digital team who must sympathise with a ship fighting against the current.

But behind the green light at the end of the dock are the dark fields of the republic. And some things can only happen in the new world.

\*\*\*

In Tampa, the night after Ryan spoke, it is Romney's turn. This is his chance to change the conversation, to re-introduce himself to the electorate as someone other than a crazed capitalist – the Gatsby character that the Democrats had painted, and that he'd appeared to go out of his way to confirm.

Then his warm-up act, Clint Eastwood, begins to castigate a chair.

You've broken promises, he accuses. You've got to go, he says, drawing his finger across his neck.

Teddy Goff, watching Eastwood on television with a number of campaign staffers, reacts quickly. He knew this was an important moment, at once an opportunity and a threat. As the last three years had demonstrated, exaggerated or extreme opposition to the President wasn't always greeted as farce, wasn't always subject to the whiplash of rationality.

Goff finds a photo of the President's chair in the Situation Room. The photo shows Obama's head just above the back of the chair, and a placard on the back of chair engraved with the words, 'The President'. Goff tweets it, with the line, "This seat's taken." And that becomes the story. It is retweeted six hundred thousand times, is seen by tens of millions, becoming the most successful tweet of the campaign until the night of November 6 and 'Four More Years.'



Cartoon: Erin Rooney



# ARTS & CULTURE

## "SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE ABORIGINAL"

Subeta Vimalarajah reviews Boomalli Art Gallery's latest exhibition



Cover and image: 'Some of my best friends are Aboriginal', Bronwyn Bancroft  
Full page image: 'Possum Skin', Euphemia Boslock

It's sad that after years of art history at high school and university, my experience of Indigenous art has mostly been limited to what seemed to be a tokenistic choice for the decoration of parliament hallways and the tourist traps of Circular Quay.

Personal preamble aside, if any of that holds true to your perception of Indigenous art, Boomalli Art Gallery might just be worth a visit. That's not to say it will completely revolutionise your perspective on Indigenous art, but it'll definitely give you something to think about.

Boomalli Art Gallery is the exhibition space of the Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, a collection of artists who aim to redress social inequalities and provide a strong cultural voice within a contemporary Australian context. Beyond the well-constructed words of the exhibition catalogue, it's a group of passionate artists working towards a common goal.

What differentiated the Boomalli gallery from my prior engagement with

Indigenous art was its diversity. Walking through, it was as if the works knew about my unjustified preconceptions of Indigenous art and were acting purposefully to subvert them. The homage to more traditional Indigenous aesthetic styles was complemented by pieces incorporating found objects, and was laced with irony.

The best example of this was probably Bronwyn Bancroft's 'Some of my best friends are Aboriginal', a sculpture of a laconic Bondi Rescue-esque Australian male tattooed with tacky butterflies, a cross around his neck, and a singlet with the Aboriginal flag. At first, an image of multicultural Australia, but upon further contemplation, a mockable character that hit too close to home. That is, the Australian who claims to understand Indigenous issues through appeal to a few stereotypes, but flees at the opportunity to engage meaningfully.

Another personal favourite was Nicole Monk's 'Deconstruction of my stolen past'. Perhaps less direct in its

political message, this installation of flashing red lights and rustic wood was the first to catch my eye in the gallery and left me, as good art often will, still completely lost as to its specific meaning.

To be fair, these works were the minority; the larger part of the exhibition was made up of more conventional canvas and drawing works. The beauty of these pieces was found by viewing the exhibition as a whole – a divergent range of perspectives all advocating a common goal, seeking political change through the potential power of artistic expression and in the process, challenging monolithic conceptions of Indigenous art and culture.

It's a shame this exhibition only ran for a short time, but the Co-operative is definitely one to watch.

*The Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative are based in Leichhardt and host regular exhibitions. For more information, visit [www.boomalli.com.au](http://www.boomalli.com.au)*



# A different kind of protest

ARCHITECTURE

Nina Ubaldi gets to know rebellion, architecture-style

Three hundred beer bottles hanging outside architecture's Wilkinson Building are designed to look like molotov cocktails. Stuffed with scraps of newspaper, the bottles contain messages written by staff and students opposing recent changes to the architecture degree. Students have

been particularly vocal about changes to studio, the main creative design unit, which has had contact hours drastically cut. Furthermore, assurances made at the end of last year by faculty executives that major changes to the degree would not be made without consultation have allegedly been neglected.

Organiser of 'Design, Construct, Protest' and third year architecture student, Michael Baker, explains the significance of the installation, whose various elements occupy the area at the entrance to the Wilkinson Building: "It gives the general public something physical to react to and is interesting and engag-

ing". The protest also included a soap box and a temporary bar. Michael believes that it is natural that architecture students would take a different approach to the concept of protest: "It's not your typical strike. That's not really relevant anymore. We're no longer students, we're consumers." Clandestinely building an architecture installation is a "fundamentally constructive act", says the group's manifesto. "Lots of effective movements are about claiming ownership of a space," says Michael, citing the Occupy movement as a particular inspiration. The manifesto also cheerily includes the statement "we believe that manifestos are a good way to get people's attention". While there's been no official faculty response as of yet, it seems like this protest might be too.

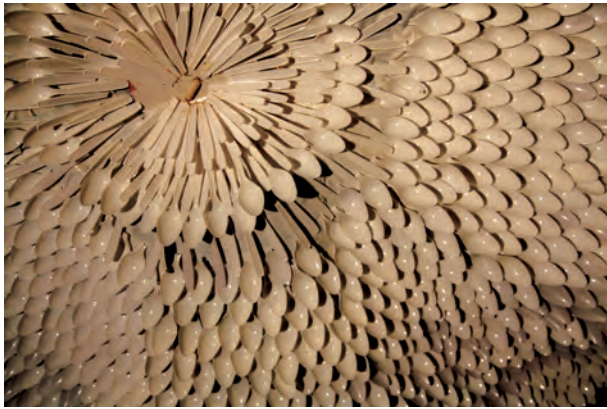


Photo: Victoria Baldwin



Photo: Victoria Baldwin



Photos: Michael Baker

## EXHIBITION

# SCA heads to Verge for the Indigenous Festival

Fiona James wants you to know that the Indigenous Festival isn't just for the main campus



"What price progress",  
Cecil Bowden,  
acrylic on canvas

When asked to help curate an exhibition for this year's Indigenous Festival, my first impulse was to overthink it. I wanted to try and sketch a mental map of the issues in contemporary Aboriginal art to make sure we were being precise and relevant.

Of course, one of the first things we realised was that in this arena, definitions are limiting and insufficient at best. In fact, to be political we were going to have to remain without agenda, to let the work speak we were going to have to listen, and to learn something we were certainly not going to theme the show ourselves.

The exhibition title, *Working Title*, is precisely about this process. Letting go of a fixed endpoint and speaking to artistic landscapes and cultural identities as ever-changing works in progress.

It was developed in conversation with the participating artists. For us, collabora-

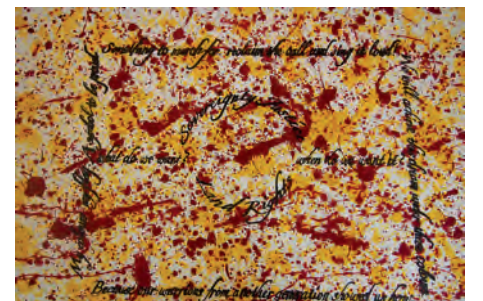
tion was an important thematic concern. It seemed pretty clear that the show was about participating in, and representing this dialogue.

The show features new collaborative works developed in partnership between students from Eora College and Sydney College of the Arts. It's been great working with Eora College and really exciting to see students from a diversity of cultural backgrounds, experiences and artistic disciplines sit down together to find a shared expression.

