

week eleven
semester one
2013

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People are the worst

Compassion. It seems basic: we should have it for one another. We are human, after all. But lately, I can't help but think that some people are pretty horrible.

This past week I've seen people weep, openly, because they were hurt by others. What saddens me most about these open displays of hurt is the utter betrayal written into the pain. These people were betrayed by who they thought were friends, family, or even just fellow people. Fellow people with compassion.

And then, after this first hurt, came the wave of the second. The trolls. From the horrible comments on Tom Raue's piece on honisoit.com, to Mia Freedman's (and her followers') woeful ignorance of what actually constitutes racism, it seems the trolls were out in force this week. Maybe it's like this every week. Maybe people are pretty horrible all the time. Yet this week, I really felt it.

It was International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on Friday. I asked the Queer Collective on Facebook to tell me some of the homophobic things people say to them – things they hear every day – and the response was overwhelming. By and large, the answers (which you can read in this week's ticker tape) were humor-

ous, and we were able to laugh at the weird things people have said to us. Yet, underneath the humour, the pain was evident, but so was the power to overcome. That was a thread with compassion.

I can't decide what's worse: deliberately causing others pain, or the sheer ignorance of when pain is caused unintentionally. The former is more instantly brutal, but I think the latter is more systematic, and far more soul crushing in the long term. This is something my friends in the Queer Collective have been dealing with all their lives. On Saturday, when some transphobic remarks were made in the presence of a trans* friend, I watched my friend stand strong. The only indication of the hurt was my friend's slightly blushed cheeks, their slightly hunched shoulders. I could see the weight of these people's ignorance being laid on my friend's shoulders, and I was powerless to help.

I wonder if the police last Tuesday were ignorant. Blind to the fact their force would cause lasting damage, a permanent weight on the shoulders of those present. I wonder, would it have been any different if they had compassion?

Forgive me if this seems overly cynical to you, I'm not used to seeing people cry. Forgive me, for I thought the common response was "are you okay?" not "suck it up, princess". Forgive me for not realising how wrong I was. Have some compassion, and forgive me.

Oh, wait.

Lucy Watson
Editor-in-chief



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Who Wore it Better?!?!?!?



Wayne Swan



A swan

or



The Soin

(can you figure out how to pronounce it yet?)

WOULD YOU RATHER...

**HAVE PERMANENTLY TIE-DYED SKIN?
OR
BE A BLACKBOARD?**

FAQ:

What colours would I be dyed?

All the colours. In a series of spiral patterns. Snazzy, dude.

As a blackboard, would I have ears?

Sorry, what?

Like, would I be able to hear someone, say, sliding their fingernails down me?

Yes indeedy. In fact, there would be someone doing that at least once a day. Just for shits and kicks.

SOUND & FURY

The SRC should debate student issues

Dear *Honi*,

I would like to lament the recent antics of the SRC council. As Dylan Parker aptly put in his column last week, the Council spends its time on the most ridiculous and obscure policy motions designed to allow for morally righteous pontification, instead of actual student governance. At the expense of tabled motions regarding the National Union of Students, the student strikes, and the student interfaith officer position, (you know, issues that expressly and directly affect students) the valuable time of councilors is lost to at best irrelevant (and at worst, abhorrent) motions like the BDS issue, which in no way can be said to affect students in a meaningful way, beyond appeasing an activist minority. Such student relevant motions were proposed more than two and half months ago, yet have yet to see any debate or discussion on them whatsoever. It's no wonder that the meeting attendance two weeks ago was so poor when on the agenda scheduled debates over a missile company's role in bank-rolling an international defence-alliance research project, and the passing of Margaret Thatcher. If people want to discuss the ideological rammifications of Thatcherite policies twenty years ago, in Britain of all place, then fine, but don't do it at the expense of the valuable time of councilors, or at the expense of motions that might actually affect the students, and even have an effect.

Sam Murray
Arts/Law III

Naturopathy isn't science!

Dear *Honi*,

I almost had a stroke when I saw that Lachlan Munro's report of an event run by a naturopathic company in this week's *Honi* was listed under the heading of "Science". Any linguist will tell you that naturopathy is Greek for "not a science". It astounds me that the views of "holistic" or "alternative" medicine (it's the alternative to logic and reason) are given any credence at all. The ideas spewed forth by followers of alternative medicine are unfounded by definition. Anything that hasn't been proven to work or, indeed, has been proven not to work is not accepted by the medical community and will remain classified as "alternative". Therefore it is quite unsurprising to see crackpots trying to

make a quick buck by selling miracle creams to their gullible and moronic followers. Seeing ideas like this publicised is an insult to medical practitioners and researchers who dedicate their lives actually trying to alleviate suffering and to all those who worship at the altar of reason. I'm sorry if I seem a bit intense, but I can't help it this week. I'm a gemini and Mercury is in retrograde.

William Poulos
Arts I

Farewell, Ralph

Honi,

I was very sad to read last week about the sad passing of RALPH Panebianco from Ralphs Cafe and send my love and thoughts and respect to his wife and 3 kids. I was lucky enough to meet and chat with Ralph only a few times over the years, but what a great and larger than life man he was... and his memory must live on at the cafe. I hope that happens.

I also think a wall of photos or at least a large picture of Ralph should be erected on the wall so Ralph can keep an eye on all his happy customers. Great coffee and food and banter was his specialty. He remembered people and he made me feel very welcome even if there was months or years between visits. We need more Ralphs in this world.

Once met never forgotten. But make sure you have your money ready. See you in the big Espresso in the sky old mate. Thanks for the memories.

Jonathan Coleman
Father of Oscar Coleman
B Comm/ Dip SocSci II

You guys suck

Honi Soit Editors,

You made an error in your election coverage. The writer of the section about Robby Magyar referred to *Honi Soit* as a "newspaper."

Any publication that states in its first issue that "objectivity is dead" cannot be a newspaper. Objectivity is the discipline that turns amateur writers into journalists, and newspapers publish the work of journalists.

Honi Soit has the pretences of a newspaper, but doesn't need them. There's no need to label Georgia Behrens' article as OPINION as if it's different from any-

thing else in the election pages. There's no reason to recruit an impartial writer to interview Bebe D'Souza when your editor-in-chief reminds us on p. 2 that "objectivity is dead. We stand by that."

You should have declared that "laziness is alive" as a more truthful excuse to print whatever's easy to write.

Jason Dunn

Attended USyd briefly and occasionally visits the campus.

People are the worst 2.0

Dear *Honi*,

I write to you not because of what has been in your paper, but to condemn the words of those who have spoken against it.

It is one thing to object to the demands made by staff, to the strike and to the pickets. People have a right to object, I just think they are being willfully ignorant of the facts.

There is a difference between this and justifying violence committed by the State. The police are an arm of our judiciary, and ought to be held to same standards. When people were strangled, bruised and bones were broken, it is wrong to say they deserved it. It is wrong to defend cops who use violence and intimidation when laws are not being broken.

Some of these people are my friends, they are passionate, they are fighting for what they believe in. They did not forfeit their rights, they do not deserve to be treated as second-class citizens.

When people do this they choose to ignore common humanity, to unthinkingly and unfeelingly accept the actions of police because they wear a badge. Authority does not mean people are right. Before you go to war from behind a keyboard, take a second in case an independent thought appears.

Sean O'Grady
Arts II

People are the worst 3.0

Honi,

I read Tom Raue's article about his experience at the protests last week on online *Honi Soit* and was genuinely horrified. I do not know him. I do not actively support the protests (as in, I should probably do some research/read the posters). I'm not a left wing identifier. I didn't think that empathising and respecting Tom rested on any of these

things. Apparently, I was wrong. At the bottom of the article only hours after it had been written the usual collection of internet trolls had collaborated to tell Tom that he needed to harden up as he had asked for the violence (apparently).

I'm sure these trollers would tell me that "it's a fuckin' free country", but that's not good enough. The whole point of free speech is not free speech in and of itself, it's for that speech to be constructive, discursive. Most of those commenters speaking against Raue didn't have anything meaningful to say against the protests. Their intention was to offend and upset Tom Raue. When did we become so cynical? So cynical that the minute a fellow university student recounts the infliction of near fatal violence the immediate response is that he is lying, overdramatising what happened or was asking for it.

Even if any of those things were true, none of these people were at the protest and witnessed what happened. Surely when the allegations are so severe you use caution before hurling direct abuse at the victim.

Another thing to note is how offensive the comments were in general. One of the highest liked comments told Tom to "suck it up princess". Since when were we still adhering to archaic conceptions of gender? Not only is it offensive to suggest that any man who shows an ounce of emotion is automatically castrating himself, the inverse is that every woman is privy to irrational emotional responses. The other comment to note was "you need a good dick up your ass". So not only is that homophobic, but it echoes claims about women who just need a "good fuck to get them in line". Not only is that view of sexuality crude and reductive, but feeds greater problematic narratives of victim shaming.

To be fair, when I went back and looked at the article more recently many people have rallied in support against the trollers. But for those who enjoy being overtly offensive, take it elsewhere. This sort of behaviour is not appropriate when it comes from 12 year old Justin Bieber fans on twitter, so it's completely inappropiate when you're a university student talking to a fellow peer.

Subeta Vimalarajah
Arts/Law II

Anyone can write for *Honi Soit*!

Email all letters and submissions to:

editors@honisoit.com

HONI NEWS



FREE

Week Eleven Edition

“WE’RE BEAUTIFUL, LIKE DIAMONDS IN THE SKY”

Spence denies collaboration with police at strike

Hannah Ryan reports on last week’s strike

Last week’s strike at USYD has given rise to claims of police brutality and questions over the University’s responsibility for the actions of riot police on campus. The May 14 strike, the third in the NTEU’s and CPSU’s ongoing campaign to secure a better deal with the University on working conditions, involved pickets at all major entrances to the University.

But while the subject of the dispute was the same as the three previous strike days in March, violent clashes between picketers and dozens of police distinguished this protest from its predecessors.

The morning was marked by frequent physical clashes between police and picketers at the City Road and Carillon Avenue entrances to the University. As protesters prevented vehicles from entering, police attempted to break up picket lines, pushing protesters to the side of the road.

Several times at Carillon Avenue, where up to thirty riot police were stationed, police dragged protesters from the picket and threw them to the ground.

Several students have been left injured and traumatised in the

wake of these clashes. Student Wynand van der Woude’s leg was broken at the City Road picket after he fell to the ground when police attempted to break up the picket line. He was hospitalised for three days and has had a metal plate inserted into his ankle.

Fellow student Tom Raue says a policeman choked him at this entrance as well, writing for *Honi Soit*: “I could not breathe...I was frightened for my life” (see page 13). SRC President David Pink, also part of the picket, witnessed the incident and told *Honi* that it lasted for about a minute and a half. “His whole face went purple and his body was completely limp,” Pink said.

There are also reports that a staff

member suffered a cracked rib.

The protest came to an end when the picketers moved to Victoria Park for a rally at 12:30pm, part of a nationwide protest against the Government’s planned cuts to tertiary education funding.

Pink has also expressed concern at the police presence on campus. “Students have the right to protest peacefully at their own University,” he told *Honi*. “The response of the riot police was violent and completely unprovoked.” Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch stated that the police numbers deployed were “commensurate with the assessed level of risk”.

In response to these events, the SRC Executive has written an open letter to Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence, calling on him to take responsibility for the presence of the public order and riot squad and to cease inviting them on to campus.

However, Spence has disclaimed any responsibility for police action. In a response to the SRC, he denied that the University invited police on to campus and that it has authority to exclude them.

He told *Honi* that he cannot comment on the police’s operational decisions or control their movements on campus.

This is despite visibly obvious collaboration between Campus Security and police at the Carillon Avenue picket.

Instead of police, the Vice-Chancellor has laid the blame for last Tuesday’s events squarely at the feet of picketers.

While claiming to “deeply regret” the injuries suffered, he wrote to the SRC that physical interactions only arose when agreed picket line protocol was breached by demonstrators.

When asked if he was worried that the presence of police on campus was a threat to student safety, Spence told *Honi*: “Absolutely not.”

Instead, he urged the NTEU and CPSU to join him in “condemning the actions of a minority of demonstrators”, whose actions in blockading the University, he said, led to what he described as “this regrettable occurrence.”

Students are preparing a complaint to the Ombudsman about police violence, and have planned a snap action on campus this Thursday.

The next strike is planned for June 5.

@hannahd15



Photo: Hannah Ryan

LifeChoice “educational” pamphlet debunked

Harry Stratton reads between the lines

Since its approval by the Union, the controversial anti-abortion society LifeChoice has kept to itself. Barring the occasional Facebook skirmish, the organisation – which includes at least one member with a record of screaming at women exiting abortion clinics – had been presumed defunct. Until now.

On May 13, first-year students found their lectures flooded with hundreds of LifeChoice “What RU4?” pamphlets. The glossy leaflets purport to give women “facts to make fully informed decisions” about the emergency contraceptive pill RU486. They bear the University of Sydney Union logo and do not mention LifeChoice is an anti-choice lobby group. The branding of the leaflet as discussing the “Risks and Complications” of RU486, the medical journal articles the leaflet purports to “reference”, and indeed the ambiguous name “LifeChoice” are all designed to convince readers the leaflets are merely educating women about the “facts”.

LifeChoice claims that women using RU486 will experience “the trauma of seeing the dead foetus”. The vast majority of women will only see bleeding when using RU486. The “foetuses” anti-choice organisations claim to have observed are actually just blood clotting.

LifeChoice also claims 5.7% of women undergoing medical abortion require admission to hospital due to unspecified “complications”. Ninety-four percent of those complications are just that the patient is still pregnant.

LifeChoice claims one in 480 women using RU486 will experience infection, and one in 200 haemorrhage. Those “infections” are mostly easily treatable infections, and “haemorrhage” means any kind of bleeding, however minor.

But most interesting is LifeChoice’s weasel-worded claim that women using RU486 have “the same risk of up to 20%” of having mental health problems. American Psychological Association, John Hopkins University, and the



A screenshot from LifeChoice’s website

Royal College of Psychiatrists surveys found that there is no increased risk. In fact, the only surveys which show anything like that high a rate of mental health issues are surveys done of members of pro-life organisations on the basis of whether they felt depressed, rather than actually being diagnosed with any mental illness.

But it’s hardly a surprise that LifeChoice’s “facts” don’t reflect medical reality. Of the four “journal articles” the leaflet claims to cite, one was written by the Archbishop of Melbourne’s media spokeswoman. One isn’t actually about abortion, but naturally-occurring

pregnancy complications. One was written before RU486 was available in Australia. The only peer-reviewed medical article about RU486 on the list concludes that chemical abortions are very safe, but can become more complicated after the ninth week of pregnancy. In Australia, RU486 is only used in the first seven weeks.

LifeChoice was allowed to affiliate to the USU on the basis that it was to hold “discussion groups” rather than actively lobby against abortion. But this leaflet is something else. Its aim isn’t even to change people’s mind about abortion. It poses as a neutral observer to tell women bald-faced lies about their family planning options.

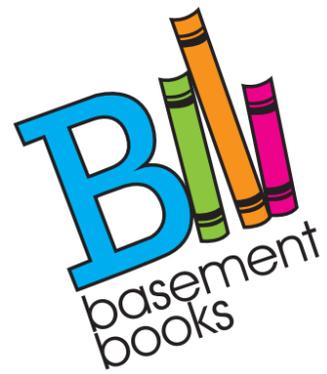
Every cent of LifeChoice Sydney’s funding comes from the University of Sydney Union. That’s money that comes out of students’ SSAF and ACCESS fees, and helps LifeChoice browbeat and bully women while claiming to offer them the “facts”.

