

week eleven  
semester two  
2013

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EBA offer

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Violence in the  
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PLAYING  
WHO?

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# Untying the strings

Deception. It's a powerful tool. Whether it be lying about – or hiding – your identity, your situation or motivation, there are often a number of reasons to want to deceive an audience.

In theatre, the audience is shown the stage and little else. What goes on behind those curtains, in those wings, isn't meant to be seen. We do know, by the nods of the head and the wave of the hands by the actors at the conclusion, that there are people back there: pulling the strings, calling the shots. Faceless men.

In the theatre, the faceless men are usually competent and humble stagehands, lighting technicians, playwrights, designers. But, extrapolating this idea further, to life beyond the play, and there are faceless men everywhere (and women, and non-gender specific people), pulling the strings behind a whole horde of stages. Sometimes so quietly you don't even know.

What happens when the faceless men are revealed? Time will tell in federal politics, as The Faceless Man this week becomes The Face of the ALP. But there are many more, hiding in the shadows. And newspapers – ideally be-

cons of transparency – are here to throw light into the places where it's hard to see and hold the powerful to account. The faceless can hold the strings of student politics as the Chinese millionaire Master Shang allegedly does, or their partner's wellbeing and safety, or just a lot of money and little sense, and the role of the media, we think, should be to expose such things when it can.

But the great paradox of our work as editors is that sometimes you can't expose. Sometimes it's clear that there's just as much value in keeping things secret, to preserve people's right to anonymity. For one reason or another – personal, social, or, well, criminal – four of this week's contributors could not put their name to their work but still wanted others to know about, and learn from, their experiences. Whether it was their terrible time with LSD or their experience being a trans\* man at university, they're things mainstream society won't (but should) let us speak openly about. In attempting to break down larger power structures, the little guys must change or redact their names. Truly great social shifts need to go down before these things can be talked about

in the open, for everyone to see.

It's very easy to feel as though your strings aren't being pulled. To retreat into ill-formed preconceptions, judgement, and arrogance; the idea that you can see through every pretense and delusion. This is something none of us are exempt from. But in order to shape the world into something a little better than it is – just a little better, only as much as we can – we need only be a bit more thoughtful about who has power, a bit more critical of how they use it, and – if it isn't being used well – how to change things so they do.



**Bryant Apolonio and Lucy Watson**

Editors-in-chief

## SOUND & FURY

### In Defence of SULS

Dear *Honi*,

I write in response to last week's article on SULS' tax debt to clarify SULS' position on some of the issues raised.

SULS receives annual sponsorship from corporate law firms as its main source of income. We receive around \$160 000 each year, rather than the \$350 000 claimed. Our relationship with corporate sponsors is mutually beneficial. Firms pay money to access students through careers events which SULS host. There is no pretense that the money that firms pay goes towards other SULS programs (including socials), but there is still a strong benefit for the firms as they recruit high numbers of Sydney Uni students. While the society cannot be categorised as 'charitable' by the ATO in light of this funding, all programs are run by a tireless and unpaid Executive exclusively for the benefit of students.

This benefit extends to students forming and maintaining friendships through social events. It is important to clarify that a figure of \$189 000 was not spent on socials in 2012, nor is the figure of \$60 000 spent on law ball accurate or suggestive of financial recklessness. Whilst in fact \$110 000 was the gross expenditure on the 2013 ball, the net cost (event cost minus ticket sales) was around \$9 000. With 700 attendees, this meant a cost to SULS of \$13 per student, a cost the Executive considered reasonable. When any campus society runs a large social event, of course the gross expenditure will be high and this is countered by ticket sales. While expenditure on Law Ball in 2011 was higher

than in recent years, it must be emphasised that SULS were not informed of the tax liability until the end of the 2011 Executive's term. Naturally, a different course would have been taken had this been known.

As the article attested, the USU paid the bulk of the tax liability up front with an agreement that we would pay them back in installments – and we are incredibly grateful for it. SULS' tax liability came as a complete surprise to the USU who audits SULS and the SULS. The USU paying this tax has allowed the burden of the liability to be spread over two or three years.

While the Socials portfolio receives more than any other SULS portfolio, this does not mean that SULS considers socials more important than other programs. Rather, it reflects the reality that social events are costly. While a moot can be run by volunteer student convenors, socials require that money be paid to an external group to administer the event. In 2013, as well as socials, SULS' program has included ten competitions, a women's moot, a Rape Culture forum, a Mental Health publication, weekly juvenile detention centre visits, two journals covering Social Justice and Women's Issues respectively, and a textbook exchange program.

Best wishes,

Isabelle Youssef

Arts/Law III

2013 President, SULS

Anyone can write for *Honi Soit*!

Email all letters and submissions to:

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



# honi 2013 opinion soit competition

# DECEPTION

Submissions are now closed. Thank you to everyone who participated in the competition.

Awards will be announced by judge  
Jessica Reed, editor of Guardian  
Australia's Comment is free.

Awards Night: 6pm, October 16, Verge Gallery,  
Jane Foss Russell Building.

PARTY TIME. Are you a fan of costumes? If yes, go to 7, if no, go to p. 8.

# HONI NEWS

FREE

Week Eleven Edition

"MASTER OF PUPPETS, I'M PULLING YOUR STRINGS"



## CPSU strikes off on its own in EBA negotiations

The general staff union has voted not to endorse the latest EBA offer, leaving it at odds with the University and the NTEU, **Nick Rowbotham** reports

The USYD branch of the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU), the union that represents general staff, has broken from the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and voted not to endorse the University's latest enterprise bargaining offer.

"The CPSU is ... aggrieved about a perceived lack of consultation over negotiations on the part of the NTEU, particularly given many of the University's lowest paid staff are non-academic staff."

CPSU Branch President Grant Wheeler told *Honi Soit* that there was a "fairly overwhelming sentiment" to not support the proposed agreement at a members' meeting last Tuesday.

Nonetheless, the CPSU would not

commit to further industrial action.

*Honi Soit* reported last week that the NTEU had voted overwhelmingly to endorse the University's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) offer and cancel its proposed 72 hour strike.

The proposed EBA includes a 14.5% pay increase over the duration of the agreement, which would expire in March 2017.

The NTEU's canvassed 72 hour strike was called in response to what was perceived to be a below-CPI wage increase of 11.6% to the end of 2016.

Despite the NTEU's decision to sign on to the University's latest offer, the CPSU argues that even a 14.5% wage increase may not keep up with inflation.

The University has extended the length of the agreement in its latest offer, and has consistently refused to backdate salary increases to compensate for the lack of a wage increase during negotiations over the new EBA. In effect, this means that staff have not received a pay

increase in over a year.

"CPSU members remain disappointed by the sub-standard, sub-CPI salary increase offered by the University," Wheeler wrote in an email to staff.

"CPSU members are particularly concerned by the extension of the length of the Agreement under this offer, locking staff into this sub-CPI rate for even longer, and the continuing lack of provision for back dating the salary increase under this proposal."

The new EBA is likely to be six months longer in duration than the 2009-2012 Agreement, which included a pay increase of 15%.

The CPSU is understood to be aggrieved about a perceived lack of consultation over negotiations on the part of the NTEU, particularly given many of the University's lowest paid staff are non-academic staff.

CPSU members are also said to be frustrated that a flat pay increase for staff – which would deliver a higher pay

increase to lower paid staff – seemed to no longer be on the bargaining table.

When asked about the likelihood of further industrial action, Wheeler was equivocal.

"Our members understand that there is fatigue amongst staff at the University," he told *Honi*.

Wheeler speculated that in initially attempting to strip back conditions like leave entitlements and workload requirements, "the University was trying to cause fatigue amongst non-unionised staff" in the lead up to the eventual pay dispute.

Given the NTEU's decision to sign an in-principle agreement for a new EBA, the University now appears to be in a position to put the proposed Agreement to a staff ballot. A bare majority of staff would be required to vote in favour for the new EBA to be officially accepted.

The University could not be reached for comment at the time of print.

## USU debacle to be decided in Supreme Court

Efforts to remove the USU's Vice-President have been frustrated and will now hinge on a further court decision, reports **Max Chalmers**

A University of Sydney Union (USU) meeting at which a Special Resolution to remove the organisation's Vice-President was to be debated has been delayed for the second time after the NSW Supreme Court granted an interlocutory injunction on Thursday.

The move from the boardroom to the courtroom represents an escalation of the dispute sparked after USU Vice-President Tom Raue provided information to *Honi Soit* indicating collaboration between police and the University during an August 31 strike.

Asked whether he was concerned that student money would end up wasted on the case, Raue said responsibility fell on the Board Directors pushing the motion to remove him. "I'm not the one who's forcing them to pay legal fees, they tried to remove me from Board. I would much rather the whole thing go away and no one has to pay anything," he said.

Raue has secured the assistance of a barrister on a pro bono basis but the other directors (with the exception of Bebe D'Souza) are being represented by Senior Counsel Greg Sirtes as well as the USU's regular legal firm Kemp Strang.

When asked how much the Direc-

tors were spending on their legal team and whether the USU was paying for their defence, President Hannah Morris declined to comment. "I'm sorry but as there are legal proceedings currently occurring I am unable to comment on anything related to the matter before court, or any personal opinion relating to the matter before court," Morris wrote in an email to *Honi Soit*.

Raue's barrister Lisa Doust argued at the Thursday hearing that the Board had overreached its powers in moving the Special Resolution calling for Raue's dismissal. According to Doust, provisions in the Regulations and Directors' Duty Statements, which the Board's Executive had claimed entitled them to move the Resolution, were inconsistent with the USU's constitution which outlines the ways a Board Director may lose office (for example by not attending six meetings in a row).

Doust also argued that even if the powers to remove a Director granted by the Regulations were upheld, Raue was not guilty of "serious misconduct" as the information he released was not strictly confidential.

Sirtes countered these arguments and

said the USU's constitution gave it broad powers to create regulations, including those outlining the circumstances in which a director may be expelled from the Board. He rejected the claim that the information Raue shared could not be considered confidential and argued Raue was fully aware of its status as such.

While noting the "force" of Sirtes' submissions, the Court found that Raue's case was still arguable and that delaying the meeting would not cause significant damage. The Court will now

hear the case before October 25.

Until the matter can be heard in full Raue will continue to serve as a Board Director as well as the USU's Vice President, but has given an undertaking not to exercise any duties in that function while the injunction remains.

*Disclosures:* Honi Soit editor Hannah Ryan contributed additional court reporting to this story. She is currently in a relationship with Tom Raue. Max Chalmers handed out flyers for Raue when he ran for Board in 2012.

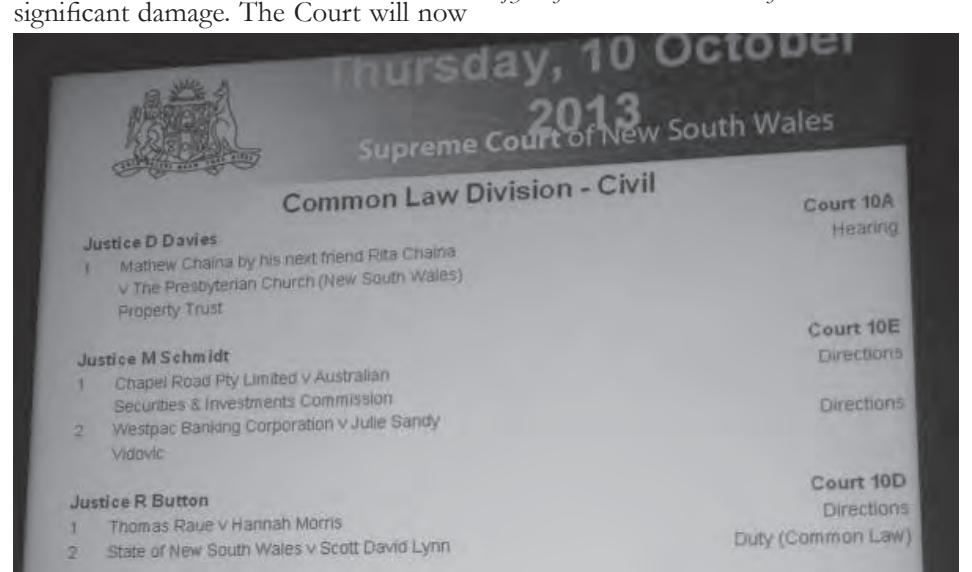


Photo: Hannah Ryan

How would you decorate? Bare minimum, go to 16. If you go all out, go to 6.

# UNIGATE



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

## Sue me? Sue the USU!

*Raue v Morris* wasn't the only court proceeding concerning the USU last Thursday. A keen-eyed Twitter follower (@Apolden) noticed that at the same time Justice Button heard Raue's application for an injunction, Acting Justice Windeyer of the Equity Division of the Supreme Court was hearing *Shakespearean Mark Anthony Productions (NSW) Pty Ltd v University of Sydney Union*.

Mark Anthony Productions seems to be an event photographer based in Crows Nest but its number is disconnected. Meanwhile, the USU is remaining tight-lipped. When asked what the dispute concerned, President Hannah Morris replied: "Unfortunately, as with any ongoing legal proceeding, I am unable to provide a public comment on this." Where have we heard that before?

The last court proceeding involving the USU (*Bagg v University of Sydney Union*) was resolved this March, when an employee of the USU was unable to recover damages for an injury sustained in the Wentworth building in 2003 due to the statute of limitations.

## Student athletes gone wild

The *Gate* has been informed that Sydney University Sport & Fitness (SUSF) are considering tougher restrictions on scholarship holders behaving badly at University Games.

The consideration of tougher penalties is a response to a male water polo player being sent home on the first night of the Australian University Games for riding a hotel elevator whilst naked.

A few nights later, the men's water polo team manager was found passed out in public and hospitalised overnight

for excessive alcohol consumption.

Changes informally discussed by SUSF staff include the option to void credit points of students sent home for misconduct or breach of the athlete agreement. SUSF is the largest beneficiary of your SSAF money, and earlier this year we reported that information about where exactly SSAF goes is difficult to obtain.

## Glitter in the air (no more)

USYD's queer community has been rocked by the shocking decision to ban glitter from the Glitter Gala. Event co-organiser, USU queer convenor Fahad Ali, labelled the move "outrageous", calling glitter "the essence of queer life". Ali also made some hefty allegations, stating "the fact that the USU would ban this gay ambrosia is indicative of a deep-rooted prejudice within the Union." Though, because the USU is providing significant funding to the event, and Ali was drunk when *The Gate* contacted him, we're pretty sure he didn't mean it.

The event, to be held on October 23 in the Holme Refectory, has banned the 'fabulous' metallic matter from any decorations, out of fear for its ability to linger, unwanted, on any surface it makes contact with. It appears the USU has not gotten over the fateful glitter bombing incident of Verge '11.

## Even alumni dig USYD elections

SRC elections, SULS elections, and now Senate elections: the *Gate* loves its elections. An election for five graduate fellows of the University Senate is currently underway via postal ballot.

