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semester one
2013

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YOUR
SUPER
SWEET
SIXTEEN

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Who edits the editors?

According to the historian Steven Spielberg, Abraham Lincoln once belated: "I am the President of the United States of America, clothed in immense power! You will procure me those votes!"

We can relate. While not quite POTUS, *Honi* is still kind of a big deal, at least at Sydney Uni. We have something bordering on immense power: we are the only media outlet with the capacity and the will to cover student issues in depth. This is especially stark now, in election season, when we are essentially the sole voice talking about the candidates apart from the sweet sixteen themselves. That brings us to the question: what should we say?

We wrote in our O-Week edition that objectivity is dead. We stand by that. Our election coverage isn't all that balanced – but we don't think it should be. Our responsibility is not to be objective, but to be fair. Fairness involves acknowledging that some candidates are far better than others, calling out those who aren't competent or serious, and acknowledging those who are qualified. We're harsher on some than others in this issue, and that's why. Someone with little knowledge of the USU or weak policies or a repugnant character should not get the same treatment as an experi-

enced candidate with integrity.

Our coverage therefore involved us making some judgment calls that went beyond spouting out what the candidates' policies are.

We wrote in our Week 2 edition that we would cover local issues in depth. In the past fortnight we've been not just editors, but writers, researchers, interviewers, quizmasters and quiz investigators for 16 candidates. The result is a set of video interviews, a four-page election extravaganza (starting on page 10), as well as another extravaganza in *The Soin*. It means that our judgment on candidates was only reached after a bunch of research, and it means there's enough material out there for you to disagree with us. We know that a few of our readers will resent us for spending so much space on an election they don't care about, but it's our responsibility, and our pleasure, to bring detailed coverage to those who do give a shit, so we make no apologies.

If you don't care for elections, maybe consider avoiding campus for the next week and a bit. But take this *Honi* home with you, because there is some cool stuff inside: Lachlan Munro discusses drug legalisation (page 6), Ada Lee defends pranking *Tharunka* (page 7) and Alex Christie debates ejaculating on

people's faces (page 9).

We know that we are in a position of power. Nobody edits the editors.* But we think we've used our power well when we bring you coverage that is both detailed and fair.

Also, I've been waiting a long time to say this and it feels good: the H at the front of *Honi* is silent. It's French, you fools.

**Except the SRC President and Directors of Student Publications, who take out the legally iffy stuff.*

Hannah Ryan
Editor-in-chief



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Who Wore it Better?!?!?!?



Larry David, comedian



Bob Katter, comedian



WOULD YOU RATHER...

**BE A WALRUS DENTIST?
OR
EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH TURN TO MOZZARELLA?**

FAQ:

Wait, would I be a walrus who is a dentist, or a human who is a walrus' dentist?

It will alternate weekly.

Can I make money as a walrus who is a dentist?

Would you want a walrus fixing your teeth? Didn't think so. No, your only patients will be other walruses.

SOUND & FURY

Controversy in the Kimberley

Unfortunately, Harry Stratton should master the humble Google before announcing 'I tend to research my claims.' ["What happened to Indigenous autonomy?", Week 9.] Indeed, the Kimberley Land Corporation (KLC) initially voted 60% in favour of construction of an LNG processing plant in the Kimberley. However, Harry, I'm sorry to inform you that quite a great deal of Supreme Court level corruption has occurred on the part of the WA government on this issue.

Prior to the vote, the Goolarabooloo/Jabbir Jabbir people had been threatened by the WA Government that if the KLC voted against the LNG proposal their land would be compulsorily acquired and the project would continue regardless – without the compensation package promised with a "vote in favour". Surely, such threats entwined in a "democratic" vote is evidence of corruption?

With such threats to land and livelihood, still only 60% of the indigenous representatives voted yes. Not exactly an "overwhelming vote in favour."

In September 2011, after Walmadan (James Price Point) had been confirmed the location of the gas hub, traditional owners from across the Kimberley denounced the KLC as their legal entity and announced their staunch opposition to the project. The Goolarabooloo people then invited Sea Shepherd, amongst others to join them in their fight for their land. Sound like the actions of people who wanted the project to ensue? Community campaigning then took form as Indigenous elders and community members set up the Walmadan blockade to physically prevent destruction of lands and songlines. The Lurujarri Heritage Trail follows a traditional Aboriginal Song Cycle directly through Walmadan. I'd agree that those traditional owners "know a damn sight more about where their songlines are" than the both of us.

Evidently, indigenous communities of the Kimberley are not a homogenised mass. There were those in favour of the project due to its economic benefits. But making an "indigenous benefits package" contingent on the project is evidence that State and Federal governments are still withholding from remote indigenous communities, and using autonomy as a bargaining tool. I feel quite comfortable labelling that as corruption. Is it not a repetition of "paternalistic policies of the past" when indigenous Australians are forced to compromise lands, beliefs and heritage in order to gain the economic and social support that every other Australian living in cities receives?

It's really, really easy for "inner city trendies" such as ourselves to argue

within the lines of a student newspaper. It's harder to sustain solidarity when complex questions of environmental and social justice are playing out in the real world. Community campaigning of the Kimberley demonstrates the uniting, not just 'professional protestors', but everyday people for intersecting reasons. Whether they feel personally afflicted or no, they choose to fight corporations to save the land of a peoples for generations to come. Hopefully the rest of the country agrees that autonomy and justice to indigenous Australians is long overdue.

Amelie Vanderstock
Arts/Science III

Oops!

Firstly, I blame no one, especially not the editors of Women's *Honi* who have been working incredibly hard to put together a fabulous 24 pages of feminism. However, I do wish to draw attention to the accidental, but inappropriate placement of my response letter to Harry Stratton published in place of my Vice-President report of *Honi Soit* (Women's edition). This was not the space I intended the reply to be. Rather, I envisioned and asked for it to be published in the letters section, under my own name and independent of my title and responsibilities as Vice President. The actual Vice-President's report I spent considerable time preparing for the edition was rather unfortunately and most accidentally omitted [Eds: see page 19 for Amelie's report. See above for her original letter.]

I can't express how upset I am by the mix-up. It may seem trivial but this year I really have been, and am, striving to create a healthy and equal working relationship with fellow office bearers, despite the factional and personal differences, which at times divide us. It's very important to me that personal views be aired but that they do not detract from our role as representatives of the student body. As such, we are strongest when working together, particularly considering the abrasive administration we so often must remind of our rights and value. I feel that this solidarity is undermined when, as Vice President, I'm seen to be using my privileged position to escalate what would probably appear to many as an out-of-context and disproportionate attack on a fellow office bearer.

I'm proud of my response to Harry. Its contents and wording I stand by with absolute confidence. But I do so as a pursuer of social and environmental justice, not as someone who is potentially viewed as holding department position privilege over another in my workplace.

I wish to reiterate that I blame no one for the mistake. We've all been working incredibly hard lately, and what successes have we had together I'd like to congratulate the Women's *Honi* editorial, writing and artistic team. I simply wish to address what I perceive as a sad breach of power on the part of anybody, let alone myself, in this accidental, but unfortunate context.

In order to rectify this the *Honi* editors have agreed to print the VP report intended for Women's to be in this week's edition. I hope this letter is able to impress somewhat why I think it is incredibly important matter to redress.

Sunflowers,
Amelie Vanderstock
Arts/Science III

Controversy in the Kimberley 2.0

I write in response to Harry Stratton's letter "What happened to Indigenous autonomy?", which in turn was in response to Amelie Vanderstock's article "Community campaigners save the Kimberley".

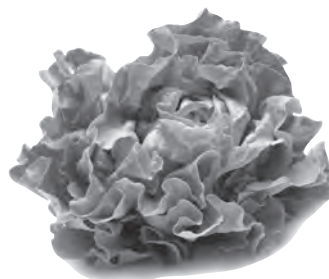
Harry, I've admired some of your other articles in *Honi*, which is why I was especially appalled by your passionate defence of fossil fuels and big business. The government does not provide adequate healthcare, education, or job opportunities for the Indigenous people of the Kimberley. When the idea of destroying their land to create the world's largest gas processing hub was presented, some Indigenous people (not all) accepted the proposal so that they could have work. It is ridiculous to call that Indigenous autonomy.

The people of the Kimberley were presented with no real choice – either accept shitty jobs at the gas hub, or go hungry. That is more akin to slavery than it is to autonomy. Harry, would you defend overseas sweatshops as legitimate since the workers "autonomously" decided to work in them? Do you defend free trade agreements forced by the West on developing countries, driving workers into poverty? You're supposed to be a member of Labor Left, but your understanding of economics reeks of neoliberalism.

Speaking of the left, I'm sickened to see you use phrases like "inner-city trendies like your professional protestor friends" to attack Amelie. You are Welfare Officer of the SRC, so stop speaking like Alan Jones. Please spend more time criticising the links between Woodside and the WA government (real, despite your moans of "making up corruption scandals") instead of attacking dedicated activists on campus.

Tom Raue
Arts V

Lettuce to the editors



Yours anthropomorphically,
Lettuce
Health Sciences I

OBITUARY



Ralph Panebianco

Late last Thursday, May 9, Ralph Panebianco, owner of the eponymous Ralph's Café on Camperdown campus, sadly passed away.

Since its opening in 1984, Ralph's has developed into a campus institution and is well regarded for the quality of its coffee, which has set it apart from other campus vendors. What was originally a standard menu of pastries and cakes evolved over the years to include a range of gourmet home-baked bread options and sandwiches. It's said that this culinary change was prompted by a trip overseas, which inspired Ralph to change the direction of the foods on offer.

Ralph was not just the namesake of his café, or the guy who sold you your coffee. At Sydney Uni Ralph was a legend who could go by his first name only. Known for his booming voice, which drew in curious minds and passers-by, Ralph was warm, chatty, and funny, but terrifying if you didn't have your money ready. He knew his customers and sponsored Sydney Uni's sport teams. Ralph was a permanent installation in the café, involved in its daily operations, and made a lasting mark on the local community. He was a larger than life personality, delightfully Italian, and a Sydney University icon.

A feature of Ralph's café was the constant presence of his family: his wife and three children were also involved in the running of the establishment. Our thoughts are now with his family, and the many others in the University community who will miss him.

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

HONI NEWS



FREE

Week Ten Edition

"COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT: I MISS HER SO MUCH."

The goal is coal

Georgia Behrens investigates the polluted sources of our cashflow

Cash-strapped Australian universities have begun turning to mining companies for financial support, with shrinking government funding inadequate in covering their operating costs.

Over the last ten years, nearly all of the prestigious Group of Eight universities have received a donation, investment, or contract from one of Australia's large mining companies. BHP Billiton funds two Professorial Chairs at the University of NSW. Monash University has formal partnerships with MMG Limited and Newcrest Mining Limited. British Gas, Arrow, and Santos support the Centre for Coal Seam Gas at the University of Queensland.

The University of Sydney, meanwhile, has been home to the Rio Tinto Centre for Mine Automation since 2007. The Centre, under the direction of Dr Steven Scheduling, received \$21 million from the international resources corporation to develop automated open-cut mining equipment.

"We're working under a contract with Rio Tinto," said Dr Scheduling. "This means that certain outcomes are desired... [and] we do our best to make sure that we're aware of their imperatives."

Dr Scheduling said that the Centre is in daily contact with Rio Tinto, but that they're also strongly aware of their obligations as University employees,

educators, and researchers. "It's about reaching a compromise amongst competing demands."

But SRC Vice-President Amelie Vanderstock said that mining companies should not be allowed into positions that allow them to place such "demands" upon university staff and resources.

"The University of Sydney is not a poor institution...It should pick and choose its investors so that we're getting money from sources that are ethical, that don't taint our reputation, and don't compromise our independence."

She said that mining is becoming such a large stakeholder in the university that it curtails the its ability to produce independent, innovative research.

"Mining companies invest in universities so that students get exposed to them, and then end up going to work for them and doing research that helps them," she said.

"That creates this endless cycle of cooperation and support for mining companies. It's hard to break that cycle and break into new, sustainable technologies and ways of thinking when the thinking, the research and the future workers are all coming from institutions that support mining and the status quo."

The mining industry is also present in University's investment portfolio. The University of Sydney holds a 25% stake in AcuMine, which is described on the



company's website as working "to commercialise innovative products developed for the global Mining Technology and Services sector."

A recent campaign by the Australian National University's student environment collective compelled its management to divest itself of its shares in MetGasCo, a New South Wales mining company. Amelie said the USyd Environment Collective plans a similar mobilisation against AcuMine.

But with mining companies still earning billions of dollars in profits every year, it seems unlikely that under-funded universities will stop trying to derive their own profit from the mining boom anytime soon.

Indeed, a recent announcement by Narara Valley High School on the Central Coast of an official partnership with Nucoal Mining suggests that mining investment in universities is just the beginning of a much larger, longer project.

USYD soccer players subject to homophobic attack

Lane Sainty reports on violence in regional NSW

Two players from the Sydney University Division 1 Women's soccer team were subject to a homophobic attack during a team trip to regional NSW last weekend. The team had travelled to Griffith to compete in the Football NSW State Cup.

The game was scheduled for nine o'clock on the morning of Sunday May 5, so the team made the six-hour trip to Griffith on the afternoon of Saturday May 4, arriving at approximately 7pm. They then went out to The Area Hotel, one of Griffith's most popular pubs, situated on the main street of Griffith, Banna Avenue.

Sarah*, 24, said that the women were having an enjoyable night until things turned sour in the early hours of the morning. "At around 3 am the last of us were leaving and then me and another team mate ended up kissing outside and a girl just literally just flew up to us, screamed out— excuse my French— 'fucking dyke!' and just went nuts and continued to punch me in the face and head until the cops came," she said. "My coach tried to get her off and he actually got scratched really badly across his chest."

The woman who attacked the pair was not detained on the night but has since been identified after a witness gave her name to police.

Sarah says that she sustained several injuries as a result of the attack. "I've got a bruise to my left cheekbone, scratches down the left side of my face as well... I've got five or six eggs on my head, and she actually pulled out a massive part of my hair, so I've got a bit of a bald patch."

A doctor has warned the other woman who was attacked that she cannot drive due to a head injury sustained during the attack. This has made it difficult for the woman, 25, to do her job as a company representative, which requires a large amount of driving.

The game the next morning saw the Sydney University team have their State Cup ambitions taken from them by the local Yoogali Soccer Club, who won the game three goals to one.

Sarah played the game, but said that the attack left her virtually useless. "I had to [play], because we didn't have any other players. But I was pretty much just standing there."

