

week five
semester two
2013

toits

SUV rent
goes up again
pg 4

Boganism
pg 8

The history of
facism in Australia
pg 10

Crowdfunded
pornography
pg 13

Reviews of revues!
pg 16



DISCONTENTS

- 4 WOMEN IN ENGINEERING?
Max Chalmers
- 8 BOGANISM
Chelsea Reed
- 9 FEMALE ANGLICAN MINISTER
Bronwyn Cowell
- 10 HISTORY OF FACISM
Rafi Alam
- 13 GAY BATHHOUSES
Lucy Hughes-Jones
- 15 PUBS & BROKEN WINDOW THEORY
Max Weber
- 16 LAW AND COMMERCE REVUES
Various
- 21 **THE SOIN**

The death of conviction politics

I write this two weeks before the Australian people go to vote, and it's now, more than ever, that the fear of what our political sphere will bring is settling in. Regardless of your political alignment, it's hard to disagree with the idea that our leaders are not committed to their core values but instead simply interested in winning elections. Gone are the ardent politicians like Paul Keating, Bob Hawke, and Gough Whitlam. It's evident that today conviction politics is absent - so what are we left with?

University students seem to be one of the most severely affected victims of populist politics in this election. The third National Day of Action last Tuesday continued the students' fight within this ongoing battle. The government's Better School's program has led to significant cuts in tertiary education and the NDA was a combination of Industrial action by the academics union over pay negotiations at 10 universities. This program is a perfect example of exploiting a politically fashionable issue to win votes. It is altogether ironic that taking money from one form of education to give to another more popular form of education is okay. But both major parties are allies on this front - "As far as school funding is concerned, Kevin Rudd and I are on a unity ticket" said Tony Abbott in regards to his com-

mitment to this program.

It's incongruous that in an interview with this very paper back in 1979, Abbott, then president of the Sydney University SRC, said "I think too much money is spent on education at the moment" and suggested that the Philosophy and Political Economy departments at USYD should be the first to go. For Abbott, his year of presidency was actually a time of conviction and a time where his personal beliefs were married with a lust for power quite perfectly. He lived at the catholic men's college, St John's, and his political base was drawn from the ultra conservative and vehemently anti communist Democratic Club on campus. Homophobia, sexism, and even violence (remember that punching incident?), were so obviously present in Abbott's student politician days.

Today, we hold the positions of power Abbott once did. The foundations of our future beliefs are being laid. Perhaps Abbott's opinions have shifted very slightly towards the opinions of the mainstream, but if he were to become Prime Minister, his real ideals would begin to shine. He won't be able to legislate the values of the 1950's into Australian society, but he will be able to stop the progress.

However, students are also major

stakeholders in this election. Most of us do not have phone landlines and therefore our opinions are not recorded in the polls. As a result of the populist politics, our concerns are not being heard.

All politicians believe in something - it's optimistic to think that this is why they began their careers in the first place. But it's disappointing that popularity so easily trumps commitment to one's beliefs. What is even worse than this hypocrisy is the fear that there is nothing there at all - that we are being led by someone with no core belief and the ability to make decisions on a whim. In his student politician days, Tony Abbott was true to his fundamental ideals, however frighteningly problematic they were. He has now donned a veil of populist policy in the lead up to the election in order to become the leader of Australia. However, after September 7th the real Abbott will show himself and it's a bleak future ahead.



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Editor-in-chief

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SOUND & FURY

You're not a wizard Harry

Dear *Honi*,

Let's talk about Harry Stratton. For those playing at home, Harry is a member of an on-campus branch of a major political party. Harry was also a member of an *Honi Soit* ticket. One day Harry thought, "Golly! Maybe there's a way I can use one to help the other!" Because Harry is a smart boy like that.

So Harry sent out a message to fellow members of his political club, trying to persuade them to campaign for his *Honi* ticket. Fair enough Harry, how'd you do that?

What's that? You said you'd "use *Honi* as a recruiting tool" for them? You'd "have coffee with EVERY ONE of our 150 reporters and drag EVERY ONE of our editors to Labor drinks," and use the paper as your "vanity project" to "push our" agenda? As in, you'd use a newspaper to publish nice articles about your political party without telling anyone?

Wait, what? You put that stuff in writing? All of it? And sent it out to a large number of people?

And when the current editors, who obtained a copy of the message, asked you some questions about it, you lied to

them?

Oh, Harry. Oh, my sweet little long-haired daffodil. We have messed up a bit, haven't we.

If you're going to try and use the journal of record of Australia's oldest university as a roll of toilet paper to wipe your myopic, half-arsed 'beliefs' on, at least have the residual brain-stem intelligence not to openly brag about it.

Love and kisses,

Alex McKinnon, Arts III/IV/?

PS: By the way, Eds - props on the cover last week. That was awesome.

Vagina soit will haunt you after uni

Much has been said in days recent of Tony Abbot's remarks in *Honi Soit* while he was a student in the late 70s... not much has been positive.

Now this week in our loved student newspaper, we get photos of vaginas in attempts to what must be 'pushing the bounds'. I'm not calling for double standards, just a sense of rationality. Are we too bold to think that our 'freedom of speech' in university days will not follow us long after the almost immediate disposal of the any edition of *Honi Soit*? Well, at least they learned something

from how Tony's controversial uni statements have played out... just dont sign it and you can hide behind anonymity.

Maybe it is daring for these 18 women to say a collective "fuck you"; but then, anyone can take an anonymous photo of their genitalia and call it courageous.

Christopher Boehm, Science III.

Excuse our Frénch

Dear *Honi*,

While debate about censorship has been very heavy due to last week's *Honi*, I understand that that has taken a lot of the spotlight. But I feel that there is a much more pressing issue, on last week's issue, that I want to address.

I understand that *Honi Soit* being the premier student newspaper of Sydney University, it has great standards of pretention to uphold. But in your last issue, all borrowed French phrases in your articles were spelt wrong. It's not *de rigour*, but *de rigueur*. Its not *mise-en-scène* but *mise-en-scène*. I'm glad you can at least spell *Honi Soit* right. But honestly, if we can't tell the difference between an accent aigu and an accent grave, how can even begin to answer the bigger questions?

I like my *Honi*. I like its leftie focus on social issues, pretty much every issue is Women's and Queer *Honi* rolled into one. I like that the cunts are uncensored (which is why you will always publish letters from Tom Russell). I like my French faux, truly. Let's keep it that way.

Yours pretentiously,

Thomas Murphy, Arts III.

Cover ideas

Dear *Honi* editors,

I would like to pass on my 97 year old great aunt's request that next week you publish exactly the same cover only with photographs of botanical species that resemble vaginas.

Yours sincerely,

The proud great niece of an elderly *Honi* reader

A letter

cunt cunt cunt

cunt cunt cunt

cunt cunt cunt

cunt cunt cunt

cunt cunt cunt

cunt cunt cunt

Mitch Dempsey Arts II.

Ignore the offended

Dear *Honi*,

I commend you for standing up against archaic censorship laws, but I feel as though there is a part of the cob-webbed corner of the museum which your vagina dialogues didn't address. I wasn't offended by the vaginas on last week's cover, but more importantly, it shouldn't matter if I was. The fact that material can be censored on the grounds of being offensive is ridiculous.

Not only do dissenting opinions have a right to be voiced, they have a right to be heard; society cannot progress without the clash of ideas and the disagreements that take place free from the dogmatism of sanctimonious censors and self-appointed moralists. People asking for material to be censored because it's "offensive" to them is nothing more than a childish whine. They are entitled, of course, to bring up their whining at their sewing circle, or even within these very pages, but they cannot undermine the canon of free speech which our lives depend so much upon. Prometheus gave us fire, and we're not going to give it up.

Sincerely,

William Poulos, Arts I.

Keeping up with the *Honi* tradition

It is great to see that the tradition of alarming the masses continues in *Honi*. I was class of 1951, and we too had our issue withdrawn and burnt. Hide a few copies - they bring good money in the future.

Maureen Jackson.

We're all conscious of our genitals

Dear *Honi*,

It is a commonplace these days for young men to grow up with an idealised picture of what a penis ought to look like. Most of us have watched pornography during our tenuous teenage years. I know I'm not the only man to have felt insecure and to still feel this insecurity over the shape and size of my penis, when in fact I know that it is perfectly normal and average, while the porn star's twelve inch penis is not.

It comes as no surprise that women feel this same insecurity over their vaginas. I confess I found the uncensored image confronting, not because they are vaginas, but because in this world where the media bombards us with a 'perfect', albeit surgically altered and manicured portrait of the vagina, it is easy enough for men and women alike to forget, and in some cases, not even know what a vagina looks like in its natural form.

It is hard to believe it is 2013 when there are people causing an uproar over the attempted publication of this image, particularly as it was mentioned that the publication of a penis on the cover of *Honi Soit* twenty years ago attracted little attention. There is nothing attractive about the penis or the vagina, whether they are depicted naturally or unnaturally. Their sexuality is in their function rather than their form.

I commend the women who were able to do this. It is not something I have the courage to do. I also condemn people like Michael Spence who believe they can speak for women when they claim it to be demeaning. I do not hold much hope for the future so far as the increasing beautification of vaginas goes, but I can hope that in 2033 *Honi Soit* will have the freedom to publish an image of a woman's genitals without fear of censure.

Elliot Nolan, Arts IV

A man's take on vaginasoit

I fully support vaginasoit and agree with the open letter in that same edition. Being a straight male, what I express publicly thereof may immediately invoke suspicion. Yet despite being an unintended target, I learned and benefited from it. Every text inevitably runs the risk of unintended interpretations and consequences upon distribution. In this case, I believe it was a risk worth taking.

My initial response was minor revulsion at the pictorial crudeness. But after getting over this learned reaction, I found that, in denying an immediate sexual gaze, vaginasoit reminded me that my relationships with my female companions depend on no sexual undertones to function. Although desire may arise, bringing with it gazes and judgments that complicate our relationships and bring us within a potentially oppressive field, at the end of the day we are all just people with our own set of (predominantly) unexceptional genitals, and that mundane fact is the most important.

Yet it is not so easy for texts or subjects to escape the field of desire, and for a moment I let myself view this picture in all its immanent sexuality. From this perspective, vaginasoit said to me that it's ok to desire vaginas that are nothing like this "perfect" version fed to us by the agents of gender oppression. For a vagina, like any other body part, is instrumental and constitutive, yet not definitive, to the owner's sense of identity. While gendered symbols used to abstract and idealize the other will never be absent from intimate relationships based on desire, all men, regardless of their conscious attitudes to sex or how much porn they consume, should take responsibility for their desires and be reflexive about them.

Speaking only for myself, I nonetheless assert that vaginasoit contains a broadly liberating message that any man can draw from should he choose to.

Edwin Montoya Zorrilla, Law V.

A thank you note :)

Hi

thankyou so much for your cover of Vulvas -I read about it online on the guardian website, with the accompanying article.

We need more in the media about this body part. When I was 11 I didn't know where my vagina was to put the tampon in -I had to use a hand mirror.

Now I have a 4 year old daughter, and I've encouraged her to have a good look in the mirror, to feel comfortable talking about it. Hopefully it will be better for her.

Thankyou, Maryanne O.

Vagina Soit, bad for USYD rep

Dear editors of *Honi Soit*,

I was deeply concerned about news of a publication of female vaginas at the University of Sydney student magazine *Honi Soit*.

I am writing from Adelaide. I have been a university student and I have also worked for the university.

I don't believe this magazine article is the reason why many people attend university.

Surely, you should have better things to do with your time. And the idea that this is creative or 'free' speech is bulls-locks. Can't you think of better things to write about, discuss or print? I would equally share this opinion if the article was about male genitals too.

A medical journal for scientific purposes I understand, a porno magazine I understand, but a free student magazine is really "off".

In my mind Sydney University should have monitored this publication in greater capacity, and I think it will tarnish the reputation of the University of Sydney.

Sincerely

Natalia Burak.

Kudos to the vaginas

Kudos on your thoughts on publishing the 18 vulvas. Whether they should have been on the cover is a valid question; but you should not be subject to harassment and threats over them.

So something might cause offence --- is that a reason not to publish it? I thought Australia was a free country, and the need to challenge bad opinions, groundless fears, and manipulative fear-mongering a significant part of the freedom.

The liberation felt by the subjects whose vulvas were presented makes perfect sense. The naturist movement has exclaimed for years that the liberation of being without clothes is uniquely important.

Good luck in the struggle.

Paul Rapoport.

Tears for Vagina Soit

The article in the *Herald* on Friday made me cry... it's amazing that you have done this; taken photos of women's vaginas to put on the cover of a magazine.

I guess something violent would have been more acceptable.

Vaginas are not horrible things; I think you know this.. and the trick is to convince the powers that be that wish to can this piece of artwork, that it's not so bad to show them!

I hope someday the world can look at a vagina without seeing it as an offensive thing. Women's sexuality has been repressed enough for long enough.

I applaud what you've done. Please try to get it published.

Kind Regards,

Lara Taylor.

HONI NEWS



FREE

Week Five Edition

"Remember the old advice: wear clean undies and stay out of jail"

Student concerns rise with the rent

SUV has again opted to increase its rental prices sparking accusations it is taking advantage of students' desperation for housing, reports **Ada Lee**

Sydney University Village (SUV) is set to raise prices again in 2014, with the cheapest four or five bedroom apartments to cost \$271.50 per week. The change represents a \$14.70 or 5.7 per cent increase on this year's prices. The increase will mean that SUV's cheapest rooms are now \$60 more expensive than they were in 2011.

Many residents have been left worried and are asking why Campus Living Villages (CLV), the company responsible for SUV, has again boosted rates. Little explanation has been offered to

students who are growing increasingly resentful, according to SUV resident Sophie Holt.

A spokesperson for CLV said that the company strives to deliver a safe and supportive environment that "provides value for money" to residents.

Along with market factors and customer surveys, CLV said "product upgrades" influenced pricing, pointing to various renovation projects such as repainting, carpet repairs, and work on the student common area, 'The Well'.

However, long-term resident Camille* said these upgrades were "completely necessary" and should be "routine". She did not think they justified the increases in rent. Camille reported seeing rats and cockroaches in the cooking areas during recent months. "The carpet was filthy, the walls were browning," she said, "and The Well ceiling was literally collapsing".

Considering that a five-bedroom apartment will cost a total of \$1357.50 per week in 2014, Camille believes CLV is "ripping people off" even when taking into account Newton's recent property market booms.

The University of Sydney owns 5-10 per cent of SUV, sharing with other private stakeholders. Together, they set the rent. The CLV spokesperson said they recognised the cost of living pressures faced by students but did not specify whether this affected pricing considerations.

CLV are the "bad guys" according to Camille*. She doubts whether 'affordable housing' is actually one of their aims. "It's really about what they can get. They know that students are desperate for accommodation near campus so they can drive the price up and they're well within their rights to", she said. "CLV needs to turn a profit and so that's what they're doing."

Statistics provided by CLV show an 86 percent customer satisfaction rating but that only 42.9 percent of 2012 residents reapplied in 2013.

Another resident, Georgia Hitch, believes SUV offers a great student service and community but does not believe the "incredibly exorbitant" rent increases are justified. "Saying 'oh it's really good and people will pay it' is not a good enough reason. That dispels the

whole idea of equity among students," she said.

Residents emphasised the importance of student housing in making university accessible, particularly for rural and interstate students. Even though private rent in outer suburbs may be cheaper, Ms Hitch, who hails from Canberra, said it can be too daunting for non-Sydney students to consider when moving to an unknown city.

The news of SUV's latest price adjustment comes as the University looks to increase its stock of student housing and enter into an agreement with a second party to develop and administer the Queen Mary Building. The failure to keep SUV's rates down will increase pressure on the University to come to an agreement that minimises the potential for future rate rises.

Last year over 100 students rallied and circulated a petition when SUV announced rent would increase by \$18.30 per week.

**Name has been changed*

@adelinallee



Women still wobbly on Engineering and IT

Max Chalmers dug up some University statistics and found the faculty with the lowest level of female participation

It's the butt of every joke made about the department, but now statistics from the University's Planning and Information office have proven what every Bachelor of Engineering student already knew: the faculty has the lowest percentage of female students of any in the University. An *Honi Soit* survey ranking each faculty according to the percent of undergraduate students who are women has shown the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies' 3820 strong undergraduate program is only 21% female. The Agriculture and Environment and Medicine faculties were the next most male dominated, with 67% and 56% of enrolled students male respectively.