The Senate is the University's peak governing body; it is comprised of staff, student, graduate and government appointed 'fellows' who collectively make all the important decisions about, well, running the University. Graduate fellows are elected every four years, and all USYD alumni are eligible to run.

An unusually large field of 22 candidates

dates have nominated for the election. Why should we care? Well, the election has already thrown up a number of peculiarities. For starters, its electoral system grants voters what in effect amounts to five votes. That is, each of the voter's first five preferences count as a primary vote in the first count. The bizarre, 'five-vote' electoral system provides a strong incentive for candidates to form a 'ticket', for it means that a group of candidates can win all five spots with a bare majority if they run a disciplined campaign.

Two clear groups of candidates have emerged. The first is 'Unify', a self-proclaimed "unlikely alliance" that includes former state Labor MP Verity Firth, Malcolm Turnbull's Liberal predecessor in the seat of Wentworth, Peter King, and journalist Peter FitzSimons. A policy statement on Unify's Facebook page was long on buzzwords, but seemingly short on detail (what the fuck are the "dynamically diverse fields" that they want to "enrich"?).

The second ticket, 'Reclaim the Senate', is endorsed by the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and is running on an explicitly anti-corporate platform. It includes a number of journalists, and, confusingly, also Ms Firth, whom both groups have chosen to endorse in order to increase their profile. Unify are well ahead in the Facebook like war, with 859 likes to Reclaim's 359. Whether this will translate to victory when the ballots are in is anyone's guess.

Among the throng of other candidates in the mix is Kate McClymont, one of the most respected investigative journalists in the country. Interestingly, McClymont was one of the journalists who revealed earlier in the year that current Senate fellow David Mortimer had registered a company in the British Virgin Islands, a notorious tax haven.

## Unified spam

On October 9, recipients of the USU's Member Mail newsletter – received by

undergraduates and postgraduates alike – opened their inboxes to find something more than the usual compilation of Hoyts double pass giveaways and Manning gig listings.

Addressed to "Graduate Members", the email was sent to all those subscribed to the newsletter, including a large number of undergraduate students who are ineligible to vote in the upcoming Senate election. Nonetheless, this did not stop the email, personally signed off by the five members of 'Unify', from imploring its readers to vote for the Unify ticket, with its "commitment to excellence and our University", in the aforementioned election.

Two days later, the USU issued an apology from its Facebook page with a link to a post on the Board Directors' blog, stating that USU Alumni & Friends (USUAF) was responsible for sending the email. When approached for comment, USU President Hannah Morris revealed that the decision to grant USUAF access to the Union's membership database was negotiated between herself and the USUAF President because Morris believed the USUAF and its endorsement of Unify would "protect [the USU's] interests in the Senate". The USUAF has an alleged history of opposing VSU and the University's attempts to take over the Union's commercial operations in 2011.

Morris further defended the decision to pass on the personal details of thousands of its members by noting that because the USUAF does not have any databases or online platforms of its own, USU resources had to be used. As for whether a direct message from the Unify candidates was the most appropriate method of communicating the Union's support, Morris was evasive.

But, like they say, every cloud has a silver lining. Morris also assured the *Gate* that the database has since been rectified to distinguish between undergraduates and graduates. No need to unsubscribe from that USU newsletter, folks.

# Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness should be ours

## OPINION

Alex Gillis reports on SUSF's ongoing operational capacity

Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF) is, by most definitions, a student organisation: one with an annual turnover in the multi-millions managing seven large facilities.

Receiving almost \$4 million this year from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) and purportedly existing to serve USYD staff and students, this body has a monopoly on university

even membership numbers are elusive. Clearly, marketing outlay is massive – considering the glitz website, heavy O-Week presence and proliferation of membership campaigns.

An apparently charitable organisation that runs on our money should have nothing to hide, least of all from the people who it allegedly exists to serve. Is the University getting a reasonable return on its massive outlay? Without information there is no way of knowing but it is difficult to reconcile a position of essential monopoly and definite influence over the student body with this complete lack of transparency.

SUSF is a student organisation, like the USU and SRC; the difference is that you must be an SUSF member (which costs \$55 per year) to vote in their elections. You do not need to be a member of the USU or SRC to vote in the elections for these organisations. SSAF payers are stakeholders in all three organisations. The facilities are ours, the money is ours.

The organisation should be ours.



**Sydney Uni**  
SPORT & FITNESS

"What do you plan on drinking at your party? If it's anything from a beer bong go to 18, if it's cheap wine and Mi Goreng go to 11."



# The wet planet

Water, water everywhere, but are there Martians to drink it? asks Ariel Castro-Martinez

In a milestone that has amazed amateur stargazers and scientists alike, a team at NASA working with the Curiosity Rover have discovered that water is abundant in soil on Mars. The Curiosity Rover detected the chemicals present in Martian soil by scooping small amounts, heating the samples, and analysing the gas that evaporates. NASA reported last week that there is about 2% by weight water in Martian soil, which means you can extract a litre of water per cubic foot. This follows the 2010 discovery of water in craters on the moon, by the Indian Space Research Organisation, suggesting that water in the Solar System may be more abundant than previously thought.

Once thought to be a cold, barren desert, these findings could boost the possibility of one day colonising Mars in a long-term and self-sustainable way. Exobiologists, who study the conditions that could make life in space possible, would also rejoice in the news. Water is a fundamental ingredient in the occurrence of life on Earth, so with more water, it is more likely that we may find extraterrestrial life in the solar system.

The discovery of water on Mars has only added to the list of possibly hospitable celestial bodies that we know of. Europa, Jupiter's fourth largest moon, and only slightly smaller than the Earth's moon, has long been considered a can-

didate for possibly harbouring life. It has an icy surface that is thought to conceal an ocean underneath, and its atmosphere is comprised mainly of oxygen. Life on Earth has two original energy sources, the sun (in a process harnessed by plants and cyanobacteria called photosynthesis) and ambient hydrogen-based chemicals bubbling up from volcanic smoke stacks (in a process harnessed by bacteria called chemosynthesis). Europa may support life of the second kind and with water in Martian soil, Mars may support life of the first kind.

The Curiosity Rover did not, however, find any methane – a waste product typically indicative of life. Mars also doesn't

## SCIENCE

# Pain and Honour(s)

Felicity Nelson muses on the merits of an Honours year

After 13 years of school and at least three years of university you could be forgiven for longing to throw your graduation cap in the air, march through the gates, and never look back. Despite this, many of us contemplate adding Honours to our list of qualifications, often without really knowing what it involves and how useful it is. So what is Honours actually like?

Honours can be the worst or the best year of your life but it will definitely be the most challenging. I am only a little way into Honours in biology and I am finding the program as intense as it is rewarding. Great things are expected of you in Honours – you are essentially invited backstage by the academic community and given the privilege of participating in the production of new knowledge. But with this privilege comes the expectation that you take your role seriously and work hard. Along the way you receive more guidance, help, and support than at any other point in your degree from experts in your field.

It's a pretty sweet deal but opinions are divided. Sam Jenkins, who dropped out of physiology Honours to pursue his acting career, told me he has, "discontinued Honours, because it's only valuable if I want to go into research or do a PhD". Benjamin Pope, who won the University Medal and a number of prizes last year for his work on kernel-phase interferometry, agrees: "Honours is very much about taking in green recruits, putting them through boot camp and sending them to the front lines – it's not a relaxing or pleasant experience and you don't learn anything you wouldn't learn much better ... with vastly less pressure."

Honours is indispensable if you want to do research but outside this area employers are apparently undecided about the worth of this extra qualification. Chloe Paul, who received first class Honours in biochemistry last year, told me, "I haven't found my Honours degree helpful at finding a job outside of lab work. I've actually found it to be more of a point of friction." However,

another Honours graduate, Alexander Clubb, who came first in chemistry last year, found the exact opposite. "I remember applying for graduate jobs and almost all of my answers to the selection criteria were examples from Honours. If you want to answer the question 'Give an example of a time you showed leadership/initiative' then do Honours," he said.

It is clear that Honours calls on an entirely different set of skills than a bachelor's degree and will suit some people more than others. Alexander was surprised at how well he took to research. "I never expected that I would work so hard for so long and be so pleased about doing it ... while I was pretty ambivalent about undergrad classes, I absolutely loved research. It's all about initiative, imagination and hard work," he explained.

That being said, Honours can also come as a shock to some students. Charles Foster, who was awarded the University Medal and the Ilma Brewer Prize for his project on plant biology last year, told *Honi*, "I didn't expect to be thrown into the deep end so quickly ... There is a lot less spoon-feeding of answers."

Benjamin admits he went a little nutty towards the end. "I was convinced for a great deal of the time that I was going to fail. I submitted my thesis three minutes late and I was on the verge of total hysteria by that point."

If you are wondering about whether to do Honours, the best thing you can do is talk to past students. If you can get beyond the horror stories, you'll discover that practically everyone takes something away from this year, whether it be a set of new skills, lessons about time management or, if nothing else, the knowledge that they never want to become a researcher. The value of undertaking a year of independent research with one-on-one mentoring shouldn't be underestimated. You just can't get this sort of experience in the rest of your degree.

## NEWS IN REVUE

### Faceless Bill's Face

Bro Reveleigh wrote a little poem, just for Bill



'Twas Faceless Bill, from Maribyrnong, that caught the caucus craze;

He turned his cheek and found himself the vote in thirty days;

He dressed himself in suit and tie as Albo bowed in grace;

And hurriedly, did Faceless Bill, go buy a brand new face!

He stretched it on and gave a smile, he was not used to teeth;

The nose was slightly crooked but it hid the woe beneath;

It did the job. He paid five bob. His chest puffed proud and true;

Until the shop assistant said, 'Excuse me, who are you?'

"I'm leader now," said Faceless Bill, "not Albo or Penny.

From Conroy's Crap to Gillard's Map: I ran the ALP.

I'm good all round at everything, as everybody knows,

Although I have no common vote – I AM the man that blows."

The shop assistant shrugged her frame and went about her wares;

And as Bill strutted out the door he bore more quizzing stares;

For no one knew, just, who the hell poor Bill was with a face;

Though, least he's better than the monk who lost the boating race.



## OPINION

# Christopher Pyne, equity goals, and the p-word

**Lauren Pearce** thinks those advocating to keep USYD "prestigious" often do little more than lock out the disadvantaged

I'm going to drop the p-word: *prestigious*. There's really nothing wrong with that word. The only real issue is if you keep applying the word to yourself, justly or otherwise. Then you start to look like another p-word: pretentious.

On Thursday, 10 October Tony Abbott emerged in Melbourne to assure reporters the university reforms that Christopher Pyne announced earlier were to be put on a back-burner. These changes would mean a cap on university places as opposed to the "demand-driven system" currently in place and the axing of equity goals that encourage students from low-SES backgrounds to enrol, a move that Pyne stated would ensure quality but which had been criticised by the NTEU as detrimental to

students from low-SES backgrounds and regional students.

Since Labor's reforms were announced in 2011 there has been a

As a nation, and as a university population, are we too busy trying to be a "prestigious" institution that we're blind to how pretentious we've become?

slight upswing in the number of low-SES students attending university. Department of Industry higher education statistics show that out of the total students who commenced in 2012, 16.9% of them were from a low-SES background, up 9.1% from 2011. The Gillard government aimed to reach 20% by 2020. USYD falls far behind that percentage. The University's White Paper, published in 2010, states that only 7% of our student population was from a low-SES background, a number the Paper aimed to increase to 12% by 2015. One method to help achieve these

targets was to introduce the E12 scheme in 2013, which provided early entry and a scholarship to 124 students from a low-SES background, including myself. That number is expected to double in 2014. The White Paper's also found that concerns regarding a student's disadvantaged background being an unnecessary drain on university resources were "unfounded".

As a student from a low-SES background, hearing Christopher Pyne effectively say I am "the poison that would undermine [universities'] reputation[s]" stings. An article by Avani Dias in *Honi Soit* two weeks ago demonstrated that students from western Sydney experience casual and serious discrimination by their peers. Pyne's comments showed that his government endorses this kind of quiet discrimination and highlighted a real cultural problem.

How are students, who as Dias highlighted have enough barriers to attending university, meant to feel welcome when they know that both the Federal government and their peers are looking down upon them, because of where they grew up, or went to a public school? As

a nation, and as a university population, are we too busy trying to be a "prestigious" institution that we're blind to how pretentious we've become?





**FLEXIBLE ENTRY PATHWAYS**

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## The return of Master Shang

UNIVERSE

The mysterious businessman claiming to represent international students is allegedly pulling strings at UTS, but why is he banned from other campuses and why can't anybody ever get him on the phone? **Bryant Apolonio** investigates

It's SRC election time at UTS and they've got everything you'd expect from student politics: factional bickering, defamation, coloured shirts, Facebook statuses. At UTS, as with USYD, you have to approach these things with the right attitude. The people hassling you aren't doing it for money. Sometimes they do it because they genuinely care about student issues and student-run organisations. Sometimes they don't but that's okay. The hack following you to class might be annoying but they're probably not evil. Probably.

Enter Master Shang.

In 2008, Chinese businessman and millionaire, Master J. Shang, became Chairman and Public Officer of the National Liaison Committee (NLC). Formed in 1986, it was the highest representative body for international students in Australia.

He claimed that international students were treated like "cash cows" in this country and suggested that violence against international students was one of the main reasons why he initially campaigned for the position.

In 2009, NLC was forcibly disaffiliated from the National Union of Students (NUS). It was argued that its executives couldn't represent the community they purported to give that they

were unelected. Questions were raised as to how Shang and his associates were funding the venture.

NLC was accused of intimidatory practices. According to *The Australian* Shang allegedly threatened two rival international student organisations in Victoria with legal action – the Australian Federation of International Students (AFIS) and the Federation of Indian Students of Australia – if they ever operated under those names outside the state. NLC, an AFIS representative was told, had already incor-

porated that name in NSW. It did not go to court.

Flash forward four years, and Shang is back, involved in campaigns at both UTS and UNSW through the Overseas Student Association (OSA) – the 'on-campus' network of his state organisation.

But, the question remains: why? Shang's motives are opaque. Is this an actual concern for the welfare international students married with a by-what-ever-means-necessary attitude? Is it a hatred for the organisations themselves? Whatever the answer, more Australian universities followed the example of NUS in 2009 and refused to recognise NLC as a legitimate representative body (some even going as far as to ban Shang from their physical campus, Sydney University and UNSW included). Michael Coutts-Trotter, the former Director-General of the NSW Department of Education told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that he refused to have Shang in his office again, after speaking to him. The rabbit hole is deep.

*Vertigo*, the student publication at UTS funded by the SRC, intended to run a story on his actions but were forced to drop it after a heated phone-call from the man himself. Lachlan Bennet, a *Vertigo* editor, told *Honi* that there was talk of a coalition between the student political factions to hinder the OSA's success. He also told *Honi* that most of the informa-



A screenshot from NLC's website featuring Master Shang, bottom right

tion he heard about Master Shang was vague at best and "based on what [people] heard rather than what they know."

