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semester one
2013

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LEST WE



FORGET



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Dare to dissent

After a week of intense media scrutiny, including an article in *The Guardian* - and of course, a full page news feature in last week's *Honi Soit* - the university has allowed the Dalai Lama to speak on campus in June. If nothing else, management's embarrassing backflip on the Dalai-drama spoke of a basic, but oft forgotten, truism: dissent matters. Whether it be against a university administration, or a national government, dissent in a public spotlight is a powerful vehicle for change.

This week, we review the NTEU's plans for further industrial action, examine student activism in its various forms, and profile erstwhile Freedom Rider and Greens lower house candidate Hall Greenland. Protest for better conditions at work. Protest for a fairer education system. Protest for the rights of Aboriginal people. It's

clear that protest provokes change.

In our feature, we look back on the invasion of Iraq, 10 years on, and the subsequent mass protest movement against the war. The great tragedy of the movement was that it failed to stop the war, just as, in the aftermath of Margaret Thatcher's death, we are reminded that the UK miners' strike failed to stop the closing of the country's coal mines, which destroyed the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Brits.

But dissent matters a great deal, for without it, the instruments of power in our society get away with whatever they please. The nature of our democracy is such that protest is often diluted by the petty squabbling of two-party politics and the influence of mass media. But genuine political action - the exposure of injustice in

the public sphere - whether it be by the media, or people on the streets, is immeasurably important. It may fail on occasion, as it did during the Iraq war. But we can't let that be a discouragement. May dissent never die.

Nick Rowbotham
Editor-in-chief



WOULD YOU RATHER...

**BE ATTACKED BY A CARNIVOROUS DAF-
FODIL GROWING IN A DARK ALLEY SOME-
WHERE IN THE DEPTHS OF COOMA?**

OR

**SHARE A BED WITH AN AMOROUS HIP-
POPOTAMUS WHO REALLY WANTS TO
SNUGGLE?**

FAQ:

How amorous are we talking?

Rip-roaringly. It's been a long time between rolls in the mud for this hippo. After all, the savannah can be a pretty lonely place when you are 400 kilograms and looking for love...

Personality wise, what is this hippopotamus like?

He's a pretty hippo-hop-and-happenin' kinda guy. One could even say his personality really pachyderms a punch.

Editor-in-chief: Nick Rowbotham

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Puzzles:

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SOUND & FURY

A matter of neurochemistry

Dear Editors,

Thank you to Ben Brooks for his article, *Silent Sexuality* (Week 7). Brooks' work exemplified the standards of investigative journalism that student writers should aspire to in writing for *Honi*.

However, I would like to question Brooks' assertion that, "Sufferers of paraphilia still exercise choice in inflicting their fantasies on others...". Knowing little of the complexity of neuroscience, I would nevertheless like to suggest that in the brains of offenders the chemical properties that would normally inhibit anti-social behaviour are overwhelmed by those chemicals which are themselves causing pedophilic impulses; thus diminishing their personal agency.

Neurophilosopher Dr Patricia Churchland sights a case in which a man was almost convicted of molesting his step-daughter, prior to the discovery and removal of a tumor from his brain. After the removal of this tumor the symptoms of sexual deviance vanished. Six months later these symptoms returned, along with the tumor. Needless to say, the tumor was again removed, the symptoms again disappeared, and the man was found not guilty.

Understandably, we intuitively wish to hold perpetrators (pedophiles or otherwise) accountable for their crimes. But perhaps science will show us that such a desire may be unfounded and, in cases of pedophilia and other crimes, unjust.

I am seeking neither to excuse sexual abuse, nor to attack the notions of criminal responsibility or free agency. I write only to invite Mr Brooks (or anybody else!) to clarify and support his assertion that these pedophiles retain agency over their actions. It was an important article, and I wholeheartedly support his conclusion that we should "facilitate the emergence of support networks" for these people. Perhaps the first step to building these networks is understanding that, not only are these sufferers not

responsible for their impulses, they also possess a diminished responsibility over their actions...

Nathaniel Pemberton,
Arts III

What happened to Indigenous autonomy?

Dear *Honi*,

Unfortunately Amelie Vanderstock's highly defamatory and totally unsubstantiated claim that the WA government is corrupt wasn't the only bald-faced lie in her article (*Community Campaign to Save the Kimberley*).

Amelie, the Kimberley Land Corporation isn't some sinister developer, it's the legal entity that represents the traditional owners of the affected land. They didn't just approve the Browse natural gas project by their usual channels, but submitted it to a ballot of every affected traditional owner. More than 60% of them voted for the development. I'd say those traditional owners know a damn sight more about where their songlines and sacred burial sites are than you do – in fact, it seems like your activists friends are only really in favour of Indigenous

autonomy when it suits them.

Why did those traditional owners vote so overwhelmingly in favour of the proposed development? Maybe it has something to do with the fact that natural gas is about twice as carbon-efficient as coal and has the potential to be an excellent transitional power source. (That's from the EPA, by the way. I tend to research my claims rather than just making up corruption scandals.) Or maybe it had something to do with the fact that many of those Kimberley communities live in abject poverty. Maybe it's because the Browse LNG project had committed to paying the traditional owner corporation millions of dollars for the right to use their land, and more than \$70 million more for social development in the region. Maybe it's because the same paternalism you advocate for has comprehensively failed the people of the Kimberley, and the real job opportunities presented by this project – which, by the way, had Indigenous employment quotas – had the potential to change all that. Either way, these "community campaigners", most of whom had no particular connection to the actual Indigenous community, denied the traditional owners of the land the choice to escape cycles of poverty, and had the gall to claim that it was all for their own good.

It's really really easy for inner-city trendies like your professional protestor friends to tell Indigenous Australians what's good for them. Hopefully the rest of the country won't follow you in repeating the paternalistic policies of the past.

Harry Stratton
Arts/Law II

A Good letter

Dear Editors,

I just wanted to write to commend you on lifting the standard of *Honi Soit* considerably this year. While in the past we'd come to expect weaker rip-offs of opinion pieces on issues covered in the mainstream media, this year has offered a refreshing focus on campus life.

In particular, your investigations into the allocation of SSAF funding to SUSF scholarships for non- Sydney University students and on the University's handling of the Dalai Lama visit were essential reading for all students. It's articles like these that inform students of what is actually happening within the University and help us keep management to account.

Additionally, opinion pieces like Angus Reoch's on the link between the Dalai Lama visit and the corporatisation of universities, which contextualise what is happening at Usyd with broader trends, offer all of us deeper insights into the connection between political decisions and the effects that we experience.

Please keep up this focus on Sydney University and continue to examine the issues not dealt with anywhere else in the media.

Regards,
Laura Good
Arts (Hons) IV

We love letters,
keep them
coming!

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



University backflips on Dalai Lama visit

Lucia Osborne-Crowley reports on the University's sudden change of heart

The University of Sydney's management have come under fierce attack over the past week after an announcement that the University decided to cancel an on-campus appearance of the Dalai Lama that had been planned for mid-June. The cancellation, presumed to be



Photo: Vi Phat

a strategic response to pressure from the Chinese government, has also received a substantial amount of attention in the Australian and international media. Following coverage by the ABC and the 7.30, as well as a widely-disseminated petition urging Dr Spence to welcome the Dalai Lama, the Students For A Free Tibet organisation planned an official protest against the University's decision at 10am on April 24 in front of the main quadrangle on campus.

As fate would have it, the protest came almost immediately after the University's decision to retract the cancellation and to announce that the Dalai Lama's visit will go ahead as planned. Professor John Keane, director of the University's Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (IDHR), released an official statement late on April 23 declaring that "The IDHR looks forward to hosting His Holiness the Dalai Lama under the theme 'Education Matters'. This change of heart is presumably a result of the immense amount of public pressure that has been placed on the University since last week's announcement of the cancellation of the Dalai Lama's address."

Although this decision to retract the original cancellation of the Dalai Lama's address is certainly good news for the protestors, the general consensus on the day of the protest was that the damage that had been done to the University's reputation was irrevocable. The seventy-odd people that turned up to the protest remained angry regardless of the University administration's decision to retract the cancellation, and demanded an apology from the Vice-Chancellor as well as a firm commitment to not allow this situation to be repeated in the future.

In a powerful address to protestors, Dr Nick Reimer, senior lecturer in the Department of English, pointed out that "intellectual freedom should not be a value that is upheld by this university only when it is expedient to do so." Dr Reimer continued to condemn the actions of the University and to explicate the irreversible damage done by the Vice-Chancellor's original decision to cancel the address by declaring that "this week the management of this university has shown us that it will subordinate academic questions to political ones if it can get away with it."

The protest was also addressed by Yeshi Palmo, the only Tibetan student at Sydney University, who echoed these sentiments about continuing to fight both for the principles of intellectual freedom and academic integrity as well as for the goal of a free Tibet. She led the protestors in emphatic chants including "propaganda is cheap, intellectual freedom is priceless."

The incredible strength of the protest, emanating from students, teachers and



Photo: Vi Phat

indeed the wider community, against the University's decision to prioritise political and business concerns over intellectual ones sent a clear message that this kind of compromise of the University's integrity as an institution of learning simply will not be tolerated. The management's decision, a direct result of this intense public pressure, to renege on its original cancellation is also a clear sign that the community can overcome this championing of expediency over integrity if only it continues to hold the University to account, as it has triumphantly done this week.

The new speech by the Dalai Lama will take place on June 13 in the York Theatre of the Seymour Centre. This venue has a capacity of 788 people and the event will include staff and Sydney University students.

EasyWay smashed and robbed

CRIME

There's no EasyWay out for tea lovers, as Mariana Podesta-Diverio discovers

Employees of the EasyWay bubble tea store at the Wentworth building arrived to find a vandalised shopfront at 8:30am on Monday, April 22.

A large glass panel of the store's sliding-door entrance had been smashed, shop fittings and signage were damaged and around \$1500 was stolen from a safe. The store's cash register unit, in its entirety, was also stolen.

Newtown Police arrived at the scene a little after 9:15am and tried to get fingerprints from the store's kitchen, where part of the stolen money was kept. The police were given the memory card from a security camera inside the store. A University-owned camera, situated across from the store above Azzuri cafe, also captured the incident.

CCTV footage obtained by the police indicates that the incident took place at around 4:40am on Monday morning. It implicates two perpetrators who fled the scene in a vehicle.

The store is owned by Lynette, an undergraduate Pharmacy student at USYD, who also owns three other EasyWay franchises. Lynette said she was particularly saddened by the incident since this was the first franchise that she opened.

Lynette said that it was "really weird" that money was only taken from one of the store's three safes. The fact that the only safe targeted happened to contain the largest sum of money raises suspicions about how the thieves knew exactly where to go.

Newtown Police is currently inves-



The shop front of Easy Way on Monday morning. Photo: Max Chalmers

tigating the matter and no arrests have been made.

The store's green apple tea remains as scrumptious as ever.

UNIGATE



All the rumours, hearsay, and downright slander from the world of student politics and culture

Board meeting: What is truth, what is justice?

The final USU Board meeting of the current Board (prior to the Board election on May 22) was held last Friday. Foremost on the agenda was a policy motion written by Board Director Tom Raue that aims to develop an ethical investment strategy for the Union. Currently, the USU has approximately \$1.5 million in managed investment funds, the majority of which Raue claims is invested in fossil fuels. The motion prompted a significant amount of debate amongst Board Directors with Jacqui Munro claiming that it was “unreasonable to brand [entire] industries as unethical” – a sentiment that was echoed by a number of other directors. Raue retorted that the USU’s constitution states clearly that it must both “[further] the interests and welfare of the Members and the University community” and “Encourage and practice environmental responsibility”. It seemed that many Board Directors were uncomfortable with the notion of the Board making a judgement on the definition of ‘ethical’, in spite of the Board being a democratic, representative body. This led to the motion eventually passing – with five votes for and four abstentions – but with the caveat that the issue be referred to the Union’s finance committee. The *Gate* agrees wholeheartedly that the financial impact of a realignment of the Union’s investments should be evaluated by its finance department. But surely, as a members’ organisation, the USU’s elected Board Directors should make the call on what investments are deemed to be ethical and unethical.

The other highlight (or lowlight, rather) of the meeting was Zach Thompson’s response to Rhys Pogonoski’s paper on the USU’s relationship with the University’s Indigenous community. The paper was drafted following criticisms of the USU’s Indigenous Festival. While Thompson said he agreed with “99% of the paper”, he argued that clauses referring to the “horrendous effect of white colonisation” and “the denial of human rights” were based on a “contested history”. The *Gate* was shocked by Thompson’s statements: we thought that Keith Windschuttle had graduated in 1969. But nay, he has infiltrated the USU Board in 2013.

Protesters gonna protest

A protest against the Federal government’s cuts to higher education was forced off the road after police were reportedly tipped-off that protesters intended to stage a sit-down on City Road. The protest was called in response to the government’s \$2.3 billion cut to tertiary education, and was meant to proceed from City Road to federal Labor Minister Tanya Plibersek’s office. The organisers of the protest had made arrangements for police to control traffic on City Road and Broadway. But it has been alleged that some members of the Cross Campus Education Action Network (CCEAN) informed police that protesters were to sit-down on City Road at the end of the protest. The reasons for the tip-off are unclear, but the *Gate* theorises that certain individuals were simply upset that Ms Plibersek’s office was the target of the protest.