*Name has been changed.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Samantha Jonscher questions why *The Australian's* eyes are on the SRC's BDS motions

All eyes are on the SRC. According to *The Australian*, the goings on at the University of Sydney Students' Representative Council (SRC) is the business of national news, keeping close tabs on the outcome of the BDS motion against Israel.

On April 10, the SRC passed a motion to support Academic Jake Lynch in joining the global 'Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions' movement against Israel, supporting to liberation of Palestine. The issue is a complicated and emotionally charged one and the meeting followed suit; each side labeled the other 'racist', shouting matches reportedly broke out of a deeply personal nature. Not an uncommon or unfair representation of the Israel/Palestine debate.

The council's decision made it into the April 16th Edition of *The Australian*

under the loaded headline 'Jewish students slam council over 'pet' BDS'. It was national news that the SRC was anti-Israel. Weeks later, on the eve of the next scheduled SRC meeting, *The Australian* published a follow up, "Anti-BDS move at Sydney Uni tipped to fail", which revealed that despite the proposed "fuzzy pro-peace" motion, it would probably lose out because of "power blocs".

Why they chose to run these pieces is somewhat of a mystery considering that — upon last checking — the SRC does not affect global affairs and that it is without a doubt not the first student body to cast itself as the foot soldiers of world peace.

Perhaps it was for these very reasons that they did run the story. *The Australian* was able to confirm all of the worst



things that can be thought about student politics. That they are plagued by petty alliances, mis-information and 'pet projects', that it is full of "unrepresentative ideologues". But if student politicians aren't allowed to be idealistic, then what can we expect the leaders of tomorrow to look like?

@samjonscher

UNIGATE



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

No peace over the Middle East

The Boycott Divestments Sanctions Motion (BDS-M) passed at last month's SRC meeting remains disputed territory. The Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS) has started an online petition calling on the SRC to rescind its boycott of an Israeli University. Amie Liebowitz, President of the USYD branch of AUJS said the petition was started to "raise public awareness about the attitude to the Middle East peace process held by some fringe elements on campus, as well as the SRC's actions concerning Israel". "BDS is not a way to promote peace," she explained. "Isolating key negotiation parties is negative and does not allow dialogue". At the time of writing the petition had 2785 signatures, many of them from overseas.

USYD AUJS intended to bring the petition to Wednesday's SRC meeting, however, the meeting was declared inquorate because so many councilors decided to 'boycott' it (i.e. couldn't be bothered to attend). Perhaps next meeting the issue will be resolved by calls to boycott the University of Sydney. Boycotts for all.

The dirt on campaign shirts

Pokemon cards, sandstone vandalism, and logo plagiarism are just a taste of what's to come in the Union Board elections which are already dripping in pseudo-scandals.

Capital 'I' Independent Tara Wani-

ganayaka and her campaigners have been chalking on vertical surfaces and the heritage gates of Eastern Avenue. The USU's electoral regulations specifically state that damage or defacement, including chalking on the outside of buildings and areas that have not been specifically assigned for such purposes, is not allowed. Sources have told the *Gate* the Returning Officer (RO) has not responded accordingly to this clear breach of regulations. Campaigners and regulations are like chalk and cheese – one is a delicious dairy product you can have with any meal and the other is something you can use to draw on any wall.

Bebe D'Souza, one of the left-wing candidates, also came into the spotlight for a similar act of alleged vandalism. The yellow house paint she used to paint the handrails of the graffiti tunnel caught students who used them for support yellow-handed. Needless to say, it's a wonder the RO even realised Bebe's campaigners were responsible for the defacement. It could have been one of three candidates who are running on a yellow colour scheme this year.

On the red side of the spectrum, Tim Matthews, another capital 'I' Independent candidate, has been handing out Pokemon cards in line with his Pikachu-themed campaign. Despite the fact that this constitutes "offering...material resources...to induce a voter to vote...in a particular way," the *Gate* doesn't think this makes Matthews the cool,

retro '90s kid he hopes to be.

You may also find Eve Radunz's logo familiar. The font, shape, layout and colour of her logo are close to identical to the "Strong unions need women" campaign logo from the National Union of Students (NUS). Radunz is the National Labor Students (Labor left) candidate and her faction have held control of the NUS presidency for many years. The *Gate* does not think this is a pure coincidence.

Lastly, Robby Magyar, the Labor right (Unity) candidate, has bought the maximum amount of T-shirts, which has left him with a very minimal amount of cash to spend on A-frames and how-to-vote cards. We'll be watching the rest of his spending closely.

Will and disGrace

A few weeks ago, *UniGate* reported claims that the Sydney University Liberal Club (SULC) would try to run several candidates for Union Board with the aim of multiplying their resources then funneling all the votes to one candidate. It now seems our oracles told us true. SULC backed candidates William Dawes and Grace O'Brien have engaged in what they have called "a cross-branding exercise" and what we would call "probably cheating". The *Gate* is yet to see any campaign material that instructs voters to vote [1] Will, while the pair's joint facebook page has a picture of Grace as its display picture, and their shirts (including Will's) display Grace's name in far larger print. The problem for the pair is that the Union does not allow candidates to share resources, as this would mean factions could run multiple candidates and combine their spending caps (not to mention the \$500 grant they receive). Maybe we're wrong, and Eastern Avenue will be overrun with Vote [1] William Dawes A-frames

by the time *Honi* hits the stands. But until then, the USU's returning officer has confirmed that she is considering complaints being made against the pair.

USU Members' Forum

The USU will hold a Members Forum on Thursday at 6pm in the Holme Student Lounge. This forum is open to all ACCESS card holders. Board Directors Astha Rajvanshi, Brigid Dixon, Tom Raue, Phys Pogonoski and John Hardon-Easson will discuss free ACCESS membership, the SSAF, the USU's complaints process, social responsibility and election grants, as well as other topics by request. While similar forums have been held in the past, this has been in response to particularly important members' issues (such as last year's LifeChoice controversy). The Board is now attempting to hold them more regularly.

This is a promising development considering the USU's opacity in other areas. The online posting of minutes from Board meetings is usually delayed: as of late April, the last meeting minutes that had been posted online were from a meeting last November (although if you're looking for some light reading they've now been updated). Further, portions of meetings are often held *in camera*, which means that visitors are required to leave the room and the discussion amongst Directors is struck from the minutes. This means that ACCESS card holders are kept in the dark about potentially game-changing decisions and discussions that take place.

Members' forums such as the one on Thursday, although few and far between, are an important way of communicating with Directors and enquiring about the USU's operations, as well as raising concerns or questions. Plus there's going to be free food. Get on that.

In tough times, University turns to philanthropy

Max Chalmers looks into why the University will be hitting you up for cash when you get a real job

When the University of Sydney started looking for savings last year, the first victims were not academics, or even students – they were refugees. One of the first programs that saw its funding evaporate was the Refugee Language Program (RLP), an initiative which had provided English language tutoring for hundreds of young refugees. But after having its funding withdrawn, the RLP was resurrected by a former CEO involved in the program who offered to cover the costs through fundraising and his own cash. The revival of the RLP is emblematic of a broader change taking place in the University. With federal funding unreliable, donations and bequests are becoming an increasingly important part of the University's funding model.

This change was literally put up in

lights during last week's launch of the 'Inspired' campaign, which aims to raise \$600 million. So as to avoid any accusations of subtlety, the University erected a neon sign in the shape of the sum and pitched it on the Front Lawns: a giant illuminated dollar figure lighting up the cold grass. Since 2008, when the drive began, the University has raised more than \$310 million.

The timing of the announcement is apt, coming just weeks after the Labor Government decided to slash \$2.8 billion from tertiary education spending over the coming two years – a dreary commitment the Coalition has promised to match.

University of Sydney Provost Stephen Garton said that, in this political climate, reproducing the philanthropic success of other major universities had

become a necessity.

"If you look at Harvard, that's 36 billion of donations coming through a variety of sources that keep them going and make them the best University in the world. We won't survive unless we do that," he said.

With last year's average donation coming in at around \$8 000, it is clear that some alumni are prepared to dig deep for the cause. Recent donations have included a Picasso painting, sold this year at auction for over \$20 million, and a \$20 million gift from former WorleyParsons CEO John Grill to establish the John Grill Centre for Project Leadership.

Though apparently successful, the University's fundraising efforts do come off a little too strong from time to time.



In a four minute video posted on the University's website to encourage further philanthropy, dozens of students and academics sing their thanks to donors to the sounds of a full orchestral score. In the bizarre performance, the lyrics of Gaudeamus Igitur are replaced by corny lines about the importance of University museums and research.

Yes, federal funding has finally fallen to a point where universities are forced to sing for their collective suppers.

Trigger warning: This article discusses sexual assault with graphic language

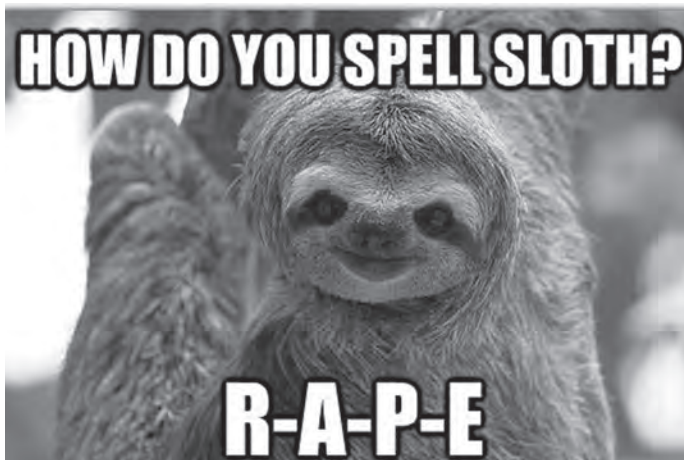
NETIQUETTE

Sloth rape jokes deeply unfunny

Georgia Kriz pens a letter to people she deleted on Facebook

Dear Facebook “friends”,

Over the last few months, some of you have been corrupting my hitherto-pure news feed by sharing and liking these filthy, misogynistic and pathetic “sloth rape” memes.



I’m here to say: they’re not funny, you’re not funny, and I’m unfriending you.

Don’t play dumb; you know the ones I’m talking about. There’s usually a picture of a sloth perched next to a woman’s ear overlaid with some supposedly amusing text. Examples of knee-slapping corkers include: “I would rape you, but I don’t rape sluts”; “Go ahead, call the cops. They can’t unrape you”, and “You better not shout, you better not cry, you better not scream I’m going in dry.”

Here’s a heads up: rape jokes aren’t funny. They

attempt to make light of something that is utterly unconscionable, profoundly traumatic and often life-destroying, and they fail in this quest. Always.

But maybe you think that outsourcing rape jokes to sloth pictures makes them funny, socially acceptable, and somehow less offensive? You might even think that you’ll convince people that the sloths actually write the jokes, and that the memes aren’t just a really shitty cover for your own sick sense of humour. Perhaps your creepy little delusion goes so far that you have convinced yourself that sloths are actual rapists, and that you’re nobly warning the vulnerable public through incredibly high-brow, subtle and nuanced humour? Who knows?

Whatever your arguments are, whatever your justifications are, no matter

*Love without limit
Life without fear*

Is such a thing possible?



You are invited to find out **why** and **how** by attending a free one hour talk by Fujiko Signs from Tokyo, Japan to be held at

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how many butts and ifs and drivelling excuses you spout - they’re wrong. Nothing excuses these pictures, ex-friends, and nothing about them is funny.

Don’t bother re-adding me.

Best, Georgia.

Drug discussions not as sweet as sugar

SCIENCE

Lachlan Munro reports on a recent expert panel on drug and alcohol

The most toxic substance in the world is sugar.

So said Dr Bill Rocks, one of the first guest speakers at a recent public forum on drugs and alcohol, held at the Sydney University Nursing School. The forum was put on by a naturopathic company, and Dr Rocks - an “integrative GP” - was an invited speaker. After likening the damaging effects of crack cocaine addiction to sugar, the self described “human body repairman” then outlined his holistic method of drug and alcohol detox using transdermal nutrient creams and liquid nutrition drinks he had developed.

Dr Rocks claimed to have cured hundreds of people of their crippling habits by using these methods. Undeterred by Dr Rocks’ self-proclaimed solution, the expert panel kicked on in the debate.

The panel was chaired by Triple J’s Tom Tilly, who managed to keep things moving along nicely. Early on it was clear who had the strongest viewpoints and would be dominating the debate. Fred Nile was in favour of stricter drug

laws to send a clear “zero tolerance” message, and had a raging (albeit God-fearing) hard-on for the successful zero-tolerance policy adopted by Sweden.

Hardlining on the other side of the debate was Alex Wodak from the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation who, armed with an impressive arse-

After linking the damaging effects of crack cocaine addiction to sugar, the self described “human body repairman” then outlined his holistic method of drug and alcohol detox using transdermal nutrient creams and liquid nutrition drinks he had developed.

nal of statistics, claimed the “case for prohibition has collapsed.” These two quickly descended into a back and forth exchange that covered and recovered the same ground.

The one point they could agree on was that tighter regulation was needed for alcohol, which everyone in attendance (apart from Dr Bill “Sugar is Deadly, Buy My Nutrient Cream” Rocks) agreed was society’s biggest problem substance.

Throughout the debate the argument for more liberal drug laws very much had the room, although the most charismatic member for the other side was Fred Nile, so this is hardly surprising.



Innocent sweetness or poison? You decide

The more interesting input, though, came from the panel members and invited guests who possessed less of an agenda. Superintendent Frank Hansen from the NSW police force made the sensible point that police need options to give people access to health services if caught in possession of drugs.

He advocated for more police flexibility and was in favour of expanding the current cautioning system for cannabis possession to other drugs.

Vince Coyte, CEO at The Glen Drug and Alcohol Rehab Centre, a facility that focuses on Indigenous addiction, also had some passionate points to make.

Mr Coyte radiated a no-bullshit atti-

tude, and when asked his opinion on how legislation and regulatory changes would affect his clients, responded with a straightforward “they couldn’t give a stuff.” He pointed out that if someone has been traumatised from a young age and becomes addicted to a substances they will get their hands on it regardless of the law. More important than legislation, he argued, was a cultural change and curtailing of the high levels of trauma experienced by Indigenous Australians.

To see the whole debate, go to naturopathmax.com/public-forum



NEWS IN REVUE

Claire Nashar reflects on the week that was

NOT MUCH OF A JOKE, AND SCARCELY MORE JOYOUS (8/05/2013)

A jockey, a brothel owner and a football player walk into a bar...

'We've got a problem here, Gai.'

