

# Honi Soit



Week 8, Semester 1, 2014

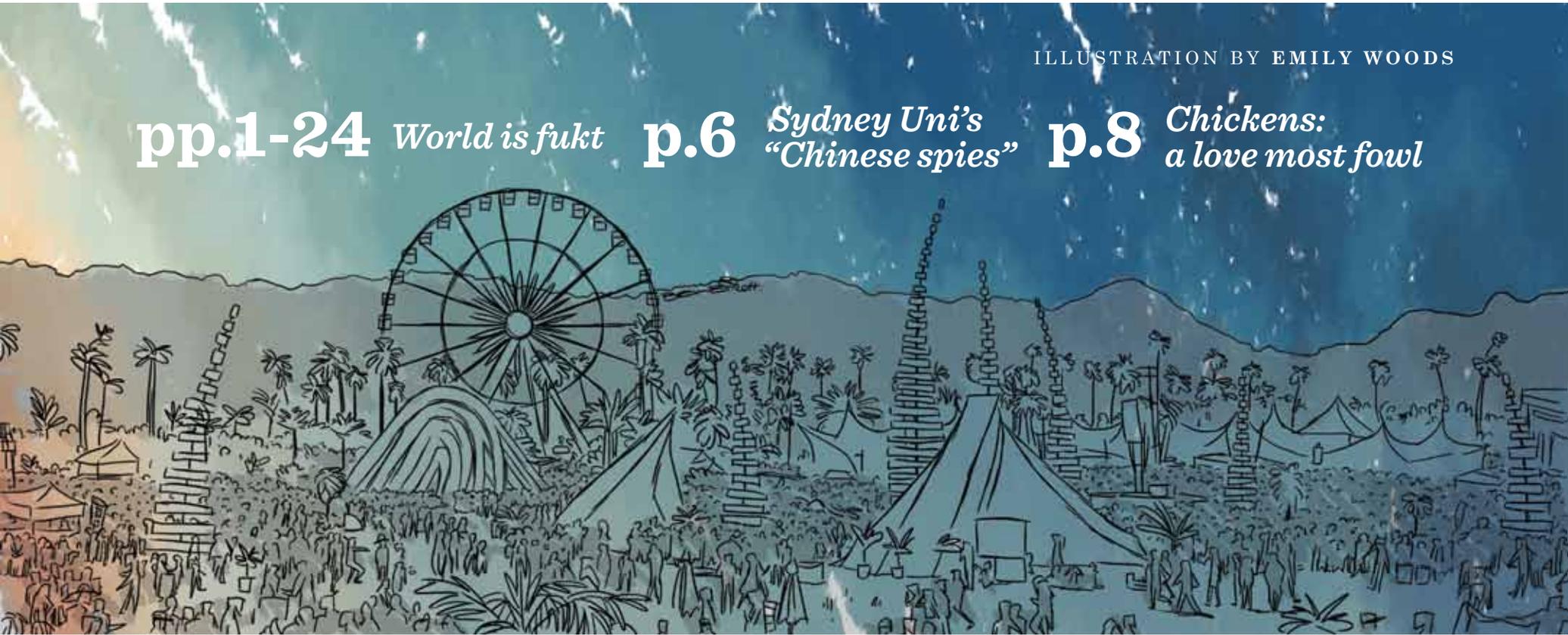
HONI SOIT QUI MIKE Y SPENCE

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY WOODS

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## Lest we remember

★ FEATURE

*Australian public art whitewashes our uncomfortable past, writes Matilda Surtees.*

One morning, earlier this year, I accidentally wandered into a graveyard. I was in Berlin, looking for a Starbucks, but instead I found the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. It stands in the centre of the city, embedded between the iconic Brandenburg Gate and Potsdamer Platz; Berlin likes to keep its history visible.

A visitor quickly finds themselves ten metres deep into a sombre cross-hatch of stelae, grey concrete slabs, which reach higher over you the further into the memorial you pass. The ground there is uneven and undulating. The space is designed to provoke unease.

This memorial may be the most prominent, but there are others:

countless museums studded through the city's public spaces dedicated to one of the two regimes that have blighted Germany. I visited many of them - not usually by accident. Other markers of memory are less formal. "Guilt" is scrawled across many of the graffitied walls in stark capital letters. When I saw them, I read them as little tags of remembrance and acknowledgement - and I thought of home.

\* \* \*

It's no secret that we are engaged in ongoing debate over our past and its relationship with Indigenous history. The 'History Wars' have been a social battleground and a political football for almost two decades.

During the last federal election, Education Minister Christopher Pyne warned that a "confidence-sapping 'black armband' view of our history" had threatened to "take hold". Now in office, he has instigated a school curriculum review, the results of which are expected in June.

Despite the fervour and divisiveness of the debate, our visual landscape of history remains remarkably homogenous. There are almost no public memorials that commemorate Aboriginal massacres, no vast civic monuments that stand testament to an unacknowledged war.

Our public space is not barren of history. It is only bereft of a particular type. Somewhere

between 4,000 and 5,000 memorials are dedicated to offshore wars and fallen soldiers.

It's not just the memorials. Public art, another vital element of the spatial framing of history and society, privileges a story of discovery and settlement. Our own city centre is occupied by statues of early explorers, navigators, and governors: Captain Cook in Hyde Park, Arthur Phillip in the Botanical Gardens, and Sir Richard Bourke and Matthew Flinders outside Mitchell Library.

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We acknowledge that *Honi Soit's* office is located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

## Editorial

Three weeks ago we launched an online survey to learn more about *Honi Soit's* demographics and what our readers wanted. One of the questions we asked was: "What is your gender identity?" We provided fifty-seven different options, including cis male and cis female, trans\*, gender nonconforming, bi-gender and intersex. Though we recognise these options were not entirely exhaustive, we aimed to avoid prescriptive (and often alienating) gender binary options, and to be as inclusive as possible.

We didn't think this decision was controversial but the *The Daily Telegraph's* opinion editor Tim Blair apparently did. "Was running the list an entirely serious idea?" he asked us, baffled at the prospect that a student newspaper with progressive values would recognise gender diversity on campus.

*The Telegraph's* coverage points to the problem of gender exclusivity that we were attempting to address. In 2005, La Trobe University conducted one of the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans/transgender and intersex (LGBTI) surveys in Australia and found 67 per cent of respondents indicated that fear of discrimination had caused them to alter their daily activities in particular environments. These respondents were more likely to be younger or from rural areas. Ninety per cent had, at some time, avoided disclosure of their gender identity or sexuality.

These statistics reflect a bigger picture: when we teach our children gender, we teach them intolerance. At university, asking

gender diverse students to tick a box marked 'Male' or 'Female' diminishes their identities and robs them of their personal experiences. When someone's gender identity does not conform to the majority, they are seen as a legitimate target for discrimination, and their vulnerability to depression and self-harm increases.

Worse still, there are few legal protections against harassment based on gender identity, which means that intersex, and sex and gender diverse people are often helpless in the face of physical or verbal attacks. But inequality occurs in even more subtle ways – through traditional gender roles in every day situations like dressing, sport and relationships, or in the way we use language ("that's gay", "don't cry like a girl") to define stereotypes.

It's also what allows individuals like Blair to confuse gender diversity with "silliness" and carelessly remark that "dozens of brand new genders [are] running all over the place".

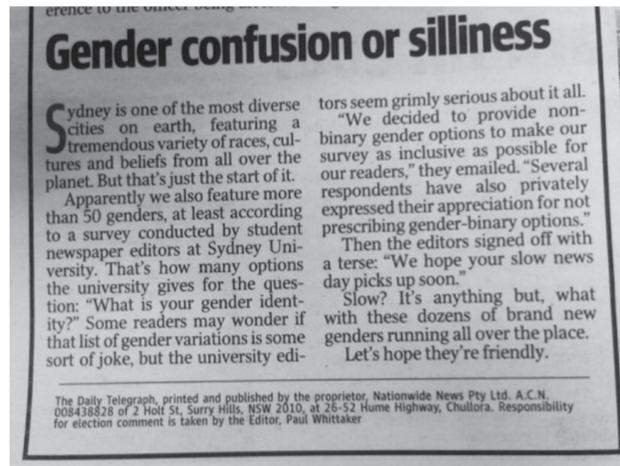
Luckily, change is occurring in slow but sure ways. In 2011, the Australian Human Rights Commission launched a report on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people in Australia, recommending gender diversity be included as a ground of discrimination in federal law. Gender identity support groups and networks are being set up all across the country, and many bureaucratic forms no longer require gender diverse people to provide official amended birth certificates as proof for gender identity.

On campus, the Queerkat collective has been established for people who identify both as queer and non-cis men, the *Wom\*ns Collective* recently altered its title from 'Women' to 'Wom\*n' in order to reflect a broader push for trans\* inclusivity, and the Queer Collective is currently lobbying the university for students to be able to use their preferred names instead of their legal names on Blackboard. The USU recently

passed amendments within its constitution in an attempt to remove every reference to gender where possible.

If the gender options in *Honi Soit's* survey are starting conversations about recognising gender as a fluid construct rather than biologically determined, we're proud to provoke them.

## Editorial of the week!



Tune into SURG from 10-11am on Thursdays for **Honi on Air!** Listen at [surgfm.org](http://surgfm.org)

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## Biennale: a culture war

Dear *Honi*,

Modishness is far quicker to dance into print than passion or reason combined, to the disadvantage of everyone. Criticism sure is an easy pose to assume when its formal responsibilities are kicked to the kerb. It seems that where contemporary discussion of culture is concerned, critical intelligence has been reduced to the dexterity with which one can find something "problematic" - bonus points if you also find it "interesting" and make desultory humming noises pregnant with sapience. In any case, a steady stream of theory-commonplaces and verbal clichés will warm the press nicely.

My qualms are not with the author or contributors to the Biennale Feature, whose verve is admirable and not defined by the above flaws – it is with the mood that underpins it. I have neither the skill nor the space to undertake a full diagnosis of the cultural issues of which the state of art is both symptom and contributor - the idea that art is 'fully implicated' is both ancient and obvious, yet we act as if it were a thunderous disclosure. Bourgeois bashing – a dead horse so easy to flog – has a surface glamour that verges on the convincing, but trips on its Dr. Martens in the unfashionable search for a meaningful life. It supplants the problems it condemns with new ones that can hardly be called better - worse, they're blind even to themselves. Rather than pillory the Belgiorno-Nettis, a more astute Marxist might discern in contemporary artistic practice an expropriation of labour by 'artists' who effectively act as 'patrons' directing nameless and underpaid labourers who whip up their art in some garage. Give me a puffy aristocratic patron any day, for all the honesty of their hubris!

The feature's only unforgivable contention sees the works of Titian and Raphael as "the pretty playthings of past oppressors" – setting aside the myopic grossness of this characterisation, heaven forbid art pursue beauty and be meaningful

for an individual or small group. One wonders: whose 'class hatred' really takes the floor here? Perhaps what makes us squirm is that art had a place in the Renaissance, and any specific existence will always be serviceable because it is constrained - the reality that something can't be everything is one that seems only to surprise the professionally value-less. But is the pussy-footing bureaucracy and cerebral masturbation of today's 'almost-liberated' art world really any better? The author's perceptively judged observations of the status-quo – bogus or itty-bitty funding, David Walsh's spurious entrée into collecting, and the contemporary commodity culture that makes art an investment to be stacked like bullion – points out that the problem isn't class or capital, it's the art culture propagated around those practices. They lack love.

Another *Honi* author's profession of incredulity at the actual art of the Sydney Biennale points to a despair felt even by staunch espousers of contemporary art: 'What on earth are we on about?' For creation to happen, surely the gravity of what we say 'Yes' to – what we're sincerely passionate about, not passionate about despising – has to be greater than the gravity of what we say 'No' to. Thank God that's hard to fake.

In the hope of humble anonymity, A second-year.