Hopefully the process of collaboration has been worthwhile in and of itself. The artists present us with a momentary expression of this process, representing just one moment in a trajectory of further and ongoing cultural dialogues.

*Intersections: Aboriginal Art in the Contemporary*, a Panel Discussion featuring The Blak Douglas (aka Adam Hill), Janelle Gay

*Evans & Matt Poll. Wednesday 17 April 12 – 1pm, at Sydney College of the Arts Auditorium, Rozelle Campus, Balmain Rd. Rozelle. No RSVP required*



'My colours', Lorna Munro, acrylic on canvas

*'Working Title' New Collaborative Works between Eora College & SCA. Opening night & Welcome to Country ceremony 18 Thursday April 6 - 8pm. Open 18 April - 3 May, at Verge Gallery, University of Sydney, Jane Foss Russell Plaza, City Rd, Darlingtown*



# "LET'S DO THIS!" **PROFILE**

Lane Sainity has a laugh with a word-Smith

The first thing I notice about DeAnne Smith is that she is small. She's waiting just inside the entrance to her stand up comedy show at the Factory Theatre in Marrickville, and greeting people as they come through the door. Her outfit combines a black button up shirt, green tie, jeans and hipster glasses; she's petite, boyish, and by all accounts, pretty damn cute. I am particularly interested to see her show because approximately two weeks earlier, I interviewed DeAnne over the phone, in the midst of her performances at the Adelaide Fringe.

DeAnne is American, lives in Montreal, and is on tour for about six months of every year. When she's not touring, she's living and breathing comedy. "I'm just always performing stand up. Performing and writing stand up is all I do, really." She laughs that she was "pretty old!" when she started doing comedy at age 28.

And life before then? Another laugh. "Bummed around, man." After graduating university, DeAnne lived in Baltimore, working as an editor and a street outreach counselor. Then she moved to Mexico. "That was when I was really bumming around. I learned Spanish and was teaching English and those days I was writing and publishing a lot of poetry." A move to Canada came next, and DeAnne considered going back to university to study creative writing – but an open mic night got in the way.

"There was just no turning back." She pauses. "The truth is I didn't have any direction or goals before stand up. Suddenly I was like 'Oh right! This is something worth dedicating my life to!' Before that I didn't really know."

Onstage, DeAnne's humour is self-deprecating and topical, with an evident love of the absurd (the only question on the FAQ page of her website is "Why are there no questions on your 'Frequently Asked Questions' page?").

She is wholly likeable, the kind of person you immediately want to be friends with.

She tells me that the name of her show comes from a friend who pointed out that one of DeAnne's unintentional catchphrases is "Let's do this!" The other? "It's all happening!" Despite the confident enthusiasm the title conveys, DeAnne says that she still can't quite say what 'Let's Do This' is all about: "I've just done the third show in Adelaide and I'm still kind of figuring out what it's all about. We don't really go on a journey... we just tell jokes and have a good time." So there's no theme, no common thread at all? "I always leave that to reviewers and stuff to decide what the overall theme of the show is."

I am not, strictly speaking, a reviewer, but still: challenge accepted. The first theme I pick out of 'Let's Do This' is DeAnne's self-proclaimed social awkwardness. At the Factory Theatre, we're five minutes in when DeAnne confesses that she's a shy, insecure person. She says that people think it's weird that she's insecure, considering she, you know, gets up on stage to tell jokes for a living. But her explanation is simple, and surprisingly convincing: "I'm equally uncomfortable everywhere!" In DeAnne's world, being on stage talking is no less awkward than having a conversation one on one.

There's also a definite, if not overt, focus on topical social issues. The most excruciating part of the show is when she asks the audience to clap and cheer for a man who 'had never raped anybody', while playing the song 'Celebration' by Kool & The Gang and throwing confetti. Obviously, it was meant as a mockery—DeAnne is a self-proclaimed feminist—but it seems the 'rape jokes are never funny' mentality was pervasive among the (mostly female) audience; a number of people declined to participate.



I will show you fear in a handful of tinsel

DeAnne is also an out lesbian, and doesn't hesitate to joke about it. She muses on feeling conflicted as a feminist who regularly objectifies women, and at the end of the show reads out erotica, penned by herself, which portrays a sex scene in which two lesbians are continuously interrupted by cats, and eventually abandon sex altogether in favour of a trip to IKEA.

I ask her what it's like being a gay woman in the world of stand up comedy and she groans. "I don't know. I don't know what it is to be anything else!" Fair point. "I will tell you there is a disproportionate amount of lesbians in stand up. I'm not sure what that's all about." Does she see herself as a role model? "Ah, no."

For someone so shy, DeAnne sure does a lot of interacting with her audience. In 'Let's Do This', she crowd-surfed and got the entire room up slow dancing to a Phil Collins song. It's one of these moments of interaction that she picks as her "recent best moment" (she tells me she can't possibly pick an overall one). During a stand up set in Montreal, DeAnne convinced 15 out

of the 50 audience members to take off their pants. "After a while we all forgot that they had their pants off, and it wasn't until the end of the set when I looked out and I saw these adorable, vulnerable naked little legs and I was like 'Oh my gosh, that just happened!'"

When quizzed on the bad aspects of stand up, DeAnne struggles. She mentions that the travel can be tiring, but immediately retracts, saying, "I'm not complaining— that's just both sides of the coin." Finally: "It's like if you asked somebody what the worst quality of their child is. You'd be like 'Yeah, they have some bad qualities...but they're awesome!'"

It's obvious just how much DeAnne loves her job. One of her initial thoughts on doing stand up was that it'd be easier to get up and talk about funny things instead of writing them into articles, which she was doing at the time. She was wrong. "I discovered it's not at all easier. But it is a lot more fun."

@lanesainity





# Bitches and drag-queens: femininity and reality TV

The queen isn't dead, writes **Lucy Watson**

When Janis Ian tried to bring down Regina George in *Mean Girls*, she identified three main criteria of the mean girl: the “high-status man candy,” an “ignorant band of loyal followers,” and, of course, the “technically good physique.” It is through these sage words that we can best analyse the performance of femininity in the classics of reality TV. A type of performance where in order to be the best, you have to look the best, and hate the rest.

Like all brands of masculinity and femininity, the mean girl is a performance. Femininity, according to USYD gender studies lecturer Dr Jessica Cadwallader, is often thought of as “artificial in some way, but it's also supposedly something that women are predisposed to.”

“Reality television is all about the competition. So, I ask, who has the best make up? Who is the best mean girl? The models of *America's Next Top Model* (ANTM), or the drag queens of *RuPaul's Drag Race* (RPDR)? According to Cadwallader, both are a “deliberate artifice” of hyperbolic femininity, so there is certainly “some crossover,” making this competition all the more heated. To judge this battle, I'll use Janis' three criteria.

She describes a hierarchy of femininity, with girlishness at the top: “the tendency towards skirts...hairlessness on the body, long shiny hair, and a tendency toward makeup, an easy laugh, and a not too critical way of approaching the world.”

According to Cadwallader, femininity is a performance because “it involves the use of external technologies.” That is, the most feminine person needs a



razor, a hairdresser, makeup, and clothing before they can become their feminine self.

Reality television is all about the competition. So, I ask, who has the best make up? Who is the best mean girl? The models of *America's Next Top Model* (ANTM), or the drag queens of *RuPaul's Drag Race* (RPDR)? According to Cadwallader, both are a “deliberate artifice” of hyperbolic femininity, so there is certainly “some crossover,” making this competition all the more heated. To judge this battle, I'll use Janis' three criteria.

