

week six  
semester two  
2013

# • • tios in out

A critique of right-  
wing commentary  
p 7

Sex work and  
social media  
p 10

First Person:  
Group Sex  
p 12

Revue Reviews:  
Education and Arts  
p 16



## DISCONTENTS

4 COKE IN THE  
BUBBLERS  
Hannah Ryan

8 MALE POLITICIANS'  
DAUGHTERS  
Matilda Surtees

11 THE JOB  
INTERVIEW  
Anonymous

13 FUNERAL  
ETIQUETTE 101  
Blythe S Worthy

15 MUCH ADO ABOUT  
STUDENT POLITICS  
Adam Disney

16 REVUE REVIEWS  
Various

21 THE SOIN

# The art of listening

As easy it is to become apathetic about the current state of Australian politics and give up altogether, your vote *will* help lessen the possibility of an Abbott-led government. Use it wisely. But of course, you've heard this all before, so I'll leave it here. Don't let him win.

Now, onto more practical matters.

Being wrong can be a useful experience. When we are wrong, we learn. But only if we listen. Last week, a particularly saddening Facebook argument I was lurking got me thinking. I don't mean this to sound like the jacket blurb of a mid-80s self-help book, but: you learn more by being quiet and wrong than you do by being loud and right.

If someone raises a concern - shut up and listen. If you ask for someone's opinion and legitimately want to hear it, shut up and listen. If you get pulled up on racist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic, or otherwise oppressive language, shut up and listen. Then seek, read, and learn. The only person who has a responsibility to educate you about why you're being offensive is you.

Privileges should be checked every step of the way. Listen to stories and anguish, laughter and memories. The tears you didn't exude, but that moisten your skin. The fragments of lived experience

that we may never be unlucky enough to have scarred onto our bodies and minds, but that we may be trusted enough to share. If you are trusted with them, treat the fragments kindly. Sometimes they flicker with structural oppression, institutionalised discrimination, and daily struggle.

Ask questions. Considerate, relevant questions. Listen for the answers that explain better than wilful ignorance, bigotry, projected insecurities and the paternalism that mimics arrogance when you think you're right.

In a sense, other people are all we have. Connections to friends and lovers, to families and classmates, are forged for a reason. You wouldn't willingly hurt the feelings of a loved one, so consider how you treat the loved ones of others.

Whether we are having sex with three at a time (p. 12), or paying our final respects to them (p. 13), our interactions with others tend to define us as social actors, as whole as we may be within ourselves. Almost inextricably, we are bound to the fabric of collective ecstasies and griefs, even if the level of our binding varies greatly throughout our lives.

So treat the fabric well; take care of it, borrow from it, and lend to it, because

individual threads are loathe to be severed. The warmest fabrics are built from the collaboration, peaceful coexistence and reciprocity of the threads that comprise it. Of we, the threads, that hold the fragile balance of power in our daily weaves, that collectively dictate the structural integrity of the fabric.

And lessons learnt in fraying threads are not fast forgotten.

Listen for knowledge and understanding, empathise with grief, and ask for consent.

In a sense, other people are all we have. But to truly appreciate this we must first employ the art of shutting up.

And listening.



Mariana Podesta-Diverio  
Editor-in-chief

**Editor-in-chief:** Mariana Podesta-Diverio

**Editors:** Rafi Alam, Bryant Apolonio, Max Chalmers, Avani Dias, Nick Rowbotham, Hannah Ryan, Xiaoran Shi, Nina Ubaldi, Lucy Watson.

**Reporters:** Bernadette Anvia, Georgia Behrens, Benedict Bruncker, Ariel Castro-Martinez, Adam Disney, Nick Gowland, Nina Hallas, Georgia Kriz, Patrick Madden, Alexandra Mildenhall, Felicity Nelson, Ellen O'Brien, Sean O'Grady, Justin Pen, Nick Richardson, Lane Sainty, Max Schintler, Cameron Smith, Harry Stratton, Matilda Surtees, Max Weber, Blythe S Worthy, Evan Van Zijl.

**Contributors:** Kyol Blakeney, Michael Gemmell, Shannen Potter, Alex Tighe.

**Cartoons and photos:** Stella Ktenas

**Cover:** Rafi Alam

**Puzzles:** Dover Dubosarsky, Patrick Horton.

**Ticker tape:** Ridiculous things Tony Abbott has said

The editors of *Honi Soit* and the SRC acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. *Honi Soit* is written, printed, and distributed on Aboriginal land. If you are reading this, you are standing on Aboriginal land. Please recognise and respect this.

Want to place an advertisement in *Honi Soit*? Contact Amanda LeMay & Jess Henderson [publications.manager@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:publications.manager@src.usyd.edu.au)

*Honi Soit* is published by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney, Level 1 Wentworth Building, City Road, University of Sydney, NSW, 2006. The SRC's operation costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney. *Honi Soit* is printed under the auspices of the SRC's Directors of Student Publications: Clare Angel-Auld, Adam Chalmers, Bebe D'Souza, Brigitte Garozzo, James O'Doherty, Lane Sainty. All expressions are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as the opinions of the SRC unless specifically stated. The Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained within this newspaper, nor does it endorse any of the advertisements and insertions. Printed by MPD, Unit E1 46-62 Maddox St. Alexandria NSW 2015.



@honi\_soit



<http://www.facebook.com/honisoitsydney>



WOULD YOU RATHER...

HAVE MEDIUM-SIZED BAMBOO  
KNITTING NEEDLES FOR FANGS?

OR

BE A BOTTLE OF SAFFRON-INFUSED  
MASSAGE OIL THAT IS USED TO  
LUBRICATE PUGS WRINKLES?

FAQ:

As the bottle of oil, will I just be  
used for all pugs universally or just  
a couple of specific pugs?

Just a couple of specific pugs. Their  
names are Grommit and Porridge. They  
live in Erskineville and like long walks  
in the park, snuffling and wearing pug-  
sized socks and beanies.

If I bite people with my bamboo  
fangs, will they also grow bamboo  
fangs?

Yup. #stillabetterstorythanTwilight.

Anyone can write for *Honi Soit*!

Email all letters and submissions to:

[editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com)



## SOUND & FURY

### LifeChoice is no choice

Dear Editors,

I want to thank Ellen for looking at the choices facing student parents at Sydney Uni. Or, in fact, the lack thereof. Women are the victims of a system that says they have no choice: their baby or their education.

She shared Bridget's story of being forced to leave university after falling pregnant with her second child.

I see a picture of a society that tells women when it is acceptable for them to have children, and under what circumstances. Governments and universities only support a woman who has made the 'right' decision about her reproduction: to have children when it is convenient to them. Not while she is at university.

The parents who keep both their baby and their education are neglected by the system that told them to make a choice. Presenting this as a victory of female autonomy is deceptive.

Before advocating "choice", they should make sure that a choice actually exists. When the abortion lobby expends as much effort campaigning for an actual choice, as it does protesting a society's right to exist, I'll take their claims more seriously.

Students at Sydney University are being presented with two options: either give up their baby, or give up their education. Some choice.

Sophia Fernon BA/BComm IV.

### Some Board directors not on best behaviour

Hi *Honi*, long time reader, first time indignant complainer.

Last night at the time of writing (Thursday 29th) I had the pleasure of seeing the education revue the same night as a collection of current and former union board directors, and as much as I genuinely enjoyed the show it was topped by the entertainment provided by our union board representatives. With the exception of a sober and mannered Tom Raue, and the absent Karen Chau, Bebe D'Souza and Sophie Stanton, we were provided with endless commentary by the remainder of the board, and previous member Rhys Pogonoski, who attended completely wasted (made clear by audible mid show boasting about how they had started drinking at 3), and continued to yell out their 'witticisms' throughout the entirety of the show. While all directors, sans Raue, got into the spirit of contributing to ongoing scenes and sharing the wine bottle inconspicuously left in the audience at the end of the show, of particular note was Union Board President Hannah Morris.

Upon the ending of the show, while leaving the theatre toward the foyer,

Morris loudly informed her friends that it was the "worst fucking revue" she had ever seen, having made similar remarks throughout the show, and upon being asked if she should at least wait until exiting the theatre to voice such comments, politely replied that it couldn't wait- evidently it was that urgent.

I'm glad to see that the students elected to represent the union, explicitly in the role of 'supporting and fostering student life', take such a hands-on role in contributing to the student community.

Being the only ones in the theatre to drunkenly heckle, and openly criticise, I wonder why we didn't see more of this when they were campaigning to be elected, as obviously it is what they consider to be the appropriate action for board directors, elevated as they are above the regular student body. I remember during her campaign, Morris, in her brightly coloured shirt, escorting me to Manning to assist me in voting for her, and actually asking me how my day was in a demonstration of basic human manners that seemed noticeably absent last night. Truth be told, I did end up voting for her, but if I had known how her and the majority of the directors chose to act in support of the students they supposedly represent, as the Education faculty tried (and succeeded) to have fun and put on a show to entertain us, I would have known it would be the 'worst fucking vote' I'd ever cast.

I understand that these are individuals and not automatons, and they're entitled to their opinions and to have questionable lapses in behaviour, but you would hope that they'd still have the common decency- or perhaps the extra decency expected by their position in this directly relevant circumstance- to not put on the rude, self indulgent display that the audience and cast were subject to last night. It seems that all these individuals profess their desires to submerge themselves within the dignity and expectations of the position when campaigning, but then go on to demonstrate a behaviour indicating that, shockingly, they may just be pursuing these positions for their own pragmatic, and egotistical purposes.

I'd like to note that I am in no way involved in student political life, and I don't align myself with any political group on campus; I'm only writing this letter to point out the disgraceful behaviour that reaffirms my belief that the director gig is not so much caring about students, but more caring about your CV.

Bennett Sheldon, Arts II

### A message from the President

The Revue season is a highlight of the USU's calendar and provides a wonderful opportunity for the Board to appreciate the talent and hard work of all students involved (especially for up-and-coming revues such as the Education Revue!).

Heckling at revues is an old revue tradition and the Board came to the Education Revue to enthusiastically support

our friends in the cast, crew and band. I have personally contacted members from the Revue and they assured me that they found the Board's conduct was all in good fun and that it did not distract from their performance.

To those members of the audience we may have caused offence to however, we sincerely apologise. The USU Board will continue to support the passion of students that has kept the Revue program running strong for many years.

Hannah Morris, JD II

USU President

Ps. On a personal note, I would like to clarify that the worst Revue experience of my life was actually Law Revue 2011 when I saw my best friend naked for the first time. Nothing could be more scarring than that.

### Far left groups not so utopian

Rafi Alam's article, 'Rape apologism and the far left' raises many issues and I have several disagreements with it, but I'll address one of the main ones. Rafi argues left groups, "aim to reflect the structures and values they want to see in the world within their groups." But that is utopian. Left groups should recognise that we are products of a system that teaches us from birth that women are inferior. We must overturn that system and build a new world of equality in its place. Fighting sexism is central to the struggle against the system and that means taking it seriously.

No serious left organisation can tolerate rape or sexual assault. No organisation should proscribe whether someone should report to the police. But women do not get justice from the courts. Rarely does reporting rape lead to charges and convictions. Instead, women become the victims of the sexist prejudices that prevail inside the police and the legal system. This is why organisations must address all sexist behaviour, including rape.

Understanding the circumstances that create rape and sexual violence, and what it means victims, is crucial to the fight against it. Fighting all manifestations of sexism is a necessary part of building an organisation capable of fighting for women's liberation. This also means educating ourselves about sexism and oppression, addressing the gender socialisation that undermines women's confidence, and building women leaders in every fight against the system.

Amy Thomas, Solidarity

### Jesus sausage no laughing matter

Dear *Honi*,

To briefly respond to whoever wrote the piece on the apparition of Jesus in a sausage (in what can only be a loosely-defined "Humour" article - if you're going to mock us, please, at least make it innovative or vaguely entertaining):

1. By way of clarification, Evangelical Christians don't "do" the whole apparition-in-kooky-everyday-inanimate-objects-of-a-fabricated-hypo-

thetical-Western-profile-of-what-Jesus-probably-didn't-look-like thing. It's unbiblical, and, frankly, weird. #some-thingsomethingREFORMATIONso-methingsomething

2. In the unlikely event that you actually wanted a sincere answer to your implied question ("Why does the EU throw free BBQs all the time?"), here's an answer: We're the Evangelical Union. Evangelical means 'of the gospel'. Gospel means 'grand announcement'. The grand announcement (NB: not 'private conviction') we're on about is specifically the one that Jesus of Nazareth died to reconcile humanity back to right relationship with God, and was raised again to life, defeating death - and is now risen & reigning Lord of all (not just those who believe in him), holding out the promise of bringing restoration to everything that has been broken. So, yes, we kind of do want people to know about Him, and if free food is what it takes, is that really a problem? We wanted to give you free food the past month of Your God events, at the expense of our own students (yes, we pool our resources to pay for free food for you), is (a) that we want to show you something of the same grace that God has extended to us in Jesus, the same free gift, and (b) that we want as many people as possible to come to know the life, hope, joy and freedom that they were made to know in relationship with their Creator. We believe this Jesus is legit, and we want you to know Him.

3. Given the misconceptions you evidently have about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, you are absolutely welcome to come alone to any of our Public Meetings at 1pm on Tues to Thurs, or join a Bible study to see whether there's more to Jesus than watered-down pop-cultural appropriations. Locations at [sueu.org.au](http://sueu.org.au). Would love to see you there, if only for a bit of banter!

4. Oh - the food is free for everyone, not just Access card holders.

Steph Judd

Arts/Law VI

VP of the EU

### INTRODUCING PHASE ONE OF THE GAY AGENDA...

## QUEER HONI



■ ARE YOU QUEER?

■ DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

If you answered yes to these questions we want YOUR contributions: Be it an article, poem, drawing, photograph, rant, or indeed any form of printable expression, send it to us at [queerhoni2013@gmail.com](mailto:queerhoni2013@gmail.com), or for anonymous submissions, find the link on Facebook (search: Write for Queer Honi).

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE 8 SEPTEMBER



# HONI NEWS



FREE

Week Six Edition

"WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY"

## The party without any candidates

Hannah Ryan reports on the three USYD students who deferred their degrees to take on Canberra

The rise of the minor party is one of the media's pet narratives of the 2013 federal election. WikiLeaks, Palmer United, the Pirate Party: all claim to be dissatisfied with the old ALP-LNP duopoly and promote themselves as a new voice that you should install in the Senate. There's another name on the list of new minor parties: Coke in the Bubbles (CITB), which was quietly registered with the Australian Electoral Commission on July 16 of this year, a mere two months before the election.

CITB or something like it was born about halfway through last year. Three USYD students, Ed Miller, Chris Thomas and James Burton put their degrees on hold in mid-2012 to attempt to tackle what they saw as worrying problems with Australian politics and the economy. In their view, Australia faced economic problems, like a rising debt to GDP ratio and exposure to international risk, which would eventually ripen into disaster. They were also concerned about other issues of inter-generational equity, like superannuation and climate change. They believed that short-termism and an anachronistic fidelity to the left-right spectrum meant that the existing parties were not positioned to solve these problems. A lack of civility in politics wasn't helping. Miller, Thomas and Burton knew they wanted to mobilise students and their ideas included forming a think tank or pursuing parliamentary representation.

A plan to start a political party would be ambitious, but Miller, Burton and Thomas appeared to have significant financial backing. They demonstrated this over three evenings in November last year, when the group held events on Level 31 of the impressive Deutsche Bank Building near Martin Place at the offices of private equity investment firm Pacific Equity Partners. The aim was to persuade other students and friends to volunteer their time over the summer holidays, and part of the pitch's appeal rested on the group's connections in the corporate world. According to Dave\*, a USYD student who is involved in debating and went to one of the sessions, believes the office was "there to impress us. And it worked."

The group's presentation included a slide listing sponsors, attendees say. Some of the assistance Miller, Thomas and Burton claimed to have was in cash, some in kind: "office space, providing consultants to help do research," Gerald\*, another student, recalls. They were impressive names: Dave remembers hearing they had got research done by "really serious, high-ranking commercial firms", including media and manage-

ment consulting firms, and there were also a few individuals. "The thing that surprised a lot of us was that there were some very important companies that put a huge amount of money into some university students," says Dave. "I just remember being incredibly certain that they had just a huge amount of money." Fellow student and debater Tim\* was surprised too. "The natural question

"I just remember being incredibly certain that they had just a huge amount of money."

was how did you get these people on side?" he says. "It seemed quite odd that [top-tier consulting firms] were stepping in – but not unthinkable." Sam Molloy, a student who did some work with the group over summer, also had the impression that the group had significant support. "I know that they had been given what uni students would consider to be a large amount of money from, I think, private individuals who happened to be very wealthy and in the corporate world," he says.

At the event, the group mentioned the possibility of running candidates for the Australian Senate. They would focus on the Senate races in NSW, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia, and they mentioned names like ex-ALP Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner and former deputy PM and leader of the Nationals John Anderson as the kinds of honest and respected people they would approach to stand as candidates. According to Tim, the ultimate question at the end of the night was: "do you want to take a semester off uni and come work for us?"

The pitch won them several volunteers. As the 'Eureka Movement', they rented out a spacious office on Broadway (currently advertised for \$87 000 per annum). According to Dave, who visited the office a few times, "they didn't use much of that space at all", but it was outfitted with a ping pong table.