“Well that explains why you’re so good at home improvement stuff then.”



basement books

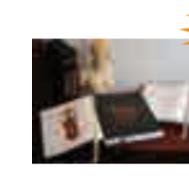
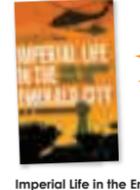
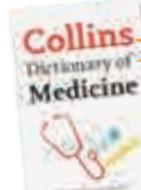
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UNIGATE



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

A preference for new alliances

Forget what you know about student politics. The boundaries have been redrawn, the delicate alliance system recast. It has finally happened: the Indies and Labor left are working together. The unfathomable was confirmed late last week when it emerged that Union Board candidates Tim Matthews, Tara Waniganayaka (both Independents), and Eve Radunz (Labor left, NLS) had entered into a three way preference deal. For the last two years, student politics has been dominated by the contest between these two groups, coming to a head when Matthews ran against NLS' Phoebe Drake for SRC President in 2011. That race was one of the most heated and fiercely contested in recent history, with both sides accusing the other of intimidation and bullying tactics. Matthews and Waniganayaka played down the deal, emphasising their decision to work with Labor was based on Eve's strength as a candidate. Aside from the fact this deal brings two old foes together, it has also raised eyebrows because of the omission of Kade Denton, another Board candidate with close ties to the Independents. Without the support of the Independents, Denton has been left in a situation where no other candidate will be asking voters to give him their second preference. Locked out of all the deals, Denton's campaign has decided to give its preferences to Waniganayaka and Matthews for nothing in return. The admirable intention from this seems to be 'even if our friends screwed us, we're good enough not to screw them'.

Oaktree waters the bloketree?

The Oaktree Foundation: ending world poverty, training young leaders,

and reinforcing the patriarchy. That's how it looked to the *Gate* when we learned some curious details about this week's Oaktree Society Charity Auction Night, in which students offer an activity or service and are auctioned off (and thereby get a numeric value on their popularity – or lack thereof). Official Oaktree material sent to the commodities people to be auctioned off at the event neatly divided the suggested services along gender lines. While ladies were invited to clean the winning bidder's bedroom, make their favourite dessert, or, our personal favourite, engage in a "3 hour make-out session" (how tiring!), suggestions for the guys included being the winner's handyman or taking them to the gym. After the *Gate* made inquiries, Oaktree President Ed Arthy issued a clarification to those who signed up to be auctioned off. Arthy, who didn't author the offending document, claimed to be "perplexed" that there was a gender divide in the suggestions, and described the situation as "a big misunderstanding". Yes, Ed, it was a big misunderstanding – of the last few decades of gender politics. (Arthy also expressed disappointment that we chose to focus on this issue instead of on Oaktree's efforts to improve education for children in developing countries. Well, if blatant sexism is employed in the name of raising money for the kids, then it must be OK.)

R-O-lling in the deep

As would likely be the case in an election with so many candidates vying for so few positions, the Returning Officer (RO) has had an active role in this Board election. The Returning Officer receives all complaints about candidate

regulation breaches, and deals with them accordingly.

So far, the *Gate* knows of complaints brought against four candidates: William Dawes, Grace O'Brien, Bebe D'Souza, and Tim Matthews.

As reported last week, complaints were made against Will & Grace which accused them of pooling their resources to funnel votes into Grace's campaign. This is significant, as candidates were given \$500 grants for their campaigns this year, and were thus told that any pooling of resources would be strictly prohibited. The RO has now dismissed all complaints, stating that having Grace's name printed in a larger font size on t-shirts and having all their A-frames instruct voters to preference her first were merely attempts to counteract the natural preference for Will in their slogan, and his placement higher up the ballot. However, the *Gate* now understands that members of another campaign have appealed the ruling, and will take it to the Electoral Arbiter. Who dat? you say. According to the USU's regulations, the Arbiter "shall be a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales or a judge or magistrate". Cool. We'll have the latest on this for you next week.

A complaint has also been brought against Bebe D'Souza, alleging misconduct of her campaigners. The complaint stated some of her campaigners had endorsed (read: liked on Facebook) a defamatory banner against Will & Grace, and that some of her campaigners had yelled "fucking scabs," and "rich Liberal bourgeois scum" at the pair because they actively crossed the picket line during Tuesday's strike in order to campaign. D'Souza was also under fire for one of her campaigners threatening to create a "know your Liberals" flyer for election day (any material other than campaign leaflets are forbidden on election day).

D'Souza sent the RO a detailed response, claiming that campaign-

ers from several other candidates also endorsed the banner, that Will & Grace campaigners called themselves scabs and wore "I am a scab" stickers on strike day, that none of her campaigners were campaigning on strike day and were therefore acting of their own accord, and that she is unable to control her campaigners while they 'like' "banners from the comfort of their own bedroom." The RO hence dropped all complaints on Monday morning.



Onesies: a delicate political issue

Finally, we reported last week that Tim Matthews was handing out Pokemon cards, an accusation he has since denied. This hasn't deterred Matthews' opponents, however, who are now targetting him where he is at his softest: in his onesie. Yes, the painfully ubiquitous all-in-one animal

outfits are the latest item of controversy on the campaign trail. Before the election, the RO explicitly ruled that onesies would count as commonly owned items, meaning if you use one in your campaign you will not have to deduct its worth from your spending cap. So with this precedent in mind, how could another campaign have any grounds for complaint? Well, it's now being argued that the onesies used in Matthews' promotional videos are of a higher quality than your average, everyday, household onesie, and that as a result he should have to include their cost in his expenditure declarations. This marks the first point in history that anyone wearing a onesie has ever been accused of being too classy. Yep, serious shit. You'll see it in the High Court circa September.

USU consults members

John Gooding reports on the USU's most recent members meeting

Last Thursday the USU held a Members Forum to discuss several contentious issues, including a recent flyer distributed by the society LifeChoice about the abortion drug RU486 and potential problems with funding grants recently given by the USU to Board candidates. Despite providing a woefully inadequate amount of refreshments and advertising the forum location in a room already booked, the Board should be congratulated for putting on this event. There are few ways for interested students to engage with the Board and any new avenues are definitely welcome.

Nothing said at the meeting was binding but the directors had a chance to

clearly state the Union's plans for the immediate future. Near the top of the agenda was universal ACCESS, a staple campaign promise for USU Board candidates since time immemorial. USU President Astha Rajvanshi said that since students must pay the Student Services and Amenities Fee regardless of whether they are a Union member or not, free ACCESS is now an even greater priority. Money from the SSAF cannot be put into the C&S program, as it cannot be used to fund activities the Union technically charges for. Other initiatives discussed included a single complaints gateway and a draft social responsibility policy which would, amongst other

things, restrict the union's ability to have business relationships with certain industries.

One issue with the forum was confusion over the exact function of the meeting. Some members criticised the alleged roting of campaign grants and the distribution of LifeChoice's RU486 pamphlet, only to be told that their complaints should be directed to the Returning Officer and the Clubs and Societies program respectively.

Another problem with the format was the rigidity of the speaking list. Although necessary in order to allow less confident members to contribute, the list fragmented discussion and did not allow

for back-and-forth exchanges. Due to the list prioritising women, LifeChoice president Jade McLaughlin was at one point left speaking first when she had intended to respond to comments from other members. Rajvanshi sometimes struggled to maintain control, and some members seemed particularly unfamiliar with the notions of speaking time limits and a speaking order.

Despite these issues, the USU Members Forum is a fundamentally good idea. Attendance was only about 35, but if more forums are forthcoming hopefully a larger number of Union members will attend and actually have some clue as to what their Union is doing.

STATE OF THE UNION

Quiet democracy

UNI-VERSE

Student elections don't have to be in-your-face awful, reports US correspondent **Sam Murray**

Is it possible for student elections to occur and to not be aware of their existence? I was halfway through the voting period at the University of Pennsylvania student elections before I even noticed any identifiable form of campaigning. For someone who has been exposed to the overwhelming glitz and glamour of USYD, this was a pleasant surprise.

At the UPenn, the councilor and executive positions for the Undergraduate Assembly (similar to the SRC) are contested annually in what could charitably be described as an invisible election, at least relative to the University of Sydney. The elections occur online, meaning there's no need for physical campaigners. The tiny spending cap means that the most candidates do to get their name out is tying hand-drawn posters with string to trees; there's no chalking, brightly coloured t-shirts, or pamphlets produced en masse.

Stan Ma, one of the board directors of the Student Activities Council, (an organisation loosely equivalent to the USU) believes this to be an overwhelmingly good thing. He believes that the richest students easily have the finan-



MADDIE: endorsed by this tree
cial resources to spend extravagantly, and could even be "buying billboards all over Philadelphia" if unchecked by regulations.

That's not to say that there's no element of strategic politics involved. Gabriel Delaney, the recently elected Vice President of the Undergraduate Assembly believes that electoral success comes down to "endorsement emails of clubs and societies". When I first inter-

viewed him he was between confirming that the International Affairs Society was endorsing him, and setting up a meeting with the President-Elect of the Canadian Society to seek their support. As Delaney explains, when voter turnout is only in the few thousands, the impact of a society of about a hundred students can be the tipping point.

The final interesting factor of UPenn elections is the total absence of partisan ideology. There are no factions, drawn from Republican or Democratic clubs on campus. Such student organisations focus on state and national politics but, come election time, partisan politics are nowhere to be seen, nor 'Independents' who define themselves by opposition. This lack of factions means there is a general absence of campaigners beyond the candidature themselves to bother with elections.

Consequently, elections at UPenn are not a half-yearly event to be dreaded by the student population but an annual oddity where students, free from harassment and empty promises, gladly vote for their representatives.

IDAHOT comes to Sydney Uni

Georgia Kriz had a Gaytime

Last week, Sydney Uni students celebrated International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). It is the first time a celebration of this kind has been held on campus.

IDAHOT commemorates May 17, 1990, the day the World Health Organisation declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in the International Classification of Diseases registry.

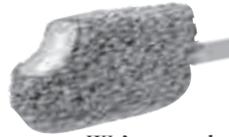
The USYD IDAHOT event was the

result of a joint effort between the USU's Queer Coordinators and the SRC's Queer Department.

Participants signed a pledge to commit to help end homophobia and transphobia, while enjoying free Golden Gaytime icecreams.

SRC Queer Officer, Fahad Ali, said that the event was a huge success.

"We had over 200 people attend.



We're so glad to have had the opportunity to work with the Union and the SRC, as well as all the wonderful queer groups on campus. This is such a great cause," he said.

Ali hopes that future IDAHOTs will continue to be celebrated by Sydney University students.

"I hope we always have an IDAHOT celebration, and I hope we always have a fantastic queer presence on campus."

A lazy conscience

The attack on our generation's apathy is not entirely unfounded, argues **Max Chalmers**

"Lazy entitled narcissists who still live with their parents," reads *Time* Magazine's latest assessment of you, me and, everybody else born in the last 25 years. In the court of our forebears' judgment, our generation seldom fares well. Even the titles given to our cohort come sealed with derogatory intent—'generation me', 'generation Y bother?'. The second quip hits on the most common theme of critique: that we are apathetic. An easy contrast is established, playing off the apparent radicalism of 1960s and 70s students with our timid passions. These inter-generational slanders are shallow, vague, and ahistorical. But the worst thing is, they're not entirely wrong.

"To socialists with clipboards: Yes I do support equal marriage but I'm afraid my single signature on your piece of paper isn't going to be the thing that makes a difference...But by all means keep annoying everyone and never learning. Having

a group on campus that everyone hates just brings us all closer together."

The above is a status update posted by the indefatigable 'Spotted: USYD' Facebook page. Without meaning to, it transcribes perfectly the special kind of apathy many of us have developed. It's an apathy shaded by cognitive dissonance: we want to hold the moral high ground without having to do anything about it. We want to support marriage equality, acknowledge the dangers of global warming, and help striking staff without having to inconvenience ourselves in any way, without ever attending a rally, reconsidering our consumption of fossil fuels, or joining a picket line. We want to feel good about ourselves for being on the right side of the argument, without doing anything to ensure the argument is won.

So we make the 'Spotted: USYD' excuse. We acknowledge the problem, but disown the groups trying to solve it.

Disown is in fact too weak a verb as, in truth, we assail them with disdain, exultant in our assassination of their character, style, or tactics. Such denunciations often come with an adjoined excuse: "if it wasn't for these people, I would support the cause."

This is the point where legitimate debate becomes nothing more than an excuse for laziness. Criticism and dissent within a social movement are vital to its growth, but there is a marked difference between dissent and abstention.

Don't give up on the ends to spite somebody else's means. If you think petitions are impotent, take action of some other kind. But if you don't, if you refuse to strive for an end because of a disagreement over the means, don't outsource the blame when the end remains unrealised. It's not the socialist with the clipboard who is to blame for that, it's you.

@maxchalmers90

NEWS IN REVUE

Patrick Madden dreamed a dream of this week's news

Do you Hear the People Sing?

Do you hear the misogynists sing?
Singing the song of sexist men.
It is the music of the pigs
who will not see Jolie's breasts again!

When a woman makes a decision,
about her medical health.
It is our place
to gender patrol them with 'advice'.

One May More

Wayne Swan:
One May more!
Another budget speech delivery,
slushing funds to vital industries.

Those pesky single mums should die,
the carbon tax was not a lie.
The baby bonus scheme remained,
we played the Howard game.

Who am I?
Who am I?
I'm Costello mark 2.4601!

Policy Paper Planes

Shooters and Fishers:
All I wanna do is *bang*, *bang*,
bang, *bang*

Clive Palmer:
And keep my money.

Joe Hockey:
All I wanna do is *slash*, *slash*,
slash, *slash*

Bob Katter:
And export cattle.

Love without limit
Life without fear

Is such a thing possible?





RALLY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY



1PM SAT 25 MAY
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Facebook: Sydney Rally For Marriage Equality



Why conservatives should support SSAF

OPINION

Rafi Alam plays devil's advocate

It isn't surprising there is a strand of antipathy towards the Student Services & Amenities Fee (SSAF). Everyone hates paying fees. But the Union Board candidates most opposed to it – Will Dawes, Grace O'Brien, Kanika Batra, and Tom Russell – are all either Young Liberals or endorsed by the Liberal Club, and although they are piggybacking off a resentment towards fees, they are also directed by the conservative opposition to student union fees.

However, the conservative opposition to SSAF is at odds with the values of market liberalisation the candidates hold. It is understandable they would be opposed to the compulsory student union membership and fees that existed before the Howard Government, but SSAF is perfectly in line with economic deregulation.

The first thing to understand is that the government legislation did not impose new fees on to students; what the government did was allow universities to charge student services fees. The

\$263 fee we pay at the beginning of the year is charged by the University.

While the government set \$263 as the maximum cost of the fee, universities can choose to set the fee at any price below it, including \$0.

The money can also go anywhere, not just to student unions.

Why this is an example of economic deregulation, as opposed to a 'student tax', is because the government has essentially given universities the right to set prices for particular services by removing previous financial restrictions.

If we consider the university to be a business – and our neoliberal economic system recognises the university as a business, with profit-making motivations and private interests – then SSAF is just another cost of participation.

And because the university can be considered a business, we have voluntary association with the business. We have the perfect choice to enrol in a university, to leave a university, to join another

university, or to not go to university. Just as a club can set a dress code or a restaurant can set a corking fee, universities can charge their own SSAF price.

If the dress code is too strict or the fee too high, patrons can switch establishments, therefore placing pressure on prices to lower and conditions of entry to become more mainstream.

If the SSAF is too high, students – and prospective students – can choose a university with a lower SSAF.

If there is no lower SSAF, then there is no market pressure, there is collusion (which is illegal), or the SSAF price is reasonable.

Therefore, economic liberals – including members of the Young Liberals – should celebrate the introduction of the SSAF. It introduces competition into the marketplace of universities.

In fact, economic liberals should be fighting to remove the price ceiling off the SSAF and allow universities to set the SSAF as high as they want, not argu-

ing for its abolition and a reintroduction of regulation on to the university's terms and conditions.