Reader,
how can I begin to tell you. From which blood-shed shall I write to you. Tomorrow, over our country, there will appear a solar eclipse. Lucky or unlucky, it will unfold above us the darkenings of our culture. Let us not look away.

In Moscow yesterday, pending determinations of allegations, two former foes together sued for another country's peace. A moment possibly, to remember. In the primetime-meantime we watch the fiery orchids of war blossom across Syria, and suspect chemical death. How many more countries cities houses hearts can we break if we try?

Born to bet, I wonder how Tommy W and his suitcase would fathom that wager. Please, send me a brightly coloured tee-shirt to be sick to you from. The time for cruel odds has not passed.

And so brothers, sisters,
spread your chalk all over the pavement.



USU Candidates' soapbox

UNI-VERSE

Controversy surrounds Adelaide University Union's online elections

Cameron Caccamo reports on cross-campus hackery

Even through this long election season at USYD, we should be thankful that it produces Union Boards that seem to work together rather well. This, unfortunately, can no longer be said for the Adelaide University Union, which on the May 6 saw an Executive member of their Union Board get "rolled".

On Dit, the student magazine of Adelaide University, live-tweeted the Board Meeting; where a vote to send their own Union Board Elections online quickly degenerated into a vote on the future of Lucy Small-Pearce, one of the five Executive Members of the Board. Right-leaning members of Board have pushed for online elections, similar to our own Senate elections. The General Manager of the Union expressed concerns about the short time-frame they were working with – ten and a half weeks – and the relative inexperience of staff with any new electoral system. This was largely ignored, as a motion to accept online elections won six votes to four. It has since been confirmed that there is not enough time for the Adelaide University Council – the equivalent of our Senate – to process this.

The real drama was yet to come, however. The pro-online election coalition led by Robert Katsambis, who ran on a Liberal ticket, declared no confidence in Small-Pearce, an independent, to carry out the will of the Board on Executive, as she voted against taking elections online. Backed by two Unity (Labor right) and two International Student Board directors, a moderate Liberal, Charlotte Thomas, took the Executive position. Small-Pearce retains her position as a Board member, however, while NLS (Labor left) Executives Deanna Taylor, President, and Sarah Swan retain their positions.

This move goes beyond just having online elections – it is seen as an attempt by this coalition to have a majority on Executive to push their own agenda, even if it is at odds with the professional advice given to the Board. *Honi Soit* will follow the continuing drama, if only to remind everyone of how good we have it.

@cjcaccamo

Pranking *Tharunka* – is there a lesson to be learnt?

OPINION

The demonisation of government lecturer Peter Chen has been largely misinformed and misleading, argues Ada Lee

Recently, some Sydney University students were given an assignment to submit a fake news article to UNSW's student paper.

The purpose of the 'Prank *Tharunka*' assignment was to test whether the media is susceptible to manipulation. It was not attempting to raise up the next generation of lying, sensationalist journalists. GOVT2603 (Media Politics) is a politics, not a journalism, subject. Peter Chen is a media critic, not a journalist.

The majority of reactions have oversimplified the issue. At one end, we have the conniving, mohawked Dr Chen, setting out to destroy the media. *The Australian* suggests that "maybe the lecturer" is what's wrong with the media. Again, this was not a journalism training exercise. At the other end, we have *Tharunka*, UNSW's student publication, maliciously targeted and victimised.

Tharunka admitted to *Crikey* that they had planned to run a fake story on fare evasion.

Here's a question for *Tharunka*: did you check the facts? Would you have noticed the prank if not for the whistleblower? The assignment's task to post false stories only works if the media is not doing its job properly. *Tharunka*, if

you fact-checked and sifted out all the false stories, then I salute you—for doing your job.

As journalists and editors, if all our sources were entirely truthful with no distortion, no attempts at manipulation, no deliberate omission of facts, then the media world would be a better place. Unfortunately, that's not how it works. Journalists and editors have a responsibility to check facts, investigate and sift out spin. Yes, it takes time. Yes, it might suck. But spin happens and the media

It is not sufficient to use Peter Chen as a scapegoat. Journalists and editors are not infallible lie detectors, but they also need to take responsibility when they make mistakes.

should be prepared for it.

It is not sufficient to use Peter Chen as a scapegoat. Journalists and editors are not infallible lie detectors, but they also need to take responsibility when they make mistakes.

The argument has been made that as a small university paper with few

resources, *Tharunka* was an unsuitable case study for testing the media's gate-keeping role. But perhaps there is a broader point. With highly concentrated media ownership and fewer journalists to fill in a demanding 24-hour news cycle, are our major news providers really better equipped?

Has the journalist watchdog been overtaken by a pack mentality where certain stories are over-emphasised and others completely missed? Is it sufficient that the media often rely on carefully planned press conferences and written statements rather than hard in-depth interviews with our political leaders?

If the big papers were bombarded with falsified stories as *Tharunka* was, would they pass the test? And if not, can we still trust them to bring the important issues to the surface? These are the questions we were asked to explore.

I don't know whether encouraging students to post fake stories was the most virtuous thing to do. But what I do know is that I've learnt an invaluable amount about the politics of media.

See online for more coverage.

@adelinalee

The time I met a Nazi sympathiser

Bryant Apolonio briefly interviewed a hideous man

I don't usually meet Nazi sympathisers, but I did once. We met in Prague, late February, and he was walking down the street where I lived, while I loitered outside.

He wore a blue Ibrahimovic jersey and a yellow parka, and he had a stub of a cigarette in his mouth. He was in his late twenties. He walked with a sort of casual shrug. The point of this extended description is that it's hard to make assumptions. You'd never pick him to be, for example, a vicious racist.

He greeted me, and I returned it. His name was Robin ("The bird..." he said, pressing the back of his left hand on his right palm and flapping) and he needed a lighter.

If you're in Eastern Europe, and you don't look European, three things often happen upon meeting people the first time: they (1) assume you speak English, as opposed to [the respective country's language], (2) ask you where you're from, and (3) ask you what you think of [the country/city/other you're in].

The first two things should feel wrong and bad, but they also expedite introductions so it's probably fine. I said I'm from Australia and I thought Prague was



No hiding behind a football jersey and a yellow parka for this guy.

great. He responded with incredulity. "Prague is shit," he spat, "Czech Republic – fucked."

Robin needed a lighter so he could smoke a joint. We spoke at length. We talked about the European economy ("Everyone goes to Australia. Bad for us, the [he flexed his fingers, air-quoting some newspaper's business section] 'brain drain.'"), drugs ("MDMA, I love. Like sex. But no heroin. No way."), football ("Iniesta is a genius. *Fucking genius.*"), women ("It is what Czech do best, no?").

When the joint was finished, he promptly rolled another.

Robin loved to chat. Everything he said was replete with actual warmth, the honest joy of having just made a friend. "I will tell you something now," he said, "but maybe you will judge me for it." He was suddenly sheepish, hesitant. I said, go on. "Are you sure?" he replied. I nodded.

He paused and considered how to phrase what was on his mind. What was on his mind was this: "Sometimes, I think, maybe a man like Hitler. Maybe he was not so bad. You see all the people in Prague. Gypsies. Maybe Hitler had a gun to his head." He tapped his chest where his heart was with one finger – once, twice – raised that finger to his bloodless lips. "This is what I believe."

There was a silence I assumed I had to fill. So I said: Ah. I thought: you could've told me anything else, Robin, and I wouldn't have judged you for it, you know? But you said *that*. You went and said *that*.

"Hitler," he continued, "I...I think he is okay. He happened because of poverty. Look at the poverty now." His hands were less animated; they're just in

front of him, cupped like he's collecting water. At this point, I remember literally backing off. I said I had to go, mumbled something about the stove at my hostel. His shoulders sagged. He looked hurt.

At what point does it become appropriate to call someone out on their terrible opinions? What if you'd just met the person?

I'd like to think I'd do it immediately. But, in this situation, what could you do? Grimace, bite a knuckle, tell them: "That's not true." Any rejection of, or argument against, Robin's beliefs would have seemed so feeble and impotent compared to the original statement, that bombshell: "I'm pro-Hitler."

And what if you've just met in a foreign country? What if they're big dudes – Czech – and they confess to admiring mass-murderers, and you just noticed that they have a buzzcut, and – oh, man – that they tried to show you some tattoos earlier but you politely declined?

Personally, in that case, I'd make my excuses and leave. So I left.

Robin waved as I walked away. "Maybe I'll see you later," he said. Doubt it. I watched him, in my peripheral vision, but didn't turn around to look.

TOP 5...

Problems caused by women

Bernadette Anvia has the peer-reviewed evidence to prove it

5) Fall of Troy That bitch Helen caused a war. Wars are bad. The war led to the fall of Troy. Oh, and a couple of Hollywood productions with some pretty bad acting.

4) All problems in Australia Julia Gillard. Need I say more? She's bad. Tony Abbott told us from the start, but we refused to listen. Now we're sorry.

3) Decline of the Russian homeland Russia has 99 problems, but misogyny ain't one. Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has identified feminism as a major threat to the stability of the homeland, as it takes women away from their traditional roles as wife and mother. For a comprehensive example of what an unmarried and child-less woman can do to bring about the ruin of a country, please refer to example No. 4.

2) Earthquakes in Iran Most countries attribute earthquakes to the shifting of tectonic plates. Not so in Iran. A senior Iranian cleric, Hojatoleslam Kazem Sedighi, has stated that earthquakes in Iran are a punishment for the immodest dress of Iranian women.

1) The sub-prime meltdown AKA the Global Financial Crisis Most economists would tell you that the Sub-Prime Mortgage disaster was brought about by greedy lenders. However, we'd rather you knew the truth. Women caused the GFC. According to menarebetterthanwomen.com, "In 2006, 38.8% of sub-prime mortgage borrowers were women and in 2006, women were 29.1% more likely to be stupid and irresponsible." We're not really sure where the statistics have been sourced from, but they're clearly unfalsifiable and well worth a citation in your next essay.

these chicks don't even



know the name of my band

HARRIET WHISKEY CLUB

Give us an intro on who you are.

We aim to play rock and roll but we bring country and blues influences into the writing process too. Charlie is the lead singer and rhythm guitarist. Bernard is on drums, Will F. on bass, and Will N. is our amazing lead guitarist.

What do you do outside of Harriet Whiskey Club? Charlie is a USYD Arts old boy but now studies a JD at UTS. Bernard is currently at USYD studying a Master of Professional Accounting, and William Franklin is at the Conservatorium studying composition.

Is it confusing having two Wills? Yes and yes (one yes for each Will). We have tried some nicknames like Frankie and Naughty or Dent but none have stuck. We're just going to have to keep getting confused for our whole careers I guess.

If your music could be the score to an imaginary film, what would the film be about? Probably an old western film with lots of cowboys and Indians would suit our music. We love horses and cowboys and mountains and whiskey and things like that. We'd also love to see our tunes against some crazy extreme footage like extreme skiing or base jumping. Hook us up, filmmakers!

Do you take inspiration from things outside of music? We mostly take inspiration from real life experiences. Relationships are usually a big influence in our songs, losing friends, girlfriends, you know, all the usual songwriter stuff. Sometimes little things about religion come into our songs as well.

What process do you guys go through in recording? It's probably a little different to most Sydney bands at the moment. We refine our sound in a live scenario, press record and whatever we play goes on record. You can really hear this 'rawness' in our recordings as it sounds like you're listening to a live band playing in a bar, just without the sounds of people yelling and glasses breaking, etc.

Their next gig is on Thursday, May 16 at F&B Social. Their first single, 'Fake Take' from their forthcoming EP, Geronimo is now available on iTunes and Spotify.

Cum as you are: the politics of ejaculation

Alexandra Christie takes a look at a sticky issue

Cumming on someone's face, also known as a 'facial', is a subject guaranteed to spark debate.

My favourite, reliably mental feminist, Andrea Dworkin (quote: "all penetration is rape"), sums up the anti-facial argument with typical vehemence, saying "it is a convention of pornography that the sperm is on her, not in her. It marks the spot, what he owns and how he owns



it." Many people second this idea, and insist that ejaculating on a woman's face is degrading and a practice that has been directly copied from hardcore pornography. So, is the prevalence of cumming on peoples' faces linked to pornography and moreover, is it wrong?

Cumming on someone's face was popular well before pornography even existed. An 18th century French aristocrat, Marquis de Sade wrote about performing facials in his book *The 120 Days of Sodom*. "I show them my prick, then what do you suppose I do? I squirt the

fuck in their face... that's my passion, my child".

Nevertheless, facials can certainly thank the pornography industry for some serious publicity. According to University of Arkansas psychologist Ana Bridges, they actually make up 62% of the 96% of all scenes with a male performer ejaculating onto the body of his female partner.

Considering that most males in contemporary western society first learn about sex from watching porn, it holds that most of them would have seen a facial cumshot, and by connection, would be re-enacting it in their sex lives.

University of Sydney student Winston* agrees that porn seems to be the main instigator of the facial trend: "my only mental image of it comes from porn. The girl on her knees, tongue out, looking like she is really keen to get cum all over her face."

But that doesn't mean he thinks it's a turn on: "when I watch that type of porn, I don't get aroused. I just feel awful for the woman." Another USYD student, Greta*, also sees it originating from the porn industry: "maybe it's a male fantasy that I don't understand".

Does that overflow from the porn industry necessarily have a negative effect? Sexual Harassment Officer of the USYD SRC, Tabitha Prado-Richardson, says "there might be a problematic aspect of it in porn, especially when coupled with privileging masculine pleasure over feminine pleasure, but that meaning doesn't extend to consenting partners in privacy."

Rose Wallace McEwen, who is also an SRC Sexual Harassment Officer says, "I had a guy cum in my mouth once and he just assumed it was okay because I

was giving him head. It was disgusting. I had to stop myself from vomiting not because I hate cum but because it was so... intrusive". But, she stresses that "it's really about what the woman wants. The man should *always* ask if it's OK".

Homosexual student Francois* believes, "that for a homosexual relationship it is not particularly degrading because either party can ask to do it/ have it done to them".

"Cumming on someone's face was popular well before pornography even existed."

But another homosexual student who wished to remain nameless described the feeling of power that is imbued in the act: "he wouldn't let me cum on his face but I love doing it so I once surprised him with it. Well, it was sexual harassment. He made it clear he didn't want me to and I did anyway. It's a power thing. Submission to your cock... total control."

To complicate things further, many women I spoke to were completely OK with their partners ejaculating on their face. Jennifer* says that "some women are offended because they see it as taking away the intimacy of sex. You could be a tissue or sock they cum into normally, rather than an actual human, but I don't see it like that. I see it as feeling like this über sexual thing that turns them on and they want to cum all over me because of that".