In other activist news, the second ‘Edufactory’ Conference was held last week at Sydney University. The conference was inaugurated last year to bring together activists from around the country, partly in response to perceived failings of the National Union of Students (NUS). This year, the conference passed a motion establishing a new national education activist network called ‘Class Action’. The network could prove to be a significant vehicle for student activism in the years to come, in the likely context of ongoing cuts to higher education, and in light of NUS’ recent campaigns, which in 2010 included a national ‘Noodle Day’.

Bored with the Board?

During the USU Board and SRC elections every year, the campus overflows with enthusiastic candidates. But what happens when they actually get elected; when the hack-shirts are folded away and the rows of couches on Eastern Avenue are returned to their living rooms of origin? When the bombastic enthusiasm associated with campaigning fades, do your representatives actually show up to do their job? This week, we give you attendance figures from the SRC Executive and the USU Board. For the SRC Exec, our attendance graph shows the meetings missed by each member and whether they gave an apology or not (that is, whether they formally let the SRC Secretary know they would not be able to make the meeting). For the USU, we present attendance to meetings

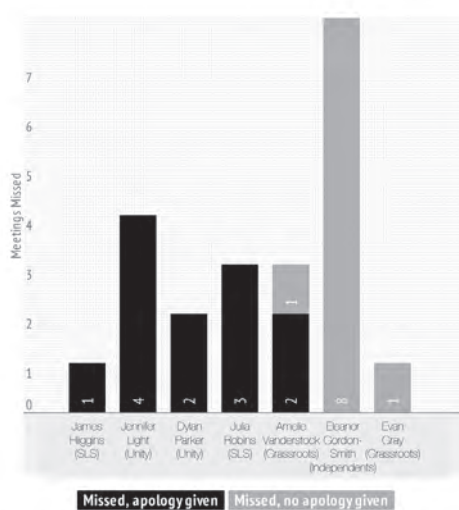
based on the first eight meetings of the 2012-2013 Board.

You probably haven’t heard of it, but the SRC Executive is one of the most important organs of the SRC. It controls the financial and strategic direction of the SRC and is elected every year by the Council (which you elect).

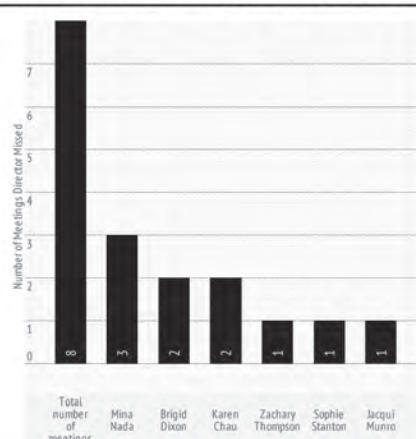
As the graph shows, a couple of members have struggled. Clearly though, Eleanor Gordon-Smith has struggled the most. Editing the *BULL*, working on morning radio, and studying had left her overcommitted, Gordon-Smith told the *Gate*. She has only recently resigned from her role on the Exec to allow for another student with more time available to take the role.

When it comes to Union Board attendance, we can’t give you the full story. Much of the important discussion and debate happens in ‘informal’ meetings, which we – like the rest of the public – have no access to. Here, and in the committees, is where a lot of the work involved with being a Board Director happens. But we can at least bring you the stats from one day of each month: Union Board meetings. They show that Directors are generally doing a good job. Rhys Pogonoski, Astha Rajvanshi, Hannah Morris, Tom Raue, and John Harding-Easson in particular deserve praise for their perfect records of attendance. Others, like Mina Nada don’t fare so well. Nada, who has missed the most meetings, said he was confident he had made a significant contribution to the Board. Having graduated, Nada has undertaken full-time work as a management consultant, making the Board’s afternoon meetings difficult to attend.

SRC Executive Attendance



USU Board Directors Attendance



Staff vote to strike again

Max Chalmers reports on developments in the industrial dispute between USYD staff and management

The National Tertiary Education Union has voted to endorse two days of strike action. The NTEU voted for two separate strike days, the first on May 15 (Week 10), and the second on June 4 (Week 13).

The decision comes as negotiations relating to key sections of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) continue to drag on. The Union says disagreements over leave entitlements, a domestic violence clause, academic workloads, consultation, rates of casualisation, and workers compensation are not progressing fast enough.



Staff attempt to block cars during the last two days of strikes. Photo: Stella Ktenas

NTEU Sydney Branch President Michael Thomson said the strikes would only be called off if the University signed a Heads of Agreement document (outlining the main issues needing to be resolved before the new EBA can be signed) and committed to finalising negotiations in thirty days.

But University management are digging in. Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Stephen Garton last week cautioned that both the NTEU and the University generally needed to take Labor’s proposed cuts to tertiary education into account while bargaining.

“If we don’t make a responsible decision about pay and conditions then the consequences will be serious,” he said.

It appears that – for the time being – University management are not prepared to sign the Heads of Agreement or sign on to the thirty day time frame.

Spokesperson Andrew Potter said the University does not normally respond to demands and that further strikes would disadvantage students.

Social media coverage vs. expert commentary

Justin Pen explores the validity of news reportage in social media

Disclaimer: this article contains tweets and status updates.

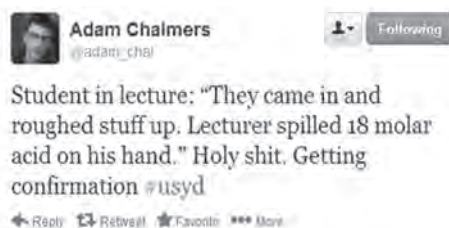
A geyser of social media reportage erupted in the wake of the Boston marathon bombings. In the scramble for facts, both citizen-bloggers and 'professional' news journalists recorded speculation as fact, often introduced by the salacious, eight-letter, ALL-CAPS prologue "BREAKING".

The tech-savvy tweep was confronted with Schrödinger's News Feed at all stages of the investigation, manhunt and eventual arrest. The day's live coverage identified the two suspects as simultaneously dead and alive, light-skinned and dark-skinned, and had been apprehended while still at large.

By the time Dzhokhar Tsarnaev had been arrested by police, @YourAnonNews tweeted: "Suspect is 'dead' according to 2 news channels, 'alive' on 3 others." *Slate* declared: "Breaking news was broken" following the media melee that ensued.

Both traditional news outlets and their ostensibly omniscient, digital inheritors had failed. CNN was rightly lambasted for alleging that a "dark-skinned" suspect had been arrested by the police; news and entertainment aggregate Reddit has officially apologised for accusing a missing student of Brown University as the perpetrator. The student was later found dead in a river; the cause of death is currently unknown.

The issue of BREAKING NEWS reportage is not limited to the American news landscape, nor is it necessarily confined to events of international significance. Antipathy towards strike action at USyd was intensified following *Honi* reporter Adam Chalmers' tweet at 10.02am:



Three hours had passed before Chalmers could set the record straight:



And another four hours before Dr Timothy Schmidt (@schmidt) confirmed "Reports of me dropping acid in a lecture are grossly exaggerated. #usyd #usydchemistry #cookies #usydstrike".

In the interim, misinformation was contagious. Hal Conyngham, a second year Liberal Arts and Science student remarked at 4.18pm, "@adam_chal @j_evns My 15 year old brother just came into my room saying that a lecturer had acid thrown in his face."

Conyngham requested it be made clear that her brother's beliefs do not reflect her own views of the event.

Other persons were contacted regarding their premature and provocative social media posts concerning the acid spill incident. All refused to have their posts published and several have since deleted their original comments on the matter.

While it is difficult to ascertain the precise impact and visibility of such posts, one status update on Facebook, which inferred that the protestors had spilled acid on Dr Schmidt, received 75 likes.

This article opened with a disclaimer. For the most part, I abhor the substitution of social media micro-blogging for expert commentary in journalism.

But news reportage, whether it's national or local, or big or small, is being increasingly filtered through social channels and not just major media outlets. It's as inevitable as the social want for 'breaking' news coverage and similarly cannot be dammed.

In our brave new world of interactive media, the fourth wall of the Fourth Estate has been demolished.

News consumers promulgate popular stories and reinforce media narratives through shares and retweets. Whether in Camperdown or Boston, readers should stop to pause before they click to post.

OPINION

Race-based activism on campus leaves much to be desired

Rafi Alam investigates the nature of race-based activism at USYD

Next week, you can pick up a copy of *Women's Honi*, and the semester after, *Queer Honi* – there is no *Honi* autonomous to people of colour (POC). This is because in activist discourse, race and ethnicity are often absent.

I was once told by a queer female to my brown, Muslim-heritage face that I've never faced oppression in my life. It wasn't intentional, of course, it's just that feminist and queer identity politics have always been stronger on this campus than anti-racism discourses.

There are a few reasons for this, and the reasons – although unfortunate – do suggest that strong activist groups, such as the Women's Collective and Queer Action Collective, are needed, and that they do have an impact on campus life.

Feminism and queer liberation tend

"The solution is not for the privileged to speak for the oppressed, but to be allies in a movement that belongs to them."

to be, empirically, more bourgeois than anti-racism. This is fairly standard across thriving activist groups throughout the country, including environmental and education activism. Race profoundly intersects with class; people of colour are far more likely to be from poorer suburbs and with a poorer background than white people. Race leads to geographical stratification, usually to outer Sydney locations.

There are 'ethnic suburbs' – there are no 'female' suburbs, and suburbs with a queer character tend to be more wealthy and/or closer to the CBD. Activist groups work due to the voluntary time



of participants, something which lower-class people are less likely to have.

There are also very few affirmative action provisions for people of colour. There aren't many – or any – clubs with

'POC Officers'; there is no POC portfolio at the USU. The SRC may have an Ethnic Affairs Officer, but why then was I only one of two or three ethnic people in the Council last year?

Perhaps, unlike feminist and queer groups, this is because there is no



autonomous POC collective on campus. There is an Anti-Racism Collective, that does great political activism regarding refugees and Indigenous people, but is largely run by white people.

Autonomy is important due to the barriers that keep us from activism. Language barriers, for instance, create an inherent shyness. Cultural barriers often lead to situations where an action, event, or a discourse of a white-dominated activist space can contradict with an ethnic participant's world view. Politically, also, there is often a strand of apathy that runs through ethnic communities that just want to survive without disruption.

This isn't to even begin on international students who need to work harder to pay higher fees, refugees with a precarious position in a racist society, and Indigenous people, of whom I could not even begin to understand the discrimination faced.

Autonomous groups allow these barriers to be mediated and resolved in a safe space of people with similar experiences and backgrounds, who, despite being from various ethnicities, collectively lack white privilege.

The solution is not for the privileged to speak for the oppressed, but to be allies in a movement that belongs to them. Activist groups should be more accessible to people of colour by promoting it as a discourse, as it is promoted on campuses in the UK or the US. But until that point, activism is still missing a distinct voice in its struggles.

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Galilee Rising

Galilee, Galilee, Galilee figaro - magnifico sings **Edwin Montoya Zorrilla**

Anyone who has visited a large coal mine will be familiar with the eerie silence that such a massive hole in the Earth visits upon their ears, that silent protest, submissive before human-kind's ability to dominate and transform nature. That same silence often creeps into the halls of politics and media during the introduction of large corporate developments even as they threaten environmental destruction. And so it has been for the proposed expansion of coal mines in the Galilee Basin in central Queensland by the mining conglomerates Adani Enterprises, Hancock/GKV (of Gina Rinehardt ascendancy), and Waratah Coal.

"It is not enough to have the best reef system in the world...there is also an obligation...in looking after areas for future generations."

The scale of this development is truly enormous. Of the nine proposed mines, five would be larger than any existing coal mines in Australia. They would be accompanied by a series of ports which would also require dredging in the Great Barrier Reef to the extent that UNESCO has warned Australia that any such expansion would risk



Gina shows off her heart



The Great Barrier Reef

the Reef's world heritage status. These proposals await approval from Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke, who has already approved most of the port developments. One could be forgiven for having high expectations of a man who, at a World Heritage Symposium last year, stated that "it is not enough to have the best reef system in the world... there is also an obligation...in looking after areas for future generations." Nevertheless, the conglomerates seem to be proceeding with their plans as if all were business as usual.

It seems that our public consciousness is somewhat deaf to the broader environmental dimension of such developments, as well as the extent to which this represents a political issue that we can all affect. Even the recent shelving of Woodside Petroleum's LNG project was largely the result of investors' economic decisions. The little negative coverage regarding this development has almost entirely been about localised effects, rather than the devastating long-term effects of carbon emissions. If the mines' combined coal production were burnt by a single nation, it would slot

ENVIRONMENT

into the world's top seven highest CO₂ polluters. Yet by an unfortunate quirk of carbon accounting standards, our corresponding exports would not be counted as part of our national emissions. As a corollary, any exports from the mine would not be subject to any carbon pricing mechanism in Australia.

Yet it affects us all. Unsurprisingly, activists from the upstart Australian Youth Climate Coalition are among the most vocal on this issue. According to AYCC NSW Co-ordinator, Emma Horsburgh, "Australia has massive potential to build renewable energy, but instead Tony Burke is considering approving these new coal ports that will destroy huge sections of the reef and bring us closer to irreversible climate change."