First: the candy. Mean girls love their men. The ‘pit crew’, RuPaul's minions, are always present on RPDR, scantily clad and fully stuffed (if you know what I mean), just waiting for the queens to show off their girlish flirting abilities.

And one need only watch the first Jamaica episode of ANTM cycle 19 to see girlish flirting in full force there. Kiara, the most athletic model – and therefore most masculine – overperforms this element of femininity by flirting excessively with the male models, causing her arch-enemy Kristin to become even meaner.

Next: the ignorant band of loyal followers, a.k.a the Army of Skanks. In cycle 19, “for the first time EVER!” one model was voted back by her fans on Facebook, and the models' social media score and feedback counted toward their final mark. The fans constantly propped up the most successful models: in their eyes, Laura and Leila could do no wrong.

Fans are less involved in RPDR, but armies of skanks are apparent no less.

high brow  
Low Brow

The queens form cliques, displaying what Cadwallader describes as “the intense intimacy of female friendships,” and the most successful girls always tend to be part of the clique: see the Heathers in season three, and RoLaskaTox of season five.

Lastly, the technically good physique, or “Hot Body.” This is absolutely essential. These shows are built around who has the best body. Models are winners if they are hot “H2T” (head to toe) models, who can “smize” (smile with your eyes) and “tooch” (stick your butt out) the best. In cycle 18, self-described “androgynous” model, AzMarie, refused to pad her bum and learn the art of the tooch with Tyra, and was sent home as a result.

Queens, however, are required to be more well-rounded, needing Charisma, Uniqueness, Nerve, and Talent (C.U.N.T) to win. Most of this is judged on how well they work the runway, their style, and how well they've constructed their lady-body through padding and shading. Queens are often either “fishy” (realistically feminine) or “camp” (over the top), but either way, it's all about the body.

Both the queens and the models are fixated on having the hottest body, the best friends, and the best flirting in order to be the meanest. It's almost too hard to judge who makes the best mean girl, though, to their credit, the queens do seem to have more C.U.N.T.

## GARDENER'S LODGE CAFÉ

Lucy Bradshaw has a coffee at the Lodge

With its opening late last year, the Gardener's Lodge Café made the history of Victoria Park come full circle. The mostly Aboriginal-owned café, housed in a disused sandstone gatekeeper's cottage on the edge of the Park, stands alongside a traditional waterhole used for gatherings by the Gadigal people.



Photo: Lucy Bradshaw

Add to this the café's spotlight on native produce, and it marks something of a return to the original use of the land.

Our native flora and fauna crop up throughout an otherwise standard café menu: think kangaroo pie with bush tomato sauce, buttermilk wattleseed pancakes, and “bush syrup” cordials made from native spearmint or dessert lime. The addition of alpine pepper lends gentle warmth to a small tower of sweet corn and zucchini fritters, while

a pineapple frappe gets a zesty kick from the addition of mintbush. The food is simple, the flavours clean and fresh, although unlike traditional bush tucker, it doesn't come cheap – most dishes cost between \$10-\$20, with juices hovering around the \$6 mark.

What makes this café so special, however, is its social purpose. Run by hospitality teacher Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo, an elder of the Gamilaroi people from northern NSW, the business is designed to give work experience to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from the nearly Yaama Dhiyaan Hospitality Training College. The staff are cor-

## INNER WEST SIDE STORY



Photo: Victoria Baldwin

respondingly helpful and enthusiastic, adding to the cheery feel of the place. The clientele seem to feel it too: the outdoor terrace, overlooking the duck ponds, is buzzing with a mix of merry old nannas dining out on Groupon vouchers and students scoffing Persian sour cherry bread over their readings.

If you're feeling like a solid feed, or fancy a wander through the park, the Gardener's Lodge Café makes for a peaceful place to stop off and sample some tucker.



# Hollywood Gangster films: a timeless genre

Max Weber wrote us an article we couldn't refuse

Of all the genres to enter into popular consciousness through Hollywood, the Gangster is easily the most pervasive. Where the once-ubiquitous Western retains relevance by casting itself back into history, the Gangster genre has, with each new generation, re-invented itself as a significant calibration of American-ness. From Frank Muni's 1931 *Scarface* exposing the underbelly of capitalism to James Gandolfini's psychoanalytic turn in *The Sopranos*, the key facet of keeping the Gangster film in the popular consciousness (or subconscious, in the case of Tony Soprano) has been its tapping into American ideals - the "American dream" - and the immigrant, the Other.

Chronologically the first of all the "dynastical" Gangster films, Scorsese's *Gangs of New York* (2002) deals with a steam-punk aestheticised 19th century New York, and the struggles of Irish immigrants to carve out their own identity in the formative metropolis.



*The Godfather*, 1972

The 'natives', led by an Oscar-winning Daniel Day-Lewis as Bill 'The Butcher', cast down the Irish gang of 'Priest' Vallon, portrayed by the very Irish Liam Neeson. Years pass as the Butcher consolidates his hold on the city, before 'Amsterdam' (Leonardo di Caprio), the son of Vallon, eventually claims revenge.

"[t]he Gangster genre has, with each new generation, re-invented itself as a significant calibration of American-ness."

Then there's Leone's *Once Upon a Time in America* (1984) which chronicles three decades in the lives of a group of Jewish immigrants (Jimmy Woods and the omnipresent Robert de Niro) as they rise through the criminal ranks over a sprawling four and a half hours. This is cinema of depth and magnitude; the characters develop relationships and decadal rivalries against the backdrop of Prohibition. The story is told largely through flashbacks, and much of the plot is left ambiguous. The cliché of New York being a character is evoked with glee by Leone; the growing pains of the city and its denizens being captured with a wide, contemplative lens. With the corruption of kids just out to make some money developing into a motif of avarice in the form of an extended parable, the tragedy of the Gangster - no clean endings - becomes inevitable.



*Scarface*, 1983

The defining films of the Gangster oeuvre, Coppola's *The Godfather Trilogy* (1972, 1974, 1990) comes next. Just as inclined to huge narrative scope as its genre siblings, the *Godfather* films fulfilled all the tropes, but did them better - betrayal, violence, creative assassinations, lilting violin. De Niro is brilliant, yet the true magnificence is Joe Cazale as the fragile, hubris-filled Fredo Corleone. The films marry a gothic aesthetic with a storyline that encompasses a dynasty, watches the tradition-laden Italian mafia 'virtues' sacrificed to expediency and greed and sealed the fable of the Gangster in the popular consciousness.

As much an exercise in the implicit pervasiveness of the Gangster in popular culture as anything else, Scorsese's *Goodfellas* (1990) makes a character study of an Irish kid's descent into the mob scene. Just witness Ray Liotta's Henry Hill proclaim, "as far back as I can remember,

I always wanted to be a gangster." The casting of Robert de Niro as kingpin and Joe Pesci as psychotic enforcer was by now obligatory. Forget *Sopranos* quoting *Godfather III* or the stylised vacuousness of Gangster Squad, *Goodfellas* is the original Gangster homage - with added 90's sleaze and cocaine residue, but the same inescapable trajectory of the outsider, from poverty to glory and back down.

At the crux of the Gangster film is this: the figure of the immigrant who pursues the wealth promised by the American dream. This can be charted throughout filmic configurations of history. For the iconic gangster film, the American dream is a monolith that demands a dynastical assault. They're an exercise in Empire-building that tells the simultaneous stories of America's relationship with her immigrants, the quest of the outsider to make his mark.