This is echoed by America's leading sex columnist Dan Savage who was quoted as saying, "facials are degrading – and that's why they're so hot."

And this can be problematic because

as another female student says: "often, girls won't specifically say no to something even when they feel uncomfortable with it because we have this preoccupation with pleasing the guy no matter what. She may even pretend to enjoy it, as much as women fake orgasm."

Indeed, the notion that consent and respect in sex are of utmost importance does not necessarily mean we should hate on the facial. Tabitha Prado-Richardson told me "there can be power found in being 'dirty' as long as it's an informed choice and you have established mutual respect."

While another person I spoke with said they thought facials were "excellent when appropriate, which is basically when it's mutual respectful sex". Tabitha also conceded that "my basic rule with anything sexual is if both partners genuinely want to do it is fine."

Finally, as with many previous *Honi Soit* articles, it was Tom Raue who gave me the most genuine opinion on what it means to cum on your partner's face: "It comes from a place of demeaning the woman but people should be free to do it and imbue it with their own meaning".

In sum, the internet is a veritable feast of the facial cum-shot and the fact that Generation Y seem to be unable to talk about it (and many other aspects of sex) in public with any sense of maturity is a problem. I believe that as young adults attending university, we should feel comfortable discussing our sexual practices and preferences in order to de-stigmatise the topic of sex itself, create a space for open conversation and acceptance, and to promote a conscious awareness in young people about consent.

*Names have been changed for the purpose of anonymity.



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OMG. I HAVE A HUGE ELECTION RIGHT NOW

We give you our special, one-off, never to be repeated again (until next year) *Honi* coverage of the USU Board Election

You may have noticed a recent decline in Sydney Uni's sartorial standards: students are now walking around in T-shirt tans and worn shoes, sporting awful puns, manic smiles, and half-baked innuendo. Here's what's going down.

The election

As their two-year terms expire in May, Astha Rajvanshi, Brigid Dixon, Rhys Pogonoski, Zachary Thompson, Jacqui Munro and Mina Nada will soon be carrying their things out in cardboard boxes. Sixteen candidates are competing for six Board Director positions in a giant spiked pit. There are so many candidates that if you combined all their colours together you'd have light. Due to the USU's affirmative action provisions, at least three of these spots must go to female-identifying candidates. Voting will take place on May 21 (at affiliated sites: SCA, Con, and Mallett

St) and May 22 (at Camperdown campus). **Anyone who's a student can vote, as can staff with ACCESS.**

The stakes

Being a Board Director actually seems to us like a bit of a drag: you constantly go to meetings and talk to the hoi polloi about the "student experience". Still, like undergraduate Tony Montanas there is honour, money, and power ripe for the taking. It's a shot at running one of the most active student unions in the country for two years. Board Directors receive a stipend of \$4 000 a year, while Executive members pick up a tidy \$13 000. They also have power: Board Directors control an organisation with an annual revenue of over \$20 million.

More importantly, the candidates elected will also affect the power landscape of next year's Board. Come June 21, the new Board will elect its Execu-

tive, including the highly sought after (and well-remunerated – \$26.5k a year!) Presidential position. The two Directors most likely to have a shot are 'Independent' Hannah Morris and Labor Right mover and shaker John Harding-Easson, but left-wing Tom Raue has an outside chance. Their fates will effectively be decided by the six successful candidates.

The coverage

Our super sweet sixteen have been through a big few weeks. Each of them came into the *Honi* office for a video interview (check them out on YouTube - compelling viewing!). Then they spoke at the Candidates' Soapbox at Manning Bar where their spiels were met with a good grilling from this year's President, Astha Rajvanshi, as well as editors of *Honi* and the *BULL*, and the floor. Democracy! Finally, most of them sat

Honi's traditional quiz, which covered topics ranging from Clubs and Societies (C&S), USU outlets, Union Board and administration, the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), and Sydney University generally. It was hard – sorry guys (see page 20 and try it yourself). Some of the candidates didn't take it though, nor did they apply for special consideration. It was strangely difficult to get a hold of them when they knew we were calling about it, and they also mustn't have checked their emails for a few days. Hm. You be the judge.

On the next three pages you can see profiles of your candidates in full colour. **As Bebe D'Souza managed the editorial team's election campaign last year, Felix Donovan, *BULL* editor and *Honi* reporter, profiled her for us.** Photographs are courtesy of Ezreena Yahya, Lucy Watson and Max Chalmers.

The candidate who never was

He may have dropped off the radar, but that didn't stop us from doing a candidate write-up. USU voters, we give you Josh Crawford

The first thing you notice about Josh Crawford is that he's not here. Where'd he go? Oh, God. I've lost him. Crawford – the Missing Sixteenth – didn't have much to say during his interview with *Honi*. Nor the Candidate's Soapbox. Nor the quiz. I know a guy who

once heard his voice. I know a guy who knows a guy who swears that he owns a lock of his hair. Here are some facts: Crawford did not claim his \$500 grant; he has not made any overt attempt to get elected; his name is still on the ballot. "What's the deal with Josh?" is the

question on everyone's lips and the title of my new sitcom. Sources indicate that he's campaigning for famous tag-team Will Dawes and Grace O'Brien. Sources also indicate that two's company but three's a crowd. Can this relationship last? Find out in the next episode of Will & Grace & Josh Crawford.



Josh Crawford - this year's hot candidate?

Boulevard of Broken Promises

Georgia Behrens thinks you should be skeptical when looking at a candidate's policy

"No one gives a shit because they never do anything."

Thus reads the leading post on the University of Sydney's Reddit page. And, unfortunately, it's popular for a reason: jonathan102's dismissal of the USU Board elections has captured the prevailing disillusionment that students feel towards the organisation.

Further down the page, a 2002 Sydney graduate comments: "It is pretty funny for an alumni such as myself... to see the same campaigns on exactly the same issues being run a decade later."

More often than not, USU Board campaigns are characterised by rehashing, repetition, and recurrence, with the perpetual reappearance of policies and promises. Not an election has gone by in the last five years without a vague promise to increase student engagement or involvement, or an assertion that a candidate will increase the Board's transparency and sustainability.

Even those more measurable goals – such as the establishment of an on-campus cinema and the renovation of Union buildings – resurface every few

election cycles. Some of these have supposedly been achieved – "we conducted a survey!" they said – yet they rarely appear to make any tangible difference, otherwise Miso Honi would've been booted years ago.

Fortunately, not every policy goes this way. Winning policies, it seems, come in the form of expansion of the Union's cultural program department. In 2009, Lizzy Watt proposed a humanitarian program, and in 2010, voila. Same thing with James Flynn and his Interfaith week. In 2012, Tom Raue wanted fair trade coffee, and so it came to be, just a few months later.

Some candidates' "achievements", however, come in the form of policies that the USU has already implemented or put in the pipeline, for which elected directors can later attempt to claim credit. In 2009, Giorgia Rossi promised a new cafe space in the Law building, even though Taste had already leased the space. And despite what some candidates might tell you this year, the USU already has Hoyts Broadway discounts (plus countless more off-campus benefits some of our candidates don't seem

to know about), keep cup discounts, and policies in place to ensure students are prioritised for employment.

As well as these already existing platforms, this year sees some of the oft repeated policies resurface. Building renovations, on-campus cinemas, greater ACCESS benefits and/or cheaper food, C&S reforms, USUonline upgrades, it's all been promised before. C&S reforms, in some way, have been promised no less than 16 times in the past four years. These are all policies that have already disappeared into the nether of Union bureaucracy on multiple occasions, and are likely to meet the same fate in the hands of this set of candidates.

USU President Astha Rajvanshi says that limitations of time, money, or resources are the main reasons that candidates fail to realise their policies once they gain a position on the USU Board. She says that the reality of collaborative work with other Board Directors also necessitates compromise on campaign promises.

"When you're running in an election, your main focus is on improving

the student experience through your vision," says Rajvanshi. "But when you get elected, you are exposed to nearly every big and small facet of the organisation, including the legal, financial and operational aspects. You are charged with the responsibility of managing a \$21 million organisation, but you're also balancing that with being a leader and a representative of students, and that's not an easy task."

So, perhaps jonathan102 is right. No matter how bright the t-shirts, how exciting the promises, how catchy the campaign slogans, remember that many of the candidates' promises have been tried and tested several times already, and rarely have they ever translated into any substantive and meaningful change for students.

My advice to you, dear reader, is to vote, not for which policy you like best, but for which candidate you feel best represents you. Because they'll be making decisions they've never even thought about, and honey, you're never gonna get that cinema.

OPINION



Bebe D'Souza Arts/Law IV

In her policy statement, Bebe says she is a fighter. She told us it is a fiction that a Board Director can represent all students. Who she would fight for as a Board Director is no secret. Bebe's campaign may declare a commitment to 'inclusion' and 'transparency', but her policy platform is refreshingly absent of the vagaries that often dominate Union Board elections.

We questioned if her policy of introducing an AA quota for queer-identifying

board candidates wouldn't create an electoral incentive for people struggling with their sexuality to make a deeply personal decision before they were ready to. She answered that although this may be problematic, the alternative is worse: an autonomous queer portfolio without a Board Director to fill it.

We wondered if her commitment to Board transparency and openness would endanger the USU's negotiations with the University. She responded that there was a difference between promoting public discussion of the Union's programs and undermining the

united front of the USU in a strategically harmful way.

We thought it was strange that Bebe, a member of Grassroots, made no mention of the usual ambitious environmental initiatives. But we shouldn't have: it is precisely the lack of reflexive leftism that makes Bebe one of the best candidates in this year's election.

Quiz results – **Overall: 61% (=2nd)**

C&S: 50%, Outlets: 71%, Board and Administration: 54%, General: 70%, SSAF: 71%, University: 38%

Tim Matthews Arts/Law IV

In the world of student politics, Tim Matthews has grown from an insurgent David to a seasoned Goliath. In 2011 he came breathtakingly close to severing Labor Left's iron grip on the SRC Presidency and emerged as the leading figure in the Independent group (who run under the branding 'Voice').

Finally turning to Union Board politics, Tim brings immense experience. In his interview he demonstrated an elaborate knowledge of the Union and spoke

compellingly about the problems associated with the University's power to allocate where SSAF money goes. Tim describes himself as progressive, and his promises to give grants to students to help them with one-off expenses (like Arts or Law camp), and to keep affirmative action, seem to validate his self-classification. Hearing him discuss the inverse relationship between involvement in University life and dropping-out of University before completing your degree was particularly impressive, and gave us the sense Tim had a sophisticated understanding of the USU's

importance. Given this, we are a little disappointed by his cutesy Pokemon branding. We were also not entirely convinced by his response to our question about his lack of commitment to a paid position in the SRC last year.

Our major concern with his policies is his promise to establish another bar in Manning; two bars stacked on top of each other seems a little excessive.

Quiz results – **Overall: 64% (1st)**

C&S: 63%, Outlets: 79%, Board and Administration: 43%, General: 72%, SSAF: 57%, University: 75%



William Dawes Arts/Law III

William Dawes, the 'blue' half of Will & Grace, is another Liberal Club endorsed candidate for Board this year. Technically, Grace and Will have the same policy platform, however, the simultaneous distinction and confluence of their policies is a point of confusion. Will wasn't as confident as Grace during his interview, and gave a poor delivery at the Soapbox, but was eager on building relations between

satellite campuses and main campus; on the other hand, he was uninformed about C&S funding reform, which he claims is more of Grace's policy. He is opposed to SSAF and universal ACCESS, and wants ACCESS to remain a revenue stream for the Union. It is unclear if Will's campaign is just a booster for Grace's – all of their joint campaign materials that we have seen put [1] for Grace, and [2] for Will. He does not seem informed about the USU – for example, his first answer to a preferred presidential candidate was Zac Thompson, who is finishing his term

in June. Another gaffe came about during the soapbox, when he responded to Bebe D'Souza's policy of a "Radical Sex & Consent Week" with the accusative "who needs a week of radical sex?" Voters should think before voting for Will, as it is unclear whether his candidacy is at all serious: he has been incommunicable, and did not turn up for the *Honi* quiz that all the non-SULC candidates attended.

Will did not make time to take the quiz.

Eve Radunz Arts/Science IV

Eve Radunz knows her stuff - she has a durable plan to add ethical and sustainable products in all USU outlets, and she has met with the relevant people in order to accomplish her policy on discounts on Keep Cups. But there's no doubt that she comes across as an NLS puppet. As the first Union Board candidate from the National Labor Students in two years, Eve's campaign and presence in various media platforms scream classic Labor Left. In both her interview and the

Soapbox, Eve responded hesitatingly to a question about disagreeing with her caucus - if there was a majority vote in her caucus that clashed with her own values, or a policy in relation to a group that she was interested in helping, then would she act in her own accord? Her answers in both situations were painfully faithful to her faction: her views would probably not disagree with the rest of her party, and if they did then she would be bound to them.

In saying that, it was virtuous of her to admit that she was receiving support from a political faction on campus.

Candidates like Robby Maygar, who are receiving considerable amounts of help from the Labor Right faction on campus, tiptoed around this fact.

Overall, Eve has a decent chance of getting on Board, and has the skills and confidence to be a good Board member. Whether or not she is capable of independent action without the help of her political party, is another question entirely.

Quiz results – **Overall: 51% (8th)**

C&S: 56%, Outlets: 79%, Board and Administration: 50%, General: 50%, SSAF: 57%, University: 25%



Jordan Smith Science/Law III

A resident at St Paul's College, Jordan is also a member of Unity, the Labor right faction on campus, and professes to have strong Labor values. In spite of that, he's not running with the support of any of the Labor factions and claims he'd vote independently if elected.

Like many college candidates before him, Jordan says he wants the USU to establish more connections between college and non-college students. When asked at the candidates' soapbox

whether the disconnect between colleges and the wider university community was simply a product of disengagement on the part of college students, Jordan insisted that the USU could do more to involve colleges.

Jordan also wants more events on campus at night, and, somewhat counter-intuitively, believes that more campus nightlife would lead to a safer campus.

Perhaps most radically, Jordan would like the Union to lobby on student employment issues, and report to the Fair Work Ombudsman. Whilst such a policy is admirably audacious, one has

to question its feasibility when the SRC already provides employment advocacy services to students.

Jordan is one of the better college candidates in recent years, and he's certainly made an attempt to present a real platform. But his policies lack detail, and it's unclear whether he's thought seriously about the practicalities of implementing them.