Over summer, the team began to work on new policy ideas, mapping out the existing policy landscape, and a plan to mobilise university students in the coming year. They received advice on a field campaign from a student who'd worked on Obama's 2012 campaign.

Molloy says that at that stage "the ideal outcome was trying to build a movement that started in universities and went to engage more of the population to run some candidates."

At the same time, Miller, Thomas and Burton continued their fundraising efforts. In an email to the Eureka team in January, they wrote that they had "set up the meetings for the next fortnight that will hopefully allow [them] to raise a further \$250 000 by the start of March and find the first voice and face of the movement." A week later, they wrote that they had had meetings with four "prominent businessmen," and that they thought they would raise around \$200 000 in the next fortnight. Some who were involved claim that there was a disparity between their representations in private and what they would reveal publicly. "It is definitely true that there was a huge difference between their willingness to privately flaunt the support of those companies and the complete lack of external reference to those companies," says Dave.

The plan to build the campaign out of universities proved difficult. "People engaged with the movement less than they were hoping," Molloy says, and it was becoming apparent that running in the federal election was "a little unrealistic". Still, the group had a presence at university O-Days around Australia in March, as they tried to get a range of young people to commit to aims like focusing on the long-term, not the next term. They also took a range of photos of students holding speech bubbles saying things like "POLITICS IS BROKEN" and "POLITICIANS ARE FUCKING WITH OUR FUTURE," which they hoped to develop into a photo petition, and some of which are now on the CITB Facebook page.

By May, they had decided that the name Eureka had racist undertones, and the group renamed itself Coke in the Bubbles and started working towards party registration. The name was a comment on the state of politics – as the CITB website reads: "Every year, in primary schools across the country, students are elected to leadership positions on the promise of putting Coke in the Bubbles. Unfortunately, it feels like our political leaders are trapped in a system that still forces them to promise

short and sell long." The name was also a strategy to get the media's attention. As one member said in an email to the team, "Coke in the Bubbles isn't necessarily the name that we're going with but the ad people at [their media consulting company] thought registering a party in that name was too good a news story to pass up."

CITB was registered in July with over 500 members. At this stage, Burton and Thomas left the scene. Miller eventually abandoned the idea of running any candidates in the election, and a fleeting plan to run a ten-year-old boy, Josh, for Prime Minister as a publicity stunt was abandoned too.

Apart from obvious logistical challenges, there may be other reasons why CITB or the original Eureka Movement ended up not running in the election. Dave says that "while it's very fashionable to hate politicians, they just didn't back up a lot of the things that they were going for." Gerald\*, another debater who went to the event in November, doubted that they could be successful as a party, because they were trying to pitch to both old people and young people by combining their investment policies with things like same-sex marriage and "when push came to shove they wouldn't get too many votes." Tim was also concerned by the feasibility of operating as a party: "They said they didn't want to engage in the left-right spectrum – that's odd for a political party." He thinks they were also ambiguous on issues that would face a parliamentary party: "How

"Do you want to take a semester off uni and come work for us?"

would they work as a party, given that they have to work within the system that they hated?" They were "trying to paint it as easy," Tim says, "but I knew it would be huge amount of work." Dave sums up his feelings: "I do think it's a very noble pursuit to make sure political discourse is constructive, I just got really sceptical really quickly."

It's clear that Miller, Thomas and Burton had a lot of ideas and drive and probably a lot of money, but it's not clear what came of it. Six months after moving into their office, they gave up the lease, and the three of them are back at uni. The CITB Facebook page has a solid 1,271 likes, but hasn't posted since June. Their website is up and running, but most of it is under construction and all of the FAQs are 'coming soon'. The front page counts down to the old election date of September 14. The footer claims that "Australia deserves better".

\*Names have been changed.



"Bad bosses, like bad fathers and husbands, should be tolerated because they do more good than harm."



## UNIGATE

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



## Shurat up a ya face

The Australian Human Rights Commission has terminated a class action filed against Sydney University academic, Professor Jake Lynch, for his involvement in the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement on campus. The action was filed by Israeli based civil rights group, Shurat HaDin, who stated that Lynch's involvement in the BDS movement, specifically his denial of a professor from Hebrew University to use his name on an application under a fellowships program between both institutions, was unlawful under the Racial Discrimination Act 1975. Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the head of Shurat HaDin, told the *Gate* that the case was terminated by the AHRC because Lynch was absent at the commission's hearing. As a result, they have decided to take the case to the Federal Court. The University administration has stated that they will not provide legal assistance to Lynch and his associates. Thus, they are circulating a petition to support the BDS movement and to be named a co-defendant to Lynch and Rees when the matter goes to court.

## Well, I guess I stacked it well!

Last Thursday saw the stacking of the Politics Society (PolSoc). 20-30 Liberal Club (SULC) members, associated with the soft-right of the Liberal Party, forced Board Director Robby Magyar to call the meeting invalid. PolSoc is, ironically, not often politicised, usually failing to make quorum. The club, not expecting many attendants, chose a room with a limit of 15, and the attendance of 50 broke the OH&S requirements of the room, meaning that the meeting could not legally continue. The Presidential contest – which can only include candidates from the previous year's executive – was between Joel Schubert, a moderate Liberal, and Mariam George, associated with the soft- and hard-right. Many of the other positions were contested by SULC members. Natasha Burrows, current President of PolSoc, lamented that "it's a shame if a society that has prided itself in being independent is the target of vested political interests."

It appears as though the saga involves factional tensions that go way up to the Big Liberals. Alex Dore, eternal President of SULC, attended the meeting, but claimed the charge of stacking is a "totally hysterical and fanciful charge," and that the presence of SULC members – most of whom nominated for positions on the day – was not an overrepresentation but due to their con-

tinued interest in the Politics Society. Mariam George notes that she's "not a member of SULC," but that she is a member of the hard-right Conservative Club, and that the presence of SULC was not intended, but incidental. However, the hard-right has been known to be cosying up to the soft-right recently against the moderate faction. Also, George, perhaps unknowingly, stated that: "If 18 people came to support me without me organising it, I guess that's called support, but if people want to say I've stacked it, well, I guess I stacked it well!"

The *Gate* received an anonymous email from a member of the soft-right who addressed it to "whoever the fuck does *Unigate*" that seems to confirm suspicions that the stack was politically motivated, in that Alex Dore and the soft right hate Schubert. However, it seems as though George was unaware of the stack, and Chaneg Torres and Dean Schahar, members of the hard-right and nominators for positions on PolSoc, backed her solely to oppose Schubert. This is allegedly a break from national politics, where the soft-right and moderate Liberals are teaming up to "fuck the Taliban [hard-right]".

We're sceptical of the veracity of anything we hear in an anonymous email from Liberals stacking a society, but in any case, PolSoc is having another AGM

in two weeks, so whether or not a re-stack occurs, or if the usual barely-made quorum occurs, remains to be seen.

## Race to the top?

The USU has followed up on its promise to address accusations of racial insensitivity with a Cultural Sensitivity Forum held last Tuesday. The forum consisted of a panel of academics and students, and followed the Union's Critical Race Discussion forum, which attempted to further understand the cultural intricacies that were, to put it lightly, ignored in the Day of the Dead Party, later renamed Start of Semester Fiesta. USU President Hannah Morris believes the forum was a "step in the right direction." However, panellist Oscar Monaghan criticised the format of the panel at the forum as "reinforcing knowledge hierarchies" in a statement that was later transcribed into a blog post. Monaghan and Tabitha Prado-Richardson – the other student panellist – did however appreciate the intentions of the USU in starting a dialogue surrounding matters of race within USU programs and events. The forum was generally without significant controversy, save for a scandal that emerged when @USU\_Access reprimanded the *Gate* for using the hashtag #usuforum instead of #usucsf. Sorry, we genuinely didn't see the giant event hashtag on the projector screen, our bad.

## The lesser of two evils

Are Labor and the Liberals distinguishable on Indigenous policy?

Kyol Blakeney investigates

Since the first governments of Australia, the status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders has been debated more often than you've debated whether to walk down Eastern Ave during campaigning season. In that time, both Labor and the Liberals have overseen significant changes (positive and negative) to their positions on the rights traditional owners have on their land.

While many people may be opposed to both major parties, the reality is that one of them is going to win. But which is the lesser of the two evils when it comes to what will be done to improve Indigenous Australians' way of life after this election?

Taking a brief tour down memory lane to set the context; Aboriginal people became Australian citizens in 1949, when a separate Australian citizenship was created for the first time (before that time all Australians, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, were "British subjects"). Aboriginal people from Queensland and Western Australia gained the vote in federal elections in 1962. However, a Commonwealth Act confirmed the Commonwealth voting right of Aboriginal people from other states in 1949. We got the vote in WA state elections in 1962 and Queensland state elections in 1965.

One of the most memorable moments in Australian history was the 1967 Referendum, which officially changed Section 51(xxvi) of the constitution, which had previously given the Federal Parliament power to "make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to the peo-

ple of any race, other than the aboriginal race in any State." Section 127, which excluded Aboriginals from the census, was also erased. It was actually the Liberal Party under the Holt Government that held this renowned occasion.

However, in the last 46 years the tables have turned and Labor has come to the fore on Indigenous rights. Both Keating and Rudd have given apologies while Howard refused to, education in remote communities has been in the spotlight and every Aboriginal four-year-old child now has access to early childhood educational facilities, \$10 million has gone into the Recognise campaign, and 90% of eligible Indigenous Australians will receive funding from DisabilityCare.

The Howard Liberal Government started the Intervention, allowing the federal government to have complete control over Aboriginal land in the NT and manage the finances of Aboriginal people for them.

Because I am a thorough person who is quite objective, I did some research specifically for the Liberal side of this article. Abbott has promised to put aside \$45 million for the GenerationOne Employment Model, allowing more employers to take on more employees. But this only provides one-off employment rather than actually funding the training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for those jobs. I seriously needed to find something else to make this debate a little less one sided so I called the Liberal Ministerial and Electoral Offices. They declined to comment. What can one do?

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



## Meaningful Movies



Come along to our film screening of *Give Us the Money*, a wonderful film about celebrity activism and the effectiveness of their awareness campaigns. Nibbles provided.

WHEN: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September  
TIME: 6.30pm  
WHERE: Amnesty International Australia offices, Level 1  
79 Myrtle St. Chippendale, 2008





## What will Abbott mean for universities?

With a Coalition victory looking assured, **Benedict Brunker** assesses what might happen to the tertiary education sector after the election

I would warn you about the Coalition's Higher Education policy... If I knew what it was.

In 2011 Shadow Minister for Education Christopher Pyne spoke of the "reforming zeal" he and Shadow Minister for Universities and Research Brett Mason held towards higher education. If you want to find out what Pyne and Mason are so zealous about reforming, you've got your work cut out for you. Only one of the 42 policy documents the Coalition has released to the public, the "Coalition's Policy for Schools", deals in any way with university education.

The Coalition has promised to get the nation back to surplus. They will be doing this despite scrapping the mining tax and cutting Company Tax Rates, leaving a considerable number of "savings" (read: "cuts") that a Coalition government would have to make to fulfil their promise. Some of these have already been announced, among them a cut to the Supplementary Allowance for the unemployed, students and parents with young children on income support. This will be worth \$210 to individuals

and \$350 to couples.

Despite a return to surplus being a major platform of the Coalition, Shadow Treasurer Joe Hockey has not yet been able to provide a year in which such a return would take place – with current Treasurer Chris Bowen maintaining Labor can provide a surplus by 2016 (though Labor have been wrong about that before, to say the least).

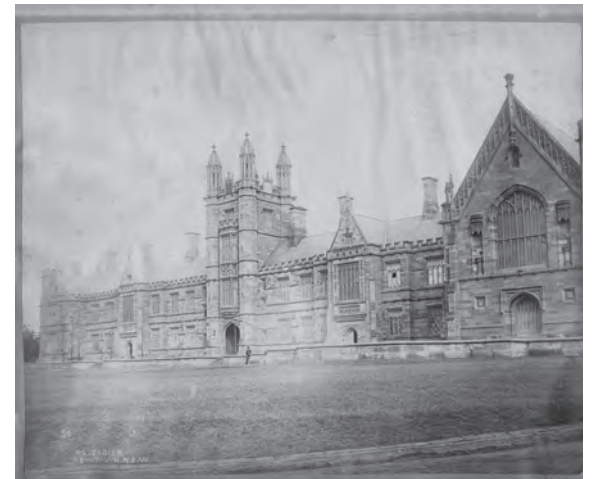
In fairness, a Coalition Higher Education policy does actually exist. One of its manifestations is the establishment of an "Online Higher Education Working Group", a commission that will look at the future role of the internet in higher education. The Coalition seems particularly excited about the possible impacts the internet could have on Higher Education, especially its ability to "provide students with more flexible and affordable tertiary education".

Online learning models, while providing much scope for innovation and creativity, could also be used as a pretext for the increasing casualisation of academic staff that we have already seen University management attempt to implement over the past couple of

years. Submissions have already closed for the group, and if you're wondering when you'll get to see the results of that group's deliberations, and the policy the Coalition decide to formulate on its basis, I wouldn't recommend holding out for September 7.

When the Coalition waxes lyrical about higher education, they place a particular emphasis on tertiary education's important role in a strong economy and its importance as Australia's largest service export industry. Though the "reforming zeal" of Pyne and Mason expresses itself in only a 150 word statement, that statement is worrying enough. Where will staff be left with the Coalition's commitment to "work with the sector to reduce the burden of red tape, regulation and reporting, freeing up the sector to concentrate on delivering results and services"? What will critics of the corporatisation of the University be up against if we have a government which focusses on working "with the sector to grow higher education as an export industry"? You may have noticed another ghastly

cliché insinuate itself into the discourse: "work with the sector", which essentially means "work with the management". It may well be that the most worrying thing of all is not that Pyne and Mason are infused with a "reforming zeal", but that the cuts, the trend towards corporatisation and the adoption of a business model of tertiary education means that the Coalition will be perfectly happy with business as usual.



The Quadrangle, circa 1880. The University of Sydney has seen the rise and fall of many governments

## When voting, use protection

The Sex Party market themselves as progressives, but be careful before you get into bed with them says **Evan Van Zijl**

"Are the Sex Party just a front for the Greens?" an interviewer asks.

When asked if the Australian Sex Party is a front for the Greens, Fiona Patten, President of the Sex Party (ASP) and CEO of the Eros Association, laughs and leans forward with a smile.

"We come from a small business background... I think [the] Greens would be running around in tears at the thought that we'd ever be a front for them."

Under the advice of former Australian Democrats leader Don Chipp, Patten and her colleagues in the Eros Association founded the microparty in 2009 as a means to fight the proposed internet filter of the Labor government. Shortly afterward, the ASP burst onto the federal scene with a whole lot of cheek in a Senate bid which attracted a flock of progressive supporters with its political narrative.

The very first ASP television advertisement in 2010, 'Jerk Choices', mocked the Liberals' industrial relations policies and called for marriage equality, and freedom of expression and sexuality. The strength of this message, reinforced by humorous confrontations with Family First and collaboration with the Scarlet Alliance on sex work policy, inspired people to put on a yellow shirt and also attracted over 2% of the vote.

Many of the people who turned out in

support of the ASP are progressive, but the party itself isn't inherently left wing. The party is ultimately bound by the interests of the adult businesses which donate to it and the Eros Association,



The Sex Party's thoroughly ethical advertising the adult business lobby from which the ASP sprung and is somewhat governed by.

A glance at the ASP's website reveals a lack of policy on the environment, refugees, or welfare, while putting forward policies which support those marginalised on the basis of gender or sexuality but never at the expense of businesses and profit. In fact, many of the issues that the ASP champions, such as dimin-

ishing the influence of religious groups and supporting online privacy, align with the adult industry's ability to increase its own profit margin.

These corporate interests set the ASP apart from activist parties such as the Greens, socialist groups, and the Pirate Party and creates an uneasy relationship with the left despite common ground on civil liberties.

The ASP has now oriented toward more conservative parties with a neo-liberal economic analysis rather than activist parties with an interest in civil liberties. Justified only by their critique of the Greens as having an individual candidate which Patten describes as an "anti-sex feminist", the ASP have joined the Liberals in directing preferences toward the ALP in ALP versus Greens seats.

This antagonism toward the left has extended well beyond directing preferences against the Greens. Recently, the ASP candidate for Melbourne Ports, broadcast a public attack on members of Socialist Alternative grieving over the suicide of Amber Maxwell, a trans\* identifying activist within their group.

"Australian Sex Party candidate Melissa Star openly blamed Amber's close comrades and friends for her death the day after she took her own life. Amber was loudly opposed to the Sex Party as a party of the bosses and the Sex Party

will not be welcomed at Equal Marriage rallies across the country for their cynical use of Amber's tragic passing for political advancement," said April Holcombe, spokesperson for Socialist Alternative.

Now, the ASP have directed preferences toward Pauline Hanson's One Nation in the Senate which is likely to see Pauline Hanson hold the balance of power in an Abbott-led parliament. This preference deal and the ongoing political tensions have caused a wave of outrage from progressive (now former) supporters of the ASP.

Despite denials from candidates, such as Nick Wallis running for Jagajaga, commenting online that "[he knows] for a fact there was no deal", the ASP posted a statement on their website confirming and attempting to justify negotiating with a white supremacist party: "We reckoned that there was a preference flow advantage to us putting this party above the Greens and so we went for it."