## Review of Reviewers

Nathan Olivieri thinks it's time to get meta, giving the top film critics a rating of their own

**Margaret Pomeranz** ★★★★★

Pomeranz's narrative follows the three-act structure beautifully, with each act contributing to a rich, fully realised characterisation. The opening sequence sees her as a young producer and screenwriter with ABC Rural Radio and SBS, before a feature television debut in 1986. Controversy abounded in 2003, with her commitment to character leading to her arrest for partaking in an illegal film screening, though her reputation held strong into the third act, where she cemented her presence as a staple of the Australian reviewing scene; a heartwarming end. Although audio quality can be a little gravelly at times, and costuming certainly frequents between misses and hits, Pomeranz earns plaudits for a strong will and determination, and commitment to integrity.

**David Stratton** ★★★★★

Ambiguity reigns supreme with this abstract enigma of the filmic world. Much like *Inception*, most have failed to crack to his core - in fact, many have been known to walk out - and analysts are still trying to decode the man. While many have posited the presence of a boom mic up his backside, outside impressions of the conservative, restrained exterior are misleading. Not quite the wet blanket he is often made out to be, Stratton is a kid at heart, and frequently cites *Singin' In The Rain* as his all-time favourite film. More so, he's coated nicely in sepia tones; there's a nostalgia embedded in his purist approach to cinema that never leaves. Though low on thrills and spills, and with notoriously slow pacing, there are often fiery bursts of action when he believes his beloved cinema isn't being done justice, hence his distaste for hand-held camerawork

and modern reboots of genre flicks. Stratton is chilli chocolate; a gooey centre with the ability to pack a punch.

**Marc Fennell** ★★★★★1/2

So damn likeable is your experience with 'That Movie Guy', you can't help but leave smiling. Special effects and tech-wizardry have been put to good use here, tapping into the digital market like no other. Editing is slick: the former *Hungry Beast* presenter condenses his reviews into neat two-minute audio packages, which he then streams on Triple J and to his 23,000 followers on Twitter. Fennell's also been put through the marketing machine, and picked his target market to perfection: he's the people's choice for Gen Y. With dialogue loose and often conceptual, he talks to you as if he was your best mate; renowned for his ad-libbing flair and comic relief amongst the seriousness, but never overacting. There is no

bullshit fluff, he drills straight to the point; a fast, no-nonsense reviewer.

**Roger Ebert** ★★★★★

A classic of the genre, Ebert was renowned for keeping things simple. Adopting a hedonistic style, he always judged films on personal enjoyment rather than pure artistic merit, and in an era of numerous star and dollar ratings systems, he narrowed the review down to a 'thumbs-up/thumbs-down' dichotomy. He was a man of first impressions, never compromising his initial reviewing and rarely refusing to reconsider, and it was interesting how prescient he was upon first assessment. Whilst you may not have agreed with him all of the time, you always respected the work he produced and how well he argued it. He was the ultimate crowd-pleaser; a populist, accessible reviewer that all could read.



Olivieri's review of reviews is truly the pinnacle of the genre- Eds. ★★★★★





The 10th April meeting of the 85th SRC voted to support the following sign on statement...

# Support Dr Jake Lynch's Academic Boycott of Israel and End Collaboration with the criminal Technion-Israel Institute of Technology

We the undersigned would like to express our support for Associate Professor Jake Lynch's recent refusal to assist Israeli academic Dan Avnon of Hebrew University. Lynch is director of the University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS). To accept Avnon's proposed fellowship between the institutions would have violated the CPACS's official commitment to the international Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign which includes a boycott of institutional links with Israeli universities.

BDS is not an "extreme" or "radical" policy as has been made out in The Australian's coverage of the boycott and university management's attempts to distance themselves from it. Israel is a state that systematically defies international law. It has occupied Palestinian territories in defiance of the UN Security Council for over 40 years, expanding illegal settlements. The International Court of Justice condemned Israel's apartheid wall in the West Bank as "illegal" in 2004 and a UN investigation of the 2009 Gaza war condemned Israel for "grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention" in targeting civilians. In November 2012 Israel's latest assault on Gaza, "Pillar of Cloud", killed 157 Palestinians including dozens of children. Israel's indiscriminate bombing of civilians was described as a "war crime" by Human Rights Watch and was immediately followed by Israel announcing plans to build 1500 new settlement homes on illegally occupied Palestinian land.

The Vice Chancellor Michael Spence argues that the Australian Government's diplomatic relations with Israel make the university boycott "inappropriate". However, it is the failure of such local and international foreign policy to seriously challenge Israel's disregard for international law that makes the BDS necessary. It is a non-violent and effective way to help end Israeli impunity and move towards the realisation of the Palestinians' rights. The target of the CPACS's boycott could not be more appropriate. The Hebrew University is clearly implicated in the illegal occupation with internationally recognised Palestinian land stolen for its Mount Scopus campus.

The CPAC's stance has made clear that the University of Sydney's institutional partnerships should not come at the expense of Palestinians' human rights. It is thus troubling to observe the strong relationship between the University of Sydney and the Technion- Israel Institute of Technology. The Technion, through its ties to arms manufacturing and development, is an Israeli university uniquely and directly implicated in war crimes. The Technion's research history includes the development of the remote control D9 bulldozer used to demolish Palestinian homes in violation of the Geneva Conventions and it has strong links to Elbit Systems - the company that produces technology for the apartheid wall declared illegal by the International Court of Justice.

## As such, we demand:

**i) That the University Senate, Senior Executive Group (SEG) and Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence immediately establish a policy to end all existing and further academic, research and student exchange relationships with the Technion.**

**ii) That the the University Senate, Senior Executive Group (SEG), Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence, Professor Bruce Robinson, Dean of Sydney Medical School and Professor Merrilyn Walton Associate Dean (International), Sydney Medical School and Director of the Office for Global Health immediately end the current partnership between the Technion and the University of Sydney Health Faculties.**

For more information, or to add your signature, please contact Ailin: [ailinnaderbegi1@hotmail.com](mailto:ailinnaderbegi1@hotmail.com) and/or

Adam: [aade5585@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:aade5585@uni.sydney.edu.au) on behalf of Students for Justice in Palestine (USyd)

Thanks for your support!

## SIGNATURES:

Student Representative Council (SRC), Sydney University

Sydney University Students for Justice in Palestine, University of Sydney

Antony Loewenstein, independent journalist and author

Mary Kostakidis, Convener of the Peace Prize jury and co-winner of the University of Sydney Alumni Award for Community Achievement

Jake Lynch, Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

Dr Nick Riemer, Senior Lecturer, English and Linguistics departments, University of Sydney

Dr Tim Anderson, Senior Lecturer in Political Economy, University of Sydney

Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees AM, Chair, Sydney Peace Foundation

Honorary Professor John Docker, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry

Frank Stilwell, Professor Emeritus in Political Economy, University of Sydney

Dr Evan Jones, Honorary Associate in Political Economy, University of Sydney

Dr Ken Macnab, President, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney

Cathy Peters, ex-councillor for Marrickville

Fiona Byrne, ex-mayor of Marrickville

University of Sydney Greens on Campus Society

Dr Michael Grewcock, Lecturer, University of New South Wales

Solidarity

Jocelyn Chey, Visiting Professor, School of Languages and Cultures

Dr Barbara Bloch, The Social Inquiry program, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, UTS

Fatima Elcheikh

Karel Solomon, Greens member

Dr Damien Cahill, Senior Lecturer, Political Economy, University of Sydney

New Yorkers Against the Cornell-Technion Partnership (NYACT)

Peter Slezak, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of New South Wales

Avigail Abarbanel, Editor of Beyond Tribal Loyalties and Psychotherapist



## President's Report

[president@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:president@src.usyd.edu.au)

David Pink talks federal politics

So I woke up yesterday to find out that the Education Minister had decided to strip \$2.3 billion out of higher education funding. Why has the government decided to initiate the single biggest cut to the university sector since 1996? To fund Gonski.