Quiz results – **Overall: 34% (10th)**

C&S: 31%, Outlets: 29%, Board and Administration: 43%, General: 42%, SSAF: 14%, University: 19%



Grace O'Brien Arts II

The pink half of the Will & Grace Union campaign, Grace O'Brien isn't your typical Liberal Club candidate. She claims her association is purely for fun, and that her interest in politics is purely academic. She's also a vegetarian. Grace seems more clued up on the Will & Grace policies than her other half, but – like Will – is still vague on how to reform C&S funding, despite this being one of their major policies. Likewise, they were both keen on expand-

ing ACCESS off-campus, but weren't sure where; Grace especially wanted Hoyts Broadway ACCESS discounts, despite them already existing. On satellite campuses, Grace, again like Will, wants to encourage more communication through art and music showcases. As a candidate on the right, Grace is fairly opposed to SSAF and is strangely confident the Union would still run smoothly in a post-SSAF environment. She is conflicted by affirmative action, and is unsure if she would accept a position if she got in through such a system. Despite Grace's lack of Union

experience, due to a long commute and off-campus commitments, she is still a confident speaker and candidate. However, voters should be aware of her affiliations – despite saying she rejected Liberal Club support, her campaign is being supported by Josh Crawford, the non-involved Liberal candidate, and to an extent Kanika, the other Liberal candidate, as well as SULC President Alex Dore.

Grace was unable to attend the quiz due to personal circumstances

Robby Magyar Arts III

Desirous to run in 2012, Robby has managed to gather the support he needs to make a serious tilt at Board this year. After failing to win the backing of the left of Labor faction (NLS) then, Robby has turned to the right faction this year (Unity). He confirmed that if elected, he would vote for John Harding-Easson (Unity's current Board member) for President. We were impressed by Robby's honesty about this.

There's no doubt Robby has the C&S

experience needed to be on Board and he boasts a résumé that a less trusting newspaper might be tempted to describe as stacked out. His detailed answers to our questions revealed that his experiences with C&S, as well as directing O-Week, have left him with a solid knowledge of how this branch of the Union functions. He has obviously thought his policies through; internships in the USU could work, rewarding people for using their ACCESS card is a good idea, and a frozen yoghurt stall in Wentworth would probably be popular. His dedication to the organisation is also

clear. It may have been irritating, but we ultimately believed him when he talked about how much he loved the USU.

Although it would have been nice to see Robby present a more audacious vision of the Union and a stronger commitment to Board transparency, he came across as a serious candidate with the necessary credentials.

Quiz results – **Overall: 56% (5th)**
C&S: 44%, Outlets: 71%, Board and Administration: 39%, General: 80%, SSAF: 36%, University: 25%



Kade Denton Agriculture III

Kade Denton is a confident and articulate candidate. He's also the only one in recent times we can remember to study Agriculture, so make of that what you will. Kade is a member of the Young Nationals, but claimed that this aspect of his politics stayed "off-campus" during his interview, and proclaimed to be independent. Indeed, he is associated with the Independent faction (Voice) on campus and ran with them in last year's SRC elections, resulting in his acquisi-

tion of a spot as a councillor. As President of SHADES, he certainly knows his way around C&S, and claimed to have helped the society become more inclusive.

Kade seems to lack a detailed vision for some of his policies. For example, when asked how he would go about implementing ACCESS discounts on satellite campuses with no USU retailers, he stated that if elected he would "work with" these retailers to implement these discounts. When pressed, he was unable to provide a detailed plan to address this potential change of operations. Nev-

ertheless, he seems like a practical guy with good, if not inspired, ideas.

At the time of his interview, Kade stated that he wasn't supporting any other candidate for Board, and asserted that he was running because he felt he was the best person for the job.

Quiz results – **Overall: 55% (=6th)**
C&S: 81%, Outlets: 57%, Board and Administration: 32%, General: 56%, SSAF: 57%, University: 63%

Tara Waniganayaka Arts/Law III

Tara answered our questions during her interview deftly and quickly, as she did during last week's Soapbox. She was proud of her alleged ability to separate the Union and her personal politics. "I don't think the Union is a political body," she said, "I think politics is completely out of it." She believes, instead, that it exists to cater primarily to students and their extracurricular experience. Her policies reflect this (reviving Manning as a hub of student life), as does her per-

formance in the quiz.

When questioned on her ability to implement these, however, her responses were less impressive. It was unclear, for example, how she intended to secure cheaper printing. Tara often justified policy choices by referencing her conversations with CEO Andrew Woodward: a USU cinema, for example, which has been a recurring USU theme since 2009; and an online employment hub superior to the one that already exists.

Tara is being run by current Board Director Hannah Morris, who has aspi-

rations for the USU Presidency. Morris was run last year by Rhys Pogonoski, who correspondingly was gunning for the top job.

Ostensibly, Tara is on top – she seems to be one of the more popular of the 16 candidates. Whether this translates into votes come election day, we'll have to see.

Quiz results – **Overall: 59% (4th)**
C&S: 69%, Outlets: 64%, Board and Administration: 43%, General: 72%, SSAF: 57%, University: 38%



Georg Tamm Science I

By the date of the election Georg Tamm will have been at uni for ten and a half weeks. To nominate yourself for Board just weeks into your first year is an audacious move. It was certainly admirable to watch Georg stand behind his policies and credentials in the face of some tough questions. Georg argued that, in spite of his age, he had the experience needed to be a Board Director and that, as a representative body, the USU should have a first year on Board.

Admirable though this courage may be, Georg sometimes struggled to come up with incisive answers to questions. We were left unclear on Georg's stance on affirmative action, for instance, after he said he supported it but that it was unfair for someone with less votes to get on Board ahead of someone of the opposite gender with more votes (which is what AA does). Similarly, Georg emphasised his commitment to keeping the Board transparent by using PR, which seems oxymoronic. Other policies, such as providing bursaries, are well intentioned but seem lacking in detail.

The confidence of this plucky first-year Science student is impressive and plain to see, and he's probably the most independent candidate. Still, we worry that he lacks the experience and knowledge that would make for a competent Board Director.

Quiz results – **Overall: 21% (=11th)**
C&S: 31%, Outlets: 36%, Board and Administration: 14%, General: 26%, SSAF: 14%, University: 0%

Patrick Ward Commerce/Arts II

The only thing better than the surname 'Ward' for a Board candidate would be one that rhymes with 'USU', but we could be waiting for that a while. In the meantime, we have Pat Ward, an earnest and likeable left-wing candidate with support from Grassroots and a campaign manager in controversial first year Board Director Tom Raue.

Pat's issues are the environment and equity for international students, and he supports ethical investment and

food products. Like Bebe D'Souza, Pat is advocating for an extension of the USU's affirmative action policy, so that one of the eleven Board Director spots will always be reserved for an international student. He also wants to give international students free ACCESS cards. And he is President of Unimates. He really loves international students.

Although these are decent ideas, Pat betrayed naïveté when he insisted that no part of any Board meeting should ever be confidential. He favours transparency over commercial confidence, and thinks even discussions about relationships with particular employees should be on

the record. His concession at the Soapbox that "there might be ramifications" was probably an understatement – but points for consistency, we guess.

While Pat is obviously sincere and passionate, his tendency to ramble and lack of charisma leave him uninspiring. He seems like a genuinely nice guy, but whether he's up to the challenges of Board remains to be seen.

Quiz results – **Overall: 55% (=6th)**
C&S: 63%, Outlets: 57%, Board and Administration: 29%, General: 68%, SSAF: 57%, University: 50%



Sarah Louise Marriott Commerce/Arts IV

Sarah Marriott knows the USU. Whether or not she was schooled by her nominator, current Board Director, Jacqui Munro, is irrelevant: the fact is, she knows what she's getting herself into. She aced the quiz and handled her interview incredibly well, answering almost every question strongly. However, when asked what the current Board's greatest achievement was, she answered "Sibella Matthews' ability to negotiate with the University." While this answer demon-

strates knowledge of the Board (Matthews, as Immediate Past President, is still a Board member), her inability to think of something from the last two years demonstrates a stinging lack of respect for the current Board. Ouch!

Sarah also declared that the USU Board is not a representative body – despite seeking the position via democratic vote. She clarifies that Board Directors should be "making decisions that are in the best interests of the USU and the student body." That sounds pretty 'representative' to us.

At the Soapbox, USU President Astha Rajvanshi asked Sarah a curveball ques-

tion, stating that many of her policies are already on the USU's strategic plan, and asking her what makes them unique. Sarah claimed that this just made her policies more feasible, though to us it reeks a little of jumping on the bandwagon. This isn't necessarily an awful thing. Sarah knows what's up, and her self-described "business savvy" may just make her a good candidate.

Quiz results – **Overall: 61% (=2nd)**
C&S: 31%, Outlets: 79%, Board and Administration: 46%, General: 78%, SSAF: 71%, University: 38%

Jeremy Elphick Arts II

Jeremy Elphick is the Chosen One of Sydney Labor Students (SLS): he is being run by SRC SLS stalwarts Julia Robins and James Leeder, and he was nominated by SRC President David Pink. His slogan, 'Pelphick Thrust', is the most suggestive since last year's nauseating 'Get Your John On'.

Jeremy was charismatic and articulate, with a good appreciation of the need to reconcile the different personalities that will direct next year's Board.

His approach to using ethical products while also supplying cheaper food to students was markedly better than that of fellow left candidate Pat Ward, with Jeremy arguing that the trade-off could be managed by offering meals that were naturally less cost-intensive. He also gave the whimsical policy of a puppy room some credibility by linking it to proven improvements in students' mental health.

However, while Jeremy was generally able to justify his policies, he seemed confused by the term *in camera*, despite it being explained in the question. While not knowing Latin is fine for us mere

mortals, it would be common knowledge for anyone who had attended a Board meeting. This lack of knowledge of the Union's structure and functions was reflected in Jeremy's surprisingly poor showing in the quiz.

Jeremy is an affable candidate who could bring some constructive debate to the Board, but who will have to learn a lot on the job.

Quiz results – **Overall: 36% (9th)**
C&S: 63%, Outlets: 50%, Board and Administration: 14%, General: 44%, SSAF: 14%, University: 25%



Thomas Francis Russell Arts III

Oh, Tom Russell. Tom, notorious as Facebook antagonist Edgar Allen Poe, somehow garnered over 48 000 views of his interview on YouTube – most of which come from Romania. It was one of the longest despite his minimalist policies: removing affirmative action ("by whatever means necessary", forebodingly), expansion of cultural programs, and "for people to get their fucking money's worth".

On culture, he wants to remove the

USU's "black armband" approach to indigenous history. Tom feels that we should learn about the history of indigenous people's mistreatment of women and slaves, because "they were real people like us". Tom has opined on indigenous history before, writing to the SMH in 2011: 'so if a few hundred Aborigines had to die in skirmishes and maybe 20 000 more inadvertently from disease to expand the British empire and eventually create all that we have in this country today, so be it'. When asked at the candidates' soapbox why indigenous students should have any confidence

that he shares their interests, he asked the audience to point out the indigenous students in the room, and then explained they are "clearly not major stakeholders in the USU".

Tom's quiz revealed that he knows next to nothing about the USU, the organisation he wants to run. He also compared himself to a Nazi in the first minute of his interview. Great guy!

Quiz results – **Overall: 21% (=11th)**
C&S: 13%, Outlets: 43%, Board and Administration: 14%, General: 20%, SSAF: 21%, University: 25%

Kanika Batra Arts I

Kanika claims to be the primary candidate of the Sydney University Liberal Club. She opposes affirmative action, claiming that she would not take up her role if elected under AA. She also spoke in favour of VSU, although, worryingly, looked a little lost when asked how the USU would pay for things without the SSAF, promising to email us (we're still waiting). Despite this lapse, she stuck by her guns in the interview and performed well under pressure.

Notably, Kanika insisted that Board was not a political body, and when asked which other candidates she admired named Sarah Marriott and Robby Magyar first. This is odd, considering her official campaign material exhorts voters to preference fellow Libs Grace O'Brien second and William Dawes third.

While she's said she wouldn't actively campaign against AA, Kanika is likely to fight for your right to party. In her interview she mentioned ACCESS discounts at World Bar – woop woop! (Although this already exists.) She also promised fortnightly on-campus parties. Kanika's

other passion is multicultural involvement in the Union, proposing a Multicultural Officer role.

Kanika's proposed phone-charging facilities at Manning, Wentworth and Footbridge bear an uncanny(-ka) resemblance to Josh's and Will's policies, although she claimed it was mere coincidence. Coincidentally, they all confused Footbridge, a bridge the USU doesn't control, with Holme, a building the USU does control. Hmm.

Kanika could not find time to complete the quiz.



A TALE OF TWO COMICS: THE CINEMATIC WORLDS OF MARVEL AND DC

Sam Murray read the book and watched the movie

In the last few years we saw one of the biggest gambles in cinematic history. Marvel Studios, the film wing of the publishing giant Marvel comics, used five separate films to build up four individual comic book superheroes (being the Hulk, Iron Man, Thor and Captain America) in a shared film continuity before combining them into one super film, *The Avengers*. And it worked. *The Avengers* was a critical and more importantly financial success for Marvel. It turns out the idea of a

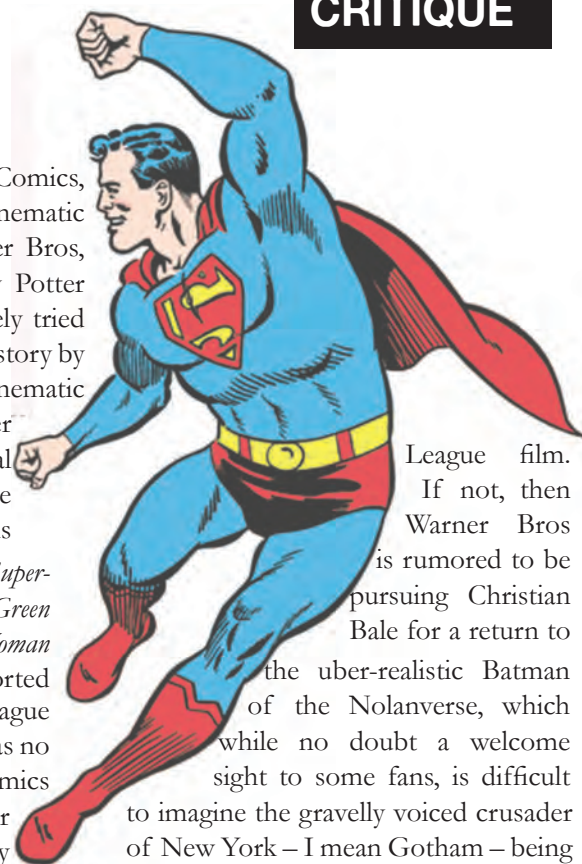


complex comic book mythology incorporated into cinema, spanning multiple film series and character development arcs was not only possible but enormously popular. Now Marvel Comics is releasing sequels to the Iron Man, Thor and Captain America individual plot-lines, before bringing them together again for another *Avengers* film in 2015. Under the auspices of the same director, Joss Whedon, and the same cast, the same success is essentially guaranteed. The business model of relying on a superhero team of a giant rage monster, a supersoldier, a billionaire in a tak-suit and an alien space god, is somehow working and will continue to produce immense success for Marvel for the near future.