"We've launched a campaign called Climate Game Change to tackle this, and so far we've signed up young people around Australia to pledge over 150 000 hours to protect our reef and climate", Emma said. "We're also holding a National Day of Action on May 11 at Hyde Park to ask Tony Burke to make the right decision". It's high time for these voices to prevail.

NEWS IN REVUE

Bryant Apolonio pens a comedy of errors

Act I. Sc. I A living room.
FIRST VETERAN

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

SECOND VETERAN

The march will start at the break of dawn
Before a game of two-up is won.

THIRD VETERAN

"And at the going down of the sun..."

FIRST VETERAN
Where the place?

SECOND VETERAN
Up on George Street.

ALL

There to meet Clover Moore.

Sc. II An office.

SPENCE [Dictating an email to his PR stooge]

"The Dalai will have his day. I blame the press.

We love human rights. Enough protests!

Yours sincerely, Michael Spence."

PR STOOGES

Sent to all! I'm relieved.

Like sailors who did still cling to the wreck –

We our own selves drowned.

I can finally stop replying to these letters

Of complaint, with stock responses. Remember the time, Mike, we cleaned off the rainbow chalk

And said it was by accident. It feels like that.

Times a hundred thousand.

SCENE III. Pyongyang. A meeting chamber.

KIM JONG-UN

What news hast thou, O Ministers?

MINISTER

The South Koreans leave Kaesong, anon.

And our nationwide 3G network is a success.

KIM JONG-UN [Laughing]

Those Yankees now dread their coming doom.

"Let's talk nukes! – with Kim Jong-Un and 6 others At The War Room."

But I'll say this, sir: there's an awful tedium

When ads pop up for Spotify Premium.

So, come my glorious, global revolution

I've made my first official resolution: Spotify guy's head on a plate, a plate, a plate.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

John Gooding runs through proper grammar for the 23 millionth time

If you care about grammar at all, you should be in tears after the debacle that was last week's news cycle. One error so utterly dominated Australian news, it seemed as if the media were trying to reshape the English language itself, in some sort of Orwellian plot. The mistake was both terrible and awesome in its ubiquity. Former sub-editors must be pointing to this travesty and screeching for their jobs back.

Here is one example of the mistake. This quote appeared in the *Sun Herald* in an article by columnist and University of Sydney alumni Jessica Irvine: "At approximately 9:57 pm, the boffins at the Australian Bureau of Statistics

estimate Australia became home to our 23rd millionth person."

The correct phrasing is "23 millionth", not "23rd millionth". Imagine if Australia's population had instead reached seven thousand. Would we really be discussing our seventh thousandth person? Just read that out loud. Seventh thousandth. Seventh. Thousandth. Only the last word should be written as ordinal when spelling out any single ordinal number. Centenarians live to celebrate their one hundredth birthday, not their first hundredth.

The phrase "23rd millionth" means something else entirely. If I were to

have a list of millionths, the 23rd thing on that list would be the 23rd millionth. The ordinal number refers to a specific fraction. Completely different.

Other newspapers, media outlets and notable people who managed to botch this simple rule include *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Brisbane Times*, *The Canberra Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The West Australian*, *The Townsville Bulletin*, *The St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, *The Examiner*, Mix 106.5, WSFM 101.7, Triple J 105.7, The Vine, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics itself. Oh, and even Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Shame on all of you.

PROFILE

Hall Greenland

Dominic Bowes talks to the Grayndler Green

For a man who will be in his 70s if he assumes a seat in Parliament after this year's federal election, Hall Greenland appears remarkably youthful. As I arrive to interview him in his suburban home, nestled between Leichhardt and Haber-

field, he is perusing the latest *Monthly* and the morning's *Herald* in his yard.

As a Walkley award-winning journalist, he is a potentially intimidating interview subject, but he chats openly, if slowly and deliberately, and fills in most

of the gaps himself. Our interview is punctuated by the occasional thunder of aircraft noise which Greenland wryly notes is more common than was promised under a long-term Howard plan.

Greenland, President of Save Callan Park and a former Leichhardt Councillor, has been pre-selected by his local Greens to contest the seat of Grayndler in the upcoming federal election. The flightpath itself provides a pretty good rough guide to the electorate, which extends from Leichhardt, down through Marrickville, into Tempe in the south, and into parts of Ashfield and Canterbury in the west. The seat is so ingrained in Labor heartland it takes its name from a former General Secretary of the Australian Workers Union, and has been held by Transport Minister and Rudd-loyalist Anthony Albanese since 1996.

In 2010, when current Sydney University Liberal Club President Alex Dore contested the seat for the Liberals, the traditionally safe Labor seat became a contest within the left. On a two-party-preferred basis there was a 4.7% margin between the ALP and the Greens. Greenland and his team are quietly confident of overwhelming that margin. This time around, Cedric Spencer, a lawyer and lecturer at the Australian Catholic University, will contest the seat for the Libs.

Greenland has been a feature of the Greens since their very beginnings. He was expelled from Labor Left in 1984 for backing environmental independents over those he describes as "stodgy" Labor candidates in local elections. He recalls the actual expulsion as the final exclamation point on a growing "disenchantment and disillusionment" amongst those who would found the Greens in Sydney.

He charts the emergence of the Australian Greens as paralleling some of their modern day tensions, which he describes as both "typical and healthy" elements of any "party of adults". In the late 1980s, this concerned the formation of a national party. Before 1991, when Bob Brown and the Tasmanians came on board, Greenland notes the party lacked "fair dinkum" legitimacy. Nonetheless they were hesitant, particularly in NSW, to forfeit grassroots control in order to formalise a party platform and leadership structure.

I asked Greenland whether he stood by his claim, in mid-2012, that the Greens national leadership were "neoliberals on bikes", after they removed the inheritance tax from the party platform for, in his view, pragmatic rather than principled reasons. He notes the comment expressed a legitimate but ultimately "misplaced" fear that the party would veer to the right. He notes approvingly the pursuit of a "genuine" mining tax and a more progressive taxation system under Christine Milne's leadership.

Greenland hopes to reflect the grassroots control of his pre-selectors and the NSW Greens more broadly in his

style of campaign. Those familiar with student politics will recognise faces from his campaign team, such as former USU Vice-President and current Marrickville Councillor Melissa Brooks, and former president of ARC, and *Tharunka* editor Osman Faruqi.

No stranger to USYD, Greenland has recently been on campus for both the NTEU strikes and for an event reflecting on his participation in the 1965 Freedom Rides. He studied history on campus in the 1960s and was a president of the Labor Club in 1964. As an editor of *Honi Soit* in 1966 he was highly critical of the war in Vietnam.

After some post-study travels, including a trip to Paris for the protests of May 1968, Greenland has spent much of his working career as a journalist. During the 1970s he wrote for *Rolling Stone* and *The Digger*, a lefty magazine whose lifespan almost exactly paralleled that of the Whitlam Government, both of which recalls Greenland, were "expressions of the radicalisation of the time".

During this period Greenland was heavily influenced by his "long time mentor" Nick Oliglass, a prominent Sydney Trotskyist whom he wrote a biography of in the mid-1990s. More recently as a journalist for *The Bulletin* and *The Week* he has been nominated for and won Walkleys for both his headline writing and coverage of mental illness.

The long campaign means Greenland and his team will attempt to knock on as many voters' doors as possible by September. Greenland's basic campaign pitch is that "Australia's most progressive electorate", (76% of voters voted for left of centre candidates in 2010), deserves a more progressive representative. He cites the relative proportion of funds in the upcoming budget that will come from cuts to single parents' pensions—rather than taxing big miners—as indicative of the "staggering timidity and incompetence" of the ALP.

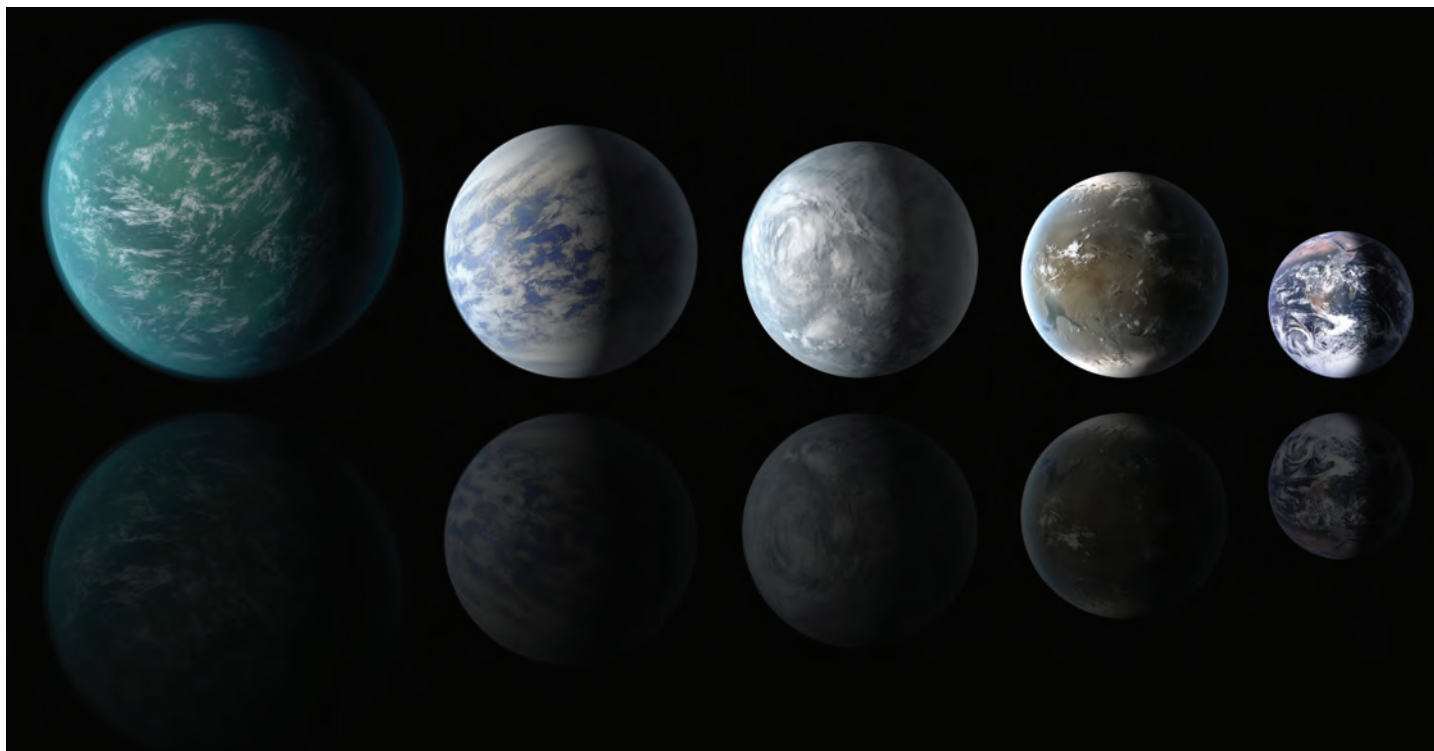
Albanese is locally popular, well-resourced and has escaped relatively unscathed from some of the ALP's recent troubles. He remains a very strong favourite. In order to avoid a potential reliance on Liberal preferences, Greenland hopes on issues like education and migration, any votes that break away from Albanese will break leftward. His campaign will also focus on local issues, such as Albanese's support for O'Farrell's Westconnex road project running into Petersham.

Greenland doesn't accept the inevitability of a Coalition government come September. He has previously argued for a more "united front" between those on the left to prevent such an outcome and sees races such as Grayndler as aiding rather than hindering that process. He argues Labor must escape an "imperial mentality" and accept that, definitely in the upper house and quite probably in the lower house, they aren't "going to rule on their own again."

SCIENCE

Home away from home: discovery of Earth-like planets

The truth is out there, discovers Kate McDonnell



NASA's Kepler spacecraft has been described as a "rock star of science" following its detection of three Earth-like planets. Two of these planets, Kepler-62e and -62f, were detected in the Kepler-62 system, and -69c in the Kelper-69 system. The purpose of NASA's Kepler's mission is to find planets in the 'habitable zone' (HZ) of sun-like stars which are similar to our own.

"We only know of one star that hosts a planet with life, the sun. Finding a planet in the habitable zone around a star like our sun is a significant milestone toward finding truly Earth-like planets," said Thomas Barclay, lead author of the Kepler-69 system discovery which was published in *The Astrophysical Journal*, in a

NASA press release.

The HZ is classified as a range of distance where the surface temperature of the planet might be suitable for liquid water. All three of the Earth-like planets are described as "super sized", being larger than the size of our planet but still less than twice Earth's size.

Orbiting on the inner edge of the HZ, -62e has an orbital period of 122 days and is about 60% larger than Earth. Further away from its sun, -62f orbits the outer edge of the HZ with an orbit of 267 days, is about 40% larger than Earth and is the smallest Earth-like planet detected to date.

In a system 2700 light years away from earth, -69c orbits around its sun in 242

days. The -69 system sun is similar to our own, is part of the same class, and is around the same size and brightness.

Scientists are as yet unsure of the surface conditions of the planets. Theoretical models outlined in *Science* magazine suggest both -62e and -62f could be solid, composed of either rock or water.