However, some economic liberals still argue that because universities are semi-public, compulsory fees – set by the university – should be illegal.

This makes little sense under a neo-liberal model, especially considering economic liberals support the deregulation of hospitals and schools even when taxpayer public funding still exists, such as private schools; deregulating aspects of the industry lead to full deregulation, which in the case of universities, would be the deregulation of tuition fees and more deregulation of textbook and equipment costs.

I'm by no means a fan of market liberalisation, but it's still important to call out the incoherent position that SSAF is a breach of choice. It is the liberalisation of choice – choice for the business that is our university and choice for students reduced to consumers.

Top 5 emoticons

TOP 5...

Georgia Kriz gets emotive :)

- 5 **;P** The wink tongue face combines two much-loved and ubiquitous emoticons into one catch-all classic. Feeling saucy? Feeling ironic? Feeling like what you just typed could be grossly misinterpreted and shit is about to get awkward? This face fixes everything. Whack it in at the end of any and all sentences and you'll come across as equal parts jovial, self-deprecating and smooth.
- 4 **8===3 - - -** The ejaculating cock and balls is a classy way to express delight or satisfaction. Examples of common usage include: "That Thai was great last night! 8===3 - - -" or "Mum! I got a HD 8===3 - - -". Alter the length of the jizz in accordance with how happy you feel. Use freely, and frequently.
- 3 **@}-;-'** The rose is best used to pull chicks. I use it all the time. It's the frugal modern lover's answer to real flowers. First date? Send her one of these beforehand, just to get things grooving. Important anniversary? Flick one her way, maybe two. Forget her birthday? Send her a bouquet of them – it can take a while to type, but she'll love you for it. Romance has never been so easy!
- 2 **{}** The open vagina is commonly used as an expression of affection. Where you would ordinarily hug someone, sub in the vagina: "Missing you ({})" or "Sorry you are having a bad day ({})". For bigger hugs or to inject more warmth into your message, widen the vagina: ({}). Sure to cheer up even the saddest of friends.
- 1 **(O-O)** The Harry Potter is arguably the defining emoticon of our generation. Use it to add a sense of mysticism or magic to your conversations – when someone asks an important or urgent question, answer with HP. Examples include:
1) Q: "Can you cover my shift tonight?" A: "(O-O)". 2) Q: "What have you done with the cat?" A: "(O-O)". 3) Q: "Why am I missing a kidney?" A: "(O-O)".

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Australian censorship and squirt denialism

Mariana Podesta-Diverio did some 'research' on the Internet

Female ejaculation is a sticky subject; in part, the nature of the fluid excreted during a 'squirt'-inducing orgasm has influenced discussions about the nature of the sexual act (that is, whether or not it involves urination, a critical determinant in Australian pornographic classification). Restrictions also apply to porn depicting women with small breasts, citing the problematically child-like appearance of anything smaller than an A-cup as the justification.

Alleged proposals by pro-censorship politicians to restrict porn depicting female ejaculation sparked debate in early 2010, resulting in a backlash from sex-positive activists. In 2010, an Australian Sex Party press release denounced the Federal government's alleged attempts to confiscate depictions of female ejaculation. Discussions sparked by the release rapidly obscured the specificities of proposed restrictions, and the idea that squirting would be completely banned gained traction.

This is not necessarily the case – ambiguous criterion applies to films depicting the act. Subsequently, female ejaculation falls into a grey area of classification in Australia, partly due to a lack of knowledge of the physiology behind squirting.

Studies in 1985 and 1994 indicated

the presence of a small percentage of diluted urine in some instances of ejaculation. However, formative research published in the *Journal of Sexual Medicine* in 2010 found that the majority of liquid excreted in a 'squirt' is in fact not urine, but rather a mixture of discharge from the vagina's paraurethral glands. Similar findings are present across the current literature.

Since squirting may be interpreted as a type of urination (in the Film Classification discourse, a "golden shower"), films depicting it are subject to the same scrutiny that applies to porn depict-

“...female ejaculation falls into a grey area of classification in Australia, partly due to a lack of knowledge of the physiology behind squirting.”

ing urination and defecation, which is illegal. Outdated research is likely a partial basis for lingering perceptions of squirting as an act of urination. It's thus likely that conservative discourse is grounded in outdated information and lacks self-reflexivity. The Australian Classification Board analyses films on a case-by-case basis, leaving depictions

of squirting open to varying interpretations.

A (strictly academic) online search might prompt incertitude about the ramifications of Australian porn restrictions amongst readers. For there abound videos covering a miscellany of porn categories, and squirting is amongst them. Indeed, restrictions can only prohibit the physical sale of porn in adult stores, rendering the prohibition of such items fairly inconsequential for consumers of internet porn.

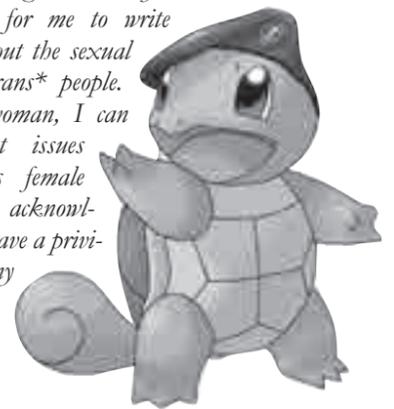
Whatever the precise restrictions, controversies surrounding classification are emblematic of the stigmatisation of female sexuality that fuels anxieties surrounding the content of porn. It's no secret that hegemonic male sexuality dominates sexual discourse and social relations, thus causing the discord in scrutiny applied to representations of male vs. female sexuality. Restrictions on small breasts exemplify this double standard, and show that our largely sex-negative and sexist society has the problem, not its diverse individuals.

Society consistently values male sexual climax over that of females; male orgasms have historically been constructed and understood as the reproductive crux, as well as being pleasurable. Conversely, female ejaculation represents not insemination, but pleasure. Squirting, although only possible

for some women, symbolizes the epitome of female sexual gratification. The polemic around squirting is therefore unsurprising since it threatens the sexual status quo and, God forbid, depicts women experiencing sexual pleasure that doesn't necessarily have an end purpose valued by a sexist post-industrial society centred around (re)productivity and growth. It's also worth noting that squirting is usually only achieved through simultaneous stimulation of the G-spot and the clitoris – a practice lacking in much of the heterosexual sex depicted in porn.

Perhaps the threat to this heteronormative standard is the true culprit for anxieties about depicting female sexual pleasure.

This article used the terms 'female' and 'male' to refer to cis women and men respectively. I acknowledge the problematic cissexist nature of the gender binary. It is not appropriate for me to write critically about the sexual issues of trans people. As a cis woman, I can write about issues affecting cis female sexuality. I acknowledge that I have a privilege that many non-binary individuals do not.*



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

6pm on thursday may 30th 2013
carslaw 273
Refreshments will be provided

Agenda

1. Acknowledgement of country
2. Confirmation of chair, introductions and apologies
3. Minutes of the annual general meeting, 2012
4. Mid year review and annual report
5. Accounts and financial statement, 2012
6. Appointment of auditor
7. 2013-14 Election report
8. Elections of equity officers
9. Supplementary election
10. Amendments to the constitution (Draft amendments will be available on our website)
11. Policy manual and recommendations
12. Other business
13. Close of meeting

Notice Of Supplementary Election

Notice is hereby given of the election, to be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, of 6 ordinary Councillors to the Council of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association for the 2013-14 term. Any postgraduate student who is also a SUPRA member by the close of nominations on 6pm on May 30th, is eligible to nominate and vote in this election. Elections will also be held for all outstanding equity positions where quorum is met.

Nomination forms and copies of the Electoral Regulations which govern this election may be obtained in person at the SUPRA Offices or online from the SUPRA website at www.supra.usyd.edu.au. Nominations must be accompanied by a candidate statement as stipulated in the SUPRA Electoral Regulations, and those nominating from the floor may be allowed to speak to their nomination as determined by the Returning Officer.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the Annual General Meeting, and also via submission of a completed nomination form, which may be emailed to returning.officer@supra.usyd.edu.au, faxed to (02) 9351 6400, or posted to The Returning Officer, SUPRA, The Demountable Village A06, University of Sydney NSW 2006.

Please note that electors must be SUPRA members by the close of nominations in order to vote in the election. SUPRA membership is free and available to postgraduate students by subscribing in person at the SUPRA Offices, or online (<http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/subscribe.html>).

Written nominations will open on Thursday May 16th 2013 and close on Wednesday May 29th at 5pm. Please be advised that written nominations will not be received after this date and time, and if you miss this deadline you will have to nominate from the floor of the AGM.

Additionally nominations will be taken from the floor at the SUPRA AGM, to be held at 6pm on Thursday May 30th 2013, at Carslaw 273. These nominations will open and close at such time as is announced by the Returning Officer.

Ballots will be issued by the Returning Officer at the AGM on Thursday May 30th, and voting will take place at that meeting. Votes will be counted using proportional representation (Schedule 1 of the SUPRA Constitution). The outcome of the election will be declared by the Returning Officer, within 48 hours of the conclusion of the AGM.

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WHERE IS SUPRA?

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For more information visit

www.supra.usyd.edu.au

or contact Joanne Gad,

president@supra.usyd.edu.au

ph: 02 9351 3715. Authorised by Joanne Gad, SUPRA President. 6th May 2013



Jonathan Moylan

Hannah Ryan hangs out with a hoaxer

23 minutes. That's how long it took for Whitehaven Coal to lose \$314 million of its value on January 7 this year, when ANZ issued a startling press release saying it had withdrawn a \$1.2 billion loan that was to finance the mining company's Maules Creek coal project. The bank attributed its decision to "volatility in the global coal market, expected cost blowouts and ANZ's corporate responsibility policy," citing "unacceptable damage" to the environment. Frantic selling ensued, the share price dropped by 9%, and 23 minutes later trading was frozen.

But the press release wasn't real – it was a hoax, the handiwork of 24-year-old environmental activist Jonathan Moylan.

Jonathan Moylan lives in a tent in Leard State Forest, in the state's north. These unconventional lodgings are part of the base camp for Front Line Action on Coal, an activist group opposed to development of coal projects in the Gunnedah region, near Newcastle. He makes a living working online as a translator and teaching French to the children of local farmers.

Moylan speaks calmly for someone facing a possible \$750 000 fine and ten years in prison. As a result of the hoax, he's the subject of an investigation by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission due to a possible breach of the *Corporations Act*, and Whitehaven is also reportedly considering taking legal action against him. "I don't know what pleasure they'd get out of it," he says bluntly. "I live in a tent."

Moylan is articulate and earnest and, despite his situation, devoid of cynicism. He's a seasoned activist, having been involved in Newcastle University's Environmental Collective and later in Rising Tide, a non-violent direct action group opposed to the construction of coal terminals. He's been arrested ten or fifteen times along the way – "I can't quite remember," he says, chuckling. With Front Line, he carries out wildlife surveys, reports on breaches of the law by coal companies, and engages in different kinds of protest, from hanging banners to non-violent direct action.

But the Whitehaven hoax was different. One of the most attention-grabbing instances of activism in recent years, pulled off with just a computer and an Internet connection, it cleverly and devastatingly took advantage of the immediacy of the share market and hit Whitehaven where it hurt – in the hip pocket.

One of the most remarkable things about the hoax was the visceral nature of the criticism thrown at Moylan in

its wake. *The Australian* wrote that he had a "delinquent mind"; Deputy PM-cum-Whitehaven Director Mark Vaile labelled him "un-Australian"; a mere few weeks ago, he was called a "bludger" and a "Nazi" in NSW Parliament.

"Of course you can't put money on one side and the future of the planet on the other...Our future wellbeing is totally interlinked with our ecological health and the health of the global climate."

Moylan seems unperturbed by the name-calling, and attributes it to what he sees as the mining industry's stranglehold on narratives about Australian prosperity. In his view, the industry claims to underpin Australia's economy so much that were coal exports not to double, "it would bring about some sort of economic apocalypse". He's not buying it. On Moylan's analysis, mining pushes up the Australian dollar, negatively affecting other key industries, like agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. Locally, the effects include rising rent prices and increases in labour costs – which particularly burden low-income earners, he claims.

The ensuing PR challenge for activists like Moylan, which leads to the vitriol he's incurred, is the popular pitting of environment against economy – the idea that you can have one, but you can't have both. If you fight for the environment, you're fighting against Australian wealth. He is tired of environmentalists being portrayed as prioritising possums and trees over people, and attributes his passion for the environment to a concern for fellow humans. "Of course you can't put money on one side and the future of the planet on the other," he says, frustrated. "Our future wellbeing is totally interlinked with our ecological health and the health of the global climate."

The hoax was certainly controversial. The most compelling argument put against Moylan is that his actions did not really hurt Whitehaven or ANZ, but instead so-called 'Mum and Dad' shareholders. Whitehaven's share price quickly bounced back – as the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported in January, in the end the company lost no more than \$450 360.

But those who sold in the 23 minutes of panic, so the

theory goes, would have been institutional investors, like these hypothetical parents' superannuation funds.

Even if this is true – and it probably isn't, given that most superannuation funds are low-risk – it raises the question: how responsible are these Mums and Dads for the industries their money ends up supporting?

"I don't think people should be punished for their investments," Moylan asserts. "People invest to get a return." Nevertheless, he is critical of investors' ignorance of where their money goes, blaming the fluidity of the share market for a disconnect between shareholders and their corporations' activities. He's optimistic, though, and he believes that more and more people do want that return – "but not at the cost of the dislocation of a community". He believes ordinary people are starting to feel empowered, in the sense that they can vote with their feet, and send a message to their banks about how they want their money to be invested.

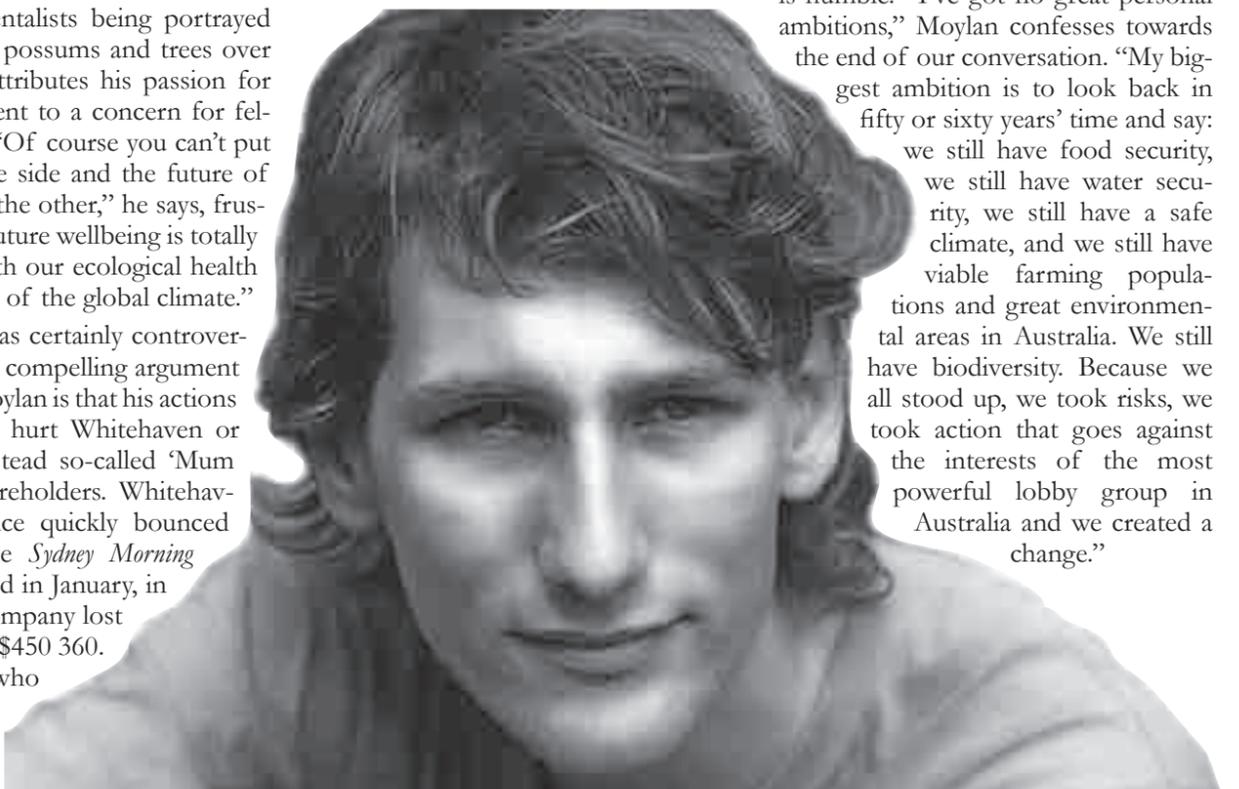
Although legal concerns mean he is unable to speak directly about the hoax, Moylan appears to maintain a quiet pride in his actions. He recounts times when, blockading a coalmine, he was criticised for costing workers money and told "you really should be targeting the shareholders". His focus seems far more fixed on his concern for the environment than on the people who lost money as a result of his actions: although he acknowledges that activists "always have to consider the effects of their actions on third parties," he speaks more sincerely about his desire to create change.