It is unclear if the ASP can resolve their identity crisis and the inconsistency between their business orientation and progressive voter base but it is clear is that they are certainly not a front for the left. If anything, the ASP example provides a clear argument as to why progressive aims cannot come about within the framework of the corporate.

OPINION



# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

In-house Tory **Nick Richardson** on why the right are going about media commentary the wrong way

Jones. Akerman. Bolt. Devine. Is this really the best that the right can do?

If the answer is yes, then we have a serious problem. The appalling state of conservative political commentary is one of the great unacknowledged cancers killing Australian political culture. Automaton without vision and without nuance, blindly chewing up and spitting out the party line without any self-reflection or capacity to even acknowledge the egregious selling out on their own side of politics has created an apologetism which dips into self-parody.

If the answer is no, then where did all the smart people go? It is very difficult to believe that there is not a single young, articulate, and intelligent voice aching to join the mainstream conservative commentariat. Is there a brain drain into law and finance? Do smart people have an aversion to anything political?

Mainstream political commentary, both right and left (and I use these terms I much disdain for convenience and in the broadest and loosest way possible), has descended to hollow echoes of tired one-liners utterly lacking in substance and purpose. The right-wing especially,

however, has shamelessly discarded its *raison d'être* for the very worst type of torch-and-pitchforks extremism, peddling the basest of base fear politics, and encouraging a culture of willful ignorance where politicians are held to no account for their selling-out of a party's long forgotten founding values.

We need a steadier mix of pragmatism and ideology. Political commentary has become increasingly partisan without becoming more ideological. The utopian ideal of commentary without ideology is impossible, but the subjugation of ideology to partisanship has ensured the death of pragmatism.

When was the last time Andrew Bolt or Alan Jones, or Tony Abbott for that matter, talked about liberty, fairness, and the power of individual self-determination? Having lost sight of these end-goals, commentary

has become trapped in an endless cycle of critiquing the other team into non-existence under the false impression that it is the ultimate end.

To be fair, there is a lot to critique. Governments should be held to account. The problem with writers like Bolt and

Akerman is not the critiques themselves but their emptiness. Akerman trots out the same tired lines about boats and debt and incompetence without placing his critique within a framework of analysis. Critiquing Labor has become the end game. There is no explanation as to why we need to stop the boats, why the debt exists, or why the Labor philosophy is a damaging one. All we get is that it is so.

We need liberty and fairness and individualism to be brought back to the forefront of conservative commentary. Smart people will come back to politics

when they have something to fight for beyond tearing the other team down.

This can only happen three ways. First, we need greater self-reflection from the right. Change comes from within. Conservative commentary must acknowledge the failings of conservative political parties to maintain the standards of its ideals. Pragmatism is born from ideology without partisanship, not partisanship without ideology. Second, we need to bring back the commentator as a valuable part of society beyond merely a taken for granted hack. Journalism plays a vital role in democracy and social life. We will only get respect from our journalists when we respect them back. Stop the brain drain by making journalism as lucrative as law. Third, we need greater discussion of what it means to be right wing. This identity crisis will not be solved by meaningful debate of what it means to be of the 'right', but it will at least be mitigated. The distasteful, dumbed-down politicking of our leaders will only be reversed if they are seriously held to account. It's time for the right to have a look at itself and reconsider who it is that speaks on its behalf.



## The advantages of being a swinger

OPINION

We shouldn't let lines on a map decide elections, writes **John Gooding**

When I moved from the Blue Mountains to Sydney, I re-enrolled from the federal swing seat of Macquarie to the safe seat of Sydney.

At the 2010 election my former seat fell to the Liberals, who won by just over two thousand votes. I felt responsible on a personal level, as though I had abandoned my homeland to a terrible fate.

Before this election I moved to Grayndler, which was notionally a swing seat between Labor and the Greens, and somewhere my vote just might actually matter.

However, it was not to be; a few weeks ago Tony Abbott all but nixed a chance

of a Greens victory in the seat by instructing Liberal candidates to put the Greens below Labor on how-to-vote cards. Labor now appear to be a shoo-in for the seat. Meanwhile, the Liberals are favourites to win Macquarie again, but only just.

Splitting the nation into one hundred and fifty electorates necessarily engenders feelings of irrelevance or disenfranchisement in safe seat-dwellers. There are fewer campaigners and campaign promises being bandied about. Queensland and Western Sydney are glorified, and we sit watching on.

It also means we live in a bizarre political reality where, if a few thou-

sand people were to have strategically moved house from safe liberal seats to swing seats prior to the 2010 election, we would now have a majority Coalition government. In some nations this absurd hypothetical is impossible. Israel, for example, elects their major legislative body without any political districts at all. Citizens across the country face the same choice of candidates. The relevance of your vote is entirely unaffected by where you live.

Electoral districts also skew the composition of the House of Representatives in favour of larger parties. Despite winning around 11% of the primary vote for their candidates in 2010, only

one Greens MP was elected out of one hundred and fifty, as their voters are not concentrated enough to outpoll Labor or the Liberals in the vast majority of seats.

The representation of regional communities on a national level is undeniably important. However, any electoral system which allows for the possibility that one party to form government without winning the popular vote, as is currently possible in Australia, the U.S, and most of Europe, is fundamentally undemocratic. If that were to happen, it would not be the people choosing the winner; it would be lines on a map.

When did you last feel like this?



### An introductory course in Practical Philosophy for everyday living

A course for thoughtful men and women seeking to understand the nature of existence and the world in which we live. The course draws on the great philosophic ideas of Eastern and Western traditions which lead to clear thought, reduction of stress, and effective action in work, study and every aspect of daily life. Practical philosophy explores the meaning of wisdom, truth, consciousness and the power of love. It is for all, regardless of education, occupation, age, race, political or religious beliefs. It gives you the tools to become more mindful, more connected and more alive.

#### Courses from 16 Sept 2013

Fees\*: Adult \$250; Concessions \$200; Full-time Students \$60

**Sydney CBD:** Hyde Park Towers, 148 Elizabeth Street.

Monday 16 Sept, 7:00pm;

Tuesday 17 Sept, 7:00pm;

Wednesday 18 Sept, 6:15pm

**Manly:** Manly Seniors Centre

275 Pittwater Road.

Monday 16 Sept, 7:00pm

**Wahroonga:** Mahratta, Corner

Pacific Hwy and Fox Valley Road.

Thursday 19 Sept, 9:30am

Thursday 19 Sept, 7:00pm

**Also at Newcastle, Canberra, Wagga Wagga & Lismore**



**Week 1:** Nature of wisdom; philosophy and living wisdom; being and awareness.

**Week 2:** Self-knowledge; mindfulness.

**Week 3:** Being awake; levels of awareness; expanded consciousness.

**Week 4:** The present moment; four states of attention.

**Week 5:** Plato on justice; six "tyrants" of injustice; living wisely.

**Week 6:** What is reason? The misuse of reason; how can it be used well?

**Week 7:** What am I? Body, mind and heart; the unchanging observer.

**Week 8:** The nature of beauty; forms of beauty; Plato's Symposium.

**Week 9:** The nature of energy; a three-fold model.

**Week 10:** Observing energy at work; energy of the body, mind and heart.

**Week 11:** The desire for truth; how can truth be discovered?

Book online or call: **9489 4333**  
**www.practicalphilosophy.org.au**



The only course to take in life

**Practical Philosophy**

\*Prices applicable for an 11 Week Course starting week of 16 Sept, 2013. School of Philosophy Incorporated. Established 1967. A not-for-profit organisation affiliated with the School of Economic Science, London.



# Australia First, minorities second

PROFILE

Max Weber interviewed Victor Waterson - the Australia First Party candidate for Bennelong

Ryde, at Bennelong's heart, was the third settlement founded in Australia, serving to link the colonies of Sydney and Parramatta. Bennelong has not shed this geographically emblematic centre - the affluent north shore sits on one shoulder, the working-class western suburbs on the other. Culturally, too, it is an archetype of the median - almost stereotypically middle class, with its Federation-era Californian bungalows and professional families. Within a 5km radius of Bennelong there is a university and an IKEA, as if there are two more obvious markers of a middle class in Australian society.

But Bennelong is now also characterised by its diversity. In my high school - a nondescript, middling one in Ryde - I didn't make friends with another kid of Anglo descent until Year 9. According to the ABC, 19% of Bennelong's vote is Chinese, another 4% is Korean. 5% is Armenian, another couple of percent are of Indian or Sri Lankan descent.

"What we're seeing now is nothing short of Chinese Imperialism; I think that's what people should be concerned about. That's why they call it the Asian century," declares Victor Waterson, the man who stood for One Nation in Bennelong in 2010, though this time around he's running for the Australia First Party (AFP), an anti-immigration ticket founded by neo-Nazi Jim Saleam in 1996.

Waterson is 48, but looks about ten

years older. Wearing a bomber jacket over a flannelette shirt and holding a bike helmet, he looks more a retired tradesman than a budding politician. His accent is broad, almost to the point of ocker stereotype, and his face is weather-bitten, with a nose crowded with burst capillaries and a permanent squint.

He becomes more vigorous the longer we talk. He gestures animatedly, blinks owlishly and juts his chin confi-

"The whole idea of multiculturalism is about one world government," he continues, idly claiming as an aside that most refugees don't have legitimate concerns for their safety in the first place.

dently. I imagine him holding court at the local, beer slopping down his shirt as he rants. He has ordered the big breakfast ("eggs well done, thanks!") and for a long while his body language and eating habits are the most interesting part of this interview; he licks his fingers aggressively rather than use a napkin, he heaps sugars into his cappuccino. Waterson's sweeping generalities and unaware fallacies quickly reduce any credence he had. More frustrating though, is his insistence that the AFP's policies - a core one being the "abolishment of multiculturalism" - are rooted in economic terms. The frequent refrain from

Waterson is that, just as the White Australia policy was economically based, so too are the AFP's current ideals. When I ask him if this isn't counteracted by charges of racism, he insists, "we can't take responsibility for the world's ills".

The soundbites come thick and fast. Without prompting, Waterson covers LGBTI rights ("it's just about difference. It needs to be called something different. Why does it even have to be called marriage? Why do gay people have to be called gay?"), women's rights ("a woman says 'I don't want to be raped', but she actually puts herself in a position where it happens") and Children Overboard ("I believe there was a lot of truth in it").

"I certainly hope that all the Chinese people that have adopted this country are ready to kill their own people," Waterson asserts. "The whole idea of multiculturalism is about one world government," he continues, idly claiming as an aside that most refugees don't have legitimate concerns for their safety in the first place.

His diatribe on the end game of multiculturalism ends up in a predictably absurd place, asking me if I could permit Papua New Guinean tribesmen to practice cannibalism in Australia, informing me that, had I fought in WWII, "the Japanese would have cut your head off like that!" ("Go and have a look at the Australian soldiers that they cannibalised!")

At the conclusion of the interview, what strikes me most about Waterson is his lack of relevance. His sole credential to the AFP is his Whiteness. He doesn't speak in terms of policies or political terms, because the AFP doesn't have policies. What sustains Waterson, and the slew of minor right-wing parties founded on racial lines, is their ideology. Waterson wouldn't know what to do if he did attain power - it suits him perfectly to stand on the political edge and gesture maniacally for attention. That question of journalistic integrity versus moral integrity emerges - in pushing him for answers, and controversial ones, have I simply validated Waterson's rantings by giving him press?

Because where Waterson and the AFP imagine huge, faceless threats, the rest of us see potential friends and already-existing countrymen. I came away from the interview feeling much less threatened by the presence of the AFP in my electorate. And the candidate himself? Does he think he can grow his vote from 0.85%? Well, he believes the AFP is erroneous in their data, and claims, "in 2010 I got 2.7%". He is wrong, of course, as the Australian Electoral Commission - and the thriving, diverse electorate of Bennelong - attests to.

This is an abridged version, the entire profile can be found on [www.honisoit.com](http://www.honisoit.com)

## Like father, like daughter?

OPINION

Matilda Surtees explores the dynamic between male politicians and their daughters as a vehicle for policy

Put "Tony Abbott's" into Google and it may as well use autocomplete to suggest you search for his daughters first and second for his policies. It's obvious that both the public and media have a weird fascination with Abbott's daughters. With the election looming, Harper's Bazaar decided to feature Frances and Bridget Abbott, the youngest of his three daughters, in a fashion spread in early August. It was an early indicator of the media fixation that deepened after the election date was named for September 7.

Since then, the duo have been featured or discussed across major newspapers, media sources such as Mamamia, television, and on radio Katy Perry told Tony Abbott she wanted to meet them. With deft depersonalisation, a Sydney

Morning Herald columnist declared, "Abbott unleashes his two weapons of mass distraction." The Daily Telegraph echoed the tasteless metaphor, dubbing them Abbott's "heavy artillery" in winning 'the female vote'.

The notion that Abbott having daughters clears him of misogyny has been parroted incessantly since Gillard's verbal flaming in October last year. The glaring hole in this logic was quickly recognised: having daughters hardly makes a man incapable of misogyny. Frances and Bridget Abbott's salience in the Liberal campaign is calculated to show that Abbott doesn't just have daughters but that they are articulate, groomed, likeable women. It's easy to be a misogynist and a father but harder to be a misogynist and a good father - though, by no means impossible.

Both women also appear to have been raised to think independently and have been vocal about their personal views in the media. This is support masqueraded as dissent. Undoubtedly sanctioned by campaign management, they are being used to reassure voters that Abbott won't impose his conservatism upon the public. In contrast with their father, both Frances and Bridget Abbott have

stated their support for gay marriage.

This stance might well be genuine, but even if they weren't, saying so is sharp and deliberate political strategy. It gestures towards a future under an Abbott government where progressive legislation might be passed, quieting the voter unease about his anachronistic ideas - but it's all suggestion. Abbott doesn't need to commit to any sort of progressivism because his daughters are doing it for him.

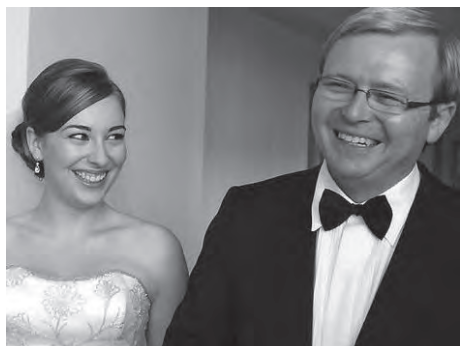
In contrast, Jessica Rudd occupies a much smaller space in the current political arena. In fact, her Google autocomplete includes 'is Jessica Rudd Kevin Rudd's daughter?'. Unlike Abbott, there is no pressing imperative for Rudd to use his daughter as political band-aid for holes in his social policy. Jessica Rudd infrequently plays a part in trying to humanise her father; pictures of the two of them together with her young daughter



"Frances and Bridget Abbott's salience in the Liberal campaign is calculated to show that Abbott doesn't just have daughters but that they are articulate, groomed, likeable women."

ter are perhaps a hopeful attempt at getting the public to forget the rumours of bad temper and difficult character that have plagued Rudd's leadership.

Yet, unlike Frances and Bridget Abbott, whose belief in marriage equality became well-publicised, Jessica Rudd's support for marriage equality barely made ripples in the media. Rudd didn't need it to; Abbott did. Rudd has many flaws, but so far none of them have required him to use his daughter as a temporary, and ultimately meaningless, proxy.





# Why whistleblowers aren't saints

**OPINION**

Nina Hallas assesses the automatic heroism that has surrounded the whistleblower

Edward Snowden. Chelsea Manning. Julian Assange. Some of the most controversial and divisive figures of our time. Heroes or Traitors. Champions of truth and justice, or guilty of endangering countless populations by aiding the 'enemy'. The debate has been had a thousand times before, where the three whistle-blowers have become focal points in discussions centring how pervasive or transparent government operations ought to be.

With a new depth of foundation-shaking intelligence unveiled, the media has a limitless fodder to examine and project implications, to demand answers, to challenge and hold our Stateswomen and men to account. For the most part though, media attention has narrowed its scope to discovering hidden facts about The Real Person behind the leaks. The inside scoop from a childhood friend, former employer or ex-lover. Their idiosyncrasies are magnified and thoroughly examined. Their mental health is questioned. All in a bid, supposedly, to understand their overriding motivations, which forms the prism through which we view their actions and ultimately, the information those actions unveiled.

When Edward Snowden, a former contactor for the National Security Agency, leaked documents about the

pervasive government program, PRISM, initiated by Bush in 2007 then further propagated by Obama, the press was more preoccupied playing Where-In-The-World-Is-Snowden than unravelling more leads to what promises to be the prequel to Nineteen-Eighty-Four. PRISM became a footnote. A backstory to explain the greater issue at hand - was Snowden pissed off he didn't get a promotion? Did his girlfriend know he was leaving?

Chelsea Manning, former US soldier who passed classified documents over to WikiLeaks, was the subject of great speculation about her preferred pronoun and gender identification, some well intentioned, much of it homophobic and transphobic. Speculation had reached such heights that up until very recently, Manning's support network issued a statement saying they did not want to publically address the issue. Unsurprisingly, it wasn't heeded: Was Manning a fall out consequence of the notorious DADA (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) military queer policy? Is Manning mentally ill?