According to Grassroots Presidential candidate, Andy Zephyr, Shang had called the UTS Returning Officer (the person who oversees the electoral process, takes complaints etc. etc.) about his intentions. The current President of the UTS Student Association also became aware which led to mass hack panic.

Zephyr told *Honi* that Shang called him for four hours negotiating a preference deal – the OSA would support his presidential bid if Grassroots gave OSA the balance of power in the SRC.

In September, emails were sent to club executives at UTS warning them not to provide Union membership details to OSA representatives. UTS security, according to Zephyr, has also been told to stay on high alert. Because of this scrutiny, the OSA's failure to nominate their candidates on time, and their ostensible absence around campus, their campaign has not built traction. However, given the strength of international student vote at UTS, it is still likely they will get elected. After that, who knows?

Shang himself – legend and enigma – could not be reached for contact.

@bryantapolonio

## NETIQUETTE

## Love 2.0

When it comes to relationships on Facebook, it's not all that complicated, writes **Thomas Murphy**



Let me begin by saying: I'm in a relationship, but my boyfriend and I aren't in a relationship on Facebook. We're just in a relationship in real life. Our real friends know that we're in a real relationship. If some of my Facebook friends don't know that I'm in a relationship, then they aren't real friends.

Nor do I contact my boyfriend explicitly on Facebook. Maybe a link to an interesting article or video, but very infrequently. Why? Because how you express yourself on social media is essentially public, that's why it's social. Something that you put on social media should only be something that you would be willing yell in all directions, standing in the middle of a crowd (minus the mental instability that is normally associated with that act). Therefore, you should probably only be saying things on Facebook to your partner that you would willingly say amongst and also to your friends. No one likes the couple that just sits in the corner at a house party and plays with each other hair (that's a thing, right?). In that case, you probably shouldn't be doing the same thing online.

And why would you bother being cutesy on Facebook or Twitter anyway? You don't get the joy of having the physical intimacy with them as well, just a pale comparison, trying to be compensated by scattering emoticons. If you want to do PDAs, it needs to be with footies, eskimo kisses and any other physical act so sickly sweet it would make even a Japanese Girl Group blush. Don't do anything by halves, save your PDAs for the real world.

Aren't there enough forms of communication for you to contact your significant other? Aside from seeing them in person, texting, Skyping, calling, FaceTiming, do you also have to tweet, Facebook, Instagram or reblog their tumblr?

In saying this, though, the best way to keep your relationship fresh is to snapchat your partner. Turn the dial up to 10 seconds if you're feeling really adventurous. Just make sure you send it to the right person.

And definitely don't contact your partner via Grindr.

## OPINION

# Law students aren't just heartless, capitalist demons

**Nick Gowland** writes about the mental health issues facing a huge chunk of law students

If the television show *Suits* actually wanted to accurately depict the practice of the law, then everyone would have smaller foreheads and the vast majority of each episode would depict the characters reading vast oceans of texts. Also, a third of the characters should be experiencing some sort of clinical depression, and a fifth should have severe problems with alcohol abuse.

It is almost a cliché these days that legal education and practice have a severe problem with mental health among its ranks. The reality is that mental illness exists in the system, and although it is absolutely treatable, its systemic origins and effects are yet to be adequately addressed. On September 24, the Sydney University Law Society hosted a forum on mental health issues in legal education, panelled by former Director of Public Prosecutions Nicholas Cowdery AM QC, Jordan Hammond of reachout.com, Marie Jepson of the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation, and Paul Menzies QC. The panel's discussion did stress that progress is being made, even though Nicholas Cowdery emphasised the need to 'de-stigmatise' mental illness in the legal profession. Yet while Marie Jepson noted that 43% of law students will suffer levels of anxiety sufficient to warrant clinical attention sometime in their degree, nevertheless the discussion merely flirted with the question of why law students in particular seem to suffer such staggering rates of men-

tal illness.

I would suggest that one answer may be systemic. Law is the study of the means by which society seeks to process what it deems morally and ethically reprehensible, and in such a context confrontation and disillusionment seem unavoidable. Couple this with stupidly high course entry barriers, the gladiatorial shiftest of clerkships, and an adversarial legal system which demands winners and losers, and you clearly have a recipe for a hyper-competitive big-fish-small-pond scenario where there will always be those whose dreams are unattainable.

But there is something more subtle at play, and it is by no means isolated to the study of law. You only have to look at one of the endless 'XYZ school memes' Facebook pages to realise that certain courses see hair-tearing stress and caffeine-fuelled nights in the library as humorous clichés. When exceptional

stress is the expectation, how can we possibly expect to know when a healthy motivator has transformed into a clinical problem? This 'my problem's not serious enough' mentality is only exacerbated by countless first week housekeeping lectures which callously joke that, while special provisions are available, you better be in your death throes before looking for one because they're not given out lightly.

Mental illness is obviously not the exclusive preserve of law school, and it is simplistic to attribute the development of mental illness entirely to the idiosyncrasies of high-intensity degrees. But in the battle against student mental illness, one-size-fits-all solutions won't cut it. We have to look at the unique characteristics of a students' study (as well as those of the student themselves) if we are to ever adequately address the causes of mental health problems within universities.

While the ability of academic staff to monitor the stress levels of their individual students has been curtailed by funding cuts and increased workloads, one positive step might be to dedicate a lecture in all introductory courses to industry mental health in order to establish psychological wellbeing as a degree priority.

It's no secret that law school, and indeed most forms of intensive tertiary education, are conducive to high levels of stress. The toll that this stress can take on the mental wellbeing of students should not be a secret either.



Sydney Law School: a house of sorrow

## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

**John Gooding** puts on his Hazmat suit and wades through Rupert Murdoch's Twitter feed

"Huge lack of balance in UK media with 8000 BBC left wing journalists far outnumbering all national print journalists."

Last week Rupert Murdoch, the CEO of News Limited, casually dropped that bombshell in his Twitter feed. "BBC massive taxpayer funded mouthpiece for tiny circulation leftist *Guardian*," he continued in a later tweet.

This man runs a company which prints over half of all newspapers sold in Australia.

To tell the truth Murdoch is probably not that far off in his jab at the BBC, though where he plucked the figure from is a little mysterious. Journalists are in general more left-wing than average. No, the problem is instead with the word 'balance' and how Murdoch chooses to define it.

At heart, Murdoch's claimed measure of balance is either mind-bogglingly ignorant or an incredibly cynical lie. If a poll of journalists' political views indicates how balanced the publication

they write for is, then the Australian media industry must be very unbalanced indeed.

Researchers from the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) polled journalists across Australia and found that vast majorities at the ABC, Fairfax and News Limited declared that they intended to vote for either the Greens or Labor in

Rupert Murdoch @rupertmurdoch  
BBC massive taxpayer funded mouthpiece for tiny circulation leftist *Guardian*. Meanwhile print media about to be gagged to protect toffs.  
Expand

Rupert Murdoch @rupertmurdoch  
Huge lack of balance in UK media with 8000 BBC left wing journalists far outnumbering all national print journalists.  
Expand

lia Needs Tony" possible in such a hostile climate?

Could it be that the editorial focus of a newspaper is not decided solely by the views of the rank-and-file?

As an example of another relevant factor, the research by USC also found that senior editors were more likely to favour the Coalition than the reporters they managed, and had political views that were more in line with the Australian public. These employees also have far more control over what agendas and issues the paper pursues.

Answering the question of whether an entire nation's media is balanced or not is hard to do in entire research papers, let alone Twitter's 140 characters, and you certainly can't work it out by pointing out the political leanings of the individual reporters. Murdoch's generalisation about employees of the BBC demonstrates nothing, even if true. Yes, collectively their journalists are probably left-wing, but so are his.

the federal election this year

And yet, somehow, despite having three of the biggest news producers in the country beset on all sides by hordes of leftists, almost every major metro newspaper endorsed Tony Abbott and the Coalition. How are front page gems like "Kick This Mob Out" and "Austra-

# Rerouting the march of progress

Achieving change doesn't have to be a grand battle, argues **Rebecca Wong**

What bothered me most about the Steubenville rape case was the way it fit snugly into the archetype of a progressive cause. Entitled, chauvinistic high school footballers, a defenceless, intoxicated teenage victim, and of course the hero, online hacktivist network Anonymous, whose timely intervention garnered international attention and prompted universal condemnation of rape culture. The lurid details of the crime spread quickly, along with the 16-year-old girl's name, which Anonymous (amongst other media outlets) failed to redact from its transcript of the trial. The defendants were convicted. The victim received death threats. Anonymous was lauded for ensuring justice was served.

On a discursive level, demonising Tony Abbott is inextricably bound up with securing same-sex marriage. Pro-choice beliefs, a bulwark of feminism, are defined in opposition to the old, white men and religious institutions who would invoke the law in their bid to control women's bodies. What progressive causes rely on, even more than a victim, is a villain. Liberal ideas of change are constructed around righting historical injustices perpetrated by privileged oppressors, and minorities whose narratives deviate from this trope are rendered invisible.

Through personal and anecdotal experiences, I've come to appreciate the

struggles faced by disabled communities. There are the occasional archetypal "villains" – doctors who ridicule disabled patients for seeking sexual health advice (because, lol, there are people out there who would touch you?), hate mail sent to the mother of an autistic boy in Canada, the neglect and shocking physical abuse of care facility residents at the hands of workers. It's so easy to be angered by this behaviour. But often there are no villains, only the implacable reality of having to negotiate a world designed for the able-bodied. Assistive technology is prohibitively expensive, many occupations are unsuitable for people with particular disabilities, and only 5% of literature worldwide is accessible to the blind. These are not issues which the adversarial narrative arc of progressive causes is designed to accommodate. Nor does it address persistent attitudes of well-meaning, but ultimately damaging condescension. How do you convince a protec-

tive parent that coddling their disabled child may well cultivate an inferiority complex, limiting their opportunities and undermining their future prospects? What do you do when the enemy is pity?

The progressive answer to this is cultural change. Feminists in particular have embraced the meticulous, ongoing task of dissecting sexism within pop culture and institutions. Whilst invaluable, this practice lends itself to political solutions which are neat, glamorous and largely ineffective. Really though, it's all about complementing that grand narrative.

In the 18 months following the 1981 NSW sexual assault law reforms, police acceptance of reported incidents rose from 53% to 78%. Admittedly, rewording legislation is dull and thankless work, not like crusading against Tony Abbott for crass remarks about sex appeal. However, we mustn't conflate expressions of support for political change with political change itself. Currently,

private schools are exempt from workplace legislation outlawing discrimination on the basis of sexuality, and all we can talk about is same-sex marriage and rainbow crossings. Much of this political grandstanding is designed for the gratification of privileged progressives, who are afforded the luxury of pursuing forms of engagement that are to their liking. In our preoccupation with attending *visible* rallies, linking *interesting* articles, and uniting around *iconic* symbols and ideas, we are forgetting the central question: "will it work?" For so many, politics is not an intriguing pastime, but a daily struggle for dignity, security and even survival. The attention of the public is finite and fleeting; progressives marketing their causes should take heed of this, and direct their energy in more fruitful ways.

There is no Abbott-esque antagonist to spice up the tale of disability policy reform, only compassionate ignorance and the slow crawl of technological progress. Installing access ramps is no one's idea of a grand political statement, but I guarantee that every day they will make someone's life a little easier. The overriding narrative of political change is just that – a story, romanticised and simplified. Let's rewrite it.

*Rebecca Wong studies Arts/Law, and is blind.*

@rw\_93



The original rainbow crossing. Photograph: Victoria Baldwin

## USYD and the administration of gender

The University needs to respect students' rights to determine their own gender, writes **Anonymous**

I received the email at 3:45 on a Tuesday afternoon: "The Student Centre was recently requested to confirm details of a number of personal details changes that were made this year. Reviewing the birth certificate you provided, it showed your name as \*MALE NAME\*, and sex: Female. As a result we had to change your recorded gender (back) to female. ... To update your gender on your student record, the University requires an updated birth certificate..."

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To update your gender on your student record, the University requires an updated birth certificate..."

It's a little unexpected since, so far, the fact that I'd ticked the 'male' box on the change of personal details form when informing the University of my official change of name has caused

zero problems for anyone.

Quite the opposite, actually; rather than having to deal either with a tutor passing around the roll with that bothersome 'F' beside my name (thereby outing me to the class), or having to rush to front of the first few tutorials to make sure the tutor would do no such thing, (thereby outing me to my tutor), I was able to stroll in, sit down and not worry about the emotional, mental, social and potential physical safety ramifications of being outed or outing myself.

I wonder if the University is aware, in asking trans\* students to have their gender officially changed on their birth certificates, that they are asking us to engage in a baffling, invasive, expensive, and emotionally taxing administrative process that requires most of us to (a) undergo a procedure that would render us sterile, and (b) be unmarried (god forbid an existing state-sanctioned relationship be allowed to subsist if it's going to be officially, rather than de facto, queer).

In Australia, each state and territory has its own Department of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, with its own set of legislative criteria for governing official changes of gender. For Australian-born individuals, this means that the law in their birth state or territory governs them; for those born overseas, they are

governed by the law of the state or territory in which they reside.

I was born in Canberra. The ACT requires the "alteration of a person's reproductive organs" for an official change of gender. For most people assigned female at birth, this means a hysterectomy; for most of those assigned male at birth, this would seem to mean a vaginoplasty. Not only do these procedures range in cost from \$7000 to \$30 000, but they also result in the sterilisation of people who might otherwise wish to have biological children, and can involve long periods of recovery.

This is broadly the same in other states and territories, though the language varies, and there is anecdotal evidence that suggests that, in New South Wales at least, there is room for administrative and medical discretion. In some instances this discretion works in favour of trans\* people, whilst in others, it doesn't. In the case of the latter, a trans\* person may have to 'shop' around different health and service providers to find those who are willing to generously interpret the language of the act – a costly, time-consuming, and emotionally and mentally draining process.

The other exception is Western Australia, where the wording of the *Gender*

## OPINION

### ADMIN SHRUGGED

*Reassignment Act 2000* (WA) refers to a 'medical or surgical procedure', enabling the High Court to find in a 2011 case that hormone therapy, as a medical procedure, may be sufficient grounds for recognition of the affirmed gender. That case was also decided on the WA Act's reference to 'gender characteristics,' defined as the 'physical characteristics' of a person that identifies them as male or female.

The specific wording of the WA Act means the wider legal implications of the WA case remain to be seen. There may be grounds for similar appeals in other states, though again, this would be a costly, time-consuming, and no doubt gruelling undertaking.

In light of these legal requirements, the University's email amounts to a politely stated refusal to recognise a trans\* person's gender unless they undergo expensive, invasive, often medically unnecessary procedures that preclude the future possibility of biological children, and, in the case of married trans\* people, that they divorce their partner.

If the federal government, a body for whom I have very low expectations, can recognise a person's ("preferred") gender, I fail to see why the University of Sydney can't follow suit.