Moylan is critical of the media's

myopia when it comes to the harm caused by environmental damage. Much has been made of the fact that the hoax was spread so quickly by the mainstream media, who instantly reported on the press release without interrogating it. Moylan seems unconcerned with this aspect of the story – and he can't really be critical, given that this laziness was integral to his action's success. Instead, he talks energetically about the values the media communicate. Impassioned about the expansion of the coal industry in NSW, he is disappointed that it hasn't been the subject of serious reporting. "The fact that nobody had ever heard of Leard State Forest before January – I think the media do need to take responsibility for that," he explains. "That's their role. To tell the community about issues of great public concern."

Environment Minister Tony Burke approved the Maules Creek project in February, to Moylan's disappointment. He's concerned about the effects of the mine on the surrounding communities: "It's quite traumatic for people to see something that's been an integral part of their community for a very long time be mauled and defaced by an open pit coal mine," he says. He invokes depopulation, a sense of powerlessness, rising costs, and impacts on water and the health of the local community as the human costs of mining and climate change.

For someone who pulled off one of the most memorable environmental protests in recent Australian history, simultaneously revealing serious problems with media reporting and the stability of the sharemarket, Moylan is humble. "I've got no great personal ambitions," Moylan confesses towards the end of our conversation. "My biggest ambition is to look back in fifty or sixty years' time and say: we still have food security, we still have water security, we still have a safe climate, and we still have viable farming populations and great environmental areas in Australia. We still have biodiversity. Because we all stood up, we took risks, we took action that goes against the interests of the most powerful lobby group in Australia and we created a change."





Photos: Hannah Ryan and Nina Ubaldi

Spence ignores the truth

OPINION

Nick Rowbotham critiques the Vice-Chancellor's response to allegations of police violence at last week's strike

In response to the SRC Executive's email to Michael Spence expressing concern about police violence towards students and staff at last Tuesday's strike, the Vice-Chancellor wrote: "The police regularly patrol the campus and do not have to wait to be invited to do so... we welcome their assistance where deliberate disruption is being caused or in the case of safety concerns."

The email, which can be read in full on the *Honi Soit* website, failed to address any of the substance of the SRC's concerns about heavy-handed tactics on the part of police, and was frightfully devoid of empathy for the individuals to whom Dr Spence ought to be ultimately accountable – staff and students.

Dr Spence's PR Director, Andrew Potter, mysteriously and abruptly left the VC's office two weeks ago, despite indications that he would remain in his position until the end of the year. Perhaps Spence's callously managerial email is reflective of Potter's absence.

Regardless, its tone was emblematic of a common response to allegations of police violence and heavy-handedness at the strike: picketers had been disruptive, uncooperative and violent, and police had simply acted "in the interests of public safety".

The presumption of guilt on the part of protestors and innocence on

the part of police is deeply troubling, particularly when it comes from individuals who had no involvement in the strike, and witnessed none of the events that occurred on picket lines last Tuesday. It is the exact opposite of what we should presume when staff and students are engaged in a lawful political protest.

The NSW Public Order and Riot Squad, the primary police unit engaged in confrontations with protestors last Tuesday, was formed in response to race riots in Redfern and Macquarie Fields in the mid 2000s. It was not designed to be employed against political protests, and frankly, the NSW Police Force should not be at all surprised when its use as such prompts claims of police violence. The Riot Squad is comprised of thuggish volunteers from the regular Force who have no interest in serving and protecting the public.

Dr Spence claims that police only acted to break up pickets when the NTEU's 'picket protocol' was ignored. The agreed protocol during each of the three strikes has been that picketers have the right to attempt to dissuade individuals – and particularly vehicles – from entering the university. On a number of occasions last Tuesday, this protocol was flatly ignored by police.

Even when protestors were allowed the chance to argue their case at

picket lines, police would attempt to impose time restrictions, and in some cases, encourage staff and students to enter the University to undermine the industrial action.

For many, it is difficult to accept that police can be the primary instigators of violence at protests, but the steady escalation of physical confrontations at the four days of industrial action this year lends credence to the thesis that police have primarily been present to shut down, rather than facilitate, protest.

Dr Spence claims that he has no control over police presence at the University. But it seems he is more than comfortable with riot police patrolling his campus. One of the managers of Campus Security was seen chuckling and conversing with riot police at the Carillon Avenue picket moments after the police had aggressively man-handled students and staff.

One student was strangled on a picket line, another broke his leg, and another suffered from internal bleeding after being crushed in a scrum. These are just the most serious incidents that occurred throughout the day. Why, then, should we presume that the Vice-Chancellor has any regard for the right to protest, and the safety of staff and students on campus?

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My wonderful day

Tom Raue sat down on the evening of May 14 and recounted his experiences with police

Today I had the worst experience of my life. I stood at the City Road picket with other students and staff, surrounded by police. The riot police beside us had put their gloves on and were lined up, ready for a fight. I knew what was coming. Seeing that a friend was holding the end of a banner where the police would soon attack, I offered to replace her and moved to the front line.

The violence began. Police pushed from the front and the side, attempting to force protestors off the road. I was quickly grabbed by the throat, and dragged to an almost kneeling position. I had my arms linked with my friend, who stopped me from being dragged away. Other than that one arm, I was surrounded by the dark blue overalls of the Public Order and Riot Squad. I was vaguely aware that my friend was screaming my name, but the loudest sound was my own blood pumping.

I could not breathe. I feebly pulled at the police officer's arm, trying to free myself, but he did not relent. I was being held down, and nobody could see my face. As I grew faint, I became less worried about the pummeling scrum and ensuing bruises. I was frightened for my life. The grip around my neck never wavered, and I feared that I would pass out or even die, unnoticed, before the

fight ended.

After perhaps a minute of being unable to breathe, the grip around my neck morphed into a relatively pleasant headlock. I could now breathe, barely, but my body was limp and I struggled to stay on my feet. Soon I was pulled back by unseen comrades and ushered away from the front line. I sat with the others, my head spinning and vision blurred. I mimed along with the protest chant.

I have been crying all day, whenever nobody can see. I sometimes can't stop shaking, I get distressed in crowds and seek solitude. After I was strangled, I was witness to and involved in several other incidents of police violence. I am covered in cuts and bruises, but I've heard of other students in far worse condition.

Amongst the messages of support, there have also been reprimands. If I am constantly a target of police violence, must I not be provoking it? Don't I deserve it for disobeying orders? I have always been firm in my support of civil disobedience, but today I doubted myself. Traumatized, wanting to disappear, I thought that maybe it actually is all my fault.

That is the most insidious effect of institutionalised violence. It is so tempt-



Tom Raue back on the picket after his alleged strangling by police. Photo: Nina Ubaldi

ing to blame the victim for not behaving in the right way, and I even did it to myself in a dark moment. But no, I do not deserve to be brutalised by police. I am proud to rush to the front of a confrontation and protect my friends. I am proud that I stand my ground instead of caving in the face of intimidation.

The police broke their own laws, and used violence to silence political protest. I am not the one who deserves to feel like shit. The fucker that choked me apparently laughed afterwards, and I can barely type this with shaking hands.

There's no positive upshot.

Creepy leather gloves

Edward McMahon describes his experience of police intimidation tactics

Behind every act of brutal violence that occurred last Tuesday is a culture of intimidation – the feeling that the rules that keep us safe are illusory when they're most needed.

It was this feeling that particularly struck me when I protested against billions of dollars in cuts to our higher education system.

I was joined by hundreds of like-minded citizens. I was also joined by the Public Order and Riot Squad of the NSW Police Force. They had jumpsuits, handcuffs, hand ties, capsicum spray, knives, pistols, horses, vans, four-wheel drives, a truck, and most memorably, creepy leather gloves.

The protestors poured onto City Road, delaying traffic to draw attention to our cause. The march began, and I raised my voice in protest. I also raised a flag. Unbeknownst to me, my flag brushed the face of two riot police as it flapped in the wind.

A cop grabbed my wrist. He jerked my arm, causing me to stumble towards him. He dragged me from the crowd. He looked like a pitbull, about to devour a meal. He stared at me –

"I'm going to lock you up."

He continued: "If your stupid flag hits



The 'Dumb Cuts' Protest marches down Broadway. Photo: Stella Klenas

one of my boys again, I'm going to lock you up." I insisted that I intended nothing, but before I could finish he interrupted "I saw your face. I will lock you up right now." I repented for the flapping of my flag and was pushed violently back into the protesting crowd. I was shaken, and as my friend Casey came to my aid, she too was grabbed and shoved back into the crowd.

I wanted to tell the cop that only our courts could "lock me up". I wanted to

tell him that all he could do was detain me if he reasonably suspected that I had committed, was committing, or was going to commit an offence. His detention of me could only be a last resort, and would otherwise be wrongful. I wanted to tell him that I was not scared of him.

But I was scared. I was terrified. It was the hateful look in his eyes, the force in his grip, and the violence of his tone. He knew that he couldn't arrest me. Of course, if I had reacted to his threats, he

would have had cause. Thanks to my 'flight' response, that cause did not arise. Instead, I was thrown back into the crowd like a piece of dirt.

I was physically shaking. I felt like crying. I felt angry.

This is one story of many arising from last week. Stories in which members of the NSW Police Force set out to instill fear in the hearts of citizens as they dissented against their government. They join countless stories in which the same officers tried to silence unionised staff and their supporters. They are stories in which power-hungry thugs muted the passionate voices of those who have so much to contribute, of those who, when something is wrong, resist it.

Resistance is exactly what a healthy democracy looks like; it is not made healthy by letter-writers, career ladder-climbers or Q&A question-askers alone. It is made healthy by those who protest – on the streets, in their workplaces, and in their everyday lives. Last week, the police responded to such people by breaking bones, choking and intimidating them.

For that, they should be ashamed.

Natural election

Mariana Podesta-Diverio farewells the chalk and theatrics

Simultaneously tragic and compelling:
a vivid bag of Skittles strewn across the
tarmac of our landing strip.

A student body patronised by puns
promising us the world.
Eastern Avenue gang
tensions make first-years impetrate solitude.
Eloquent climbers of social kinds
back at resolves when hours
and hours of “[Yours and ours!]”
lecture announcements blend
into stale smoothies of unmixable colours
and skittish behaviour.
Foul tastes are chased away –
but only when we stray for solitude.

Overgrown, gargantuan rainbow children
squirm beneath lecture screens to an
audience watching impossible future schemes

corrode dead air.
Their yelling and dancing pales cheerleaders in comparison:

“Me! The Saviour! I’ll be your bro!
[I want to be rich, so watch my nose grow!]”
It’s sad that nobody knows composure
withholding exposure in finite bounds whilst
CEO Andrew releases the hounds.

Pounds of flesh that indiscreetly, sweetly, march in file, in place.
Face away, pray tell them of indifference!
Lest they nick at your feet!
And run (intently, endlessly) to grant their grand defeat.
Obsolete will these “policies” be, when wraths of
priceless SSAF funding are bequeathed to hopelessness.

Your vote will count like Count von Count counts –
a droning and gradual prattling –
and stands for a process
worthy of constant cackling.

ARTS
&

CULTURE

Image: Bryant Apolonio



Unlocked poetry

It's art that'll set you free, writes Lucia Osborne-Crowley

*When the pen hits paper
When the words start to pass
When the poetry starts to happen
The day will slowly begin.*

Over the past four years, the Red Room poetry company has joined forces with members of the NSW Correctional Services team to create 'Unlocked', a collaborative poetry program for NSW prisoners. The program was created as a means of encouraging self-exploration amongst prisoners through creative expression, teaching inmates to express themselves poetically and, in so doing, connect with and form a deeper understanding of their emotions and relationships, past and present.

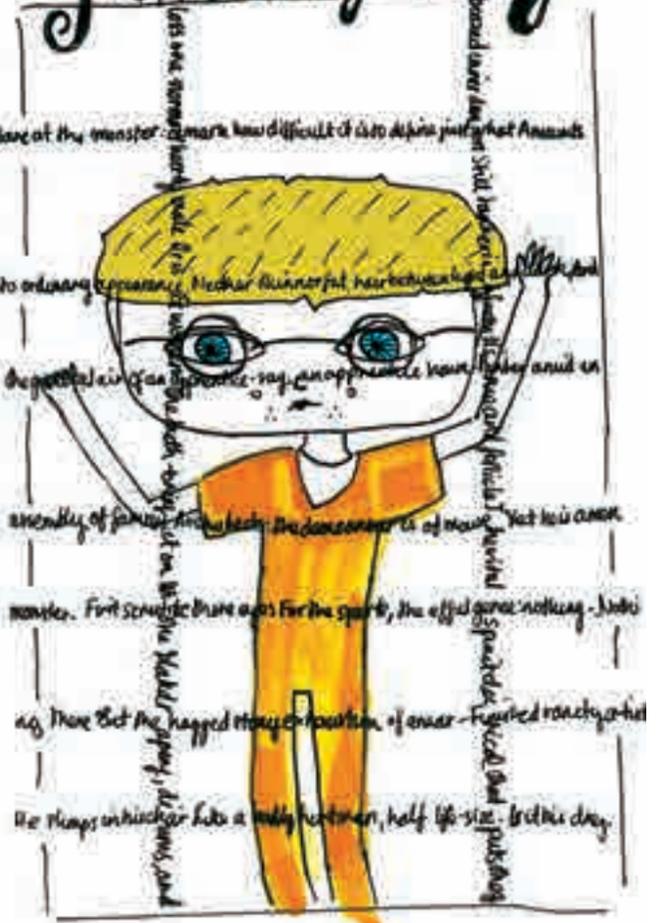
The workshops have made a profound impact on the outlooks of many NSW prisoners. Daragh McCallum, a literacy teacher at the Mannus Correctional Centre, said that "several inmates stated that they had no idea poetry was so diverse and attainable," alluding to the inmates' delight upon discovering that the world of literary expression was open to them as a means of self-discovery and communication.

As another means of helping inmates explore and appreciate poetic creativity, Sydney rapper Nick Bryant-Smith, AKA Solo of hip hop outfit Horrorshow, connected with inmates through his own poetry in the form of rap music and taught the inmates how to compose their own hip hop verses. Hip hop music can serve as a first point of contact with poetry for many people, making this part of the project an important contribution to the prisoners' creative development. Nick's work with the inmates culminated in the creation of a collaborative rap song, a professional recording of which is forthcoming.