## Ooze, ooze and more ooze

Dear *Honi*,

It is said to be known amongst those of us who are knowledgeable, that there is much to be sought that indeed has not yet been sought, at the University of Sydney. The imposingly grand sandstone walls have been purposefully built in such a manner, as to deter any degree of soughting by those who desire the hallowed institution's hidden secrets. Indeed it is these exact seekers who led the university's founders to install such sandstone lions and hideous grotesques as protection of it's innermost

Can you think? Do you have a vague conception of speech? Write us a letter! Send 350 words or less to [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com)

unknowableness. The university's motto 'Sidere mens eadem mutato' translates, as we all know from our primary school Latin, into 'though the constellations change, the mind stays the same'. Make of this what you will, but these words are positively oozing with suggestive meaning, evidently clear for those among us who can comprehend ooze better than others. It has often been said that a lay man will look upon ooze and remark 'ughh, ooze!' whereas the learned will look upon ooze as an equal, and exchange private glances of amusement with the substance, maybe even a wry wink of the eye, induced by the layman's ignorance. It is the said unknowableness, hidden in the university, that attracts the best and the brightest from around our country to assemble here today – and tomorrow – and indeed the day after that in what may be called university life or the never ending quest for knowing the unknowable. It is for this and the fore mentioned reasons that I salute *Honi Soit* and the university as they so rightly deserve.

Yours truly

Edward Furst  
Bachelor of Economics

## Looking good despite the whining

Dear *Honi*,

Having seen the poor folks from the Socialist Alternative manning their stall week in and week out and having seen the pitiful turnout for the so called Day of Action protests against the Abbott Government, I cannot help but engage in some Schadenfreude.

Unfortunately for our SA friends, no petition can change the fact that

the Australian people had their say at the ballot box. Unfortunately for our friends on the broad left, rebels without a cause so desperate to be heard so desperate to look for anything to protest about, nothing can change the fact that for the next few years, and perhaps the next decade, we have a Liberal Government led by a conservative man of principle; Tony Abbott.

And while if you listened to them it would seem that the sky was falling in, nothing could be further from the truth. But mainstream students know this. And because of the Abbott Government, all students, even those who proudly wear F\*\*\* Tony Abbott t-shirts, will live in a better Australia with sound fiscal management, greater prosperity, lower taxes and regulation and more freedom to spew forth the typical bile that the far left spews.

Those who doubt this should look at the latest achievements of the Abbott Government. Their fearless defence of free speech with their moving to repeal the draconian Section 18 C in the Racial Discrimination Act. Their championing of business and families through the repeal of thousands of pages of stifling regulation. Their respect for the taxpayer through the refusal to prop up inefficient, rent seeking industries. Their standing up for the workers of this country by tackling entrenched union corruption through the establishment of a Royal Commission. And their pride in our heritage with the reinstatement of Knighthoods and Damehoods.

The future is bright for our nation. And no amount of petitions or protests caused by faux outrage can change the optimism that mainstream Australians feel.

Chaneg Torres  
BPSS III  
President, University of Sydney  
Conservative Club.

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# Motion to expel Raue fails

*Tom Gardner reports on the dramatic end to this long-running USU saga.*

As students were attending their last classes before the mid-semester break, a seven-month saga in student politics drew to a close when the University of Sydney Union (USU) Board voted not to expel its Vice-President Tom Raue.

The motion to expel him failed to get the required two-thirds majority, with only six of the eleven board directors supporting it. The motion's failure allows Raue to finish his term of office until a new crop of board directors take office in July.

The move to expel Raue began last September after he leaked information from an apparently confidential USU report suggesting that University administration, despite assurances to the contrary, had collaborated with police during staff strikes. The vote was delayed when Raue sought to prevent the USU from expelling him with protracted Supreme Court litigation.

Although he lost in court, Raue won in the boardroom a few weeks later. Sentiment had shifted and there is no longer enough support among board directors to expel him.

President Hannah Morris voted for the motion, along with Honorary Secretary John Harding-

Easson, Honorary Treasurer Sophie Stanton, Tim Matthews, Karen Chau and Kade Denton. Bebe D'Souza, Robby Magyar, Eve Radunz, Tara Waniganayaka, and Tom Raue himself voted against it.

The attempt to expel the Vice-President sparked a 'Stand With Raue' campaign and a petition that attracted 645 signatures, which some board directors say was a reason for supporting Raue.

However, John Harding-Easson did not place much weight on the pro-Raue activism. "The vocal protest of the small group of politically-motivated students on campus isn't representative of the USU membership. I took the petition opposing Tom's removal into account. But I also recognise that the 600 or so signatories were a small bite of the USU members," he said.

Maintaining good relations between the USU and University was often seen as the motivation behind the push to expel Raue. The USU relies heavily on the University, most notably because it collects funding from the Student Services and Amenities Fee, which the University distributes.

Raue himself lamented the loss of USU independence. "We have to distance ourselves from the University management if we

want to deliver the best student experience possible. I think in the next couple of years we will have a board that is more independent of senior staff in the USU, and more independent of the University management and that is a good thing," he said.

The last unresolved chapter in the narrative is whether the USU will try to force Raue to pay the costs of defending against his lawsuit. Raue doubts the USU will ask him to pay up because he says it would be a bad look. "To do so would send a message to myself and other employees that you have to be rich if you want to challenge a decision of the board or the way you are treated in the workplace," he said.

Although Harding-Easson voted against Raue, he would prefer that the Board not enforce the costs order that the Supreme Court made. "It's very unfortunate that Tom went down the route of taking legal action against the Board, but the USU is a big organisation. It's able to cover those costs much more than an individual student is. On the other hand, I would hope that individuals give a great deal more thought to the real world consequences of their actions."

While the Raue skirmishes have defined the latest term of USU politics, they may also colour the upcoming USU Board elections

and subsequent executive election. The three major candidates for USU presidency are Magyar and Waniganayaka, who supported Raue, and Matthews, who did not. Matthews declined to comment on the Raue vote, saying that, "Only the USU President can speak on behalf of the Board relating to its policies," but did say that he had the "experience and skills" to be USU President.

For Magyar, the Raue vote will be vital in the executive election. "Lines have been drawn and individual directors are undoubtedly picking sides in the lead up to the executive election. I personally cannot foresee serving on an executive that features those who voted to remove Tom," he said.

He also thinks the future of the board itself is likely to be affected by the events of the past seven months. "I think for some Directors and staff the final outcome of the Tom saga was a wake-up call," he said.

"Many have labeled the vote to keep Tom and the comments made by Eve, Bebe, Tara and I as a watershed moment in the USU's history. We have shed light on what is ultimately wrong with the Board and our relationship with senior staff. There are some major kinks to be ironed out."

## THE MANNING FILES

### THE FAIILY TELEGRAPH

*Honi Soit* was hit last week by a double-whammy from esteemed rag, *The Daily Telegraph*. Unfortunately we weren't treated to a photoset alongside dictators and war criminals à la former Propaganda Commissar Stephen Conroy. Rather, the *Smellegraph's* opinion editor Tim Blair named (and attempted to shame) us for a survey we ran, which offered non-binary gender options.

What began as a blog post morphed quickly into a "news" [sic] article and an editorial, titled "Gender confusion or silliness" [sic].

Among other rigorous queries, Blair asked us whether "the list [was] an entirely serious idea".

We answered Blair's questions and wished him luck on the "slow

news day" the *Hellegraph* was experiencing. Blair described our jibe as "terse" – unfortunate, as we were entirely earnest and genuine in our well wishes.

Even more unfortunately, Blair omitted the hot lead we gave them: "We've heard the royals are in town and would imagine you'd be quite a fan."

Judging by the coverage afforded to Will and Kate the following day, we can only assume he followed up on it. Thank your sources next time, fuckwit.

### USU BORED ELECTIONS

In the coming weeks, a coalition of self-interested sociopaths and naïve first-years will exchange part of their souls for a new set of pyjama tops. That's right, readers: USU

elections are right round the corner. Both veterans and newcomers are encouraged to stay at home.

It is a long-running tradition of campaigns, among non-core promises and heckling students on their walk to Redfern, that candidates shoehorn their names into awful puns and slogans in the inexplicable hope that their amateur word-smithing will result in a term on Board. The Manning Files team can reveal the slogans produced by this year's crop of dead-eyed fish-people, in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Liam Carrigan is running on the earnest 'Carrigan for Change'. We hear Callum Forbes will run on 'Cheers Callum', a cheeky nod to the 'Cheers!' branding of the USU Wine Society, of which Forbes is President. However, this cross-branding exercise could prove a

little too close for comfort, spelling potential trouble for Forbes. The Manning Files team got wind of an email, apparently sent out to candidates last week, which reminded them it was against regulations to use Clubs and Societies resources to support their campaign. Although sent to all candidates, the email is thought to be a reference to Forbes' 'Cheers Callum' plans.

Liv Ronan is running on 'You Only Liv Once', Alisha Aitken-Radburn on 'Unleash Alisha', and Ed McMahon on the sweet and simple 'Vote Ed Instead'. Kate Bullen has opted for the adventurous 'Electra-Kate Your Union', Jethro Cohen is playing it safe with 'Let's Go Jethro', and Cameron Caccamo is running on the somewhat combative 'Cacc-Attack'. Finally, Arghya Gupta is running on the questionably marketable 'Get The Union Up A(r)-Ghya'.

# Welcome to the SUPRA Bowl

*It's time for postgraduates to hit the ballot box, writes Mariana Podestá-Diverio.*

They say the entire ecosystem would collapse if it weren't for the tireless work of ants. It is frequently the case that something you're barely aware of not only exists, but is also labouring away without your knowledge. Enter SUPRA.

The annual General Election of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) will take place later this month.

Postal ballots will be mailed out on April 14, and two physical polling days will take place on the April 30 and May 1, with booths in the SUPRA office on Science Road.

Twenty general councilors will be elected during this process.

Although all postgraduate students are automatically SUPRA constituents, one must become a subscriber in order to vote in the election. Subscription is free.

There are three major players in this election, as well as a number of individual candidates not associated with any of the three main groupings of candidates. Two of the groupings are right-leaning, and one is left.

Callum Forbes is one of the most prominent conservative candidates. Forbes made headlines in *Honi* last year for breaching the spending cap for a Sydney University Law Society (SULS) election campaign. Forbes declined to comment on his motivations for running.

Joe Callingham, another candidate, said he would run on a "platform of change from a position of experience".

"SUPRA needs to morph to better represent postgraduate students," he said.

A number of progressive students are running under the branding 'Postgrad Action'.

"We are all activists, and we're all committed to teaming up the Students' Representative Council (SRC) to fight against any education cuts that we may encounter over the next few years," said Brigitte McFadden, one of the Postgrad Action candidates.

SUPRA elections generally

don't gather the same amount of attention as their undergraduate counterpart, SRC elections. This may be due to the historically lower number of postgraduate students on campus.

In June, elected members of SUPRA's general council will meet to elect an executive. The election of equity officers representing women, international students, indigenous students, queer students and students with a disability is held separately to the SUPRA general election.

SUPRA is funded largely by the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF).

# Judge strikes out sections of BDS lawsuit

*Nick Rowbotham reports on developments in the racial discrimination case against USyd Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Director Jake Lynch.*

A Federal Court judge has dealt a blow to the Israeli legal group, Shurat HaDin, who are pursuing a Racial Discrimination action against USyd academic Jake Lynch for his boycott of Israel.

Justice Alan Robertson struck out key sections of Shurat HaDin's statement of claim last Thursday, bringing to a close a protracted provisional stage of the legal proceedings.

The case had been mired in pre-trial interlocutory hearings since October last year, but Justice Robertson's rulings on the statement of claim and a cap on the maximum costs recoverable by each party, have paved the way for it to go to trial.

Shurat HaDin now have 28 days to re-plead the ten paragraphs of their statement of claim that have been struck out, after which Lynch's legal team have a further 28 days to file a defence before the trial can commence.

The self-styled 'Israel Law Centre', whose stated aim is to "bankrupt terrorism - one lawsuit at a time", allege that Professor Lynch breached four sections of

the *Racial Discrimination Act* in refusing to endorse a fellowship application for Hebrew University academic Dan Avnon.

USyd's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, of which Lynch is the Director, has a policy in support of the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Despite the strikeout, Shurat HaDin's lawyer Andrew Hamilton commented in an email to *Honi* that Thursday had been "a good result" for the applicants.