Melanie Dunnill, a Bachelor of Engineering student, said the gender imbalance of the faculty had not detracted from her university experience. "It's something I expected so it doesn't really bother me. The guys in my course are great and fun to hang out with, plus

there [are] more girls than when I did my trade course," she said.

Gabriel Smith, the head of Marketing and Communications at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, said the Faculty was doing what it could to encourage higher rates of female participation by sending female students to speak at high schools and supporting organisations like the Sydney University Women in Engineering club. "If you look at the 31st of March 2008 we had 635 females in the faculty and if you look at the 31st of March 2013 they've nearly doubled," Smith said, referring to the total number of both undergraduate and postgraduate students. For the first time this year one of the Faculty's courses, Biomedical Engineering, has a female majority.



The Faculty is very much bucking the trend in a university where women represent the majority of undergraduate students in 12 of the 18 faculties. At the other end of the scale were the Education and Social Work and Veterinary Science faculties, both of which had approximately 75% female enrolment. University wide, 56.07% of undergraduate students are women.

While Engineering and Information Technologies lags behind, others faculties such as Business have broken even in recent years. Kylie Salisbury, the Careers Adviser at Fort Street High School, said business classes at the school now had a nearly equal number of male and female students, while IT and engineering classes were virtually completely void of young women. "I think there is still a bit of negativity here amongst girls towards careers like IT and computing,"

she said.

Melanie Dunnill thinks women at high school need to be targeted at a younger age if their levels of participation are to be improved. "Most girls in Year 10, 11, and 12 have already made up their minds about what they would like to do after finishing school and have picked subjects that steer them away from Engineering or IT."

@maxchalmers90



UNIGATE

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



The Colour Purple

Following the grand bargains and betrayals of the last few weeks, negotiations between factions leading up to the SRC election have taken a turn for the petty. With Sydney Labor Students' (SLS) split from the national Labor Left faction, there has been a significant amount of squabbling over branding and colours during the nomination period. NLS has for the last two years run under the 'Stand Up' brand and the colour purple, but the vast majority of last year's NLS caucus is now in SLS, who, given they are running alongside Unity (Labor Right) as they did last year, felt they had a claim over the brand. To complicate matters, NLS ran Eve Radunz for Union Board earlier this year with purple branding. As it turns out, in the rainbow of student politics there are only so many colours to choose from. A maelstrom over use of both the 'Stand Up' brand and purple therefore broke out, with SLS reserving 'Stand Up' tickets at the SRC office the on the day nominations opened. There were even rumours that one of the groups staged an overnight sleep-out at the SRC, though the *Gate* could not confirm their veracity, nor whether tents were involved. But NLS were certainly peeved, and appealed their right to run under 'Stand Up'. After a protracted stand off (or was it a stand *up*?) between the two groups, a settlement was reached, and the Returning Officer ruled that NLS be allowed to run with purple so long as they withdraw their objection to SLS/Unity's use of 'Stand Up'. Interestingly, members of both NLS and SLS confirmed that the Returning Officer accepted NLS' argument that the faction had a right to purple, given its association with Radunz's Union Board campaign. SLS will go with red.

Frankly, we're unsure what the moral of the story is, except that this saga appears to have given us yet another reason to think that the election will be, to put it mildly, one hell of an unrelenting shitfight.

Liberals Join Picket, Make a Splash

Last week's NTEU strike was a fairly placid affair by recent standards but one incident did catch the *Gate*'s beady eyes. By late morning the picket on the Eastern Avenue footbridge over City Road had become the sternest and most insistent obstacle to any students wishing to enter the university. It was, needless to say, not the kind of place you would want to find yourself if you were wearing a Liberal Party shirt. But that's exactly what happened when Celeste Arenas and Josh Crawford attempted to cross. Wait, Crawford? Why does that name sound familiar? The three of you who had actually picked up a copy of *Honi* before last week's little cover incident will remember that Crawford was originally on the ballot as one of the Liberal candidates at the USU elections, but like the glorious Achilles his career was short-lived and he pulled out before punters went to the poll. When our two little Libs reached the picket things got rowdy and one of the women in the picket ended up emptying half a bottle of water onto the unsuspecting Arenas.

A photo from after the splash shows Arenas laughing the incident off (29 likes on Sydney University Liberal Club's facebook page, not a bad effort Arenas). But the picketers on the scene had less to laugh about. Police rushed the picket after the incident in the day's most violent intervention. Multiple witnesses reported seeing the woman who threw the water slammed against the concrete walls of the footbridge by

police. As the rest of the crowd burst into an enraged chant, police threatened them with capsicum spray. There have also been reports that one officer pulled a taser on the students. Police barged out from the fracas, arresting one student in the process (not the one responsible for Arenas' surprise shower, however).

Though the NTEU and the University are perilously close to a deal on the EBA, the Union will still be picketing the annual open day on Saturday August 31.

SULS elections

The SRC election will only just have ended when another group of coloured-shirt-wearing students flood Eastern Avenue and the Law Lawns. The offenders will be candidates for the election of the 2014 Sydney University Law Society (SULS) executive. Nominations for tickets of sixteen people close in just under a month but the wheels of at least two tickets are already in motion.

Current SULS Queer Officer Matthew Yeldham has confirmed that he is a candidate for President. At this stage, he is running with Callum Forbes (JD I), Jess Xiao (LLB I), Nicky Bevirt (LLB III) and Sophie Sauerman (LLB I).

Another person rumoured to be running for President is third-year BA/LLB student and current VP (Social Justice) James Higgins. When asked, Hig-

gins was coy about his intentions: he wouldn't confirm that he was putting his hat in the ring, but did say he was thinking about it. He declined to let the *Gate* know who he might be running with.

However, it should be noted that it's early days: nominations close on September 21, and it's possible that the two tickets may work together and avoid the messy business of an election altogether. The 2013 team ended up being the only ticket and was therefore 'elected' without competition. While that probably isn't the best example of democracy in action, law students would have to agree that it was better than the three-way race of late 2010, when it seemed that most of the Law School was a candidate for one position or another.

Meanwhile, one of SULS' executive, Competitions Director Rachel Williams, has resigned from her position, resulting in a special run-off election, to be held on Monday September 9.

SRC Education Officer to Step Down

The *Gate* understands that Casey Thompson is likely to resign as Education Officer in the coming weeks. Thompson, who is juggling a job with the ALP on the side, told the *Gate* she was too sick to comment on the issue. Goodbye Casey, we hardly knew ye.



A picket at last week's strike. Photo: Stella Klenas

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The Tasmanian test

OPINION

Should deals come before values? **Stella Krenas** on animal rights, fossil fuels, and Andrew Wilkie

Hell has frozen over: the Greens are preferencing the pro-mining Palmer United Party (PUP). In three Tasmanian seats – Bass, Braddon, and Franklin – the Greens are preferencing the PUP ahead of Labor, while preferencing Labor ahead of Independent Andrew Wilkie in the marginal Hobart seat of Denison. These unorthodox preferences provoked outrage from Wilkie who claimed that if voters were to “follow the Green how-to-vote card they may well contribute to the election of a party that owns the PNG Solution and that is not only maintaining live animal export but which is increasing it to Indonesia,” and extending it to countries as diverse as Israel, Turkey, Kuwait, Egypt, and Pakistan.

Wilkie has been a vocal critic of Australia’s live export trade and led the push for a temporary ban in 2011 when accusations of “barbaric cruelty” in Indonesian abattoirs emerged. Wilkie also claimed “[voters] will be risking the election of a party that wants to diminish the effectiveness of a price on carbon”.

Perhaps these comments are the projections of a man feeling like a trapped animal bound for live export, on the verge of losing his place in Parliament being inhumanely tortured before slaughter. His fate lies in the hands of the voters as Labor too will preference

the Greens ahead of Wilkie, while the PUP will preference the Greens in the Senate in Tasmania. The Greens claim the preferencing of PUP is inspired by the parties’ aligned views on the refugee policy and that the PUP have “supported bringing asylum seekers to Australia to be assessed.” For this reason they are overlooking the irreconcilable difference between the two parties on coal mining. “It makes a mockery of all their criticism of the Labor Party in recent times, especially on asylum seeker policy, live animal exports, changes to the carbon tax and gambling reform,” Wilkie said. He may well be correct.

How can we negotiate the mistreatment of certain beings (non-human beings) over the relocation of other beings (humans) in this post-humanist world? How can we support expansion of coal mining when countries like Norway have managed to generate 98% of their energy through renewable sources like hydroelectric, geothermal and wind power? “I look forward to seeing how Greens members and supporters react to this betrayal of the party’s core beliefs in pursuit of the party’s political self-interest,” said Wilkie.

Bob Brown, who assisted the Greens with preferencing, alleged that Wilkie would support a Coalition government in the event of a hung parliament. Wilkie

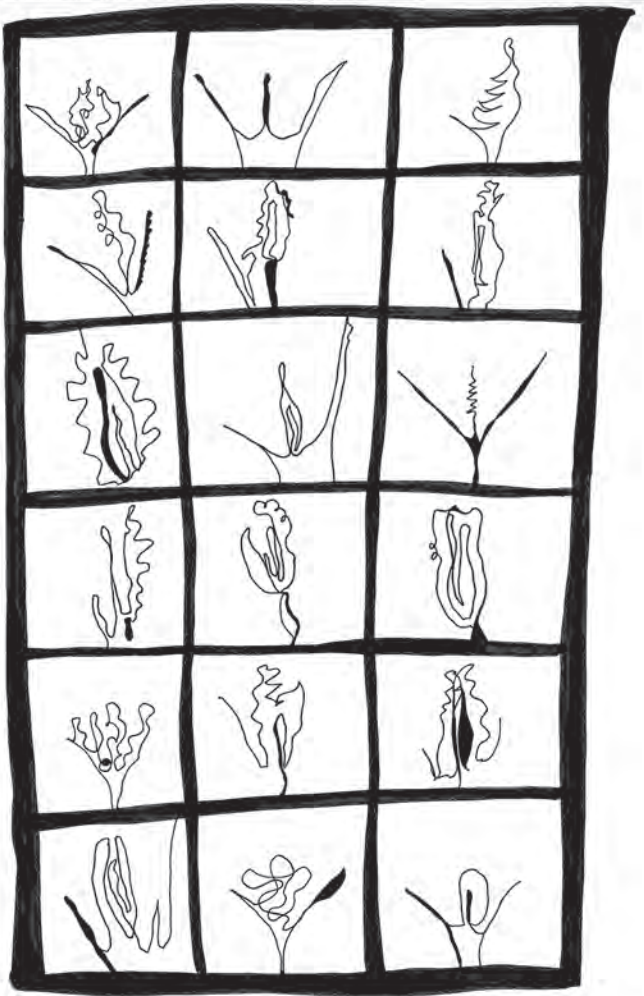
claimed he had no plans of backing the Coalition in this case and would run an “open ticket” on preferences. Yet the Liberal Party did confirm that it would preference Wilkie above Labor and the Greens, as it did in 2010.

There is no doubt that Wilkie’s policies are closer aligned to Labor than the Liberals, for instance his support for safeguarding the carbon and the mining taxes, higher welfare payments, and furthering the ban on live exports. It’s difficult to imagine him seeing eye-to-eye with Tony Abbott. Yet he will need those Liberal second preferences to prevail over Labor candidate Jane Austin.

In this sinister game of political musical chairs, perhaps ethics and tactics are mutually exclusive. But surely ethics are not fashionable trinkets to be worn one day, and discarded the next.

NEWS
IN
REVUE

Olivia Fay visually interprets the week that was



Top 6 items chucked at politicians

Phoebe Moloney counts down protests that have hit their mark

- 6

Sandwiches Watch out where you carry one of these, because politically-minded panini have been known to fling out of bystander’s hands into the stiff-lips of politicians of their own accord. Sandwich-chucking gained international press this year when former Prime Minister Julia Gillard had the misfortune of coming into contact with two flung focaccias in one week. While both of the school students blamed for the attacks seemed remorseful to have lost their lunch, the vegemite-on-white and salami/mayo sando appeared smug.
- 5

Souvenir Church Divine intervention hit ex-PM Silvio Berlusconi in the face during a rally against his involvement in the ‘bunga bunga’ scandal in 2009. A miniature replica of Milan’s Duomo Maggiore was hurled from within the crowd, knocking out two of his teeth. Despite providing evidence of severe mental illness, the church-chucker was sentenced to five years of prison. That night, Berlusconi released a distasteful media statement, “Love will overcome evil and hate...” hmmm maybe not yours, Silvio.
- 4

Shoes If polties are going to dodge the questions anyway, why not just chuck ‘em a shoe? That was the logic of legendary Newcastle activist, Peter Gray, who pegged his leather boaters at ex-PM John Howard live on Q&A. The incident mimicked a series of international loafer-lobs, expressing civilian dissent at the West’s pervasive presence in Iraq. Gray never witnessed full withdrawal of troops, as he died in early 2011 from cancer.
- 3

Yoghurt Yoghurt splashing or “Yoghurtification” has been a popular expression of Greek dissent since the ‘50s when yogurt was repackaged in to plastic (as opposed to ceramic) pots. With added benefits of portability, visibility, growing-stench and low-risk of injury, Yoghurtification became so ubiquitous in Greek culture that the infamous Law 4000 was introduced against it. Three parliamentarians have been splashed in the past two years, one with the particularly pungent Tatziki.
- 2

Pies Pie-chuckers are the most notorious, and well-loved, of projectile protesters. Specialist pastry-pegging factions, such as US-based ‘Al Piedad’, Belgian ‘Internationale Pâtisseries’, and the Canadian ‘Entartistes’, have been responsible for delivering Bill Gates, Calvin Klein, Dan Glickman, and Anne Coulter their just desserts.

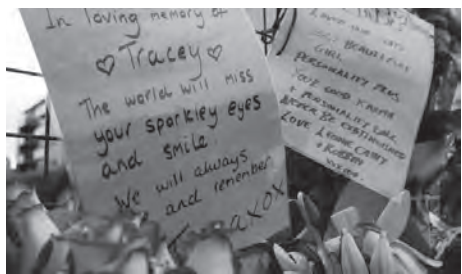
The Biotic Baking Brigade received particular acclaim in 1998 for pitching a gourmet selection of tofu, cherry and pumpkin pies at San Fran’s mayor, in protest of his oppressive policies on homelessness.
- 1

Glitter If you want to bring some Art Attack to your hack-attack, glitter is by far the most humane, animal-friendly and humorous item to chuck in a splendidous rage. Tossing glitter at otherwise dull MPs is a choice act of dissent among many gay rights, cissexism and feminist activists. However, glitter bombing is a testing exercise in speed, stealth and eloquence; generally requiring close-proximity to the target and a well-delivered punch line, such as, “Stop the hate. Taste the Rainbow.” Magical.

Dangers of the 'Nordic model' for sex work

Evan Van Zijl makes the case for fully decriminalising sex work

Last month, a woman was savagely murdered – allegedly stabbed to death in the face and chest – in St. Kilda leaving behind a grief-stricken family and local community. If you are in activist scenes, you might know that her name was Tracy Connelly. However in the mainstream media her name was 'the prostitute'.



Earlier in July, 'the prostitute' was also murdered and brutalised at least twice. Unfortunately, brutality is a risk for many people engaging in sex work where there is not a system of full decriminalisation. An International Day of Action was organised by sex worker unions to demand justice for the savage murders of Dora Özer and Petite Jasmine.

Outside of the United States, most of the developed world has started cottoning on to the fact that prohibition of sex work does not address the underlying concerns that many have about women's safety. It is not an industry which can simply be shut down and is present

in all areas, increasingly even amongst our own student body.

A system of criminalisation only increases the vulnerability of this workforce – which is predominantly made up of women and queer identifying people – from asserting control over wages, working conditions and health needs.

A discourse of saving 'the prostitute' has prevailed amongst a number of activists and policy makers with attempts to shut down sex work. An attempt to reconcile the growing push for decriminalisation internationally with a conservative desire to police people's sexuality can be seen in the 'Nordic Model'.

In general terms, the 'Nordic Model' is an approach which decriminalises someone engaging in sex work so that they can access health services or safely lodge complaints to the police, but criminalises the sex worker's customers. It sounds appealing at first but let's consider what this actually means for a sex worker whose every customer will become a criminal.

If your customer becomes criminal then in order to maintain your source of income, you must become complicit in avoiding public practice and fair negotiation of working conditions. This would render you entirely unable to access the options decriminalisation

is intended to open up. The threat of police intervention with attempted undercover stings also escalates the possibility of violence and the precarity of income.