However, until experimental results from their atmospheres are detected, this cannot be confirmed. The radius of -69c makes it difficult to determine its composition; it could be either a rocky planet or "a water world" as outlined in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

The detection of these planets is an important step towards finding a true analog for our own sun and earth.



Joe Hockey denounces ...

We found this gem in the SMH, 1987.

Abolish the RSL

SIR: The time is nigh: abolish the RSL. It is an archaic body that claims to represent members of our community. In reality, its function is merely to manage a number of pseudo leagues clubs.

Presidents such as Mr Bruce Ruxton have exaggerated views of their own representation. Mr Ruxton's recent comments have shamed Australians and the soldiers who died fighting for the very freedoms Mr Ruxton and the RSL hope to deny others.

Their views of the British monarchy remain in a bygone era and the reality of their attitudes died with Queen Victoria and the British Empire.

Certainly, the youth of Australia hold only contempt for Mr Ruxton and his megalomaniacal colleagues, unlike the media which have given them and their views unlimited coverage.

**Joe Hockey,
Sydney University Students'
Representative Council,
City Road,
Sydney.**

January 12

Did you know?

You can borrow LAB COATS, LAB GLASSES and DISSECTION KITS from the SRC.

The SRC is located at: Level 1 Wentworth Building

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Harry, Welfare Officer at the SRC
run by students for students.

too soon to tell:

Nina Hallas looks back on the war that should never have happened

This March marked 10 years since the invasion of Iraq. The anniversary passed rather unceremoniously. No minute of silence. No pinned poppies. No 21-gun salute. The war, unpopular since its inception, marred by extraordinary misgivings, ambiguous justifications and wildly unsatisfying outcomes, has never been an ideal candidate for glorification.

Its architects, unable to defend their original reasoning for the conflict, instead deny deliberately misinforming the public about them, and the public, in return, receive their unapologetic excuses with little more than lazy cynicism.

"I say 'Howard', you say 'fuck off'. 'Howard!' – 'fuck off!', 'Howard!' – 'fuck off!'" It's 7pm on a Tuesday in April and a small crowd has assembled outside the Intercontinental Hotel where

former Prime Minister, John Howard, gives his reflections on the war. Admittedly, the creativity and energy for long winding chants was wearing thin.

The crowd, unsuccessfully deterred by the (terribly kept) secret change of venue, consisted of the usual suspects, the familiar, rally-worn veterans of various left persuasions. A Tony Blair impersonator walked amongst them, a shit-eating grin plastered on his rubber face, a placard reading "war criminal" hung from his neck. Bush would have joined him, I'm lamentably told, but was alas trapped on the dusty shelves of a comrade's locked out garage.

Another day, another key opportunity

for inciting revolution lost.

Thatcher had just died, and the featured signage wasn't shy to herald it. "Howard, you always said you wanted to be like Thatcher: finally we can agree on something". A menacing threat to her political allies indeed: a natural death in old age. Yet to many, shock value seems the only (legal) channel available for retribution. Despite calls for an inquiry into Australia's involvement in the Iraq War, championed by prominent figures like Malcolm Fraser, it seems unlikely any repercussions or accountability will be bestowed upon its advocates, especially with the increasingly likelihood of an Abbott government.

A line of weary-looking cops stand on guard. One yawns. Another checks her phone. A hundred people were there, perhaps. Sixty, if you account for typical protest figure inflation. Their practiced lungs were loud, but not quite loud enough to feature predominately in the mainstream press. This was it. The remainder of vocal anti-Iraq war activists – or so called 'anti-democratic minority' by event host and Lowy Institute director, Michael Fullilove – holding a rally that a decade ago would have been a hundred times the size.

February 15, 2003 saw the biggest demonstration on Sydney streets in decades. It was part of a wider movement across the world, with millions taking to the streets to show their opposition to the war. They encompassed the broadest parameters of the popu-

lation – seasoned protestors marched alongside first-timers; small children came with their grandparents; out came the unions, the students, a series of public and political figures. The protests engulfed six to eight city blocks.

They were indicative of a wider culture of dissent. Images of "NO WAR" painted on the Opera House the night Bush publicly announced war became instantaneously iconic across the globe. The cops, in a rare act of solidarity, graciously waited for the culprits to finish before they were brought down and arrested. Opera House staff formed a guard of honour, and cheered at their bravery as they were escorted to the back of the wagon. T-shirts and other paraphernalia featuring all sorts of anti-war witticisms were trending highly. Indeed, many polls indicate that the Iraq War met with more public opposition before its commencement than any other conflict in history. The people, united...they were defeated. On March 20, Australian soldiers were deployed, as planned.

Ten years later. A different government. Two new Prime Ministers. Indeterminable leadership spills. Life, by and large, has moved on. The huge demoralisation of the defeat tittered out to apathy. Protests grew smaller by the year. Public opinion, though largely unchanged, had significantly dulled. Old adages about war being for the rich, or other such related variables, 'for oil', 'for greed', 'for profit' have become hollowed truisms that everyone seems to know, and mostly reluctantly, regrettably accept. What else is there to do or think, when even protests of that extent can fail so magnificently?

When, unsurprisingly, no stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction – an ironclad assumption based on evidence that was always, at best, sketchy – turned out to be false, and opponents vindicated, Howard argued that solace could be found in the fact that at least a dictator was toppled and a people 'freed'.



Cartoon: Bryant Apolonio

iraq, 10 years on

It's true; Saddam Hussein led an oppressive regime, and many of his policies are indefensible. His toppling, in and of itself, is not cause for lament. However, Iraq after the occupation is arguably much worse than what it ever was under his reign. The instability the war and the subsequent insurgency caused has essentially transformed Iraq from a secular state to a fundamentalist theocracy. Politicians cannot do anything without consulting religious clerics first, and the damaging impact the amalgamation of Religion and State has on civil liberties, particularly for women, is extreme.

Political conflict between Sunnis and Shiites are highly inflamed, and violence between the two groups escalates annually. The continuing Iraqi insurgency edges the country closer to civil war. Democracy remains farcical, and protest is violently suppressed. Human right violations are rampant. Poverty is abundant, and employment limited. Ethnic minorities are becoming extinct. The environment has been desecrated, where the depleted uranium and white phosphorus employed during military assaults has seen an alarming increase of cancers and mutations, especially in children. Hundreds of thousands have died due to the conflict directly, most civilians. Millions more from indirect impacts. Millions have fled to bordering states or else become Internally Displaced Peoples living in slums.



Though foreign troops have now been removed, with them, foreign aid, which gets increasingly lower despite the exuberant costs of reconstruction. The country, by all qualitative and quantitative measures, is in ruins. The actions

undertaken by troops at the orders of their respective governments were not reasonable. It begs the question as to whether we, the opponents, responded to them too 'reasonably'. "Wars don't cease by occasionally protesting on the weekend". Arundhati Roy makes a fair point.

What else is there to do or think, when even protests of that extent can fail so magnificently?

"If anything, our actions in Iraq reinforced the reputation of Australia as a nation that stands by its friends, even in difficult circumstances." Howard, ever the loyalist, stresses the importance of being there for your mates even if they're a bit of an US-hole. His unwavering commitment to the United States, even to the point of following them into unsanctioned war, screamed of a foreign policy in complete lockstep. If Howard, by duty of the office, was required to act in the nation's best interests (which he somehow mistook as America's best interests), it's pertinent to uncover where exactly America's interest lay.

The pre-emptive attack on Iraq signified a new direction in US foreign policy. The 'threat' doesn't have to be real, it just has to be perceived, and 'perceived' in such a way to be politically and economically beneficial to its investors. Another prize the Iraq war can claim for itself is being the most privatised in history. Estimates dictate that private contractors, employed providers of essential military services, from food, uniforms and even security, have reaped up to \$138 billion worth of profit from the war. The frequency with which these contractors have dubious connections to parliamentarians is alarming to the point of being endemic. The most notable example would be former Vice-President and CEO of Halliburton, the biggest contractor profiteer, Dick Cheney. He stepped down from his position in the 2000 elections. He received a \$30 million package and continued to be a shareholder.

If the interlope between US Congress, the largest military in the world and private enterprise sounds dodgy, it's because it is. As Eisenhower forewarned in his Farewell Address to the Nation, the military-industrial complex

has become the most malignant form of corporate welfare. Taxpayer funds are used to subsidise initiatives of private contractors like Halliburton, whose



operations prima facie, are suspect, made worse by widespread allegations of overcharging and underproviding.

Politics of tactics are a necessary part of any protest movement. Inevitably, there are disagreements. Commonly they centre on how far actions should go, many reluctant to be 'radical', fearing such actions will alienate the movement into a fringe group of extremists, rather than get the public onside. Without the public onside, it follows, government will not be pressured to act or concede. The peace rallies largely centred on raising awareness of the injustice of the war, rather than direct action to stop it.

In some ways, these politics of persuasion were successful. Opinion polls continued to rise against the war. The delegation Australia sent was relatively small, and future considerations to engage in military interventions will assumedly be met with much more scrutiny. However, they fell short of completely stopping the war for several reasons. Howard was in the middle of his term, and pressure to appeal to public opinion was accordingly low. They were also faced against a much more pervasive sculptor of public opinion: the media, markedly uncritical of the flaky intelligence underpinning the war or any ulterior agendas. Accordingly, the Labor Party trod lightly. As their platform vetoed any engagement in non-UN sanctioned interventions, they opposed the war but negligibly, fearing being cast as 'soft' or 'anti-troop'. The Greens, and other anti-war minor parties, were too politically insignificant at the time to hold any sway.

Efforts to stop the war completely needed to be more than just persuasive: they needed to be disruptive. Tactics need to be weighed against the enor-

mous, underlying economic and political incentives fuelling the occupation, and pressure proportionally applied where it hurts.

Yet more radical approaches were not engaged. Industrial actions – especially of those workforces that assisted the war effort – were not carried, neither was any attempt made to foster the facilitation of strikes, like hosting major rallies on working days, during working hours, not weekends. Efforts to host sit-ins, occupations or lock-ins to Pine Gap, the American base in the Northern Territory, were discarded almost as soon as discussed.

"It's too soon to tell," so goes the famous reply Mao allegedly gave Nixon when asked about the consequences of the French Revolution. Though the imparted wisdom was an inaccurate account of the exchange (he was referring to the revolt of 1968, not 1789), its unintentional pertinence cannot be diminished.

The Iraq War was unique in many aspects, and its trajectory so far unveils a new, arguably more malignant era of warfare, the full consequences of which remain unknown, to be unravelled for many generations to come. A changing of the guards, from Bush to Obama, has been insignificant, foreign policy wise. Obama continues to employ – if not amplify – the former administrations tactics, which is indicative, perhaps, of the greater underlying powers that be.

If anti-war movements want to prevent another Iraq fiasco, it will take more than waving around a few placards, no matter how bold the slogans.

WHERE ALL THE WAREHOUSES GO

Lucy Watson just wants to party

The wide streets of the Marrickville wasteland surrounding Sydenham and Victoria roads are lit by worksite floodlights, with street lamps few and far between. It's a place that no one's supposed to be at night – unless you're at work.

It's usually a Facebook event, or even just word of mouth, that leads you there. You jump off the bus, nod to a few strangers drinking in the park. They're obviously headed where you're going. Eyes down as you pass the men leaving the brothel – out of courtesy, they don't want you to know where they've been. A glance at the bakers, about to begin their day's work. Cross the street to avoid the vandals, pull out your phone. Check the address. You're just about there. Look around, the street is vast, empty, decrepit. You can feel the vague thump of bass in your chest – the only clue. You keep walking, find the right number, knock twice. The door opens to a wall of sound and a room full of people. You're here.

This is what most parties in the Marrickville warehouse district are like – hidden, with the building's facade gives nothing away. It takes a level of confidence to knock, because you'd never know there was a party raging away inside.

That's because sadly, almost pointlessly, most of these spaces are illegal. These huge, otherwise empty, or 'artist studio' (and therefore often residential), spaces in the middle of an industrial wasteland, are not licensed, because of costs, OH&S, leasing agreements – a world of legal babble most people don't care about. As Glebe and Newtown become more gentrified, students and artists are seeking something new, and these warehouse spaces are the perfect location for experimental performance. In the heart of the Inner West, surrounded by commercial industry, you'd think you'd be able to make some noise and share a beer.

It's sad, then, that these places are constantly being shut down, and have to be very careful with whom they share information.

I recently contacted a (now defunct) warehouse to host a party. I was sent a list of guidelines for advertising, which included that I couldn't list the name or address of the venue anywhere except Facebook, and under no circumstances could I call it a 'warehouse,' instead I was to refer to it as a 'theatre' or an 'artist's space.' I was also instructed to delete the email once I had read it (lest it self-destruct). These are the kinds of extreme measures these spaces have to take to hide their presence.

This should hopefully change soon. Recently, Marrickville Council passed a motion to review the cost-prohibitive nature of compliance for "alternative" venues, and to research why legal spaces are also closing their doors. This review should hopefully lead to a lowering in licensing costs and regulations (in much the same way that the small bar license recently became a lot easier to obtain, and now the city is full of them). The motion was supported by the people behind Dirty Shirlovs, a performance space on Shirlow street that was shut down in 2012. Brooke Olsen is the only remaining member of the original Dirty Shirlovs collective, and she's excited at the chance to move forward and begin discussions with Council about the affordability of re-establishing the Shirlow street location, or opening again somewhere new.