# The realities of violence

Domestic violence in LGBTIQ relationships is more pervasive than it's made out to be, writes **Georgia Behrens**  
Additional research by **Madeleine King**

It's a scene we all know well. We've seen it in government ads, in sad movies. There's a man. He's smashing his fists on the locked bathroom door and howling threats through it. Broken plates and a shattered lamp lie at his feet. In between his screams, we can hear someone sobbing from behind the bathroom door, pleading quietly. Look: the lock is splintering now – it's only a matter of time before it breaks open. It's a scene we all know. But something here is different. Behind the bathroom door hides another man. He's tall, fit, and looks as though he'd be perfectly capable of holding his own in a fight. But he's just been beaten up, called a faggot, and heard death threats from the person he loves the most in the world: his boyfriend. Right now, his muscles are no good to him. And the door breaks open.

Domestic violence is a problem that has been on the feminist agenda for decades. Since Carol Hanisch declared that "the personal is political" in 1969, women's rights advocates have worked tirelessly to ensure that men who commit acts of violence against their wives or partners are not shielded from state retribution within the privacy of their own homes. And, thanks to movements such as White Ribbon Day and the "Violence Against Women: Australia Says No" campaign, most of Australia is now well aware that "wife-beating" is both illegal and abhorrent. But, in 2013, we're becoming increasingly aware that not all domestic violence victims are wives, and not all abusers are husbands.

In fact, not all perpetrators are men, and not all victims are women. In 2013, evidence suggests that domestic vio-

lence occurs in gay and lesbian relationships at almost exactly the same rate as it does in heterosexual relationships: about one in three. Among relationships that involve at least one transgender or intersex person, the statistics are much, much higher. Why, then, is this still such a marginal issue?

For the past fifty years, LGBTIQ Australians have been fighting battles on virtually every front. Today, thousands of LGBTIQ Australians are still waiting on the rights to marry, to adopt, and to not be described as "immoral, unnatural and abnormal" by the longest-serving member of the NSW State Parliament (cheers, Fred Nile). Given

According to Sarah\*, a queer-identifying Sydney resident, glitter and Mardi Gras are all very well, but can come at an unforeseen price. She worries that the emphasis that LGBTIQ advocacy groups place on promoting a positive image of the queer community can mean that its more problematic elements can be swept under the carpet.

Some time ago, Sarah's relationship disintegrated when her girlfriend assaulted her while they were in bed together.

"It was late, and I was wondering what she was doing afterwards," she says.

"I said something like 'It would be

In 2013, evidence suggests that domestic violence occurs in gay and lesbian relationships at almost exactly the same rate as it does in heterosexual relationships [...] Among relationships that involve at least one transgender or intersex person, the statistics are much, much higher.

this history of institutionalised discrimination and demonisation, it's unsurprising that the LGBTIQ community has gone to extraordinary lengths to present a positive image of itself to society at-large. Events such as Mardi Gras and the Sydney Pride Festival are designed to (among other things) promote a happy, fun, fabulous image of LGBTIQ relationships, lifestyles, and communities.

Meanwhile, organisations such as Australian Marriage Equality and Get-Up! place great emphasis on the loving and committed nature of LGBTIQ relationships in their fight for same-sex marriage rights.

good to know what's happening.' Next thing I know, she was pummelling her fists into my legs, [and she said], 'I want to hurt you.'

Sarah ended the relationship then and there.

"I have a line," she says. "When it happened the first time, I just knew it would happen again."

"I think [this sort of thing] happens quite often, but I don't think people take as hard a line as I did. But violence in a relationship is just not acceptable."

According to Sarah, more substantive measures need to be taken within the LGBTIQ community to address the widespread occurrence of violence in relationships such as her own.

"Let's stop pretending we're all having the best fun ever all the time," she says. "We need to get real and discuss strategies to look after and protect each other better."

"Getting real" about domestic violence in LGBTIQ relationships is a long and confronting process. In many ways, the patterns of domestic violence in queer relationships mirror those seen in abusive heterosexual relationships. Abusive behaviours common to both queer and heterosexual relationships include physical aggression, jealousy and possessiveness, withholding money or other basic necessities, and verbal humiliation. Moreover, queer domestic violence tends to follow a similar "cycle of violence", wherein periods of abuse

are followed by "honeymoon" periods that allow abusers to regain control over their victims.

More alarmingly, though, abusers in queer relationships often use their LGBTIQ status to control their partners. Tragically, abusers are readily able to rely upon their queer partner's assumptions of societal heterosexism and homophobia as means to isolate and manipulate them. The threat of "outing", for example, is regularly used as a devastatingly effective tool for exert-



Cartoon: Rose McEwen

ing control, a recent study from Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria found that 16% of LGBTIQ Australians still fear having their sexuality discovered (a figure which grows exponentially in remote regional communities.)

Elsewhere, a study from ACON suggests victims are often told by their partners that, if they report violence to the police, they will be betraying the queer community to its historical op-





pressors. Abusive male partners exploit the misconception that men are naturally violent, telling young or inexperienced partners that violent behaviour is inevitable in gay male relationships; meanwhile, trans\* and intersex victims are told that society regards them as freaks, and that, as such, they are lucky to have any partner at all.

Unfortunately, though, many queer victims of domestic violence struggle to recognise the fact that they are in an abusive relationship. The narrative of

help domestic violence victims.

In large parts of the queer community today there still exists a suspicion of mainstream institutions – such as the police and the courts – that, in the past, have been responsible for the oppression of LGBTIQ Australians. Allegations of serious assault by police officers at this year's Mardi Gras, for example, have exacerbated concerns that homophobia is still prevalent in the ranks of the Australian police force. Many queer Australians have voiced concerns that, although the police force no longer actively prosecutes the queer community, they are unlikely to want to step in to assist them in times of need. Given that there are substantial barriers preventing even heterosexual victims of domestic violence and sexual assault from reporting crimes and seeking help, queer victims' suspicion of the institutions meant to help them can compound their isolation and confusion.

McKenzie Raymond is one of these victims. After a night out at a lesbian event on Oxford Street, she was sexually assaulted by the woman she'd agreed to go home with. "I'd decided I'd walk her home. I should've just gone home myself, but she was an incredibly persuasive personality," McKenzie recounts.

"We started making out, and ended up in bed. I was overwhelmed with an unsettling feeling; something wasn't right. I said I had to go, [but] she didn't stop kissing and touching me. Then she held me down on the bed and told me to stay," she says.

McKenzie believes she was forcibly held to the bed for over an hour, but "it felt like six."

"It took me months to forgive myself," she says. "I wish I could say I don't think about that night, but I do. I still feel sick when people grab my wrists. I feel disgusting when I think back to how she looked at me."

Despite quickly realising that she had been sexually assaulted, McKenzie says she never considered reporting the incident to the police.

"I have absolutely no faith in the police force as a whole," she says. "I know how average police are at responding to homophobic abuse and assault, let alone sexual assault."

This is a common accusation levelled at the police force, and one with which it has been trying contend for over a decade. The NSW Police Force

has continually reaffirmed its commitment to working productively with the LGBTIQ community, and has recently introduced specialist Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers at various branches around the state. These efforts have been reflected in recent statistics from Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria that suggest an improved police competency in dealing with queer citizens: among queer respondents to the survey, 56% said that they had been treated with courtesy and respect when reporting incidents; 54% said that they believe police had taken appropriate action in dealing with their report.

But, according to ACON CEO Nicholas Parkhill, mainstream domestic violence service providers – including the police, the court system, and women's refuges – need to do more to ensure they are equipped to work with queer victims. They key message here, Parkhill believes, is that "one size does not fit all". In an effort to avoid offending queer victims of violence, mainstream providers often consciously endeavour to treat them in the exact same way as they do heterosexual victims. And, although these efforts may be well-intentioned, inadvertently heterosexist or homophobic behaviour – such as the assumption that a victim arriving at a women's refuge has been abused by a male partner, and not another woman – have the potential to "re-victimise" those seeking help. The practice of treating everyone the same fails to recognise the difference in the types of issues that people experience, and means that LGBTIQ people can often fall through the cracks of the system de-

signed to help them.

And then there are the drastic differences from heterosexual treatment, differences that make no sense. Police and courts, for example, regularly operate under the assumption that any violence occurring in male relationships is mutual violence, rather than one-way abuse. There is thus an institutional tendency to minimise the seriousness of queer male victim's complaints, exemplified in the courts' tendencies to issue AVOs to both members of a male relationship, even when only one partner makes an application. Meanwhile, women's refuges have often been known to permit queer female victims' partners to seek them out inside the shelters, in order to apologise and persuade them to come home. If a man tried the same thing with his female partner, the police would be called within minutes.

We think we all know what domestic violence looks like. But, in the end, that scene we all know well – the man hammering on a bathroom door while a woman cries inside – is just one face of the many-headed monster that is domestic violence in Australia. Men are beaten by other men; women are raped by women. And, around the country, men and women, queer and straight, are being threatened, insulted, and demeaned. They're having their money withheld, being isolated from their families, and experiencing ongoing emotional manipulation. Their property is being destroyed, or stolen; they're being told that they're worthless.

In 2013, all of these behaviours are regarded as domestic violence, and all of them are illegal.



domestic violence that has traditionally been constructed in the media is almost exclusively heterosexual, which makes it difficult for women to see themselves as abusers, and for men to see themselves as victims. The result is that the majority of queer victims of domestic violence stay in abusive relationships for long periods of time, unaware of the fact that they are being abused, and unaware or afraid of the institutions, programs, and systems that exist to

# ARTS & CULTURE

## Tangerine trees, marmalade skies and **FREAKING THE FUCK OUT**

Anonymous writes about their bad trip

Drugs were, at a time, a part of my life. I had started smoking pot some time late in Year 10, and it was never a gateway to depravity, it was never obstacle to my dreams, it didn't destroy my family.

Years later, I took LSD. It was incredible. Nothing could compare to the feeling of watching the sun emerge out of a rainbow while your brain was getting fried on a combination of acid and Funkadelic's 'Maggot Brain.' Acid made you see things in a different way. There was no life changing moment, but it was fun: my friend started to look like a mix of Buddha and Chairman Mao, the table looked like a screensaver, and chilled grapes tasted really good.

That was the first time. The second time was different.

Eight hours on one tab – LSD was a full work day. Someone passed a bong around and I took a drag to kick it on. I was having a great time, chatting, listening to music. We were comfortable. It was a nice house.

Gradually I felt like my head was falling, and then I'd bring it back up, only for it fall again. It was happening in a loop. I didn't know what was going on, and I kept looking to my friends to see if they were reacting. They kept

looking at me suspiciously, like I knew something they didn't. I could hear them talk about me without moving their lips. The conversation became faster, until I realised it was just one person talking about me, inside me.

I got up to walk around the giant backyard so the feeling would go away. I went back to the table and sat down. I realised it hadn't gone away, so I went back to the yard, and then back to the table. I started to run between each location. My friend said to another: "He's having a bad trip," and that's when it hit me.

I ran back to the yard, freaking out. I lay on the grass to feel grounded, a better sense of being in my body. I didn't. I wondered if I was dead. I thought I was dead.

I tried to solve maths equations. Maths was logic, and logic was real. Made up numbers and signs started appearing in front of me, moving towards me and crashing into my skull, exploding. I started to walk around again.

I remember going into the house to collect myself. I looked at the TV, and *The Simpsons* was on, and Sideshow Bob was laughing maniacally.

"I have to get out of here."

I kept telling myself it was the drug, but this wasn't the drug I had imagined.

It was nothing like I had predicted. The scariest part was how lucid everything was. Nothing was hazy, so I remember it well. I wish I couldn't. There were times when I felt so low in this bad trip that I felt like killing myself. I saw a knife in the kitchen, and picked it up. I heard the cars outside and felt like running into the traffic.

What stopped me was wondering how people would react. As stupid as it sounds, I didn't want to give LSD a bad name. I didn't want to be one of those deaths you heard about on TV.

I put down the knife. I went to bed. I had to get used to it. I lay there, looking at the wall, at the hallucinations that danced casually in front of me. Soon, I fell asleep to the sounds of the others still tripping and having a good time.

I felt fine the day after, but melancholic. It was a disturbing experience; one I wish I never had. I had flashbacks for months after, not of any particular hallucination, but of the feeling of detachment from the world (known as "depersonalisation" or "derealisation").

Whenever I smoked marijuana after this, paranoia and dissociation would return. I had to stop. I'm not against drug usage, but they're made for some and not others. Drugs are no longer a part of my life.

# Forget Froyo, gelato has the Klout

**Matilda Surtees** has the scoop on Gelato Messina

It's a Tuesday afternoon, but there's a queue snaking through the doors of Gelato Messina's store and onto the Crown St pavement outside their Surry Hills store. This would be an odd state of affairs for your average ice-cream shop, but Gelato Messina is hardly another vanilla scoop shop.

They have 30 000 Facebook fans and rotating specials that veer from experimental – a ginger and sake sorbet was a recent offering – to explosively popular, like 'Robert Brownie Jr,' which was a milk chocolate gelato with chunks of chocolate brownie and fudge sauce. 'Robert Brownie Jr' has 2856 likes on Instagram.

The Messina specials, which are always creatively named, photographed, and uploaded to social media, are a driving force behind their success. There are 5-6 specials at any one time and they outsell the 35 fixed flavours, appeasing the paradoxical public hun-

ger for constant novelty.

A firm dedication to using only 'real' ingredients – there are no numbered flavours at Messina – makes creating new specials both more remarkable and more challenging. "Sometimes we have these great ideas, but trying to source the real stuff... it can require a lot of tweaking," says Nick Palumbo, the Gelato Messina founder. The popularity of certain ingredients eases the pressure to constantly figure out how to use new ones. They keep at least one peanut butter flavour in the specials rotation at all times, and "anything that has peanut or salted caramel just walks out the door," according to Palumbo.

There is a direct link between social media and their sales, beyond the normal publicity boost. The number of likes a flavour receives is a sure indicator of how well it will sell – the fast rotation means that an upload will quickly bring in customers specifically seeking that fla-



vour before it disappears off the specials board. The quick turnover is, in turn, a result of the rapid pace of social media.

"In the old days we used to make one special a week, leave it in the cabinet for a few weeks before people tried it and would freak out," says Palumbo. Now, "a week is an age in social media," and to keep pace Messina are introducing a special every other day.

Originally the Facebook page was peripheral to the business, and it took them a year to scrape together a thousand Facebook likes. By the beginning of this year they had about 15 000. In the past six months, that number has doubled. They now have a business partner who primarily looks after their marketing and runs their Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

Palumbo says that they don't have a business plan as such – the phenomenon that is Gelato Messina is apparently "just a group of guys with their own specialities." If they lack a business plan, then they must have incredible commercial acumen. Messina has grown fast, and isn't slowing. Open-

ing their Darlinghurst store in 2002, they now have stores in Surry Hills, Bondi, and are on the verge of unveiling two new locations. One will be in the inner Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy. The other will be in Hangzhou, China's fourth largest city.