"As a senior barrister once said to me: 'A strike out application is your friend' - the Judge helps you improve and fix up your Statement of Claim so your position is stronger at trial," he said.

However, Lynch's legal team claimed the outcome as a preliminary victory for the defendants. "Today's judgements are a blow to Shurat HaDin's stated aim of outlawing BDS in Australia," they said in a press release after the day's proceedings.

# Education supervisors dispute pay rates

*Teachers who supervise Education students may take industrial action over wages, writes Alex Downie.*

Teachers working in independent and Catholic schools are threatening to stop supervising student teachers until their payment increases. The current \$21 daily stipend paid by universities hasn't changed since 1991, and is below what is paid in most States and Territories.

The Independent Education Union is campaigning for a doubling of the payment, however so far only the Australian Catholic University has agreed to negotiate a higher fee.

The reluctance of other universities to increase the stipend is controversial in light of the \$800 per student payment universities receive from the federal government to help cover the costs of practicums.

Practical students typically take around half of their supervising teachers' classes, with the teacher expected to supervise all classes and help design the lessons.

USyd Education Society (EDSOC) president Matthew Woolaston suggests that the fee should be re-evaluated, "given

the time and effort a majority of supervising teachers put into training and working with students."

However, fourth-year Education student Luke Dassaklis warns that not all teachers may deserve a raise, as "some teachers just make prac students do their work for them".

The threatened strike action puts additional pressure on universities already struggling to find placements for the 22,000 students currently enrolled in Education degrees in NSW.

However, Education students worried about prac placements should probably be more concerned about their job prospects after graduation. Each year in NSW, about 5,500 newly graduated teachers compete for fewer than 800 permanent teaching positions.

This oversupply of teaching graduates seems unlikely to change soon. Universities are "more concerned with checking there are bums on seats than whether those people get jobs," says Woolaston.

# Spies at Sydney Uni: Really?

Georgia Behrens dug into that sensationalist SMH headline.

Last Monday, the front page of *The Sydney Morning Herald* enthusiastically proclaimed the discovery of “Chinese spies at Sydney University”. In the report that sat beneath this McCarthy-esque headline, *The SMH’s* Asia-Pacific editor, John Garnaut, claimed that China was in the process of building “large covert informant networks inside Australia’s leading universities”. Not particularly convinced by the claim that the international students in my lectures and tutorials were, in fact, Chinese spies, I set out to investigate.

\* \* \*

First up, let me quite confidently say that it seems incredibly unlikely that Chinese international students at Sydney University are compromising Australian national security in between finishing their readings. John Fitzgerald, a Professor of Business and Enterprise at Swinburne University and expert on Chinese-Australian communities, says that it is important to distinguish between espionage (of the variety suggested in the *The SMH’s* somewhat sensationalist headline), and what he terms the “social surveillance” system occurring in amongst Chinese expatriates in Australia. He analogises this system to that of the East German Stasi, in which government officials encouraged citizens to engage in an ongoing form of “neighbourhood watch”.

“We’re not talking about paid agents or informants here; they’re just people who share the values of those people doing the monitoring, and who feel a strong degree of loyalty to the Embassy and the government,” he says.

According to Fitzgerald, most information would be acquired from informal conversations held “over a cup of tea at the Embassy”, and not from formal reports. Any expedient information that may arise is then collated, filed, and passed along to authorities in the intelligence system back in China.

The nature of the information sought by the government is wide-ranging. In one incident recounted to me by an international student at USyd, an anti-corruption investigation in China was given evidence from Australia about a number of expensive sports cars a Chinese student studying in Sydney had been driving to university. The information was used to support claims of corruption made by the Chinese government against the student’s parents.

Of the greatest concern to the majority of Chinese expatriates, however, is the government’s tendency to monitor and reprimand its citizens for any involvement in controversial political causes such as the Tibetan independence movement. If you get involved in such an issue, Chinese international students tell me, either you or your family residing in China may be invited to “drink tea” with

police to discuss your recent activities.

“You’ll be asked to visit the police station to answer some questions,” one student tells me. “They will hardly ever make proper threats or try to really intimidate you; it will be something more along the lines of, ‘If you keep going down this path, you’re going to cause yourself some problems, so you should think twice about it next time.’ That’s really all that most people need to hear.”

\* \* \*

The existence of citizen-based informant networks in Australia is, of



THE CHINESE CONSULATE

course, contingent upon the ongoing loyalty of Chinese expatriates to their government. At USyd, the Chinese government appears to be taking a range of steps to ensure the enduring goodwill of Chinese-born international students now residing in Australia. Perhaps most significant is its extensive, hands-on involvement with one of the largest Chinese student associations on campus, the Sydney University Chinese Students’ Association (SUCSA). The organisation, which is part of the University of Sydney Union’s Clubs & Societies program, states on its website that one of its key aims is to “help the Education Office of [the] Chinese Embassy to organise all forms of activities relate [sic] to Chinese students”.

According to various SUCSA members, the society is run in ongoing consultation with the Chinese embassy, which also provides funding, venues, and distinguished guests for many of the society’s events. SUCSA’s annual Welcome Drinks, for example, are traditionally attended by the Chinese Ambassador, and special events are often organised to coincide with visits to Australia by Chinese dignitaries. One student recounts receiving multiple phone calls from the society’s executive prior to such events, reminding him that it was “highly recommended” that he attend.

“Honestly, though, most of the things that SUCSA organises are just fun and innocuous – movie nights and dinners and that sort of thing,” he continues. “But they still keep students engaged

with the Embassy in some way, which means that they’re much more likely to respond if the Embassy ever needs something from them.”

I ask what sort of things the Embassy could possibly need from Sydney University students.

“Basically they like to be able to organise the student community to act as a platform to express their own views on things,” he says. “They want it to seem as though they have broad popular support for all their policies, so they try to get international students to act as something like permanent goodwill ambassadors.”

might not be able to,” says another. Yet another student is so worried that she refuses to talk to me on the phone or over Skype for fear of the call being monitored.

Virtually all students cite ongoing rumours circulating within international student communities of people being interrogated after engaging with Chinese politics while overseas. These rumours, while vague, clearly serve as a powerful disincentive against any potential engagement with controversial Chinese political issues.

One international student discusses his extensive involvement in Australian politics, which includes working as a volunteer in last year’s federal election campaign.

“I feel very comfortable getting involved in Aussie politics because it’s safe. I wouldn’t be afraid of getting into trouble if [the party I supported] lost their campaign.”

But, he says, he would “never” consider engaging with political issues pertaining to China. This is in line with what he believes is a “general consensus” amongst international students; that it is dangerous to discuss these issues, even in private.

“And besides,” he says, “I feel like protesting things is kind of pointless ... the Communist Party wouldn’t listen to you anyway.”

This, too, is a common sentiment amongst the students I speak with, who overwhelmingly indicate a total lack of interest in any form of political process. “In China, it’s not seen as a good thing for you to have political opinions,” one student tells me.

“You grow up constantly being told that people with strong political opinions are just trouble-makers. If you want to succeed, you should follow directions, be attentive, and carry out orders from your superiors to the best of your ability. That’s all you need to think about.”

\* \* \*

Deng Xiaoping, China’s late paramount leader, once said of the country’s ongoing economic and cultural reforms that when you open the window, sometimes the flies come in. For China, opening the window to the Western world has meant allowing more and more of its young citizens to explore and study in countries whose political and cultural configurations are vastly different from its own. Today, a Western tertiary education is a valued commodity in China, and students are actively encouraged to study in countries such as Australia and the US. But, based on my conversations with Chinese international students this week, it appears that this openness is still accompanied by extensive caveats. The Chinese government, it seems, is extremely wary of the flies its expatriate students may bring back through the window.

# Hitchens’ Phallus-y

Tim Asimakis on why the great contrarian is wrong again.

Christopher Hitchens has famously been wrong about a lot of things. Graves in Iraq and a scathing Tina Fey review tell us as much. And with the publication of a large-scale study into circumcision in March this year, he was again shown to have picked the wrong side.

Hitchens rarely equivocates. In 2009, in what is now regarded as part of the ‘Hitchslap’ canon, he bullied Rabbi Harold Kushner on the subject of male circumcision. He first likened it to genital mutilation. Then, reaching rhetorical heights, he stated that circumcision, “a disgusting and wicked thing”, is “designed to repress sexual pleasure,” and “can be life threatening”.

In March, the *Open Journal of Preventative Medicine* published a review of current international evidence on the subject, concluding that the benefits outweighed risks by a factor of 100 to 1.

Male circumcision has been shown to reduce a person’s risk of contracting

a plethora of diseases, including HIV, HPV, syphilis, kidney infections, and penile cancer. The process that Hitchens thinks is evil is, according to Sydney Medical School’s Professor Brian Morris who led the review, “about as effective and safe as childhood vaccination”.

These are not groundbreaking conclusions. In 2007, the same year Hitchens published his atheist manifesto *God is not Great*, peer-reviewed papers had already drawn links between circumcision and reduced risk of disease.

As for the impact of male circumcision on sexual pleasure, Morris explains, “The scientific evidence shows no adverse effects on sexual function, sensitivity, satisfaction or sensation – if anything the opposite.”

It’s startling that Hitchens, a hero of atheists everywhere and life-long advocate for scientific inquiry, could be so unequivocally wrong. It’s saddening that his beliefs (and they are no more than beliefs) about circumcision

appear to be informed not by fact and reason but by hate.

The clue is in the subtitle of *God is not Great: How religion poisons everything*. The thesis is simple: religion has been responsible for evil; therefore anything associated with religion, including circumcision, is evil.

But in choosing to prefer his faith in the universally corrupting nature of religion over the results of empirical investigation, Hitchens does himself and the anti-theist movement he helped build a disservice. He allows belief to warp and dictate his understanding of the world; he becomes the very thing that he wishes to denounce.

His ruminations on circumcision are emblematic of a broader problem that permeates aspects of modern atheism: the movement’s distrust of all things religious has engendered within it a culture of obstinacy that is, in essence, anti-intellectual. When atheists draw baseless conclusions about practices and defend them despite

scientific opposition they withdraw into a myopic world of stubborn preconceptions and false preachings, a world that they claim is solely inhabited by religious zealots.

At its core, modern atheism is underpinned by a spirit of inquiry and a firm trust in evidence and observation. These values are good, and they should not fade into the periphery the instant the spectre of religion rears its head.

In *God is not Great*, Hitchens describes the rational foundations of his atheism: “We distrust anything that contradicts science or outrages reason. We may differ on many things, but what we respect is free inquiry, open-mindedness, and pursuit of ideas for their own sake.”

Perhaps if Hitchens had been open-minded in 2009 when speaking to Harold Kushner, he wouldn’t now look like such a dick.

# Puppies by the kilo

The way we make our pets is unconscionable, writes Sarah Mourney.

The RSPCA says that about 250,000 kittens and puppies are killed each year in Australia. These animals are the voiceless victims of a pet industry whose actions range from just irresponsible to completely inhumane. Much of the pet industry operates for profit and without proper regulation, which according to Animals Australia has contributed to the deaths of 14 million cats and dogs since World War II.

There are three ways you can purchase a dog. The most ethical would be buying from an animal rescue shelter, as you are quite literally snatching an animal out of the jaws of death. The next-best option is doing the research and buying a pet from a registered breeder who treats their animals humanely.

The third is a so-called “puppy factory” or “puppy mill” – buying from these sellers is contributing to an exploitative industry that over-produces and abuses animals.

Puppy factories aim to breed as many puppies as possible, sell as many as possible, and then kill the leftovers once they are no longer young enough to be cute. In order to minimize costs puppies are generally kept in confined cages, which prevents them from socializing and can lead to behavioural issues later in life. Furthermore, they are likely to develop health problems from living in squalid conditions and not being vaccinated. Mothers are treated like birthing machines, being forced to breed constantly. Many of

these puppies die in their filthy cages, and there are high numbers of genetic disorders due to unsound breeding practices.

It is estimated by the RSPCA that over 95 per cent of puppies sold in pet stores originate from puppy factories.