Dirty Shirlovs opened in 2008 after the collective took over the lease on "the biggest, cheapest, most run down and most out of the way warehouse we could find in Marrickville," says Olsen. They were after something "un-rentable to big business to ensure longevity and somewhere out of the public eye to enable us to go relatively undetected," and they found that on Shirlow street. "When we took over

the lease the building was a wreck," Olsen says. "There was animal faeces, fur and feathers in various parts of the building as well as a home made boxing ring and chicken coop upstairs." Incense was used during shows to disguise the lingering stench, and the smoking area was a small pen, side by side with a 30m drop into a giant excavation site. But the space had been home to one of Sydney's best wall art initiatives and DIY music scenes, and despite its grungy aesthetic, many fans were sad to see it go.

An anomaly in the warehouse scene is the Red Rattler: a legal, fully licensed venue, the Rat is able to boast its existence. Launched in 2008, it opened after its five founders "took advantage of [their full-time employment] to try and get a group mortgage to buy a warehouse that we could convert into a legal permanent space," says co-founder Meredith Williams. A colourful facade on Faversham St that's lit up on show nights, with people smoking out the front, means you'll never get lost on your way there. But being legal has certainly not been easy, and the battle is still uphill. According to Williams, meeting all the license requirements "was and is massive, and still a struggle," but the benefits have been profound. It's the simple things: they can't get "shut down mid gig", and they're openly allowed to advertise their existence. Huzzah!

But now, two of the founders are parting ways, and selling their shares. In order to keep its doors open, the remaining Directors are trying to buy 40% of the building. The 'Save the Rat' campaign is hoping to raise \$40 000, which Williams says will "finalise the loan for the Rat Inc. to buy these two shares... the dream is to slowly buy out all the owners," so that the space can be fully community-owned and operated.

Just a week into the campaign, and

the response has been huge: "so many people have already donated financially, plus a swag of people offering to volunteer," says Williams. The space is fully volunteer run, and according to Williams, "these kinds of spaces really have the potential to enable non-mainstream activism and culture to flourish," and this is due in large part to the space's community spirit.

With the new cooperation of Marrickville Council, and the community backing of the Red Rattler, we might not have to wait long before this industrial wasteland has a nightlife beyond the trucks, floodlights, bakers and brothels.

Photo: Lucy Watson

ARTS & CULTURE

INNER WEST SIDE STORY STUCCO

Georgia Kriz gets stuck into STUCCO

When you're living and studying in the world's third most unaffordable city, Centrelink and a casual cafe job aren't going to get you too far. With a two-bedroom Newtown terrace house weighing in at a cool \$600 per week, and on-campus accommodation totalling over \$17 000 per year, it's not unusual for USyd students to have to go halfway to the Blue Mountains before rent becomes remotely affordable.

Enter STUCCO: one of only two student cooperative housing facilities in the country. Nestled in Newtown's leafy backstreets, the converted glass factory is home to 39 full-time USYD students, who collectively organise and run the day-to-day operations of the small community. In exchange for subsidised rent, residents are expected to dedicate at least five hours each week to the co-op's upkeep, be it in building work, finances, membership, or admin. But the hardwork pays off – STUCCO is also a thriving artists' community, host to many art shows and live bands over the years.

STUCCO opened its doors in February 1991. The brainchild of USyd sustainable living and architecture lecturer, Col James, the project was driven

by post-grad architecture student Donald Proctor, and a dedicated group of USyd undergraduates. With funding from the NSW Government and the University, the students were able to realise what had once seemed a mere pipe dream: affordable, sustainable living in the heart of Sydney.

Hundreds of students have been a part of STUCCO in its 22 years. As well as being responsible for the upkeep of the building, the residents are also a social community. There have been many stories that have been passed through the generations of STUCCO, some are true, and some are probably folklore. Unit 3 was famed for its bout of wild orgies in the 90s, and legend has it that Unit 4's old interview process involved sharing a huge j. More recently, tales have emerged of the 'Naked Doco Club' and naked breakfasts, and certain members advocating a (consensual) 'no pants dance party?!' at every occasion. There's also the residents-only parties that get to the point where all interested parties are making out with each other and no one can remember how it started. With all this in mind, 'cooperative living' really seems to take on a new definition at STUCCO. After falling for the STUCCO



Photo: Bjorn Wallin

community and lifestyle on a temporary visit, Stephanie Clark's determination to become a full-time "STUCCwit" saw her go through five applications and interviews before she finally got a place at the beginning of 2012.

The third-year Science student says she loves Stucco's welcoming nature. As a queer-identifying resident, she has been particularly grateful for its tolerance and inclusivity. "It's really queer and trans-friendly. There's absolutely no discrimination tolerated," she says.

Clark says that many of her friends at STUCCO wouldn't have had the opportunity to come to Sydney University if it weren't for the cooperative. "There are people from Queensland, Adelaide, rural NSW, so many different places. But the one thing they all have in common is that, because of the incredibly high costs of living in Sydney, they wouldn't have been able to afford to come study

at USyd without Stucco."

And with the NSW Government's recent announcement of funding cuts to the affordable housing development sector, the sad reality is that more and more students will find themselves unable to afford to live and study in Sydney.

One may see STUCCO as a type of weird, inner-city utopia, with its pot luck dinners, moonlight cinemas, rooftop sleepovers, and even underground tunnel exploring and glow-worm hunting, but as far as affordable and sustainable housing goes, STUCCO will continue to stand as a testament to the fact that it isn't an unrealistic or utopian vision. A little cooperation can go a long way.

STUCCO offers temporary accommodation for any student who needs it. Contact the SRC for more information

Sitting in the Seymour with my droogs

REVIEW

Georgia Behrens reviews a little bit of the old ultra-violence

Alex De Large is fifteen. He lives in Manchester with his mother and father. Every day after school, he haunts the local milk bar with a group of friends. His hobbies include rape, murder, and listening to Beethoven.

A Clockwork Orange is the latest incarnation of Anthony Burgess's classic novel of the same name: a nightmarish vision of a not-too-distant future, in which an anarchic, brazenly violent citizenry struggles against an oppressive government regime. The protagonist – the aforementioned Alex – is imprisoned after murdering an elderly woman, and subjected to an experimental treatment designed to eliminate his criminal instincts. Since its publication in 1962, the novel has held

ongoing appeal to cinematic and theatrical adaptors: Stanley Kubrick, Andy Warhol and The Royal Shakespeare Company are just a few of those to have realised Burgess's ultra-sexual, ultra-violent novel on stage and screen.

Director Alexandra Spencer-Jones thus inherited a fairly weighty legacy in bringing *A Clockwork Orange* to stage at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2009. But the graphic, all-male production proved so successful that it has now entered its fourth year of almost-constant performances. Its arrival at The Seymour Centre this week has been the subject of extensive hype and publicity.

This production is hugely, exaggeratedly physical. Its driving forces are

muscle and machismo, and its action is bathed in very real sweat. This physicality is partly a necessity, as much of the dialogue is conducted in "Nadsat," a teen argot that resembles Russian more closely than it does English, and whose meaning is easily lost on theatre-goers. But it also ensures, quite appropriately, that the audience engages with the play's content emotionally, rather than intellectually. We are not allowed to sit back and ruminate on minutiae, on subtleties. Rather, we respond viscerally to the scenario before us, feeling – if only to a small degree – the horror of the experience being portrayed.

Perhaps most innovative and successful of all Spencer-Jones's production

decisions is the consistently invasive and confronting use of music. The soundtrack is a violently incongruous mix of Beethoven and Skrillex, regularly played so loud as to provoke a physical cringe. The intimate connection between music and human emotion is exploited throughout the production; as Alex is conditioned to associate music with pain and suffering, we, too, are made victims of its powerful capacity to upset and disturb. We thus feel first-hand the horror of the extreme measures taken by the state to neuter Alex and are able – somewhat incredibly – to empathise and sympathise with the psychopathic, murderous protagonist.

A Clockwork Orange is, in Alex's Nadsat terms, "a real horrorshow." In English? Really, really good.



Photo: Simon Kane

THE POLITICS OF THE SUPERNATURAL

high brow
Low Brow

Harry Stralton says zombies are for lefties, and vampires are for conservative blood suckers

Like everyone else in the sixties, vampires and zombies held hands and sang 'Kumbaya'. The fortunes of the one sub-genre rose and fell with the other, and fans of the undead haemo- and sarco-phagic lived in pleasant harmony, often sharing their delight in particularly B-grade crossover films.

Then in 1977, everything changed.

Since then, zombies and vampires have been locked in a zero-sum game for control over the horror industry. The success of one genre has always been accompanied by the devastating near-collapse of the other; and where once Dracula amiably bantered with his zombified offside Renfield, now crossover films like *Vampires vs. Zombies* split audiences into partisans for either side. (Their production values, however, remain stuck in the sixties.)

And the spooky thing isn't just that horror fans are so divided. It's that the divide so strikingly corresponds to the fault-lines of the culture wars. It's that the election of a Democrat so drives right-leaning vampire fans to the box office that Summit Entertainment chose to premiere *Twilight* almost exactly two weeks after the 2008 election – just as the Reagan years saw the triumph of the *Night and/or Return of the Living Dead*. In fact, in every US presidency since Carter's, the four years

following victory by one side's candidate have been won by the other side's monster.

Blaming Obama for Stephanie Meyers' success might seem like a bit of a long bow (or the best argument yet for raising Mitt from the dead). But according

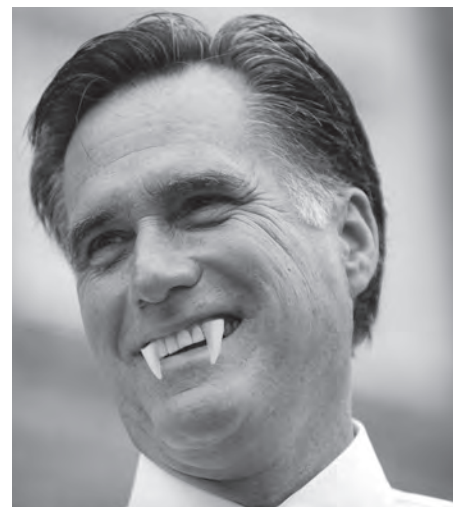
to the Internet's armchair psychologists, we shouldn't be entirely surprised. Rather than finding new terrors to fill our dark nights, hack screenwriters thrive on confronting audiences with the things they're already afraid of. For vampire fans (who polling indicates are significantly more likely to not have finished high school, attend church, and vote Republican), that thing seems to be sex – specifically, the kind of unwedded and ungodly sex they're convinced those blood-sucking Democrats promote. *Twilight's* thinly-veiled Mormon porn isn't exactly groundbreaking stuff – well-brought up Victorian ladies were apparently just as interested in replacing the hypersexualised Lucy Westenra as Dracula's bride. What is new is that vampire literature is increasingly taking on other tropes of how

the Right imagines the Left would recreate society, from the drug-induced raves of *True Blood* to the grim blood rationing of *Daybreakers'* ailing vampire state. It seems that leaning towards the right makes people choose films that confirm their pre-existing attitudes towards sex and the culture wars, which only makes them – lean further to the right.

But the Left shouldn't get too superior about their film preferences not being driven by the herd (or too smug about all this sex the Right think they're having).

What terrifies zombie fans, who bear strikingly little resemblance to vampire fans in that they're much more likely to be university educated, tick the "no religion" box and vote Democrat, is the idea of being one of the crowd. It's this fear of mindless conformity and consumerism that films like *Dawn of the Dead* satirise, even as

the biological horror of *28 Days Later*



panders to the far left's fear of genetic engineering, animal experimentation and Big Pharma gone horribly wrong. The common theme binding the two terrified groups together is the same idea of conversion – that your friends, your children or even you could be turned into depraved sex maniacs and/or brainless conformists like the other side – that's terrified audiences since the bafflingly popular *I Married a Communist*. Without the fear of *Letting the Wrong One In*, neither sub-genre is all that frightening.

But the thing is that zombie and vampire films are hardly unique in this respect. Liberals and conservatives now watch their own TV channels (Fox) and read their own newspapers (*The Guardian*). Each ideological stable has a direct financial interest in playing into pre-existing narratives, whether the government conspiracies are to take away our guns or our right to choose. At some point we are no longer able to have a coherent debate about real world problems, because the media through which we experience and reflect on reality – from the nightly news to B-grade horror films – is so different that the other side seems like it's living in a fantasy world.

And that's what's really terrifying.



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My Local RSL

Bryant Apolonio thinks you've probably never heard of it

I know this great place just off York Street.

It's behind a record store and you have to walk down a flight of stairs. It's decorated with band posters and Sonic Youth memorabilia. I'm not going to talk about that though. I'm going to talk, instead, about my local RSL.

My local RSL has no Urbanspoon profile. It has no Yelp profile. There is one review on TrueLocal and it's a 3.5 which is reasonable. My local RSL is based in a building you'd describe as "squat," wedged between two bigger ones and sort of covered by a tree. It faces the IGA. There are gambling facilities and a strict policy of Having A Shirt But No Hat.