So basically the Federal government's response to a funding crisis in the public school system has just been to embiggen the funding crisis in the university system, by churning the money around.

The government will be making the following 'savings' from higher education:

- an 'efficiency dividend' of 2% for 2014 and 1.25 % for 2015 (\$900 million)
- the conversion of student start-up

scholarships to a HECS loan (\$1.2 billion)

- the removal of the 10% up-front payment HECS discount (\$228.5 million)

We support the changes to the HECS discount. This has been a glaring inequality for far too long, and for little purpose other than favouring the rich.

However, the other changes are a disgrace. In particular, it smacks of hypocrisy for a government which has deregulated student places - and thus decided to place thousands more students into universities - to simply pull out the money needed to maintain student support.

Fortunately, this is one issue where the university management are our

allies. And they've been quick to condemn the cuts.

According to the Chair of Universities Australia, Glyn Davis: "The cuts come on top of the \$1billion stripped out of the system less than 6 months ago through the mid-year economic and fiscal outlook process."

Their research shows that 87% of Australian parents support greater funding for universities. They value university just as much as primary and secondary schools. This is why the cuts just don't make sense: education at all levels is important, the government should be funding universities and schools equally, not playing divide and rule.

Our reaction will be fierce. Next Wednesday, on April 24th, we will be

having a day of action outside Fisher Library in protest commencing at 2 pm. I ask you to join us.



## General Secretary's Report

[general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au)

Dylan Parker: pinching from Peter to pay Paul

As General Secretary of the SRC and as a student I kind of have a responsibility to call it how I see it in terms of Higher Education.

This week, the Government announced a reduction in university funding by \$900 million, changes to Start Up Scholarships so that they are repaid once you earn a certain income, saving \$1.2 Billion, and removing the HECS 10% up front discount, saving \$230 million, as well as caps to tax deductions on self education expenses. These changes were announced to pay for the Gonski reforms.

While three of the four changes are by no means unpalatable, I was struck by the \$900 million dollar reduction in university funding. We shouldn't be pinching from Peter to pay Paul when it

comes to education funding.

As students, we all know that cuts are in the Liberal Party's DNA; Howard cut funding far more in 1996 and Abbott has already announced the return to Domestic Undergraduate Full Fee (DUFFs) places and slashing Start Up scholarships. It's also clear that the Greens, as a minor political party will never realistically be tested on their promises.

Look, I love Gonski. It's a once in a life time chance to reform school education funding so that all student's and especially the disadvantaged see funding go where its needed across public, independent, and Catholic schools. Australian primary and secondary education is chronically underfunded and we all know disadvantage actually takes root

much earlier in school education so that sadly, too often only the well-to-do get to step foot on USYD's sandstone.

I get that governing is about choices, often hard ones. However, higher education is a public good with a clear measured social benefit and just like school education it deserves to be better funded.

In 2013, for students the choice over higher education should be simple. Only one party removed domestic undergraduate full fee places, one party removed HECS concessions for the rich, one party lowered the age of independence, one party provided student organisations with a new revenue streams with the SSAF, one party tripled the tax free threshold so that many students will never have to file a tax return,



and only one party uncapped the number of places so that more students get the life-changing opportunity to study.

Sadly, I fear with this announcement a clear choice got harder to see. I love Gonski but we shouldn't be giving with one hand and taking with another.

## Education Officers' Report

[education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)

Casey Thompson writes about EduFactory

From Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, the Sydney University Students' Representative Council (SRC) will be holding the 2013 "EduFactory! - Disassembling the Neoliberal University" Conference. The conference organising collective, of which Tenaya and myself are part of, states that: "EduFactory! aims to bring together radical education activists from around the country for a weekend of political discussion, skill sharing, and debates on the future of national education activism. The objective of Edufactory 2012 was to challenge the able-bodied, gendered and racial nature of the educational institution; in 2013, the conference will use this starting point to branch out further into the realms of critical discussion. More than ever

before, Australian students require a national education activism network so that we can fight the neoliberal degree factory that is the modern tertiary institution. With the threat of an Abbott-headed Coalition government at the next federal election, deregulation, further staff and course cuts and the privatization of HECS are increasingly possible threats. The Australian radical left must continue to organize to defend affordable and high quality education and continue its fight towards a system of universal free education."

There will be over forty workshops run, including: 'Fighting sexism on campus - building feminism for today', 'A radical history of occupations', 'Lock the campus: extracting coal and gas from the university', 'A history of

the Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN) and the Australian National Union of Students (NUS)', 'The interaction of education and the state from feudal times to neoliberal capitalism', 'Invisible Identities: breaking the Heteronormative pedagogy', 'Freedom Rides', 'Why Capitalism has failed higher education. Tracing the steps of the neoliberal agenda from Whitlam to the Dawkins reforms/ Higher Education Contributions Scheme (HECS) to Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) to now', 'Eyewitnesses from the student struggle in Chile', 'Refugees, Border Security and White Australia', 'The use of police against student activism', 'Fuck the media: culture jamming and free media' and many more!



With the recent \$2.5 billion cut to tertiary education, it is more urgent than ever before that students unite to demand quality, well-funded, and free education. Come along to EduFactory on the 25-28<sup>th</sup> of April and join in the fight back to defend your education!



# Indigenous Officers' Report

[indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)

**Kyol Blakeney** lets us know how Sydney University has dealt with Indigenous issues

In 1965 this University made history by having Australia's first Aboriginal graduate, Uncle Charlie Perkins. Since then, there have been various points in the University's history which directly affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in mainly positive however sometimes negative ways.

Reflecting back over the past few years it seems to me like there is only attention on Indigenous peoples of the University when something controversial has taken place. Personally, I believe this is a problem. To put it bluntly; I don't like it when the only time there seems to be a presence or awareness of

Indigenous Australians here is from the result of a controversy or debate. The main reasons for such disagreements between the Aboriginal people and the University is because there always seems to be a lack of consultation for the Indigenous students with regards to Indigenous issues within the University, and the failure of the University to recognise our protocols.

What some people don't seem to understand is that we as Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders follow a process of doing things that we have learnt in our own communities and we still continue to do them today. It's a RESPECT

thing. There are certain ways of going about things and most of it relates to consultation of our community. There is never a decision made in our communities just by one person. Everything is considered and everyone is listened to respectfully. There is also the matter of protocol of who to talk with and the way they are spoken to or about. Again, it's a RESPECT thing.

To improve the University's understanding of our culture, protocol, and presence here, there are now four new Indigenous Officers of the SRC. These officers should be your point of contact for any Indigenous queries, needs,

etc. The Officers will then consult with the University's Indigenous community which will eliminate the breaking of any cultural rules or protocols and hopefully create a stronger presence and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the University, bringing understanding of each other's cultures to everybody.

The Indigenous Officers are: Kyol Blakeney, Chloe Wighton, Alicia Johnson, and Henrietta Stapleton. You can contact us at [indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au).

# Women Officers' Report

[usyd womens collective@gmail.com](mailto:usyd womens collective@gmail.com)

**Hannah Smith** talks about the importance of autonomy

I have a lot of people ask me why women's collective and the women's room are only for women. Often these people are supportive and enthusiastic men who describe themselves as feminists; sometimes they are women who believe their male feminist friend should be able to come to meetings with them.

Firstly, there is often some confusion about who the category of 'women' includes. Let me say that the women's room and women's collective are open to all those who identify as a woman or have lived experience as a woman. If that definition is still too vague, feel free to contact Emily or myself at any time.

Women's collective is only for women because it is autonomous. Autonomous (in this context) means decisions affecting women should be made exclusively by women. Throughout history, decisions that directly affect women have been made by men. Autonomy is a conscious effort to give women back the power to make decisions that affect

them. While men may care deeply about these issues, some issues will not affect them in ways that they would affect women.