A campaign to stop puppy factories called Oscar’s Law started in 2010 after Debra Tranter rescued a puppy called Oscar from a factory in Victoria. “His fur was so matted it was restricting his movement, he had ear infection, rotten teeth, inflamed gums, and he was severely malnourished,” she said. When she turned to the authorities for help shutting down the factory, the police arrived, took the puppy and fined her \$1500 for theft.

The puppy industry needs to be better regulated and higher welfare standards need to be enforced. The only way to stop puppy factories continuing this abuse is to introduce a Breeder Licensing Scheme in NSW and across the country, which would allow an independent body to survey and shut down puppy breeders. Puppies need to be guaranteed exercise, water, food and more than one staff member to look after hundreds of dogs. The RSPCA has a petition with these goals that has been signed by over a 100,000 people.

By tightening legislation, not only would puppies be treated better, there would be fewer puppies killed when they cannot find a home. If puppies have to be given more space to run free in, better medical treatment, and better conditions in general, fewer people will be able to run puppy factories in their backyard due to financial barriers in addition to legal barriers.

But before there is legislation, there has to be awareness. In a poll conducted by the Animal Welfare League of NSW, only half

of respondents knew about puppy farms. One dog will continue to be euthanised every four minutes in Australia until people refuse to buy unethical puppies by checking if a breeder has been approved by the RSPCA, and until people demand action from the government.

The Animal Health Alliance says that there are about 4.2 million pet dogs in Australia. Surely these millions of owners should care about fixing the industry that does not do enough to protect the animals they claim to love.



# Chicken love

Isobel Yeap on the beautiful bird.



The other day I decided that I loved chickens. I woke up one morning and I thought, you know what's underrated? Chickens. In fact, I worked myself into such a state of infatuation that I found myself speaking about them at a party. "I love chickens!!!" I said loudly, in hope of provoking a meaningful discussion. "Me too," my friend replied. "What is your favourite species?" At this point I froze. I became deeply ashamed. My face turned the colour of a rooster's comb. I realised that I didn't have a favourite species. I felt like someone at a music festival who had just been called out on not knowing any of the bands. I felt like an imposter who had been exposed. "I don't have one," I admitted, tears glistening in my eyes. He looked at me strangely. "But you said you liked chickens."

After this I was inspired to learn more about chickens. At another party I used my icebreaker (yeah, sometimes I recycle them, but a girl's gotta find a way to get by in this cruel, cruel world). "I love chickens!!!" I yelled. I had picked a favourite species so was ready for the next question. But something even better happened. My friend Jess said, "Oh really? That's cool. My mum won this book in a raffle called *Beautiful Chickens*."



Would you like to borrow it?"

"Is the Pope Catholic?!?!?!?!?" I replied, tears again glistening in my eyes, only this time, they were tears of joy and not of sorrow.

I was so excited about the book, *Beautiful Chickens*. I even cleared a space on my bookshelf for it. I threw out stupid books that represented the old me and left space for the chicken book that would represent the new me. I thought of sayings that involved chickens, including, "Don't count your eggs before they hatch," and "What came first? The chicken or the egg?" Also, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" I tried to work these sayings into all conversations. My tutor would say, "I think that a lot of neurological conditions can be traced back to the impact of toxins on the locus coeruleus". I would reply, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket". One time, my classmate said, "Where is my phone?" and I replied, "I'm sitting on it."

Roosting like a chicken."

Anyway, Jess was busy because she had exams so in the meantime she showed me a link to the book on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Shop website. Here, I wrote an ecstatic premature review, and I was stoked when I realised that the website had actually published it. "Mum! I am a published literature critic!" I yelled, for I was downstairs and she was upstairs but in a room with an open door. She came downstairs and read my review, which was



one of my best – both pithy and gushy at the same time. "I don't get it," she said. "The sky is falling!!!" I replied.

Luckily Jess is a woman of her word and she did lend me the book. I was so happy when this happened. "Wow thanks!!!" I said, as she handed it over. I flung my palms towards my cheeks in an effort to stop my face cracking apart with joy. "Yeah, no worries. No one reads it at home anyway," she replied and I felt like someone who had discovered a great thing. For example, I felt like the person who discovered the internet.

I read *Beautiful Chickens* on the bus. Many people looked at me askance, their heads cocked to one side thinking, "Look at that chicken lover at peace with the world." I smiled at them in return. Love for chickens, love for the world, love for them poured forth from my tender soul. In those few minutes, I went from atheist to peculiar type of pantheist – I had a deep reverence for exactly one part of nature.

I was having such a great time reading the chicken book at the dining table. I bonded with my mum who used to have pet chickens as a child. I texted all my friends multimedia messages which were photos of the beautiful chickens. One friend replied that she didn't really like chickens because she thought they looked stupid. I thought perhaps she does not understand. She is a willowy and graceful girl and perhaps she had just not found her spirit chicken. So I sent her another multimedia message and wrote, "You look like this chicken."

Still, I was troubled. I felt bad that I had not purchased the book like a true



chicken lover. I had only borrowed it. I wanted the writer to earn royalties. As an economist, I wanted to show my support by generating market demand. And still only my computer really understood me.

So I went to the ABC Shop. They have lots of great books there covering a range of topics including, horses, being pregnant and being ugly. However, I could not find the book *Beautiful Chickens*, even in the lifestyle section. "Excuse me," I said, "do you have the book *Beautiful Chickens*?" The lady at the counter typed at her computer in an official way then declared, "No-one has bought that

book since 2011. Perhaps try David Jones?" Woah. That hurt. It was like that scene in *Mean Girls* where Regina George can't fit into her formal dress and the snooty shop lady looks her up and down and says, "You could try Sears."

David Jones. David Jones. Well it was my only hope and I consoled myself by thinking that at the very least I was generating consumer demand by asking for the book and declaring my willingness to pay (greater than or equal to \$19.99). Ah, but there was a queue at David Jones. There was one lady and a baby in a stroller (presumably hers), so there were two people but technically only one customer. I smiled at the baby. The baby smiled back. I smiled wider. The baby smiled back. The baby gurgled. I restrained myself from gurgling. "You're so cute," I thought, "But you are not as beautiful as a chicken." And I recalled that chickens are actually smarter than neonates and then wondered whether the baby's intellectual development had yet overtaken that of the average chicken. The mother smiled at me because she could not read my thoughts, offensive as they were to her progeny. I said to her, "He hasn't flown the coop yet, has he?" She replied, "My child is a girl."

I said to the lady at the counter, "Excuse me, but do you have the book *Beautiful Chickens*?"

"No sorry," she said, "What's it about?"

"It's a book full of photos of chickens."

And at this she laughed, not at me but with me, because we were sharing a moment – there I was reflecting on chickens, my new *raison d'être*, and there she was, reflecting on chickens as something cool that she had unwittingly overlooked for much of her life. We were close to but not quite kindred spirits. "Good luck finding it!" she said, and she bid me on my way.

I ordered it online. It will ship in 3-5 weeks.

# There and back again (very, very slowly)

Mary Ward writes an ode to the one and only Hillsbus. ILLUSTRATION BY AIMY NGUYEN

Across the rolling plains of Sydney lies the mystical and enchanting Hills District. From Fiddletown to Forest Glen, and from Pennant Hills to West Pennant Hills, the good people of the Hills District are a hearty and vigorous lot.

If there's one thing that binds these communities together, it's Hillsbus, the private public transport company beloved by those who think that such a description is not an oxymoron.

Here's to living the simple, semi-rural (read: probably just rather remote suburban) life. Why have a ticket machine when the driver can just cross out each trip on your MyBus10 with a pen? Does this provide the opportunity to get 20 trips out of your MyBus10 by using it on a mix of Hillsbus and government bus services? Yes, but you didn't hear it from me.

Here's to the forced consumption of 2GB each morning. If Alan Jones were a vehicle operated by a private, metropolitan public transport company, he'd be a Hillsbus. If Ray Hadley ever were to catch a vehicle operated by a private, metropolitan public transport company, he'd be on a Hillsbus.

# Stumped for cash

Test Cricket is healthy. Or so it seemed on the January 5 of this year. Almost three million people watched on television as Australia put the finishing touches of their demolition of England, reclaiming the Ashes with a 5-0 whitewash.

The history, gravitas, and excitement of the Ashes obscures the major issues surrounding most other series in Test cricket, namely declining attendance, flagging interest, and a trend towards faster forms of the game. One small step in the right direction was the World Test Championship (WTC), which was proposed as a quadrennial tournament bringing together the four best performing teams in Test cricket. The first edition was scheduled for 2017 and was to be held in England, with the finals being held at Lords, the spiritual home of all cricket.

There was always concern from the members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) that the

Here's to Beryl, the driver often found on the Cherrybrook to City routes who pulls off the Hillsbus ladies uniform so effortlessly. What, you didn't know that Hillsbus had a ladies uniform? That would be because the other women of the Dural depot do not demonstrate as much commitment to the corporate chiffon scarf and pencil skirt as dear Beryl. They don't know what they're missing.

Here's to Hillsbus's more obscure routes. Who wants to travel from Pitt Town to Pennant Hills? One bus-worth of people a day. And they want to do it at quarter to nine in the morning.

Here's to running into five people you know on every trip. Those who question how Hills commuters put up with sitting on a bus for two hours each day clearly do not understand how many of your mother's friends or people who were in your Year 5 class you can have a conversation with during that period: *Have they fixed the church ceiling? Did you hear that so-and-*

*so's started a personal training business? Allow me to provide you with 184 reasons why the North-West Rail Link will be a disaster, 99 per cent of them involving the cutting down of ten trees near Castle Towers ...*

Here's to the early morning services over the weekend. The aforementioned small talk is always better when attempted

after stumbling out of Scary Canary at 2:30am.

Here's to giving your bag a seat as you pull into Lane Cove on your way into town. Get your own bus, Lane Cove. You don't know us. You don't know our struggle.

Here's to Hillsbus, the golden chariots of losers who still live with their parents.



Opportunities for cricket are going by the wayside, writes Julian Kuan.

context; instead of the current "dream" of moving up one spot in the ranking for solely bragging rights, it would have given fans and players worldwide the dream of competing for the title of World Test Champion in one of the most hallowed grounds in all of cricket.

Why was this dream crushed? It is hard not to point the finger at the "Big Three" of international cricket; namely the cricket boards of Australia, England, and India. For a fair WTC to be held, all test nations would be required to play each other at least semi-frequently. The ICC controlled future tours program (FTP) was a scheme that attempted to create such a situation, by having each test nation play each other at least once in the time period 2011-2020. In the Singapore meeting of the ICC, this program was overhauled and replaced by one that was focused solely on test nations arranging their own series through bilateral agreements.

A leaked position document, penned by the "Big Three", sheds some light into this change of ICC policy. In this paper it is asserted that "a number of members are currently playing financially unviable bilateral matches... simply because they are compelled to." The paper then goes on to suggest the change in ICC policy discussed in the preceding paragraph.

So it seems we have come to the reason why the WTC was cancelled. It simply wasn't financially beneficial to hold it. All the moves coming from the ICC, from replacing the WTC with the Champions Trophy to the changes made in the FTP, show a financial minded short-termism that it is disappointing to see from cricket's governing body. In a hundred years time the Ashes will still be going strong. But what of the rest of test cricket? The ICC just missed a huge chance to brighten its future.

# Cooking up racial expectations

*Chefs can find it hard to escape cultural stereotypes, writes Ada Lee.*

The doorbell rings. You wait at the strangers' door, not knowing what to expect. When it opens, two small Asians stand timidly before you, their eyes bright with excitement and fear. You might not say it or even think it, but your tastebuds are expecting oriental dishes for dinner tonight.

"Talking to all the other contestants, they all expected, the minute they saw us, that we'd cook Asian food," says Shannelle Lim, recalling her team's first round instant restaurant on reality TV show, *My Kitchen Rules* (MKR).

Advertised as the "Newlyweds", Shannelle and Uel Lim were the only Asian team on MKR 2014. They represent a small but growing minority of people of colour making their way onto Australian reality TV.

Despite expectations, they cooked Western food in the first two rounds. Both times, they received poor marks. That's when the "hints" from judges, Pete and

Manu, started emerging.

"They kind of said, 'Cook from your tradition, cook flavour combinations that you're comfortable with,' so we kind of thought, you know what – if you really want Asian food that bad, we'll cook it for you," Uel says.