I've only been to this place once before writing this review and it was a long, long time ago when smoking was allowed in pubs. There was a corner of the room that was sequestered and far more dimly lit than the rest of the place. Ten-year old me – who ate the schnitzel but not the green beans – could only imagine what shady escapades those vets could've gotten up to behind that

IKEA partition. Now I know.

The place, sans tobacco, is exactly how I remember it a decade later. Still dimly lit, solemn, sort of oppressive. The food is cheap – almost wholly meat-based – and the menu now boasts some pan-Asian cuisine (fried rice w/ ham, a nondescript curry), catering to more metropolitan tastes. There's beer. And there's wine. There's cider, though I imagine it's frowned upon.

I grab a plate of chips and whatever's on tap and sit. It's 6:30pm on a Friday and the place, inasmuch as it can be abuzz, is abuzz. There are people in groups, and there are solitary patrons. Everyone is three times my age or more. The people sitting by themselves are uniformly despondent but those in groups seem to glow. Someone makes a joke and they all explode in a laughter which is slow to fade.

The waiter arrives with my food and I ask him if the place is always this busy. He says it's probably because it's the ANZAC weekend and then asks me, amicably, what I'm doing here. I say I'm writing an article. He looks upset. He

SMALL BAR REVIEW

passes me a coaster – which announces its support for the South Sydney Rabbitohs – then leaves. The chips are okay.

There are two other pubs in Botany and they're both called "hotels": one is the 'Captain Cook' which promises topless waitresses on Fridays and enough TVs to watch The Game. The other is the 'Waterworks' which is surprisingly busy at ~12pm on weekdays. It's full of tradies coming in from a night shift and, inexplicably, small children. They buttress the fish 'n' chip place, and two ATMs which may be a business tactic. And yet, my local RSL seems to do well enough against this competition. It's been there for as long as I can remember, with an atmosphere as unchanging as the sea.

I'm not really encouraging you to pay a visit. I honestly wouldn't go that far. But if you're tired of overpriced cocktails, bespectacled art-school drop-outs, esoteric beats, and intentionally gaudy décor, well, you're in luck. You won't find it here.

@bryantapolonio

OPINION

LABOR LOVES
YOUTH VOTERS

And not live music, says
Evan Van Zijl

It's clear that the ALP are frightened and their youth base is disappearing out from under them. The campaign for 'Kevin07' posed moral questions on climate change, work choices and immigration that resonate with young people, who are issues-based voters. This tactic helped propel Rudd to victory and swelled the membership of Young Labor, who became devoted campaign teams for the inner city.

Julia Gillard and the state parliamentary leadership of the ALP failed to do the same, however, in their descent into conservatism and many of these voters turned to the Greens. This can be seen as particularly true in the Inner West, with the Leichhardt council becoming a Greens stronghold for several years, Fiona Byrne nearly toppling Carmell Tebbutt in Marrickville and now the increasing vulnerability of Grayndler.

It's hardly surprising, then, that the ALP would try to one up the more 'trendy' Greens by developing a campaign designed to appeal to the youth and the Inner West mentality. 'Labor Loves Live Music' was the ALP's attempt to be 'cool'; to win the youth vote, and bring the roaming Young Labor campaign team, back to the fold.

Foregrounded by the previous coalition of ALP/Liberal leadership of Leichhardt Council, who took the Annandale Hotel to court, the campaign helped win back some support from the Greens who were accused of allegedly hating fun. Now, having scraped enough votes, with the support of the Liberal Party, to seize the Mayoralty in Leichhardt, the ALP are adapting these local issues to the federal election with an attack on Senator Lee Rhiannon.

Sen. Rhiannon, of the Greens, has been the subject of ongoing attacks from the ALP and *The Australian* based on her making inquiries about sound insulation in her personal office. Darcy Byrne, ALP Mayor of Leichhardt, alleges, "Lee Rhiannon's war against small bars and live music must come to an end. The Senator's ongoing, vexatious complaints conflict with her stated support for small bars..." Responding to these attacks, Rhiannon's office stated that Sen. Rhiannon is "a strong supporter of live music and all we are asking is that the landlord do the right thing and reinstall proper insulation..."

In an election period that increasingly seems to be waged on issues to do with personality rather than federal policy, it's hardly surprising to see a local issue hypocritically grafted to federal politicians. Hopefully, Labor can learn to like genuine political debate as much as it supposedly 'loves live music'.

IRON MAN 3 FLIES HIGHER THAN BEFORE

FILM REVIEW

Lachlan Munro says that you don't have to be a comic book nerd to appreciate the new *Iron Man*

Watching the trailers for *Iron Man 3* (something I had done more often than I'd like to admit) gave the impression that this film was going to be darker than the first two. There seemed to be little of the rapid-fire banter that made *Iron Man* and *Iron Man 2* great and pretty good respectively. Instead it looked like were going to see billionaire superhero Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) dealing with anxiety, insomnia and the crash that came after the high of *The Avengers* (although to be fair I was in the same boat as Tony with that last point). All this while he tries to fight off a ruthless terrorist with some personal vendetta. So as I walked into the 12:01AM screening last Wednesday, it was with a touch of concern that director Shane Black would have conformed to the recent trend of gritty, dark superheroes.

The movie does feature Tony Stark suffering some serious mental health issues (checking the DSM-IV my diagnosis would have to be panic disorder), while the main antagonist The Mandarin (Ben Kingsley in top form) is putting Tony's friends in the hospital. But the opening of the movie, which features the voiceover of Tony Stark quipping about his issues to the electro-synth sounds of Eifel 65's 'Blue (Da Ba Dee)' sets the tone for the rest of the film.

Yeah, Tony's dealing with some heavy shit, but Downey Jr. makes watching that just as much fun as watching Tony Stark swagger about New York in Armani suits. Some of the biggest laughs of the trilogy come when Tony is suffering through anxiety attacks in small town Tennessee, without his suits or gadgets.

The movie also seriously delivers on the action scenes. The destruction of Tony's mansion, with Tony struggling to get his Iron Man suit on whilst being flung about the rubble is suitably epic. Another scene that features Tony with

half of his suit on scrabbling to fight henchmen is also a joy.

Other reviews have criticised the film for shooting for laughs over story, and that's probably a valid complaint. There is one character in particular who has a massive reveal played entirely for humour. It made me laugh, but I predict that especially the hardcore comic book fans will turn rabid purely for this.

For those who aren't comic book purists though, *Iron Man 3* is popcorn entertainment at it's absolute peak.

@lachyjm



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Are you a carer?

The SRC Disabilities and Carers Collective and SRC HELP caseworkers are working closely to support student carers in managing their studies.

If you provide unpaid, informal care for a friend or family member with a disability, an ongoing illness, mental illness, chronic condition, drug or alcohol condition, or someone who is frail and elderly, it is likely that you are a 'Carer'.

Many students at uni are carers and they are amazing. Just sometimes it is good to have that little bit more support, whether it is social, talking to people who understand, or some flexibility in managing your studies.

Many students at uni are carers and they are amazing. Just sometimes it is good to have that little bit more support, whether it is social, talking to people who understand, or some flexibility in managing your studies.

Michael (not his real name) has allowed us to share his story, explaining the pressures of being a full time carer for his family and mother who has schizophrenia:

Michael is the young carer of his mother and 3 siblings aged 14, 12 and 10. Michael's mother suffers

from schizophrenia but had not been medicated for several years. In semester 2 of 2012, Michael's mother's condition deteriorated to the extent that she was regularly having outbursts and hitting herself, Michael and the other children. She would sometimes throw dishes around the house or stand around talking to herself and yelling out randomly.

Michael's father had left the family home several years before and only visits occasionally. Michael is responsible for the running of the household, feeding and clothing his siblings, taking care of his mother and finally, trying to complete his university degree.

Last October Michael's mother's episodes became so violent that Michael decided he had to take matters into his own hands. He called relatives for help and they told him to have his mother committed to a mental hospital. Michael called some services and Community Health Care Workers came and forcefully injected medication to his mother after she tried fighting them off. This resulted in her being taken away and being hospitalized. Michael visited his mother regularly and felt a mixture of guilt and relief that his mother was away from the home.

All this had occurred throughout the examination period and Michael failed 3 subjects as a result of all this stress and the ongoing responsibility he faced for caring for his siblings.

While students can apply for special consideration for caring responsibilities

this is not always possible because of everything else that is going, or because it is not really about one specific event, but a cumulative situation.

The SRC is keen to work with students to learn more about the student carer experience and to make recommendations to the university about specifically recognizing and valuing student carers and supporting them in their studies more broadly.

Are you a student Carer? Here are some things you can do....

1. Join the Disabilities and Carers Collective disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au
2. Complete our quick 10 question survey on how caring responsibilities affect your study. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZR2FGBM>
3. Write to us and share your story. disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au



A big thank you to <http://slpmartin.files.wordpress.com/> for permission to use their image in our campaign!



SRC Legal Service

Need legal advice and not based on main campus?

SRC Legal Service is now available at other campuses!

First Thursday of each month:	Sydney Conservatorium of Music Location: to be advised by the faculty
Second Wednesday of each month:	Rozelle campus - Sydney College of the Arts (morning only: 9-12pm - start date and location to be advised); Sydney Nursing School (afternoon only 12:30 - 3pm) Location: student common room
Third Monday of each month:	Cumberland campus - Faculty of Health Science Location: Faculty library and Student Supports Centre
Fourth Thursday of each month:	Westmead Hospital and Faculty of Oral Health Location: To be advised by the faculty

If you wish to make an appointment with SRC Legal Service during these campus visits, you can call the SRC on 9660 5222.

Stop the Cuts to the Welfare Rights Centre: Rally Friday

The NSW Government has just cut the core funding of the Welfare Rights Centre (NSW).

The Centre is a community legal centre providing advice and advocacy to over 4000 vulnerable social security recipients each year – people with disabilities, students, aged people, aboriginal people and single parents.

This is happening at the same time as single parents are dealing with massive reductions (totalling \$800m) to their payments and Youth Allowance Start-up Scholarships are looking like being converted to loans.

The loss of the core funding of funding (of \$400 000) will mean five less 5 staff in the Centre. After 30 years of funding it was justified on the basis that Social Security is a Commonwealth related matter, but it appears to be an ideological attack on the idea of advocacy and on the rights of people living below the poverty line. All the clients of the Centre are residents of NSW.

The effective work of highly skilled Welfare Rights staff consistently exposes errors made by Centrelink staff in payments and charges. This work correcting Centrelink errors restores over a million dollars per year to the pockets of impoverished people in this state. There will be a lot of very vulnerable people in NSW who "fall through the cracks" and will not get the social security payments they are entitled to because they cannot deal with Centrelink bureaucracy, or cannot appeal wrong Centrelink decisions by themselves.

Many major charities and community organisations, including the SRC, rely on the expert advice from WRC staff, who also produce fact sheets and the Welfare Rights Centre's regularly updated Handbook and Guide to the complex array of social security provisions. The work of the caseworkers at the Centre informs its policy advocacy to Government - a voice for justice for the vulnerable, dispossessed or simply those getting screwed by Centrelink.

The Welfare Rights Centre Board and Staff are mounting a campaign to fight the cuts.

A 'Save Welfare Rights' rally is being held at Governor Macquarie Tower at Farrer Place in the city this Friday 3 May at 12.30pm. Come and support this fight.

President's Report

president@src.usyd.edu.au

David Pink reports back from the alternative education conference, EduFactory

An Education Network

"Previously activists in education have been disconnected, geographically fragmented, without the capacity for coordination, and dependent on the whim of bureaucracies beyond our control. We aim to resolve these difficulties, and to take immediate action on education.

We propose that there be a national education network established, to fight attacks on education. This network will prosecute campaigns against cuts against fees, for autonomy, for diversity and for education funding. We believe that education should be democratic and participatory, and not run by bureaucrats in the interests of capital and the state; we stand for a democratic society.

This network regards itself as wholly distinct and autonomous from any other existing groups that claim, truly or falsely, to represent us, though it does not exclude the possibility of working with such groups. This network instead regards itself as an association of activists in the education sector and not as representatives.

This network will maintain a Facebook Group and Email list. It will endeavour to have members in every state and territory, or if that is not possible, from a broad geographic range, as part of this project it will endeavour to establish state networks. Anyone involved in education who agrees with the objectives of the network may join by attending a meeting.

This network will be governed by meetings at Edufactory, and by phone linkups between conferences. All decisions, unless delegated, will be made through these meetings. The method of decision-making will be consensus, and if consensus should not be achieved, a two-thirds majority vote.

This network will support local and regional organising by education activists and, where possible, work with activist associations on relevant campaigns.

This network sees grassroots education action groups (or other local activist formations) as vital to building a network of education activism nationally, and encourages those groups to actively participate in the network. This



network will if capable, support these grassroots groups in forming.

For the name of this organisation we propose, 'Class Action'."

Passed by an overwhelming majority of participants of EduFactory 2013, 26 April 2013.

General Secretary's Report

general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

Dylan Parker thinks you should pay attention to the Union Board Elections

So the coloured T-shirt wearing, pamphlet packed, and down right unpunny pandemonium of Union Board 2013 will soon be upon us and I thought that it is probably high time to mention why you should get involved on the representative side of your student associations.

Look, I get that for a tonne of people student politics makes Saturday exams not look half bad and frankly if that is the case then this week's report probably isn't for you. However, if you do care about the future of your student associations, the kind of education you receive and the quality of your student experience then student elections are worth thinking about or at a bare mini-

mum paying a shred attention to.