Meanwhile, the historic rival of Marvel and home to the classic superheroes of Superman, Batman, Wonder-

woman, the Flash etc., DC Comics, has been floundering in its cinematic endeavours. Owned by Warner Bros, who recently lost their Harry Potter cash cow, they have successively tried to replicate the Marvel success story by constructing a similar shared cinematic continuity, bringing together all their heavyweights in a rival Avengers superhero team: the Justice League. The problem is that after the lacklustre 2006 *Superman Returns*, the abysmal 2011 *Green Lantern*, a shelved *Wonder Woman* TV series and multiple aborted attempt to write a Justice League script, it's clear Warner Bros. has no idea how to bring any of its comics to screen, except for Christopher Nolan's Batman series. Now, any sort of hopes for a DC continuity are pinned on the upcoming Superman film *Man of Steel*, slated for release this year. If successful, it might prove to finally be the starting point for a Justice

CRITIQUE



League film. If not, then Warner Bros is rumored to be pursuing Christian Bale for a return to the uber-realistic Batman of the Nolanverse, which while no doubt a welcome sight to some fans, is difficult to imagine the gravelly voiced crusader of New York – I mean Gotham – being on a team with a superpowered space alien from Krypton and an Amazonian princess, meaning that we might not see the Caped Crusader team up with the *Man of Steel* for some time.

⊗ Snapchat: ten seconds in heaven

Keep it short and snappy, writes Mariana Podesta-Diverio

Last week, my attempt to persuade a Nokia Brick-owning friend to get into the frame of an iPhone selfie led to a conversation culminating in her unapologetic claim that "I'm so glad I don't have one of those internet witchcraft phones." My plan, fully disclosed, had been to photograph the two of us pulling faces, decorate the snap with multi-coloured turds, and send it to some of the other *Honi* editors as a symbol of affection.

Thanks to Snapchat, this is what I have become.

Snapchat has been around since

late 2011, but the last few months have seen the smartphone application's popularity bolster as hordes of social media junkies migrate to this medium. Snapchat allows you to send pictures or videos to other users that last up to ten seconds, and features a free-drawing tool and palette, enabling the embellishment of photos with whichever type of coloured turd (or other finger-drawn

object) the user pleases. Suffice to say, this inventive addition to the pockets of (predominantly) under-30s deserves its hype.

But why is it so popular? Camera phones and picture messaging have been around for years, allowing us to connect visually with fellow mobile phone users. Indeed, the time sensitivity of the pictures that, amongst other things, makes it perfect for risky things like sexting, is at the core of its popularity.

Like short drive-by glances at fleeting roadside quirks (think: car accidents,



loud hairstyles, your ex's house), complete momentary engrossment in a snap to which your inbox is privy results in more importance given to photos given their imminent self-destruction. To contrast, think of the last time you made a mental note to re-visit a photo on Facebook, Tumblr, or Twitter, secure with the

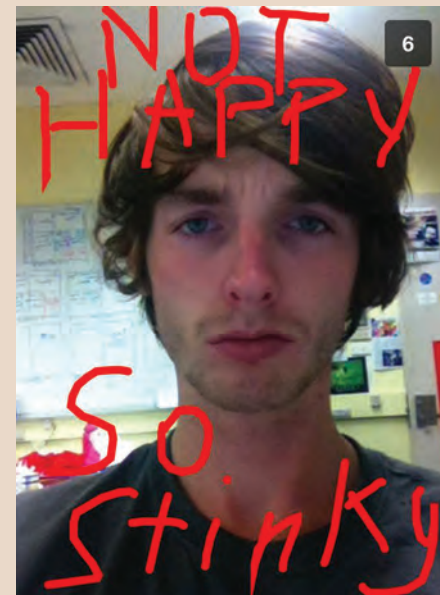
knowledge of its probable virtual permanency. Just like other things in life, we want what we can't have (or in this case, what we can't have for very long, or ever again), which makes snaps that much more desirable and intriguing.

The odious Facebook photo over-sharer unwittingly has a comrade in Snapchat, as do that person's 'friends'. We can only hope that as Snapchat's charm becomes increasingly pertinent, streams of consciousness and voyeurism bypass oft-clogged news feeds in favour of self-destructing image snippets that demand your undivided

attention for ten seconds (often less). Being tugged at the pant-leg by the technology to which we are at beck and call is a feature of life that's here to stay, so we may as well embrace it.

Snapchat is perfect for connecting with others; its short pictorial bursts forge connections between two or more parties whose uniqueness can't be recreated – and this is the appeal. After all, it's better to burn out than to fade away.

@mapodi



As the Dove flies

Steph White thinks some companies should clean up their act

I wear makeup, I enjoy wearing makeup, and I probably spend too much money acquiring makeup. I'll easily admit that there are days where I wouldn't want to go to uni without wearing some concealer and eyeliner, a pencil to which I have a possibly addictive relationship. It is undeniable that makeup and beauty products respond to insecurities about, mainly women's, appearance. I have no problem with women wearing makeup out of insecurity, out of enjoyment, or out of a belief it will acquire them Ryan Gosling (or Emma Stone, whatever takes your fancy). What I do have a problem with is when companies use, and actively feed, that insecurity in order to sell me something. And that's a pretty fucking big problem.

About a week ago the 'Dove Real Beauty Sketches' YouTube video started appearing on my newsfeed, and at last count it was at over 46 800 000 views. The first time I watched it I had the intended, melancholy-yet-uplifting-music engineered reaction; 'this is an

amazing message' and 'of course I am more beautiful than I think,' were statements running through my head. But then the final swell of soaring emotional notes ended the video, and I started to actually think through what I had just watched. And it made my angry.

The campaign sends a highly problematic message to women and society as a whole. The basic idea of the video is that when you describe yourself to a forensic artist you are much more negative than when someone else describes you. The resulting sketches are touching and remind you that you are beautiful. Inspirational right? Not so much. Let's consider the descriptive words that Dove chose to include when cutting this together. The 'negatives' the women use to describe themselves are things like "fat, rounder face", "moles", "scars", "fatter" – this one was a common occurrence. Contrasted to the implied positives used by others: "nice thin chin", "thin face, you can see her cheek-bones", "short, cute nose", "fairly thin" – can you see a pattern?

What I get from this isn't that you're beautiful no matter what you look like, and therefore more beautiful than you think, but that you're closer to society's ideal than you think. To be beautiful is to have a short, cute nose and a thin face. To be beautiful is to not have noticeable freckles or crows feet. Here's where I have the problem with this campaign - instead of rejecting the societal con-

structs of beauty, it reinforces them. The message is that you are more like what you should look like than you think, closer to that narrow definition of beauty. There are women who do look like the sketches on the left, who have a 'rounder face' or crow's feet. What is this campaign saying about them?

Beyond this pervasive definition of beauty, the campaign presses just how important it is that we fit that definition. The end of the video shows a participant saying 'I should be more grateful of my natural beauty. It impacts the choices and the friends we make, the jobs we go out for, the way we treat our children, it impacts everything. It couldn't be more critical to your happiness.' Hear that? Your beauty is everything, it governs every area of your life, it is the key determinant of what opportunities you have and what you can do. Now that is a damaging message to be sending to women. Happiness should not be determined by beauty, especially when that beauty is defined by such a narrow and arbitrary social standard. According to this campaign you will be happy if you see that you are beautiful, and you are beautiful if you look a certain way. The only disjunct the video shows between your view of how you look and the reality is how close you are to a set of positive characteristics, to a certain standard of beauty. I say fuck the standard.

Let's not forget that this is an ad. It's not an altruistically well-meaning campaign for the benefit of the self-esteem of the world's women. Dove, like every other beauty brand, relies on the inse-

curity of its customers in order to turn a profit. But Dove is a step ahead of most companies in terms of reacting to the attitudes and frustrations of its customers, but don't mistake that for being well intentioned. Dove's parent company, Unilever, also owns AXE, a male brand renowned for grossly sexist advertising featuring highly sexualised, often degraded, and consistently stick thin female models. The 'Campaign for Real Beauty' which started in 2004 is estimated to have increased Dove's sales by about \$500 000 000. There's your profit motive. Add to that the fact that Dove was caught photo-shopping its 'Real Beauty' ads in 2008 to make the models look attractive, but still have some flaws, and I'm not getting a good vibe. There used to be Dove body wash in my shower, and I only stopped using it because it ran out and I had to go and steal the other one in my sister's bathroom. Dove isn't necessarily worse than other beauty and makeup brands, and I probably won't be boycotting their soap, in the same way that I'll keep feeding my need for Maybelline's eyeliner. Just remember that their motive in this campaign is the same as in any other advertisement, making money. They're just cleverer at it than most.

Dove tells us that we are so much more beautiful than we think, but I would amend that: yes, you are more beautiful than you think, but you are so so much more than just beautiful.



Gently exfoliating

An unlikely sage

Lane Sainty explains the magic of @Horse_ebooks.

Humans search for meaning in all kinds of bizarre places. We might read too much into a small coincidence, take up prayer or meditation, or find the face of Jesus Christ in a piece of toast. But perhaps the most unlikely candidate to

offer pearls of wisdom is the notorious Twitter spambot Horse ebooks.

Currently, the @Horse_ebooks account has over 170,000 followers on Twitter, and is one of only eight accounts followed by my father. It's an automated account created with the intention of lifting the sales of poorly-written ebooks about horses, but in an unexpected twist of events, has instead become a modern day sage.

It tweets a combination

of unconvincing click bait linking people to ebooks (surprisingly, not about horses) and nonsensical snippets of text lifted from the web (also not about horses). The account was embroiled in controversy in 2011 when a setting change caused the random snippets to be sourced from the web rather than from a collection of actual horse ebooks. This resulted in an increase of retweetable non-sequiturs and was viewed cynically by Horse purists, who believed the account was better when the quotable tweets were a rarity.

There's no pattern of content, meaning or tone, and even the grammar is wildly erratic. A popular recent tweet reads "you constantly misplace your house", a message that over 2500 people felt they needed to retweet to their friends. Another surprisingly coherent tweet was blatant innuendo, asking "What do you really want to do with

your telescope?" Many Horse ebooks tweets are tantalizingly cut-off mid-sentence, leaving the Twitterati to fill in the gaps.

The tweets are interpreted in many ways: as predictions of the future, reflections on the past and informed commentary on society. Sometimes, they just match up with common thoughts, such as "tuna immediately," a Horse classic that was retweeted by over 1 500 people.

At first, regarding an automatic spambot as a kind of wise, post-modern poet seems to border on insanity. But once you are drawn into the enigma that is Horse ebooks, it's impossible to not imagine links between the nonsense it tweets and your own life. A while ago, the Horse tweeted "Its not just about this." It never is with the Horse somehow – and therein lies the magic.

@lanesainty



Horse_ebooks: "Imagine no" (10/5/13)

IDAHO

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

On May 17th, 1990, homosexuality was removed from the International Classification of Diseases, the World Health Organization's clinical diagnostic manual. 23 years on, the effects of homophobia and transphobia are as chilling as ever. In Australia, almost 90% of queer people have experienced violence or harassment in their lifetime, and 1 in 4 have been physically attacked.

Speak up. Sign the pledge.
End homophobia & transphobia.

Friday, May 17th,
12 - 2 pm, Law Lawns

Stonewall Uprising, 1969: police attack patrons of the Stonewall Inn during a spontaneous bar raid, one of the single most important events in the gay liberation movement.

Contact **Fahad Ali** or **Priyanka Ray** on
queercoordinators@usu.usyd.edu.au
facebook.com/qcoordinators



Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney
Queer Department



PROVIDED BY
UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY UNION

Sex is Great, thanks Ansell.

The SRC thinks sex is great. That is, when it is consensual and as safe as possible. Let's start with consent.

You cannot give consent when you are drunk or under the influence of other drugs.

You cannot give consent if there is an overt difference in person power and influence (eg, some age differences, or if the person has authority over you because of his/her job).

You cannot consent if you are being threatened.

You cannot consent if you do not have all the information about what you are consenting to (eg, secretly being filmed).

However, if you do consent, then it's a good idea to tell the other person. Being vague might lead to confusion. Don't be scared or shy to say "I'd like to have sex with you".

Empower yourself to take some control in how safe you are with sex. Men and women should learn how to correctly put on a condom. You can use them on a penis or a toy to make



sure that you do not transmit fluids or infections. Always use a water based lube to reduce friction and add to your pleasure. If you use too much lube just throw down a plastic drop sheet and play a little home made "Slip and Slide".

If you need to learn how to put on a condom ask your doctor or an SRC Caseworker. It's something we've done a bunch of times so it won't be embarrassing at all.

If you need some condoms the SRC has them available to undergraduate students for free. We were lucky enough to get them from the very generous people at Ansell who donated 3,500 of them for us to give away.

So have some fun if and when you're ready, and make sure you do it safely.

Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

Exams are closing in on me. I know there are workshops available at the Learning Centre to help me with time management, that would help me organise my studying and completing my assignments on time, but ironically I just haven't got the time to get to the workshops. I can feel the pressure increasing on me slowly and steadily and I just don't know how to get out of this loop. Please help me Abe.

BJ (Eng)

Dear BJ (Eng),

This is actually a common problem. As you say it is soaked in irony. The people that most need these workshops don't often have the time to attend. I would not recommend to any student to miss classes, so keep going. As for learning time management skills you can do this online through the Learning Centre. Go to their website sydney.edu.au/lc. Then under the "for students" section click on "resources". This gives you access to a bunch of different information about improving your study skills, learning about referencing and Module 10 is all about time management. You should complete the module and prepare a semester assessment plan and a daily timetable. If you have any more difficulty with your workload come and talk to an SRC Caseworker about your options. Most importantly do not leave it until the last moment, but deal with it as soon as you can.

Abe

CONGRATULATIONS TO NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS!