I asked them what food they actually are more comfortable with. "Well, now, Asian food," Shannelle says.

From then on, their Asian cuisines received high praise, taking them as far as the top nine.

Shannelle, 23, was a North Shore private school girl, born and raised in Sydney by Indonesian parents. Uel, 25, was born in Singapore to missionaries and spent half his life in Tasmania and Spain before moving to Western Sydney 10 years ago.

As embodied through their lemongrass soufflé and Uel's recent photography exhibition,

the "Modern Australian" is from a variety of ethnicities and backgrounds.

"We thought we'd be able to break out of the mould and cook a variety of different things but I guess on a whole, even looking back on the journey, our Asian food was received a lot, lot better," Shannelle says.

Uel agrees. "I think after a while, you're kind of afraid of cooking anything but Asian food because you're not sure if they're going to take it well and Asian food just seems to work."

This expectation seemed to weigh heaviest upon Shannelle and Uel. No one assumed the Greek twins, Helena and Vikki, would cook Greek food. In fact, when they did, they were sometimes criticised for playing it safe. Similarly, no one ever questioned why the two Caucasian surfer dads, Paul and Blair, often decided to cook Balinese cuisine.

Shannelle and Uel, when asked why they think this was the case, share a long pause. "I don't know," Shannelle finally says. "I think the twins, no one really expected them to be the Greek twins that cook Greek food and because of that [lack of] expectation, people were like 'Why are you always cooking Greek food?' Because it's not as blatantly obvious in terms of appearance and things like that maybe."

Overall though, Shannelle and Uel loved being on the show. When Queensland contestant David asked early on why they weren't cooking Japanese "Tempan-yaki", they laughed it off. "I didn't really feel offended by it by any short stint," Uel says. He seems optimistic about Australia's multiculturalism. "I think the racism, in Sydney particularly, has been broken down to an extent. Maybe not in the wider Australia but in Sydney particularly, I feel really comfortable calling myself Australian."



# Virginia in da Hauss

*Georgia Kriz speaks to Virginia Haussegger about women, journalism and "that fucking article".*

Nearly 13 years after she publicly denounced modern feminism, ABC journalist Virginia Haussegger sits across from me in a buzzing Canberra café. Her now-infamous op-ed, published in *The Australian* in 2002, was titled – by an editor – "The sins of our feminist mothers". It was simultaneously a lament to her own childlessness and a decrial of the tired hallmark of third wave feminism: "Women can have it all". She had built a career on the promise of that catchphrase, only to reach 37 and find herself unable to have children and utterly devastated. Women, she argued, could not have it all.

"That fucking article!" she huffs when I raise it early in our conversation. "It still comes back to me all these years later. I didn't realise that it would open this Pandora's box."

The Pandora's box was a national conversation, a riot of reactions that spread from coast to coast. Prominent (and not so prominent) commentators accused her of putting a stake through the heart of the sisterhood, being anti-feminist, or just being a downright whinger. She received thousands of words worth of hate mail and vitriol. Others supported her, commiserated with her – many women sent her stories of their own career-driven childlessness. Emboldened by the reaction, Haussegger stoked the fire with a book, published in 2005 and titled *Wonder Woman: the myth of having it all*.

I tell her I found the book destabilising and frightening. She's pleased. "That's kind of the point. Young women need to think about this stuff, and be honest about it. Mothers and daughters need to talk about these things. Your generation faces really subtle, insidious gender inequities and we need to talk about them."

Haussegger seems like someone who regularly attracts controversy,

yet is largely unconcerned by it. Our conversation traverses her journalistic career as she cheekily and proudly recounts tales of principled stands, job-threatening arguments ("Can you believe I had to apologise to him in a fucking major newspaper?") and petty squabbles. I wonder out loud if her propensity towards being outspoken and stubborn has helped or hindered her.

"It has gotten me into trouble, definitely. But I wear it, if I believe in what I am saying. Some people – many politicians – I know have the power to be heard and the responsibility to speak out about things that matter, and they refuse to. I find it absolutely disgraceful, to be honest. It's really disappointing."

*"Your generation faces really subtle, insidious gender inequities and we need to talk about them."*

Living and working as a journalist in Canberra has woven Haussegger into the city's complex political tapestry. These days, she is both a seasoned political observer and insider, counting former Prime Minister Julia Gillard and former leader of the Australian Democrats Natasha Stott Despoja amongst her friends. But she doesn't openly relish her insight and connections; rather, she speaks of politics wearily, as though she has seen too much. She says that the recent federal election only served to crystallise this disillusionment with politicians.

"After all that incessant coverage, that robotic shit, I felt so grubby and depressed. We were all inundated with such utter nonsense."

It's the day after O'Farrell's

Grangegate, and so, inevitably, a broader conversation about politics turns into a reflection on the fallen NSW Premier. There's a pause while Haussegger considers her words.

"Kristina Keneally said the other day on *The Drum* that she thinks all politicians get into politics with the right motivations, and, you know, I think that's true," she says.

"I've seen enough of it and gotten close to enough of them to know that that is true. But once they're there and their power is tested and challenged – that's where they run into trouble if they don't have a strong sense of themselves. And too often they start to value the power more than the reason they

"No, I don't think all women want the same things. But I think we should. I personally know many women in Afghanistan who would take a very different position to me. They are happy with the status quo of living in a patriarchal system, because deep down they think that is the world as it should be. I will always argue against that."

Though admitting it is dangerous to generalise, Haussegger hypothesises that women are better at coming together than men. "There is something that resonates in women and pulls us together to support each other ... I do think that men have a tendency to be more adversarial," she says. "And I just find women more interesting, I really do. I love my husband and I have loved many men in my life, but women are better at finding similarities rather than seeking out differences."

She speaks clearly and confidently, and our eye contact is unbroken. I realise she is completely unlike the politicians she criticises; there is no noncommittal pretence here. Virginia Haussegger certainly hasn't lost sight of who she is and what she believes.

It has been nearly 13 years since her opinion piece galvanised a fiery national debate, and nearly 10 since her book perpetuated and extended that debate even further. I want to know if she is proud of herself and of what those two texts helped achieve. For a moment, she seems puzzled by the mention of pride.

"I think ... I think it was a conversation we as a nation had to have, and yes, I am glad that I helped start it. It is such an incredible privilege to be a journalist and to be able to start conversations like this," she says.

"But journalism is tough; it's volatile. I think I am proudest of the fact that I have stuck it out."

# Three strikes and you're sanctioned

*A French method of combating piracy might soon hit Australia's shores, writes Oscar Coleman.*

A decade ago, three university students narrowly escaped jail sentences in Australia's first criminal prosecution for internet music piracy. Charles Ng, 20, and Peter Tran, 19, had run MP3WMAland, an Napster-style website, from Ng's bedroom at his family's home in Blacktown. Although the students attained no revenue from the website, their 18-month suspended jail sentences included 200 hours of community service and a \$5000 fine.

The music industry wanted a stronger deterrent. At the time, the Music Industry Piracy Investigations agency (MIPPI), which launched the investigation, said the students had escaped with a "slap on the wrist". Their collective damage was estimated at up to \$200 million in lost sales.

Even USyd came under the MIPPI's gaze. In August 2003, the Federal Court ruled that the University must hand over student and staff details if the recording industry sought information about students or staff caught infringing copyright.

Fast forward a few years and similar issues remain. In the eyes of the creative industries, Australia still does not have a conclusive copyright policy.

Jon Lawrence from Electronic Frontiers Australia is pessimistic about any upcoming proposals: "The previous government attempted to develop an industry-based scheme, but was unable to achieve agreement with the ISPs, who generally are very disinclined to act as copyright police".

"The High Court also confirmed this is not their role in the *Roadshow Films v iiNet* case ... there will therefore need to be legislation introduced if any such scheme is to be introduced in Australia," he said.

In late April, Attorney-General George Brandis and Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull will meet and confirm their copyright policy. Technology site Delimiter wryly reported there's to be a trilogy of new proposals: "In short, nothing big then. Just court orders to block

websites ... 'three strikes' policies to cut off users' Internet access [and] subpoenaing users' details from ISPs so they can be sued directly," wrote Delimiter editor Renai LeMay.

The centrepiece of these anti-piracy efforts will be the "three strikes" system. According to Lawrence, the potential impacts on young people are mixed, depending on "the sanctions involved", which could include warning notices, fines, bandwidth throttling, and even the termination of ISP accounts. The new legal regime may disproportionately affect the tech-savvy youth.

Since *Roadshow Films v iiNet* the Australian Screen Association (ASA) has lobbied governments of both stripes to implement a "graduated response" regime. The ASA is a major political player – member Village Roadshow has donated nearly \$4 million to the Liberal and Labor parties since 1998. There will be a significant return on investment if the new legislation is carried through the Senate.

The proposed model has had mixed reviews overseas. The ASA claims French initiatives have resulted in "a reduction in online file sharing plus an increase in digital sales of content". *CHOICE* magazine's Madison Cartwright says implementations abroad "have not reduced piracy, despite their high costs, and in some cases have shown a disturbing lack of due process and judicial oversight".

"Australians are turning to piracy not because it is 'free', but because it is the only way they can access the shows they want ... Netflix and Spotify have done far more to combat piracy than graduated response schemes."

As Australians takes their place as the world's most prolific pirates of *Game of Thrones*, the war between industry and pirates is only part of the way through. There's a legislative fight about to come to a head, so get your remote control ready. If there is one thing the show has taught me, it's that there can't be a happy ending for everyone. You win or you die, or you get sued.

# Witness to silence

ILLUSTRATION BY  
MONICA RENN

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

With 43 other artists, Mundine created *Aboriginal Memorial* for the 1988 Biennale, in memory of Aboriginal lives lost and taken since white settlement. Now displayed in the National Gallery of Australia, it is one of only two artworks in the public space that specifically commemorate Aboriginal massacres.

The other is Fiona Foley's *Witnessing to Silence*, which stands outside the Brisbane Magistrates Court. It lists 90 known massacre sites in Queensland. To ensure the work came to fruition, Foley told its commissioners it was dedicated to sites affected by flood and fire. "I had to be very subversive about it," Foley has said. "Most people don't want to acknowledge these things took place."

Foley receives due recognition for insistently "trying to write Aboriginal people back into the landscape." However, when I speak to her, she points out that she is "just pricking the surface with three or four public art works". The statement, like her monuments, sits starkly against the thousands of war memorials dispersed through the nation's public spaces.

\* \* \*

Among the sites I visited in Berlin was the house of German parliament itself, the Reichstag. I actually went twice; the idea of a building that had stood through every historical period since the German Empire appealed to me.

Each time, by taking the most direct route, I passed the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Victims of National Socialism. It's literally across the road from the Reichstag. Sitting outside an official, high-traffic building, it has a position of prominence and significance; a parallel positioning, albeit reduced, was what Foley fought to claim for *Witnessing to Silence* when she lied

in order to ensure it was installed outside an Australian public court.

In the Reichstag itself, I walked upwards to the glass dome that sits atop the building. It's open for tours, popular enough to require booking in advance. I took the tour with an audio-guide. A thin-voiced recording verbally mapped the Berlin skyline for me as I slowly paced the spiralled walkway of the dome. It plotted out where the Wall once stood, before telling me to turn right and look out over Tiergarten. Through a thick crop of trees, stripped to their skeletons by the winter, I glimpsed the Tiergarten Soviet War Memorial as the recording dispassionately listed the appropriate facts and dates.

Blessed with the keen mind of a history student, I succeeded in forgetting most of them by the time I descended to the foyer again. What lingered was a sense of envy, and of foreignness, both inspired by observing another instance of the marriage of geography and memory in Berlin, unequivocally supported by the state.

\* \* \*

In an address, last September, from the Director of the Australian War Memorial (AWM), former Liberal leader Dr Brendan Nelson declared that "a people that neither knows and nor, more importantly, understands its history, in my view, is dangerous."

When asked about frontier violence from the press, Nelson acknowledges there is a "story that needs to be told," but maintains that his is "not the institution to tell that story".