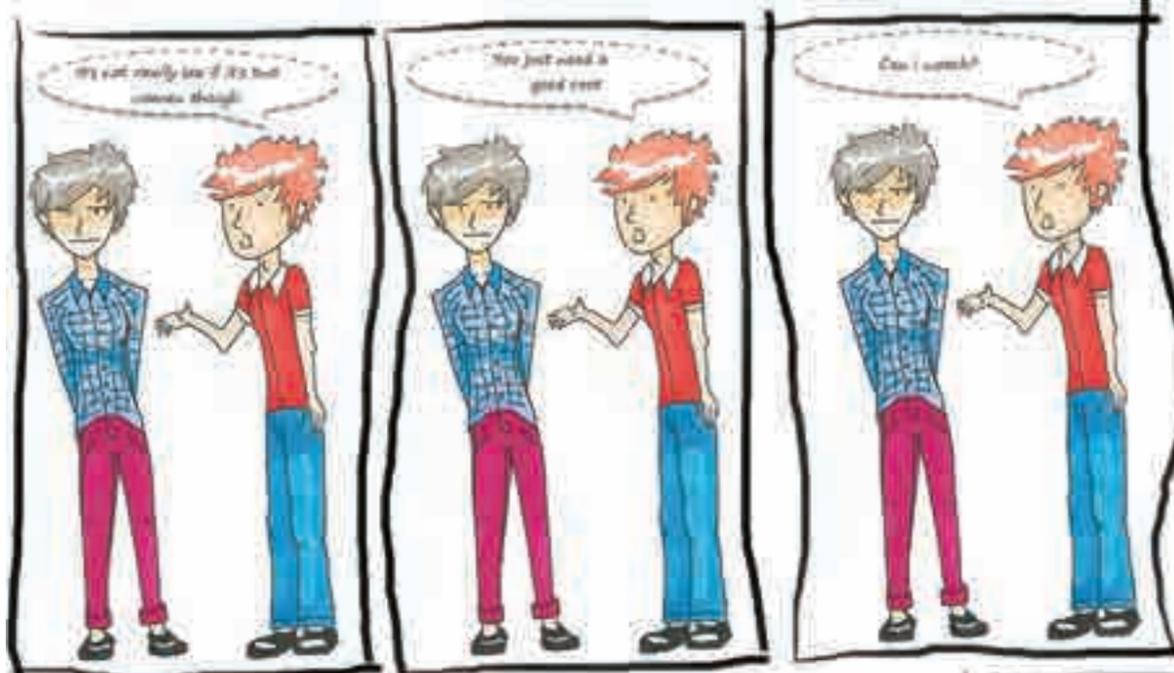
As well as this collaborative effort, the Unlocked project has produced a number of written anthologies that showcase the inmates' literary works. The collection of works express an impressive array of emotions and experiences – ranging from sombre, to wistful, to hopeful and back again – and speak to an incredible development of self-understanding. McCallum observed that "it was uplifting to see the pride participants took in sharing their work."

Claire Shume, literacy teacher at the John Morony Correctional Centre, told *Honi* that the program has encouraged inmates to "rise above their immediate circumstances and see beyond the fence, to unlock their minds and creativity." While these accolades certainly confirm the success of the project, the poetic voices of the participants themselves speak far louder, as they end hopeful poems with sentiments such as "just for a moment, I want for nothing," and descriptions such as "a young touched prisoner... searching and determined, to confront his dangers – to be free."

Jamaus Poef



Cartoon: Rose McEwen

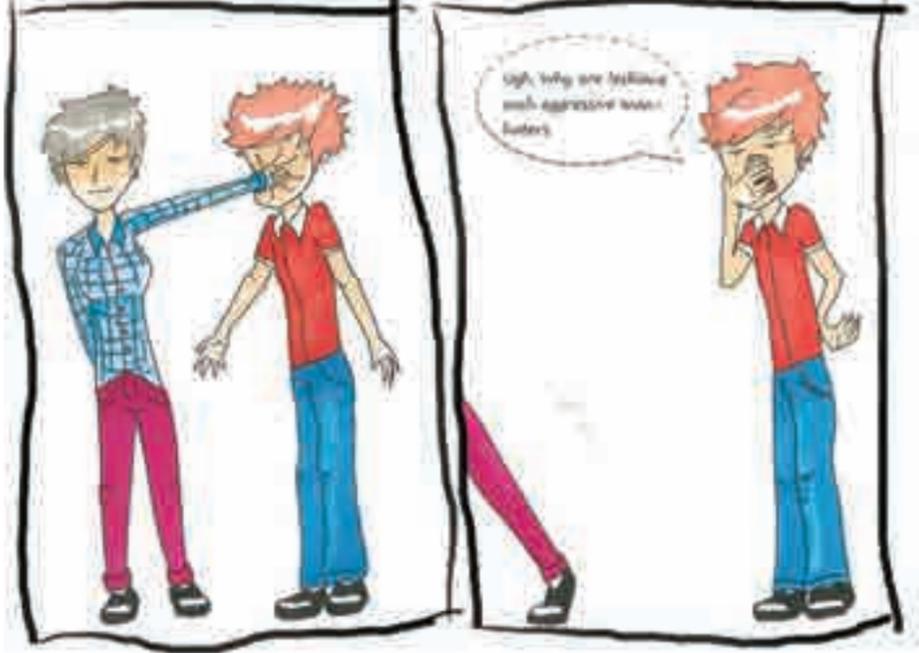


INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

It's easy to think that in the age of marriage equality, we're living in a post-homophobic society. Not quite. In the lead up to International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDA-HOT), *Honi* asked the queer collective some of the homophobic things people have said to them recently. The response was overwhelming:

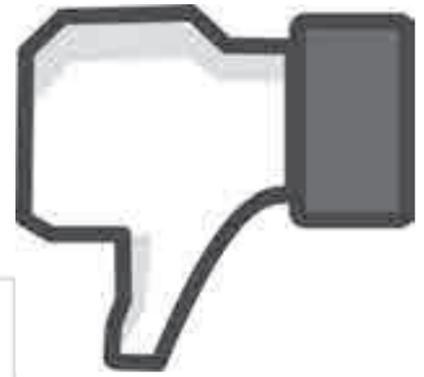
"So which one of you is the woman?"
"But how do you have sex when there's no penis?"
"But you're too pretty to be a lesbian!"
"So you've never had sex with a woman? Do you want to try?"

"I like you, you're not like those annoying (camp) gays"
"But you used to be straight!"
"Gay men are OK because they like shopping. Gay women are just gross. Especially hairy, dykey ones"
"It's not *really* sex if it's two girls"
"I don't understand women who date butch lesbians when they could just date real men."
"I'm not homophobic, but I can't support gay marriage because it's so unfair to bring children up gay."
"Bisexual? That means you're down for threesomes, right?"



Cartoon: Mikaela Bartels

death 2.0



Update Status Add Photos/Video

Thomas O'Brien reflects on death in a digital age



Public

Post

Tash Lucas wrote on Lewis Stanton's timeline.

12 October 2012

"Man, your 21st would have been epic! I miss you so much!"

Lewis Stanton's birthday is today, and Facebook promptly reminds me so upon logging in, encouraging me to "write a birthday wish on his wall." Before doing so, I decide to take my cue from what others have written. Scrolling down past the profile picture of a smiling boy perpetuating the careless happiness that only a teenager could exude, I'm struck by the sheer volume of birthday wishes. I spend some time reading, attempting to express the complexity of my feelings about Lewis, his birthday and his Facebook.

I don't know what to write. But eventually, after accepting the norm from what others had posted, I begin typing. "Happy Birthday Lewis! Everybody wishes you were here for it, but you'll be celebrated, loved and remembered today nonetheless. We miss you mate."

Hours later, I receive a notification from Facebook: "Tim Stanton likes your wall post." An indication that Lewis' brother had read and evidently appreciated my birthday message. Throughout the remainder of the day, Tim would continue to individually read and like each birthday message posted to his brother. I don't know what the message meant to me, or really what it meant to Lewis. To be blunt, it physically couldn't have meant anything to him. But to his family, and it seems circles of his friends too, Lewis' Facebook is a comforting virtual grave; a portal into a life lost young.

We place some of the most important moments of our lives on the Internet. Now, more than ever, we are living on Facebook.

But what happens when you die on Facebook?

Lewis died in 2010 in what should have been the usually uneventful closing weeks of the year. And yet despite his death, his Facebook profile lives on, and we all live on with him through it. Lewis' Facebook legacy is not a particularly exceptional story, but alas it is a personal one. His 21st birthday has prompted this

very reflection; a personal insight into what it means to hear about death and subsequently grieve on Facebook.

I acknowledge my writings perpetuate more questions than they do answers. This is perhaps fitting for the boy I write about. He didn't leave behind many answers; no note or signs of depression.

What he left us was his Facebook; digital immortality.

To this day, most of all, I thank my parents for staying up late in Sydney to ring me that Saturday morning, because their voices, explanation and calmness provided me with an outlook that the World Wide Web never could.

Madeleine Neville wrote on Lewis Stanton's wall.

5 December 2010

"can't believe it. don't even know what to write. such a shock. Bye friend :) I'm glad to have known you. Rest in Peace xxx ♥"

December 6, 2010. The morning rays of Saturday sunshine awoke me from the hotel floor, where I was living the not so luxurious life of a backpacker in Europe. My back was telling me I was an idiot for sleeping on the thin carpet, but I was just happy to have made it to London. Less than two weeks into my European adventure, I'd flown into Heathrow late on December 5. The details pertaining to what should've been a simple journey from Lisbon to London were frustrating at the time, but hindsight casts a different light upon them.

I was meant to be flying out of Lisbon with my friend Emily early on Friday the 5th. However, due to a Spanish airstrike, I was stuck in the airport alone for the entire day, waiting for my severely delayed flight. Emily flew out early; I wasn't so lucky. By the time I arrived in

London, it was too late to book into a hostel, so I pleaded with my best friend Matt to let me crash with him on his brother's hotel room floor. Thankfully, he obliged. I didn't arrive to the hotel until 2am, thus ending my marathon day.

I'm thankful for the events of that day. To this day, I thank the Spanish Air Controllers for shutting down Spain's air space, because it meant I was forced to find accommodation with Matt rather than be amongst strangers in a hostel. I thank my severely delayed flight because it meant I was sitting in an airport for hours, preventing my frequent usage of the Internet and Facebook. Because of these seemingly inconsequential series of events, I was without the Internet for over 36 hours and thus the first word I would receive of Lewis' death would thankfully not come from reading the hundreds of obituaries left on his Facebook page. Instead, I heard about Lewis, the same Lewis who had hugged me farewell at a pub in Sydney ten days prior, from a far more comforting source than a computer screen. As Matt and I got ready for the day ahead, my parents rang the European number I was yet to give to my Sydney friends. And so it eventuated that I heard some of the most inexplicable and incomprehensible news of my life from my parents. To this day, most of all, I thank my parents for staying up late in Sydney to ring me that Saturday morning, because their voices, explanation and calmness provided me with an outlook that the World Wide Web never could.

I coped by spending the day with Matt, stumbling about London together in a slumber. Amongst other things, I drank heavily. Sure, it was a clichéd reaction, but it calmed me down. Prior to the alcohol, I'd broken down on the London Tube of all places, sobbing quietly in the corner of a carriage, wiping tears and phlegm onto my jacket. As awful as it was, I now know that my immediate reaction could have been worse, unbearable even. Had I been alone in a hostel and heard through Facebook, I honestly don't know how I would've coped. While hypothetical scenarios are not all illuminating, in this case, it represents the difference between the warmth of a voice and the text of a computer

explaining the inexplicable.

I am still yet to fathom the potential pain of learning such news from Facebook. When I started to write this, the memories of that day make me wonder just how many had suffered the pain of the Facebook death knock. So, like any other member of Gen Y seeking immediate answers, I googled, and ultimately was saddened by stories of such situations. In 2009 Sydney schoolgirl Brenda Lin was holidaying in New Caledonia, and upon checking Facebook, discovered her immediate family of five had been murdered. That same year, *The Daily Telegraph* reported a story where a family heard of their daughter's death via Facebook, and immediately drove straight to the carnage of her car accident. In both situations, the delivery of news via Facebook only worsened their pain. The incidents prompted *The Punch* columnist Lanai Vasek to vent her frustrations. "There needs to be some sort of regulation...Users need to make a concerted effort to self-regulate and censor potentially insensitive posts," she says. Vasek's reasoning is resolute. "I refuse to believe that we have to sit around and simply let families and friends find out their loved ones are dead, in arguably one of the most insensitive ways around."

I don't believe it either. And yet, it continues. According to Nicole Russell in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 70 000 Australian Facebook users passed away in 2011; meaning incidents aforementioned will only increase as Facebook's population grows bigger in number and older in age. In total, Facebook says over 200 000 members die each day worldwide. Perhaps, in ten years time, learning of death through Facebook will be a social norm, and not even worth me writing about in these pages before you.

But for now, it remains one of Facebook's ugliest occurrences. To better understand the potential harms of a Facebook death knock, I spoke to Ceiny Maybury, a Lifeline counsellor and coordinator of their Suicide Bereavement Group. "I imagine to hear of the death of someone you know online would be quite confrontational," she told me. In all her experiences of grief counseling, Maybury says she has come to appreciate the importance of delivering such



news by being physically present. "It is really important not to leave the person...before they can contact their support systems. Obviously online does not allow for this".

No. No, it does not.

Caitlin Dylan wrote on Lewis Stanton's timeline.

12 October 2012

"happy birthday Lewis. you are in our thoughts today and everyday. lots of love to you up there :) xxxxxxxx"

It's been nearly two years since his death, and friends and family still gather on Lewis' Facebook to share memories and often simply just to say hello. Most people are writing to Lewis, not about him. I did this myself in the immediate months following his death; typing to him as if he was receiving my messages. More often than not, people would like

or comment on my posts to Lewis, as did I to others. Everybody was comforting each other, validating anything anybody placed on Lewis' Facebook.

I don't know when I began to feel slightly uncomfortable by this, but it happened. Perhaps it was when the grief wasn't so raw, and my emotions were not an absolute. Regardless of when my apprehensions emerged, they did, and with them, lingering questions. I don't know if I have a right to these questions. I was Lewis's friend, but not one of his closest. It almost feels selfish of me to ponder such questions when there are plenty more people who were more affected by a loss much deeper and immense than my own. But alas I ask them anyway.

Is there something voyeuristic about grieving online; allowing the Internet to publically see your emotions? Do we feel the need to grieve on Facebook to seek validation?

I come from an Italian family, and

have relatives who have worn black for months following a relative's death. It's an expression of sorrow, yes, but it's also a public exhibition, for whatever purpose. I'm struck by the similarity of the Italian form of grieving with the Facebook form: both are very public, designed to display grief.

I can't speak for the hundreds of people who have written to Lewis, but really, who is this all for? Because I don't know if I can any longer buy into the idea of there being 3G and good mobile reception in heaven, let alone there being a heaven at all. And so, with some people, I can no longer tell whether all this Facebook grief is for Lewis, or if it is in fact for us.

The Saturday following Lewis' 21st birthday was spent with friends at a BBQ, where I asked three of Lewis's friends, Caitlin, Thomas and Chris, their thoughts on the subject. Caitlin told me she felt that occasionally people who weren't close to Lewis had used his Facebook to seek attention, but that was never her motivation. "I think it's a really good way to show your respect for someone who passed away...It's the right thing to do," she says. Chris, one of Lewis' closest friends, shares my unease about people publically grieving. "I'm cynical...I look at people who do it for attention. It's like people are like 'Lewis has died, Oh cool, have I ever been in a photo with him, I'll put that as my profile picture'". Chris perhaps described it best, when he characterised some people's interactions with Lewis' Facebook as "self-promotion almost".