Women's collective is also only for women because differing socialisations mean that some women can be hesitant to fully participate in political discussions. Women's collective allows women to come to a safe and respectful space and share their views, which can then be expressed collectively. This system takes the pressure off women, who would otherwise not participate in decision making processes at university (or anywhere). It is important to make sure that all women's voices are heard about issues that affect them, without making them engage in situations which make them feel vulnerable.

Another reason women's collective is autonomous is because a lot of the issues we discuss are highly sensitive. We may discuss reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, sexual assault and harass-

ment or gender based violence. Many women may have experienced these issues and often don't feel comfortable discussing them in front of men.

The women's room also serves as a space for mothers to come and breastfeed. Mothers are still subject to shaming from society for breastfeeding, and as a result may feel more comfortable breastfeeding in a quiet space that is guaranteed not to be judgemental. Further to that, since primary caring responsibilities still fall to women, it provides a safe room for mothers to spend time with and look after their babies or children if they need to take them to university.

Despite women's collective being autonomous, there are still ways men can participate in and positively contribute to women's activism and feminism. The USU Clubs and Societies program has a non-autonomous feminist society; the Women's collective regularly puts on non-autonomous events, or men



could simply take instruction from Kelly Temple (NUS UK): "Men who want to be feminists do not need to be given a space in feminism. They need to take the space they have in society & make it feminist."

As always, please get in contact with us at any time through our email [usyd-womenscollective@gmail.com](mailto:usyd-womenscollective@gmail.com) or visit women's collective on Wednesdays at 1pm in the Women's room!

# Disabilities Officers' Report

[disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)

**The Disabilities and Carers Collective** have a few exciting things on their agenda

## Student Carers

We've changed our name to the 'Disabilities and Carers Collective' to highlight the issue and campaign for the recognition of and support of hidden student carers on campus.

Student carers often have difficulty balancing their university, work and care commitments and are more likely to have low participation and success



in education and employment than non-carers. Currently at the University of Sydney there are no support mechanisms in place for student carers that acknowledge the need for study or assessment adjustments due to ongoing or increasing care commitments.

## Who are carers?

The term 'carer' refers to someone who provides unpaid, informal care for someone with a disability, an ongoing illness, mental illness, chronic condition or drug or alcohol condition. Tasks undertaken by Carers may include domestic activities, household management, financial and practical management, personal care and emotional support.

## Why are they hidden?

Carers remain a hidden group for a number of reasons, including not iden-

tifying as being a carer because they see what they do as a 'normal' part of the lives and shared relationship, or being reluctant to identify because of potential stigmas.

To collect data for the Student Carer Recognition and Rights campaign, we are asking students who identify as carers, or are unsure if they qualify, to complete a short survey at <http://qrs.ly/a13aqe9> or via the QR code shown.

## Mental Health

We will be running a mental health campaign later in the year focusing on awareness and the promotion of existing and new services available for affected, interested and supportive students.

## Redfern Station Access

The lack of disabled access to Redfern station will be targeted. As the closest

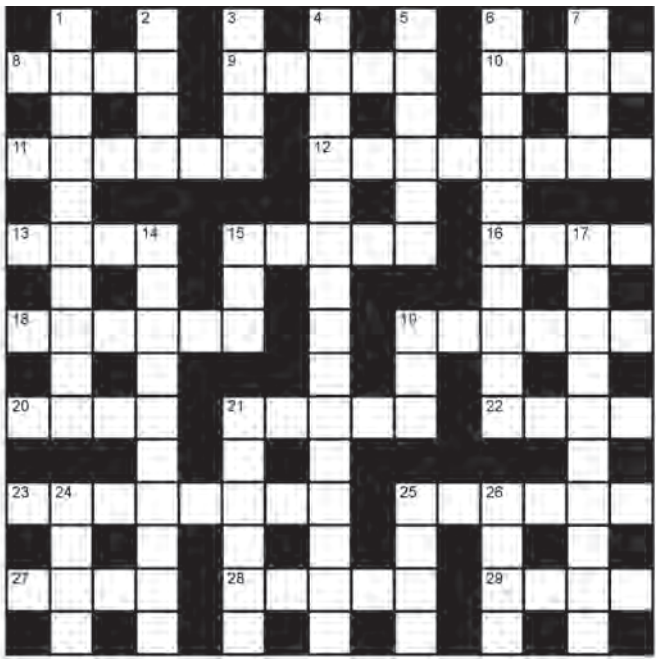
train station to Sydney University, we believe Redfern station should be accessible to everyone, including those with physical disabilities, parents with prams, the elderly and others wishing to access Redfern but unable to climb the station stairs.

We are growing and have developed an active Facebook page to improve our communication with members and related organizations. Search for us and 'like' our page to hear more about what exciting stuff we're up to, or for more information send us an email.





QUICK CROSSWORD



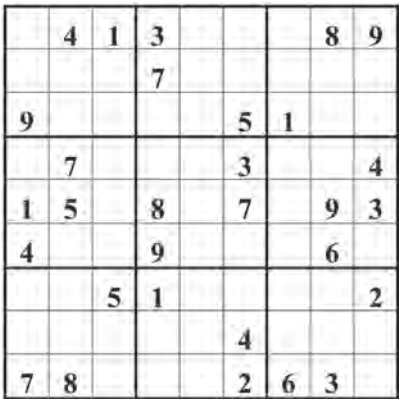
Zplig

ACROSS

- 8. "I used to be an adventurer like you but then I took an arrow in the \_\_\_\_" (4)
- 9. Setting of Gladiator (5)
- 10. Distinctive periods (4)
- 11. Lots (6)
- 12. David Armstrong is an \_\_\_\_\_ professor (8)
- 13. An earthen pot (4)
- 15. Extinct birds (5)
- 16. Soften (4)
- 18. In front (6)
- 19. Action video game series by Blizzard (6)
- 20. Carve in stone (4)
- 21. Précis (5)
- 22. Unit of pressure (4)
- 23. Legume use in hummus (8)
- 25. A distraught woman (6)
- 27. Winglike (4)
- 28. Illegal firing (5)
- 29. They may be split (4)

DOWN

- 1. Most sinful (10)
- 2. Triple Grammy winner in 1995 (4)
- 3. Barks snappishly (4)
- 4. Part of a complex sentence that cannot be complete alone (9,6)
- 5. Sign of affection (6)
- 6. A person that is entered in a record book (10)
- 7. Honolulu is found in here (4)
- 14. Archaic drug merchant (10)
- 15. Randomiser (3)
- 17. Progressively slower and often increasing in power. (10)
- 19. To lower and raise (3)
- 21. An episode that has been on before (6)
- 24. Fair share(possibly) (4)
- 25. A very short skirt (4)
- 26. President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other important people (4)



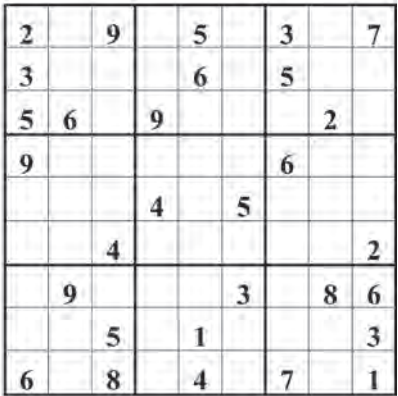
Easy



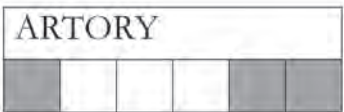
Hard



Hard



WHAM, BAM,  
ANAGRAM!



Use the shaded letters to answer the riddle

Q: What do you call a radical circle?