What's crystallised is a form of cult-of-personality around them, the power of which is yielded both ways, as a central figure is as easy a target to rally behind in idolisation as they are in hatred or in fear. In many respects, this has become

highly problematic, given the frequent conflation of the individual, who is necessarily fallible, with the actions or deeds they have come to represent.

The most outstanding example is Julian Assange who is utilising his high profile as a platform to run for the Australian Senate, with some polls indicating he'll get as high as 26% of the vote. Defending him has required a certain amount of cognitive dissonance from those with traditional left values. It's easy to endorse someone as a visionary ahead of their times, challenging The Powers That Be in an age of increasing opaqueness. Mix in allegations of sexual assault however, and the political line gets a little blurry.

While I understand the associated complications of a Swedish Trial, disregarding such severe accusations because of the potential effect it has on a political narrative is a very wanton precedent to set indeed. I don't think Assange should be extradited to the US from Sweden, which is a very real probability should he vacate the asylum of the Ecuadorian Embassy. Yet equally, I don't think it's fair to deny those women from a sense of justice or due process. To find a feasible solution is not easy and here, I'm sorry to say, I do not offer one.

What is clear, however, is the absolute

necessity of separation between Julian Assange, the man, and the actions, reputation and mission of Wikileaks, which should stand independently of and to him, because they are beyond him, as they are all our other whistle-blowers, noble and brave though they may be.

I appreciate there would be a natural curiosity about any person who fundamentally altered the standing order of things, and I certainly don't wish to deny them from the acclaim and solidarity they deserve. The importance of solidarity cannot be understated. To take on the full might of the US government, despite its very dear personal costs, is an astoundingly heroic act - one that should not go unsaid and uncelebrated. This is vital not only for the morale of the individual, but for future generations of dissidents and whistle-blowers-in-waiting, who could otherwise easily be put off by the harsh deterrence measures enforced by the State. I would just hate for one of the most prevailing issues, that have the transformative potential to shift the way we view overarching power structures in society, to be reduced to following the personal trials and tribulations of a few people. Though it would be certainly convenient for those at the head of such structures for us to be so distracted.

## Top 5 reasons why you shouldn't donkey vote

Michael Gemmell tells us why your vote matters in the upcoming election


**TOP FIVE**

**1. Extra Effort:** Donkey voting involves numbering candidates in order in which they appear on the ticket. It's a valid vote and it counts. But assuming you're a rational agent, all this additional admin and arithmetic is time/money wasted. Submitting a completed donkey far exceeds the mental and physical demands required to achieve your objective (avoiding a fine). And think about all the other fun non-political things you could be doing instead. Just walk in, avoid infringement and pop your papers in the designated bins (ballots) provided.

**2. Collateral Damage:** By doing the donkey you could end up tacitly supporting a policy that isn't worth the paper it's written on. Worse still, you

could give away your vote to someone who isn't worthy of any - not a single one, zip. You could potentially endorse a candidate who thinks Islam is a nation that threatens Australia's security or you could reward those individuals who have continually bored you to death on QandA (but keep appearing). If you want nothing else in this election but to keep these mules out, check first before 'donkeying'.

**3. Altruism:** Directing your vote to the respectable candidate that has absolutely no hope of being elected. Make someone feel good, do your good deed for the day. You can be sure that your priceless gift will be appreciated and acknowledged, nurtured and cared for,

spoken about for years to come. Conversely, this type of vote is conceived by the major parties as - somewhat condescendingly - a protest vote. So if you're not of the disposition to act charitably, then this signal of dissent and angst appears to be a credible option as well.

**4. Relinquish Responsibility:** There is a lot to lose in politics, much more than there is to gain. By submitting a valid vote this election, you are involving and investing yourselves into this losing system. Therefore, if your donkey went towards a winning candidate, you could be partially responsible for what happens in this country for the next 3 years. Could you live with that hanging over your head? To avoid this responsibility,

avoid the donkey. And when the country blows up next year, you can reserve the right to say, "I didn't vote for them."

**5. There's Always One:** Although there may not appear to be much choice this election, and although you may be loathe to all major parties and candidates, there must be one policy or issue that stands out. There has to be something that separates the vodka from the cranberry; however small, however trivial in your mind. There may be no easy options this election but the task certainly can be made easier. Whatever that one separating issue is - whatever appears brightest or least bleak - let that carrot be your guide.

# QUEER MARCH 2013

Sunday 15th September  
12:30pm  
Eastern Avenue  
University of Sydney

Supported by the SRC and the Queer Action Collective





# What's the problem with sex positivity?

Shannen Potter gets critical about the prevailing popularity of sex positivity

Sex positivity has an important place in feminism. In all the coverage of Miley Cyrus' VMAs performance, we saw its important role, in encouraging women to be active participants in their own sexuality, and in highlighting the necessity of consent and in working to increase the acceptance of sexual expression that isn't heterosexual, vanilla, gender-binary-conforming and monogamous. But the Cyrus coverage also showed us exactly what's wrong with sex positive feminism.

Sex positivity is problematic in a number of ways, and these issues seem to become more multitudinous as the popularity of sex positive feminism increases. Foremost, the attitude that any and all sexual activities are ethical and healthy as long as consent is involved is deeply problematic.

Although we have the right to explore our sexuality, we do not have the right

to claim that all sexual practices are exempt from critical examination. Our sexual preferences, and how we fantasise about and act on these preferences, are not formed in a vacuum.

Our culture, which is deeply embedded with sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ableism and rape culture, has a marked effect on the formation of our sexualities. For example, in a world in which Asian women are routinely depicted sexually submissive in both pornography and popular culture, a man's claim that he is "just attracted" to Asian women exclusively is not beyond further investigation or criticism by virtue of being related to sexuality.

While a sex neutral or critical position would encourage introspection on this and a number of other sexual issues, sex positivity positions the examination of sexual preferences as shaming.

Additionally, sex positivity appears to be part of a wider imperative to make feminism seem fun, sexy and attractive to young people. Segments of the sex positive community subscribe to the notion that sexy equals empowered and liberated, and believe that sex and sexuality are a Band-Aid solution for a myriad of problems.

"Although we have the right to explore our sexuality, we do not have the right to claim that all sexual practices are exempt from critical examination."

Unfortunately, the daily realities of feminism are generally neither fun nor sexy. Very real problems which women face require hard work to address, and cannot be solved through sexy fun. Things such as the wage gap, reproduc-

tive rights, domestic violence and poverty are difficult issues which cannot be dealt with through women discovering their sexualities.

This also raises questions about the role of intersectionality in sex positivity. By privileging sexual freedom, (white, middle class) sex positive feminists can erase the specific concerns and experiences of women of colour. Much of the sex positive commentary on Cyrus' performance focussed on defending her against slut and body shaming, while ignoring her appropriation of Black culture for profit.

It is possible to be both sex positive and to address serious concerns. In some of feminism's key battlegrounds, sex positivity has been a focal point for change. While sex positivity invests in the beliefs that feminism is fun, and that sex in itself is an agent of revolution, it will continue to be problematic.

## Tweeting from the shadows

Hannah Ryan looks at how social media can bring sex workers into the public sphere

"A bath and a glass of red cures all," tweeted @SavannahStone\_ last week. Trite, but relatable. Savannah is a Melbourne woman whom I encountered on Twitter when a retweet by a music



festival's account made me think we had similar taste in music. Her Twitter bio describes her as a "nerd", so we had that in common as well. The similarities end there: she likes the gym, she's going by a fake name, her display picture is a bare bottom, and she's a sex worker.

Sex workers have had PR problems for at least the last few centuries. Their occupation is a metaphor for shame; often criminalised, always stigmatised. The media use 'prostitutes' as a juicy hook to spice up a melodrama, to add intrigue to a plot already involving crime, money or sex. Take the *Australian* article of last week: 'Killer of Melbourne prostitute Johanna 'Jazzy' O' Martin jailed for at least 20 years'. Or this stunner from the *Herald* on July 31: 'ICAC Macdonald and a prostitute called Tiffanie: ICAC finds former minister acted corruptly'. These aren't unusual, and are emblematic of sex workers' status as exotic social pariahs. Sex workers' own voices are silenced in the media, and our collective imagination fills in the gaps.

Social media, particularly Twitter, are proving to be useful tools in fighting this silencing and stigma. Jules Kim,

acting CEO of advocacy group the Scarlet Alliance, says that Twitter has been embraced by social media advocates: "the more that people actually hear opinions and voices from sex workers that are ordinarily not heard the better," she says, and that's Twitter's allure. Cameron Cox was a law student at USYD when he started working at a heterosexual BDSM house whenever they needed a male. Thirty years later he's a full-time sex worker and activist, tweeting at @CamCoxSyd. The advantages of Twitter, he argues, are the immediate access to prominent figures



and the development of a virtual community of sex workers. He opposes the criminalisation of sex work in states like South Australia and is concerned about language, especially the use of the word 'prostitute'. "It's laden with values that don't describe what we do or emphasise the fact that it's work," he says.



To illustrate the real outcomes Twitter activism can lead to, Cox cites the example of a well-known presenter on the ABC who used the word 'prostitute'. "It happened to be on a Monday night when most sex workers are tweeting about Q&A so there were loads online," he explains. "[The presenter] was basically Twitter-bombed by sex workers who explained why he shouldn't use that word. We explained to him that we considered it hate speech." He eventually agreed, and his program hasn't used the word 'prostitute' since. "For us, those sorts of

things are hugely important – just that changing and framing of language," Cox says.

The language and law are symptoms of the broader problem – that sex workers aren't seen as real people. Here Twitter accommodates more than explicit activism. Sex workers like Stone combat the dominant discourse by the pure ordinariness of their tweets. On August 30, she wrote: "Off to see Cyndi Lauper tonight. She's playing one of my fav albums from my childhood. Yup, #mega80sdork". Merely by tweeting about day-to-day subjects (admin days, weather, love of tea, music), Stone undermines the image of the 'prostitute' as someone who is defined solely by their profession, whose activities are secretive or illicit, and who is there just for sexual pleasure. Her work isn't whitewashed from her feed: she often tweets topless pictures, and she recently described her first experience squirting. But references to sex and work trips are weaved easily into a broader patchwork of experiences.

It is saddening that other social media platforms have sought to exclude sex workers and that the media has reacted to their social media presence with fear or something like it. Facebook removes pages that appear to offer sexual services. LinkedIn also forbids the advertising of illegal activities and relied on this to shut down sex workers' profiles. But, Kim says, when it was brought to the site's attention that sex work is decriminalised in places like NSW, LinkedIn put in a caveat to their policy, banning "illegal activity or sex work".

And when sex workers slip through the cracks and make it onto social media, the mainstream media finds out

is sensationalist. In a standard example, *The Times* in the UK reported in January that children are "put at risk" as "prostitutes use Facebook to sell their wares." The usually liberal Gawker also reported on the phenomenon in language that recalled a plague: "Prostitutes All Over Twitter, Naturally". This is consistent with Stone's view on what everyday people think about her job: "From the negativity I have experienced, it just seems the general population have a general distain of disgust and sadness for a world they know absolutely nothing about."

It's possible to be sceptical of accounts like Stone's. Is it just a canny way of marketing herself as a 'normal' girl, just the way she can pretend to be your girlfriend when you purchase her Dinner Date Special (for \$1200)? None of her followers are friends or family. "I like to keep that separate even though they know what I do," she says, and "I don't fill my personal friends feeds up with naked self photos." The nature of her work means that most of the people she interacts with are either potential clients or other sex workers: the segregation of real life is imitated on Twitter. But Stone denies that she has manufactured a persona, describing it as a "spot on representation of the real me", and to any e-passer-by she would seem genuinely funny and intelligent.

"As much as there are sleazy people on Twitter who probably jerk off to my nude self pics, there are also really lovely people who genuinely care to check in to see how I am doing," she says. "I really never imagined the sex industry would be as 'normal' as it is."

Cox agrees. "It's fairly ordinary. And it's work."

TREATISE



# Taking a microscope to the microparties

Don't blame **Harry Stratton**, he voted for Kodos

Everyone loves voting for an old-fashioned joke ticket – it's why Free Parking has topped the SRC poll every year it's run.

In the Senate, it also means that sometimes your vote counts in ways that you didn't intend or expect because putting a "1" above the line for your party of choice gives that party the complete discretion to allocate your preferences.

Most often, this weird quirk results in preferences flowing back to a major party; but in 2013 it's taken a more sinister turn, as literally dozens of microparties with attractive-sounding names have joined together in a bloc directing their preferences to One Nation.

The only way to guarantee your preferences are responsibly allocated is to fill out all 110 squares below the line or to vote for a party you recognise; so here's *Hon's* Guide to the Microparties in this election, or, how you can avoid being that dickhead who accidentally votes for Pauline Hanson.

**AUSTRALIA FIRST:** White supremacists led by a non-white leader Jim Saleam who angrily insists that he's Greek despite strong evidence to suggest his family's actually from Syria.

**What to say:** Where's the birth cer-

tificate?

**Who you're really voting for:** One Nation.

**SENATOR ONLINE:** Direct democracy advocates who claim their votes will be guided by online polls. In fact, their party's constitution only binds their votes to poll results when a 70% majority of 100,000 voters is reached, ie never, so they'll probably vote how they like.

**What to say:** If these guys get in our national anthem will soon be the Nyan cat song.

**Who you're really voting for:** One Nation.

**THE LIBERTARIAN RIGHT:** The Liberal Democrats; the No Carbon Tax Climate Sceptics; the Republican Party; Australian Voice; the Fishing and Lifestyle Party; Building Australia; Stop the Greens; Smokers' Rights; the Stable Population Party; the Non-Custodial Parents' Party; the Australian Motoring Enthusiasts' party; possibly Free Ice-Cream for SRC.

**What to say:** Wait, what?

**Who you're really voting for:** One Nation. A large number of these parties have shared candidates and regis-

tered AEC officers, and all are linked to mysterious "preference whisperer" Glenn Druerry, leading to suspicion that they're running solely to funnel votes to Pauline.

**SOCIALIST ALLIANCE and the SOCIALIST EQUALITY PARTY:** Trotskyist vanguard parties that hate each other more than the Liberals. Just why has never been quite clear.

**What to say:** The Judean People's Front couldn't get their nominations in on time.

**Who you're really voting for:** Alliance preference every other party from left to right; the SEP insists all three major parties are equally bourgeois and splits its preferences between them.

**THE SEX PARTY and WIKILEAKS PARTY:** Both claim to be centre-left libertarian parties; both seem to have been hijacked by a Ron Paul-style fringe, leading to pro-business policies and the mass resignation of left-leaning members.

**What to say:** One of these parties mops up the creepy internet porn viewer vote; the other is led by one.

**Where your vote ends up:** Wikileaks denied they were preferencing One

Nation, then claimed it was an administrative error, then admitted they'd done it but only in Victoria. The Sex Party also preferenced One Nation, but were much less sneaky about it. You pays your money and you takes your choice.

**THE CRAZY CHRISTIANS:** This election, Rise Up Australia join the Christian Democrats, Pentecostal Family First, and the ultra-Catholic Democratic Labor Party. All of them hate gay marriage and abortion; Rise Up Australia and the CDP also aren't too keen on Muslims or anyone who looks a bit too brown. Family First gave us Stephen Fielding in 2007, and the DLP apparently have a Senator at the moment but he keeps pretty quiet.

**What to say:** Historically, Victoria's voters have a lot to answer for.

**Who you're really voting for:** One Nation.

At first glance, your Senate ballot paper appears to contain a multitude of choices. In fact, because your preferences have to be allocated somewhere, you really only have two, or three if you count Pauline. Since your vote ends up in the hands of a major party in the end, you might as well be the one to decide which.

## Death to industrial capitalism

Jobs interviews vary from the cult-ish to the traumatic, says **Anonymous**

Before I went on exchange a few years ago, I blew through most of my loan and grant, and forgot to apply for the scholarship I set out to receive. So, I decided to apply for a job, but, like any young person, I knew this would be a difficult feat. It's difficult to get a dignified job without experience, because how do you get experience without a dignified job?

My dad told me to ask my neighbours if I could mow their lawns or help out in the garden; I dutifully reminded him that he's held the same job for the past thirty years, and before that he milled around on the farm in a feudalist Bangladeshi village, and as such had no real knowledge of youth unemployment in an advanced capitalist society. The most terrifying thought of work was not the work-study-alcohol balance, but the job interview.

I sat through the heat as I awkwardly wore a suit, gladly utilising the glasses of free water and abundant jugs of further free water. I always conceded that I wasn't going to be around longer than a month or so. The worst was after a Coles interview: after a group interview about the values of Coles (read: capitalism), I was set up with a one-on-one with a burly, disgruntled Coles manager, unaware of our interview, who finished

the interrogation by warning me that if I quit before a year, he'd lose his bonus and he'd "get me". I withdrew my application.

Earlier, I had applied for a job at Apple as a Specialist. I arrived at the Hilton Hotel where the session was held; I wore a T-shirt and jeans, as the invitation said: "Dress casual, no need for a suit!" I milled around with some others, signed a confidentiality agreement (hence: anonymous), and waited.