Aspects of this discourse have gained some traction in Victoria's sex work legislation. If you wish to legally self-organise as a sex worker in Victoria, you are required to register yourself on a permanent, public list with all of your information and are not permitted to practice within the safety of your own home. Further, purchase of street work is both criminalised and policed which gives significant risks.

Police stings on clients of street sex workers have been organised in Melbourne, including 'Operation Nocturn' last year, which featured female police officers going undercover as sex workers to find clients in the streets of St Kilda. Part of an ongoing crackdown, the move has been criticised by the Victorian branch of the sex workers' union which alleged that violence against sex workers statistically increased after the police operations.

While in NSW, we are somewhat lucky that we have a liberalised approach to sex work (though Premier Barry O'Farrell wishes to change this) which prevents undercover stings like Operation

Nocturn, not all jurisdictions in Australia are so lucky.

Veiled in a rhetoric of 'saving and protecting women', excessive limitations and 'protections' put in place are often less about protecting worker's rights and more about assuaging the sexism that invisibilises women like Tracy as nothing but 'stigma'.

The Scarlet Alliance, the Australian sex workers' union, has been fighting hard and has won support for sex workers' rights from forces like the Greens and the Democrats before them, but some governments still refuse to move forward. Victoria and Western Australia especially have been the sites of greatest contention, with these governments maintaining models of strict regulation rather than decriminalisation.

In WA, this situation has worsened, with the Liberal Party recently proposing a piece of legislation banning brothels from residential areas and harshly increasing regulation on the few zones where it is still permitted. These kinds of measures must be fought as hard as possible.

A fully decriminalised sex work industry is the only way in which safe working conditions and fair pay can be won for sex workers, not an attempt to 'save' the 'bad girls' like Tracy from themselves.

Hikikomori: the art of isolation

Jeremy Elphick reflects on the sound of silence

People communicate with one another in endless ways. With some, you're able to have insightful and probing conversations that last for hours. Others you might only have a short chat with once in a while. Others, a glance or a passing forced smile. Then there are people you'll never meet or speak to in your entire existence.

It's equally fascinating to reflect on how these communications shift over time: growing intimately close with those you've barely spoken to in the past, whilst falling out of touch with those you've been intimately close to.

In many of these circumstances, it comes down to space; how often you want to communicate with other people and how often you want them to communicate with you. But what happens when you consciously decide that you want an absolute amount of 'space' – pure isolation?

The concept of hikikomori – which translates to 'pulling away' or 'drawing inwards' – is a growing trend of extreme withdrawal from the outside world. Existence, and life, is something that occurs within the walls of your own bedroom, outside of fleeting trips to other areas of the house for basic essentials. Many hikikomori may shut themselves in their

rooms for a few years, others may do it as long as half a lifetime and chances are, no one will ever know.

It's impossible to get accurate figures on the trend due to the fact that it's defined by seclusion and secrecy, however, estimates range between 100 000 and 1 million for the category of young males alone – with males making up approximately 80 percent of the hikikomori population of Japan. Some estimates, such as Tamaki Saito's (who coined the term), have hypothesised up to one in ten Japanese youth as suffering from the Hikikomori syndrome.

Social awkwardness and withdrawal isn't something unique to Japan – take Raskolnikov from Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, who was described as being "immersed in himself and isolated so much from everyone that he was afraid not only of meeting his landlady but of meeting anyone at all."

What makes the Japan's case unique is the way is subtle method with which society facilitates it on a mass scale. In Japan, shame and honour are pertinent concepts that drive societal trends. For instance, in the 1920s, author Ryunosuke Akutagawa, the idol of a younger writer named Osamu Dazai, killed himself. Over a decade later, Dazai did the

same. Akutagawa reasoned "a vague insecurity", whilst Dazai considered himself a lifelong failure. Perhaps the most lauded filmmaker in the country, Akira Kurosawa, attempted suicide after his 1965 film *Red Beard* was commercially unsuccessful. In the 1960s, one of Japan's greatest writers, Yukio Mishima, tried to lead a coup to restore the power of the emperor before committing seppuku after his failure to do so.

Suicide in Japan isn't as taboo as in the West, with many viewing it as natural response to dishonour or failure, an appropriate way to withdraw from society. The same reasoning of dishonour, social pressure, and perceiving oneself as a failure are the central factors cited for the growing rates of hikikomori in the country.

There's another question in this debate that lingers and undermines much debate on the subject – should hikikomori be viewed as suffering from a series of symptoms, or is it the wrong response for society to have? Is societal withdrawal more reflective on the individual or the society they withdraw from?

In Japanese Zen thought, the idea of emptiness and achieving a selfless existence is lauded. Most often, those who wish to follow this path will withdraw

from society, travelling to monasteries wherein societal withdrawal is an essential part of achieving a transcendent state of fulfilment.

Whilst conflating hikikomori with Zen Buddhism is a stretch, the premise – viewing societal withdrawal as a negative is often myopic – is the same. Initiatives to combat the trends of hikikomori are intensely focused on the individual as the problem, rather than addressing the issues that underpin society in general.

After hours of searching, emailing, tweeting at, and messaging various accounts from Japan that identified as 'hikikomori' I only received two responses. The first replied "I do not want to talk to stranger", the second simply said "sorry" before blocking my twitter account. Randomly messaging people through social media obviously isn't the best way to get a firsthand idea of what leads one to become a hikikomori, but the lack of responses, even on a digital plane, is demonstrative of the severity of the self-seclusion.

They remain little pockets of the world, unreachable, entirely separate, an unattainable other. The perception of whether this is a positive or a negative is really in the eye of the beholder.

TREATISE

There's nothing casual about racism

OPINION

We should really stop joshing about racism, writes **Ezreena Yahya**

Two months ago, when a regular and his family came into the pastry shop where I work, I asked if they lived in the area. "No, we live near the airport. We just think this place is the best in the city, that's why we're here every week," he said.

Touched by his kind words and temperate manner, I ran to the back to share the lovely moment with my manager. Yet, all she could bring herself to say was, "Yeah, I guess they're pretty nice – for Muslims."

Gobsmacked by the tactlessness of the 'joke', I started tearing up. Furious, every part of me wanted to step up and say something but in the end, in fear of losing my job, I did nothing and resumed cleaning the cake fridge. This is the ugly face of casual racism.

Casual racism has been allowed to breed uncontrollably in Australian society due to a lack of consequences. We've

seen this at work, on public transport, and in sports.

In AFL, even after Collingwood chief, Eddie McGuire made a shocking 'King Kong' comment about Adam Goodes, supposedly in jest, business went back to usual. It's larrikinism, they say. It's not serious, we're just meant to laugh along.

"It's larrikinism, they say. It's not serious, we're just meant to laugh along."

Meanwhile, the language employed in current public policies such as the PNG 'solution' and the tightening of the 457 visa scheme to "stop the boats" and "stop foreign workers being put at the front of the queue with Australian workers at the back" has done little to ameliorate the distrust and prejudice towards refugees and foreign workers.

Politicians use labels such as 'eco-

nomic migrants' and 'queue-jumpers' instead of referring to asylum seekers as what they actually are – human beings fleeing persecution and death. These labels reinforce this myth that they are out to steal jobs and threaten Australia's national security.

Both Labor and the Coalition have been unsympathetic in scrutinising the impact of these euphemisms on the hardening attitudes towards asylum seekers and immigrants.

Even though being a Malaysian of Malay-Chinese heritage, with an Arabic name exposes you to the occasional, more condescending than curious, "Why do you speak such good English?" and the classic, "But why don't you have an Asian accent?", I've been fortunate that I have never been violently assaulted or verbally abused (severely, at least) because of ethnicity.

Having witnessed more than several

confronting incidents at my workplace, on the bus and the Cityrail however, has not left me unscathed – it still cuts just as bad every time.

What is needed to pose a meaningful challenge to racism is a rigorous overhaul of civic education, in schools and in the home.

There needs to be more political and historical awareness and a conscious effort to combat racism, more repercussions designed not to punish, but to send out a powerful message that racism in all of its forms is unacceptable.

We have come a long way since the days of the White Australia policy, but once we acknowledge that racism, even if its most light-hearted form, robs the dignities and self-respect of those on the receiving end, then can we be optimistic about true racial reconciliation in Australia.

IN DEFENCE OF BOGANS

Chelsea Reed takes issue with the b-word

We've all used this word before, and due to the many media portrayals of the "bogan", it may be considered a harmless enough stereotype. But, who do we consider to be a bogan? When we take on these considerations, it becomes a judgment based on surface values. Using this term allows for a culture of poor-bashing and classist policies.

'Things Bogans Like', a blog dedicated to mocking these people out of "sheer spite and an infuriating sense of self-superiority," attempts to disguise their hateful attitudes behind an ironic disposition. But this only comes across as smug. It seems as though most middle class Australians have been deluding themselves into thinking this isn't a class issue – we created and defined the bogan stereotype, and now we sit back and poke fun at it.

If we take away the right to use the term 'bogan', it forces us to confront our privilege. I experienced this firsthand when I called out 'Things Bogans Like' for its classist, smug attitudes on Facebook. The argument that followed proved we are lacking an awareness of classism. By proving that this is a derogatory term, we are taking away the privileged right to use the word to mock, shame or judge other people. And people love using this term. Tradies? Bogan. Cold Chisel? Bogan. Racist? Bogan.

By pointing the finger at the lower class, we tell ourselves that racist attitudes begin and end there. The middle-class tries to maintain an image of being progressive and politically correct, not to mention educated and cultured. 'Things Bogans Like' thinks it is pointing out and shaming racists when all it is doing is ignoring the fact that racist attitudes

begin primarily in the major political parties, rooted in the upper class. Lack of education and cultural awareness is an issue. But proper education is something that only the privileged can afford.

We need to take responsibility by not denying our privilege. Being aware of our situation is the first step to realising that other people are not born into money, that some people never have the opportunities we have. We believe that those on welfare or with low-income jobs only have themselves to blame because they "don't have a good work ethic." The concept of a "work ethic" is conveniently elusive.

It's a concept that only works in favour of those who are lucky enough to have miraculously fallen into their dream job straight out of school, or who have the money to take a gap year and go to university. If we choose to believe that people are either successful or unsuccessful in life because of their "work ethic" we are denying the facts of the larger picture of society.

Classism does exist in our country and pages like 'Things Bogans Like' should be boycotted, the same way we boycott racist or sexist propaganda. And ask yourself: would it really cause that much inconvenience to drop the word from your vocabulary?



Jimmy Barnes: more than just a bogan.

Reversing reverse racism

Ariel Castro-Martinez questions the notion of reverse racism



Never mind the finger-wagging nonsense and commodification of neighbourly pensioner ire that characterises current affairs programs, the stupidest and most dangerous things these shows do is perpetuate the phrase 'reverse racism'. This is, quite possibly, the most racist thing I've ever heard.

This is what reverse racism is, according to *Today Tonight* and its high-horsed brethren: it's the racial discrimination of the majority by the minority when, for example, an Indian-owned pizza place fails to hire anyone outside of their ethnic group. The problem with 'reverse racism' is that it's redundant; there already exists a word for this type of behaviour. It's called racism.

Reverse racism implies that there is somehow something absurd about racism against white Australians—it's not just racism, but it's backwards racism—because everyone knows that racism is unidirectional, and racism in the opposite direction fails to appreciate the suppressed superiority of the majority over the minority.

This attitude of proper and reverse racism reminds us of the traditional directional history of racism in this country, but does us no favours in knowing that all racism is wrong, no matter how entrenched one side is over the other.

Denoting an act of racism as 'reverse racist' betrays an implicit status quo; it's not so much that we know we're not above minorities, rather, we've simply been conditioned to not act out on it. In this respect, we're only halfway cured.

When minorities are racist, we find it bizarre, because we can't imagine how they could possibly feel better than us.

Reverse racism sounds like those Indians in the pizza place just aren't doing it right; they should choose a more suitable ethnic group to exclude. It's really



Today Tonight: bringing reverse racism to the masses.

an admission of fault, claiming others are reverse racist while the entrenched majority remain purely racist.

If a man claimed reverse sexism from an employer only hiring women, he would be rightfully ridiculed for thinking that sexism is an activity reserved for men, which actually ... seems kind of sexist.

The language of reverse racism is as divisive as the behaviour it's trying to address. It shifts the discussion away from what is wrong to what is 'fair'. It implies that we've stopped being racist because it's unfair, because we have the numbers, not because it's wrong.

The minority are being 'reverse racist' because they have no justification to be racist. However, in reality, there is no gradient of justification upon which racism is directed. It is, no matter where it's coming from, universally absurd.

MOORE THAN A CAREER

PROFILE

The clergy is more than old white guys in robes and funny collars. **Bronwyn Cowell** spoke with a woman who isn't your typical minister-in-training

The fruits of the feminist revolution are there for the taking, and here at the University of Sydney, the young women of today are being turned into tomorrow's world-beaters. We are taught that the best use of our time and skills is to forge our own path, stick it to the man, shatter the glass ceiling.

So if you're a smart young woman from a liberal, secular family, pursuing a PhD in a field you love, it would seem a curious decision indeed to opt out of that world and opt into Christian ministry training – an occupation where the upper echelons of your profession are mostly closed to you, and where tradition, doctrine, and straight-up theological conservatism seem to hold sway. Tess Holgate, final year Bachelor of Divinity student at Moore Theological College in Newtown, did just that.

Moore Theological College is the ministry training college for the Sydney Anglican church, and is located just over the road from our university. Established in 1856, it trains men and women to work in a variety of ministry roles. To its supporters, Moore College faithfully teaches God's word as revealed in the Bible, and trains its students to be servants of Christ and of others. To its detractors, Moore is just another outpost of the fundamentalist Sydney Anglican church, training up ever more acolytes to flood Sydney's churches with anti-women, anti-gay, illiberal firebrands.

So again you might wonder – why would a woman spend four long, rigorous years at this place?

"I would ask them to prove it to me – like 1 + 1 = God"

Tess grew up in a non-religious family, and had never been to church in her childhood. She made friends with some Christians at high school, and would spend discussions with them insisting religion wasn't for her, however much she was happy for them to have their beliefs. She would demand proof, and was the typical sceptical unbeliever.

When she was 16, Tess attended a church weekend away with her friends, where a speaker told her about how God had loved the world so much that He sent His son Jesus Christ to die to achieve reconciliation between the world and Him. That was the first time Tess had heard the story of Jesus, and it struck her. A problematic family life and strained relationship with her father meant she could barely comprehend love sufficient for someone to die for her. She spent the next few weeks reading and thinking about what she had heard.

In the end, she decided that Jesus' death compelled her to give her life to Him



Tess Holgate is a final year Bachelor of Divinity student at Moore College

and says that whilst she still didn't know a lot of things about Christianity and the Bible, she thought "He died for me, I owe Him my life, so let's do this."

At first her parents thought it was a phase, but Tess calls them "The 'We're happy as long as you're happy' people," who just wanted to know she wasn't part of a cult. She was able to convince them of that over time, admitting that she understands it would be scary as a parent when your kids starts hanging out with different friends and doing strange things like reading the Bible and praying. She talks about how it took her some time to realise that being a Christian was not just a "Sunday decision", but something that would affect her whole life. She told me "I am not living for myself anymore. I still get to do the things I like, but I try to do them in a way that glorifies God, not me."

"I find it harder than uni, partly just because I care more... this is something that is part of who I am, it really affects what I think about the world, what I think about God, and what I think about myself – so I want to work really hard."

From there, Tess did a science degree, and started her PhD in geography. After deciding academia wasn't for her, she worked in campus ministry with university students, first at the University of Wollongong and then in Mexico City. Her sense that there was a lot that she still didn't know about her faith lead her to Moore College, where she has spent nearly four years studying the Bible, and taking classes on ethics and church doctrine.

Tess recalls trepida-

tion when she first started at Moore, mindful of its reputation for being hard line and afraid that her fellow students would all have the same opinions, and that dissent and difference would not be welcomed. She was pleasantly surprised to find this wasn't the case. Tess calls the diversity at Moore "a great gift" and says she had not had to fight to maintain her own ideas.

"When I became a Christian the position on women preaching was something that was really hard to swallow. It seemed to say that I couldn't do something and I just didn't believe that. For me it was a long path to seeing that God has created the world and has the right to say how it works best, and what he has said is that there is an order in creation."