A: \_\_\_\_\_



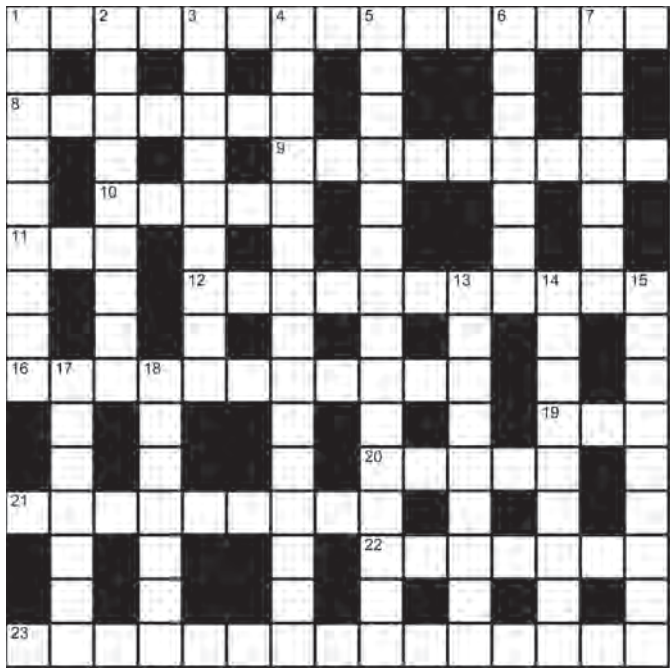
ACROSS

- 8. Break a small piece off in a backhanded spanking (4)
- 9. A froth of beer in anticipation? (5)
- 10. Dominates over the internet and comes clean (4)
- 11. An artist's total output is nothing when put next to Queer Revue (6)
- 12. Somewhat reversal set a losing-streak to become places apart (8)
- 13. Leave out Western Oman's technical university (4)
- 15. Dates of peoples deaths move around (excluding mid-March) (5)
- 16. A lower limit is heard to be an imperfection (4)
- 18. Two topless domes in forests, for example (6)
- 19. Living quarters in a workplace (6)
- 20. Therefore I think I am in-between? (4)
- 21. Myanmar rumba shuffle! (5)
- 22. Hydrogen gas is breathed by pili (4)
- 23. Prepared squid blew off a calm air (8)
- 25. A game of golf on all sides (6)
- 27. Is not 25-down strange? (4)
- 28. Heedless left-handed composition (without any middle) in C sharp (1,4)
- 29. Puts a conclusion to deaths (4)

DOWN

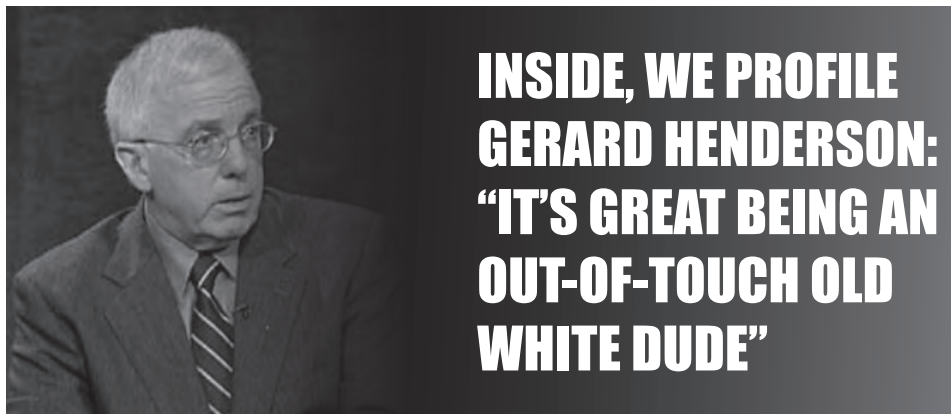
- 1. Leisure men change to become more improper (10)
- 2. British person living by their wits in India's pivotal section (4)
- 3. The old embrace a novice going to an Ivy League university (4)
- 4. Could it be the exotic treat is consumed if I decline awkwardly? (8,7)
- 5. Data disks concealing Mrs Cod (2-4)
- 6. The best possible hand to break a folly rush! (5,5)
- 7. The regular parts connected at a previous time (4)
- 14. The worldly possessions of a church is aptly met or destroyed (10)
- 15. Roman goddess of fertility's surgical operations (3)
- 17. Trouble spreads around a heartless fiction devotee (10)
- 19. Resort hotel in Sparta (3)
- 21. German statesman's trademark model car (6)
- 24. Yeah, right! Basify without yttrium or boron! (2,2)
- 25. Not in favour of 27-across being redesigned (4)
- 26. Crude cartel? (4)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



Zplig





**INSIDE, WE PROFILE  
GERARD HENDERSON:  
“IT’S GREAT BEING AN  
OUT-OF-TOUCH OLD  
WHITE DUDE”**



## **HOCKEY: LEFT IS EATING AWAY AT OUR SOCIETY**

There have been reports of cannibalism following the announcement of Labor’s new superannuation policy.

The new policy is set to tax superannuation earnings over \$100 000, which will affect up to 16 000 working families in Australia.

“In such tough economic times, it was a terrible idea to make the lives of the top 0.4% of retirees even harsher,” a spokesperson from the Institute of Public Affairs said.

“The elderly will now be forced to consume one another to survive.”

Shadow Treasurer Joe Hockey has warned the government that going ahead with their tax will mean an all-out civil war in retirement homes.

“This is the Carbon Tax 2.0 ... but this time we’ll see even more bodies on the street and even more flesh-eating aged folk. In such a precarious time, the elderly will have to tighten their

belts ... to make sure they’re not disrobed and consumed in their sleep.”

Although this policy will affect retirees, working families are anxious about their future.

“It’s tough enough to manage a house in the North Shore, a beach house, and an apartment in Belize, without having to worry about a tax on our superannuation,” Dorine Pauletta Abrams managed to tell us through tears and crumpets.

“I mean, the economy is just going to go downhill, and when it’s a choice between having living, breathing children, and having a 4k television, I really have to choose the option that’s most ready for the future,” pointing at Bobby, aged 15, and Jeanette, aged 8.

“And considering that free-to-air hasn’t begun to catch up to even 1080p HDTV yet, well, the choice is pretty simple.”

“We need to cut something – and I think it’ll be Bobby – into

thin slices which I can pan-fry, put on some crackers with a bit of rocket and sea salt, and serve for afternoon tea.”

In a surprise twist, the Greens have endorsed not only Labor’s policy, but the cannibalistic impact of the policy.

“Although one of our policy principles is ‘Universal human rights are fundamental and must be respected and protected in all countries and for all people,’ we also must consider the environment and the damaging impact human existence has on the environment,” Greens Leader Christine Milne told the press today. “As Australians, we have to fight for a fair go for all trees, rocks, brooks, creeks, fjords, and clouds.”

*The Soin* can also report that the phenomenon has extended to our politicians, with the Liberal Party front bench literally cannibalising itself over Labor’s National Broadband Network.

## **THATCHER CROSSES PICKET LINE AT PEARLY GATES**

Margaret Thatcher has violently barged through a picket line at the gates of heaven.

Residents of heaven voted unanimously to blockade the entrance to the Kingdom when they heard of Thatcher’s death.

The Holy Trinity is said to have long been uncomfortable with the prospect of the Baroness attaining salvation.

But it was a tip-off that Lady Thatcher intended to privatise the entire infrastructure of heaven that ultimately prompted the picket.

“She has no soul,” St Peter stated, when asked for comment.

“There’s not even a logical justification for her being here, let alone a moral one.”

Thatcher’s current whereabouts are unknown.