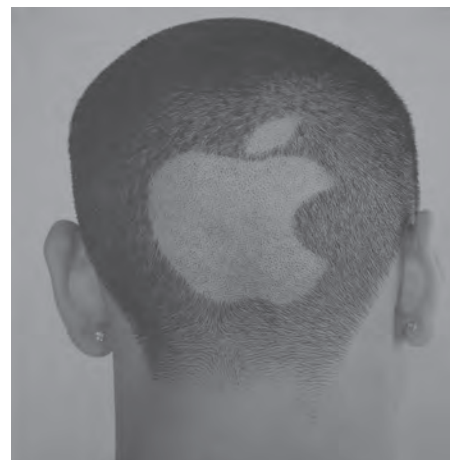
The doors burst open, and two lines of Apple employees created a tunnel for us, clapping us as we entered a large room. I saw how nervous everyone was in their excitement. I knew Apple was a brand that created cult-like behaviour, but I thought this was only in their consumers. After the interview, it became apparent it was an aspect of their workplace culture.

After some more clapping, we sat around and watched videos of Apple employees all around the world, standing in front of Apple stores, clapping. Then we were asked about why we love Apple so much. People clamoured: "it changed my life!", "it revolutionised my life!" Afterwards, we had to talk about our favourite things about Apple; I heard tired slogans, about industrial design, about Steve Jobs and innova-

tion, about how groundbreaking it is. My contribution: "it's pretty and you get to wear T-shirts at work." By the time we were being clapped out, after simulating examples of 'good customer experience' under the constant surveillance and smiles of the interviewers, I knew I couldn't build the energy to get this job.

But this was only the second least traumatic job interview I've ever had. My brother-in-law proposed a cushy, public servant job at Australia Post. I got a call back, and a few days later was on my way to their HQ, situated in a gigantic building in Strawberry Hills.

The interview was fine. I was confident, but lost my nerve when I knew I wasn't going to be around Australia



### FIRST PERSON

in a short time. I carried on to the next stage, the quiz. I breezed through the logic puzzles, and solved the maths problems with ease.

But then came the personality quiz. It started with a few simple questions: do you like x, how do you feel about y, etc. The questions kept coming like rapid fire, but took a disturbing turn.

"Were you ever beaten as a child?"

"Do you hate your parents?"

"Have you ever hurt yourself?"

"Do you hear voices?"

"Have you ever felt like killing anyone?"

Deeply personal questions, ranging from self-abuse to sexual fantasies to mental illnesses to brutalised childhoods, flew at me as I instinctively continued to press 'no', visions of imagined and hypothetical traumas building until they felt vivid and real, and I began to question whether these things had happened to me.

I left the interview shaken. I did not get the job, I assume due to my availabilities as opposed to some camera that filmed my bodily reaction to being psychologically probed by Australia Post.

I asked my parents for money.



# ARTS & CULTURE

## *The more, the merrier*

**Anonymous** slept with three other people. Simultaneously.

Like all good orgies, it started with a drinking game.

“Kings Cup?” somebody suggested, as we sat around our candlelit dining table, working steadily towards the bottom of a large bottle of whisky.

“Sounds good,” I said. It was early in the evening, and although none of us knew what lay ahead, there was, even then, an unmistakable air of anticipation in the room.

For reasons unknown to all but the most drunken minds, we migrated to the carpeted floor, taking with us the whisky and a selection of candles. I fetched a deck of cards, and we began to play.

Kings Cup is a disgusting game that pairs the drawing of cards with excessive drinking. It requires the mixing of everybody’s various liquids in a central cup, to be consumed by whoever is unfortunate enough to draw the King card. A rule is set for each card, and rules can also be invented throughout the game.

Spurred on by unspoken, yet viscerally palpable, sexual tension, we tentatively agreed to this rule: take off an item of clothing every time you draw a card that is a prime number.

Excluding the ace and royal cards, that’s a lot of numbers: two, three, five and seven.

From the outset, it was clear that everybody in the room was a little too into this rule, with the slow shedding of clothes proving tantalizing to the extreme. We pretended to be thankful for our socks, watches and singlets, but in actual fact, we wanted them off — and fast.

Before too long we all sat, fully naked, on the floor of the living room. Somebody made an excuse to move to a bedroom under the pretense of it being warmer in there, and we abandoned the game before it had ended, leaving the half-full King’s Cup on the floor.

At this point, the pretense that we had

any ambitions other than fucking met a necessary end. Our minds were fuzzy with whisky, but not too fuzzy to altogether disregard consent, so a brief conversation took place:

Were we all comfortable with doing this? (Yes.) Did the couple involved want to talk about it before it happened? (They already had, they wanted it.) Was everybody sure? (Yes.)

And so it began.

Although the cheap Ikea double bed was reasonably crowded, it was not the awkward entanglement of limbs I might have envisaged prior to actually partaking in a foursome. In fact, the most surprising part of the entire affair was that it was not awkward at all.

For the most part, we divided into couples, initially switching between them every couple of minutes.

I was overcome with the confusing combination of genuine passion for the people I was fucking and alcohol-fuelled

lust. As the sex progressed, we switched couples less frequently, sharing increasingly intense moments with one another until we were actually making each other come.

Cunts, curves and lips abounded, and hands explored freely; as we discovered post-foursome, deeply secret desires were being acted on for the first time.

I awoke the next morning, alone in my own bed, thoroughly confused over whether or not it had been a dream. I obtained my confirmation when I ventured out into the living room.

Piles of clothes occupied the very spots the four of us had occupied ten or so hours earlier. Littered on the floor was the empty bottle of whisky, toppled onto its side, beside the burnt-out candles.

It was a sobering scene, but surprisingly, one that invoked neither awkwardness nor regret. It was my first foursome, but I hope it won’t be my last.





# Funeral etiquette 101

ADVICE

Blythe S Worthy explains the social niceties of ritualised grieving

Please.

Please.

Don't take this the wrong way.

At least once in your life you will attend the funeral of someone you are familiarly obliged to recognise is dead and you won't really want to go. There's this unspoken rule that everyone has to be nice to each other at family funerals. You all have to get along like your mum wishes you would at Christmas. You might be sad, and if they were super old you might be grateful their suffering is at an end. If you didn't know them that well then you'll be thinking of those you do who are grieving. Either way, you will have to go.

It's a big deal for everyone involved and if your parents need you then you should be there. I've attended six family funerals in the last five years and after the last one my mum congratulated me on the great job I'd done.

I'd represented the family well. I'd rustled no feathers and stirred no pots – all the while constructing an intricate web of half-truths in order to lead my relatives off the scent-trail of honesty we're all tempted to take when interacting with your kinsmen.

Here's what you need to understand: No one needs to know you're staving off a hangover. No one is interested in whether or not those marks on your neck are bruises or hickeys. They don't care about how shit your tips at work

have been this week or the self-discovery you made when you were volunteering in Liberia last Summer. All they want is for you to stay in your category as assigned to you by the family. And here's how you do it.

## The Funeral

There's a weird hush in the morning of a funeral. Everyone is bustling around trying to gather the under-fives together, hastily applying makeup and shining shoes. Australian males tend to go for the 'collared shirt and short sleeves not tucked into loose-fitting business pants and horrid semi-pointed shoes' for their funeral attire, with the girls in my extended family opting for the 'I bought this cute mini at Dangerfield and it'll double as a funeral dress if I wear a shirt underneath' look.

Fat Holdens crowd into the funeral ground's car park.

Though you probably knew and loved the deceased, milling with the few of your extended family who have shown up will still feel stiff, uncomfortable and formal. Then the doors open and you're all herded in.

The ceremony drags on. You'll hear people wheezing and gasping around you and wonder why you're not getting emotional.

Try to look really sad. Stonyface won't fly here.

You begin by noticing a clump of relatives or family friends staggering out of

the church clutching each other and weeping.

They rush to your parents and console them, and they cry and hold each other.

You must then head over and rub their shoulders reassuringly, pulling a painful facial expression I like to call the 'fromile' (a noxious combination of the frown/smile, paired with your head being slightly tilted to the right) when they come at you for an embrace.

Your brother's ex-girlfriend will be there and you have to be nice to her, even though he told you she used to secretly question your choice of hairstyle when they were together.

I hate to be honest but this will probably go on for about 30-45 minutes, right outside the church or funeral home, as people peel off with various bunches of flowers and potted plants they nabbed from the funeral. At long last your parent will turn around and accept your hand, allowing you to pull them to the car, where you drive them (still weeping) to the wake.

## The Wake

Wakes are tricky. It's tacky to eat too much at a wake, but okay to take Tupperware full of leftovers home after because, let's face it, the fridge is crammed full of I-made-this-so-you-don't-have-to-cook 'grief casseroles' already.

This is also a plus because if you're like me and you live out of home, free food is awesome.

Also wake food is usually a combination of 90's school lunch and 70's kitsch dinner party style food. Which is delicious and amazing and usually involves either a creamed salad or little things on sticks.

As soon as you arrive find a cousin or distant relative who either a) disgraced the family b) is out of the closet c) has a successful career that no one else approves of and sit and talk to them for the entire wake.

This is really important. You absolutely should not move. Stay the hell away from the aunts and uncles who like to talk about their kids and *do not* talk to your parents.

You are a sassy, independent young person and you are doing what grown-ups call mingling.

This way you can observe others with your chosen 'black sheep' of the family, which is the only way to do it.

When you've chosen your teen-mum cousin, your gay uncle or your app-developing brother-in-law then you should only talk to them about their thing that defines them for the rest of the afternoon because if you don't you'll end up accidentally telling your judgmental aunt about the time you snorted coke off a drag queen's dick or when you woke up in a bathroom covered in blood and *no one wants that to be family knowledge*.

No one.



Photo: Stella Klenas



## GOING TO NORTH KOREA FOR 15 MINUTES

FIRST PERSON

North Korea's a pretty odd place, writes Nick Gowland

North Korea has been open to Western visitors for more than twenty years now, but even a two day trip to Pyongyang will set you back over \$1000, and must be organised at least a month in advance. In January I opted for the cheaper and more popular tour to the abandoned border village of Panmunjom. For \$80 the tour takes you into the Joint Security Area (JSA) contained within Panmunjom. Here you will find the only portion of the Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) where armistice negotiations are conducted, and where troops from the North and South stand close enough to trade icy glares and the occasional pot-shot.

My trip begins innocuously enough. A few American couples and I board the bus, plus a diminutive grandma of a South Korean tour guide who speaks in rehearsed bursts: "Today is a sad tour, not a happy tour. Later we are joined by a real soldier with a gun with bullets in it. Sit back and enjoy!"

As the bus winds slowly northwards out of Seoul the concrete apartment blocks give way to icy rice paddies and riverbanks lined with barbed wire and sentry posts. We pass open-topped trucks full of steamy-breathed soldiers, and go through tunnels lined with dynamite, designed to collapse and buy precious minutes in a North Korean tank advance.

The first security checkpoint comes

before we cross the bridge over the river Imjin, which marks the southernmost boundary of the DMZ. A South Korean soldier boards the bus and checks everyone's passports. He's incredibly young (South Korean youth must undertake compulsory military service), but a large rifle is strapped to his back. Our bus is given permission to cross, and we begin weaving between the spiked yellow barrels littered across the road. On the other side a cheery blue sign welcomes us to the JSA and Camp Bonifas.

The camp, only 500 metres south of the border, looks like a leafy high school, only with mortar drills on the baseball field. A US Army Captain tells us that after arriving at the border, we should not point or wave; North Korean soldiers have been known to take photos of tourists to use in propaganda pieces on Western spies. We will only be able to cross the Military Demarcation Line and enter the North's territory while inside the conference room straddling the border, but we're not guaranteed entrance today because a North Korean tourist group might get there first. Before we leave, our tour guide makes us sign a waiver – it's horribly misspelled, but the general gist is that I acknowledge I will be entering a hostile area, and I will not rely on the US nor the Republic of Korea for my safety in the event of enemy action.

We board a bulletproof military bus

accompanied by an armed US soldier. "The eagle has left the nest," he proclaims as we head up a road through the landmine-studded woods. Then, as we round a corner and North Korea comes into view for the first time, the most amazing thing happens: golden beams of sunlight break through the heavy clouds. In North Korea, everything is sunny all the time always.

At the base of the hills our tour guide points out the world's third tallest flagpole towering above the village of Kijong-dong, widely referred to as 'The Propaganda Village' for its hollow tower blocks built to create the impression of prosperity. Such heavy-handed image manipulation is typical in the DMZ: on the south side we get Freedom Road, Freedom village (where South Korean farmers require an armed guard during harvests to prevent kidnappings), and 50 metres south of the border is Freedom House – a nondescript military building used by ambassadors to prepare for armistice talks. On the other side of a marble hall we pass through glass double-doors and finally behold the border.

It's a large courtyard containing the three parallel blue huts used for armistice conferences. A series of white pickets known as the Military Demarcation Line runs left to right and through the middle of the huts,

marking the border. Our side of the courtyard is covered in gravel, the other in sand. Freedom House is mirrored on the other side by Panmun-guk, a concrete building from the conspicuous magnificence school of communist architecture. Security cameras spike its surface, and a lone North Korean soldier stands by its diminutive doors, a pair of binoculars glued resolutely to his eyeballs, surveying us for any sign of Western insolence.

It's our lucky day; no North Koreans have beaten us to the Military Armistice Control conference room, so we file into the middle of the three blue huts, where we stay for fifteen minutes. It's just a wooden hut with a conference desk, occupied by two South Korean soldiers in oversized helmets who are happy to pose for photos. I'm overwhelmed by that disappointment common at sites of historical significance – everything seems a little too small for what it represents.

I'd come on this tour hoping to find a slice of the North Korea of *Team America* and sloppy *VICE* documentaries. Instead I found the quiet absurdity of armed conflict – a stagnant reminder that military might, diplomacy and ideology can fail us and all that we'll be left with is a country that does not glow in night-time satellite imagery because they can't afford to turn the lights on.

## Student politics is just a circle jerk

OPINION

Adam Disney stands up to use his voice

How long, O Lord, how long? Election days are here again and once more my lawns will be littered with greasy pimps looking for the feathered nest. Normally my instinct would be to accept this bi-annual nonsense as one of the necessary evils of fostering a vibrant and competitive democratic culture, that our best and brightest may walk tall and live free etc etc. Normally – but no longer. It's my fourth time round and I'm tired of this shit.

Let's dispense with my weak point: nothing changes. Yes, this is a *gross* simplification, but ask any fourth year if their student experience has markedly changed and they'll struggle to come up with anything of substance save that there are more strikes, and Fisher is prettier and less space-efficient. Well then we need change, a new guard; an SRC *by* the students *for* the students! Oh yeah, what a rabble-rouser! Sounds like you've been reading a little tome called *Every Flyer Ever Handed Out By Every Student Politician Ever* (Random House). No one buys it, but there's a new edition printed every year. Each election, we get the same mix of Young Libs, Laborites and out-and-out progressives, and the same blend of promises both maddeningly bland (working for *you*!)

and unworkably specific (every lecture recorded!).

But that's politics, my friend! Perhaps, but what we've got here is not politics. It's more of a political recreation society. Any student of second year or higher



Hacks throughout the ages

will have noticed that the same faces seem to keep turning up on the Eastern Avenue beggar's row for semester after semester. *Wasn't she running for USU board last year? Is that the 'wham for Sam' guy?* The different camps skip their lectures to mingle and chat, and one cannot shake the suspicion that after the votes are all counted they will shake hands, swap

shirts, and get to planning for the next election in a few months time. It's all a bit of fun really, a great way for Arts students to meet Law students while really making a *difference*. Remember guys – drinks afterwards!

Indeed, intermingling is the name of the game, and it is this that proves most objectionable about the whole enterprise. Don't get me wrong; despite my misanthropic bent and permanent scowl, I'm not averse to some good-old-fashioned interaction. But *this* – this is about *contacts*. Yes, you are right to recoil in horror at that most

oily of nouns, but the sad fact is that except for a few wackos (read: idealists) these elections are about laying the groundwork and getting your name on the political scene. Look around our green lawns and sleepy lecture theatres – these are the birthing pools of the Hockeys and Abbotts, the spawning grounds of the Gillards and Albaneses (Albanesii?). Glance at a list of former SRC presidents and you'll see that these are the stepping stones, the first rungs on the political ladder. If you can attach yourself to the right campaigns – on the grounds of 'helping out a mate', of course – or even get elected, then maybe one day *your* grizzled features will haunt the halls of power while student papers mock the utterances of your fresh faced former self.

The horror, the horror! Yes, it's a grim scenario, but it's also a chance for some bud-nipping, to stop the nonsense early. I'm not *completely* jaded. Things do indeed change on campus, not always through sexy decade-retrospective-style sit-ins but instead through painstaking 'I-second-the-motion'-ism. My point is that if we tolerate buzzwords and rung-hopping in our future leaders, how can we expect different from the leaders they become?



# A BIRTHDAY PARTY, AND WE'RE ALL INVITED PREVIEW

Avani Dias looks back on FBi radio's 10 years

"It's not necessarily male or female, it doesn't necessarily look like anything in particular, but it's got a particular attitude." It sounds a little cheesy, but for Dan Zilber, the General Manager of Music at FBi Radio, programming the music for Sydney's youth radio station for the past decade was easier when he could envisage it as a person. "I think it's a really dedicated, passionate, authentic, enthusiastic van of culture and creativity... it's important to support what the station, if it were a person, would enjoy." This Sunday, FBi Radio is celebrating ten years of broadcasting with a gig expected to draw over 8000 fans and featuring 35 acts. The concert will feature some of the greatest local and international talent – playing as a thank you to the station for all they have done.