In the Sydney Anglican diocese, and other Christian churches or organisations that Moore students often go on to work with, there are certain jobs that aren't open to women. They can be ordained, and can take on a variety of ministerial and organisational roles, but cannot occupy positions as senior ministers. Although individual churches are allowed to make their own decisions about whether a woman can preach to a mixed congregation (i.e. a group of male and female churchgoers), Tess says the prevailing belief at Moore and in the church is that women should not preach to a mixed crowd.

Tess has clearly wrestled with this issue of women in the church, coming from a home where she was told her gender was irrelevant to her ca-

reer and that she could do anything she wanted. After all, she takes the same classes as the men at Moore, and gets graded alongside them – and of course sometimes her grades are better. Ultimately she says she is happy to come down on the conservative side of the debate, accepting that God's order for the world is good, and seeing that in her experience, it works.

"There are passages in scripture that say 'this is what a woman should be like' – kind of gentle and quiet. But what does it mean? Does it mean I don't say anything? No! It's an attitude, you can have that attitude and still have an opinion."

Tess, who happily identifies as a feminist with "a few reservations", is quick with an emphatic "Yes" when I ask if there are men at Moore and in the church more broadly who she thinks use scripture and church tradition as an excuse to just be plain old sexist. Admitting that it is hard to specifically identify what is in many ways just a "vibe" she gets, she modestly and carefully explains that sometimes, as an intelligent women, she feels she has hold back to protect the finer feelings of the men in her classes, so as not to offend them. She admits that feeling is a bit ridiculous, and explains that clearly, scriptures don't bar her from holding or expressing her own ideas.

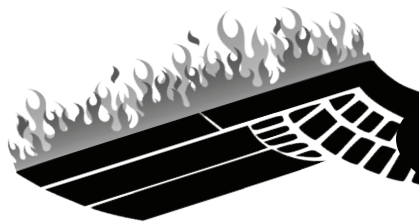
She talks about how women are set a certain example of domesticity and gentle femininity in Christian circles, and feels there is unfortunately a subtle push to be a certain way, rather than taking Biblical principles and applying them to "who God has made us to be as individuals".

"I don't actually think of ministry as a career, I think of it as something I have been freed from a career to do."

Tess, far from being the stereotype of a Christian who swallows the easiest answer fed to them, clearly continues to wrestle with and think about what are for her tricky questions about women and the church, about individuality and community. She says the church could probably do some critical thinking about engaging with the community where it is at today, and making their message relevant to people of the 21st century. Her final comments in our conversations about these issues, however, are all very similar – that she sees such issues as secondary to the most important task of seeking to love and serve her Lord, and seeking to love and serve the world He has made.



...Growing in the knowledge of God through rewarding courses." The Moore Theological College is in Newtown, Sydney



SMASHING

Rafi Alam is angry, at n

My formative years were spent in Mascot Public School, a typical underfunded school. It was a school that didn't aspire to much: its motto was in plain English and hoped for the least worst of its students ("strive to achieve"); the school gates were adorned with a picture of the official mascot, a jet plane, chosen for the school's proximity to the airport.

And, much like any underfunded school in an underfunded town in Sydney, it was a school that confronted me with ethnic diversity and tension, not unexpected in a suburb where 70% of people were born overseas, or had parents who were born overseas.

I thought of my childhood, as I'd dully gaze through the side fence of the school, waiting for a bus, of how it helped me grow and whatnot. But one morning, the school sign caught my attention instead. Someone had stickered over it with obscene messages, demanding that multiculturalism be abolished, that 'international students' – at a primary school – be sent back, and that students should not heed the anti-Australian lies of their teachers, designed to police the thoughts of the young. At the bottom of each sticker lay proudly: Australia First Party.

We're told to never forget, because there is a danger in allowing the past to repeat itself. Fascism wasn't an anomaly of world history, but is rooted in something visceral within society. It has an economic and political vision that strives to protect the legitimate members of society from the ebbs and flows of global finance and immigration; it seeks to create hope in the less fortunate by blaming society's ills on the least fortunate. It thrives on crisis

and decline, and mobilises movements by encouraging the masses to rise up against decay and attain power for the rightful heirs of the state, usually white 'natives'.

The fringe

The leader of Australia First is Jim Saleam, who is currently running in the electorate of Cook against Scott Morrison. He was a founder of National Action in the 1980s, a far-right nationalist group that plastered racist graffiti on shop walls, intimidated multicultural groups, and produced propaganda against the 'New World Order'; he was also convicted of his role in a shotgun attack on a member of the ANC, Nelson Mandela's party, when Mandela was visiting Australia, and conspiring to car bomb a political opponent.

"Hi, is this, uh, Jim – James – Sale-am?" I stumbled over my words; embarrassingly mispronouncing a name he greeted me on the phone with (it's "Say-lem"). It's difficult to find the right words when the phone is picked up by one of Australia's most notorious far-right leaders, but I manage. He speaks with a thick Australian accent, and sports a vocabulary one would expect from a PhD. His thesis, *The Other Radicalism: An Inquiry Into Contemporary Australian Extreme Right Ideology, Politics And Organization 1975-1995*, was supposedly written from a jail cell.

Jim Saleam refers to the aforementioned incidents as an "apocryphal history" that has now, unfortunately,

become a part of the movement he is now at the forefront of. This was a concerted attack by the media, according to Saleam, with claims of Lebanese ancestry in the Sydney Morning Herald to discredit and "ethnically cleanse" him. He also claims that he was "targeted by the state" and bullied by the Special Branch of the NSW Police Force, a "notorious organisation" known for monitoring left-wing activist groups. Now disbanded for its endemic corruption, Saleam admits that the Special Branch used far-right groups to assault left-wing groups.

"Morrison is all for refugees", he says when I ask about the election struggle in the Sutherland Shire. And Saleam? "Absolutely none." Saleam and Australia First propose deporting refugees back to their countries of origin, assisting them with grants funded by the seizure of assets from those who aid and abet asylum seeking. Saleam denies the label of fascism, and instead identifies with "Australian nationalism." He uses this label to defend the party's support of an Aboriginal sovereignty as a 'legitimate culture' of the continent that manifests in separatism, as "they can think whatever they want of European settlement ... but what's coming is the end of Indigenous society."

But Australia First is not the only far-right nationalist party – Pauline Hanson's One Nation, Rise Up Australia (RUA), and the Australian Protectionist Party (APP), parties recently infamous for their deals with minor libertarian and centrist groups in this election, promote similar views. But combating immigration and multiculturalism is only the most visceral policy tying the parties together; they also agree on the nationalisation of industry, banning foreign ownership, and expanding welfare to vulnerable Australian citizens – conditional on the expulsion of undesirables.

(Israel is a point of contention – Jim Saleam and Australia First considers Zionism as a danger to Australian society through its role in the media and corporations, while the APP and RUA self-identify as Zionists who see Israel as an ally against Islam.)

Appealing to the working class is a notable function of far-right nationalist and fascist mobilising, in contrast to the libertarian right that tends to have disdain for those in poverty. This isn't

anomalous, despite their right-wing tendencies: Franco developed a national trade syndicalist organisation, and Hitler saw the role of the state in mediating class conflict, a concept absent in classical liberalism and capitalism.

Far-right groups use this populist agenda in recruiting members who do not identify with the strict nationalism of the party line. I spoke to Troy Ellis, a candidate for APP in the Western Australian electorate of Swan. Ellis was a former member of the Greens and the ALP, and a participant in Amnesty International, Greenpeace, and the Australian Conservation Fund. Confused, I asked him why he joined the APP. "They sounded like a fairer party," noted Ellis. It was their taxation policy that drew him into the party, and he identified with the economic arguments of lowering immigration.

But he was unsure about the more extreme elements of the party. "I'm not such a hardliner on immigration myself ... there might be some in APP, but I'm less of a radical myself." The anti-Muslim stance of the party, a recent phenomenon in the far right, especially amongst RUA and One Nation, is also a topic of contention with Ellis. "The party takes a hard stance on Muslims, but I don't mind Muslims myself." He also spoke of his strong belief in justice for Palestinians. Ellis seemed uncomfortable with this dissonance with the party line. "But a lot of people who come here from Muslim countries are psychologically damaged." He buttressed his sincerity in wishing to "soften the party." Compare to co-founder Nicholas Folkes, who recently left the party and began the (more) anti-Islam Party for Freedom and believes that multiculturalism is a "failed policy" that has brought "chaos to Australia."

Similarly, the One Nation website explicitly denounces multiculturalism and multiracialism, but has members that are unaware or uncomfortable with this policy. When asked about the political line to abolish multiracialism, Rod Evans, the national contact for One Nation, replied: "I was not aware of that ... I do not adhere to that policy myself." But, along with the rest of his party, Evans believes that Australia's primary problem is with "the radical Muslim culture", an issue to be resolved through a policy of "deportation."



THE FASH

at neo-fascism this time

"Hi, is this, uh, Jim – James – Sa-le-am?" I stumbled over my words; embarrassingly mispronouncing a name he greeted me on the phone with (it's "Say-lem"). It's difficult to find the right words when the phone is picked up by one of Australia's most notorious far-right leaders...

The far right have capitalised on the issue of Islam to build an agenda of fascist and nationalist politics. Unlike 20th century fascism, the focus of the individual is located within a civilisation as opposed to a state. While the Nazi Party promoted the Aryan Germanic race, APP, One Nation and likeminded parties speak of the threats to Western civilization. Perhaps an intellectual response to The Clash of Civilisations thesis, or a strategic impulse to work with non-Anglo European ethnic groups against the new enemy, the far right analysis of global politics is one of conflict between Islam and the West.

Just like enemy combatants setting up camp beyond no man's land, Melanie Vassilou believes Muslims have created "ethnic enclaves in Auburn" that "make you feel like you're in Saudi Arabia." She sees the face veil as a risk to society, noting "paedophiles are taking advantage of the face veil." Running for RUA in Chisholm, Victoria, she rejects the racist label: "when you speak out on the issues, you can be perceived as racist." She notes that their leader is Sri Lankan, and, perhaps justifying her position, Jim Saleam denounces Rise Up Australia as a multiracial party.

The mainstream

But the germination of fascism lies not only in the fringe of politics, but has roots in the centre. A passing comment by Saleam on his past struck me: "our roots were in the Australian Labor Party." The White Australia Policy attracted the monoculturalists of nationalism move-

ment, but beyond this, the protectionist economics and belief in industrial nationalisation appeal to some of their left-wing tendencies. National Action, after all, classified themselves as National Bolsheviks, and Australia First's Queensland Senate candidate, Peter Watson, was a former member of the ALP and Stalinist League; Jack Lang is revered by many fascist groups in Australia; and the Victorian Socialist Party, a faction of the ALP early in the 20th century, developed a fascist tendency that dissolved into the Australia First Party.

Fascist elements also reside in the periphery of the Liberal Party in the hard right, or 'Taliban Right' or 'Uglies', faction. The roots of far right nationalism in the Liberals, that often comes into contention with the classical liberal and libertarian tendencies of the party began when the Nationalist Party merged with the United Australia Party, that soon after became the Liberal Party; likewise, the Young Nationals merged into the Young Liberals.

More uncomfortable for the party is Lyenko Urbanchich. He fled from Slovenia to Australia, having been a Nazi collaborator during the Second World War. When in Australia, he founded the Liberal Ethnic Council, using recent refugees and immigrants from the Soviet Bloc to intervene in the Liberal Party. Urbanchich was an outspoken critic of the threat of "Jewish-communism." Although eventually expelled from the party after decades of organising, when his anti-Semitic past came to light, his influence lives on. The hard right is, according to some accounts, the largest faction of the NSW Liberal Party; it is the spiritual homeland of Tony Abbott; and it is the philosophical foundation of the Sydney University Conservative Club, a member of which once admitted to sympathies with fascist philosophy.

The streets

Although many of the early nationalists in Australia have turned to political careers, the tendency in Europe has moved towards the opposite. Golden Dawn, for instance, organises on the street through demonstrates more than it does through parliamentary processes. The British National Party (BNP) has lost appeal in England, and

the English Defence League (EDL) has grown to a threatening size. It was the EDL, after all, that Anders Breivik communicated with prior to his massacre of young social democrats in vengeance against Islamic immigration.

Unlike the BNP, which sports a comprehensive conservative agenda, the EDL is particularly opposed to Islamic immigration. Note, for instance, that the EDL has a Sikh division, as well as an LGBT division. However, organisational liberalism does not hide the fascist tendencies of the movement, but instead is a tactical endeavour to build it; Italian fascism, after all, supported expanding democracy, including the universal suffrage of women, and artistic movements such as Futurism. Progressivism in some areas veils an overall reactionary agenda.

Like the EDL, the Australian Defence League (ADL) focuses specifically on Islam. But the ADL is a grassroots movement, utilising street demonstrations and mass mobilisation to affect change. My first encounter with the ADL was on a Facebook event, when a member threatened to murder me. Although most of its demonstrations are unsuccessful, it is a growing movement, one that encourages current discourses of disintegrating borders. Searching through the closed ADL Facebook group, users complain about "muzzies", promote gun culture against Islamic immigration, and refer to Muslims and left-wingers as "scum".

These groups are not the main organising tools of the movement, but do provide insight into the models through which ultra-nationalism and Islamophobia develop. The ADL may ultimately not be successful, but it is a glimpse into the future of reactionary activism – on the streets, in community groups, in churches and unions, at dinner parties. Skinheads and Nazis such as the Nationalist Alternative and Southern Cross Hammerskins likewise react on the streets. The old methods of the Left have been appropriated into a movement that is reacting against the supposed failure of the political class to protect Australians.

The response

Fascism is a word prolific in dusty archives but hushed in current affairs. It is a word that is historical, that is used to define the past, but one that can



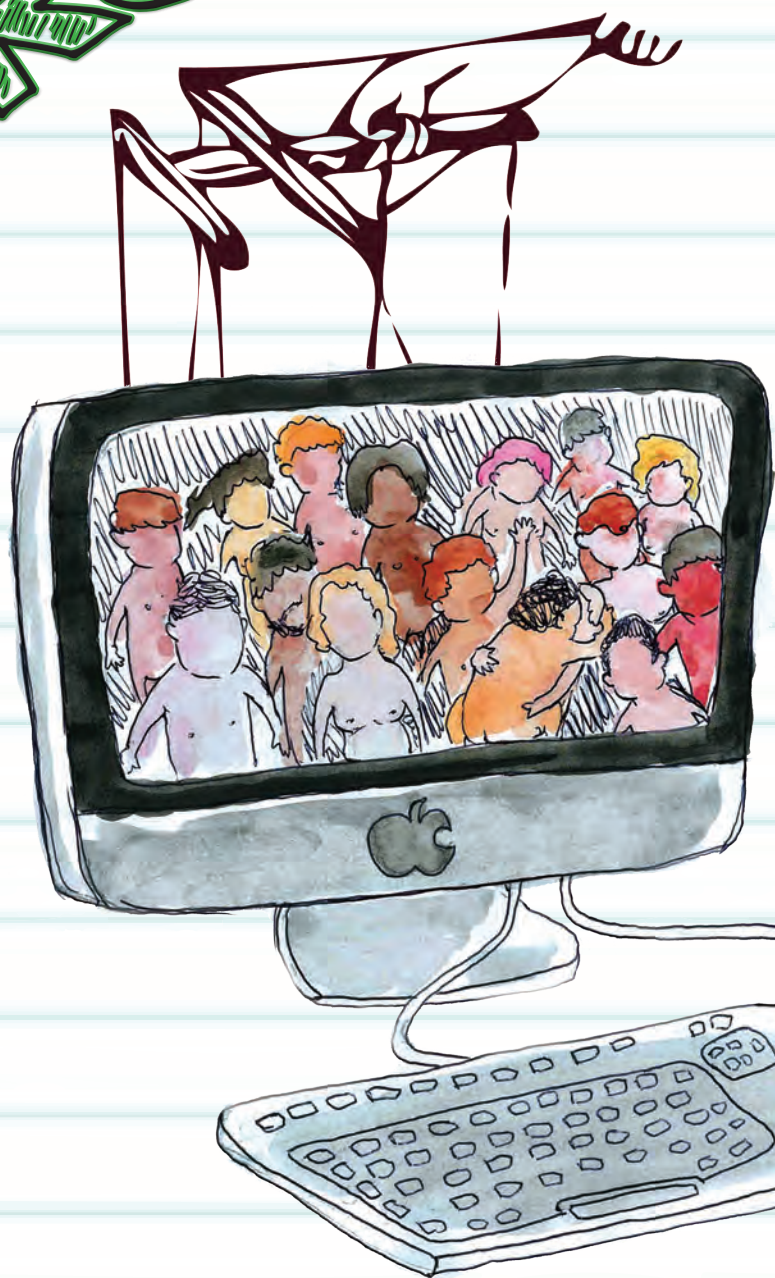
never happen again. We've moved on: fascism is passé, thrown into the dustbin of history where it pathetically lies.