As someone who has been on both the giving and receiving end of a million 60 second spiels, lecture bashes and caf-bashes I get how frustrating, in your face, and at times just plain shit student elections can be for everyone involved. However, I promise you the poor bastard out campaigning is 9 times out of ten doing it because their heart is in the right place. It takes a bleeding heart to stand up in front of hundreds of people and put themselves out there with nothing but a flyer, a coloured T-shirt and maybe a couple buzzwords to keep them covered.

Student elections matter because if you don't pay attention you might miss

a Liberal sneaking in the back door under the label progressive or a closet anarchist more interested in smashing the state than providing student services. Or worse you only have to look at the disgusting example of 'Fresh' at UQ where the Liberals stacked the deck so they practically had to win and then went on to flagrantly spend lumps of their student associations' cash on their own self promotion. Love them or hate them, student elections matter because they're all you have to make sure that the people you are putting into positions of power believe in the things you believe in and actually impact you.



harassment.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Sexual Harassment Officer's Report

Eve Radunz is all for safe and consensual sex

The sexual harassment department has kicked off the year with a swagging start. The launch of our program S.W.A.G. (Sydney Women's Action Group) Against Sexism and Sexual Harassment has been greeted with much excitement and anticipation. This year we want to make S.W.A.G. a haven of sexual health advice and support. We plan to run campaigns on preventing sexual harassment on campus and providing services for victims while also focusing on giving information about how to have fun, safe, CONSENSUAL

sex (including some juicy, relevant [ie. non-cosmo] sex tips).

We've also been working in conjunction with the Women's Collective and various college representatives to target the sexual harassment problems that are prevalent in the college environment. By working off many of the recommendations that are given in the Talk About It survey (a 2011 report compiled by the National Union of Students about sexual harassment on Australian campuses) we plan to consult with colleges and give them

more information on sexual violence and how to prevent it. It's important that we, as a student body, don't vilify colleges but instead work in solidarity with them in creating a safer student experience free of sexism and harassment.

We're also ambitious about providing physical support for students, in the form of the provision of free condoms, pregnancy tests and sexual health literature. We're looking to work with the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and their sexual assault services

in creating a campaign about what sexual harassment is and the role that consent plays in sex. Hopefully in the future when you're sitting on a loo on campus you'll be reading a poster about the support that the SRC and various Sydney-based centres provide for victims. Of course we'll also be working on making consensual sex a fun, un-taboo topic that all students can talk and learn about in a safe, informative space. So look out ya'll, we'll be on your campus talkin' bout (consensual) sex baby.

Education Officers' Report

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Casey Thompson educates you further on EduFactory

The 2013 "EduFactory! – Disassembling the Neoliberal University" conference was held at the University of Sydney from Thursday the 25th to Sunday the 28th of April. EduFactory! saw concerned students from all over the country come together to discuss the current crisis of tertiary education.

University students, TAFE students, staff union members, and education activists from all walks of life, discussed the campaigns that were being run in their own corners of the world. Stories were swapped on the staff and course cuts that have occurred, with some faculties seeing their subject choice reduced by 60%. An 'all-in' session of national 'report backs' demonstrated to me just

how similar all of our experiences are and how systematically our universities are being turned in to neoliberal 'edufactories'. We used the four days to share ideas, skills, strategies and tactics and to discuss the expected increase of education cuts due to the upcoming federal government budget's plan to remove \$2.3+ billion from the tertiary sector.

Some universities were reported to have thriving activist communities, whilst others cried out for national solidarity to help them establish their dream campaigns and fight their education attacks. Therefore, more importantly than any other aspect of the conference was the fact that we used the time to put all of our ideas together and to strategize

how we could best unite to defend our education and to demand the high quality, and free, education that we deserve.

"EduFactory!" demonstrated that there is strength in unity and strength in collective decision-making and collective organising. The overwhelming majority of conference attendees voted to establish a national education network, titled Class Action. Class Action will be a great thing for the future of student activism and more importantly for the future of education in Australia. It will be a unifying and guiding body for future struggles and allow our, often-divided, movement to come together and seriously challenge the neoliberal project attacking our universities and



schools.

The establishment of Class Action gives me hope. We can look to the future and see the presence of a strong force fighting for students and their fundamental rights – free, quality education.

Women's Officers' Report

usyd womenscollective@gmail.com

Hannah Smith thinks feminists should be part of the vocal majority

Last Monday, me and some members of the Women's Collective were lucky enough to attend Vocal Majority's Let's Get Loud conference at the ANU in Canberra. Vocal Majority is a relatively new activist youth organization aimed at promoting and protecting reproductive rights. At the conference, we heard from Dr Anne Summers AO as the keynote speaker, who spoke on where the feminist movement is now and where it has to go. We heard from a great number of panelists including Julie McKay, Executive Director of UN Women Australia and Stella Young, Disability activist and editor of Rampup! We also had great workshops with Clementine Ford, writer and Anna Rose, Founder of AYCC.

One of the main things I learned from the conference was the importance of reflection within any social or political movement. Stopping at taking stock of your achievements and considering 'where to next?' is necessary so as to

prevent burnout and to build connections and skills.

I was also reminded of Australia's archaic reproductive and sexual health laws and provisions. In both Queensland and New South Wales, Abortion is a crime, unless doctors believe a woman's mental or physical health are in danger. In comparison, the ACT and Victoria do not count abortion amongst the criminal code.

One of the biggest problems facing women who require an abortion is the limited access and prohibitive costs. Most abortions are performed in private clinics, and these clinics are heavily concentrated in urban, city areas. For women in regional and rural areas, this means extensive travel, and additional costs to what is an already expensive process.

While Australia has far to go, in comparison to the world at large, we have a

lot to be thankful for. The World Health Organisation has estimated that 21.6 million unsafe abortions were performed in 2008 alone- causing approximately 48,000 deaths. These sorts of statistics emphatically prove that restricted access to abortion does not stop abortion happening- it just stops abortion happening in a safe environment.

Evidence also suggests that the liberalization of abortion laws actually sees a fall in abortion-related deaths. In 1996, South Africa changed its laws and saw a 91% drop in instances of related deaths.

In New South Wales, we need a better system- one which is empirically proven to be safe and better for women. And most people agree- consistent polling shows that 80%- a (vocal) majority of Australians support the removal of abortion from the criminal code.

If you are dealing with an unplanned preg-

nancy, call Family Planning NSW on 1300 658 886.



Social Justice Officers' Report

Emily France, Olivia Ronan, and Michael Rees explain what social justice has to do with your mental health

As semester hits its peak with essay season, student elections and the weight of exams just around the corner, students can be forgiven for forgetting the most important aspects of life: health, emotional wellbeing and self-nourishment.

While many of our policies pertain to financial or demographic disadvantage, we are pleased to announce our current work-in-progress; the introduction of

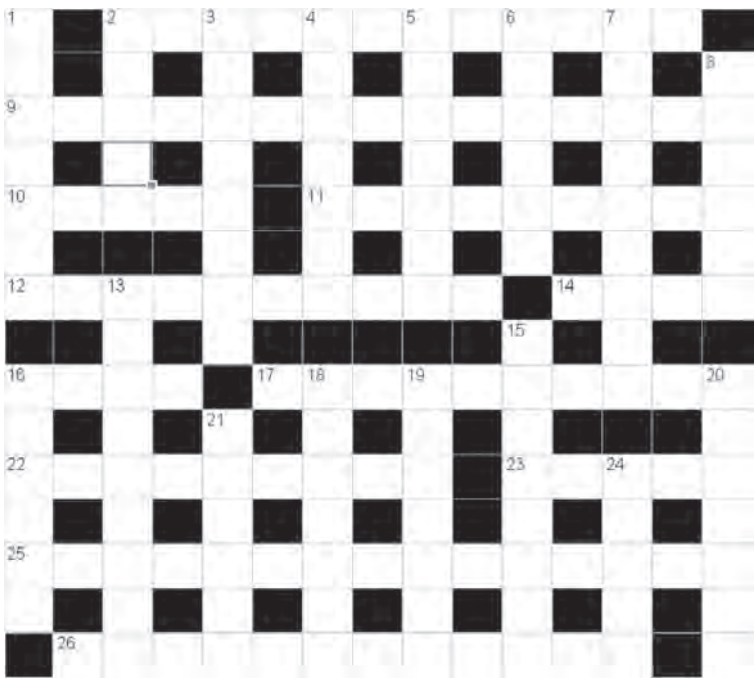
professionally run support groups for students suffering mental illness and/or emotional challenges. An initiative proved successful by numerous London universities, we envisage a collaborative effort between the university and relative organizations such as the Butterfly Foundation and Beyond Blue.

As mental illness continues to be a leading factor for deaths of young people aged 18-25, there is no time like the

present to proactively incorporate support services within the university's largest student organisation. Free support networks run by relevant charities and mental health facilities already function throughout NSW. The Social Justice Office hopes to expand this through introducing a strictly anonymous, easily accessible branch on campus, so that students looking for peer support and guidance are afforded it.

As we intend to line up a number of relevant consultation meetings, the planning for our scholarship assistance program is also shaping nicely. We will be distributing an online survey in the very near future to accurately indicate areas of this policy which are most beneficial for the student body. We ask that all students keep an eye out for this, as any contribution will be invaluable for the opportunities of future USYD applicants.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



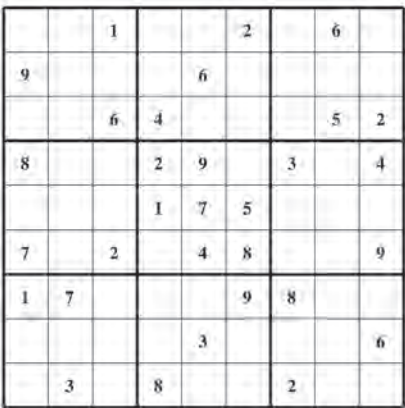
Janice

ACROSS

- 2. Permission for cooler fruit to swallow the odd exsected (12)
- 9. Devilish Bond character no longer in Tennessee city to quietly empty house on Rocky Lane (15)
- 10. Greek method to expel drunkard for Irish entertainment (5)
- 11, 14. Psycho 12-across swirling her star scotch (9,4)
- 12. Symptomatic of deceased princess believing nothing about higher being is knowable (10)
- 14. See 11-across
- 16. Feel moleless shake (4)
- 17. Ex-PM to rubbish me back in French on half-time (5,5)
- 22. Cancerous cyst - treat with X triangularly? (9)
- 23. Unexpected delay in marriage (5)
- 25. Avid Bolivar monk murdered Vivian Dark-bloom in reality (8,7)
- 26. Light healing heel atrophy with one treatment (12)

DOWN

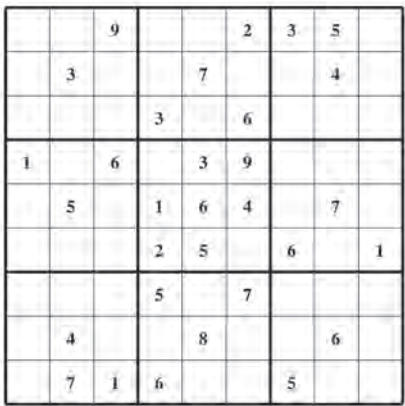
- 1. Detailed puma chilled and polished with solid lava (7)
- 2. In Athens, a caliphate to excite (5)
- 3. Bond character "W" incorporated into new cross-arrangement like that at word's end?! (8)
- 4. Trainees eaten by seabirds! (7)
- 5. Constant calculation program sounds like excellent pastry (5,2)
- 6. Needing vengeance in no-vehicle-zone? (6)
- 7. Julian in surgery? (9)
- 8. Sunstorm Shack open (6)
- 13. Gere flick to settle second last moving up thirteen places (9)
- 15. Frog lost number of salamanders (8)
- 16. Intention to replace Bond character with incorporeal villain in fulfillment of a wish (6)
- 18. Left Taoist to wrestle saxophonist (7)
- 19. Speak to provoke and instruct (7)
- 20. Elgar poem/song where Clapton's tears are losing ecstasy (2,5)
- 21. Italian sandwich maker in pain (6)
- 24. Half as swift around 2-across' wine? (5)



Easy

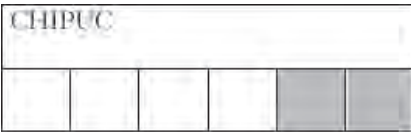
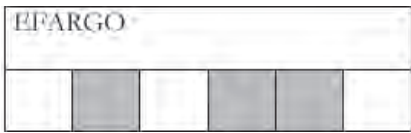


Hard



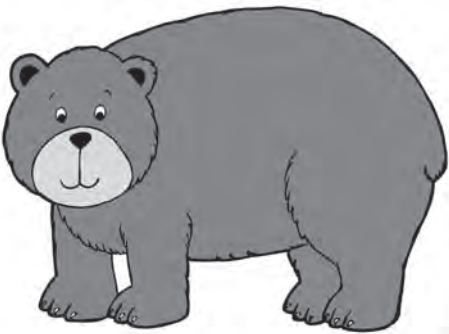
Hard

WHAM, BAM, ANAGRAM !



The shaded letters form another anagram. Use them to answer the riddle.