For many companies, this sort of prolific success would be followed by a sense of fatigue in their customers, which Gelato Messina understandably wants to avoid. In a world infested with froyo stores and franchises, the boutique feel and relative uniqueness of the Messina experience is a huge drawcard. Palumbo acknowledges this, explaining that they see themselves opening 15 stores at the most within Australia.

Instead of saturating the local market, they plan to grow internationally. Starting with China, Palumbo outlines an ideal future that entails two or three stores in the US, another two or three in London – they are currently exploring a potential East London location. By 2015, "we've got it locked in our minds that we want to be in Williamsburg or Brooklyn," he says.

If our fervent devotion to Gelato Messina is any indication, the residents of Hangzhou, New York and London may soon be packed into their own lengthy queues, ready to receive Messina with open wallets, hungry mouths, and iPhone cameras at the ready.



Photographs: Eliza Waterhouse

## A Knightess of a night

**Phoebe Moloney** previews the Women's Collective's annual performance night

Knightess is a showcase of creative wom\*n at USYD. The second performance night to be run by the Women's Collective, this year's Knightess will feature over 15 acts across a range of performative genres as well as visual-arts pieces, all created by Sydney University students with lived experience as a woman.



As Julia Readett, one of the event organisers, describes it: "Knightess is an opportunity to celebrate women in the arts and to raise awareness about the under-representation of women in all facets of artistic contributions: poetry, performance, music, comedy and art. It's also just a great chance to just sit and listen and begin a conversation about what these performers are actually doing."

Unfortunately, Australia is a nation where the occasion to enjoy wom\*n's creativity is not offered enough. A statement released last year by the Australian Council for the Arts reported that the numbers of women in creative leadership positions have fallen since the 80's and 90's, dropping to below 30% in 2010.

Stella Ktenas-Karver, one of the performers featured in this year's Knightess, says that underrepresentation is an issue that extends from the inherently sexist attitude that underlies creative industries.

"Unfortunately sexism remains quite a common component of the arts. Females are stigmatised, we regulate

them into only talking about 'women's issues'. Plays performed contain an abundance of dynamic male roles and few female roles of no real importance. A token female role relegated to ornament, mother, or whore."

Furthermore, Ktenas-Karver maintains that the visibility of women-identifying artists is imperative to shifting societal attitudes.

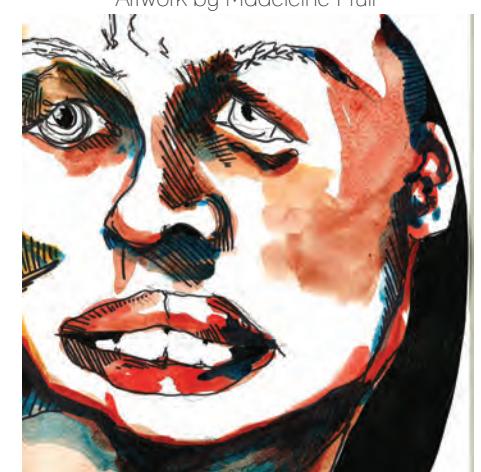
"Wom\*n must enjoy equal representation in the arts now so as to encourage change. If art and culture informs youth on equality, it will be that much easier tomorrow to demolish the sexism which pervades our society today."

Jena Ye, visual artist and Knightess coordinator also sees the incorporation of the "female gaze" into artistic representation as necessary to encourage productive discussion surrounding feminine identities within a space where woman has been historically relegated to artistic subject or muse.

"This public discussion is becoming more often in Western society. We can

## PREVIEW

Artwork by Madeleine Pfull



see this with the recent *Honi Soit* cover, the Vagina 101 images and the well-known Vagina monologues. These sorts of creative productions direct attention to the female body with a strong feeling of female agency that has been absent for so long. This is one of the reasons why I'm so excited to be a part of Knightess."

*Knightess* is an event open to people of all gender identities. The concert will begin a 7.30pm at Hermann's Bar with entry by donation.



# Porny Soit

**Anonymous** writes about her Saturday night, when she stayed home to watch porn for the first time

I recently bought myself a vibrator off the internet because I was drunk and wanted an orgasm. It arrived a few days later. I got my boyfriend to help me figure out how to operate it and I used it for the first time a few days later, while watching *Game of Thrones*. I read on the Internet while idly Googling that you know if you've had an orgasm, and that it feels a bit like needing to go to the toilet. I think I know that I had an orgasm with my vibrator the second time I used it and a few times subsequent but because I only think I know I'm not really sure. All I can be sure of is that it felt way better than sex does and that I feel gipped that my boyfriend cums every time we have sex but that I never do. It's not because he's inattentive (he's the opposite), I think it's just me. The porn doesn't make me feel better about this situation because the woman cumms three times, but I'll get to that later.

That is all by the by, because this article is about my experience as a female in her early twenties watching porn for the first time. As I write it, I'm drunk on my bed with a just-used vibrator next to me wearing quite a conservative dress but no underpants. I've just snapchatted a picture of my vibrator sitting on a computer to my friend because I wanted to not write this thing. I'm listening to Tracy Chapman's 'Fast Car' over and over again.

My friend picked the video for me. It lasts 33 minutes and 45 seconds, which is far longer than I expected. It's a stellar bit of interracial pornography hosted by youjizz.com and featuring an actress by my mother's name. When I texted her to let her know she shared her name with a porn star, she replied: "That was me a couple of years ago." It was funny, but also quite weird because it means I'm thinking of her as I watch the video. I wonder what the actress' mother would think if she saw her daughter baying like a cow as she gets fucked for half an hour by a giant black dick. I also think about how my mother would feel if she was watching me watch this film – either appalled or amused, but I can't decide which.

The plot is simple. Woman applies for job as secretary, interview proceeds with innuendo for a few minutes, man



puts hand on woman's thigh, oral sex, then penetrative sex, but thankfully no anal. Then she tells him she wants the job so she can fuck him every day. This raises a few concerns about the patriarchy but nothing really new, so I'm not overly distracted.

Halfway through I'm watching but pausing every now and then to check Facebook, because it's pretty dull. I decide to try to get more actively involved, so I take off my underpants and get out my vibrator. I try to sync the vibrations of the clitoris-stimulator bit of the vibrator with the man's thrusts. I'm getting more excited, but I think it's just solely due to the vibrator. The porn simply isn't that interesting. In fact, the

worried that no one suggested using protections, which makes me pleased that I've internalised the dangers of STDs.

I'm watching this the same week that I saw the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, a play which is related to the reason I have never watched porn before. I always thought that my love of Shakespeare, Austen and Richard Curtis had given me unrealistic expectations of romance, and that porn would subtly alter my expectations of the choreography of sex – and then my interactions with the opposite sex would be permanently ruined and inauthentic. Perhaps this might have been the case



prospect of having sex with a penis that size is frankly terrifying. And some of the positions look like you could only do them comfortably after going to the gym consistently for a while. The guy also has a PhD – pretty huge dick! I know that if I were in her position my

if I'd started watching porn before I'd started having sex, but I have a few long-term relationships under my belt and at the moment I probably have sex about ten times a week. It's just too late for my sex life to be ruined. In fact, watching it is probably good

"The porn simply isn't that interesting. In fact, the prospect of having sex with a penis that size is frankly terrifying. And some of the positions look like you could only do them comfortably after going to the gym consistently for a while."

vagina would be aching and raw and that I'd be worried about having my internal organs ruptured. I also just don't find the sight of sex organs that appealing. At one stage, the camera lingers on her anatomy. Her gaping vagina looked like Edvard Munch's 'The Scream'. I'm also

for me, as I now have a few good tips on how to deliver a pleasing blow job.

I'd expected to have more feminist objections to it than I do. I feel sorry for the man, who starts off wearing a burgundy velvet jacket. After his first few lines of dialogue his face leaves



the screen, and then he's just about the penis. He mumbles his lines so his character remains inchoate. The woman, on the other hand, does most of the talking (mostly about her pussy but occasionally about the job she's applied for), and develops as a character simply because we see her face for most of the film. Perhaps this is so a heterosexual man can objectify her more easily, but I just find myself connecting with her. What's more, while she goes down on him a few times, he also gives her oral sex and she constantly rubs her clitoris, and it's not like female pleasure is completely absent. In fact, as I already said, she cumms a lot, and the poor guy just takes forever to cum.

The capitalist in me wants to buy a camera and start making porn. I don't know where I'd find a guy with a penis that big but otherwise the materials are easy to source and the production costs are low. Sex sells. The anti-capitalist in me sees the film's plot as an example of how capitalism exploits women, and I worry that porn probably features a disproportionate amount of low-SES actors.

Overwhelmingly, the video remains boring, even when everything is climaxing. I would honestly much rather sit on Facebook, pressing refresh, than watch more stuff like this. I think *Game of Thrones* is more titillating. I'm torn between two interpretations: I'm just not that sexual a human, or the sex I have is just way better than this weird "this tight pink pussy has been a very bad pussy" shit. I know I've already said that I don't orgasm during sex but I still enjoy it. I don't need to feel bad about myself just because I don't like a stupid video. Only once have I had sex with someone who was basically a stranger, and I can't really remember it – the other times have been with people I was either in love with or affectionate towards. Sex that doesn't end with a whispered "I love you" is alien to me and seems more like an exercise in endurance than a fun activity. I would never ask someone to cum on my glasses. For one, I don't wear any so that would just be my eyes, but I'd also just rather my partner cum inside me. There's something beautiful about that.

# USYD Bushwalking Club to release nude calendar

Members of SUBW bare it all and donate proceeds to a wilderness charity, reports Mariana Podesta-Diverio

The Sydney University Bushwalkers (SUBW), a USU club, will release a nude calendar for 2014 on November 20. The calendar will feature unclad members of the club posing for the different months of the year, including group photos and some shots of individuals.

When the club released a nude calendar last year, they subsequently discovered that members of the club in the '90s had also done so. "We found out from some old-timers in the club that

there'd actually been a previous [calendar] in the early '90s," said Tim Vollmer, a SUBW member. "So it seems we've unknowingly re-ignited a club tradition!"

Although the proceeds from the 2013 calendar went towards funding the club's gear, the club's committee intends to donate proceeds from the 2014 calendar to the Colong Foundation, an advocacy group that fights to protect areas of the Australian wilderness. Colong's campaigns include fighting against hunting and horse riding in national parks.

SUBW organises nude bushwalks on approximately a monthly basis, particularly during the year's balmier months. "The first formally organised nude bushwalk the club did was probably only 18 months ago," said Vollmer. "And they've happened semi-regularly in the warm summer months since then."

Nude bushwalking has a significant degree of popularity

in some adventurous circles of the population. Stephen Gough, a British ex-marine, made international headlines when he walked the length of Britain (from Land's End to John o' Groats) in 2004, wearing only footwear and, occasionally, a hat. Gough was arrested numerous times for not wearing clothes during his unclad year-long pilgrimage.

Interestingly, public indecency laws specifically dealing with nude hiking in countries such as Switzerland mean that this activity was outlawed altogether in 2009. Of course, this is emblematic of the social stigma surrounding naked bodies in many societies.

So how do SUBW members feel about going bare in front of others in nature? "It is a reminder that there is no perfect body, just an endless collection of unique forms," said Vollmer. "It makes me more comfortable with myself, and with others."

Chantal Bronkhorst, another SUBW



Commemoration Day, 1937  
Courtesy: State Library

## CAMPUS CULTURE



The cover of the 2014 official nude calendar

member, has never been on an official nude walk, but prefers to get naked "when the natural surroundings are just too good to be experienced fully clothed."

"You gradually get accustomed to it, and realise everyone's bodies are beautifully flawed," Bronkhorst said. "There is nothing to be self-conscious about."

*The calendars will be available for purchase online at [www.subw.org.au/calendar](http://www.subw.org.au/calendar).*

@mapodi

## Can I get a side of drugs with that?

**Georgia Kriz** gives us a guide to shops on King Street that don't appear to have any customers yet manage to pay exorbitant rent anyway

I'm only saying it because I know everyone else is thinking it: if the following shops aren't drug fronts, I'll eat my hat.

### Buzzzbar Café – 349 King St

These guys can afford cinema advertising and live plants, yet they don't have any customers - need I say more? Although I have heard on the grapevine that their baklava is good, baklava is probably just a codeword for heroin.

### Crispy Inn 24 Hour Bakery – 203 King St

I like my pastry as much as the next person with tastebuds, but I fail to believe that anyone is peckish for a cinnamon scroll at 3.30am. A 24 hour kebab shop I might understand, but this place screams "SUSS" louder than a gluten-intolerant's groans the morning after a bread binge.

### Happy Herb Shop – 347 King St

I reckon this is one of those "hide in plain sight", reverse-psychology moves. I can imagine the conversation:

Drug seller A: What should we call our brand new marijuana shop on King Street?

Drug seller B: Defs something v stealthy so we don't get caught.

Drug seller A: Yes good idea. Maybe if we call it "Happy Herb Shop", then people will think we are joking about selling marijuana and then we won't get caught selling marijuana.

Drug seller B: Yes! Rightio, that will confuse them. V. stealthy.

### The Granny Square – 47 King St

Although it poses as a knitting shop, this place is obviously the octogenarian community's answer to Silk Road. Don't be fooled by the gorgeous window display and impressive variety of materials and supplies - I'm told inside a bundle of wool is the perfect place to stash a stash, and those needles are obviously designed to come in handy if a deal goes south.

### Nixie Ocean Food Restaurant – 480 King St

We all knew this place was a front from the moment they stuck a picture of a tits-out mermaid over the entrance. The "Ugly and Tacky Branding Exercise" is a classic move to try and dissuade customers from coming inside, and boy has it worked. Thanks to Ariel, there's no one around to see what the scallop special is, or what exactly is hiding underneath the soft-shelled crab's bed of baby rocket.

# STUCCO

## EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION for students in need

Are you in need of temporary housing?

STUCCO offers temporary accommodation for full-time, undergraduate or postgraduate University of Sydney students in need.

If this sounds like you, get in contact with a caseworker from the SRC, or SUPRA for postgraduate students. Advice in looking for accommodation is offered, with the possibility of being referred to STUCCO temporary accommodation upon evaluation. STUCCO offers temporary housing for two weeks whilst you are looking for other accommodation, with the possibility of an extension in cases of extreme need.

It is important to approach these organisations with a general aim of housing assistance in mind, rather than simply getting referred temporary accommodation.

For more information and to get contact details, visit our webpage,  
<http://www.stucco.org.au/temporary-accommodation/>



## PRETENDING TO BE AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL: THE VIDEO GAME

Samantha Jonscher reviews a gut-wrenching video game



On its surface *Papers, Please* appears to be a creative variation on the traditional puzzle game. Its interface is familiarly low-tech and its premise seems utterly banal, but lurking beneath the surface is a truly unique game with literary potency.