But Australia is at risk of forgetting the dangers of fascism. From experience, the term 'fascism' is met with mockery – it is a term people define as an extreme, and Australia is seen as a country of moderation. Popular opinion divorces fascism from an intellectual history, from its philosophy, from its economic and political strategies, and from its realness.

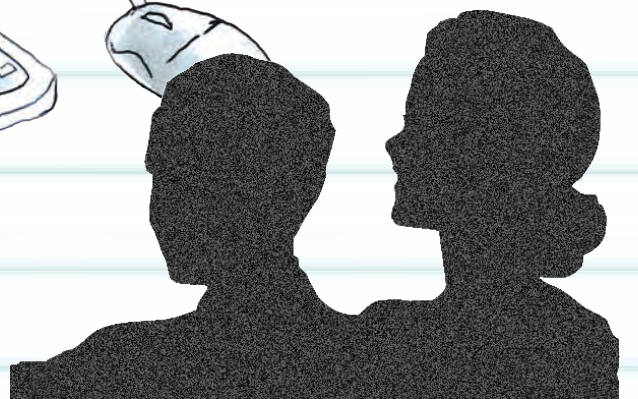
Although there are groups and individuals that oppose fascism in Australia, they fail to make an impression in public opinion. Anarchist blogger slackbastard follows the trends of fascism in Australia, but is a lone writer. Fight Dem Back was prolific in combating racial hatred in Australia, but is effectively defunct now. Compare this to the United Kingdom, where the National Union of Students holds a policy of 'No Platform', where office-bearers refuse to share a stage with members of fascist organisations; or where the Conservative, Labor, and Liberal Democrats collectively oppose the BNP, citing the legacy of Churchill who was a member of all three parties; or where the organisation Unite Against Fascism regularly demonstrates against fascist groups; as do squads of anti-fascist socialists and anarchists who clash with fascists in English communities.

One could argue that the rise of fascism is not likely in Australia. But the policies – or the trajectory of policies – of many of the groups mentioned in the article, say otherwise. While not every individual in One Nation or the Australian Protectionist Party may espouse negative attitudes towards migrants or non-white Australians, there is an organisational pressure to strengthen the state, to mobilising workers against immigrants, and to isolate Australia by solidifying its borders – and military. Authoritarianism, nationalism, and, ultimately, fascism are not ghosts of the past, but real existing tendencies in Australian politics.

PORN SOURCING



ARTS & CULTURE



Matilda Surtees did not crowdsource this article

The internet grows curious crops: one of the latest is adult entertainment crowd-funding websites. A handful of sites dedicated to allowing users to fund whichever X-rated project piques their interest have emerged over the past year. The most prominent is the cheekily named *Offbeatr*, launched last year and heralded as the ‘Kickstartr of porn.’ Similar to *Offbeatr* is the more recent *Fan Fund XXX* which more broadly aims to fund porn industry technology as well as content.

At *Offbeatr*, consumer involvement begins with the curation of the campaigns themselves, with users able to vote on which pitches they’d like to be approved to actually seek donations. “Customer or supporter interaction as the most important feature of our site,” explains Ben Tao, one of *Offbeatr*’s founders. Often creative input and influence is used to entice donations - *Neko Adventures* promised any pledge of \$1000 would let you direct the scene.

Although ultimately unsuccessful, *Neko Adventures* was characteristic of many of the projects *Offbeatr* supports: it wanted to “bring neko chans, aka. cat girls, to real life in hardcore pornographic fashion.” The campaigns that garner most support often cater to specific fantasies. Face-sitting is one of

the more traditional, and ‘furry fandom’ porn is one of the more common (think anthropomorphism meets smut). Tao explains that the popularity of alternative or niche content on their site is the result of the reluctance of porn studios to make content that might disrupt the well-tested formula of what “makes them the most money,” which is porn that plays out the typical hardcore tropes.

Reflecting on this reluctance, he observed that these studios become “victims of their own success in the sense that they’ve created so much content.” This content glut that clogs the industry is failing engage consumers in the way that crowd-sourced porn needs to in order for the model to work. The availability of free and totally interchangeable porn online has hurt the industry financially and creatively, and seems to have desensitised the consumer to the point of disengagement. Pete Housley, CEO of *Fan Fund XXX*, a site which works on a similar model, describes the success of crowd-funding porn as a result of increased consumer engagement. “Fans should be asked for input in the development of content and technology; they are the ultimate consumer of these products - and the perfect focus group.” He notes that “the

primary reason for the success of these type of non-traditional funding programs is social media.”

Adult entertainment is usually financed – or not, as amateurs have demonstrated – produced and then consumed privately, but as Housley describes, the public and communal nature of crowd-funding is its strength. While currently serving the kinkier or more whimsical varieties of porn, both Tao and Housley expect crowd-funding will be part of the future of adult entertainment. “The business requires change,” asserts Housley. “It is no longer a business model where the ‘build it and they will come’ model functions.”

The natural extroversion of crowd-funding is essential to its appeal and it seems possible that the proliferation of crowd-funded porn could help to change the tightly private nature of porn consumption. Mired in stigma, public discussion of pornography is often limited to legalities or depravities. The tacit acknowledgement of widespread consumption does little to alleviate the discomfort that accompanies frank discussion of what exactly we’re watching which in turn, cuts off the possibility of discussing how it might be impacting us. Crowd-funding creates a space where adult content is openly discussed by its

consumers, and, crucially, where the consumers are directly aware the role their consumption plays in creating content. Paring down the relationship between the viewer and their porn to one where the consumer directly engages with the production will perhaps help encourage productions that eschews some of the common tropes and degradations of mainstream porn.

A year before *Offbeatr* launched, author and academic Cordelia Fine published an indictment of the “dehumanising effects of smut” in *The Monthly*. It pointed to such tropes and argued that there are “clearly major issues with the practice” of commercial pornography which contribute to gender inequality. Crowd-funded porn could help to redress her concerns: the description for ‘Come To Me When You’re Ready’, a current *Offbeatr* pitch, states that “porn is a huge part of the culture we’re living in. Women can not just ignore porn, we have to participate and discuss this very influential genre.”

It’s hardly revolutionary that the media we consume shapes us; crowd-funding may offer us the chance to shape it back.

Cartoon: Bryant Apolonio

REVENGE OF THE PORN

You can't even have sex in peace anymore, laments **Grace Lin**

It's a common scenario at a concert with thousands of punters who are young, dumb and horny. A photo depicting a public indiscretion involving two people taken at an Eminem gig at Slane Castle in Ireland has been circulating the Internet for a couple of days. One person is on their knees, and the other is pantsless. It's not hard to figure out the gender of each participant, and to discern the subsequent level of respect afforded to the each of them by online arbiters of morality.

Hours after the photo went viral, #slanegirl on Twitter was commonly paired with epithets like "slut" and "dirty." Online spectators took to enact twisted vilification by finding her Facebook and Instagram in order connect sexual humiliation to a name. Facebook pages dedicated to nude pictures of women sent in by embittered exes took to the creation of misogynist memes, comparing her to a vacuum that'll "suck anything!" Apparently, she deserves all this humiliation for a harmless act. Even online attempts by women to

defend the 17 year-old teenager were met with threats of sexual violence.

What motivates this gendered disdain? Mixed messages about the 'correct' performance of femininity are not surprising when women aren't even considered the legitimate owners of their own bodies. Dress sexy for the male gaze, but don't be surprised if you are treated accordingly (read: you were asking for it). Be desirable for male consumption, but don't express desire on your own terms. The idealised woman exists in a perpetual state of docility and innocence, only as a willing recipient for male sexual desire or behind closed doors, and only after having been necessarily conquered by male initiative.

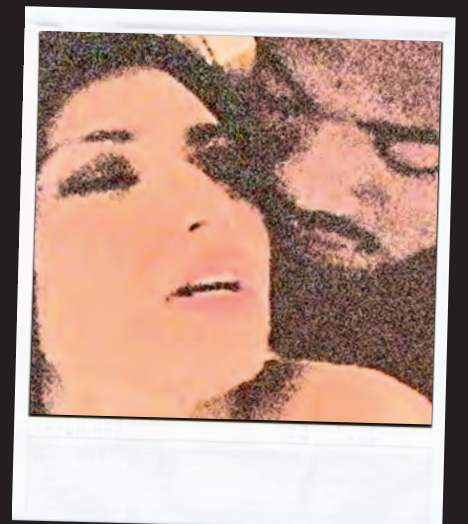
Compare this reaction to the relative anonymity afforded to the man. If women are considered secondary supplicants, then men are coded as sexual crusaders. According to contemporary sexual mores, receiving oral sex is an expression of power as long as you're male. Just look at any safe-for-work version of the picture: his hands are lifted in

triumphant pride in a thumbs act gesture, and his name has not been plastered online to thousands in order to shame him. In fact, #slaneboy has been commonly accompanied by praise and applause.

Many also took this fiasco as a depressing reminder to never have daughters. Yes, she is the daughter of a father. But this line of reasoning serves to perpetuate that in order to be worthy of respect and protection, the bodily integrity of women needs to be considered by their relation to men. These same people bemoaning the wayward direction of contemporary women also asked, with a glib mix of contempt and pity, why she would choose to suck dick in a public place. That's the first thing that comes to mind. Why did decide to? Why did she get on her knees? Why did she open her mouth? Yet no one asked why this man would consent to receiving oral sex in broad daylight. We've come to internalise this blasé boys will be boys attitude where social judgment based on considerations of purity are considered

irrelevant to considerations of male sexuality. Men are not victims to the pernicious and unrelenting sexual scrutiny that women are subject to.

Everyone wants to think that the world is fair, and this teenager simply deserved the level of harassment for doing something ill informed. But the world isn't fair, particularly to women, and people should consider with a semblance of compassion as to whether having her life ruined for some unfortunately public oral is just desserts.



Bathhouses aren't just for bathing

Lucy Hughes Jones profiles notorious New Yorker, Steve Ostrow

While marriage equality may be on the election agenda now, back in 1960s New York it was illegal for two men to even be seen dancing together. It was in this climate, one year before the Stonewall riots of 1969, that Steve Ostrow opened the Continental Baths on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Boasting the largest indoor swimming pool in the world at the time, the notorious venue was a mecca for gay men that sparked a sexual revolution. It also launched the careers of Barry Manilow and Bette Midler, earning her the nickname 'Bathhouse Betty'.

The Continental's 81-year-old American founder now lives in Sydney, and is the subject of a Canadian documentary screening this month at the Possible Worlds Film Festival. At the forefront of the gay liberation movement in NYC, Ostrow moved to Australia 27 years ago and founded Mature Aged Gays (MAG) -the largest organisation of its kind in the world- and this year was acknowledged with a NSW Seniors' Week Achievement Award in the field of Health and Wellbeing.

Housed at the former site of the legendary Ansonia Hotel on 74th and Broadway, Ostrow and his wife Joanne provided a safe environment where closet gay men could check their everyday lives into a locker with their coats and have hot anonymous sex without fear of being arrested.

A highpoint of hedonism, the baths were open 24/7 with 400 rooms, a

sauna, a steam room and two large orgy rooms. There was also a disco, rooftop bar, hair salon, boutique and upscale restaurant to entertain guests in between orgasms. Concerned about health risks, Ostrow installed a medical clinic where people could be tested for STIs, and there was a room for rabbis and priests on Fridays and Sundays to hold religious services.

When the Continental first opened its doors there was a line around the block, and Ostrow says 20,000 customers came through each week. But the venue was also subjected to constant police raids during the first year.

"You didn't open a bathhouse in the city of New York at that time without paying off the police and the mafia," Ostrow says.

"They'd send a good looking undercover cop into the bathhouse, he'd get into a towel, go into the steam room and wait for someone to touch him. Then he'd pull out the handcuffs from underneath his towel and arrest that person, and everybody else in the place."

Tired of bailing his patrons out, the Brooklyn-born entrepreneur resorted to bribery, buying \$4000 worth of tickets to the 'Policeman's Ball' every Friday night off a plainclothes cop. Ostrow was also afforded protection from the mob by agreeing to install vending machines on his premises that they could launder money through.

An accomplished opera singer himself,

Ostrow opened the baths to the general public for performances from stars like Patti LaBelle, Sarah Vaughan and opera diva Eleanor Steber, making it the place to be on a Saturday night for high society.

"You could come in, see the show, but then at two o'clock in the morning the lights would go up and you either got into a towel or got out," says Ostrow. "And you'd be surprised at how many people got into a towel."

Ostrow and his wife were instrumental in decriminalising homosexuality in NYC, gathering 250,000 signatures from petitions held outside the Continental and marching on City Hall in 1972.

"Two years later we had homosexuality removed from the American Medical Association's list of pathological disorders," he says. "So homosexual people were no longer criminals and no longer sick."

Ostrow was glad to get out of the sex industry before the advent of AIDS.

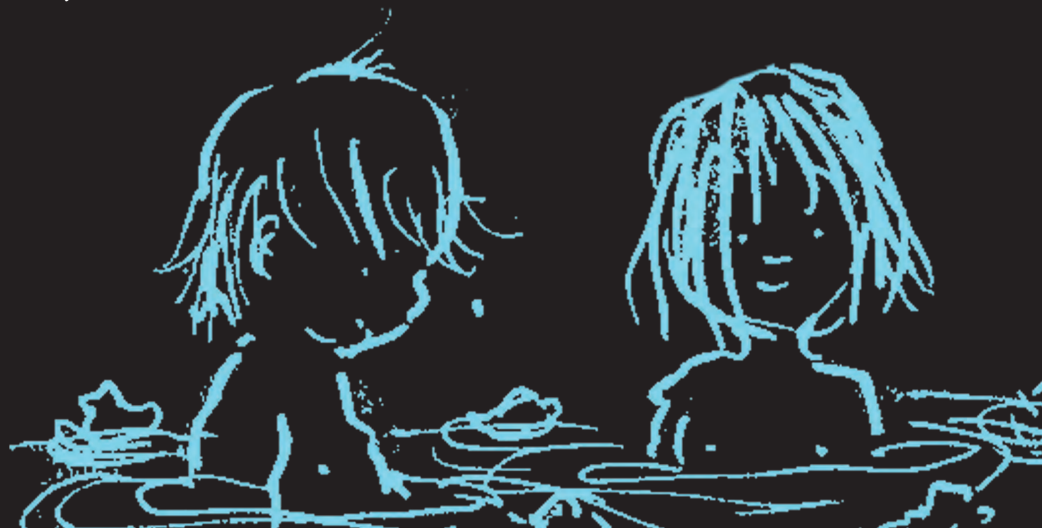
"I didn't want to make a dollar out of anybody dying," he says.

He moved to the other side, volunteering for the AIDS Council of NSW for 22 years and founding MAG in 1991, which provides a platform for older men to address issues of isolation, loss of partners and fear for the future.

What first began as a business venture transformed Ostrow, a man who was coming to terms with his own sexuality. Although he had male partners, Ostrow remained married to his wife, who became a nun in the last 10 years of her life.

"Joanne was my best friend my whole life, we have two children, three grandchildren, one great grandchild," he says.

"I'm not gay, I'm not straight, I'm not bisexual... I'm a sexual person, and for me it's either good or bad, so why give up 50 per cent of the population? To me the important thing is love."



Drunk driving and other civil liberties

Lucy Watson went gay clubbing in Texas and lived to tell the tale

In anticipation of crossing the border into Texas, we all bought trucker caps. Cruising down highway 84, we pass Texico, New Mexico, and then: Welcome to Texas. A billboard condemns Obama; yep, we're definitely in Texas now.

After a few wrong turns, we arrive at our hotel in Lubbock, TX. I'd done my research, and found a gay bar on Buddy Holly Ave. Sounds cute, right? We get the hotel to call us a cab, and wait outside. Our driver, Robyn, tells us about her grandson, born today. "He's got a good ol' fashioned Texas name: Jimmie Rae," she tells us. "A Texas name with New Mexico spelling, you see, it's Jimmie with an i-e." She goes on to tell us about the daughter-in-law's miscarriage last year, and recommend that if we want some real fun in Texas, skip Austin and head straight for Dallas. "Oh, there's so many dance bars there, y'all just have the best time in Dallas!"