\* \* \*

Historian Henry Reynolds has been a vocal advocate to the contrary, pressing in recent months for an Aboriginal memorial to be included in the AWM. Reynolds' recently published *Forgotten War* argues

that frontier violence constituted the longest and most significant war in our history.

"If we are going to talk about wars, the important war was the war in Australia," he tells me.

Reynolds, in his measured articulation, tells me that it leaves a fundamental contradiction in our national sense of self. "You can't say that war is essential to the history of our nation, then say 'you black fellas don't belong here.' It's just not sustainable," he says.

When I ask him about his advocacy, he gives me the impression that it's not the particulars that matter to him, but the act itself. He simply replies, "I have no idea," when I enquire if he has thought about a timeframe for the memorial he's been agitating for. The pomp and spectacle surrounding the centenary of ANZAC Day emphasises the national importance of our military experience: narrative and identity is intertwined around it. The digger became the prototypical national character in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, subsuming the legend of the bushman. Secular, 'national' values of egalitarianism and mateship are both defined and made transcendent in stories of blood and battle.

In such a culture, the AWM has become the embodied heart of national memory. Its significance has ascended to border on mythological, its role as in national myth-making – both expression and propagation – prompting Reynolds to describe it as the national pantheon.

Dr. Nelson's perfunctory comments last September serve to close, rather than open discussion. His words were an unwilling twitch of recognition, one that made it clear he sees black stories as somebody else's problem.

\* \* \*

In the lead up to the centenary of Gallipoli in 2015, four 7-metre high

bullets and three fallen ones, made out of marble and metal, will be installed in Hyde Park to coincide with this anniversary. They will be part of a memorial commissioned by the City of Sydney and designed by Tony Albert, a Brisbane artist and Indigenous man, to specifically commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen.

The memorial is not for those killed in the 'Forgotten War'. It will commemorate those who fought on distant soil, in service rather than resistance. Mundine tells me that it's "a way of incorporating or folding Aboriginal people into the state". Of course, colonial monument or not, the memorial is a century overdue.

I ask Albert whether he thinks this delayed rectification is a sign of change. He reflects on my question, before thoughtfully replying that he sees it as "an opportunity, especially as a catalyst."

"After a public event or talk, people want to come to me and share family stories – these oral histories that haven't been written about, particularly involved in ANZAC, which white mainstream Australians hold dear to them. It's all a step forward in recognising historical truth," he says.

Albert's insight cuts straight to the importance of memorialisation. Effective memorials are not symbolic or static. Memorials should work as catalysts; they need to inspire, not complete, memory. There is a danger inherent in monument-building and memorialisation. The process can be viewed as close-ended: the project emerges, fetishised, as a *site* of remembrance, rather than an expression of it. It is a process of discourse and feedback, renewing and reconstituting national memory indefinitely.

\* \* \*

In Germany, standing in the Memorial to the Murdered Jews, I had wondered about the mind of a nation that under a different state and in a different time had hosted the Holocaust. What went through the collective mind as they built this

monument to the six million?

"We suspected it would be a place where Germans would come to dutifully unshoulder their memorial burden ... a hermetically sealed vault for the ghosts of Germany's past," says Dr James Young, in his essay 'Germany's Holocaust Memorial Problem – And Mine'. A Jewish-American academic involved in overseeing the construction of the Memorial, Young has written extensively about the process.

His misgivings were eventually reconciled, in part by Germany's persistent commitment to inscribing its history in the public landscape. No other nation, he wrote, has "attempted to make such a crime perpetrated in its name part of its national identity".

The GDR, too, is part of this highly visible German history. In Berlin, parts of the wall are left intact, with one section, 1.3 kilometres long, becoming the Eastside Gallery; the Soviet Memorial in Treptower Park is also a cemetery to 5000 soldiers; the famous *ampelmännchen* crossing men still signal 'go' on traffic lights in the East; the 'death strip' was not built over and erased, but turned into popular Mauer Park.

\* \* \*

However, the Germans have had to grapple with upheavals that are totally absent from the Australian experience. There have been abrupt ruptures between periods of German history and governance, the state flicking quickly between monarchy, democracy, fascism and totalitarianism within the past century. When the state ruptures, the nation is forced to navigate and renegotiate its national identity, and rephrase the terms in which its narrative is couched.

This deliberate, intentional and inward evaluation of history and character is unknown to Australia. We have never had the continuity of our state interrupted in a comparable manner, and never had our atrocities brought forward so openly.

And so we have drifted along, through frontier violence to silence - and we have come, in the past decades, to a tense period that has been defined by unprecedented

debate over our history and anxiety over our identity.

We have reached an uneasy acknowledgement that the bloodless narrative was a lie. Increasingly, and perhaps unwillingly, we have accepted that our history has been stained by violence and abuse towards Aboriginal people. But the parameters of our memory narrow in practice: this seems to be what Mundine is referring to when, at one point in our conversation, he refers to non-Indigenous Australia as executing "a slight of hand".

Our acknowledgement remains bizarrely lopsided, as if it were an awkward formality rather than a reality that, if acknowledged, would fundamentally change the national narrative. Nelson's address, with its simultaneous acknowledgement and disavowal, exemplifies this.

\* \* \*

Foley draws a direct line between the current state of race relations and our cultural amnesia: "What we tend to have is people wanting to bury their heads in the sand and not talk about the deaths, a frontier war spanning 140 years. I think that's why we have the type of race relations we do today, we haven't dealt with it and so we're stuck."

When I talk to Albert about his work, I raise the tension between acknowledgements and actualities. Albert is both diplomatic and positive throughout the conversation, but he is perhaps most critical when he telling me "there hasn't been a significant change since the Apology. The idea of sorry just being a word is still very relevant."

\* \* \*

"It may well be that Aboriginal people say, 'We may be part of the state but we are not part of your nation.' And we would like to have a war memorial of our own," Reynolds tells me.

Reynolds' emphasis on autonomy and initiative echoes something Mundine had told me in our earlier conversation. "When the *Aboriginal Memorial* was installed and opened, I said that Aboriginal memorials were only made when we were on

the front foot, when we are in recovery, not in retreat."

I blundered my response to Mundine that day, asking him if he was saying that he thought Australia was in recovery. "No," he replied sharply, "I think Aboriginal people are." It's an important distinction. Non-Indigenous Australians have not been forced to go through a recovery from the 'Forgotten War', having been kept unscathed through both power and denial.

"There'll be a lot of guilt and hurt that comes along with understanding the massacres that happened here, but that comes along with understanding," Albert says. He is reassuringly optimistic about the potential outcome, telling me he doesn't think it divides people "at all," but rather "gives an opportunity for healing and understanding of real history."

Young's work has noted that in Germany public art has been a crucial supplement to official memorialisation. Often expressing a personal and particular engagement with history, they writes that public artworks "allow the void to remain palpable, but unredeemed".

Considering Foley's forced subversion, it seems perhaps Australians are yet to come to this understanding. Mundine, too, recounted difficulties in getting his art into spaces of public visibility. A proposal to carve an engraving he has designed, *The Song of Bennelong and Pemuluyuy*, prominently into the rock-face adjacent to the Sydney Opera House has received statements of support from the Opera House management, the Metropolitan Land Council and City of Sydney MP Tanya Plibersek, among others. But Mundine first made this proposal two decades ago, and still no one has committed to the funding which he estimates at a meagre \$250,000.

\* \* \*

We have also yet to commit to the sort of pedagogical public institutions that are so plentiful in Germany. The Topography of Terror, the Stasi Museum, the DDR Museum, the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, the Jewish Museum are all public institutions dedicated to a difficult history, and they do the work of integrating this history into national identity. In the DDR Museum, I rubbed my fingers over coarse polyester dresses and grimaced at the feel. Next to the dresses a panel explained that nearly everyone wore clothes made of such material due to the scarcity of non-synthetic fabrics in the DDR. Such details accompany the representation of events of tremendous, and tragic, significance in these museums, providing nuance and depth to the historical record.

Meanwhile, in Australia we have no dedicated museum for the atrocities committed. The agitation of chiefly right-wing figures resulted in a review of the National Museum of Australia in 2003, which concluded there were "certainly some elements in the exhibitions that... create the effect of characterising the Europeans as unwelcome invaders". The displays were subsequently changed.

\* \* \*

In this context Foley's recent suggestion, made on a public discussion panel, that Australia should have an Aboriginal holocaust museum is a sharp departure from the mainstream. It shouldn't be.

2015 will be the centenary anniversary of Gallipoli; one hundred years since what has been considered a national coming of age. It is the pledge to keep lost lives bright in our memory. ANZAC Day should rightly humble us.

It is no slur upon our past, nor upon those we honour, to question if we approach this national milestone with the character we might have hoped for when a fledgling national identity began to emerge in Australia a century ago.

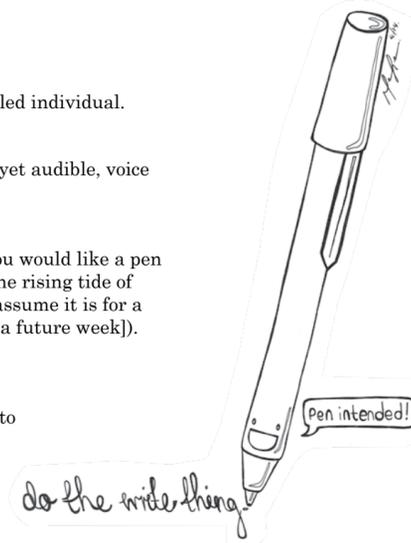
For as long as we fail to accord the Aboriginal lives taken and scarred in this country with equal dignity and magnitude to those given in our service offshore, we mark ourselves as a nation not yet come to maturity.

# How to borrow a pen from the library staff

1. Locate the library help desk. (Hint: This is on your left as you enter the library.)
2. Cautiously approach the help desk in a manner that suggests you are a polite and not self-entitled individual.
3. Choose a library staff member who is currently unoccupied.
4. Get their attention. This is usually done by saying "Um... Excuse me." (Hot tip: speak in a soft, yet audible, voice with a polite intonation. Eye-contact is all but essential.)
5. Ask for a pen.
6. Take the pen offered. IMPORTANT NOTE: They may try to throw you off by asking whether you would like a pen or a pencil. If this, or something like this, occurs, it is important that you remain calm. Resist the rising tide of panic and do not run away. State your preference in clear and simple English (in this case, we assume it is for a pen, seeing as you are reading 'How to borrow a pen' [How to borrow a pencil will be covered in a future week]). Words to the effect of "Pen, please," are recommended.
7. Remember to say thank you.
8. Optional: Some experts suggest you should reassure the library staff member of your intention to return the pen. However, evidence for this is not supported in the literature. (See, for example, Gibson J, "I thought I packed one this morning": Etiquette, procedure and rules of pen-borrowing, 3rd ed., [Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013] pp 244 - 259).

*Isaac Morrison answers one very specific stationary etiquette question.*

ILLUSTRATION BY MONICA RENN



# Challenges abound for international students

*Angel Zhao on transport, accommodation, and English as a Second Language.*

For thousands of international students who come to Australia from all over the world, it's crucial that they make the right decision in choosing which university will provide them with the best education.

University rankings, historical reputation, on-campus facilities, student accommodation, student support services and so forth are all factors for students to consider. For international students who make up over 30 per cent and 26 per cent of the student population at USYD and UNSW respectively, student accommodation is especially important to consider because of the many expenses related to living overseas.

How far they live from campus affects their use of transportation. Alongside monthly living expenditures and involvement on campus with clubs and societies, travelling becomes another burden of expense for international students. The NSW Tertiary Student Concession Card is issued exclusively to students who are Australian citizens and permanent residents. The recently promulgated policy for International students only applies to MyMulti 2 and 3 tickets.

Sydney University and UNSW both offer 'affordable' housing that targets domestic and international students on an average rent that varies from \$271 to \$425, depending on the types of the apartments. Among

those highly fastidious conditions on applications for different on-campus accommodation, University Village is the most compatible, flexible, relatively affordable accommodation for international students at both universities.