FBi's existence was transient before it found its current 94.5 home. The formative years began in 1995: Paul Keat-



1995, the happier times: Lisa Left Eye was still alive, and FBi was born.

ing was about to be beaten by John Howard, Anna Wood passed away after taking ecstasy at a rave which sparked the debate surrounding illicit drugs and rave culture, and 'Waterfalls' by TLC hit number 4 on the Australian charts. Meanwhile, FBi began test broadcasting as an 'aspirant broadcaster' in the pursuit of a permanent, community radio license. A caravan on the beach in Bondi, a room above the Marly in Newtown, and above a Chinese restaurant on George Street, were some of the spaces that the team would broadcast from during those years. They would pop up for a few months at a time, pack up and then another aspirant station would fill that place. In 2002, it was granted the biggest community broadcasting footprint ever offered, and permanent broadcasting began in August 2003.

For a number of local artists, it has catapulted their careers into the centre of the music industry. The early demos of the likes of Tame Impala, Sarah Blasko, Flume and The Presets lie in the dusty depths of the music library at the station. John Hassell is a part of one of the most prolific, electronic bands in Sydney, Seekae. He says that FBi was integral to their success as a band: "They were the one station that were happy to play our kind of music at that time and were open to anything." The band appeared on the music scene in 2006 at a time when electronic music, accompanied by computer-assisted performances, was only just beginning to flourish internationally. "The only shows we happened to get [at the start] were with rock bands and bands that just had guitars and keyboards on stage.



We were just these three dorks with computers and I think it was a blessing in disguise because it made us stand out a little bit," said Hassell.

But as government cuts to community radio continue to increase, and technology rapidly develops, the future for FBi is difficult to gauge. Sydney two-piece, FISHING, came into the electronic scene at a time when people were able to create music in the comfort of their own homes and release it online within a day. The beats scene in Sydney has flourished as a result of this but Russell Fitzgibbon, one half of the band, thinks that they owe their initial success to the colliding of two mediums of publishing, "We began at the same time as that intersection of the blog and local scene. There were some really nice blogs coming out of Sydney... giving our music to FBi at the same time was a really nice way of pulling it all together." He suggested that FBi provides the locality that the internet can never produce, "It's all about making connections between people who live and make music in the

same place... the internet can't do that because it relies on people seeking out things, it's not just an active member of the community."

Both Seekae and FISHING are on the lineup for Sunday. Zilber and the rest of the team have been lucky to survive on the generosity of the bands and artists who have waived all their usual fees for the fundraiser gig, and Carriageworks who allowed to host the event for free. FBi is not a cheap operation, and just 5% of the station's funding comes from the government. The rest comes from the station's sponsors and individual supporters that can pay \$5, \$10, or \$15 a month to help keep the station alive. To say FBi rides on the back of the community is an incredibly apt statement.

For Hassell, FBi is all about the music: "they're just...supporting an artistic community as much as they can – purely out of the love of art and music, nothing else."

## why do we cling to print?

Justin Pen investigates the state of print media on campus

The figures are in and print is dying. A report from the Audited Media Association of Australia, which canvassed national newspaper sales over the June quarter, revealed plummeting figures across the board. The *Sydney Morning Herald's* Monday to Friday sales fell by 17%. Weekday sales of *The Daily Telegraph* stared down a double-digit drop of 11.2%. The Australian took a hit of 9.8%.

The periodicals that litter our lecture theatres and neatly-trimmed lawns remain insulated from the pressures facing the rest of the print world – in part because sales, and profits, aren't necessary endeavours. So why then, on a campus of laptops and tablets and smartphones, teeming with digital literates, do we keep pulping our forests and sating landfill?

*Honi Soit* prints 4000 copies a week.

Editor Lucy Watson approximates about 3000-3500 are picked up each week, though she notes that is a "conservative estimate." Their website, by comparison, receives between 4500 and 5000 views over the same period. Its tentacles are extensive. Only 65% of readers are based in Sydney; Watson informs me that the website attracts more traffic from New York and London than it does from Hobart.

Rebecca Dang, editor-in-chief of *The Sydney Globalist*, a bi-annual foreign affairs journal, suggests print has a "personal, even social, character." Available on-campus and online, Dang highlights the unique intimacy that physical mediums hold: "you can annotate it, draw on it, and more importantly, you can take

it with you... [to] social settings" where issues and ideas can be more readily discussed.

Like clockwork, copies and copies of *Honi* are churned out each week; the *USU's Bull*, each month; and *The Sydney Globalist*, twice per year: as a campus, we're drawn to print. Perhaps it's the same nostalgia that lured us all to the sandstone. Watson recalls the excitement that followed her first published piece and recounts the minutiae of picking up her copy, taking it home and showing her family. "I can't put it into words," she says.

Digital media has its own champions too. *Bull* Editor Eleanor Gordon-Smith believes that "student media needs online outlets." Gordon-Smith remains

sceptical about the relationship between print and student journalism. "I don't think [it's] a product of the medium," she tells me, "I think it's a product of students' interest in their environment and in each other."

There is, also, political value in print. Fellow *Honi* editor Rafi Alam contends that print journalism is traditionally deployed by the mainstream press as a form of "propaganda" meted out through "sensationalist covers." Student journalism, however, has "the reverse effect...it's alternative journalism without having to go online to seek out alternative news."

I ended our interview by going off-script. I ask Watson if she believes digital media will one day totally eclipse and replace inky student newspapers. Her cheer dampens, "I hope not," she says.

And neither do I.





## ON THE EIGHTH DAY, GOD CREATED ARTS REVUE

Sean O'Grady saw the face of God, at the York Theatre

Directors Cihan Saral and Jack Gow set about "creating a show free of some of the more formulaic approaches to Revues". as the show commences with God's (Jack Gow) nasal twang reciting a slightly altered version of the Christian Creation myth, the audience wonders what the creators of *On the Eighth Day, God Created the Arts Revue (and flightless birds)* have in store for them.

From the outset it is clear that long favoured revue tropes have given way for a set of characters that are often dark and always awkward. If you had not ventured out for a night of black comedy and elongated silences, then you might have been disappointed.

The opening half of the show struggles to build momentum. The 'Man with the Second Longest Fingernails in the World' is hilarious as Sam Brewer tries to make breakfast, and Jack Ballhausen is excellent as a singing Hannibal Lecter. However long transitions between scenes, and a couple of overlong sketches, leave the performance feeling occasionally laboured.

The sketches following the interval are in possession of renewed energy and excellent comic timing. The 'Spanish Scene' which features Pan from Pan's Labyrinth as part of a Mariachi Band is an audience favourite. So too is an infantile Bond Villain astride a tricycle

who leaves the audience in stitches as she repeatedly circles the stage on her trike. The silence is punctuated only by the squeaking of her bike and the gales of laughter coming from the audience.

Whilst the show had its flaws, if you came to Arts Revue wanting an absurd, awkward and at times alienating series of sketches, you were not disappointed. The massive York Theatre was, more often than not, filled by the sound of a laughing and cheering audience.



Ellen O'Brien would've enjoyed it more with a bottle of wine in her bag

In comedy, they say that timing is everything. Unfortunately, Arts students aren't known to have the best sense of time (management). I turned up to the final night of the Arts Revue with rock-bottom expectations, regretting that I hadn't had a few drinks beforehand to ease the tension. Luckily for this sober reviewer, the production by the so-called "laziest students on campus" was somewhat of a surprise. With a cast made up of several SUDS members, the majority of the skits struck the perfect balance between squeamishly awkward and gaspingly hilarious.

Disappointingly, the sketches met with the biggest laughs of the night were bordering on crass. While hilarity can indeed be found in a fart joke, laughing at the sound of flatulence for over two minutes seemed a tad too juvenile. Giv-

en the nature of the beast (and skit comedy in general), it is perhaps incredibly naïve for the audience to expect overly intelligent humour from a revue. Nevertheless, several scenes managed to pair crudeness with wit, including a sequined Hannibal Lecter crooning about his favourite hobby to the tune of Mambo Number 5, and a video sketch involving the untimely microwave ending of the protagonist of "Pop Goes the Weasel".

Speaking of video segments, the directors' (Jack Gow and Cihan Saral) idea of incorporating short pre-filmed scenes into the stage production was a veritable success, breaking up the often long-winded on-stage work and allowing for more believable sets and props. Other than these segments, the timing of the longer sketches was hit and miss. A scene involving Fantails and the Last Supper dragged on for an eternity, culminating in an all-too predictable punch line; but on the other hand, watching a man with obscenely long fingernails perform daily tasks for several minutes was cringingly brilliant.

On the whole, the Arts Revue showcased some exceptional USYD acting talent, with the sketches being met with more authentic laughter than uncomfortable silence. However, social lubricant would have been a welcome accompaniment, if only to make those odd moments a little less awkward.

heckles from a number of intoxicated Union Board directors. A lot of the skits took far too long to crawl towards their punchlines, and even more tried to stretch vaguely funny jokes far further than they were capable of sustaining. A potentially funny one-liner about being "saved by the bell", for example, was dragged out into a three minute miniature soap opera that still only had one funny line, while an attempted Backstreet Boys spoof made the wannabe satirists look even sillier than their subjects. Meanwhile, a skit about Redfern station was poorly executed and had some (possibly inadvertent) dubious race and class connotations. To give credit where credit is due: the set design was elegant and striking, the tech crew did well, and the song-and-dance numbers were enthusiastically, energetically executed.

Overall, these future teachers still need some schooling in the fine art of live comedy; an A for obvious effort, but a pretty average mark for the stuff that really matters.



Max Schinifler went to school to learn, girl, not listen to hecklers

It was with great anticipation that I rushed into the Seymour Centre to secure my (unallocated) seat for Ed Revue, just before show time. My wonderings about the theme – the show was titled *Waiting for Gonski* – were immediately sated; the first sketch was a *Waiting for Godot* parody in a familiar primary school setting, and attended to the show's tagline: "No hat, no play. How absurd." Gonski, it seems, may be a draconian school principal who fails to understand the physics behind the possibility of bare-headed play occurring.

The most enjoyable aspect of this revue was, for me, the consistence of theme, as we were frequently brought back to our primary and high school days. Education references were in abundance, from the humorous sketches: a child T-Pain rapping 'I'm on a Bus' and a person who was literally saved by the Bell (a big cardboard bell, at that!), to the still-funny, but also sad-because-it's-true sketches: Patrick Madden as Julia Gillard singing about gendered prejudice towards her overshadowing her legislative achievements. It was a highlight of the evening, and the audience treated it as such.

I quite enjoyed the show, which even featured some audience participation

from several USU Board Directors (who recieved free tickets to every revue) took the opportunity, after a few refreshments, to remind us of one performer's name, with shouts of "Cacca-MO" heard whenever he was on stage, as well as shouts of "Lack-a-MO" when said performer was absent. When asked for comment, current USU Board President, Hannah Morris, said: "The Board thoroughly enjoyed the revue... and we support all the student revues in the program as a way for students to showcase and appreciate each other's talents." This enjoyment was evident on the evening as the Board President called out to identify a Jesus character first as Ned and then as Arya Stark. Cast member Patrick Madden, when asked for an opinion, said he "think[s] it's all in good fun, it wasn't distracting for [him] as a performer." 8/10, would go again.

Georgia Behrens liked Ed Revue, but some of it needs improvement

There were a number of genuinely funny moments in this year's Education Revue, *Waiting for Gonski*: Lachlan Burn's pseudo-Marxist-feminist-anarchist reading of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*; Zara Stanton's ukulele rendition of 'The Bare Necessities'; and a chorus of plastic-aproned tuckshop ladies breaking down to Ke\$ha's noughties nightclub classic, 'TiK ToK'. But, unfortunately, it seems that this year's directors weren't kidding when they described themselves as "clutching at an ever-diminishing stockpile of school-related humour" in their promotional material. Every genuine laugh that Ed Revue elicited was preceded and succeeded by long stretches of awkward (occasionally squirm-inducing) silence, sporadically punctuated with

## EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK REVUE: WAITING FOR GONSKI



## Special Consideration – Who Cares?

If you are sick or have experienced some misadventure that has stopped you from being able to complete an assessment or exam you can claim Special Consideration.

However, did you know that this includes being a carer for someone who is sick? Of course there are conditions. For example, you have to be their primary carer, and be able to prove that. The University's policy says:

Students who bear a primary carer responsibility toward another person at the time of an assessment may also

apply for special consideration on the basis of illness, injury or misadventure on the part of the person for whom they care if their ability to prepare for or perform the assessment is adversely affected.

So if you are in that situation, get the appropriate documentation and apply before the 5 day deadline.

If it is a situation that you can foresee, then you should talk to your teacher about getting special arrangements instead of special consideration. This might include doing your exam earlier or having a different type of assessment or something else we haven't thought of.



## Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

I've got a million things going on in my life at the moment and uni just can't be my number one priority. I can't imagine that I will be attending many classes from now until the end of the year. I know I've missed the HECs census date, but is there a way that I can avoid failing.

Past Census

Dear Past Census,

You are still in time to apply for a Discontinue Not to count as Fail grade (DNF). Look on your faculty website for details on how to do this. This means you will have no academic penalty, but will still be liable for fees. However, if you can show that you reasonably believed that you could complete the subject at the beginning of the year, then things disintegrated beyond your control, you may be able to apply for a refund. Ask SRC Help for details based on your personal circumstances to see if you should apply.

Abe

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](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au).



**SRC Legal Service**

**For undergraduate  
Sydney Uni Students**

**FREE**

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

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

### **NEED a Justice of the Peace?**

Our solicitor will certify documents & witness statutory declarations

### **Appointments**

Phone 02 9660 5222

### **Drop-in sessions**

**(no appointment needed)**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-3pm

### **Location**

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

**We have a solicitor  
who speaks Cantonese,  
Mandarin & Japanese**

法律諮詢

法律アドバイス



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney | Level 1 Wentworth Building, Uni of Sydney  
02 9660 5222 | [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au) | ACN 146 653 143

# TEXTBOOKS CHEAP!

**DON'T PAY FULL PRICE FOR TEXTBOOKS...  
BUY THEM AT SRC BOOKS.**



- We buy & sell textbooks according to demand
- You can sell your books on consignment.  
*Please phone us before bringing in your books.*
- We are open to USYD students & the public

### **NEW Location!**

**Level 4, Wentworth Building**

(Next to the International Lounge)

**Hours:** Mondays to Fridays 9am - 4.30pm

**Phone:** (02) 9660 4756

**Email:** [books@SRC.usyd.edu.au](mailto:books@SRC.usyd.edu.au)

**Search for text books online**

[www.src.usyd.edu.au/default.php](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au/default.php)

Call 02 9660 4756 to check availability and reserve a book.



## President's Report

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

David Pink explains why the SRC did not have a stall at Open Day 2013

I have manned the SRC stall at Open Day every single year since I started university, and it is usually a fantastic opportunity to inform prospective students of their student representative organisation's services, and ways they can get involved in our collectives should they be activist inclined.

I actually decided to go to Sydney University because of the SRC stall at Open Day. The then-President Elly Howse had a large stock of Honi Soits, and I took a few and after reading them

thought that USYD sounded a lot more fun than UNSW. (This year, that might have been a bit more difficult – a lot of the high school students are probably under-18 so we wouldn't be able to hand out one particular issue).

Open Day is very, very important to us. However, it was our unanimous decision that the interests of undergraduate students (current and future) at the University of Sydney would be undermined if we went ahead with the stall.

Instead, we will be leafleting prospective students and informing them of why wages and conditions for staff are important. They have a right to know.

I'm not going to bother explaining why staff's wages and conditions are important. If you're not convinced by now, you'll never be convinced.

I'm writing this article before the action at Open Day, but I wanted to reiterate that no matter what happens: the SRC stands in complete and 100% solidarity with staff.



## Vice-President's Report

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

Amelle Vanderstock updates us on the USYD community garden project

A community garden is growing at USYD!

After years of spontaneously arising groups, writing proposals, pressuring the university, and creating guerrilla garden plots around campus to spread the word, a community garden will soon be growing at USYD. Operating through the Student Representative Council (SRC), in a joint venture with the Centre for English Teaching (CET) and the USYD Food Coop, we can now create an inclusive space where students are empowered to come together- learning from one another through building and maintaining our campus garden. We've received the final approval to begin construction of raised garden beds on the 5th floor Balcony of Wentworth building. Accessible through the Centre for English teaching (CET), this location and collaboration provides a unique opportunity for international and domestic students to meet and work in concert. In this expansive space students are invited to participate in workshops from no-dig-gardening to feminism and facilitation - as the garden has the potential to become a hub of cross SRC collective endeavours. Community garden allow those without gardening area or knowledge of their own to join oth-

ers in a common site for such skills and soil to be shared. Local councils including the City of Sydney with the 'grow it local' focus, are increasingly encouraging community garden initiatives in a shift toward local empowerment and vegetating urban environments. Schools have been leaders in such projects with increasing successful University examples. From the rooftop garden at ANU (Canberra) to the vibrant vegetable beds of UOW (Wollongong), campus gardens have brought students together in more ways than planting.

Sustainability, food security, questioning the supermarket monopoly, approaches to mental health, urban ecological understanding, collaboration and community... there is an abundance of reasons and goals for a community garden on our campus. The garden will be a balance of food crops and native flora for education, encouragement of native diversity and self-sufficient food production purposes. Multilingual signage and regular working bees to plant and maintain the garden will ensure a collaborative, volunteer-coordinated project - not to mention opportunities for volunteer participants to feast on the fruits of our labour!