She drops us off on Buddy Holly Ave, giving us her number so we can get her to pick us up later. "And if I'm out on a run, I'll just get my husband to come get y'all!" After a large dinner, in which the barmaid confused bourbon and whiskey and we were all full after the sides, we head down the road to

Heaven, Lubbock TX's only gay bar.

There's one block of clubs on Buddy Holly Ave, Lubbock TX. Each club has its own car park, and each club's music spills onto the street. Heaven is not on this one block. It's only one block down, but separated from the other clubs by huge industrial buildings. The club's logo features a sexualised female angel. Dylan turns to me: "are you sure this is a gay bar and not a strip joint?" I'm not sure. What if it was a strip joint? As we approach the industrial tin shed building, the outside patio becomes visible. The men up there are definitely gay, it's fine.

We pay our entry and head into a cavernous room, lit with blue light, poles adorning the border of the dancefloor. The bar is a congregation of all the types – the baby dykes who look like they definitely used fake ID, the older gay men in their crisp polo shirts, the twinks in early 2000s boy band getup, the bears, the fag hags, the sassy drag queens, and of course, the backwards-capped-frat-boy from "New York-fucken'-City!" who now lives in Lubbock "because my boss pays me a shitload to live in this freakin' dump," and is at Heaven because it's the only place he's likely to score some coke in "Lubbock-freaken-Texas!"

We take a seat on the patio, and frat-boy soon joins us. He's shouting about drugs, and shots, and New York, and Lubbock-freaking-Texas, and we're quickly bored. He attempts to grab the attention of one of the drag queens: "Hey! Lady!" she turns, looks him up, then down, and just wags her finger at him. "No," she mouths, and turns away. Frat-boy looks dejected and turns back to us. I finally shake him off by convincing him that the two fag-hags in the corner are dying to do shots with him. "Shots! Shots! Shots!" he cheers as he leaves. We watch a guy in a fluoro mesh singlet brave the pole, but I'm pretty bored. The gay bar in Phoenix was cheaper (\$3.50 for a vodka? Take your sky-high prices elsewhere, thank you) and had better music.

We leave, assuming that a cab is not a difficult thing to get on a Saturday night. We were wrong. Drunk drivers are speeding past in all directions – DUI laws are an infringement of civil liberties after all, and Texas is truly the land of the free – and now we've left the safety zone, shouts of "fuck-ing dykes!" are echoing around us. We eventually head into a bar and get them to call us a cab.

"Aussies?!" The cabbie shouts at us.

FIRST PERSON



It's clear he's drunk too. "Are you the Aussies Robyn picked up earlier?!" I guess not many people visit Lubbock, TX. He gets Robyn on the radio. "Hey y'all! I realised y'all might not have a phone to call me on, so I did a few laps to see if I could see y'all to take y'all home!" As our current driver swerves into another lane, we're all wishing we'd seen when Robyn was doing one of her laps.

The driver uses his elbows to drive, so he can more freely gesticulate in his conversation with us. He's horrified we're headed to Austin next day. "Austin?! Why would y'all go there?! Nah, San Antonio is where it's at! It's so much fun there! It's like the Convention Centre capital of the world! Texas' own Vegas!" He swerves back into our original lane. We politely agree that San Antonio sounds 'great'.

When we make it back to the hotel, I'm genuinely surprised we're still alive. As we walk down the corridor toward our room, I nod to the drag queens down the hall.

They're not from here, either.

Fashion blogs: Gevinson, Rookie, and critique

OPINION

Ellen O'Brien gives us a rundown of the world of fashion blogging

Gevinson's alternating feminist and fashion focuses seem irreconcilable. Feminism feels out of place at the front row of fashion shows, where bloggers are now often placed, so as to signify their dominance in that world.

In the last decade blogging has been lauded for allowing the fashion scene to become more diverse and less exclusive. Fashion blogging is the new 'it' girl of the media scene. Bloggers have become brands unto themselves, as evidenced by the arrival of Tavi Gevinson, the 17-year-old fashion blogger and editor-in-chief of *Rookie* magazine, an unabashedly feminist publication targeted towards teenage girls. Now, all one needs to become a fashion writer is an internet connection, a decent camera, and an outstanding sense of style. Blogging is the media of democracy; what is popular, and therefore successful, is that which is most loved by the people. This makes the connection between bloggers and their fans crucial to creating a workable business.

Despite this newfound level of accessibility, it is arguable whether successful bloggers have diversified fashion at all, or whether they are simply perpetuating pre-existing beauty standards in order to further their own enterprise. Even those who entered the fashion arena simply to document their own style can

be swept away by offers of free clothing and cross-promotion. Arabelle Sicardi, who runs the blog Fashion Pirate – a mix of critical fashion discussion and personal style documentation – argues that this can impact a blogger's authenticity. "It is sometimes hard to discern if people are blogging their daily outfit posts because they are constantly getting new free things sent to them under the obligation that they have to blog about them," she said, "or if they are blogging their daily outfits because they really just want to talk about their outfits every day". When it comes down to it, bloggers are still at the mercy of their readers – they are the ones that the writer must please, as they are the ones who determine the writer's relevance and revenue. Labels and companies are also extremely influential, offering high-profile campaigns to bloggers, the majority of whom are tall, thin, and write glowing reviews. That is, they basically mimic fashion magazines, abandoning any level of freedom provided by their unique position.

But why should bloggers feel obliged to create waves? Many personal style bloggers claim that they have no need to be critical of either brands or themselves, as their blog is merely a documentary of their style from day to day. But this argument becomes arbitrary once you consider the money being made from

these looks. As Sicardi noted, the work of fashion bloggers is "certainly not image production just for the sake of image production." Surely if bloggers are making personal financial gains by exploiting narrow pre-existing standards of beauty, they should be held to some level of accountability.



Tavi Gevinson

The pressure to be honestly critical, possibly through the implementation of a standardised code of ethics, could assist in making bloggers more aware that their work is not created in a vacuum; that they have the ability to be more than just glorified advertisers for big brands.

However, it is also unfair to lump all of the blame on the blogger without considering why exactly the fashion

industry favours certain beauty over others. As Autumn Whitefield-Madrano, from *The Beheld*, observed that, "the reason the question is relevant isn't so much because of the world of fashion and beauty, but because of the world at large." Indeed, we are the ones who read the work of homogenised blogs, validating their lack of critique, encouraging brands to engage them, and lapping up their every floaty syllable. If the audience is what determines a blogger's success, then the audience also has the power to demand content that they wish to read. There are numerous fringe bloggers, like Sicardi, who have created their own niche and are pushing the boundaries within it, collecting a sizeable readership along the way. Perhaps if readers truly wanted beauty standards to be subverted, they would be wholeheartedly supporting blogs that demand a more in-depth analysis than that provided in the mainstream.

While fashion is often considered frivolous and unimportant, fashion bloggers have the ability to construct identities and sell ideologies along with material goods. But they can also challenge current mainstream fashion discourse by rejecting and subverting existing standards. Ultimately, demand for such critique does not currently exist. Who knows if it ever will?

BROKEN WINDOW THEORY: PUB TOILET EDITION

high brow
Low Brow

Max Weber applies criminological theory to public pub toilets

It's a Monday afternoon. The Abercrombie has ten dollar lunches, ten dollar jugs and there's a strike tomorrow. The 'crombie's beer-garden restroom – smelling like copper; walls asphalt-coloured – is plastered with a thousand stickers of amateur club promoters and graffiti writers. The real problem though, is the urinal trough – a painfully awkward size, with just enough width that two people can squeeze alongside of each other. All public urinals turn the act of peeing from a simple biological requirement into something approaching a delicate and anxious choreography, but at Abercrombie this holds especially true.

The inviting copout, and a chance to avoid rubbing shoulders with another punter, is a solitary cubicle tucked into the corner of the bathroom. It's usually filthy, so I habitually avoid it, but on this visit it's early enough so that it won't be too bad. A full roll of toilet paper and a pristine seat indicate that I'm the first visitor, but I still don't particularly want to touch the seat. With practiced aim I hit the sloping porcelain sides rather than the water, a childhood habit and another anxious tic. The tactic backfires when, finishing up, a lone droplet finds its way onto the toilet seat. Rather than wiping it off though, I leave without cleaning it. My justification is that, by the evening, the toilet will be a mess of urine anyway. And indeed a subse-

quent visit confirms that by the end of the night the pub toilet had become a crowded, messy canvas, slashed at, dripped on and draped in toilet paper, like some particularly offensive collaborative art project. The degeneration of a public bathroom might seem inevitable – and anecdotal evidence indicates it is (ever gone into Town Hall station's toilets?) – but the reasons stem from the literal first drop, a notion known as 'Broken Window' theory.

Criminologists James Q Wilson and George Kelling coined the term 'Broken Window' in 1982, Malcolm Gladwell later popularised it and Banksy subsequently mocked it in his 2005 manifesto *Wall and Piece*, but the theory originated with an experiment by Stanford psychologist Philip Zimbardo in the late 1960's. Zimbardo set up an experiment with two abandoned cars – one in a poor neighbourhood, one in a better-off one. Within minutes the abandoned car in the poor suburb (in the Bronx) was set upon and pillaged. It was stripped bare in hours, and within days had become part of the proverbial furniture, so suited to its surrounds that kids were using it as an impromptu playground. Meanwhile, in the well-off suburb, the car sat unattended and unmolested for a week.

The experiment indicated that disorder and crime are inexorably linked, and that degeneration and escalation of

crime ensues when an area has a sense of unkemptness. But what of the 'broken window'? In Zimbardo's experiment, the car in the better-kempt neighbourhood was untouched – until Zimbardo himself went and took a sledgehammer to the windshield, at which point the same trashing of the vehicle as had happened in the Bronx began. The broken window then, is analogous to my lone drop of urine on the seat – a trigger, an invitation to disorder, indicative that no-one cares. Like all the best theories, the pattern becomes self-fulfilling in practice – the tradie who goes into the cubicle after me sees my lack of respect for the space, and adjusts accordingly by not lifting the seat, not flushing, or not cleaning up his own mess.

The pertinent point of Wilson and Kelling is not only that people are predisposed to acting in a less regulated way in spaces that have reputations for violence or disorder – the Bronx, the public bathroom – but that the domino effect of the broken window (or soiled toilet seat) is reliant upon the figurative sledgehammer. The twin ideas that dis-

order begets more disorder and that places predisposed to such disorder are more likely to have crime may seem wittingly self-evident. But in practice, the evocation of such laws is startling. Wilson and Kelling ended their 'Broken Windows' paper by stating "the police – and the rest of us – ought to recognise the importance of maintaining intact communities without broken windows".

They might as well have said "don't be the guy who pees on the seat."



Exhibit A

How Hospitality Companies Control Your Social Life

Blythe S Worthy takes us behind the scenes of Sydney's hospitality industry

The hospitality industry is one of the main earners of the tourist dollar in Sydney. We're a party town with a big mouth and people jump at the chance to attend events of any persuasion... Especially if it's the opening of a new small bar. Since the advent of 'Shady Pines Culture', small bars have been popping up all over the place, mainly due to their success by way of the Small Bar License agreement introduced by Clover Moore and the Sydney City Council in 2008. On the Sydney Council website, it states "The City of Sydney is accelerating work on a coordinated approach to the City's late night economy. We aim to attract a wider range of people into the city centre... Having more options will create a safer, more balanced and more interesting late night economy" the key word being "Safer" – directly addressing the violence and general sloppiness of the Kings Cross area. The thing is, minute watering holes aren't all owned by the small people we'd like to believe exist out the back changing kegs and counting tips. Let's take a closer look at those 'Small independent bars' you love to frequent and see who's really behind the scenes, and how they sell whatever's

drawing us in for that sweet "late night economy."

Merivale

Vibe: Classy, rich, rock star, cocaine, corporate, models, edge and colour. This empire was built for one reason; So that Justin Hemmes could access young money and old money struggling to be young. And it worked. Hemmes lines his bars with yuppie-paper, and they stick to it like flies squirming in the midmorning sun.

Venues: Ivy, Beresford, Ms. G's, The Royal George, Tank Stream Bar, Palmer & Co., Mr. Wong, Chinese Laundry, Establishment Bar, Ash St. Cellar, Angel Hotel

Keystone

Vibe: Hip, event-heavy (Live art etc), MDMA, bartenders and waiters in kooky outfits (bright colours, paisley aprons, striped shirts, band shirts), good old pub food (with an American twist?). Keystone somehow comes across as low key Merivale, They hold their staff to a pretty strictly-enforced procedure-focused regime. They have a very earnest marketing department that endeavors to hit whatever notes Meri-

vale has such seemingly easy access to.

Venues: The Winery, The Loft, The Sugarmill Complex (Including Kit n Kaboodle and Sweethearts Rooftop), The Rook, Newtown Hotel, Manly Wine, Gazebo, Cargo, Bungalow 8

Urban Placement Group

Vibe: Tourist and Yuppie focused. Cocktails, Mock Merivale look, efficiency, German, Beer, steins, food, food and more food. More of a focus on quality, mostly in the produce sector instead of the customer service. Not as much training as other venues, but they still have a tip system based on a cocktail and service test.

Venues: Lowenbrau, all Bavarian Beer Cafes and everything within The Argyle complex at The Rocks (Sake, Ananas, The Cut, The Argyle).

Baby Hospitality Companies

Vibe: "Crumb on the walls" also described as "Vintage... playing silly music" Big on spirits and beer. These guys are the hip flavour in Sydney at the moment, and their initial low-cost set ups rake in the cash from folks of any persuasion. It seems speakeasy music, neat scotch, moustaches, loose-fitting

shirts and vintage light fittings are here to stay.

Venues: Shady Pines, Frankies, Tio's (collaboratively) and The Baxter Inn

Drink 'n' Dine Group

Vibe: Pub food, beer, pretty lighting, sports bars, Aussie Aussie Aussie, music and fried stuff.

Venues: The Abercrombie, The Norfolk

Pocket Group

Vibe: Slightly more elite, these bars feature more of a focus on cocktails in the traditional sense, akin to that of the Eau De Vie boys. The décor has had plenty of money spent on it, and the bartenders more trained towards customer service than some other small places. They are, however, notorious for underpaying some of their staff.

Venues: Pocket, Button, Stitch

So there you have it - the small bars we go to and the people who create the atmosphere we love. The larger companies are heavily reliant on hierarchy and procedure and so aren't very flexible on staff due to their adherence to this style of management.

LAW REVUE: LOVE CONTRACTUALLY

Conniving law students convinced **Lucy Hughes Jones** that she was contractually bound to write a positive review

The 2013 Law Revue aspired to a new benchmark this year, with a bar set mighty high from a tradition stretching back to the 60s, including acts like The Chaser boys, and plenty of law firm sponsorship.

Each skit in *Love Contractually* lasted no more than a minute (catering to those of us in the audience with short attention spans - I only checked my phone twice) and were just cause for applause, whether it was Keats by Dr Dre, Miley Cyrus' floor-bound body contortions, or Penny Wong on a skateboard.

The highlights were the big song numbers comprising all 35 cast members. 'Pyongyang!' to the tune of 'She Bangs' by Ricky Martin saw North Korea's military marches gain some gyrate-rich choreography, and 'Be Prepared', a rendition of the Lion King anthem aptly satirised the doomsday predictions of nut job opponents to gay marriage.

Special note goes to the talents of the eight-piece jazz ensemble that could play anything from the 'Numa Numa song', 'The Stonecutters' 'We do' theme song from The Simpsons, to Macklemore's Thrift Shop... and then played naked.

One of the biggest laughs came from directors Anthea Burton and Sam Farrell's novelty sized interpretation of what earphones get up to inside your pocket, but the majority of skits hit the spot eliciting genuine laughter, with only 5 or so a miss.

Subeta Vimalarajah kinda liked Commerce Revue

I went to Commerce Revue with no expectations. I imagined jokes about the misapplication of statistics formulae and reasons for market failure and not much else. Suffice to say, these judgments were entirely misguided. In fact, I left feeling shameful about my utter mischaracterisation of Commerce students.

It was approachable. The challenge with any revue is striking the balance between jokes that your fellow faculty mates will appreciate and ones that your supportive friends/Dad/sister/general public will also find funny. There were a few Commerce related skits, like "The Three Marketeers" that provided a nice point of consistency, but were balanced out by humorous takes on current issues - the Tony Abbott song was a personal love. Testament to the approachability was the continued laughter of the old guy next to me who seemed to feel less awkward about the masturbation jokes than I.