According to statistics on both university accommodation websites, UNSW Village is slightly cheaper than Sydney University Village, as UNSW Village offers seven and eight bedroom apartments for \$244 per week. In contrast, Sydney University Village only offers up to five bedroom apartments for \$271.5 weekly. While Sydney University Village provides 50GB Wi-Fi for free, UNSW Village charges for Wi-Fi from \$14.95 to \$159.95.

After making up their minds on picking the right university, and completing IELTS exams, the most exciting yet daunting part takes place. As an English as a Second Language student, conquering the language barrier becomes our ultimate goal. For instance, it is extremely intimidating to be the only ESL student in the same tutorial room with twenty other Australian or native English speaking students.

These are all immensely challenging experiences for international students who, after a complex decision-making process, choose to come to Australian universities.

# Jeers and whistles

*Jay Ng and Xiaoran Shi are spreading the word about a new anti-street harassment campaign.*

Street harassment happens everyday. It is something so common and deeply ingrained in our social consciousness that sometimes, we don't even think twice about it.

Catcalls, passing snide comments, and verbal and physical abuse – these are all instances of street harassment. They are bigoted attacks based on gender, sexuality, race and appearance. Even more worrying is the fact that street harassment is often downplayed as a "joke" or a "nuisance", when it is, undoubtedly, a major problem to social equality that needs to be seriously addressed.

April 5 marked the end of International Anti-Street Harassment Week, which aimed to eliminate the prevalence of street harassment through workshops, wheat-pasting sessions, discussions and chalk walks.

Members of the Women of Color Autonomous Collective on campus joined a recent global wheat-pasting event, initiated by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, a Brooklyn-based African-American artist. The International Wheat Pasting Night was an extension of 'Stop Telling Women to Smile', a crowd funded art series that speaks against street harassment.

The art series consisted of black and white posters depicting sketched portraits of women of colour with slogans such as "Women are not looking for your validation" and "I am not your property. You are not in control of my body," which specifically target gender-based harassment. We believe it is important to spread awareness about street harassment through empowering feminist messages on the streets as an act of reclamation, so that women can feel safe and entitled to be on the streets as much as anyone else. This is especially crucial when gender-based street harassment is so prevalent so as to affect 80 per cent of women and the LGBTI community worldwide.

Wheat-pasting is just a start. The goal is to let women know that they are not alone and that they should never feel uncomfortable and unsafe. If you see these posters on campus and the surrounding areas, take a picture and share it on social media with the hashtag #stwts so this important cause can be heard. If you would like to be a part of the movement and put these posters up in your area, please get in touch with the organisers via Twitter.

@jammmyjay  
@xiaoranshi

# Coachellyyeah

*Penina Su visits the American desert for a music festival staple.*

"You're going to Coachella? You're going to love it. It's like the epitome of Californian hippiness," a friend from Sacramento told me a few days before boarding my cross-country flight. I travelled from Washington D.C., where I am on exchange for a semester, to Los Angeles to attend the second weekend of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

Drawn in by the line-up, which included Outkast, Arcade Fire and Neutral Milk Hotel, I made the financially foolish decision to go. A two-weekend, three-day music festival located in the Colorado Desert a few hours out of Los Angeles, Coachella is one of the largest music festivals in the United States, with 184 acts and 225,000 attendees per weekend.

When Coachella first started in 1999, the festival was just a couple of stages and a dance tent. Tickets were \$65. A few dusty stands sold hot dogs and Cokes. Now, tickets



start at \$375. Food and drink options this year include artisan popsicles, craft beers, and salted caramel popcorn. If the scorching 30-degree heat was bringing you down, you could pop into an air-conditioned Sephora tent and purchase cosmetics. The few phone charging stations were perpetually packed; god forbid people lost their opportunity to Instagram the (beautiful) desert sunset.

Whilst watching Blood Orange, I overheard someone drawl,

"duuuuude, this is totally like Woodstock," referring to one of the pivotal countercultural moments of the 1960s. But one has to wonder whether Joan Baez would have checked into Woodstock on Facebook, or if Jimi Hendrix would have been okay with the option of paying \$6500 to rent a "furnished shakir style tent with air conditioning, private restrooms & showers etc.," for the weekend.

The commoditisation of rebellion is nothing new, nor is any attempt to

approximate the real thing. But at Coachella, that manufactured neo-bohemian atmosphere manifests in wearing religious symbols like bindis, regardless of how offensive and insensitive it is to do so. According to festival-goers, counterculture in the twenty-first century has a new face, and it wears a Native American headdress.

Nonetheless, I had an incredible time at Coachella. I met fascinating people at the campground, including people who had gone on multiple tours to Afghanistan. I saw a renewed Outkast, who delivered a tight and energetic set that was apparently better than their performance on the first weekend. I watched the last act of the festival, Arcade Fire, climb down from the stage and finish their set amongst the audience with megaphones.

It was stifflingly hot, dusty and dirty, but I had the time of my life.

# Thinking inside the box

*Peter Walsh reviews Wes Anderson's most recent film, The Grand Budapest Hotel.*

Wes Anderson's driest jokes aren't laughed at in the cinema. They're hidden in the pieces of text – newspapers, death certificates, or ticket stubs – that flash past too quickly to be recognised on the screen. In 2014, he constructs jokes to be extracted as single frames and circulated as visual gags around the internet. *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, despite being set in the 1980s, 60s, and 30s, is his most contemporary movie.

The film makes light of Wes Anderson's penchant for letters, with a layered narrative of stories-within-stories. It opens with a woman reading a memoir in the 80s (though the outfits could be 2014 Camperdown). Within that book, the author recounts his inspiration on meeting a mysterious hotelier named Zero (F. Murray Abraham) in the 60s. And within that, Zero (Tony Revolori) recalls his time as a Lobby Boy in the 1930s.

The 80s is filmed in modern Hollywood's 1.85:1 widescreen, the 60s in 2.35:1 ultra-wide, and the 30s in the square-ish 1.37:1. The majority of the film is thus framed within a box, almost self-parodying Anderson's square compositions. The film comments as much on the logic of cinema as it does on

Anderson's own aesthetic. Never has the frame of the screen felt so inhibiting. His characters suffer from a kind of narrative myopia that prevents them from seeing any danger beyond their frame. Everything takes place inside the box.

And what an exquisite box indeed. Anderson's precise, right-angled framing and vibrant colour palettes combine within the square to create some truly stunning compositions. Characters dress not only to compliment the colour of the walls but to reveal their

allegiances. Our protagonists wear purple, while the rotating band of cronies is draped primarily in black. Again, this is a film that might be appreciated frame-by-frame – each still resembles a painting.

Anderson suggests that his film is only incidentally related to the politics and strife of the 30s and 40s through a fantastic bait-and-switch, where Zero, on receiving the morning papers, sprints back to give warning to his boss. "Ah, war has begun," I thought, leaning back on the plush leather chair of

2U Modern History. We get a close-up on the headlines ("Tanks near the border"), but our focus – and indeed the film's – is drawn away by close-up to a slight headline at the bottom of the frame. It tells us that a former guest of the Hotel Grand Budapest has died, propelling us away from war and into Anderson's own parallel narrative. The SS, too, are replaced by the black-clad army of the 'ZZ'. They're reactionaries all the same, but humorously inept. However, ignoring these red herrings, this is Anderson's most overtly political film, typified in a scene where Gustave both embodies and denounces the stereotype of the odorous conservative railing against the immigration of refugees.

I remain undecided as to whether the film has sacrificed something in embracing self-awareness. It is Anderson's funniest film, though perhaps his desire for laughs denies *The Grand Budapest Hotel* the sincerity of, say, *Rushmore*. Regardless, you should see it in cinemas. Don't be fooled by the boxing-in: this film is bigger than your MacBook.





 ARTS & CULTURE

# Not all fun and games

An Iranian video game designer is exploring new ways to tell old stories, writes Leigh Nicholson.

Navid Khonsari wasn't disappointed when his Kickstarter campaign failed. Having worked on games like *Grand Theft Auto* and *Max Payne*, his latest project is *1979 Revolution* – a first-person game for PC and iOS taking place during the Black Friday protests of the Iranian Revolution in 1979. He says that the amount of media coverage they received from the Kickstarter campaign alone was “overwhelming to say the least”. The project is now scheduled to come out at the end of this year thanks to backing by larger investors.

*1979* is very different conceptually than, say, *GTA: Vice City*. Khonsari had specific hopes for what the game would achieve. “Our objective is for you to experience what took place, [and] come to your own conclusions as a result. There is really no academic agenda.” He wants his audience to gain a personal understanding of what realistically happened during that time.

Video games, for the most part, have not traversed into the educational market. There have been some games in the past that have tried to use the platform for an educational agenda, but they have largely been unsuccessful; the slightest suggestion of motives that aren't conducive to the gaming community can

completely ruin the experience for a player. However, as the gaming experience becomes more personal, the idea of using knowledge and real emotion to represent a historical event no longer seems novel. This capability isn't lost on Khonsari. “I guess the main aspect of the game that differentiates it from, say, an academic agenda is that ... we want you to experience what took place. I think that if you were going to experience it, it would strip away a lot of those limitations that have been put on us to try to learn human events through historical analytics.” The “experience” that *1979* is providing is drawn from a range of places. Khonsari himself witnessed the protests when he was ten years old, as did most of the development team. The concept art comes from the photojournalism of Michel Setboun, who documented both sides of the revolution at the time. It's come at price, however, with the project being labelled “Western propaganda” by Iranian media, Khonsari being called a spy, and an overwhelming amount of developers' names and photos omitted from the credits for anonymity purposes.

Khonsari's company, which he co-founded with fellow developer and partner, Vassiliki Khonsari, is Ink Stories. The idea behind Ink Stories is that the choice of medium depends entirely on which

is most suitable to invoke empathy and emotion in its audience, suggesting “it's foolish of people to say, ‘Are we going to make a film, or are we going to make a video game?’” when representing history. Both of them come from a documentary background, but he knew that that was not the right way to get the themes of *1979* across. “As a documentary, you can feel empathy for the characters but you are still very much the person on this side of the screen, watching something play out. With what we are providing, you are following someone on their journey, which is based on a real event and you are actually engaging with it.”

There have been various indie games made in past few years, ones which haven't been lost in the education/gamer market divide, attempting to slot the player into a situation that they would probably not have otherwise been exposed to. *Papers, Please* is a game made by former Naughty Dog developer Lucas Pope, which gives you a chance to explore the nuances that dictate the lives of immigration officers. In his game, however, his goal “was to build an interesting story” and not “set out to make a political statement”.

The game still undoubtedly provides an experience that no other medium is able to provide: you as the player are given the

choice to dictate the behaviour and the movements of the game. You feel responsible and you quickly learn that if you are given a choice, than you are capable of making a change. In that sense, Pope doesn't deny that games are perfect in this way, admitting they “have a unique ability to build empathy ... letting the player experience something in a more personal way than other media”. There's no question that the themes that *1979* deals with are widely misunderstood parts of history outside of the Middle East. But that is exactly what makes it such an appealing game.

Khonsari knows that in order for a piece of art to create an emotional response, there needs to be a least some level of familiarity or connection between the gameplay and the gamer. “I think that in the end, the one big hurdle we have in front of us is that we have to make sure that the content is truly universal.” In the end, the success of a game is measured by how “into it” the gamer becomes. If you're made to identify with the character, you're going to feel a stronger connection to what's happening. *1979* will have to find a universal theme to pull the player in. Khonsari and his team, by using the motivations underpinning the revolution, are on to a pretty good one.

ILLUSTRATION BY INK STORIES

# So You Think You Can't Be Scammed? Well, We've Heard That Before.



A scam is a trick to take your money directly or indirectly by getting your personal details. There are new, imaginative scams being hatched everyday. They even target low income earners like students and come in many forms including mail, e-mail, telephone and door-to-door.

Fake websites can easily be set up to look like the real thing. Giving your personal details to anyone should be handled with a large degree of caution. For example, how many websites have you supplied with your name, address and date of birth in order to win a competition?

Some of the more recent scams have included lotteries, sweepstakes and competitions. Some are obviously fake, like the Nigerian millionaire dying scam, but some are very subtle, like the competition to win a new Nokia phone. Some scams involve government departments like the tax department asking you to confirm your tax file number so that you can claim your lost superannuation. Some involve people pretending to be from a large computer company offering to help you rid your computer of viruses.