International Day of the Midwife was 5th May. International Day of Nurses was 12th May. The SRC would like to congratulate all nursing and midwifery students. You are doing a terrific degree to become a part of society's most valued professions. To the people who work in

the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, including educators, administrators, and all other personnel, thank you for the excellent quality of education and care that you provide your students.



SRC Legal Service

**For undergraduate
Sydney Uni Students**

FREE

FREE legal advice, representation in court and a referral service to undergraduate students at The University of Sydney.

- Immigration Advice
- Tenancy law
- Credit & debt
- Discrimination & harassment
- Traffic offences
- Criminal law
- Employment law
- Credit and debt
- Administration (gov) law
- Victims compensation
- Consumer complaints
- Domestic violence
- Insurance law
- University complaints
- And more ... please ask us

We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

法律諮詢
法律アドバイス

NEED a Justice of the Peace?

Our solicitor will certify documents & witness statutory declarations

Appointments

Phone 02 9660 5222

Drop-in sessions

(no appointment needed)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-3pm

Location

Level 1 (basement) Wentworth Building, City Road, Darlingtown



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
Level 1 Wentworth Building, Uni of Sydney
02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au | ACN 146 653 143

President's Report

David Pink talks about the challenges facing students in the Diploma in Law

The Diploma in Law is the little known third entry pathway into the legal profession (other than a JD and an LLB), and is designed to be accessible to mature age and full time working students through night and weekend classes. However, the retention rate for the diploma is as little as 30%, and the fail rate for the introductory subject is 40%-60%.

Systemic issues that have recently come to the attention of the SRC include:

clude:

- An up-front fee which has been increasing every semester for years (it is now \$700 up-front per subject).
- No assessment weighting: if you fail one assessment (even if just a quiz or short research paper) you are then disqualified from sitting the exam.
- Prohibitive special consideration applications: you are only eligible for special consideration if you inform the Law Extension Committee in advance AND it is an emergency.

This means, for example, that if you had a heart attack and were in hospital on the day of the exam you would not be able to receive special consideration, because you had not informed them in advance. - No provisions for make-up exams: even if you receive special consideration for the exam, you are forced to repeat the subject because there are no provisions for re-arranging the exams (albeit it will be refunded). - For centrelink, the Diploma in Law does not fit the AQF and

as such has no defined EFTSL despite the huge workload requirements. This means that it is almost impossible to apply for Austudy. - No access to formal complaints or appeals processes: the Student Appeals Body explicitly lacks jurisdiction.

The SRC will be looking at ways we can help integrating LPAB LEC students into the regular student body, so that their rights can be more effectively protected.

president@src.usyd.edu.au

Vice-President's Report

Amelie Vanderstock reports back on the Edufactory conference

What is the education system we wish to see? One where learning is a positive ongoing, experience rather than an overwhelming pressure? Where teachers may pursue academic endeavors and still have energy to help students understand complex equations and ideas? Where we emerge without being chained to debt? Where we choose what we learn and the future we hope for? Where the full spectrum of genders, ethnicities, abilities, ages and socio-economic backgrounds have the opportunity to enter into and flourish into said system? That is an education that the national network 'Class Action', born of the April 2013 Edufactory conference, is actively working towards. Following the 2012's mass action against the staff cuts, and 2013's

student-staff strikes for a fair workplace agreement, what better sandstone pillars than that of Sydney University to converge such a fight? The conference itself brought people from as far as Perth to facilitate discussion and a national response. Indigenous Australian students from the Koori centre explored gaps in Indigenous education and the dangers of 'tokenism'. Three feminists from Wollongong shared experiences of running free school; direct action against the cuts to UOW's gender studies major. International students discussed constraints of visas, unjustified costs and challenges to fighting for change in a country which is foreign to them. Students conferred the challenges of abilities differing invisibly, and how we can work towards

equality in the everyday as well as when campaigning. Nepalese students came to share their experiences in what is an international struggle. Historical occupation, economic theory, the role of government, unionism, police intervention, skills, actions and organising principles were workshopped. Delicious food was shared. Silent films of alternate primary school systems were screened. Music was played. Friends were made. Overall? A success. However, in this conference and in the new network formed, we must remember that it is not only our words, but in our actions and organisations which must reflect the world we wish to see. Organising Edufactory, I had the fortune to work with some incredible, inspiring women, whose invisible work was often

overlooked despite our goals. These women make the show go on whilst despite our best efforts; men often dominate verbal space to debate policy. Class Action is in its beginnings and has the opportunity to be inclusive of these gaps that exist in education and a broad student movement for change. As participants and organisers both spoke on and experienced, we must make every effort to address these persistent, structural challenges fuelled by a neoliberal, corporatist patriarchy, both in our fight for education, and in our interactions when doing so. What's next? May 14. The National Student Strike. We welcome all to join convergences (we'll be at Victoria Park!) from around the country to skip class and rally for free, fair education!

vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au

Education Officers' Report

Casey Thompson debunks some myths about the upcoming strike

With the National Union of Students' (NUS) 'Budget Day National Student Strike', and the Sydney University branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)/ Public Service Association (PSA) enterprise bargaining campaign strike, both having occurred on Tuesday May 14, there are some things that I thought needed to be clarified.

ONE: What if I didn't attend my classes on the strike day?

FICTION: Your teachers keep telling you that if you didn't attend class on the strike day you'll fail your course/ lose marks/ no one will ever love you again because your life will become a failure.

FACT: "No student will be penalised if their class does not take place or if they are unable to attend their class" (Derrick Armstrong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor). This statement was sent to every student's university email, so if you don't believe me check your inbox!

TWO: But my teachers didn't tell me that they'd be on strike?

FICTION: University management told you that your staff would have notified you if they're striking, so if they didn't tell you and your classes didn't go ahead because they were on strike

they've done something wrong.

FACT: Under law employees do not have to declare if they are taking industrial action prior to this action occurring, therefore your staff do not have to have notified you. Employees have the right to anonymity in their involvement in industrial action and with their union membership.

THREE: Are the staff greedy? Can the University afford the unions' demands, especially with the recent \$2.8 billion in federal funding cuts?

FICTION: University management are saying that they would like to grant staff the 7% per annum pay increase, but that they can't afford it, particularly now they will be losing \$45 million in government funding.

FACT: The University currently has a \$93 million budgetary surplus and the Vice Chancellor receives an annual salary of nearly \$1 million (not including the \$100 000s worth of bonuses he awards himself).

The requested 7% per annum pay increase is more than feasible if Spence accepts a lower salary (the average individual's salary is around \$80 000 per annum), because even with the federal funding cuts the University will still have a \$48 million surplus left over!

FOUR: Is the University arguing in good faith and attempting to reach an agreement?

FICTION: The University is claiming that it has been attempting to negotiate but the "union does not amend its position".

FACT: The NTEU and CPSU/PSA are attempting to reach an agreement as soon as possible. They have asked the university to agree to a thirty day time frame so that the University can function as usual, however management refuses to agree to this.

No one particularly enjoys strike action; staff lose pay and students miss out on a day of learning.

The unions have proven their demands are reasonable and will still leave the University with an enormous cash surplus. Management are the ones unfortunately delaying the bargaining process by (for one example) originally agreeing to reinstate review committees and then backing out of this promise, requiring the negotiation process to start again.

FIVE: How does not going to class help my education?

FICTION: My education is worse off if I don't attend on a strike day.

FACT: The staff have been taking industrial action because the quality of

their working conditions and the quality of your education are under threat. The EBA management wants to introduce will lead to less staff and more students, thus you're lectures and tutorials will become more and more overcrowded. It will increase the number of casual staff at the University, meaning your teachers are only paid for their 'face-to-face' teaching time and thus will find it difficult to adequately prepare for classes and offer you the support you need (and deserve!). The students at Sydney University took industrial action in support of their staff as well as with students around the country in opposition to the \$2.8 billion government cuts delivered in the budget yesterday. Yes, missing out on a few days of class due to recent industrial action isn't ideal and as I said the staff wouldn't be taking strike action and losing pay if they didn't have to either. However the strikes send a strong message that we won't accept \$2.8 billion in government funding cuts and we won't accept an unfair EBA at Sydney University, because both will have a devastating effect on our education.

Therefore, sacrificing a few days this semester is worth it if it allows us to have the high quality degree (read: several years worth of education) that we deserve.

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Indigenous Officers' Report

indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Kyol Blakeney talks about Indigenous identity

"Did you know I'm 1/8 Aboriginal?" "You're a half caste." "I have 33% Aboriginal in me." BULLSHIT!... You are either Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander or not. When will some people realise that it is not about what fraction or percentage of a nationality you are? It is about how proud you are to identify with the longest living race of people in the world. Nobody can just stand up and claim Aboriginality with a percentage. What I am interested in is how you feel about it in your heart.

It is well understood that some people may not know if they have an Indigenous background or have just found out recently. This is okay. It depends on if that person is willing to accept who they are and be proud of it. Being Indigenous is not just about the blood running through your veins. It's about how you look for ways to identify and connect with the culture.

So, how do you identify with your culture? Understanding how we as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

peoples operate in our community is of major importance. Community is everything to us. There is very rarely a time when an Indigenous person will not drop everything there and then, to help out a fellow black fulla. To all Indigenous people it does not matter if an Indigenous person is charcoal black or milky white. If they are proud to identify as Indigenous and participate in community opportunities, they are more than welcome to. What I do not want to see are people who are embar-

rassed about their culture, but identify only when there is a benefit to be had.

The most well known definition of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is not from a percentage. Under Section 4(1) of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW) an Aboriginal person means a person who: (a) is a member of the Aboriginal race of Australia, and (b) identifies as an Aboriginal person, and (c) is accepted by the Aboriginal community as an Aboriginal person.

Women Officers' Report

usyd womens collective@gmail.com

Emily Rayers explains the importance of choice

Last week the UNSW Student Development Council approved a UNSW branch of the anti-abortion 'Life Choice' club. This marks the 4th Life Choice club to hit university campuses in Sydney over the last 12 months under the guise of facilitating productive discussion around abortion and euthanasia, while soon revealing their harmful agenda spreading misinformation through their blog and Facebook page.

Last week, on our own campus, the Catholic Society put on a lecture called 'Alternatives to Abortion and Contraception' which offered no such alternatives (except abstinence, which has been shown time and time again to achieve nothing but negative health outcomes for populations given no other options). A few members of the Women's Collective attended and were appalled at the misleading nature of the presentation.

As a university we are failing our women students* by wasting our time and resources arguing incessantly with one another about the logical consisten-

cies of supporting abortion and reaching no consensus.

Too often this topic descends into vitriolic discourse and name-calling from both extremes. Too often well-researched effects of abortion on individuals and societies are ignored. Too often the information spread through social media, traditional media and seemingly reliable and well-intentioned sources is at best untrue, and at worst deliberately traumatising and hateful. Too often the hypothetical woman in the situation is forgotten, reduced to a uterus, and too often the situation is treated as a mere hypothetical when it occurs for 1 in 3 real, actual women in Australia at some point during their lives.

The vast majority of abortions are performed in weeks 6-12 of pregnancy and abortion after 24 weeks (often the focus of 'pro-life' propaganda) is rare and not performed unless medically necessary. Legal, voluntary abortion rarely has a negative effect on previously healthy women, and studies have found

abortion can offer relief and improve the mental health of women. Like many significant life events, pregnancy too (whether planned or unwanted) can affect the mental health of women.

The philosophical discussion of abortion has taken centre stage to the detriment of actual medical and supportive information. Abortion is first and foremost a health issue, not a social one, and we need to start treating it that way. It's time to change the conversation around abortion, start educating women about their rights and start providing factual information to women on campus (who are, or may become, pregnant) about all of their options.

The Women's Collective is dedicated to preserving a woman's right to control the contents of her reproductive organs. We are dedicated to maintaining a campus where all women feel safe and are not vilified for their reproductive choices. We are dedicated to creating a culture on campus where women can make educated decisions about their body without the interference of third

parties.

If you are experiencing, or would like information or support regarding unwanted pregnancy, some useful resources include Family Planning NSW (1300 658 886, www.fpnsw.org.au) and Children By Choice (www.childrenby-choice.org.au).

If you are interested in organising with the collective around this issue, want more information about reproductive health or have any other ideas for campaigns or events, get in touch via usyd womens collective@gmail.com, join the Facebook group 'USyd Women's Collective', tweet us (@SRCwomens) or come along to our meetings – 1pm Wednesdays in the Women's Room, Manning House.

*It is overwhelmingly women in this position, though I do not mean to ignore those who possess uteri and do not identify as women.

General Secretary's Report

general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

Dylan Parker wants student associations for students



So normally I try not to stray into the overtly political with my weekly reports especially if we are talking on a topic as introspective as our decision making processes. However, this week a concern I think worth raising is the little problem Council has had meeting quorum this year. Now, I don't

want to name or blame any particular people because at different times we all have good and sometimes impeccable reasons why we can't come. But when as an organisation we spend nearly \$39 000 on elections for President, *Honi Soit*, and 33 Councillors it's a little worrying that our meetings have hovered around 17 to 18 Councillors so far.

Last Wednesday for the first time in two years an SRC meeting was inquorate and unable to meet. The requirements are relatively straight forward; you need a majority of Councillors elected to be present, not including proxies in order to hold a meeting. I get that people are busy. I work two jobs, study, and do activism off campus in the evenings and on weekends so I expect others to miss meetings here or

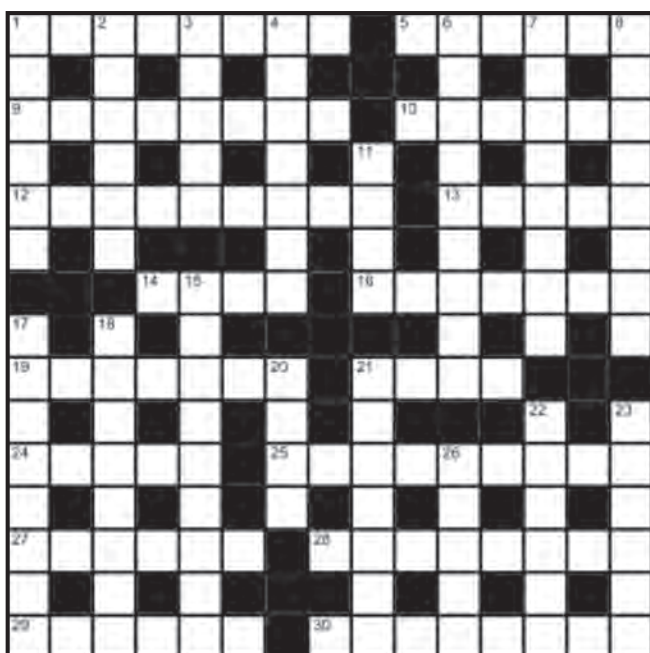
there. But when as an organisation we are continually on the brink of being inquorate then something must be up

Personally, I wouldn't mind if we ran the SRC through its Executive. Having been a Councillor, an Ordinary Executive member and a General Secretary I can honestly say Council is presented with a skewed view of the SRC, missing so much of the service, lobbying, advocacy, and publication sides of our student association. In fact, the other side is why I am still involved in the SRC because our casework services, our publications, our lobbying the university, our second hand bookstore, our free legal service, and emergency loans matter to real students in real ways. The SRC should be for students who are struggling, not those with the means to

use the SRC for their own pet political projects and campaigns.