The dancing was awesome. And I don't mean awesome like everyone raised their left arm and kicked out their right leg in perfect unison. It wasn't the tried and tested basic moves that usually make up the supporting act to song lyrics. In fact, there were two songs that focused solely on the dancing, which was a refreshing touch. The music was

While the adventures of 'Law Horse' around campus were hilarious, the hoarse voices of the cast were not. The croakiness of the lead singer did them no justice in the final number - understandable after a fourth night of performance - with her voice increasingly sounding like a wailing cat until it broke completely.

And I was a little disappointed in the nude skit, expecting to bear witness to full-frontal wang, but perhaps that's just me being greedy.

All in all it earned eight shimmythrusters out of 10. Looking forward to Law Revue 2014: Snakes on a Plaintiff.

Andrew Bell remarks on the high quality of Law Revue and its corporate sponsorship. Are the two connected?

There was something in the (sponsored by law firms Gadens and Herbert Smith Freehills) air last Saturday night at Sydney Law Revue: *Love Contractually*. Primed and hyped as the highlight of the Revue season, it definitely delivered.

The satire was incredibly astute, the singing incredible and the huge body of skits (the entire show went for three hours including intermission) wasn't repetitive or boring. The impersonations (including three Julia Gillards simultaneously) were also spot on and large dance numbers shone - the appropriation of the Lion King's 'Be Prepared' for the evil plot of gay marriage was a personal

highlight. Michael Kirby also made a video-cameo as a mature age student in the JD program.

It is a testament to the quality of the show is that they didn't feel the need to be purely crass or offensive, the pitfall of many revues of the past. '*Love Contractually*' actually had the content to justify a longer performance. The response to the show was uniformly positive as well - the variety of the skits meant that it could cater to the entire audience. We were looking at the polished end-result of a mammoth production.

All in all I think it will be very difficult for another revue to top this throughout the season. With Saturday being the final show I can't recommend you go see it, but if you didn't, you should have.



Law students also make this face when they get a bad mark. Photo: Hanna Kim Hong

Alisha Aitken-Radburn thinks Comm Revue's stocks are on the increase

having the best time on stage. Highlights included the bromance sketch and the brilliant singing talent in the *Les Mis* parody about Stats 101. The animated clip art that could not animate the teacher's heart drew much appreciate applause.

Les Biz ticked all the key boxes for a good Revue this year - a sketch about Abbott, a prop with an unclear effort to comedic pay-off ratio and some nudity. It's a shame Law also did a 'Be Prepared' parody: Comm's was good, but was eclipsed by Law's. The directors, Jonah Vogelmann and Sophie Edmonds should be very proud of their own efforts and the entire cast.



Cya, capitalism

just as great.

Which isn't to say it wasn't flawed. A lot of the humour was cheap and borderline politically incorrect, inciting a couple of "oooh"s from audience members. The accusation of being a rapist in the plagiarism skit, the illustrated details of Curious George's confusions regarding female anatomy and infanticide of the royal baby were probably the top offenders. That being said, the disregard for political correctness was probably also why it was so funny. In the weigh up between a few moments of questioning offense against the hilarity of the Wiggles being high and running over a woman in the Big Red Car, potential offense had a marginal effect on my viewing experience.

just as great.

All in all, I was pleasantly surprised, and not just because I had low expectations. I'd definitely go again next year and even the thought that I wouldn't have gone without free *Honi* tickets makes me sad.

Titled with a cheeky pun, the 2013 Commerce Revue - *Les Biz* - was set to be even bigger and better than the Business School's last offering from the get go.

The Revue was held in the Everest Theatre, middle ground between the huge York Theatre and the Reginald which hosts the smaller Revues like Queer and Education. Commerce Revue's location also perfectly matches its revue status: it is not quite at the level of your Law or Science Revue but still attracts a crowd bigger than Engineering.

Some sketches, dance numbers and singing all seemed to just need that little bit more energy to really take it up to that other level - the 'Life Could be a Dream' dance was great, but left the audience wondering what the point was. That said, Commerce Revue has improved in leaps and bounds from 2012, with an amazingly talented cast who seemed like they were genuinely

COMMERCE REVUE: LES BIZ

Have you been overpaid by Centrelink?

If Centrelink write to say you've been overpaid Youth Allowance or Austudy and owe them money don't ignore it. Deal with it straight away and quickly.

An overpayment occurs if you get paid too much. Check their letter. It may be because they think you have not declared your correct income or have not told them that you have gone part-time (i.e less than 18 cp per semester)

Check the facts. Check your University or financial records to see if you really have been overpaid. You may need to ask for a copy of your Centrelink 'file' too.

If the debt is legitimate, check that it is the correctly calculated amount. They deal with thousands of people everyday. It would not be unheard of for them to make a mistake. Did they get the dates and amounts right? If they get it wrong then appeal.

If you have had a problem ("breach") with them before you may also be charged a further 10% penalty. They can give you this penalty also if you have been reckless or misleading when giving them information. You can appeal a 10% penalty too.

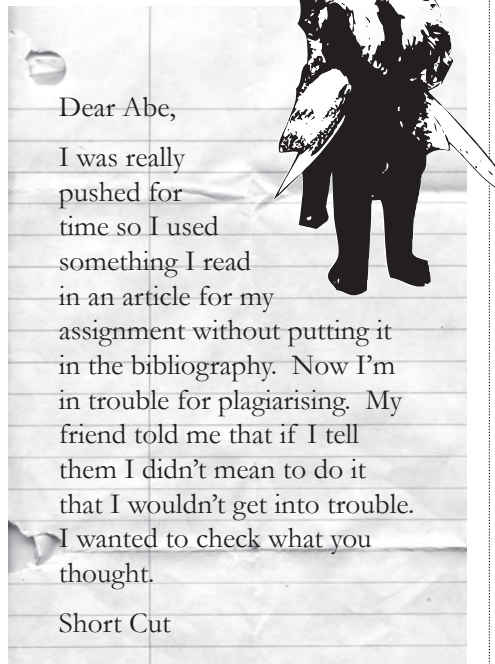
Ideally you would pay off your debt as quickly as possible. Talk to the University's Financial Assistance Office to see if they will give you an interest free loan. Paying them quickly will show Centrelink that you genuinely want to mend the error of your ways. But if you have no way of paying it

off, negotiate a payment plan with them. They can also take it out of your on-going Centrelink payment. They may want to take more money than you can likely afford. Be prepared to explain to them how this will cause you financial hardship by outlining how much you spend on things like rent, food and medication. The main thing is to keep in contact with them.

If you have deliberately given incorrect information that has caused an overpayment, this is a serious issue. For example, if you have been working, but have not declared you income, and you have accumulated a debt of over \$10,000 (or lower in some other circumstances) Centrelink will not only have you repay the debt but also try to prosecute you for fraud, which can carry a sentence of up to 12 months in gaol. The SRC strongly recommends that you consult with a SRC Help caseworker before talking to Centrelink. In general we suggest you only consider answering questions in writing, and do not answer any questions in a recorded interview.

If you have been overpaid because of a mistake that they made, not due to incorrect or false information from you, then you may be able to keep that money even though it is an overpayment. There are some reasonably rare occasions where you may be able to get your debt written off or waived (cancelled). Of course there are conditions. Talk to SRC Help about this too.

Ask Abe



Dear Abe,

I was really pushed for time so I used something I read in an article for my assignment without putting it in the bibliography. Now I'm in trouble for plagiarising. My friend told me that if I tell them I didn't mean to do it that I wouldn't get into trouble. I wanted to check what you thought.

Short Cut

Dear Short Cut,

You are already in trouble because you plagiarised. The first thing you should do is talk to an SRC Caseworker about your situation. You would probably be best served by telling the truth about what you did and why. You should have correctly referenced it, and you should be diligent with future assessments. Be prepared to accept a zero for that assignment as a minimum penalty. However you should be aware that the maximum penalty for plagiarism is to be expelled from the University. Note here, that it is just as bad to copy from your own previous assignment, as it is another piece of work, without using correct referencing.

Abe

International Students

Did you know you may be able to apply for a "holiday credit" on your health insurance for the time you are not in Australia?

For those with coverage from OSHC Worldcare you need to be out of Australia for 30 days or more, and be able to present your passport, boarding passes or travel tickets. This credit cannot be paid out until the end of your degree.

If your coverage is with another company call them to see if they have a similar arrangement.

You must apply within 30 days of returning, so hurry.



The Ask Abe column has been a feature in Honi Soit since 2001. During that time, Abe, the SRC's welfare dog has provided advice to students about Centrelink problems, academic appeals, accommodation situations, shortages of money, University procedures and a variety of other situations.

Unfortunately on 21st June, 2013, Abe died. He was a few months short of his 18th birthday, and had lived a grand life, full of adventure and love. While the SRC is sad to have lost such a wise and insightful canine, we will continue to produce this column in his memory. If there are any questions you would like to ask send an email to: help@src.usyd.edu.au.

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President's Report

president@src.usyd.edu.au

David Pink gave us the same report as last week

The Student Bill of Rights

In your dealings with the University and its staff you have a right to:

Representation

At all times either as a group or an individual you have the right to seek representation. Your SRC can and will advocate on behalf of students.

No Sexual Harassment

Students have the right to freedom from sexual harassment and other offensive material and behavior.

No Discrimination

Every student has the right to be free from discrimination based on a characteristic or condition such as race, sex, disability, and sexuality. This includes the behavior of University staff and fellow students.

Disability Support

All students with a disability have a right to expect action by the administration or teaching staff to accommodate their specific needs. This includes lecture taping and the provision of course notes.

Appeal

You have the right to expect timely, confidential, procedurally fair and unbiased appeals, academic exclusion/satisfactory progress or misconduct decisions.

Privacy and Confidentiality

You have the right to ensure that the University does not disclose any of your personal information including marks to other without your formal consent.

Freedom of Information

The University often keeps a file on all students. Every student has the right

to access their file. Students also have the right to see their exam papers after have been marked.

Assessment Criteria Information

Students have the right to clear and early written information about all your assessment requirements. These requirements should not change without equal written notice being provided to students.

Assessed Against Explicit Criteria

Grades or marks that are best determined on the basis of performance against clear criteria or standards rather than by reference to the performance of the group.

Special Consideration

If students suffer illness, misadventure or is impeded from meeting assessment criteria you have the right to be granted special consideration.

Consultation Time with Academic Staff

While staff are very busy, all teaching staff should be required to provide each course with consultation time. You should check your course information hand-out for this information.

Security on Campus

Students need to feel safe on campus. You have a right to expect adequate security services and lighting.

Childcare

Students have the right to expect from the University accessible and affordable childcare.



General Secretary's Report

general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

Dylan Parker tells you why independence matters

Oddly of all the things to think about, this week's controversy around 'Vagina-Soit' made me think about the value and colour of independent student associations.

Now wherever you stand on the content of the cover, the fact is I am proud that it was democratically elected student representatives that got to make the call as to whether we did or didn't publish rather than Uni Bureaucrats or paid professional editor-in-chiefs like at other student associations.

Our SRC has a proud history of independence from the University since day one. I love our editorial independence so *Honi Soit* can say what students want to say rather than what the Administration thinks we want to hear.

I love the independence of our case-work service because it is a no-brainer. A student isn't going to go for help to a service they think is part and parcel with the people they are having problems with. As a 21 year old whose been screwed over in one of his classes, I get that lecturers are more likely to side with an unscrupulous tutor they have to work with than a student they're never going to see again.

I love the fact we have a free and independent legal service so that students have the option to get help if they get in trouble with the law. The beauty is, its confidential and intended for you so your parents don't need to know, your boss doesn't need to know, and neither does the uni if you get into trouble.

However, obviously there is another side to it as independence comes with responsibility. I can tell you being involved in running a one and a half million dollar organization is a big ask. Independence means we ask undergraduates to make the big calls on whether we stay in the black or go into the red, whether we put freedom of speech above potential legal action, or whether we stretch our legal service defending our activists out fighting for your education. Students aren't always going to make the right decisions. However, the truth is, it is your money and at least you'll know the decisions are being made by people who actually live in your world.



Interfaith Officers' Report

interfaith.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Anjali Vishwanathan gives you the lowdown on Interfaith week

At university, we are regularly confronted by myriad ideas which make us question the world and our place in it. It's a hotbed of freedom, curiosity and enquiry. However, markedly absent from the discourse has always been a meaningful engagement with the institution of faith. Its rejection in public discourse has resulted in a crude, black-and-white and superficial arguments. Outside the various clubs and societies dedicated to specific faiths, it is no secret that religion is a topic which most students are indifferent to.

Religion is not a monolithic institu-

tion. It is a force that has moulded different societies in countless ways, over millennia. As a result, it means many different things to the 68% of Australians who identify as religious. Besides the reductionism replete in discussions of religion as a broad institution, it also manifest when we address specific religions. There's more to Buddhism than meditation. Not all Christians are evangelists. By the same token, people who identify as atheists do not necessarily do so out of apathy, as opposed to a calculated decision.

The USU initiated Interfaith Week

in 2011 to provide a platform which encourages meaningful discussion of religion. They have various forums to encourage a frank and respectful discussion of how ethical decisions are made, the role and relevance of religion in the 21st century and the broader issue of a greater purpose in life. It's an exciting place to consider the super-natural without the antagonism that people perceive to be inherent to it. You should go.

Interfaith week is on September 2nd to 6th



Womens' Officer Report

Hannah Smith reports on last week's cover of *Honi Soit*

Last week's issue of *Honi Soit*, Sydney University's student newspaper, was ripped of shelves as a result of its 'controversial' front cover. The cover shows close-up photographs of 18 vaginas belonging to Sydney University women. Prior to going to print the editors censored the most 'offensive' part of the photographs on counsel of the Student Representative Council's legal department. But as a result of a printing error the black bars of censorship were transparent and therefore it was decided that the copies would be pre-emptively removed from public spaces as to not attract legal consequences.

The SRC's Women's Collective con-

demns this society which blatantly shames a body part that ~50% of the population have. It is an extremely disappointing reflection of a culture whereby vaginas present a legal dispute that should be avoided at all costs. Our SRC, as an activist organisation, should be able to reflect the values and attitudes of our student body. This is made impossible by out-dated and contrived legislation which urgently needs to be reformed. But furthermore it stems from the social stigma that vaginas are bad, unsightly and inappropriate. We as university students should be progressive on issues like this; we should support the outlandish notion that vaginas

are actually... normal.

The Women's Collective wholeheartedly endorses the *Honi* editors' choice of cover art and admires the women who refused to be shamed about their anatomy! And if you are a University of Sydney student who is offended by the sight of a vagina then here's a little message for you: Fuck You!

Please get in touch via usyd womens collective@gmail.com, pop along to one of our meetings at 1pm Wednesdays in the Women's Room (Manning House) or join our Facebook group: 'Usyd Women's Collective' - we'd love to see you at our meetings!



usyd womens collective@gmail.com

Education Officer's Report

Tenaya Alattas wants to see you at the Open Day strike

Last week on the 18th of August the NTEU and CPSU engaged in their sixth day of industrial action; and true to form the police stood behind the picket lines ensuring vehicles have a safe and uninterrupted passage into the university. Yep, the NTEU and CPSU haven't got there pay rise, Micheal Spence is still being uncompromising and staff and students still hold pickets to protect staff working conditions and our learning conditions. With one arrest on the student picket on and outrage palpably manifest banding together against the arbitrary nature of arrests: the take home message of the 18th is an injury to one is an injury to all.

"On August 31 thousands of potential students will be flocking to Sydney Uni for the annual Open Day. A strike

is already planned. It's time to bring the industrial dispute to a bigger audience!

Since Michael Spence became Vice-Chancellor Sydney Uni management has tried to sack hundreds of staff and slash wages and conditions. At the same time, they have invested hundreds of millions into campus infrastructure - cos at Sydney Uni management values buildings over people.

This is our opportunity to show prospective students what the USYD 'experience' is really like.

A series of actions will take place throughout the day. Everyone should help out.

Most importantly, a tent city will be set up in the Quadrangle from 7.00am on Open Day, to disrupt the functioning of the event.

Other actions that we're planning include:

1. A 'Banned Bloc'. Several of the students and workers who have been banned from campus in the course of the industrial dispute will congregate in the quad and invite the police to arrest them in front of hundreds of potential students.