My apprehension is not intended to pass judgment on anyone. Many of Lewis' legitimate and closest friends take great comfort out of such virtual remembrance. I simply find myself asking, in an age where we share everything on the Internet, what becomes of grief when we share that too? Are we reducing it in some capacity? Stanford psychiatrist Elias Aboujaoude is one of the few to publically state the potential pitfalls of social media grieving: "Grieving is complex and difficult, and it takes time, and if it feels simple, easy or more efficient online, then maybe we are diminishing the process somehow."

I can't say my grief has been worsened by Facebook, but what is evident is the way the social media site has publicised the nature of grief. In most cases, his closest friend share genuine memories, writing to Lewis to keep his memory alive. In other cases, there are occasions where I and others at the BBQ believe certain people to be seeking attention,

validation and likes. But in the middle of this debate at the BBQ, Thomas posed an interesting analogy that disregarded people's motivations, good or bad, for writing to Lewis. "If you're trying to compare Facebook with a real gravesite, does a family feel better when there are more flowers brought to a grave?"

When Thomas said that, I was immediately reminded of Lewis' brother Tim, a week prior, liking each individual birthday message to his late brother on his Facebook. And so perhaps it's wrong of me to consider the ulterior motives people have to publicly grieve, because at the end of the day, it's evidently bringing some comfort to his family and friends. These messages are the flowers at the grave, the virtualisation of 'I miss you'.

Grief 2.0. Sharing death on Facebook is a remarkably new phenomenon, and perhaps certain etiquette hasn't yet been established. Traditional practices have changed with the advent of social media, and I believe they'll continue to over the coming years.

Writing this, I realised that I had no idea where Lewis' grave was, let alone if he had one. When I asked friends, none of them were completely sure. Apparently it might be at Macquarie Cemetery, but if so, none of his friends had been.

But why should they? A cemetery is physical evidence of Lewis' death.

On Facebook, Lewis forever lives on. Come his birthday next year, it is there his friends and I will gather yet again to wish him a happy 22nd birthday.

N.B To respect the privacy of those in written about, certain names have been changed.



Memorialization Request

Please use this form to request the memorialization of a deceased person's account. We extend our condolences and appreciate your patience and understanding throughout this process. Note: Under penalty of perjury, this form is solely for reporting a deceased person's timeline to be memorialized.

Full name of deceased person
As it's listed on the account

Email addresses listed on the account

Please provide a link to the content you're trying to report so we can investigate. To get a link to the exact content you want to report:

1. Find the content (photo, video, comment, etc) you want to report
2. If this content is on someone's wall or in their feed, click on the date/time it was posted (next to Comment)
3. Copy the URL from your browser's address bar

Facebook URL:

Web address (URL) of the profile you'd like to report

Relationship to the deceased person

Immediate family (spouse, parent, sibling, child)

Extended family (grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin)

Non-family (friend, colleague, classmate)

Other

Proof of death
Or, a link (URL) to an obituary or news article

Requested action

Memorialize account



THE POSSE

Avani Dias met some musicians from the Con that like to work hard and play hard

University is a place to learn, a place to lay the foundation for your future career, and a place to develop ideas. But for most people, social discovery trumps often mediocre degrees that aren't properly thought out. For Sydney music collective The Posse meeting at the Conservatorium of music was the perfect environment for a creative merger. Despite the fact that they aren't huge advocates for their degree, after meeting through their Bachelors of Music in Jazz Performance, they have been literally instrumental in developing the afrobeat, ska and jazz scenes locally.

For them, their collective functions

as a record label and a place to focus the direction of their music. "The more people you've got, the more ideas you have bouncing around, the more discourse you have, the more questions you ask and the more problems that get solved. It's more fun, and there are more good times when there are more people around," says Michael Gordon, a relaxed, scruffy kind of guy who plays in three of the bands involved in The Posse. After talking to him and listening to his music, it was obvious that the passion he has for his project resonated in the vibrancy of the collective's music.

Afrobeat and Ska are genres of music that have merged the sounds of 60s and 70s African pop with western jazz influences. The music is compositionally simple, but as Gordon says, "you need really good musicians to embellish it and create something that brings it to life." The afrobeat scene in Sydney isn't very big – it comprises The Liberators, one of the bands in The Posse, and three other notable bands that have either rivaled them or previously played with them. Frank Dasset, a member of The Liberators and two other bands in The Posse, says that it's because it's not a very practical genre of music to play, "it takes a lot of people to play in an afrobeat band, it's usually around 8 to 10 people. And, it's not easy music to play either, so you need people that are quite

decent at their instruments."

Project Collective Ska, one of the other bands in The Posse, have just won their heat at the Sydney University band competition. As Dasset says, they had the option to have fun with their performance, "Our music was probably the loosest but the tightest, we didn't fuck anything up. We knew what we were doing, so it meant we had the decision to make it loose."

The members of this collective have developed impeccable technical skills from their time at the Con, from jazz compositions to alto solos, they have now become masters of their trades. "We played a lot of boring music for a long time," says Dasset, but that just means they value playing in these bands even more.

You can get regular updates from The Posse at www.facebook.com/LikeThePosse

SUDS goes national 

Madeline Miller lets us know about the recent achievements of SUDS

Tribes and *Krapp's Last Tape* have been lucky enough to be selected as part of the Festival of Australian Student Theatre (FAST) for 2013 in Brisbane, supported by the University of Sydney Union (USU) and the Sydney University Dramatic Society (SUDS). Originally staged in Verge Gallery, *Krapp's Last Tape* by Samuel Beckett follows Joshua Free as Krapp, a 69-year-old with a curious penchant for bananas, listening to the past reels of his life in silence as he records his last tape. *Tribes* was staged in The Cellar Theatre in March, earlier this year. It centres around the lives of a barely functional family held together in loose orbit around their deaf son Billy (Ryan Knight). The introduction of Sylvia (Michaela Savina), who was raised in a deaf environment, causes an upset in the family's balance, challenging their beliefs and morals.

Sydney audiences are invited to two preview performances before the festival, in the Cellar Theatre, underneath the Holme Building. Next Sunday 27th and Monday 28th, *Tribes* and *Krapp's Last Tape* (Monday show only) will be performing from 7pm. There will a door raffle with free tickets will be up for grabs.

My mammaries, my choice

OPINION

Astha Rajvanshi thinks that Angelina Jolie has cemented body ownership in society

Angelina Jolie's body parts, from her famous Oscars legs to her full lips, are all deemed symbols of her sexual prowess. So when she decided to lose the part most closely associated with femininity and female sexuality – her breasts – and acknowledged this publicly, I think it's fair to assume that Jolie was well aware of the sort of praise and criticism she would be copping from the public domain.

A lot has already been said about Jolie's double mastectomy, so I'm not going to attempt arguing about whether or not preventative surgery before diagnosis is a good idea, or whether it's fair to say that Jolie is pulling another media stint to vie for attention.

Her powerful op-ed for *The New York Times* explained her decision to undergo a double prophylactic mastectomy. The choice was made after she was tested positive for the BRCA₁ gene, with an 87% chance of developing breast cancer. She wrote that losing her own mother to cancer and caring for her six children were the main reasons behind her decision. She even acknowledged the links between her body and her feelings of womanhood: "On a personal note, I do not feel any less of a woman. I feel empowered that I made a strong choice that in no way diminishes my femininity."

And for everything involved in this process, she has been called a hero, a

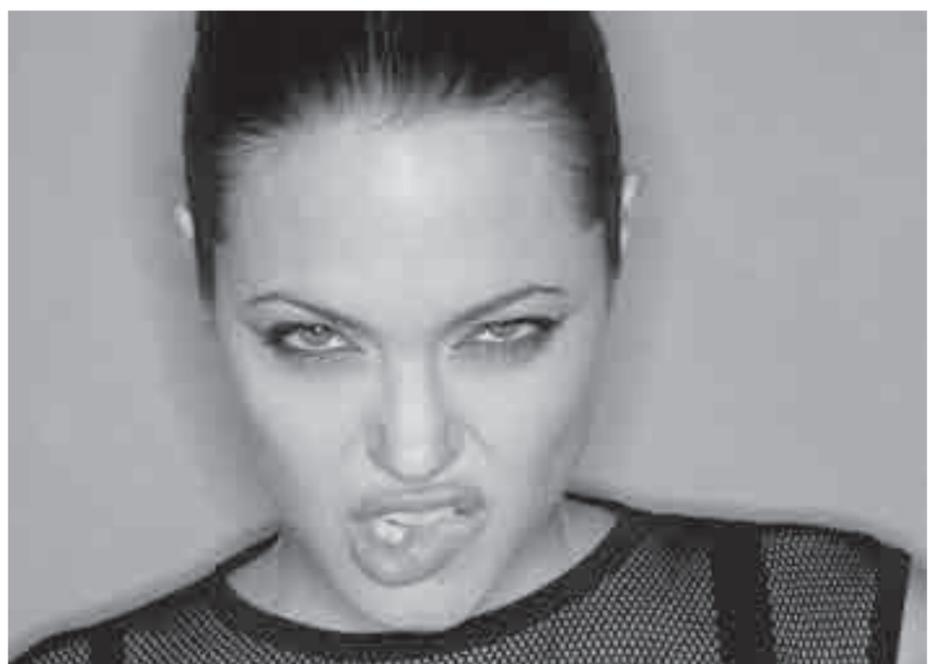
role model, and an advocate for breast cancer who will save many women's lives. I think Jolie is that and more, but I don't think that just because she decided to cut off her boobs.

Here's why: the decision to have a mastectomy is not a new breakthrough. A study dating all the way back to 1976 shows that when researchers started tracking breast-cancer patients to find the best surgical treatment, half the patients underwent a mastectomy whilst the rest were treated with radiation. 20 years later, the survival rate for both groups was the same, and that's still the case.

Of course, Jolie's family history of breast cancer meant that she was at higher risk and may be better off with a mastectomy, but in any case, the decision of treatment is never the surgeon's and always the patient's and, there is no right answer.

But Jolie exerted something that, often in the media, is much easier to scrutinise but much harder to accept – a woman's right to choose what to do with her body.

The media is so spectacular at telling women what to do. Look at the daily reports in Hollywood: who wore it best, who's put on weight, who's turned anorexic, who needs plastic surgery and who is 'maybe' pregnant; the buck stops over there somewhere.



Angelina Jolie is taking feminism forward

There's fear that Jolie's decision will influence other women to have radical operations that they don't need. But really, how patronising is this? Are women really going to be so star-struck by Jolie's call that they will run off to the nearest clinic and undergo a mastectomy? Can women not make their own responsible decisions?

Let's not disempower the basic level of common sense granted to both men and women by turning education into fear and health into vanity.

Jolie is far from naïve; she is con-

stantly and consciously in the public eye. She made a public statement about her decision knowing she would get media pushback. But these choices would not even be deemed so difficult if we could place the value of women on their intellect and reason rather than their boobs.

I'm tempted to think that Jolie is well aware that the media and the public feel a sense of ownership over her body, but I don't think she cares. It's her choice, after all.

@astha_raj

This charming man (or: Morrissey is an asshole but whatever)

Bryant Apolonio knows how Joan of Arc felt

The guilt you get when you listen to The Smiths is a subtle one. I don't know if you've ever felt it before. You're humming along to the obvious notes, drumming your fingers on your knee, then you recall the time Morrissey referred to the Chinese as a "sub-species."

You're drunk and air-guitaring at your friend's house, belting out a couple of "...to die by *your* side"s because you've



"England is a memory now. The gates are flooded and anybody can have access to England and join in."

forgotten the rest of the verse, then remember how he blamed immigrants for the death of the British identity.

Whether or not Mr Steve Morrissey is doing this for attention does not detract from the fact that he is a terrible person. But that's not all. Whatever he says, he will – inevitably and always – have people on his side. You (speaking, now, to fans), and me, and all your friends, will forever sip beer in a circle – in the backyard, before the party – and argue about which Smiths line is the best. (It's "I just might die with a smile on my face, after all").

How can this be the case for people who possess self-awareness, rationality and Are Not Racists? I mean, if we boycott companies, and criticise politicians, or even indict the people we know for the reprehensible things they say or do, why would artists be exempt from the same scrutiny?

Consider exhibit (b): in 1922, T. S. Eliot published *The Waste Land* catalysing a literary revolution in the form of English Modernism. *Shantih*, etc., etc. He also had fascist tendencies and despised Jews

and Africans. Consider, also, exhibit (c): Picasso beat his wife. Exhibit (d): the members of the Wu-Tang Clan are – at least lyrically – homophobes. But it won't stop me from appreciating them.

This article is not about condemning these people for all these things (though they, of course, deserve it). It's about how their art, to an extent, is redemptive. A person's problematic views on

This article is not about condemning these people for all these things (though they, of course, deserve it). It's about how their art, to an extent, is redemptive.

their country's borders shouldn't matter when they've made *The Queen is Dead*. Or, rather, our opinion of the latter shouldn't be coloured by the former. Morrissey is a blabbering old man whose music has transcended him. Eliot was a sneering prick who formed beauty through words. The Author's in the

ground but they've left their inheritance.

Morrissey has consistently denied accusations of prejudice. However, the organisers of the 'Love Music Hate Racism' concert in London refused to accept his donations after his comments about China in 2010. The rest of the people I've mentioned have, to my knowledge, been unrepentant. Which is a shame. But – and they should count themselves lucky here – fans are forgiving. Fans are sentimental. Things will be condoned and contrition will be imagined.

I don't think we should feel bad about that. The reason artists aren't criticised in the same way that corporations or politicians are is because they're *not* them. They far surpass those things on emotional and intellectual levels; what they've produced is more important than who they are.

Anyway, the same deity or evolutionary flux that gave humans bigotry also created The Smiths. And just listen to them, will you? I mean just *listen* to them.

@bryantapolonio

The Jewry's out: a review of Jew Revue

Tim Whelan says that this year's Jew revue was funny, topical, and enjoyable

In times past, I've tried not to laugh at our Hebrew friends. Because that would be anti-Semitic.

But last Thursday, I just couldn't help myself. The 2013 Jew Revue set the bar somewhere around the altitude of Mt. Sinai for the Semester 2 heavyweights.

It took only two hours for a cast of 17 to broach the hot topics of our time – including but not limited to the sordid truth behind the King James Bible, the impact on time machines on the brothel industry, Zeus/Jupiter being exposed as a two-timing 'shrine wrecker', Yahweh's prayer/answer ration limited by his MacBook and Gandhi's mediation of a pillow fight. Which would in themselves comprise a fine revue in themselves, but was given a touch of genius in an inter-Jew rap battle climaxing with 'my dick is Solomon, it'll cut you in two'.

The highlight – at least for this hard-to-please reviewer – was the unexpected punchlines. There were at least a dozen pieces where I was caught thinking 'yeah, lights down, that's quality right there' when I was blindsided with a hysterical twist – just when I was gearing up to heckle the stage crew – who were also

polished to a point of shaming many other prestigious revues.

The only letdown was the lack of softcore discipline in the nude skit. While understandable – an accidental dick under lights is de rigeur for most revues – the real tragedy was that the offender wasn't even circumcised. This, sadly, killed the authenticity. You would think if ever there was a sanctuary from gentile-alia, tonight was the night. Nope.

Even for those who didn't get every Jewish reference, it was a genuinely enjoyable night.

Recommend.



Models made for science at Macleay Museum

Rebecca Allen thinks that there is cool stuff to see on our very own campus

Hairy marine larvae, rabbit brains, a dissected horse's head, the insides of a sheep – these are just some of the weird and wonderful objects now on display at our very own Macleay Museum.

'True to Form' brings together the best of the University's scientific teaching models from the 1880s onwards. Though most have been consigned to history, these incredibly detailed replicas provide a fascinating insight into the teaching of science before more modern technology was introduced.

Maybe it's because I'm an Arts student who dropped high school science long before they started on the interesting things like prodding rat's kidneys and dissecting eyeballs, but some of the models seem positively outlandish. There's a strange sci-fi feel to the whole show, what with the giant grain of wheat that looks like a GM experiment gone horribly wrong and the great array of model embryos, lined up like bizarre alien life forms in their various stages of development.