Student input is important at every

level of the community garden's creation. From sprouting skills, to poster design, to volunteer roster coordination - there are many ways to contribute that cater to a diversity of interests and experience. Now that we have our location secured, we are in the final design phase: looking at best permaculture practice to use our space efficiently and sustainably. If there are any budding permaculture designers amongst our student community, why not use this as a first (or umpteenth) project? After we've erected the beds, ready for spring planting, watch for the call out for the Inaugural Gardening Bee! Watch this space!

In the meantime we can choose which crops we want to plant, sprout seeds at home and uni, refine the everyday organising of the garden, and complete the finer tasks that as a broad collective we can learn to do together!

I envisage the garden to bring together our broad, dynamic student community in sharing knowledge, skills and experiences- not just about gardening but about our commonalities as students and the diversities of interests and futures. As the representative



body for all USYD undergraduates, it is important for the SRC to facilitate these inclusive ventures and hopefully, it can then contribute to making our SRC more accessible and relevant to our diverse community.

We next meet Monday 1pm on the Garden Balcony, Level 5 Wentworth - accessible via the Centre for English teaching, upstairs from International students lounge (or look up at the protruding rail from Hermanns!).

No matter your skills and experience, If you are interested in gardening, or simply finding or expanding your community on campus, contact us at [usydcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:usydcommunitygarden@gmail.com) or call me on 0413679269 to find out more!

## General Secretary's Report

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

Dylan Parker is not a fan of Abbott

I know I am starting to sound like a bit of a broken record on this but I think it is important that all students realise the potentially rough future ahead for the SRC.

I write this because a week out from the Federal election it is looking like sadly a foregone conclusion that on Sept 8 we are all going to wake up to of Prime Minister Abbott.

Ok so what does this have to do with the finances of the SRC? It means that

VSU is coming back and will potentially see the further decimation of student associations across the country.

Undeniably, the SRC survived VSU mark 1 however this was only due to the VC at the time seeing merit in our services. VSU mark 2 will mean once again that the SRC will have to rely on the continued benefaction of the University to dip into its own funds in order for our services.

This is a big problem as it ultimately

puts the independence of the SRC at risk. Students expect us to stand up for them and speak truth to power when necessary. It becomes much harder to do so when those we need to influence can budget us out of existence according to the mere whim of the VC.

Look, I don't mean to be overly political. But I would be a negligent General Secretary, if I wasn't honest in saying that if Abbott wins the SRC may again be in trouble.





## Womens' Officer Report

Emily Rayers reports on the NDA against sexual assault

The National Day of Action Against Sexual Assault occurred last Thursday. In conjunction with the sexual assault services at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Women's Collective volunteered at train stations across Sydney to hand out flowers, pens and materials reflecting the main goals of the NDA:

- Celebrate victim's survival of sexual assault
- Draw attention to the continuing need for public education and support services
- Inform SA survivors of support options available to them
- Inform potential perpetrators that sexual assault is a crime, the victim is never to blame and that 'just because she isn't saying no, doesn't mean she's saying yes'

It is estimated that 1/3-1/5 of women

and 1/20 men in Australia will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. This is still a pervasive problem in our society and it is important to use opportunities like the NDA to consider sexual violence, reflect on the role you have to play in preventing it, and remember that these are not just statistics – these are most likely people in your life that are important to you, whether you know it or not.

So what can you do?

1. Know how to respond if someone you know reveals an experience of sexual assault or isn't sure if they have been sexually assaulted. For anybody studying, working or living in the area (regardless of gender, home address, nationality, financial status, language skills) the RPAH Sexual Assault Service offers free counseling, medical/forensic support, special consideration application help and support and information

about reporting to police and the court process – if you choose to do so. There is no obligation to report, no Medicare or full name or address required, and translators are available free of charge. Phone 9515 9040 during business hours or 9515 6111 in a crisis situation, or turn up to the ground floor of the King George V building or Emergency Department. For people living away from Sydney or NSW, a good start is the National Sexual Assault, Domestic & Family Violence Line on 1800 737 732 or the NSW Rape Crisis Centre on 1800 424 017 who can help them to find local resources or services.

2. Stand up against sexual assault whenever you feel safe to do so. Don't laugh at a dodgy rape joke, call out the guy who is 'hitting on' the drunkest girl he can find, stand up against victim-blaming because it is never their fault.

Always check with your partner(s) if you are not 100% sure that they are knowingly and enthusiastically giving you consent.

These statistics are too damn high, and it's on each and every one of us to contribute towards changing them.



## Education Officer's Report

Tenaya Alattas talks about free school and collective strength

At the University of Sydney the struggle for worker's conditions has been at the forefront of education campaigns; with student-run protests guided by an allegiance to staff. In 2012 we saw mass rallies, petitions, a referendum and an occupation to fight against the decision of VC Michael Spence to fire 350 staff. 2013 has been marked by the NTEU and CPSU industrial dispute; with students linking arms with staff to ensure them better wages, conditions and job security

There comes a point, however, when the need to reflect becomes necessary. Problematically, participating in industrial action is increasingly underpinned by the threat of violence- more injuries, more arrests. Already this process

is marring livelihoods of picketers with expensive (fines and barrister costs) and elongated court cases swallowing up time and even hopes of their future. I think it is important at this point in time to reflect WHY are we throwing ourselves in front of cars and police with guns and WHAT is it that we are trying to defend.

Across Australia, universities have been engaged in similar struggles with staff to rally against cuts to courses, degrees and staff. Interestingly there are also three well-established Free Schools: in Brisbane, the University of Wollongong and the University of Melbourne. Each of these starts from a point of defence- against the user-pays, outcome based (whether career or degree), and

hierarchical (by subject, by constant rankings on tests etc.)- Form of education, which characterizes the neoliberal university. However it is important to note that they are also a form of offense insofar that they offer an alternative platform to learn which is free, accessible, and not bound by course curriculums and constant testing.

It offers its participants an unmediated form of education. Learning for education's sake and not as a means to an end. I think one way in which to deepen the bonds between staff and student is to realize what is this university that we are trying to defend. More so it is important to note that there has been no 'golden age' of the university – it has never been

an institution in the common interest. So I think its time that Sydney starts capitalizing on the current context of political unrest, of the whittling away of barriers between staff and students and the camaraderie on the picket line that unites those for a cause and against management (economic) and police violence. By establishing collective strength and rejecting the binary inherent to the profit driven model of higher education, integrated student/staff/faculty groups and actions can effectively organize towards an alternative non-market paradigm of education. If you are interested in getting involved in starting up a free school at Sydney University please contact education.officers@src.edu.au

## Queer Officer's Report

Fahad Ali reports on the latest queer news on campus

The University of Sydney Pride Festival is coming our way: a spectacular, week-long burst of energy and colour on campus to celebrate our queer community. It's on from 16th to the 20th of September, and here are some of the highlights.

On Sunday the 15th, join us at 12:30 on Eastern Ave for the first Queer March! It's own little (less corporate and more exciting) Mardi Gras. We'll parade our colours down Carillon Avenue, followed by celebrations in Camperdown Memorial Rest Park.

The Queer Honi Launch Party will kick off at the Verge Gallery at 6:00 pm on Tuesday the 17th. Celebrate the launch of the annual queer edition of Honi Soit, Australia's oldest student newspa-

per—the most fabulous edition of the year. At 10:00 pm on Friday, SHADES will be holding 'Super Queer-os' at Zanzibar in Newtown, celebrating the end of Pride Festival and the superheroes of the queer community.

Beyond Pride Festival, look out for the University of Sydney Union's Glitter Gala on October 10th. It's a celebration of the queer community on campus, and includes a three-course dinner with drinks, and tickets are available from the Access Desk (Level 1, Manning House).

Parties are pretty great, which is why between the SRC's Queer Department, the USU's Queer Coordinator program, and SHADES, we're holding so many! But when you're out having a good time, make sure you're aware of your rights,

especially if you're using illicit substances.

It is illegal for police to conduct a strip search without a warrant or reasonable suspicion. Sniffer dogs only warrant a search if they sit down next to you—it is not enough for them to simply sniff you. They cannot conduct a cavity search. It must be conducted in private, and they must tell you their name, command, and the reason for the search.

If someone is having an overdose, call 000 and you will not get in trouble. Ambos and medics will not call the police or report you. They're there to save lives, so be up front and honest. People have died because emergency wasn't called in fear of being caught out. Remember, call an ambulance and you

will not get in trouble.

Police brutality, illegal searches, and misconduct are common, especially at large queer events. ACON's Rover team works to help make sure that people are staying safe at parties, and legal observers from the Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC) make sure that police are acting by the book. If you suspect police misconduct, contact the ACON Anti-Violence Project or the ICLC and they'll provide you with advice and support.

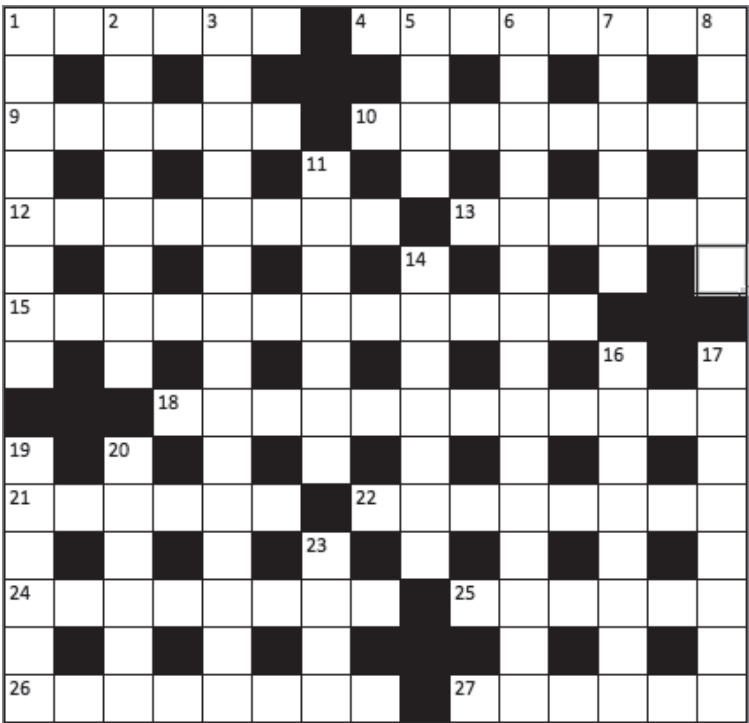
The SRC supports the full legalisation of all drugs. Drug use can be safe, as long as you're informed and know what you're doing. If you need any information, get in touch with the queer officers and we'll be happy to direct you to the resources you need.

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au



QUICK CROSSWORD



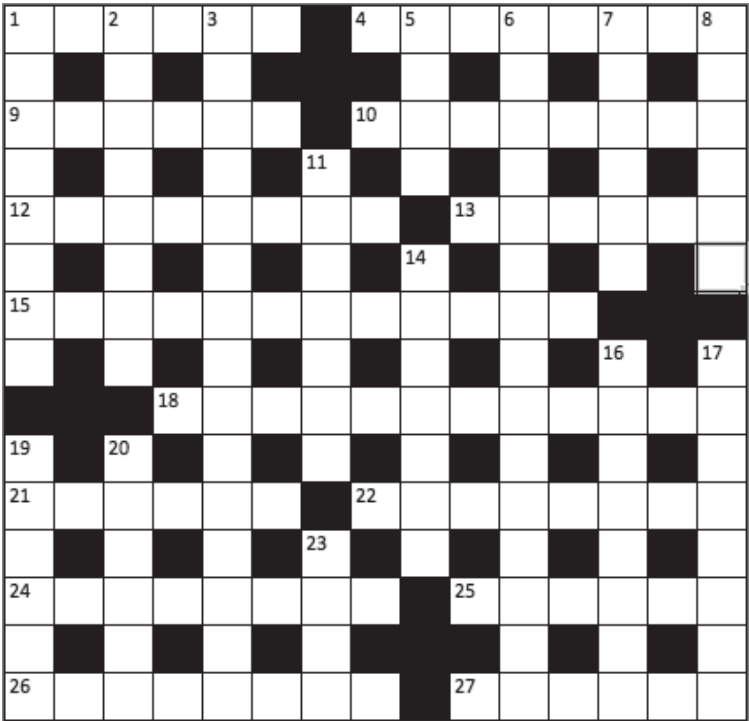
ACROSS

- 1 If the bellman says it this many times it must be true! (6)  
4 A form of boating (8)  
9 Decent (3,3)  
10 Denim (8)  
12 Anual exams (8)  
13 Seperate (6)  
15 Usually describes a heavenly limb (12)  
18 A branch of tehology that deals with principles of exegesis (12)  
21 French existentialist (6)  
22 Unripe (8)  
24 Arouse again (8)  
25 He who denounced Cataline (6)  
26 Mercifullness (8)  
27 Together (6)

DOWN

- 1 Break, Break Break poet (8)  
2 Pulls away (8)  
3 *Jane Eyre* writer (9,6)  
5 Chill (4)  
6 Something that Sydney University offers (6,9)  
7 Raid (6)  
8 *The Sorrows of Young Werther* author (6)  
11 Delivers (7)  
14 The treasurer is responsible for this (7)  
16 Quite poison (8)  
17 Small chunks of metal or rock that move around the sun (8)  
19 Stellar (6)  
20 «Release the \_\_\_\_\_» (6)  
23 A stupid person that is often smart (4)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



DOWN

- 1 Funnily it gleams of delays (4,4)  
2 Hued timber door oddly covers old directions (8)  
3 Irish novelists solid lover might be in disarray (6,9)  
5 A short rural poem I would yell externally! (4)  
6 GE lost control on a national poll (7,8)  
7 Makeshift part of a whip with a stir!? (4-2)  
8 An Irish poet embrace the first sudsy agent used in beer production (6)  
11 Eight exist right in the middle of spring (7)  
14 Clumsy western king in a part of prison (7)  
16 Crazy suit introduced apple and sheep dessert (8)  
17 A Greek King gave up two grand to be fitting in (8)  
19 Soccer Club; *Arabian divine Beetle* (6)  
20 The quiet above the horizon is heard in a correctional institution (6)  
23 Compensation comes with time inside a party (4)

ACROSS

- 1 Pratchett's unfinished novel *RO* brings about an overwhelming feeling of fear (6)  
4 KKK manufacture lye for a British novelist? (8)  
9 Wrongly tailor to a superpowered TV character (6)  
10 Athletic facilities empty men with large foreign mass (8)  
12 Legislation took love from pretence for an author that wrote 'c\*\*\*' ten times! (8)  
13 Changes sprout an author in search of lost time (6)  
15 Two ogres party well like a writer? (6,6)  
18 Strange behaviour at night, i.e., pass out gradually around Fifty State Liberal Royalty (12)  
21 Feel concern without giving the French affectionate stroke (6)  
22 Remains of the destroyed city era (8)  
24 Inhales and exhales to repress one difficulty (8)  
25 Author jumped off a spinning minibike in a bathing suit (6)  
26 American humorist changed NBC with energy and he left in a saucy finale (8)  
27 A peacekeeper Chinese dynasty is not heard of? (6)

Zplig

**STUCCO**

**MORE THAN JUST STUDENT HOUSING**

STUCCO is a unique and vibrant housing co-operative for full time, low income or disadvantaged students of Sydney University. Run by its residents, STUCCO embraces a rich diversity of cultures and beliefs, and gives residents the opportunity to actively participate in communal living. No particular skills are required, just a keen interest and enthusiasm, and a desire to be involved in co-operative living. We are virtually the only Sydney University accommodation directed towards low to moderate income earners, and STUCCO is a non-profit organisatio, meaning that the main consideration is to meet the needs of its members. We welcome people of all backgrounds, sexualities and religions to join us in co-operative living.

**CO-OPERATIVE LIVING** **SAFE SPACE** **NON-DISCRIMINATORY**  
**SELF-MANAGING** **QUEER FRIENDLY**

INTERESTED? CHECK US OUT AT  
[WWW.STUCCO.ORG.AU](http://WWW.STUCCO.ORG.AU) 'STUCCO HOUSING CO-OP': on Facebook  
Unfortunately, due to government restrictions, only Australian residents are eligible to apply.