2. Wheat-pasting the uncensored front cover of the banned issue of 'Vagina-Soit' all around campus

3. Sydney Uni Theatre!

- the 'Johns College experience': imitating the fun times that students have at Sydney Uni colleges; hazing, drink spiking, sexist graffiti, woo! Let's mock these sexist bastards.

- Dramatic re-enactments of riot police brutalising students in true USyd

style. Bring pig masks.

4. We will burn an effigy of Michael Spence and give a Spence piñata a well-deserved beat down.

5. If Spence dares show his face we will chase him across campus like at La Trobe

6. Invading seminars and talks and disrupting them.

7. Chalking and poster up a storm. Let's write slogans and put up posters that express our disgust at USyd management.

8. We'll hold a political cricket match on Eastern Avenue during the day, where we'll hit Spence for six.

Invite all your friends. We'd love folks to come up with their own action ideas! Let's fuck up Open Day!!"

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Sexual Harrassment Officer's Report

harrassment.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Eve Radunz speaks about the culture of sexual harrassment at university

The latest audit of the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) found that 27% of female students had experienced sexual harassment or assault, compare this to the 67% of female students who've had unwanted sexual experiences at civilian universities (from the National Union of Students 'Talk About It Survey'). This disparity is incredibly alarming given the appalling treatment of women in the armed forces which is seemingly ingrained in the culture of national defence. The audit details the way in which the ADFA has made steps to change the culture of assault in the army; including a residential support program to increase supervision and information to residential cadets, an unacceptable behaviour

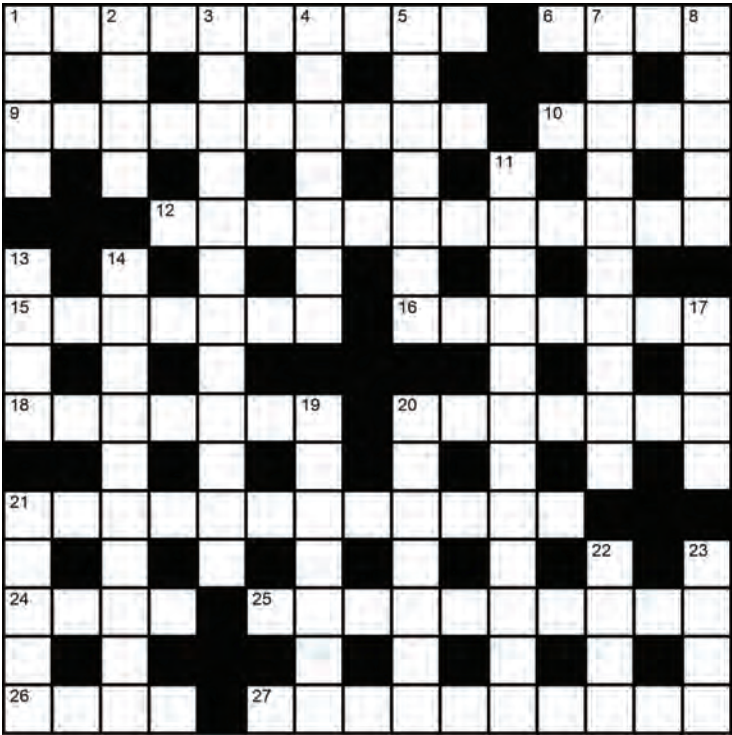
survey which streamlines the reporting system for leaders and allows for swift action to be taken, and the development of an evidence-based sexual ethics induction program. Of course this is not a complete reflection of the armed forces, it applies only to the training of cadets, however if these important values and knowledge of what constitutes sexual misbehaviour are carried into the defence force by young cadets being trained up by the ADFA then the way forward looks a lot clearer.

Now let's take a look at the culture of sexual harassment and assault in Australian civilian universities: women are being pressured, bullied and raped during college hazing; slut shaming and victim blaming is profuse; and on-

campus safety methods and procedures are inadequate. The truth is that we are being educated in a dangerous environment and the fact that this is not being proactively addressed by our university administrations or our government is a testament to how sexual harassment is seen as an incurable disease of the human population. If this is what we are learning in university then how are we meant to shake that when we leave? We need to develop comprehensive reporting systems, we need to create convincing induction programs, we need to put the onus back onto the perpetrator and support the victim, and we need to do it now.



QUICK CROSSWORD



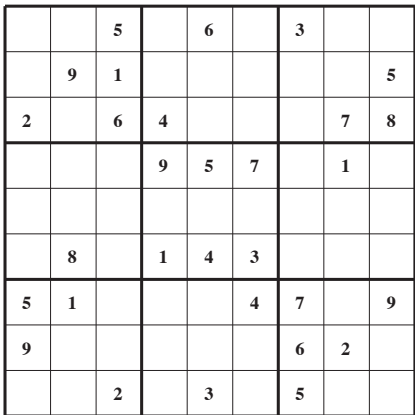
ACROSS

- 1 Put back together (10)
- 6 Detect (4)
- 9 Armstrong used one of these? (3,4,3)
- 10 Fearless (4)
- 12 On purpose (12)
- 15 Former capital of Persia (7)
- 16 Armstrong used one of these? (7)
- 18 Supported oneself (7)
- 20 Popular (7)
- 21 To be irresolute (12)
- 24 Advance (4)
- 25 First, second, or third; for example (10)
- 26 Articulates (4)
- 27 Takes the place of (10)

DOWN

- 1 Film part (4)
- 2 Additionally (4)
- 3 Armstrong used one of these? (5,7)
- 4 One and six zeroes (7)
- 5 "For the ____ time" Billy Joel song (7)
- 7 For the time being (3,7)
- 8 Now (5)
- 11 Thermoses (6,6)
- 13 Armstrong used one of these? (4)
- 14 Output : Input (10)
- 17 Ocean motion (4)
- 19 A feeling of aversion (7)
- 20 Rookie (7)
- 21 Fine fabrics (5)
- 22 Make up? (4)
- 23 Particular services (4)

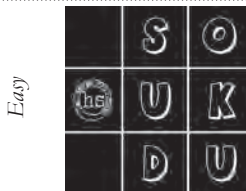
Zplig



Easy

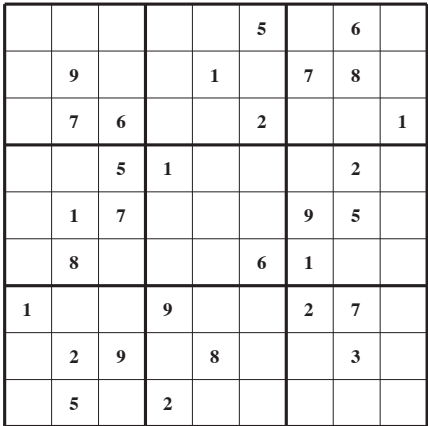


Hard



Easy

Hard



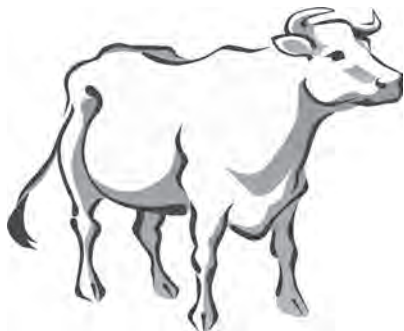
SEEMET

NEPTOT

YORIV

ITSOUR

WHAM, BAM
ANAGRAM!



Q: Where do cows go on the weekend?

“ [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] [] ”

Janice

A: To the

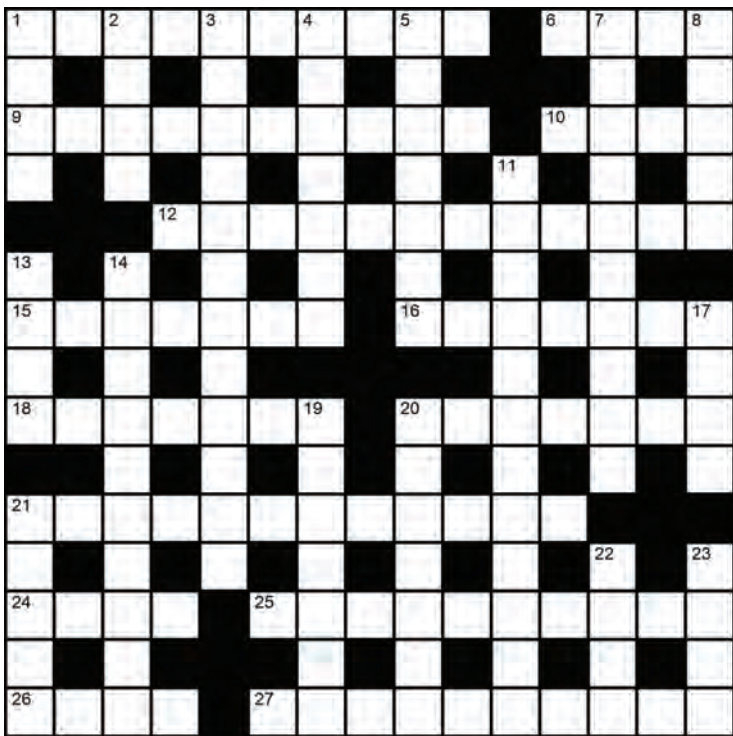
ACROSS

- 1 Strange of sad poets to persuade through flattery? (4-6)
- 6 Odd art form components made of the most basic element (4)
- 9 Represented in bodily form, surrounded by a nectar of new becomings, above the first deity (10)
- 10 It is time that initiates! (4)
- 12 Moth queen started feeding on partly eaten bush food (12)
- 15 Red-hot changes when top newbie is put inside and assigned as the leader (7)
- 16 Wisconsin remove power from racing circuits (7)
- 18 f(7w) is deeply thoughtful (7)
- 20 University meeting of the unsuitable right is after semester one (7)
- 21 Unusual organ science provides legal security (12)
- 24 Perhaps Dracula would give up nothing? (4)
- 25 Blow right around Louis to so extreme a degree you lose initial humour (10)
- 26 Greek character, Skelmis, was disemboweled (4)
- 27 Arranged, straightened, and restored back to the previous state (10)

DOWN

- 1 The students start to move by striking! (4)
- 2 Displaying round slick cufflinks (4)
- 3 Composes verse about a territory leaving a reversal environment (12)
- 4 A bachelor covered in remains is feeling uneasy (7)
- 5 I heard a hip brother went without a large piece of a facial feature (7)
- 7 Absurdly nice knight is becoming more complex (10)
- 8 Scrooge turns back regarding simulation (5)
- 11 Sydney University appears before me and seeks my favour in the highest tribunal (7,5)
- 13 Over turn an informal win after a letter? (4)
- 14 Exceeds runs, and AT&T leave (conduct) business to the Middle (10)
- 17 Slave to sonic waves! (4)
- 19 The embodiment of the century leaves behind an impressive and large book (7)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



Zplig

week five
semester two
2013

#discipin

Insidious drivell
about penises
and men's rights
pg 9



EXCLUSIVE: RUDD CAN'T ACTUALLY SPEAK MANDARIN, JUST RACISTLY IMITATING THE CHINESE THIS ENTIRE TIME

Unbeknownst until now to most Australians, Rudd's ability to speak Mandarin has been exposed for what it is: a cruel lampooning. Social analyst Robert explains, "people ask why non-Mandarin speaking Australians didn't find this out sooner from their Mandarin friends. When our Mandarin friends would say things like Rudd is 'cruel, insensitive, and he should be afraid of those who could take revenge on him,' we just thought they were talking about his treatment of Julia Gillard. We should have seen it coming with the 'Rudd is a Happy Little Vegemite' YouTube clip, as sources indicate that he gets very frustrated when he can't get his racist impressions just right."

This exposure has equally turned Parliament on its head. "There are some things that politicians claim about themselves that you just expect not be true, like Julie Bishop saying she's a natural blonde or Wayne Swan saying he can run an economy efficiently. But this has knocked everyone completely for six." A Rudd staffer, who wishes to remain anonymous, told *The Soin*.

It has been reported that Rudd would taunt Finance Minister Penny Wong with similar racial intolerance within the halls of Parliament. "He used to pull his eyes back with his fingers every time he walked past, and would replace

my pens with chopsticks. He often would do his Mickey Rooney in Breakfast at Tiffany's impersonation to me during Cabinet meetings, while forcing me to wear a



paddy hat. The only way I could ever survive it was thinking, 'Well, at least he treats me better than his staffers'." Wong said, breaking during an ABC Radio National interview this morning.

Other claims of racism have slowly been coming out the woodwork ever since Rudd's anti-Chinese sentiment had been revealed. An Indigenous leader, wishing to remain anonymous, claims, "Rudd's day where he said 'Sorry' was actually deeply sarcastic. He

should have said 'we apologise', as the phonetic equivalent of his sorry speech in Cadigal actually means 'what a shitty dot painting, cunt. Your Corroboree danc-

ing looks stupid!' We just didn't want to mention it before because all you white people seemed so excited and smug about it."

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has publicly condemned Rudd's behaviour. "This treatment of a minority in Australia is something that I, as all Australians should, absolutely abhor. It is a fact that a lot of Chinese are straight and male, and cannot stand to see them as such discriminated against."

It is clear that Abbott is showing support for Chinese voters as Rudd's popularity amongst them is practically non-existent, which a prediction that inner-city seats with a high Chinese population will vote Liberal. "Courting the Chinese-Australian vote is perfect for the Liberal Party this election, as they have two positive platforms to offer the Chinese - their leader doesn't mercilessly imitate them, and also they want to build a shitload more casinos for them."

The leak has had unexpected results in the polls, with Rudd's popularity soaring within the more regional electorates. Alex Simpkin, a tradesman from Blacktown commented, "I think that his overt racism will really get him over the line this election, in the same way that his visit to a strip club got him over the line for the last election."

Reports has come in that China will launch a full-scale ground invasion of Australia, earning military support from North Korea and Indonesia as well after the Chinese Communist Party and other Asian political bodies finally had enough of PM Rudd's grossly insulting imitation of their race. "A complete take-over by an Asian Alliance and a racial-revenge-based enslavement all non-Asian Australians could really hurt Rudd's election chances." *The Soin's* political analyst has reported.

AMERICAN FAITH IN DEMOCRACY BOOSTED AT NEWS THAT EX-PRESIDENT'S WIFE IS A SHOE-IN FOR PRESIDENCY

A record number of American citizens have reportedly signed up to vote this week, following reports circulating that Hillary Clinton will run for President on the Democratic ticket in the next term. The boost in voter numbers has been linked to the surge in surveyed citizens who reported to feel that they lived in a "robust and egalitarian democracy where anyone could be president."

If elected in the next term, Hillary will be one of three other presidents since 1989 to have a direct relative share the office of President, the only exception to the trend being the current sit-



The future Obama candidates

ting President Barack Obama. Whether or not Mr Obama's wife, children or parents intend to seek office over the next twenty years is

still a matter of speculation, but sources inside the Illuminati suggest it is highly likely all will be running at some point.



InStoile

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A Soin Coirporation Poiblication

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Voters Love

JOE HOCKEY'S SEXY NEW BODY

Get Your Dream Hairdo
WHILE YOU SLEEP

BEDROOM SCANDAL

Our hard hitting expose on the
questionable quarterly tax filings
of the Mr Snooze Corporation

P10 We list the basic
chemical elements
**YOU SIMPLY CAN'T
LIVE WITHOUT**

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Diet Tips for Keeping in Shape
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It starts with putting
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**MIRANDA KERR
TELLS US WHAT'S
ON HER MIND**

“ ”

**Want Pippa
Middleton's Butt?**
Woa, Simmer Down
There You Pervert!

MAYBE SHE'S BORN WITH IT.

MAYBE SHE'S BEEN PRESSURED BY THE MEDIA TO STRIVE
FOR AN IMAGE SO SKEWED FROM THE REALITIES OF HUMAN
APPEARANCE THAT SHE CRIES HERSELF TO SLEEP AT NIGHT.

MAKEBELIEVE
NEW YORK



Polling Booth Times and Locations 2013

Polling Location	Wed 25th Sept 2013	Thurs 26th Sept 2013
Fisher	8:30-6:30	8:30-5:00
Manning	10:00-4:00	10:00-4:00
Cumberland	11:00-3:00	11:00-3:00
SCA	12:00-2:00	No polling
Engineering	No polling	12:00-2:00
Conservatorium	12:00-2:00	No polling
Jane Foss	8:30-6:00	8:30-6:00

Pre-Polling will also be held outside the SRC's Offices, Level 1 Wentworth Building, on Tuesday 24th September from 10am-3pm.