# STUDENT SOCIALIST GROUP HIRES PR MANAGER IN ATTEMPT TO REVAMP IMAGE

A prominent campus socialist group has undergone a radical re-branding ahead of the upcoming Union board election and revolution.

A spokesperson for the group told *The Soin* that it was important for student radicals to engage with their fellow students in terms they understand.

"We're 21st century socialists," the spokesperson said.

"People don't like rallies, speak-outs and sit-ins anymore, so we've decided that we'll be running a lot of our campaigns this year online."

"We've set up a Facebook page, a Twitter account, and we've already got a few change.org petitions going."

When *The Soin* questioned the logic of a Trotskyist organisation hiring a PR manager, we were first told to "shove it" and

then told that "revolutionary change can only be achieved if we harness consumer capitalism against itself."

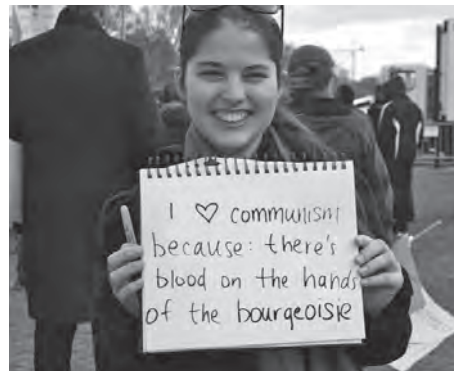
Despite its 'pivot' towards social media campaigns and clicktivism, the socialists still intend to run some on-the-ground campaigns.

Foremost is the so-called "I'm a Trotskyist because..." campaign.

The group will also be distributing wristbands, and intends to hold a bakesale later in the semester.

"There's some really exciting stuff in the pipeline, we're even trying to hook up a sponsorship deal with Mount Franklin," the spokesperson told us.

"We've changed our profile pics for the Union board election and everything, the bourgeoisie had better look out."



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



Dear *Soin*,

I'll crack a fat on your akubra by the time I can walk to Coober Pedy, you blowies and sheepshaggers; if you ever come round here mulga I'll job you in the gob so hard your clacker will root your Old Boy and mount a brown-eyed mullet in yer nosh. Fuckin' oath.

G'bye,  
Bob Katter

*What the fuck are you on about, mate?*  
-Eds

Dear *Soin*,

This is a notice requesting you cease and desist with this flagrant plagiarising of our masthead. We're already a joke, we don't need your help.

Regards, *The Sun*



DO YOU BELIEVE IN:  
A FREE PRESS?  
OPEN POLITICS?  
DIGITAL RIGHTS?  
NOT USING CONDOMS?

**THE WIKILEAKS  
PARTY OF AUSTRALIA  
WANTS YOU AS A MEMBER**

**TO JOIN SIMPLY SEND US:**  
YOUR NAME  
YOUR AGE  
YOUR ADDRESS  
YOUR TAX FILE NUMBER  
YOUR TAX FILINGS FOR THE LAST QUARTER  
YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER \*  
YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS  
THE PASSWORD FOR SAID EMAIL ADDRESS  
ANY TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS YOU HAVE LYING AROUND

C/O. MAN SITTING ON PARK BENCH,  
WEARING TRENCHCOAT, COUGH TWICE, VICTORIA.

\*VISA & MASTERCARD NOT ACCEPTED

## ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE!

### VICTORIAN SENATOR SPEAKS OUT: WOMEN NEED TO "GET BACK TO NURTURING SHIT"

The Victorian government's women's minister, Heidi Victoria, has this week made headlines after stating what we at *The Soin* already knew to be fact: gender equality is ridiculous, and those lefty feminists might as well give up now. Quotas don't take into account the merit and hard work of the world's leaders: men. Senator Victoria, of Victoria, is to be applauded for really knowing her place in the world.

*The Soin* can reveal this exclusive statement from Ms Victoria, revealing her true thoughts on the roles of women in Parliament:

"A lot of people kicked up a fuss this week after I stated the obvious: women are not suited to Parliament because we all like nurturing things too much. I know this from personal experience. In my life I have nurtured lots of things such as tomato plants, children, and really important and well-informed views

on women.

*I was a bit perturbed by all the hubbub surrounding my comments. I think some people misunderstood me, and others were (mysteriously) offended by what I said.*

*So I wish to clarify my remarks, wave away the hubbub, and hopefully then we can all just get back to nurturing shit.*

*When I said that women weren't suited to Parliament because it is demanding, and we are nurturers, I didn't mean that we shouldn't be there at all. There is definitely a place for women in Parliament – we can make snacks for the men, maybe whip up some of those cute little fruity drinks topped with colourful umbrellas, clap politely after a speech, or giggle coyly at jokes. We could even start a parliamentary crèche and have the best of both worlds, you know? Who says we can't have it all!"*



# Soi**nt**ertainment

WEEKLY

## Revealed: Logie winners as irrelevant as ever

... but the after party goes off!

The Logies: Australian television's night of nights – glamorous, action-packed and star-studded. Although scandal marred the event when all of the male guests arrived, dressed in nearly the same outfit (!), the evening was still a spectacular celebration of the best Australian television has to offer.

Logie winners include:

- Most forehead shown on a commercial station: Kochie from Channel Seven's *Sunrise*
- Show with least viewers: Channel Ten's *Breakfast*
- Host with most dedication to their program: Andy Muirhead and his "personal collection"
- Best show ever made (everyone says so): Channel Ten's *The Shire*



- Most convincing impression of the BBC: the ABC
- Most promising new female talent: Georgie Carter from St John's College
- Most thoroughly rejected male talent(s): Simon Crean and Kevin Rudd from The Australian Labor Party
- Talent most in need of serious dental work: the ABC's Jeremy Fernandez



Karl got really drunk at the Logies, again

## PHONE HACK OF THE WEEK

Uh oh! Which celebrity accidentally let slip that she's quitting the next series of Australia's favourite soap opera? *The Soin* 'heard from a source' close to Veronica Smitherington that she's currently suffering serious mental health problems. But to be quitting a show that good? That's crazy!

Fans that are worried about Veronica's health should send through their well-wishes to her on 0478 837 837, at home on 9846 2737, or at her mother's on 9798 3782. *The Soin* has also set up a special donation hotline to Veronica's favourite mental health charity.

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR WOMEN



DAKOTA'S FANNY  
OH, LOLITA!  
MARC JACOBS

How do you  
even say...

THE  
**Soin**

PAGE 24: MORE ADS!

PAGE 25: YOUR FREE  
GULLIBILITY TEST!





Join us at [RECOGNISE.org.au](https://RECOGNISE.org.au)



**"Recognition of the first peoples in the Constitution of a country starts to send a message that you are valued, you are important, that we want to respect you, and we want to deal with the things that have caused us division and discord in the past."**

**PATRICK DODSON, Co-Chair Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition**

**"Until that (constitutional recognition) is addressed, then we truly can't go forward as a people, as a nation, as Australians, as a whole."**

**ARCHIE ROACH, singer and songwriter**



**"A lot of Aboriginal people have missed out because they were excluded – they weren't included – in some parts of our history. How can you feel like a citizen if you are not written up in the Constitution as being here?"**

**SHIRLEY PEISLEY, 1967 Referendum campaigner**

**"As musicians, recognition from our peers is important to us. As Aboriginal Australians, recognition from our Constitution is even more important."**

**MANDAWUY YUNUPINGU, Yothu Yindi frontman**



Last month Parliament unanimously passed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act. We celebrate the wide support for it across the political parties. Now let's move towards a referendum to give the Australian people the chance to enshrine the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.



Join us at [RECOGNISE.org.au](https://RECOGNISE.org.au)