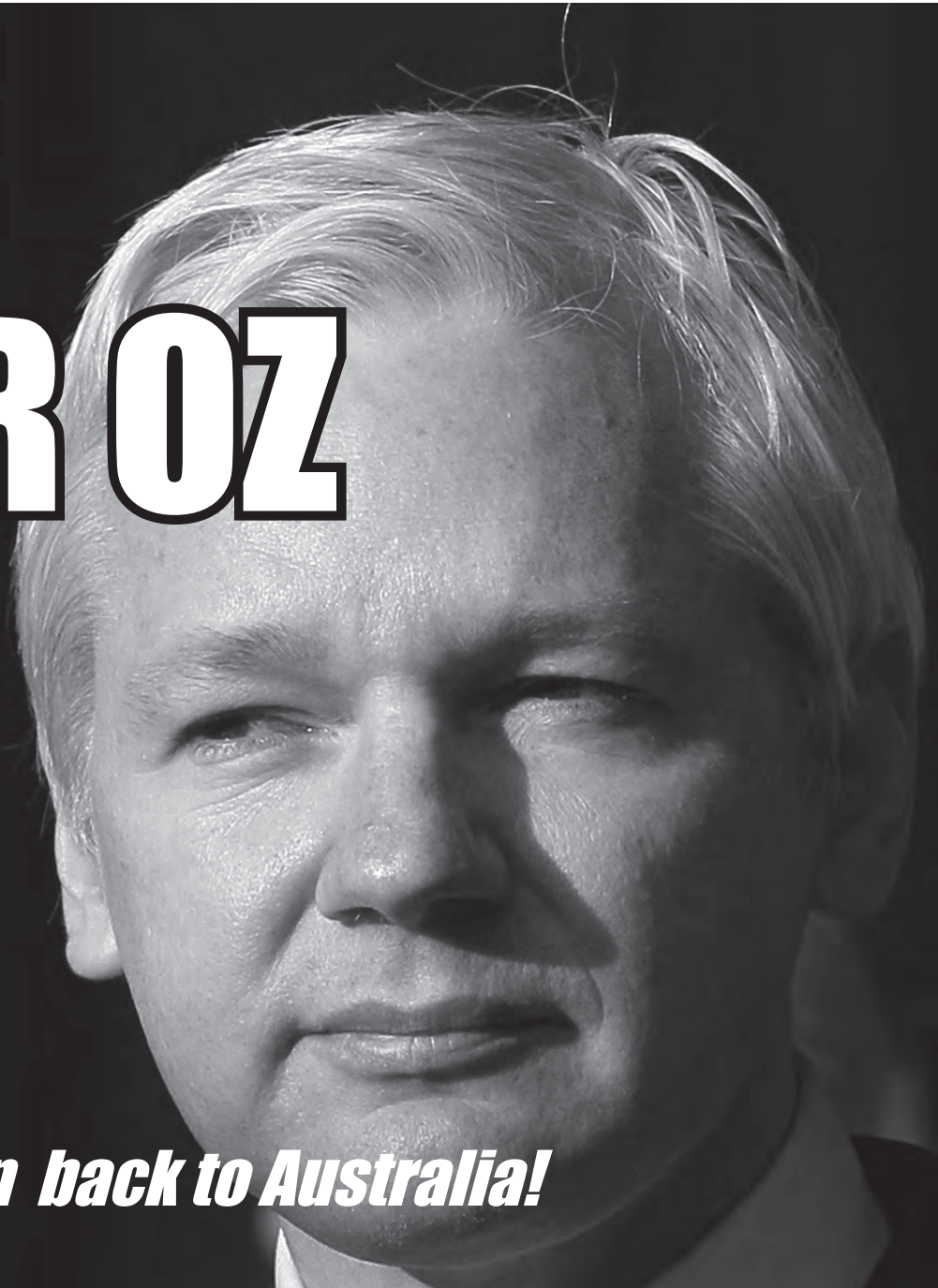


# THE **SOIN**



***INSIDE: Tony Abbott  
increasing education  
levels by having all  
the stupid ideas  
himself!***

# ASSANGE RUNS FOR OZ CRICKET TEAM



***Attempt to fast track migration back to Australia!***

With the first sitting of the Australian Senate fast approaching, digital freedom fighter and aspiring bond villain Julian Assange has reportedly taken the unconventional route this week of joining the Australian national cricket team in order to expedite his migration back to Australia, seeking to take advantage of laws that place elite athletes above doctors, teachers and peace prize laureates in the Australian migratory process. This follows the abandoning of plans by Assange to travel back to Australia by boat last week, after news reached the Ecuadorian Embassy in London of the anti-boat ads hanging in shopping malls across western Sydney.

Although Assange has never previously played cricket in his life, Australian selectors have reported Assange is one of the best Australian players they've seen all year. However selectors were quick to clarify this was not a comment on the quality of Assange's skills so much as a reflection on the sad state of Australia's current test team.

Having demonstrated enviable net skills, Assange was trialed in a small game against Sweden over the weekend, with mixed results. Having bowled a maiden over shortly after drinks, Assange's luck was soon soured by a questionable ruling on an appeal, and disputes arising around Assange not wearing his

protector. With umpires seeking to send Assange away for a century, allegations contrived circumstances by the opposing team have also been raised. Assange has since pledged never to return to Sweden, for fears he may be poached the American Baseball League.

The move to elite sports by the former data-barron has raised very few eyebrows in Assange's homeland of Australia with citizens reporting that after seeing Assange's *The Voice* campaign video for the upcoming election, nothing will now shock them. Assange has however released a statement that the man appearing in the video was in fact not him, and that this horrific footage

is clearly just a doctored work by the American government aimed at discrediting his campaign, as were the accidental preferencing of right wing parties, and the subsequent forfeiture of half of his candidates. US authorities have hit back claiming that while they would love an opportunity to undermine Assange's campaign, they feel he is currently doing a better job than they ever could.

Current indications coming out of Canberra suggest Assange's new cricket foray will have him back in Australia within the week, just in time for him to lose his appeal for the senate and be extradited to America.



# RUDD: STOP THE CARS



Internal polling conducted by the ALP has found that voters in marginal seats are more likely to vote for Labor following Kevin Rudd's controversial policy announcement about the processing and resettlement of asylum seekers. Buoyed by such polling, Mr Rudd called a press conference yesterday afternoon to outline his plans to reform Australian hospitals and healthcare.

The Prime Minister was joined by the Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek, to announce that people who choose to walk or drive to hospital emergency departments will be denied medical assistance on arrival. "For too long people have put their lives at risk by refusing to wait for an ambulance and driving to emergency departments themselves," Mr Rudd said. Ms Plibersek indicated that the government's new policy would commence immediately.

Three hours after the policy



was implemented Mildred Tomlinson, a senior citizen from Sydney's outer suburbs, phoned emergency services to request an ambulance because of an irregular heartbeat. Upon being told that the wait for an ambulance could be anywhere between three and five hours Ms Tomlinson, who believed she was going to die, asked her neighbour to drive her to the hospital. When Ms Tomlinson arrived at the emergency department she was refused entry by police. She remains in a critical condition.

When questioned by the media Ms Plibersek said that she felt "conflicted" by Ms Tomlinson's circumstances but was confident "that process has to be followed". Bill Shorten, appearing on the ABC's Q&A programme, stated that he made "no apologies for preventing people who have access to a car jumping the queue". Leading medical professions have condemned Mr Shorten's comments claiming that people cannot be expected to stay at home and die waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

"What would you do if your child needed medical attention and you were told that you had to wait hours for an ambulance to arrive? Wouldn't you do everything you could to prevent them from dying?" said one professional.

The Department of Health has begun an intensive advertising campaign aimed at deterring people from arriving at hospitals in cars. One video featured on the department's website, entitled 'Queue Jumpers', reveals footage of children with cancer crying when they discover that they are not permitted to enter the hospital.

The Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott, praised the government's decision for its "lack of humanity" but claimed that the Coalition "would be even tougher, even harsher, even more cruel". When asked specifically about Ms Tomlinson's situation Mr Abbott claimed that "shit happens".

## PREFERENCE CONTROVERSY

In a monumental fuck-up reminiscent of that time Billy Ray and Tish Cyrus decided they were feeling a little bit frisky and it felt right to just forget the condom, the Liberal National Party have accidentally signed a preference deal with Big Brother contestant Caleb Geppert.

The deal, which was signed yesterday afternoon by Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, ensures that all first preferences from all votes for LNP candidates will go directly to 33 year old Geppert's campaign to win Channel Ten's top rating reality TV show.

Sources have confirmed that the glaring administrative error occurred as a result of Mr Abbott just not having a frigging clue about how politics works.

Speaking to The Soin this morning, he attempted to explain the oversight.

"I was busy watching Big Brother with my women and working through some papers at the same time and then breathing as well, so it was all v. complex," he said.

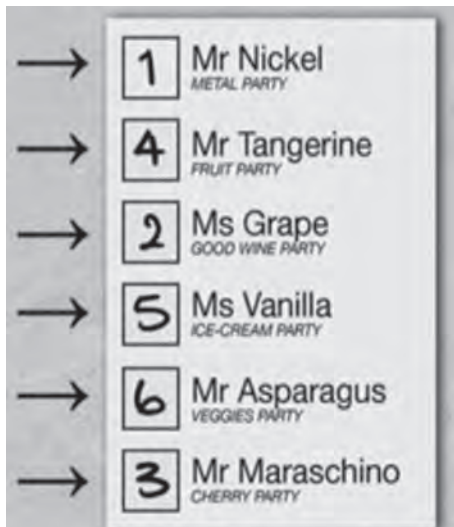
"He's not even my favourite! People say he might be gay - I

couldn't have picked a worse contestant. I like those twin blondes with the chests, wish I knew their names so I could have preferred them instead."

Receptacle of the party brain cells, Malcolm Turnbull, was quick to smooth over his colleague's mistake.

"We're really excited to bring Mr Geppert on board, even if it has come as a bit of a surprise," he said.

"The work he has done over the past few weeks in the House has been really impressive - we look forward to developing a closer working relationship in the lead up to the federal election."



## AMNESTY LETTER WRITING FAILS, ENGAGES NEW STRATEGY OF HEAVY BREATHING DOWN THE PHONE

Amnesty Letter Writing Fails: Engages New Strategy of Heavy Breathing Down the Phone

In the torrid love affair between the Human Rights group and the Immigration Minister Tony Burke, Amnesty has taken another step in the direction of desperation and has begun sighing erotically down the phone line late at night.

The courtship began with flirtatious Facebook messages during lectures, yet the innocent correspondence rapidly escalated into a full-blown epistolary relationship. However, when the notoriously persistent Amnesty penned one of the letters in period blood and filled the envelope with pubic hair, Burke stopped replying.

When asked in a phone interview about the rejection, Amnesty replied, "Hhhh... hhhhhh... hhhhhh."

Amnesty has so far showed no signs of desisting the asymmetrical romance, releasing this audio statement very late last night:

"Hhhh... Burke... hhhhhh... I would jump your queue anyday... hhhhhh... I have a visa to please ya... HHHHHHHH... let's close the door, Tony, and scuttle into each other's excise zones... HHHHHHHH... I WANT TO FEEL SO HUMAN RIGHT."

The Immigration Minister has since expressed his desire that Amnesty stop the notes, citing the fear that inbound letters written by people with funny names will overrun his letterbox and threaten the security and faux reality of his precious Western-centric world. The real reason is that Burke is afraid to love.

In other news, Australia is now screening season 11 of Border Security.

MORE CHARITY NEWS:

Oxfam's mail-a-goat scheme ends in tragedy when the post office forgets to punch air holes.

"Who invited them?": Vinnie's Winter Sleep-Out gate-crashed by actual homeless people.



# OBAMA INSPIRES MILLIONS WITH INDECISIVENESS

President Obama inspired millions this week on the eve of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's march on Washington, delivering a historic and momentous speech to the thousands who had gathered at the Lincoln Memorial.

Amidst increasingly bloody turmoil abroad, and a continuing slow economic recovery domestically, the President took the opportunity to thank the people who had elected him for voting to enact change, but cautioned that sometimes, when you have a really tough call to make, even if inaction may lead to further suffering, it's best to just not do anything and hope no one blames you—a policy lauded by Republicans convening at a

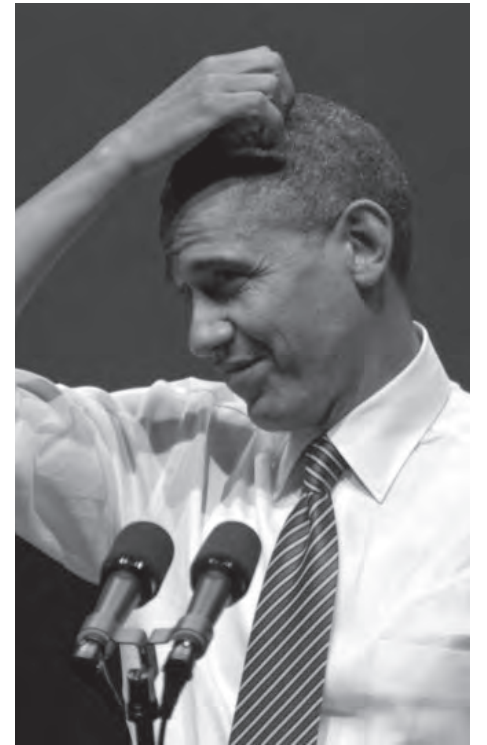
rally in a New Orleans stadium as the most sensible attitude towards the role of government they've ever heard a Democrat express.

"I can see now, as all Americans; men and women of all colours and backgrounds, gathered here today around this historic reflecting pool, that we must dip our toes into the water before we jump in. The Middle-East is a real geopolitical cluster-fuck right now, and the economy is only barely recovering, so let's all take a leaf out of the NSA's PRISM handbook and just wait and watch."

"We do these things not because it's easy, but because they are hard. The only man who makes

no mistakes is the man who does nothing." Evoking the words of past Presidents John F. Kennedy and Theodore Roosevelt respectively without a hint of irony.

Asked to comment on how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have reacted to the speech, Cornel West, the prominent African-American academic and political activist just buried his face into his hands and wept uncontrollably. "I fear brother Barack has taken Dr. King's passivism too literally. He fails to see that the only way to get change is to challenge the status quo." Asked how he would change the Middle East, brother West just shrugged and said, "I don't know. That place is fucked no matter what we do."



## MORE FUCKING ELECTION NEWS

Harry Potter fans have been camping outside parliament house for eight days in light of J.K.'s surprising new book, which features a uniquely Australian twist. The book *Tony Abbott and the Suppository of Wisdom* has recently scratched the heads of thousands of Harry Potter fans globally with both excitement and discombobulating terror wondering if this will be the straw that finally breaks J.K.'s wealthy back.

In an exclusive interview with *Today Tonight*, Rolling stated, 'as long as it has my name on it, people will buy it. That's the sort of thing I've come to understand after the success of Harry. It's funny how quickly one can churn out books for money; one moment I'm plotting renovations to my mansion, the next I'm churning out a book to fund it. Such is life.'

Tony Abbott also got his fair say on the books release, 'I'm quite pleased that News Corp has managed to fix my suppository cock-up with a 300 page novel. I'm okay with being a character in the book, but I don't want to be using magic or anything. As a socially conservative catholic, witchcraft is a sin. I won't endorse it, unless it becomes an election issue, in which case it has my full support. My sister is a wizard.'

The book is set to hit the bookshelves in the next few days. The sequel, *Abbott and the Arseload of Aspirations* will follow shortly.

## BREAKING SOIN EXCLUSIVE: COALITION ACCUSES KETUT OF BEING ILLEGAL BOAT PERSON



Last night's leader's debate saw the leader of the opposition, Tony Abbott, come out swinging at Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, shocking constituents by claiming to have unearthed irrefutable and undeniable evidence to suggest that Australia's favourite safe driver, Ketut (last name unknown) is an illegal boat person who has followed Rhonda to Australia from an undisclosed neighbouring country.

Mr. Abbott claimed last night that Labor's "unreal solution" to the illegal boat people issue had allowed for Ketut to travel to Australia, in "flagrant disrespect of Australian borders, security and legal means of migration". not to mention his refusal to respect Rhonda's desire to move on with a "good Aussie bloke from the North Shore."

The leader of the Opposition continued with his attack on the Labor party, claiming that Ketut represents the large number of illegal boat people who come to Australia and refuse to assimilate into Australian culture. Mr Abbott extolled constituents to closely analyse the AAMI adver-

tisement, and to note Ketut's decision to attend Rhonda's reunion in native headdress and clothing, both of which did nothing to "accentuate his sex appeal."

When questioned about the Coalition's allegations this morning, Shadow Treasurer Joe Hockey admitted that he was also disappointed by AAMI's decision to feature Ketut in their new series of advertisements, without questioning his means of arrival to Australia. "I believe that AAMI is guilty of a certain amount of negligence. As an Australian business, it was their duty to fully investigate Ketut's situation before deciding to feature him in an advertisement that has been broadcast across Australia. For goodness sake AAMI, you didn't even stop to ask what Ketut's last name is!"

It seems that the Labor party may have very well sealed the last nail in their coffin, two weeks ahead of the Federal Election. Julie Bishop has claimed it to be "horrific" that the Labor party had allowed for a situation in which the Australian public had found themselves beginning to "like Ketut." Ms. Bishop claimed that Ketut had "lulled us all into a false sense of security" by associating himself with a safe driver's advertisement, when the "man clearly does not believe

in safe and legal sailing to Australia."

A spokesperson for AAMI announced this morning that a "full investigation will be launched, and a re-assessment of Mr Ketut's role in AAMI advertisements will be undertaken should it be found that he has travelled to Australia by boat. At AAMI, we are committed to safe driving, and this also means a commitment to safe sailing to Australia. We too, want to see an end to the dingy and unsafe boats carrying people to Australia."

Attempts to contact Rhonda last night proved to be futile, and no official statement to the press has as yet been made. Rhonda seems intent on distancing herself from the whole debacle and from Ketut, having tweeted a picture of herself this morning ensconced in the arms of her new man, captioned "Ketut IS kaput."

With no knowledge of Ketut's last name or address, it really seems that Ketut is kaput. For those who have any information on Ketut's whereabouts, they are asked to call 1300 BOAT STOPPERS.







# 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.