The game centres on the day-to-day work of an immigration official in the fictitious Soviet nation of Arstotzka. The idea is simple enough: the player must examine the paperwork of migrant hopefuls and determine if they are eligible to enter the country. Basic game play revolves around catching bureaucratic anomalies and dismissing individuals with invalid paper work.

At the end of each day, the player is awarded a commission for each migrant processed (you are penalised for making mistakes). You must pay for rent, heating, food and eventually medicine for the extended family, all of which is almost impossible to cover at once.

As relations between fellow nations in the surrounding eastern bloc deteriorate, you are expected to look at more and more detailed pieces of paperwork and to go through increasing levels of inspection, all the while trying to process enough migrants to feed, heat, house and medicate your loved ones.

While video games have started mov-

ing more and more towards articulating moral significance (I'm looking at you *Bioshock I* and *Fallout*), *Papers, Please* really is a step forward. While both of those games feature and reward moral behavior, *Papers, Please* is concerned with exploring the tension between pragmatism and ideals. While other games have begun leaning towards a didactic story to complement and enhance the game's story, *Papers, Please* uses the game to complement its moral quandries.

The player sits on the precipice between "The Man" and "The People" and in many ways is encouraged to remain loyal to both entities. But in Soviet era Arstotzka, that is not possible. The game is heart-wrenching and takes an emotional toll, something that isn't spoiled by its early NES style graphics. Denying person after person entry, especially after they beg, is difficult. It quickly becomes apparent that the only people you can break the rules for are those that can afford to bribe you.

Designed by an American game designer, it is hard to imagine this game outside the context of modern American immigration rhetoric, or outside of current asylum seeker discourse in Australia. By placing the player in the shoes of the enforcer and not the victim nor the policy makers, it humanises the entire narrative of immigration.

The game forces you to feel true compassion and responsibility for the failed migrants that you must turn away; they are not 'queue jumpers', 'boat people' or generic foreigners. They each present their own stories; each pixelated bundle of documents represents a human being that you are inclined to help but pressed to turn away. It injects humanity and subjectivity into an issue in sore need of both.

## The first meet

**Anonymous** met a lot of creepy people. And then joined them.

It's an odd-looking pub, you notice. With a drab exterior, situated just near the train station, it looks slightly circumspect. But it's packed with after hours office workers.

You walk in, nervously, hands scrunched into your pockets.

Immediately you notice the sign – laminated, shiny and on a pedestal. It directs you upstairs, a narrow, winding, spiral staircase next to a crowded, beer-smelling bar. Pub food wheels around you as you slowly saunter through the crowd, finally climbing the stained steps upward.

You're immediately greeted on the second floor by two sets of beaming smiles.

"Hi!"

"Welcome!" they say, hands stretched out with gloriously white smiles. This is a little better, you think. These people look ... normal. Sort of.

They thrust paperwork in front of your face. You're a bit overwhelmed, and you skim over it, feeling slightly flustered by all the attention. You sign it, hand over the money, and are ushered into the party.

The first thing you see is that everyone is talking. People are spread out across the room, chatting away. You get the impression some important people are here, but you aren't quite sure who they are, or what they look like.

Immediately two smiley, happy-clappy types approach you. "Hi!" they say, in almost perfect unison.

"Hello," you say nervously, your hands clutching the inseam of your pockets.

One of them grins that plastic smile again, and slicks back his hair. He rattles off some big title, it goes over your head though. His hair is wispy, thin and he seems very ... 'keen'. Yeah, that would be the word. He begins chatting about why he first joined up, all the benefits of being involved, and grabs you a beer.



Talking intensely, he finally stares at you. "So, what do you think?"

You pause, aware that every second of hesitation casts your commitment to the cause into doubt. "Um, yeah. That makes sense."

That seems to make the man happy, and he smiles, grinning, clasping your shoulder. He talks about how much talent you have, how much promise you have, how you're going places. You begin to wonder – how can he know all this from a mere 30 second conversation?

As the night drifts on, you have the same conversations time and time again. You begin to experiment. To vary your opinion. Whenever you do, people nod, they listen to you. You begin to feel like a leader.

As the night draws to a close, you feel a little bit bewildered. Did they actually agree with you? Did you actually change their views? Or is this a group that lacks conviction, that is afraid to confront you with their true beliefs?

You're not sure. But you agree to come to the next one, anyway.

This could be about a cult, a political party or a particularly bad family reunion. We're really not sure.

## Punched in the vagina: hospitality experiences

Lucy Hughes-Jones discusses the industry that so many students must work in to pay the rent

TOP 5

5 When service becomes servitude: Lately the 'family friendly' restaurant I work at has come to resemble a crèche, where you literally have to wade through children to serve food. So there I was last Sunday, not 30 seconds into my shift and carrying two hot plates of parmy, when a young boy decided to use my most private of parts as a punching bag. Yes, I was punched in the vagina by a 5-year-old while his parents did nothing. Usually I can deal with pram traffic jams, spaghetti wars and up to seven women breast-feeding at once, but not this. Now I generally don't mind kids – I fully intend on making a few of my own some day – but until then I want them nowhere near my vagina, and in that moment I felt like punting the little fucker.

4 Shitting where you eat: I know a couple that got together at the Christmas party, and shared a romantic co-worker courtship where fingertips touched for an instant as they both reached for the same beer tap. Lunchbreaks were taken together, and things got caught on CCTV. That same pair six months later now need to be rostered on at different times to avoid seeing each other. Many of us have that 'what was I thinking?' moment with exes, but in hospo it's like a regret you have to revisit on a daily basis once things turn sour.

3 Cash-in-hand jobs for the 'link: Youth Allowance is one testy mother, but definitely worth getting assaulted in the line at Centrelink every now and again, and if you can earn some extra cash on the sly while you're at it, it becomes that much more lucrative. It takes me back to the days of my first café job when I got paid \$9 an hour, and my pay came each week in a crumpled brown paper bag with my name on it. Since then I've found myself working in the shittest bars and clubs in Sydney, all in the name of the cash money flow.

2 When managers are your mates: Memories of this industry will rarely include the obnoxious and drunk customers, but those behind the bar. With the right colleagues, work can be like a Disneyland where there is no currency at all: you swap beers for the chefs with a delicious steak, you cut cake slices too big and even it up bite by bite, you turn your staffies drink into a staffies bender. As long as the boss doesn't see, the world is yours.

1 Just for now: Whether it's lime juice in paper cuts, the depressing locals, or just the sheer volume of vomit, we are able to endure the highs and lows of hospo in the belief that it won't be permanent. For most of us, this is but a rite of passage that is only a temporary, gritty and exciting speed bump in our otherwise illustrious careers.

# No Money?!?

## DEBTS

The SRC Legal Service helps people with negotiations on outstanding debts. Just ring our office to make an appointment for some advice.

## FOOD

The SRC and the Union offer free food from time to time to promote various campaigns and events. These are advertised in the *Bull* and *Honi Soit*. Some Union clubs also offer a regular meal for a one-off joining fee plus a few dollars extra (eg, the Vegetarian Club). The University also serves food at all the graduations ceremonies. It would be very naughty of you to go there when you're not really attending the ceremony, so if you're hungry and you've got no money, please do not go to these ceremonies and pretend you belong so you can eat their sandwiches.

The SRC runs a food co-op on level 4 of the Wentworth Building that has lots of very cheap food (like dried fruit, rice crackers, chocolates, rice, grains, etc). Bring your own container. If you do a shift there you will even get a discount.

Many places on King Street in Newtown offer you a discount with a student card or Access card. Places that have pre-prepared food tend to charge less per serve nearest to closing time. For example the food courts in

Broadway and Marrickville shopping centres will charge around \$3-\$4 for a meal instead of the usual \$6-7. Just be careful of food kept out of the fridge or heating for too long.

There are lots of other organisations that offer cheap meals. SRC caseworkers have a list available for the inner Sydney and Sydney areas, eg, Hare Krisna's van outside Newtown Neighbourhood Centre every evening.

Bringing food/drink from home is often a lot cheaper than buying lunch on or off campus. Even better would be to have some meals at a friend or relative's house.

## HOUSING

Cheap housing is quite tricky in Sydney. Look on café noticeboards and telegraph poles for share housing ads or try applying for a place at STUCCO, the student housing cooperative (<http://www.stucco.org.au/>). The University has a few cheap accommodation options. They are very limited so apply early. There is also a University Accommodation Data base at [http://sydney.edu.au/current\\_students/accommodation/](http://sydney.edu.au/current_students/accommodation/) which is worth looking through. The Department of Housing have a scheme called Rentstart, where they give you an interest free loan to cover your bond. Of course there are conditions, but this is definitely worth checking out.

Having not much money is a fact of life for many students. Talk to an SRC caseworker about what options you have to make life a bit easier.

## PHONE

It is possible to buy a handset cheaply or ask a friend to give you one they no longer use. It is easiest to control the costs by using prepaid accounts. An online phone service like Skype might also make it cheaper for you.

## TRANSPORT

Where possible travel off-peak, using pre-paid tickets (metro 10 bus tickets, weekly train tickets) or just walking some of the way. However, consider the "cost" of your safety too. Sometimes it is a good idea to splash out and take a taxi.

## FURNITURE

Cheap furniture and kitchen stuff can be bought from op shops. Search for them on the internet. Keep an eye out for stuff that's being put out for council pick up. The more "posh" the area, the nicer the stuff.

## LOANS

It is only a good idea to get a loan when you have the intention and the ability to pay it back. The SRC offers an emergency loan (interest free) of up to \$50. The University has a Financial Assistance Office that has interest free loans of up to \$1500 as well as some bursaries (loans you don't have to pay

back). You could also investigate available scholarships. [www.usyd.edu.au/su/fin\\_assist/](http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/fin_assist/).

## FUN

The Union offers a large range of social activities that you can attend that are mostly free. They also give away prizes at trivia nights and other social nights that may get you to the movies, see a band or even an opera. There are a few festivals that happen throughout the year throughout the city and suburbs. Keep an eye on the local papers. Keep in mind too that the Union sells discounted tickets for the movies and some other places. You could also try contacting small or local newspapers and ask to review films or bands.

## HEALTH

If you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident and on Centrelink payment or if you are on a low wage (\$497 per week as at July, 2013) you may be eligible for a Health Care Card. This gives you reduced prices on most prescription drugs (about \$6), discount tickets at the movies (although it is cheaper to buy movie money from the Union), free ambulance coverage in NSW, cheap glasses, free hearing aids and access to free dental care.

## Ask Abe

Hi Abe,

Centrelink want to cut me off my payment because they say I should have finished my degree by now. Do you know anything about that?

PD.

Dear PD

What you're talking about is called the Maximum Allowable Time for Completion. It affects lots of students. The basic principle behind it is that you are allowed to get paid until you have exceeded the amount of semesters it would take for most people to ordinarily complete their degree plus one extra semester. Sometimes it's plus one year, but that's only when your subjects are a year long. So if you're doing an Arts degree that's 3 years plus 1 semester full time equivalent. Remember that this tells them when you should be cut off. It



is not dependent on whether you have received a payment for all of that time or not. If you have been studying longer than the Allowable Time come and talk to a SRC caseworker as they can advise you if you can get that time extended. You may have been part time in an earlier semester but they have counted it as full time or you may have not passed a semester for reasons beyond your control.

We have found some Austudy students doing Medicine degrees who have been told that the time they have spent doing a previous degree should count. So medicine is 5 years long, so

they should be allowed 11 semesters. However they had to do a previous degree, eg, Bachelor of Science, which takes 3 years or 6 semesters. That leaves 5 semesters or only 2.5 years to be able to get paid. Well that premise is actually WRONG. Medicine is a special degree, because it is a normal entry requirement to complete a Bachelor's degree. Therefore previous Bachelor study should not count. If Centrelink tell you otherwise, it might be worth appealing this decision. I helped a student with this last semester and he received a back payment of more than \$5000.

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).

## International Students

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

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

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

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



Hello readers! Like other weeks, the editors of *Honi Soit* do not control the content of pages 17, 18, and 19.

## President's Report

**David Pink** argues for reform of the National Union of Students

The state branches of the National Union of Students are generally regarded as mere ‘paper tigers’: organisations that have in place complex, bureaucratic structures, plenty of office bearers, but no real capacity for general co-ordination of the activities of student unions in their respective states. In NSW we have a state branch which has plenty of potential and plenty of enthusiastic office bearers, but no real capacity to contribute to the student movement.

I should preface this: this has been by far the NUS’ most productive year since I began my involvement in the student movement. The National President and National Education Officer have taken an active effort to organise grassroots student campaigns against the higher education cuts, and the huge demonstrations we’ve seen in Melbourne and Sydney have been largely driven by a revitalised NUS. I have nothing but respect for Jade Tyrrell and Clare Keyes-Liley, and I applaud their moves away from how the NUS used to operate. At times it used to seem like NUS was just a handful of people who sat in an office in Melbourne and wrote press releases. The ‘bad old days’ are over.

I do see serious problems, however, with the NUS’ focus on a top-heavy organising model, which relies on a sole National Officer to be the one person with responsibility across the country for organising NUS campaigns in their divisional issue (Education – Welfare – Queer – Women’s – Disabilities, etc.) There is necessarily a limit to how much organising a single National Officer can

do in a vast geographical landmass like Australia – it would be very difficult for a National Officer to fly around the country and visit enough campuses that they could substantively organise the student body in a way that would be meaningful. Campus visits are valuable, but organising requires weekly, sometimes daily, contact with the constituency – and that is unfortunately impossible for one person. No trade union would adopt this model – if we compare affiliate campuses to workplaces, it would be recognised as impractical for a single national organiser to be responsible for organising every section of the union at every workplace.

I believe that the solution is in geography: we should empower the state branches.

The first step is to give them back their funding. Before Voluntary Student Unionism (when, admittedly, the NUS had a lot more money) at the very least the State Branch Presidents were paid a half-time stipend, which gave student organisations a local representative of the NUS who they could rely upon to actively co-ordinate cross-campus education campaigns as their job. Australia is too big a place for the National Officers to micromanage a national day of action, so it makes sense for responsibility to be delegated to a dedicated organiser in each capital city.

A case study is the NUS West Australian branch, which has a stipended State President. NUS West is a vibrant organisation, which, unlike NUS NSW, has a very real role in co-ordinating student activists in that state. We should



have a serious discussion about the relative merits of stripping the vast majority of National Officebearers of their stipends (minus, of course, the President, Education Officer and General Secretary who perform the essential work of a national student union), and adopting an area-based organising model with a paid organiser in each state.

We should also bring back State Conference.

National Conference is problematic: it exists as the peak representative body for student issues to be debated, and it fulfils this purpose, but it is usually far too expensive for most students to travel down to Melbourne every year for up to two weeks just to have their voices heard. Bringing back a two-day NUS State Conference would be a very interesting experiment in participatory democracy. In the case of NUS NSW, holding it at somewhere like UTS or

Sydney University would allow not just delegates and factional hacks, but also give regular students from metropolitan Sydney the opportunity to attend and determine the democratic direction of an organisation which they could see in a concrete sense and identify with. There is already provision in the NUS Constitution for State Conferences, so this is something perfectly legitimate.