Q: What do call a grizzly with no teeth?



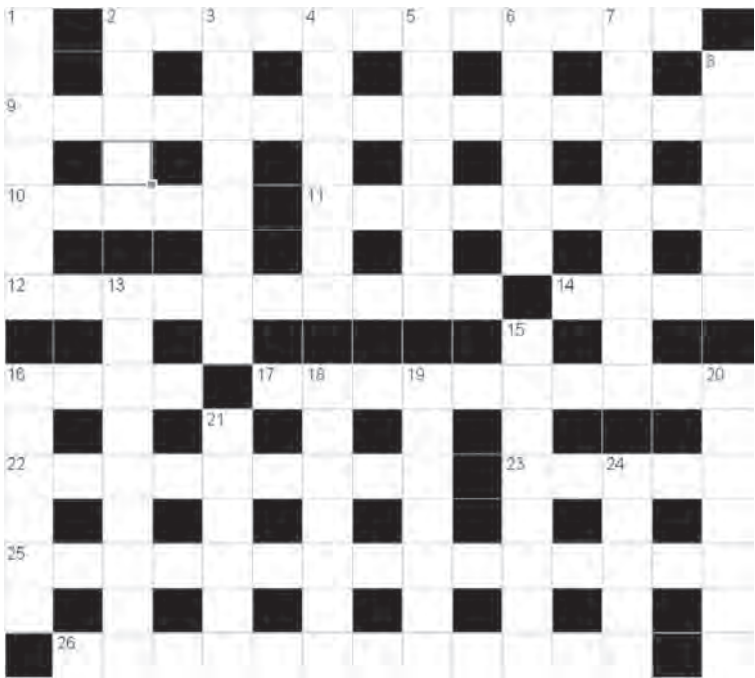
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

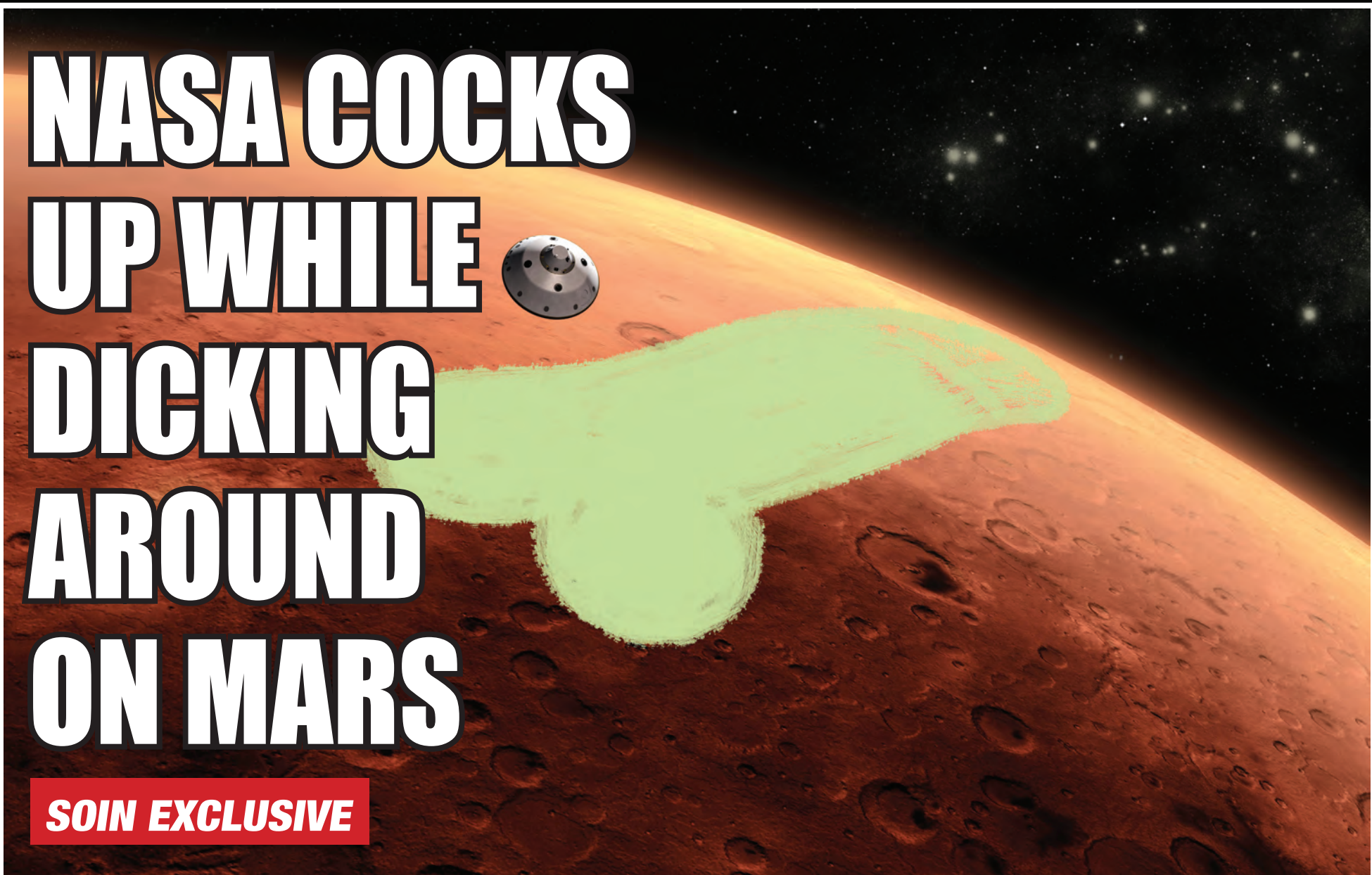
- 2. Artistic arrangements of light and shade (13)
- 9. Belgrade clued? (7,2,6)
- 10. Frost or glaze on a cake (5)
- 11. Restricted (9)
- 12. Periods of time between governments (10)
- 14. Condition of severe anxiety (1.1.1.1.)
- 16. British nobleman (4)
- 17. Thinnest (10)
- 22. Sear or freeze tissue (9)
- 23. Gecko or sweet wine (5)
- 25. Illegitimation (15)
- 26. Feelings to be tugged at? (12)

DOWN

- 1. Italian composer (7)
- 2. Island south of Naples (5)
- 3. Numbers without fractional or decimal components (8)
- 4. Recurrence of a disease (7)
- 5. Crocus spice (7)
- 6. Branch of international agency (1.1.1.1.1.1.)
- 7. Dungeon accessible by ceiling hatch (9)
- 8. Sentimental song or poem (6)
- 13. Greenish-blue or stone of such colour (9)
- 15. Relax (8)
- 16. Boil out (6)
- 18. Breast/back protecting armour (7)
- 19. Artist or designer's studio (7)
- 20. Trifles or playthings (7)
- 21. Skeptic (6)
- 24. Interlocks yarn (5)



Janice



Martian astronomers have today confirmed that there is, in fact, no intelligent life on Earth.

The revelation comes after the NASA Mars Rover drew a giant phallus on the red planet's surface this week.

The Martian Minister for Interplanetary Studies, Dak Kovaa, released a statement expressing his disappointment in the findings.

"Things had been looking so promising for the Earthlings," he said.

"Marriage equality is sweeping the planet, global warming is being widely acknowledged as an actual threat, and that Psy character released that fantastic toe-tapping tune last year."

"Sadly, the events of the past

week show that the whole planet is just fucking stupid. I mean, seriously, first their little toy draws the dick, then it makes news headlines for days afterwards?"

United States President, Barack Obama, said he felt the Martians' judgement was unfair and unwarranted.

"Hahahahah...oh shit...ha ha ha ha...balls...the dick has balls!" he said.

"They might even be hairy. Look, are those little hairs?!"

A spokesperson for the NASA executives said they were unavailable for comment, because they were still rolling around on the floor of their offices giggling so hard that little spurts of wee came out.

KIKK mart

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ROD CALLS LEADERSHIP SPILL

In late breaking news, after the withdrawal of its NUS candidacy the Inanimate Carbon Rod is moving to Sydney to pursue its quixotic tilt for the SULS Presidency.

"NUS ultimately rejected my bid because I was unable to display human emotion," said the Rod.

"Fortunately, at SULS, that won't be a problem."

Yet not all are so enamoured by the Rod's radiant charm. Analyst Donoghue Jackson expressed skepticism about the campaign's chances.

"The Rod has never defrauded the Tax Office to the tune of \$200,000," said Stevenson. "It's never spent students' money on ice sculptures. Hell, it's never even run for Union Board, bro-



ken the spending cap, been caught forging receipts and filing false stat decs to cover it up, been kicked *off* Union Board for electoral fraud and then had the gall to nominate a mate."

"On the issues that matter, the

Rod was nowhere to be seen."

SRC President and fellow carbon-based life form David Pink was not available for comment, mainly because he was not asked.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



Dear *Soin*,

You are a waste of taxpayers' money, a thuggish fascist paper, a symbol of unfreedom, and run on the blood, sweat, and tears of thieved students.

Bye,
The Economist

Can't argue with you there. But when are you going to tell us who writes your articles? Stop being a coward and come outside to fight.

-Eds.

Dear *Soin*,

Thanks for your piece on my foray into medical science. Sorry about the refugees; thanks for the Facebook likes!

Yours truly,
J. Gillard

CLIVE PALMER LOSES FAITH IN MEDIA AS THEY CONTINUE TO REPORT ON HIS CRAZY SCHEMES



Clive Palmer is reported today to have cancelled his subscription to Rupert Murdoch's *The Australian* upon learning of their intentions to report on his latest half-baked crazy scheme.

"How in the world can I be expected to keep treating them as a reputable news source?" questioned Mr Palmer. "This must be about the fifth time I've announced something like this only for it to later vanish into thin air, but they insist on continuing to treat this gumph as front page material!"

Mr Palmer is reported to have spent the morning at his local newsagents, desperately searching for any kind of major news publication with the integrity to not report on his unregistered and unmanned political party, without success.

At one point Mr Palmer was heard to mutter, "For god's sake I didn't even announce any policies!" while leafing through the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which at that point had doubled its readership.

Having failed to find a single major publication unwilling to humour his senility, Palmer is reportedly undertaking plans to start his own daily newspaper.

A press conference has been scheduled for later this day to announce the plan, in between his 12pm announcement of producing a new season of *Happy Days* and his 3pm plans to bring back the Pog.

We will have more on this breaking story as it progresses, assuming it actually does.

ADVERTISEMENT?

MasterChef
THE ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN
WHITE v BLACK

- We're better in the kitchen, you know we invented the word "cooking".
- And we've got all the world's best chefs.
- ... Except Ainsley
- ... and Zumbo.
- Oh and all those guys from Iron Chef!
- And... okay, you know what, forget that point.
- Anyway, as I was saying, all women should stay in the kitchen.
- Oh that was last week?
- Sorry, I mean, uhh... as I was saying ... all chefs should stay in the kitchen.
- I rest my case.

- What.
- I refuse to have any part in this.
- This is worse than Prosh and Delta Goodrem combined.

seriously?

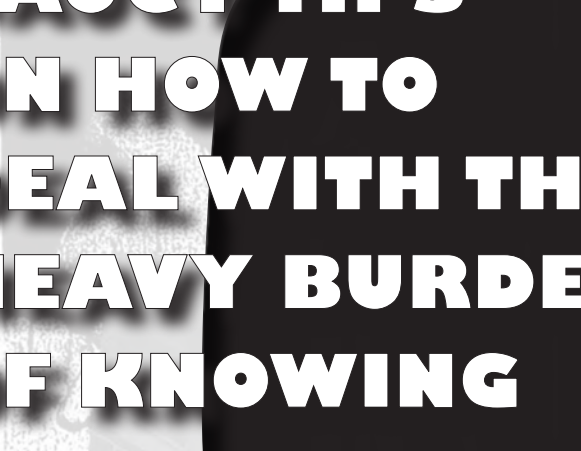
**NEW
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CRAZY SEX STORIES!

*"I fucked
a lizard-
person
... and
liked it!"*

9/11 EXPOSED!

**WHAT HE DOESN'T
WANT YOU TO
KNOW ABOUT THE
INTERNATIONAL
ZIONIST
CONSPIRACY!**

A person wearing a dark hoodie is seen from behind, looking at a wall covered in newspaper clippings. The text is overlaid on the image in large, bold, white letters with a black outline.

**SAUCY TIPS
ON HOW TO
DEAL WITH THE
HEAVY BURDEN
OF KNOWING
THE TRUTH.**



99 FASHION
TIPS TO
AVOID MIND
CONTROL BY
THE C.I.A!

Under Cover!

UNI SEX SCANDAL: "WE WERE TAKEN INTO THE LIGHT AND PROBED"

SUSF DISCOVERED TO BE AGITATING FOR WORLD GOVERNMENT

LATEST SUMMER RIP-OFFS AT MYER!

THE REVOLUTION IS COMING

THERE IS NOTHING TO SEE HERE THERE IS NOTHING TO READ EVERYTHING IS OK EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE [@THE_SOIM]



RALLY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY



1PM SAT 25 MAY
TOWN HALL, SYD

Contact Cat Rose (co-convener) on 0405 770 302
Organised by **Community Action Against Homophobia**
Facebook: Sydney Rally For Marriage Equality



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