At the same time, some of the models are strikingly beautiful. The collection of protozoa resembles exquisitely crafted seashells, while the geometric shapes of both the crystal and geological formation models could pass as con-

temporary abstract sculptures.

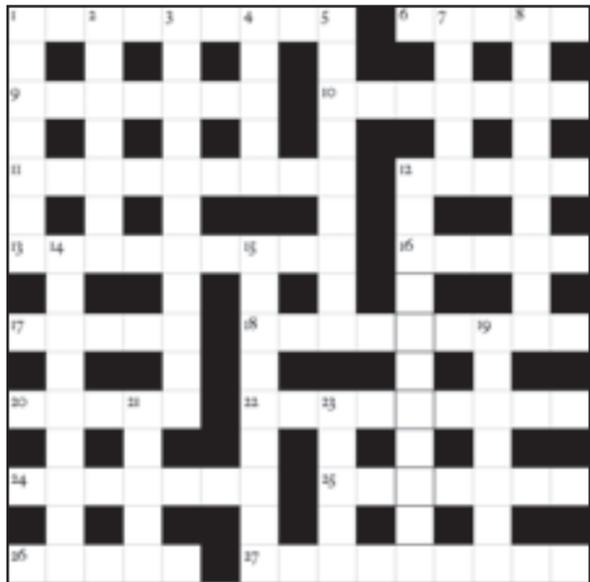
By far the most intriguing model in the show is William, a human figure (minus his skin), the size of a ten year old boy. Handmade in France's Auzoux model-making factory in 1861, the anatomical detail is astounding – moulded from papier-mâché and plaster, tiny labels cover his delicately painted exterior, which can be opened out to display his insides.

While 'True to Form' would undoubtedly fascinate any budding doctor, biologist or zoologist, this is the kind of exhibition that is compelling no matter your background. So next time you have a break between classes, or an exceptionally boring one looming, why not drop into the Macleay for a dose of science the old-fashioned way?

'True to Form' runs until August 9. Macleay Museum is located on campus at Gosper Lane.



QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Place of worship associated with a bishop (9)
6. Savoury jelly (5)
9. Splendent (7)
10. Often home-made cider (7)
11. Kind of triangle (9)
12. Deck out (5)
13. Something out of the ordinary; a drink taken early in the day (3-6)
16. Gingham, tartan (5)
17. Odour (5)
18. Industrial sector in both Australia and the motherland (9)
20. Mountable equine companion (5)
22. Sum of parts (9)
24. Overwhelming in size (7)
25. Imprecise (7)
26. Work a malleable substance, pummel (5)
27. 9.4607×10^{12} km (9)

DOWN

1. Explosive used in ammunition (7)
2. Frog on lay-by (7)
3. Set free; delivered (11)
4. Honey badger (5)
5. Breaking point associated with camels (4,5)
7. Auditory experience (5)
8. Objective, detached (9)
12. Pacification (10)
14. Skipper, boat hand (9)
15. Crème de la crème (9)
19. A rather English confection often served with its namesake (7)
21. Rectal douche
23. Off; in motion (5)

Paps

UNION QUIZ ANSWERS

Clubs and Societies

1. 10
2. Debates
3. \$275
4. 5, or half
5. President, Treasurer, Secretary,
6. Roller Derby Society and SURG
7. 10

Outlets

1. \$2.70
2. Marketing & Communications and Operations
3. Vittoria, Rainforest Alliance certified
4. Holme
5. \$0.35
6. \$5.10

Board and administration

1. The USU
2. Emma McDonald
3. 25%
4. 7
5. 14
6. \$26 496
7. Executive Committee; Finance, Audit, Legal & Risk Management Committee; Commercial Services Committee; Remuneration Committee;

Information Technology (I.T.) Committee; Electoral Committee; Marketing & Membership Committee; Awards Committee

8. 4

General

1. Hoyts, Event, Dendy, IMAX, Palace
2. \$8
3. 1874
4. "The USU Blue is a prestigious award presented to a limited number of members in acknowledgement of their exceptional and enthusiastic contribution to the USU. The Blues also offer members an opportunity to put forward someone they feel is worthy of this recognition. Current student members of the USU may nominate themselves."
5. Alistair Cowier and Louise Anthony
6. Felix Donovan, Eleanor Gordon-Smith, Diana Pham, John Rowley, Lane Sainty, Kate Wilcox
7. Indigenous, International, O-Week, Verge, Re-O day, Inter-faith (Humanitarian was also accepted despite now being a year-long program)
8. The V-Team
9. Incubate (we also accepted Kickstart)
10. 4
11. \$14 000

SSAF

1. \$263
2. \$605 000
3. Community Festivals
4. 6 (including Student Support Services)
5. A portion of the SSAF that has been put aside to fund necessary capital works (mainly buildings).
6. \$2 million

Broader University

1. The Occupation Licence
2. 2006
3. Approx. 50 000
4. Rozelle
5. As a reaction to bad press coverage in the mainstream media after Commemoration Day celebrations went badly.
6. Stephen Garton
7. 11



QUIZZED ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

CARTOON



WHEN DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDED, I SPENT THE EXTRA HOUR PLAYING CANDY CRUSH SAGA.

Pikelets ANDREW KIM

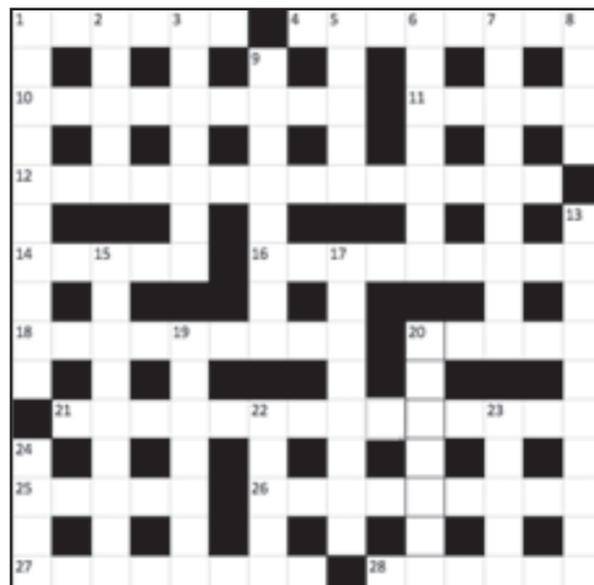
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. "Golden God" writer (6)
4. Stop it with blades (3,2,3)
10. Gambler spoiled and more fortunate (6,3)
11. Blockade a scrambled and de-sexed exegesis (5)
12. Steamily intent upon tenderness (14)
14. Seeing Red sang "Rye Within" (5)
16. Shed light upon regard (9)
18. Hyped-up worth and not worth the hype (9)
20. Tessa returns to her advantage (5)
21. Conversion of energy manoeuvres hypnotist's hoes (14)
25. A stimulus to please (5)
26. Italian composer of Inactions (9)
27. Courting after South-Easterly calming (8)
28. Ancient and modern writing implement (6)

DOWN

1. Diplomat of 24-d after morning and before unsealed road (10)
2. Boob and endless person of great strength (5)
3. Even orb beast is thy epidemic of excess (7)
5. Unworthy and in need of exercise (5)
6. Intolerant and of a region of the brain (7)
7. Sick of rotations and capsizes (9)
8. Voyage to reach enlightened knowledge first (4)
9. Violent shit-head mistook 1-a (8)
13. Immediately followed by cists I analyse data (10)
15. Shaded beast of the racetrack (9)
17. Confusion insisted upon spruceness (8)
19. Go back and reward again (7)
20. deep@<3down (2,5)
22. Hunkered within fabric (5)
23. Without motion after all this time (5)
24. Gill-bearing creature of pitch (4)



Paps



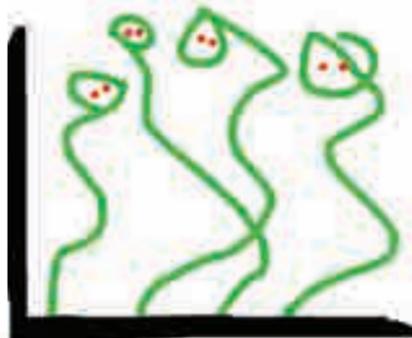
A MODEST PROPOSAL: THE LABOR BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Treasurer Wayne Swan's delivery of the National Budget last week was met with much dismay from social progressives and anti-cannibalism activists. Employing Milton Friedman's ideas of freedom and choice, Swan announced his plans to implement and facilitate the free-market ideology popularised by Reagan and Thatcher, encouraging high-income earners to consume under-motivated 'welfare leeches', thereby eradicating the problems of dole bludging and the existence of a welfare state.

Swan said that this pivotal turn in fiscal policy would soon result in a diminution of public transport clogging, grime-footed street beggars, and the necessity for any sort of welfare provisions.

Furthermore, Swan announced the launch of the Federal Government's new line of cookbooks, *Eat the Poor or Die Trying*, which detail a variety of different recipes that can be utilised to enjoy the flesh of the lower classes in a range of dishes. This new form of austerity is gaining traction amongst conservatives and has already received political and financial support from the likes of Fred Nile and the Liberal party, who will co-host the Blubber Ball later this month and auction off the more tender parts of Mt Drutt residents. Rupert Murdoch has been booked as the keynote speaker, and is set to outline

INFOGRAPHICS



proposals complementary to that of Mr Swan's regarding the cannibalism of poor people by other poor people.

"The key to economic growth is acknowledging that poor people are the riches of a nation," said Mr Murdoch in a press release last week.

"It is a melancholy object to see the struggling poor congesting our roadways and obstructing our views of the city streets," Mr Murdoch said.

The Blubber Ball is also receiving sponsorship from a number of medical research institutes which have allegedly pledged

tonnes of human liposuction fat to the catering company to ensure an abundance of creamy mixers for the open bar. The catering company is set to debut the recipes of *Eat the Poor*, which showcase the usage of a range of zesty spices and herbs.

RESEARCHERS FIND CURE FOR HOMOPHOBIA

Groundbreaking research published by the Smithsonian Institute this week has proved the existence of the *Bigotrus Assholus virus*, known in lay speak as the 'Common Cold-heart-edness'. The virus first rose to prominence in the 18th century following the pandemic mass-outing of individuals who found the idea of homosexuality unsettling. The continued existence of these individuals, since named 'homophobes', is at the heart of countless instances of hate speech, violence, and mental health issues affecting at least 10% of the population, making it a serious public health issue.

Dr Lenny Wong, the head scientist conducting the series of experiments into the psyches of this increasingly dwindling minority, said that this research was "Just a step to the left, without a step to the riiiiiiight," before breaking out into a musical number denouncing the defective genome which causes homophobia.

This revolutionary finding has implications for the future of homophobes worldwide since it marks a turning point in the potential evolution of some homosapien brains. Following the publication of this research, a cure is currently being developed which may result in the end of playground bullying, the dire need for autonomous spaces, and years of counselling following familial disownment.

Fred*, who came out as a homophobe in 2010, said "Knowing that a cure is being developed to treat my abhorrent social deviationism gives me hope that I might soon be allowed to develop a sense of humanity."

"I'm sick of walking down the street feeling like everyone's judging me for something out of my control," he said. "and maybe this will stop people from asking me whether I know that I am truly a homophobe since I've never been a non-homophobe."

Dr Wong is optimistic about the swift development of a cure.

"It's not their fault that they're bigoted," Wong said. "They were born that way."

WORLD: AUSTRALIA DOESN'T EXIST

Following the announcement by the Gillard Government that they have excised the mainland of Australia from the migration zone, the international community no longer recognises the existence of Australia.

Governments across the world have started to ignore Australia. At yesterday's meeting of the United Nations Second Committee of the General Assembly, the Australia's Representative to the UN, Gary Quinlan, moved a procedural to suspend standing orders. However, the chair simply ignored the delegate and continued the session.

Quinlan stood up to complain, but was snubbed by his colleagues.

"Did someone hear that?", asked the representative of Kenya.

"I don't know, did you?", replied the representative of Guam.

"Must've been the wind", the chair ruled.

The ALP excised the mainland of Australia from the migration zone as a measure to reduce the number of refugees seeking asylum by boat. The Howard Government attempted to do this but faced revolt from moderate Liberal backbenchers.

At a press conference today, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Brendan O'Connor, explained the reason for the drastic measures.

"Well, by removing the mainland, people smugglers will no longer be able to see us when they come close to shore."

"It's like the Muggle-Repelling Charm."

O'Connor and his press secretary then began arguing on the merits of the final Harry Potter movie and if it was *too* violent.

Quinlan told *The Soin* that the entire experience was upsetting.

"You don't know how it feels to be standing with a crowd of diplomats and just not ... acknowledged? Like, you just feel their eyes staring past you?"

"The final blow was when the representative from Mongolia asked the representative from Costa Rica: 'remember that country ... uh-- Kostra... Maustra... fuck, nup, forget it.'"

"Imagine just being ignored

completely by another country, denied your rights, out of sight, out of mind-- wait."

Just after the General Assembly meeting, the Permanent 5 members of the Security Council decided unanimously to test nuclear weapons in "that empty place below Indonesia and next to New Zealand."

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has applied for refugee status on behalf of all Australians following this announcement, but her application was 'returned to sender.'

"The application had 'who is this?' written over it in permanent marker. It's like we don't exist."

"Is this how Tasmanians feel?"

The Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations has since sent a letter to the government that simply said "*Terra nullius'd*. Lol."



LUHRMANN CONTINUES BEING DARLING OF MULTICULTURAL POSTMODERN AUSTRALIA

The Quran is a classic story of good and evil that is perfect to jazz up for a modern audience. I've decided to re-set the story in modern-day Berlin, with Muhammad being an Arab immigrant living the bohemian lifestyle of a struggling performance artist. Along with his best friends, a homosexual amputee and a neo-burlesque amateur magician, they will all find the ultimate meaning of God, fame and ultimately, love." announced Baz Luhrmann in a press conference at this year's Cannes film festival, outlining his upcoming project set for release in 2015.

"I'm particularly excited about the club scene where Muhammad is first contacted by Allah. It'll be an explosion of colour, it'll be glitz, it'll be glamour – it'll be Baz Luhrislamic."

When asked how closely Luhrmann seeks to stay faithful to the spirit of the original text, Luhrmann replied, "Of course it will retain the spirit of the original scripture, but once you put anything into a postmodern context, you'll invariably get a

great mishmash of influences. I don't think it's a great stretch to believe if Muhammad was alive today, he would also read Proust and wear Nike hi-tops aside from being a prophet of the highest being."

While the film will be scored by Daft Punk, the project will also feature music from Andre 3000, Florence and the Machine and Lady Gaga, themselves covering artists with dance-electro reimaginings ranging from The Beatles to Joni Mitchell. A dubstep version by Skrillex of the Islamic call to prayer will also feature heavily as a leitmotif.



187: WEST COAST RHINOS GET GOT IN SUB-SAHARAN GANGLAND BEEF



International Union for Conservation of Nature has announced that Africa's western, or 'West Coast', black rhino is officially extinct.

This comes after a bloody decade long turf war with the eastern, or 'East Coast', black rhino.

Rhinos from the West Coast were popular amongst tourists, but East Coast rhinos inevitably triumphed.

This exacerbated East Coast vs. West Coast turf wars over territory, or 'projects', and the illegal ivory trade that some profited from, but led many hornless rhinos to poverty and crime.

"Some of the most popular West

Coast rhinos died due to infighting amongst their own group", rhino magazine *The Ceros* claimed. "This destroyed the cohesiveness of the West Coast movement and led to the victory of the East Coast."

Some of the biggest West Coast rhinos were killed in infighting, such as Tuhorn and The Notoriou R.H.I.N.O.