NUS NSW State Branch should have funding. In times past, 33% of each student union’s affiliation fees went directly to state branch. This meant that the state organisations could afford to rent office space where the state exec could organise from, sometimes employ secretarial and policy staff, publish newsletters and have money they could use to run campaigns. Obviously, since Voluntary Student Unionism, there is far less money in student unions.

How could we concretely move forward? If the SRC at USYD agreed to give temporary occupancy to the NUS NSW state branch of an office in the SRC complex, I believe that as a first step there would be the beginning of state-wide co-ordination of student union activity. This is an idea that should be considered. Secondly, the major student unions in metropolitan Sydney (UNSW SRC, UTS SA, USYD SRC) have the financial capacity several thousand dollars each to the NUS state branch. As a one-off grant this would ensure that NUS NSW would cease to be a ‘paper’ entity – it could in a very real way resource itself and begin to organise NSW students against an Abbott government.

**president@src.usyd.edu.au**

## Disabilities and Carers Officer Report

**Sarah Chuah** lets you know what's happening in Carers Week

This week is Carers Week, a time to raise awareness and celebrate the 2.6 million people in Australia who devote their time to looking after a loved one who couldn’t manage without their support. Student carers are at a considerable disadvantage when it comes to participating in higher education, with only 4% of 18-25 year old primary carers remaining in education compared with 23% of their same-aged peers.

Disabilities & Carers Officer Yaz Camdzic and I have been extremely busy leading up to this week, preparing for our student carers campaign to be heard at a national level. The week began with a Morning Tea for Carers on

main campus, where we also launched our booklet that was based on survey data collected earlier this year. Access & Inclusion: Carers in Higher Education is targeted towards decision-makers, equity and student service providers at Australia’s 39 universities, and aims to raise awareness and push for support for student carers in higher education.

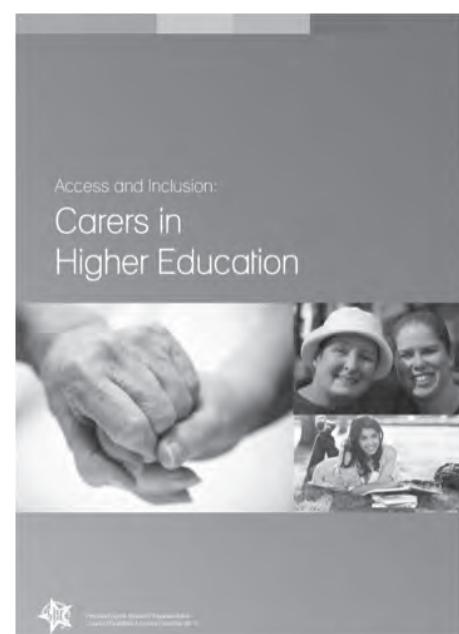
We have also been working alongside Australia’s peak organisation for carers, Carers Australia, who generously provided funding for our booklet, and Young Carers NSW who we shared a stall with at Carers’ Day Out on Tuesday, the country’s largest event for carers held in Martin Place. This was a fun

**disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au**

day and fantastic opportunity to get our message out to key figures.

We are extremely encouraged by the enthusiasm that was been expressed to us from stakeholders across the country – we look forward to seeing what comes out of this project and pushing on further with our campaign for student carers’ recognition and support.

For a copy of Access & Inclusion: Carers in Higher Education or for more information, contact me at [disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au). There is also a PDF version available online at [www.srкусyd.net.au/disabilitiesandcarers](http://www.srкусyd.net.au/disabilitiesandcarers).



# Education Officer's Report

**Casey Thompson** explains potential changes to tertiary education under the new Government

The recently elected Abbott-led Liberal/National Coalition government will dramatically restructure education policy. Whilst Abbott's final policies have not yet been announced we have a reasonable expectation of the nature of these policies due to Abbott's, and other Coalition members', comments on their education policy intentions in the past.

1. The Coalition has stated it will uphold the Labor Government's \$2.3 billion worth of tertiary education cuts (which were intended to fund the Gonski review that Abbott, however, will not fund). (As reported by Stephanie Peatling in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on April 22, 2013). It has been estimated by USYD management that these cuts will translate to the removal of \$50 million worth of annual government funding to Sydney University.

2. Abbott has indicated he will likely deregulate fees for tertiary education, seeing an expected 25% increase in costs. The Government currently regulates the maximum amount that

a tertiary institution can charge an individual for a degree – they place a 'cap' on the fees we can be charged. Abbott has suggested he wishes to remove this so that universities can charge students as much as they desire. The costs of subjects has already been increasing however, in the past, it has had a level it could not exceed. The Coalition will allow students to be charged more for a less high quality degree. This will make university education inaccessible to those who are not wealthy.

3. The Coalition has indicated it will very likely privatise the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). This will mean your HECS loan will no longer be provided to you by the government but instead by a private capital firm. Unlike the government, these firms have as their primary interest profit maximisation, and thus HECS loans will become subject to the same treatment as all personal loans – repayments will include a market-set interest rate. This will mean that if you are charged \$2,500 for a subject today,

you will be repaying a much greater amount as interest has been added. A Bachelor of Arts graduate currently takes almost a decade to repay their debt; this timeframe will be extended as the debt is ever increasing. This, coupled with the deregulation of fees, will lead to an American-like education system where students are graduating with \$100, 000+ worth of student debt. Many American graduates are unable to afford basic life necessities after university as the majority of their income is dedicated to repaying their student loan.

4. Christopher Pyne, the current Minister for Education, will not structure funding and policy in a way that will attempt to improve the quality of education. When commenting on school education Pyne has claimed that he does not believe that large class sizes are a barrier to quality teaching and has said that attempting to reduce class sizes to improve the staff to student ratio would be a "waste of money" (as



stated in an ABC *LateLine* interview on July 16 2012). Pyne has in fact stated that he intends for our education system to have less teachers and that at least 43 000 Australian educators should be sacked (as reported by State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia).

The Education Action Group (EAG) meets each Tuesday at 2 pm on the New Law Lawns and is currently organising a campaign in opposition to the Coalition's education plans. Please feel free to come along and share your thoughts. You can also find out more about us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SydneyUniversityActionGroup](http://www.facebook.com/SydneyUniversityActionGroup)

# Women's Officer Report

usydwomenscollective@gmail.com

**Emily Rayers** explains the implications of Zoe's Law for women's reproductive rights



On Wednesday October 16, Dr Linda Atkins, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who specialises in ultrasound and prenatal diagnosis, is set to speak on campus about the impending "Zoe's Law" – a bill that is currently under debate in NSW Parliament. This bill is the first of its kind, aiming to give legal recognition of foetuses after 20 weeks.

Atkins will be speaking out against the Foetal Personhood Law. But Atkins is not the only one – the Campbell Review made recommendations against changes to pre-existing laws and the Bar Association wrote a letter expressing their condemnation. Numerous groups have also spoken out against this Bill, including NSW Women's Electoral

Lobby, Family Planning NSW, Community Legal Services, National Rape and Domestic Violence services. There has been a lack of consultation about the bill with experts and the community (in particular the women's sector, community, legal and health organisations). It is particularly concerning that MPs have not been given the full opportunity to hear from these sectors before making a conscience vote.

The foetal personhood law named "Zoe's Law" was originally proposed by Fred Nile against the wishes of Brodie Donegan, the woman who the bill was inspired by. Donegan was hit by a car which resulted in the loss of her pregnancy. The death of Donegan's unborn daughter, Zoe, was categorised as an act of 'Grievous Bodily Harm' and the person responsible for the car accident was let off with a light sentence. What Ms Donegan went through was a tragedy, and I am terribly saddened by her story. However, countless organisations in the medical, legal and social services are speaking out against the revised bill which Ms Donegan helped to shape. There are several unintended consequences of the bill being debated currently, which will have serious impacts

on the lives of women in NSW.

- The bill establishes personhood for a foetus

This would be the first legislation introduced in NSW that draws a distinction in personhood between a woman and the foetus. This has been used to set a precedent in other jurisdictions, such as in the United States, to prosecute women who have acted contrary to the interest of the foetus. It creates legal rights for a foetus separate from the mother and can allow these rights to come in conflict with those of the mother. This is sufficient reason to believe this bill is an infringement on women's bodily autonomy and agency, and even a step towards ending women's right to choose abortion.

- The bill has the potential to undermine women's reproductive rights

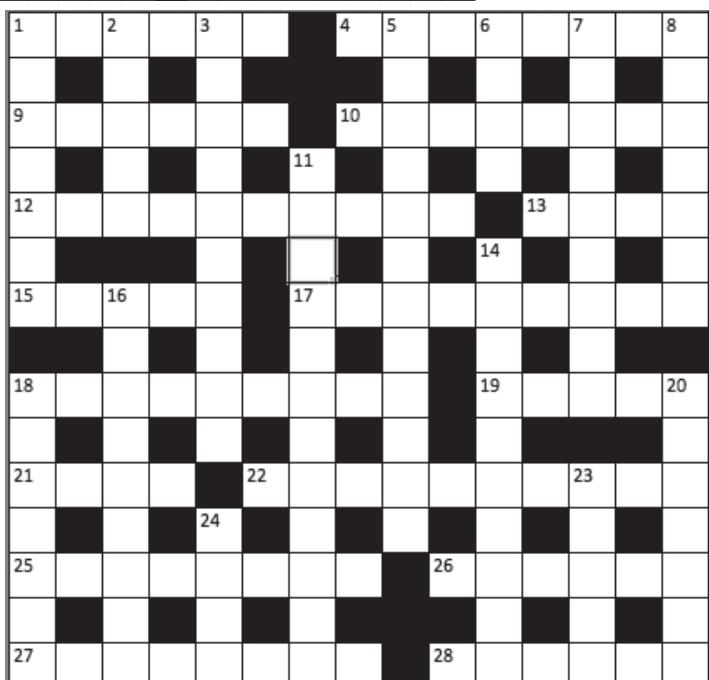
As abortion is in the *Crimes Act* in NSW it is in a precarious position. Giving personhood status to a foetus may affect the lawfulness and accessibility of abortion in NSW, particularly for procedures carried out later in a pregnancy.

- The amendment is unnecessary

The current legal frameworks are sufficient. The amendment to the legislation, implemented in 2005, allows a charge of Grievous Bodily Harm against a mother to be brought against an offender who causes the harm or destruction of a foetus. This can carry a sentence of up to 25 years. The legislation has subsequently been reviewed and found to be sufficient (by the Campbell Review). This is not to say that the sentencing brought against the person responsible for Zoe's death are adequate, however the offender was not sentenced to the full penalty available under current laws.

If you would like to hear from a medical professional on this issue, or have questions, come along to Dr Linda Atkins's talk on Wednesday 16th October 5.30pm-6.30pm (venue TBA – check the Facebook group 'USyd Women's Collective' or event page, check the blog at [usydsrcwomens.blogspot.com.au](http://usydsrcwomens.blogspot.com.au) or email [usydwomenscollective@gmail.com](mailto:usydwomenscollective@gmail.com) to find out). Debate on this bill continues the next morning, Thursday October 17.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



Paps

### ACROSS

- Chic (6)
- Buildings used to house soldiers (8)
- In short supply (6)
- Cantilever, project (8)
- Partly (2,2,1,5)
- Stalk; staunch (4)
- Kind of cavalry sword (5)
- Factory where employees are exploited (9)
- Narrow design in cloth, usually for suits (9)
- Tree associated with Canadians and pancakes (5)
- Bottom (4)
- Lacking good mental judgement; eating (3,2,5)
- Entrance (8)
- Pulsing (6)
- Assisting with a golf match (8)
- Materialisation; edible kind of calendar (6)

### DOWN

- Houses of artefacts, etc. (7)
- Preliminary version; kind of beer (5)
- A thing of sacred significance, eg. baptism (10)
- Dispositions; instrumentations (12)
- Goes bad (4)
- Love affair (9)
- Become angry or covered with water vapour (5,2)
- Collection of principles by which a state is governed (12)
- Motivated; aroused (10)
- A platform for performing musicians (9)
- Workable; artificial (7)
- Manifest; evidence (7)
- Of medieval Norway or Scandinavia (5)
- Pale or greyish in colour (4)

## FIND A WORD



MPD

## A-MAZE-ING (FEATURING MAIZE)



### ACROSS

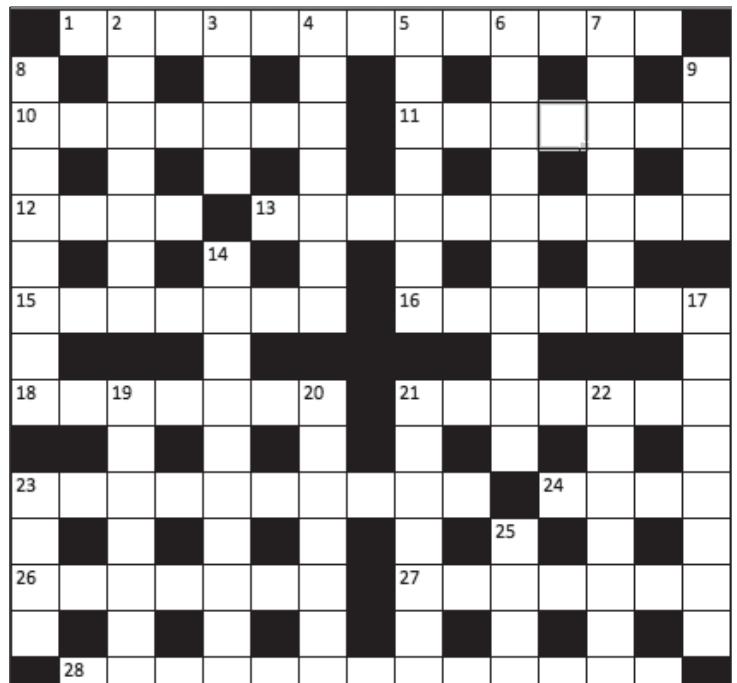
- Deprivation dies; sis snoops (13)
- Pah - returned before wharf is more glad! (7)
- Ambiguous roundabout (7)
- Building top heard hound's voice, perhaps (4)
- Will witness die in chain of islands? (4,6)
- Mitigate bum rest (7)
- Editor back-assesses and finds intolerable (7)
- You are energy after divided tortoise maltreatment (7)
- Inflated and went sailing, perhaps with life-boat head (7)
- Male reproductive fluid heard to precede vessel and boat-handling skills (10)
- Gloomy, Low, Unhappy, Melancholy (4)
- Everyone's entitled to their scrambled onion pie, I've heard (7)
- Sovereign brooch of a bigwig (7)
- Unwitting linen nutation (13)

### DOWN

- I'm devout - NOT (7)
- Rewarded and suffered (4)
- Dr. Flow Upon (7)
- Expelled and put out (7)
- Deer country embraces sluggishness (10)
- Ancestry found in I, Signor (7)
- Small incision is a quicker route (8)
- Ruler of Mount Olympus used zebra parts... (4)
- ... plus lion autism for imitation (10)
- The dregs said "I meant phonetically" (8)
- Engrail to change position (7)
- Common Era following German food concentrate (7)
- Swift and breast meat (7)
- Waratah tackled oat peel (7)
- Posh boutique (4)
- Invalidate Ctrl+Z (4)

Paps

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



# THE SOIN

Mispronounced by pretentious undergrads since 2013

INSIDE THIS WEEK: EXCLUSIVE  
WE LITERALLY FOLLOW UP  
OUR INVESTIGATION INTO  
THE DEMISE OF  
LANGUAGE



## US GOVERNMENT

SHUTDOWN  
CONTINUES TO  
FUCK EVERYTHING  
“AWKS”, SAYS LEADING SCHOLAR



Tensions have risen dramatically after the recent U.S. Federal Government shutdown that has left thousands of government workers furloughed and many public services unfunded. The first in almost 20 years, House Republicans refused to pass funding measures until the Democrats delayed the implementation of the *Affordable Care Act*. This follows close to 40 separate attempts made by Republicans to repeal Obamacare, which went into effect at the start of this month.