Sadly, Councillors spend too much time arguing over frivolous ideological motions wholly unrelated to our welfare or education. Look, nearly everyone has non-student related politics Left, Right, or in between but if you want to argue over boycotting country X, condemning the Government for Y policy, or pass self congratulatory motion Z intended to somehow dismantle neoliberalism, start a club or join a political party. Our student association should be for students and low SES, Indigenous, queer, international, rural and regional, and female students just to name a few are all missing out because our Councillors may not be seeing the point of meetings they were elected to attend.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. A secondary status (8)
5. Pass away (6)
9. Military protection (3,5)
10. Add an adjective to a noun, for example (6)
12. Come out in the end (9)
13. Come into existence (5)
14. Engage in (4)
16. Saliva (7)
19. The North and South pole, for example (7)
21. Transfer (4)
24. A loud noise (5)
25. Type of Engineering (9)
27. Missing persons investigator (6)
28. Large Spanish estate (8)
29. Being of thin build (6)
30. To repeat something previously done (8)

Zplig

DOWN

1. Favouring one thing over another (6)
2. A triangular bracket in architecture (6)
3. Pig's nose, for example (5)
4. Type of salt (7)
6. An auxiliary activity (9)
7. Bring into being (8)
8. Seasonal rhinitis (3,5)
11. Fixed charges for professional service (4)
15. Wrongful occupation of land (9)
17. A polygenic disease (8)
18. Pull apart (8)
20. Valuable goods (4)
21. Jag the edge of something (7)
22. Old British coin (6)
23. Spoil the appearance of something (6)
26. Thick viscous matter (5)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: TRY THE QUIZ WE GAVE THE UNION BOARD CANDIDATES!

Clubs and Societies

1. How many revues were there in 2012?
2. Which of these is not part of the Union's Clubs and Societies program?
A. KICKS B. Mandarin Bible Study C. Debates
3. How much does a 4-year ACCESS card cost?
4. What is quorum for Union Committee meetings?
5. What executive positions need to be filled for a club to be registered?
6. Which two clubs won best club last year (under 100 members and over 100 members)?
7. How many official faculty societies are there in the C&S program?

Outlets

1. How much is a USU cup of coffee, with access (regular cap)?
2. Which two departments of the USU run the Venue collection (functions business)?
3. What brand of fair trade coffee do Union outlets use?
4. Which USU building is scheduled to undergo renovations later this year?
5. How much is the "coffee refill" discount

for people with a keep cup?
6. How much is a schooner of five seeds with ACCESS?

Board and administration

1. Do the Senate-appointed Board Directors have duties to the USU or Senate or both?
2. What is the name of the Senate representative?
3. What percentage of SSAF did the USU get this year?
4. What is quorum for Board meetings?
5. How many days notice do you need to give for a general meeting?
6. How much is the USU President paid?
7. Name all of the Specialist Committees of the USU Board.
8. How many of the 12 objectives in the USU's constitution relate to subsidised facilities and services?

General

1. Which cinema chains can ACCESS card holders get discounts at?
2. How much does an hour of pool cost at ISL (with ACCESS)?

3. When was the USU founded?
4. What is a USU Blue?
5. Who is the Director of Marketing and Communications, and who is the Director of Programs?
6. Name four BULL editors.
7. Name six USU festivals.
8. What is the name of the USU's volunteer group?
9. What is the name of the USU's start-up program?
10. How many of the 12 objectives in the USU's constitution relate to subsidized facilities and services?
11. How much did the beanbags in Holme Student Lounge cost (total for all not each)?

Student Services and Amenities Fee

1. How much do students pay in SSAF per annum?
2. How much money did the Cumberland Student's Guild get this year?
3. Of the SSAF allocation for the USU, what department, program, or operation was given the most money?
4. How many organisations received SSAF this year?

5. What is the sinking fund?
6. How much money went into the sinking fund?

Broader University

1. What is the name of the agreement between the Union and the university that guarantees funding to the USU on the proviso that it continue to operate Holme, Manning, and Wentworth?
2. What is the University's postcode (main campus)?
3. How many students (undergraduate and postgraduate) are enrolled at the University?
4. How many of these students are part time?
5. In what suburb is SCA?
6. Why was *Honi Soit* founded?
7. Who is the provost?
8. How many libraries are there in USyd (including satellite campuses)?

Answers next week!



QUIZZED ABOUT
UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY UNION

ACROSS

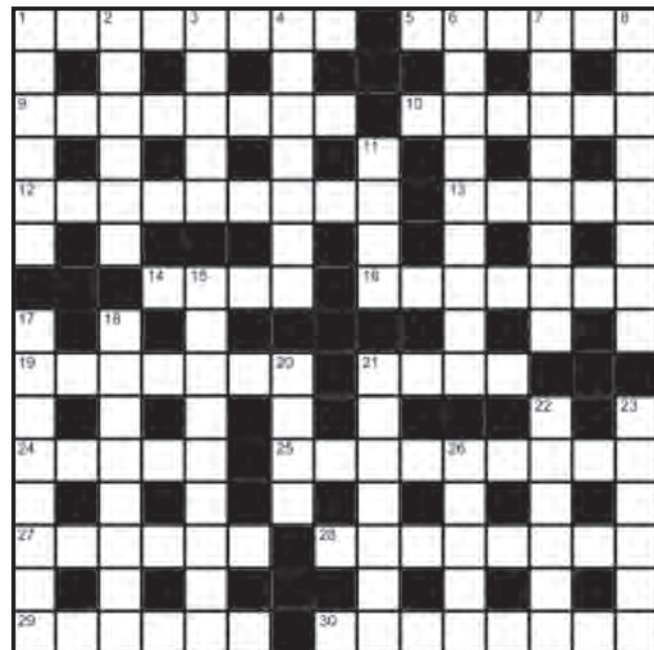
1. Reminder to sweat an alright degree on the first Reich's brisk ending (8)
5. Burrow after hollow, euphoric treat (6)
9. Protection gives up a minute for quiet legal exemption (8)
- *10. Not quite more and not quite a chance (6)
12. Strange ratio based around a revolutionary male with a mistress (9)
- *13. Propane rakes in provisions when reversed (5)
- *14. Lyndon lost his child (4)
16. Final Moments of a disorganised Eden AGM (7)
- *19. A rock, falling short, shelters a small insect (7)
- *21. His domination is displaying! (4)
- *24. Respiratory condition lacks early medication (5)
- *25. So no Republicans returned force? (9)
27. Active agent lurked around, eyed? "Without question," he said (6)
28. The 'Genie' was designed in a pre-twenties age (8)
29. Countryside's essentials (6)
- *30. Simpson in Terror Lake (8)

Zplig

DOWN

- *1. Centre-Labor cheat an idiot, for the least part (6)
2. It could be Batman, or the phantom? (not Hardy) (6)
- *3. Greek character takes drug from a fiery Roman emperor (5)
4. Return without a grave downpour and teach again (7)
6. Editor in Chief's beginning security before being on duty? (7,2)
7. Agricultural star-child born on April the first consumed a large chunk of weed (8)
8. A bittered man re-enters by mistake (8)
- *11. Bizarre Literature without trash (4)
15. Foreigner expose a local network. Obviously on the radio! (9)
17. Old hash-eater is in a hip Southern arts society's contents (8)
18. The most filthy Titaness in disarray (5)
20. No starting pleas or excuses! (4)
21. Quite a rare damp container on a government issued silencer? (7)
22. Union benefits based around Secret Services give one CC of appraise (6)
23. Log on + or - has an infinite beginning (4,2)
26. Corrupted human is a prophet (5)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



NB: The 11 starred clues have a directing common factor, and are undefined.
All other clues are normal.

THE *Soin*



**"I'M NOT
WRITING AN
ARTICLE FOR THIS
DOGSHIT PAPER"
-CHOMSKY**

**2013 USU
BOARD
ELECTIONS**

**MEET THE
CANDIDATES**

**WE'RE COMING
FOR YOU.**

VOTE FOR ME!

CANDIDATE
INFO INSIDE!

BREAKING: NOT ALL NEWS IS TRUE

Max Schintler submitted this fake story for his course

Following the success and excitement of the Government and International Relations' Media Politics assignment that required students to submit a fake story to UNSW's student newspaper, the University of Sydney's History Department has followed suit, issuing students with 'more practical assessment tasks.' The junior history unit 'Twentieth Century Europe', for example, has issued its students a practical assignment

to 'investigate the conditions precipitating the First World War.' In order to complete the assignment, students must:

"Balkanize the universities of the Sydney metropolitan area, by assassinating at least one university's Vice-Chancellor, while framing UTS for the act. Once the alliance systems between the universities bring all of them into the conflict, war will break out, facilitated now, as it was in 1914, by rail networks. Special Consideration may be applied if CityRail fails to transport student-

soldiers to the conflict."

Meanwhile, refreshed by a recent trip to the United States, Associate Professor Stephen Robertson has scrapped the final exam for his course 'New York, New York', replacing it with "field work in which the students must travel to New York City and walk around the South Bronx at midnight until they are mugged. Students are then asked to consider the intersections of physical geography and socio-economic conditions in the city." The trend is set to continue

as other faculties catch on; agriculture students have already been heard buzzing about the prospect of their next assignment involving the creation of a hydroponic marijuana greenhouse on the roof of the UTS tower. It is unknown whether the faculties of Architecture and Engineering will be brought in to help design and construct the hydroponics lab, but sources of *The Soin* report that no option will be left off the table as lecturers attempt to provide a more creative learning experience.

James Ellroy II (Com/Law III)

Nominated:
The Wares
Warden Ivan Head

Hey buddies! How is it hanging? My name is James and I'm running for Union Board. I'm just an average student – like you, I have a trust fund, eat my dinner in a gown, and own a horse. I want a Union that fights for the little guy: more inter-college sport, intercollege debating, intercollege drinking, and intercollege parties!

- Affirmative action: not enough college boys on the USU Board – it's time to fix this!
- College dinner leftovers for low SES students
- A shuttlebus from St. Paul's to Manning
- A shuttlebus from St. John's to the hospital LOL
- Make Thursday nights at Hermann's a father and son Whisky & Cigars night – why should St. Paul's have all the fun!
- Clean up the Union – with a maid
- More schoolgirl/schoolboy nights

"I may be the SECOND, but vote me FIRST!"



Andrew Wayward (CEO IV)

Nominated:
Belinda Hutchinson
Michael Spence

Hi my name is Andrew and I'm just a regular student like you. No really, I am. How about those lectures? I definitely do/don't [Mr. Wayward, please pick whichever you think will resonate more with students – *Marketing*] go to those! The Union is everything I love about University: my paycheck; my power trip; my sense of self-worth. I'm running for Union Board because I'm sick of self-important student politicians trying to interfere with good corporate governance!

- More unquestioning sycophants!
- A corporate rebrand!
- More bars, food, and space for the CEO!
- Do away with the Board.

[Insert slogan following Marketing focus group and Facebook poll]



Maeve Bruce (Arts XVI)

Nominated:
Friend I
Friend II

My name is Maeve and I'm running for USU! How great is the USU! I was literally in a pit of despair, facing death day to day, alone in my own subconsciousness, before the USU! I want to get rid of all the politics and make the Union about you again! You can't spell Union without U!! Lol. Speaking of which though, what's with the 'Union'?? We need to change it so we can stay apolitical and ABOUT YOU! Seriously, how boring is politics. Less politics, more synergy! And anyway, how many of you really GET politics anyway!? Here are my policies:

- A moonlight cinema night onseie party every three days with a roving noodle market in renovated manning bar

"Goosey Loosey Brucey!"



Eldridge X (Fourth International)

Nominated:
Che Guevara (Tshirt)
Free Education Queer Antifa Action Coalition

FUCK YOU. I'm Eldridge, and I'm going to kick the shit out of this Useless Scab Union. The USU has a \$20million budget funded by O-Week stalls and sponsorships from the military, police, and the blood and dreams of the Iraqi people – we should reinvest this in propaganda posters and a fucking tank to take back the university through direct action. ACAB

- A federated syndicalist union
- Protests
- Abolish profit and wage labour in the union
- ACCESS discounts for abortions – buy one get one free
- Bring back Donut King

"The workers, united, will never be defeated!"



Julie Palmer (Arts/Law V)

Nominated:
Michael Kirby (I KNOW MICHAEL KIRBY!)
Malcolm Turnbull (;))

Free ACCESS! More student consultation! More funding for C&S! A moonlight cinema! Cheaper food! More sustainability! More student employment! Other stuff! Vote Julie!

SULS President, 2013
SASS President, 2013
AUJS President, 2012
Students for Palestine President, 2012
Evangelical Union, Vice President, 2011
SHADES Vice President, 2011-12
ChocSoc Publicity officer, 2013
Suspense and Mystery Society Secretary, 2011
Cubesoc Treasurer, 2010
SURG member 2009-13
Law Revue cast member 2009-12
Unimates, member 2009-13
C&S committee member, 2012,
O Week volunteer, 2013
SRC Councillor, 2010-11
Social justice officer, 2012
Women's collective member, 2009-2012
Arts mentor, 2010-13
National Jessup Champion team member, 2013

UAI: 99.9

Just another down-to-earth girl!

"Keep calmer, and vote Palmer!"



Cam O'Leary (Commerce III)

Nominated:
Christopher Pyne
Chad Sidler

Cam O'Leary at your service. I have a lot of experience at the USU, from my time on the Sydney Uni Liberal Club executive, to the Sydney Uni Conservative Club executive, the time I tried to get back on SULC, and then the time we tried to get on the Small Government Society. Phew! I want an apolitical Union that fights against SSAF, fights for lower taxes, and fights for fossil fuel subsidies, to improve YOUR student life!

- Affirmative action for white landowning males, in order to preserve traditional Aussie society
- End SSAF
- Divert ACCESS revenue to ASIO
- University of Sydney Union busting

"Less transparency, more transphobia"