According to *The Ceros*, the newest feud in hip-hop is within the eastern rhino community, with NASian Rhino and Ray-Z battling it out for King of the Jungle.

A memorial is being held for the western rhinos tomorrow.



Sex Advice from...

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



If you watch animals for any extended period of time you realise that their primary drive is procreation. It's late May, the sun is down, and in a few moments – new life.

The male human has taken refuge in some tried and tested methods of seduction. Ah. Some flowers. Some chocolate. Some wine. The female accepts. The male is comfortable in the knowledge that all his preening has paid off. And so...the long process begins.

The sexual activities of human beings are often seen as quite clumsy. They are, in fact, some of the most complex and engrossing in the animal kingdom. Because of the joints in their thumbs, the human has the distinct privilege of being able to use tools during their mating ritual. We see here an array of equipment which will be put to good use.

The female caresses the male. She has come home from a long day at work and she's tired. The male reaches for the desk lamp without looking. Astonishing.

Now the female turns and looks through the window. She lets out a call. We've been spotted. We must quickly pack away our gear and make an exit. We flee, back into the safety of the forest. The humans have learnt a valuable lesson: leave the curtains closed.

They would do well to remember it.



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Special Consideration

You can apply for a Special Consideration. Go to the website for your faculty and download the application form. See a doctor and get your Professional Practitioner's Certificate (PPC) completed. This needs to be on the SAME DAY that you are sick and should not be backdated. Unfortunately this does mean that if you are very sick you cannot stay at home and wait until the next day to go to the doctor. Your doctor should also give a brief description of the things that you are unable to do, eg, attend university, leave bed, sit up for longer than 10 minutes, etc.

If you have a valid PPC, and the doctor has assessed that you are severely affected or worse you should almost certainly be granted special consideration.

Remember Special Consideration is not for an ongoing condition. It is for an unexpected illness or an exacerbation of an ongoing condition.

What if I am sick for the supplementary examination or every assessment in a subject? Is there any way not to get a fail?

Part 5 of the Assessment and Examination of Coursework Policy is about Special Consideration. If you have something extraordinary happen, such as an illness or something else that seriously affects your studies, you can apply for special consideration so that you are not disadvantaged. There is a special consideration form that you must hand in within 5 working days of the deadline of exam date with supporting documentation. The faculty will then decide if they approve special consideration and if they do what adjustment they will make – eg. Reschedule

What if I am sick for an assessment or examination? Is there any way to not get a fail?



the exam for another date. (If the faculty does not approve your special consideration application decision you can appeal this decision. Contact SRC HELP for more information. You must lodge an appeal with 15 working days, or 3 weeks.)

If they reschedule things, but you are too sick (for example) to attend any again, and you apply for special consideration each time and your applications are approved each time, you should not receive a fail. This is new as a result of a change in policy.

Policy says (5.6.1.6):

“The Enrolled Student, because of further illness or misadventure may be unable to attempt the replacement assessment within the specified time, of the Faculty may be unable to construct a valid form of assessment. In such cases, the Faculty will, where reasonable, determine alternative means of assessment. If this is not possible, the Faculty will award a grade of DNF to the student.”

A DNF is a Discontinued, Not Fail. This is what should show up on your transcript. This says that you discontinued the subjects and you did not fail it. Compared to a Fail (or Absent Fail or

Discontinued Fail), a DNF is good for your transcript and good for your Annual Average Mark and good for your Weighted Average Mark (WAM).

SO if you can't do any of the assessments in a subject this semester, or in the future, and you have successfully applied for special consideration EACH TIME, then check that your mark is recorded as a DNF. You should also apply to have a refund or recrediting of your fees. Ask at the faculty office or the SRC for the appropriate forms.

If this does happen to you, come and contact SRC HELP about applying for your fees back for the affected subject/s. Call (02) 9660 5222 to make an appointment.

To make an appointment to see a caseworker:

p: (02) 9660 5222
e: help@src.usyd.edu.au

or come and see us at:

Level 1 (Basement) Wentworth Bldg - City Road Entry

For more information:

www.src.usyd.edu.au

Ask Abe



Dear Abe,

Is it true that you have to pay to use an ambulance?

Car Struck.

Yes it is and they can be very expensive. The cost ranges from \$252 to \$5248 depending on the type of care and the distance travelled. If you have a Health Care Card or a Low Income Health Care Card (available to people earning less than \$483 per week) you get a bunch of discounts including free ambulance in NSW. If you have private health insurance you will also get ambulance cover. You can even get just ambulance cover starting at around \$30 per year.

The thing to note here is that you will be billed regardless of whether you called the ambulance or not.

Abe

Abe is the SRC's welfare dog.

If you would like to ask Abe a question send an email to help@src.usyd.edu.au. Abe gathers his answers from experts in a number of areas. Coupled with his own expertise on dealing with people, living on a low income and being a dog, Abe's answers can provide you excellent insight.



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*



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

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

President's Report

president@src.usyd.edu.au

David Pink calls on the VC to take responsibility for student safety on campus

Dear Michael Spence,

As you will no doubt be aware, a number of students were seriously injured during Tuesday's protests.

One student had his leg broken. Another student is in hospital with fractured ribs and possible internal bleeding. Several students were trampled. Many others were shoved, grabbed, bruised or struck. These attacks on peaceful protestors were nothing less than outrageous. Another student was put in a potentially life-threatening situation when a police officer strangled him for nearly two minutes. He went without air for a minute and a half and has had to seek medical attention.

The danger with something like strangulation is damage to the hyoid bone, which is susceptible to fracture. It holds up the larynx (and therefore the entire

breathing apparatus), and thus prolonged, forceful pressure against the neck is incredibly dangerous.

Asphyxiation is similarly life-threatening. Permanent damage from oxygen deprivation can occur within a matter of minutes. One and a half minutes without oxygen is a long time in terms of respiration, and cerebral hypoxia (reduced oxygen supply to the brain) begins to set in rapidly. The fact that a police officer was willing to put a student in such danger is absolutely unacceptable. The argument that the riot police bring order to the campus is transparently absurd, all footage and testimony shows that the police have been a force for violence and disruption. One student also came at risk of suffering an epileptic fit. Despite repeated requests the riot police refused to help them, which is a clear indication that the riot

police are not there for our safety.

Students and staff of the university have every right to protest peacefully. We have never been violent. What's more, students have every right to protest free from the fear that they will be targeted and needlessly attacked by riot police.

All of these assaults and indignities could have been avoided if you did not allow the public order and riot squad on campus. The university has the right to exclude police from campus, and in the past it was very rare for the police to come on campus for this very reason. We are terrified that a student will suffer a more serious injury than a broken leg next strike day. The riot police have been so violent that we are terrified that one of our friends will be killed.

We call on you, Vice-Chancellor, to



take responsibility for the safety of the university community and cease inviting the public order and riot squad onto Sydney University grounds.

The 85th SRC Executive

General Secretary's Report

general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

Dylan Parker updates us on how our SSAF money is being spent by the SRC

While the happenings of your student Office Bearers may not be the sexiest of topics but reporting what we get up to is definitely important when as an organisation we are funded with your money. So as much as I would love to make every report a musing on the merits of smashing the state or flying the flag of free markets as some do, it is probably worth updating you all on what I've been up to in the last couple weeks as your General Secretary.

Regarding the budget, in recent weeks David (Pres), Chitra (Admin Manager) and I have been putting together the budget attempting to transition the

SRC through a \$70,000 reduction in SSAF funding. In addition, the SRC is undergoing several staffing changes that will impact the bottom line and due to their fixed nature will the need to look at more discretionary elements of our expenditure.

Due to our staffing changes I have along with David been involved in several selection committees screening CVs, conducting interviews, and recommending applicants to Executive. Having been involved in several over the course of the year, I have consistently been impressed by the calibre of applicants.

As a progressive student association, I am glad we affiliate to the National Union of Students so that we have a voice at the table on a national level. Recognising that student interests are best represented when all student associations carry their weight rather than just a select few being involved, I have been negotiations with the National General Secretary of NUS in order to find a reasonable outcome for affiliation that will be pleasing to all groups Left, Right, and in between.

As a requirement of our final instalment of the SSAF, the University has requested that the SRC formulate Key



Performance Indicators for our departments. An ongoing process, while I am open to the use of KPIs I am cautious of their use by the University as an attempt to subvert our independence.

Education Officers' Report

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Tenaya Alattas reports back on the police violence at last week's pickets

Contrary to the media's portrayal of the 'scuffle' between police and strikers, on the 14th of May, the riot police used excessive force, which was not commensurate with the threat.

This is not an isolated incident. It is not an exaggeration to say that the fear that the police would kill a student, teacher or community member was real: a head hitting concrete, a lung punctured from being squashed or headlocks evolving into strangulation were incidences of real violence which played out in front of my eyes time and time again. Sometimes the only thing marking the difference between the life or death of us picketing was the solidarity of the people who stood alongside you on the picket lines as we yelled, screamed and tried to grasp each

other out of the vice-like grip of police repression. Yesterday I saw a police officer on King St and the powerlessness and hopelessness which enveloped me reduced me to tears, as I gasped for breath and shivered in fear and I realized the trauma they inflict upon me and my friends is not only manifested in physical symptoms.

And I know the VC will turn a blind eye. He has already testified to his ability to stand by idly as a student's leg was broken, a staff member is suffering internal bleeding in her liver, and students were trampled on, beaten, bruised and emotionally traumatised. They will say how 'scared' the riot police (with their tasers, batons, and protective gear) had been by whichever (unarmed, unprotected, weaponless, often very

young) protester. They will ban people from campus, engage us in lengthy court procedures and have the media (and social media) shame people.

But I know for a fact that those I work with in the SRC, in the EAG, *Honi*, Grassroots, SLS and SWA are made of stronger stuff, and the bonds formed at picket lines, however fractitious are difficult to erode.

We already have 500 signatures to 'get cops off campus'; we will issue a formal complaint to the Ombudsmen; we will hold legal work-shops and support training for students suffering trauma; we also have an action planned for this Thursday, 1 pm at Fisher Library to show the VC we do not want police on campus.

More so we will work with the NTEU,



CPSU and other unions and collectives interested in supporting ongoing industrial disputes at USYD.

The next strike is on the 5th of June and I urge you to come to the picket lines, to support our staff and importantly, to protect our democratic right to protest.

Women's Report

usydwomenscollective@gmail.com

It's not okay to use racial slurs in poetry, writes Women's Collective member **Tabitha Prado Richardson**

Two weeks ago, the women's edition of Honi Soit published a poem which misused the 'n word' in its original spelling, and used it along with an extended metaphor that alluded that women's position in contemporary society is similar to the position that black slaves held in the United States. I am a woman of colour, I identify as black and I have African slave heritage. To see this word being misused by someone who has no connection to this history, and no right to reclaim the unimaginable suffering that came along with it, upsets me deeply. For someone to believe that it is analogous to anything outside the experiences of black people upsets me deeply.

Black slavery was a theft of a continent, of hundreds of cultures, of millions of people, and their common humanity. Black slavery was something that privileged women perpetrated. My sisters have not just become slaves, they were slaves only a few generations ago, and are struggling with that legacy to this day. Our African ancestry is stolen.

The poem's inclusion reflects a deeper problem both in general society, and in activist circles. Generally in Australia, white people do not speak of race. They should. They should speak of whiteness and their privilege. They should work to acknowledge and dismantle that privilege. There is no such thing as being "colour blind". Ideas of "cultural intolerance" and "religious intolerance" only erase the experiences of racism, based on appearance alone, that people of colour experience in Australia. And

please don't tell me that Australia doesn't have a problem with racism, or I might have to point you to the entire history of the genocide of Australian Aboriginals and the continuing conditions that Aboriginal people and their descendants endure.

Or the history of indentured slavery of Pacific Islanders. Or the fact that the government signed out of the UN Refugee Convention a few days ago, being the first country to do so. Or the fact that Aamer Rahman gets hatred and vitriol just for calling white people, "white people". Or the fact that no black models can get a job here (see: Ajak Deng, and notice that she is having far less trouble elsewhere). Or the fact that Mia Freedman will run to Delta Goodrem's defense for laughing at blackface, calling those people of colour "mean" for being offended, despite not actually experiencing racism ever in her entire life. These examples all operate in the same system, upholding the same cultural ideas about race and ethnicity and reinforcing white privilege.

I think the clear problem here is that white people seem to think they know what racism is or is not, more than people of colour, which is exactly the same thing as men knowing more about sexism and misogyny than women, or cis people knowing more about transphobia than trans* people, or heterosexual people knowing what is and is not homophobic more than queer people. If you want to be intersectional, experiential knowledge is your friend. Listen to people and their stories.



Women of colour already occupy a tense position in white-dominated feminist spaces, alienated by the feeling of difference and compromise of anti-racism values. When white women in feminist circles talk about how men oppress them, it is awkward to think about the men of colour, queer, trans* and heterosexual, who have been subject to racism by white women. I want to liberate my brothers as well. White women have not always been our allies. Until it is truly intersectional, feminism shared between white women and women of colour is fraught with awkwardness.

The poem's inclusion and the subsequent response was reflective of that. I feel I need to remind people that as Staceyann Chin said, all oppression is con-

nected, and if you want to liberate some, you have to liberate all. I hope for better discourse and dialogue around racism and whiteness in Australia in the future.

The Women's Officers apologise wholeheartedly for any distress caused and acknowledge that the inclusion of the poem was a very problematic oversight. We endeavour to create a safe space for all women in our Collective and have failed to do so in this instance. - Emily Rayers and Hannah Smith

Welfare Officers' Report

welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Eleanor Morley reports on threats to student welfare at the picket lines

Last Tuesday, I witnessed one fellow student have their leg broken, another held in a choke until they began to go limp, and another fall beneath a crowd and subsequently trampled for I can't remember how long.

Were these the injuries suffered by students crossing the picket line on strike day?

No, they were injuries incurred by students holding a peaceful protest to defend the rights of their teachers. And who was the cause of these violent assaults? The riot police, who were invited onto campus by our very own Vice Chancellor, Michael Spence.

I believe it is the duty of the management of our university to protect the welfare of all students. Yes, including those who may disagree with the actions management are currently taking. Michael Spence can have no justification for putting the health of his students at risk. What did he expect was going

to happen when he invited a squad of burly, thuggish riot police itching for a fight, onto campus?

Surely, one would assume that in order to require the presence of riot police, there would need to be some sort of, well, riot. Or that the wellbeing of those at university would be at risk. However, the actions of staff and students on the picket line was far removed from the accusations of violence, and in no way comparable to the brute force used by the police and riot squad. University management is not interested in protecting the welfare of all their students, but instead protecting themselves from criticism of their woeful Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

What has been perhaps even more shocking than the violence I witnessed last Tuesday has been the reaction from a small, but vocal group of students. To claim that a broken leg is an adequate punishment for calling someone a scab,

or non-violently preventing them from entering the University is absurd.

The way in which this minority of students has reveled in, and congratulated the violent actions of the NSW riot squad has been not only shocking, but incredibly damaging to the mental wellbeing of both those who were the target of police violence, and their friends who witnessed it. I urge those students who are publicly congratulating the violence to please stop.

This Thursday the SRC will be staging a rally, beginning outside Fisher at 1pm, and then marching to Spence's office to hold him to account.

Police violence on campus is unacceptable, detrimental to the welfare of students and should not be tolerated by our Vice Chancellor for any longer.

Shame on you, Michael Spence.



Cops Off Campus

Protest for education quality, against police brutality.



TOM

Strangled for a minute and half. Still suffering from emotional trauma.



FREYA

Damage to internal organs caused by severe impact to ribs.



WYNAND

Broken leg and bone dislocation, requiring metal plate insertion.



WHO ELSE?

These are just a few of the people injured. Who will be next?

**RALLY 1pm, Thursday the
23rd, outside Fisher.**