Constitutional scholar, Michel Rosenfeld, described the situation as a typical reaction when a major party tries to force its ideology over the consent of popular opinion and prevailing law, adding, “from what I understand, if it’s a legitimate impasse, the Constitution has ways to try to

shut that whole thing down.”

The forced shutdown has not gone without unintended hostility though. Violence has broken out in educational institutions across the country as academics take advantage of the lack of security by defiantly occupying museums, zoos, and national parks. The typically tranquil exhibits at the Smithsonian have played host to looting and vandalising with militant squads of palaeontologists armed with pick axes and tiny brushes taking hold of priceless specimens. Andrew Greenwald, recently unemployed spokesperson for the Smithsonian, pleaded, “If you want to go see million-year-old, white fossils, don’t loot the museum, go to Capitol Hill!”

In the country’s national parks, militant birdwatchers

have coordinated an insurgency utilising a sophisticated code of chirps and whistles. Similarly, roving gangs of biologists have taken over zoos and sent a direct message to Republicans by vindictively burning all the elephants in effigy. Revenge attacks by GOP sympathisers have targeted their efforts on donkeys, proving their loyalty by continuing to beat the animals long after they’ve died.

Effects of the cutbacks on the nation’s top defence, space, and aeronautics installations were even more dramatic. 97% of NASA staff was cut, coinciding with the closure of a local graphic design business that had flourished for almost 50 years. Area 51 lifted its borders, resulting in the escape of millions of Mexicans who had been secretly experimented on by a joint

initiative between the government and Monsanto seeking to reverse engineer their hardy, desert-tolerant genes. Worst of all, the International Space Station, once relieved of the funding that keeps it afloat, fell out of orbit directly over New York City, crashing into the Freedom Tower in an unforgettable tragedy that has been latched onto by the Obama administration as clear justification for intervention in Syria.

Compromise between Republicans and Democrats is yet to be reached, with only empty promises made by each side. Republicans have agreed to increase the debt ceiling only if Democrats agree to reinforce it with a glass ceiling, and Democrats have agreed to keep public schools closed only because doing so has dropped gun crime rates precipitously.

# BOY AND BEAR CANCELLED AFTER BEAR MAULS BOY

Fans of Australian indie group Boy and Bear were left devastated this week after the band's management were forced to announce the cancellation of the group's latest national tour. Sources have indicated the move was taken in response to an incident at this year's Falls Festival where a young boy's spleen was reported missing following an altercation with the band's lead guitarist, a 12-foot North American grizzly bear.

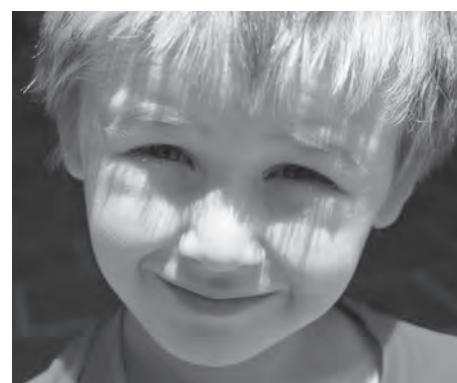
Citing similar safety concerns, the support act for the 'Wolf and Cub' tour had previously called off a number of performances during periods of heightened lunar



The bear in question...

visibility, with friends Vampire Weekend stepping in to fill these gaps. The cancellation of the tour will come as a major relief to the support act, given reports that the two groups were constantly at each others' throats, following a mixup wherein Boy and Bear inadvertently consumed a zebra carcass stored in Wolf and Cub's ice box.

The cancellation of performances due to problems arising from anthropomorphism is not an uncommon event in the music industry, with rap legend Snoop Lion similarly having to cancel a recent charity performance after an abnormally large number of people in safari-suits turned up to his show. Wolfmother



...and the boy

also faced a significant backlash from fans, following revelations that not a single member of the band had ever actually given birth to a wolf.

With insurance premiums now expected to rise significantly for all future animal-themed indie bands, only time will tell whether the now infamous grizzly bear and his self-titled side project will be forced to return to his niche performances as a panda impersonator at cheap zoos. One thing that is for certain though, is that a name change for the band is in order, with fan suggestion 'Bear and Carcass' being the most popular option so far.

# PARLIAMENTARIANS TO UNDERGO COMPULSORY ETHICS TRAINING IN CANARY ISLANDS

In an effort to stamp out widespread abuse of taxpayer funds, the Parliamentary Standards Committee is requiring all MPs and Senators to attend a conference on the ethical declaration of personal expenses.

The conference will be held in Canberra in November, with all attendees flying via the Canary Islands and staying there for over a week in order to attend the christening of a baby they all know.

This hands-on method of tackling political issues is also being employed at a state level, with the NSW branch of the Labor Party organising an anti-corruption seminar that will be compulsory for all members to attend.

Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi will be running the seminar.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Tony Abbott has announced a new immersion scheme to assist in the creation of asylum seeker policy.

"All the Government frontbenchers are going to go on one of those P&O luxury cruises around Australia for a few weeks," Mr Abbott said.

"It's kind of a walk in the asylum seekers' shoes exercise. It'll help us develop an idea of what these people are really up against, and allow us to create even more policy informed by empathy and heartfelt consideration."

P&O CRUISES

Experience Liber(al)ation.

Nauru, Manus,  
PNG, we've got you  
covered. You don't  
even have to get off  
the boat. In fact,  
that's the point.

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Ted 'Painbringa' Stevenson, President of the Drug Organisation and Promotion Entity (DOPE).

There has been a lot of concern coming from local Aussie drugdealers that Silk Road was taking their business, but fortunately, with its shutdown, we can go back to having a drug economy here in Australia that creates local jobs, local manufacturing, and local overdoses.

Not only is it good for our domestic economy that junkies are returning to 'bricks-and-mortar' drugdealers, but it also is great for the health of the community. Kids these days can lounge around inside and order off Silk Road very easily (through a complex series of IP diversions under the server of Tor while navigating the economically complex Bitcoin), but we want to have a return to the good old days. The days where you and your little friend Billy would save up all your

coins in your piggy bank, ride your bikes through the parks amongst nature, fresh air in your lungs and the sun shining on your face, in order to go get your heroin from your local friendly dealer, Spida.

Your local dealer is a pillar of the community, he's the battler, the small business owner, the true Aussie. It's about the quality of service you get from a local dealer: while an overseas dealer might very impersonally hire a goon to come and kidnap your wife if you haven't come good on the cash, ya dig, your local dealer will provide the service himself, breaking your legs with his own golf clubs, like the rustic tradition of generations of his family. It's that personal touch, community spirit that makes all the difference.

## Agony Aunt

I've had so much fun in my first year of uni; I've gotten to know so many wonderful, caring people over the year through my classes, the EU, sports clubs, you name it! I feel truly blessed to be at Sydney Uni. But a small, silly part of me wonders whether I should be doing something that will help me get a job after I graduate. Should I transfer into law? Thanks in advance! :)  
- Tiffany

Kid, I'm going to give it to you straight: no. First year or not, no one describes USYD as though it were Narnia. You seem like one of those inadvertent PR geniuses naturally suited to positive spin; the kind of person who'd hear, "Well, paedophiles are bloody awful, aren't they?" and say, "Yeah, but let's not forget that they always drive well under the 40 km/h speed limit in school zones." Try marketing, not law.

Law is for the bitter and broken. It's not something they ever list on the course progression guide, but each year of law involves a fresh surrender of parts of your soul. By year two, you'll master dismissiveness and mild sociopathy. You'll catch yourself telling your sweet Christian boyfriend, "Complaining about a hard Suduko puzzle again? That's like data entry for dyslexics. I've just finished a hundred and forty pages of reading." By year four, you'll have lost your faith. "Born-Again Christianity: the most aggravating form of identity theft without any penalty units under the Crimes Act?" you'll sneer, as the EU refuses to learn that rhe-



Advice for first years from a fifth year who believes one day she will shatter the glass ceiling but will instead be suppressed by it

torical questions are a predictable and easily-mocked way of naming its semesterly events. By graduation, making it to the next hit of low-grade cocaine will represent your aspirational limits.

You're better off jobless and broke with your current degree. Good luck.

I'm a 56-year-old would-be mature age student. My 18-year-old son is just about to start up at uni. The problem is we're both dead keen on doing Engineering at USYD. My son is really embarrassed by the idea of studying the same course with me. What should I do?  
- Barry

I feel for you. But, as you knew when this came up, you'll either have to transfer to another university or drown your son. This is one of the hardest choices a father has to make. Play your cards right, and only one of those choices ends with you having a USYD testamur and being immortalised by Tracy Grimshaw. Choose wisely.

# BILL POSTERS FINALLY PROSECUTED

After a decades-long search, the writing's finally on the wall for infamous fugitive Bill Posters, who faced trial earlier this week at a Sydney local court.

Posters originally denied all charges but was nailed to the wall by an extensive paper trail. "The Crown Prosecutor just cut him to shreds" reported one court observer, "Bill just folded under the pressure." Following critical admissions on the stand, the prosecution flattened an already wooden defence.

Posters maintains that he is innocent and claims

that police and prosecutors have colluded to frame him. According to documents filed in court today, Posters alleges that Detective Rock and Sergeant Scissors beat him to a pulp while in custody.

After initially refusing to comment, Salamanderown Local Area Command released a statement that "on October 12 an incident occurred involving persons believed to be persons and a collision-based escalation."

The public is torn over the prosecution of Posters, known for his support of local music

and shitty nightclub nights. "It's not a black and white issue," explained local music expert Mala Informé, "like, in some ways knowing about the events at Oxford Arts Factory is cool, but then everyone knows about them, and then it's not."

Particularly devastated were Bill's aged parents; upon hearing the verdict his mother was visibly cut up, while his father crumpled to the ground.

Poster's barrister has indicated that they will appeal the decision, dismissing the evidence against his client as



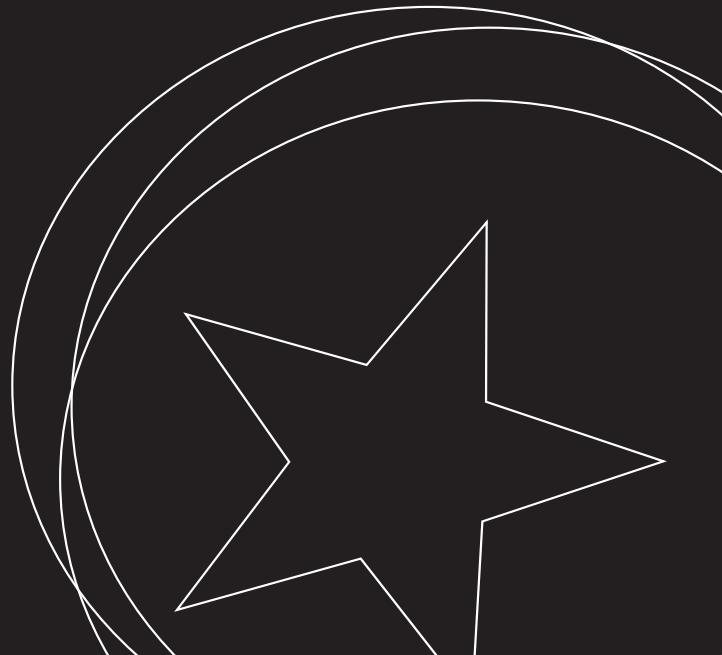
Angry socialists protesting Posters' prosecution outside the court

"paper thin". "I am confident that these charges will not stick on appeal," declared Thomas Pompingdale-White SC, with his characteristic lisp. "My client deserves to be A 3 man once more."

# ELECTIONS 2013

## Electoral Officer's Report

Student Representative Council,  
University of Sydney



### I declare the following persons elected:

PRESIDENT: Jen Light

HONI SOIT: Sex for Honi

NUS DELEGATES: 7

Due to a claim for a recount by one of the candidates the result for this ballot will not be finalised until mid November

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL:  
33 (By Ticket Order on the Ballot Paper)

B Stand up for SRC

Jen Light \*\*

James Leeder \*\*

John Harding-Easson \*\*

C Stand up Against Abbott

Harry Stratton

D Stand up for Student Housing

Nikhil Mishra

F McDonald's on Campus

Penelope Parker

H Stand Up! for Student Welfare

Chiara Angeloni

I Refresh for Education

Matthew Woolaston \*\*

N Grassroots 4 Critical Thought

Kitty-Jean Laginha

O Activate for Women

Chloe Smith

Q Activate for Arts

Liam Carrigan

S Stand Up! for Student Rights

Alexandra Roles

W F\*\*\* Off Tony Abbott

Kay Dook

X Yolo for College

Patrick McGee

Y Stand Up! for Fair Education

Julia Robins

Z Evil for SRC  
Nick Rowbotham  
AA Activate for Cumbo  
Penny Noble  
AD Grassroots for Social Justice  
Sonia Feng \*\*  
AE Activate for Science  
Evelyn Radunz  
AF Activate your SRC  
Hannah Smith \*\*  
Clare Angel-Auld  
AQ Stand Up for Faith  
Lewis Jackson  
AT Grassroots for Recognition  
Kyol Blakeney \*\*  
AV Stand Up! For a Safe Campus  
Georgia Carr  
AX Monorail for SRC  
Pedram Mohseni  
BA Grassroots for Queer Power  
David Shakes  
BB Stand Up! for Mental Health  
Philippa Specker \*\*  
BK SEX for SRC  
Nicola Alroe \*\*  
BP Activate for Int Students  
Zhitong Liu (Emma) \*\*  
BR Grassroots for a Green Campus  
Marco Avena  
BS Grassroots for SRC  
Amelie Van der Stock \*\*  
BT Grassroots for Equal Marriage  
Anna Robinson  
CA Grassroots against the Cuts  
Omar Hassan

Those marked with an \*\* were elected with a full quota.

Paulene Graham.