Banks have very strict rules about how they identify you to speak to you. However, they do not seem to be so strict about contacting you and asking for your details. Ask who they are and find the number yourself. Do not give any details, no matter how incidental, until you are sure of who they are.

Mobile phone ring tone offers are another potential scam. Once you sign in, you may not be able to sign out. This will lead to huge phone bills.

Health and medical scams may offer products or services that will cure your health problems or offer a simple treatment. Often these cures and treatments do not work.

Follow these golden rules to avoid being scammed:

- Don't respond to offers, deals or requests for your personal details. Stop. Take time to independently check the request or offer.
- Never send money or give credit card, account or other personal details to anyone

*How many websites have you supplied with your name, address and date of birth in order to win a competition?*

who makes unsolicited offers or requests for your information.

- Don't rely on glowing testimonials: find solid evidence from independent sources (not those provided with the offer).
- Never respond to out of the blue requests for your personal details.
- Always type in the address of the website of a bank, business or authority you are interested in to ensure you are logging into the genuine website.
- Don't open unsolicited emails.
- Never click on a link provided in an unsolicited email as it will probably lead to a fake website designed to trick you into providing personal details.
- Never use phone numbers provided with unsolicited requests or offers as it probably connects you to fakes who will try to trap you with lies.
- Don't reply to unsolicited text messages from numbers you don't recognise.
- Always look up phone numbers in an independent directory when you wish to check if a request or offer is genuine.
- Don't dial a 0055 or 1900 number unless you are sure you know how much you will be charged.

**If you are scammed contact the NSW Fair Trading online through Lodge a complaint, call 13 32 20 or in person at one of our Fair Trading Centres.**

**For more information, visit [www.scamwatch.com.au](http://www.scamwatch.com.au)**



## Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

I hope you can help me with a problem I have with Centrelink. I am in my third year of my medicine course and I am on an Austudy payment. Even though I didn't receive anything while doing my Science degree, they say that it counts towards the amount of time I'm allowed to study and my payments will run out in the middle of the year. Is this true? And if so, what can I do?

*Doctor in Trouble*

Dear Doctor in Trouble,

Centrelink should know better. The basic formula for the “maximum allowable time for completion” of your course is the normal length of your course plus the length of one subject. For example, for a Bachelor of Arts course that would be 3 years plus 1 semester. For a medical degree that would be 5 years plus arguably 1 semester (sometimes 1 year). In any case, the time that you took to do the Science degree does not count because it is part of THE way to gain entry into the Medical degree. That is, it is a graduate course. If it was not necessary then the time spent on that course would count. If this is confusing for you please contact SRC help to clarify your details.

*Abe.*

*Abe is the SRC's welfare dog. This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything. This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as a question on the state of the world. Send your questions to [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au). Abe's answers can provide you excellent insight.*

## CLARIFICATION: Newstart Allowance

If you are receiving a Newstart Allowance because you are registered with Centrelink as seeking a full time job, you may be eligible for a travel concession card. This is different to your Health Care Card. Ask at the Centrelink office. They should issue the card immediately if you are eligible.

Contact SRC Help  
9660 5222 | [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)

## President's Report *Jen Light*

It's the beginning of the end...Abbott and Pyne are ready to cut and make you pay!!!!

It is nearly the end of the financial year that means the release of the Federal budget, as well as the change over of the Federal senate.

There is much to be scared about in relation to higher education. Two areas that would dramatically alter the accessibility to Universities, as we know them are the deregulation of fees, and the abolishment of low SES enrolment targets. These two policies combined together will leave a fragmented University system, which will only be available to the upper enchalant who can afford it.

Presidents of student organisations at all of the Group of Eight universities have jointly called for

the Federal Government to reject a number of recommendations made in the Review of the Demand Driven Funding System. The report, released on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April calls for the abolition of university enrolment share targets for students from low socio-economic status backgrounds, the introduction of load fees, and increases to student contributions without any increase in base government funding to public universities.

Low SES students already face significant barriers to participation in higher education. Removing engagement targets for universities could ultimately mean that resources previously dedicated to recruiting and retaining students from low SES backgrounds could be diverted. This is a serious issue that goes to the core value

of equal opportunity for all students regardless of their parents' occupation or the suburb in which they live.

In addition the deregulation of Fees will further enhance the gap in accessibility to Universities. Deregulation allows the Universities to choose the price tag and segment the quality of your education, ie the quality of the teachers, how many students in you lectures and tutorials, and the quality of the content being taught.

As stated in the Sydney Morning Herald on the 23/4 "Students could choose to pay a premium for a particular research intensive course or smaller classes at a particular university or opt for paying a lower fee for fewer options at another institution."



Although there has been no talk of abolishing HECS, the deregulation of fees will force students to choose between a higher-class education, or a lifetime of debt.

This is just the beginning of the detrimental announcements that will come from Christopher Pyne over the coming months.

## General Secretary's Report

*James Leeder recognises change, and encourages you to bring your issues to the SRC.*



It may come as a shock to you, as it did to me, to learn that we are entering week 8. Each mid-semester break thousands of students tell themselves that they will study hard and hardly drink at all. And yet, here we are, with three assignments and ten lectures to catch up on. Despite this shock to the system, mid-semester inevitably signals some form of change. Whether that's an unwilling change because of the realisation that work is required to get through your degree, or a willing

change to give up one your four regular society drinks each week in favour of study. Turning our eyes to the political cesspit, we are faced with the looming change of the first budget of the Abbott government. Regardless of how you feel, week 8 is inevitably a time of reflection and realisation; work, politics or courses, and it's at this point that seeking out your SRC may be in your interests.

In my first year, it took me until week 8 to realise that mathematics lectures were never going to help me get through the course. It often can take a while to get into the swing of this semester's courses, but week 8 is typically the point at which any issues become apparent. By now you have most likely done an assignment or two. This is the point – where you have an identified an issue but still have to endure it - where you are best placed to come to the SRC. Not only is seek caseworker

help in appealing an unfair result or to receive advice, but also to see the student office-bearers who can campaign and attend meetings on your behalf. This is the way the SRC helps to improve your learning. We can only advocate for you when we are made aware of issues that require our help.

In two weeks we face (unwillingly) the first budget of the Abbott government. We have heard in the media, as recently as last weekend, that Christopher Pyne, our esteemed Minister for Education, has decided that the university sector shall be a point of focus. He has likened it to the car industry of the past, though the analogy is worrying if Sydney University is to go the way of Holden or Ford. But really, his point is that government sees the industry as failing and not keeping up to standards. It's important to remember that unlike most other

sectors, which the government supports, universities have not received increased funding year after year. Instead, as more and more students enrol, the government places an increasingly unreasonable burden on the expected quality and number of services provided. More worrying is the fact that many, including the Abbott government, have suggested fee increases as a necessary recourse. Increased fees only hurt students and the quality of our education. It validates the view that the education sector is not worthy of government support, yet billions of dollars on ineffective fighter planes is money well spent. We are clearly entering dark times.

Brace yourselves; winter is both literally and figuratively coming. Remember to bring issues and concerns to the SRC; you, as students, are our best source of information and political action.

## Education Officers' Report

*Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley*



The results of the Norton-Kemp review into the demand-driven higher education system are in, and it's not looking good for students. This review was commissioned by Abbott and Pyne late last year, doubtlessly to provide an excuse

for a new round of cuts to be announced in next months budget. Andrew Norton and David Kemp were responsible for an attack on university funding under the Howard government, and this report shows they are now gearing up for round two.

The main recommendation announced in the review is to further expand the demand-driven system first implemented by the Gillard government to include private colleges. Many private colleges are run like businesses, with profit rather than a quality education being key. To continue the demand-driven scheme without a corresponding increase in government funding will lead to a

further degeneration of the quality education students are receiving.

How do Norton and Kemp suggest to fund this expansion? With students, rather than government, footing the bill of course. An increase in student fees has been recommended in the review, alongside the removal of equity targets, which would see 20% of all students originate from disadvantaged backgrounds by 2020.

Postgraduate students are also coming under attack, with the removal of subsidies for more postgrad degrees slated as another way to cut costs. HECS has not escaped the firing line either, with the suggestion of a flat 10% loan fee on HECS, the lowering of the

minimum income required to start repayments, and plans to pass the HECS debt down from deceased states or retrieve it from ex-students living out of the country.

While it is unclear exactly which of these attacks will be unleashed in next months budget, it is clear that higher education will be taking a hit, with students bearing the brunt of the costs. Students need to be ready to respond to any cuts, while continuing the demand for a free and fully funded education system. If you would like to get involved with fighting Abbott and Pyne's cuts, join the weekly Education Action Group meetings, Tuesday 2pm on the New Law Lawns.

## Queerkat Officer's Report

*Elsa Kohane talks about the importance of non cis-male queer representation.*



When I first started here at Usyd last year, Women's Collective and Queer Collective were almost everything this little queer baby from a Catholic high school could ever want out of university life. However, there is an intersection between my identities that means something is lacking in these two groups; in women's spaces that hold up heterosexuality as the dominant

way of life and think only of the experience of heterosexual, cis-gendered woman; in queer spaces where I'm the only woman in the room, where I'm talked over and dismissed, where casual sexism is excused and the benefits of the patriarchy to cisgendered men are ignored.

Queerkats exists for this reason. Building on the work of a small group of queer women last year who started a Queer Women's Network, we are an autonomous collective for any non cis-male identifying queer people. That is, anyone who isn't a cis man (assigned male at birth and male identifying). We want to be a safe, attentive and comfortable space, where issues pertaining to queer non cis-men are actively discussed, prioritised and fought for.

This year ACON stopped printing The Birds and the Birds, an important information booklet about lesbian sexual education and health, and Gender Questioning, an information booklet for Trans youth. It just shows how marginalised queer non-cis men are, when the largest queer health organisation in Sydney stops catering to us. It's therefore important to try and make a difference. Throughout the year we will be running campaigns, workshops and skill-shares, creating resources and posters aimed at non cis male queer people, and holding parties and social events specifically for non cis-men.

Our first event of the year, a Queerkat Tea Party, was a huge success. Held in the Queerspace

one Thursday afternoon, it was a great way for people with similar experiences to meet and chat comfortably and happily. Delicious tea and cakes certainly helped!

There are still many issues with our male dominated Queer Action Collective, that Holly and I are working hard at combatting, but the Queerkats has thus far been an amazingly successful, encouraging and positive collective, and we hope for that to continue throughout the year and beyond!

If you're interested in getting involved, contact us at queerkatsusyd@gmail.com or friend Elsa Kohane or Holly Parrington on facebook to be added to the group.

## Vice Presidents' Report *Laura Webster and Max Hall*



We've traipsed back from mid-semester, grudgingly faced assignments that should have been started earlier and are already counting down the days until a real holiday. Between now and then are the exams, essays, emails, extensions, excuses and all other things that start with 'e' – including elections.

Oh student elections. This time around we're electing board

directors to the USU, our campus-wide champion of the onesie and marketing focused parent of Manning and Hermann's. It's easy to write off the mess of coloured t-shirts and cringe worthy slogans as being the irrelevant noise of student politicians whose need for public validation is matched only by their willingness to promise you anything. This may be (read: probably is) true, but, mess and slogans aside, the process of student democracy and its outcomes should not be quickly dismissed.

Superficially, the first reason student elections are worth caring about is how much you have already invested into organisations like the USU. Last year a quarter of the Student Services fee that you paid to the university was allocated to the Union – in other words \$70 per student, just over \$3 million in total, is given over to the decision making

of those students elected to the board.

Who cares? Well, if one truth emerged from the recent Raue saga it's that the USU board is capable of spending student money on all sorts of things, including the cost of defending in court a failed attempt to oust the duly elected vice-president of the board. The Union hasn't disclosed how much was spent in this . An exact figure is almost beside the point, because the example itself is enough to illustrate that the elected figures – yes, with their tshirts, slogan and cheesy videos – are responsible for spending your cash, even in situations when it is unclear why it is in the student interest. Anyone as broke as most students are cares where there money goes and how it is being spent, student elections give us just a little bit of control over who gets to do that spending.

If you don't care about money, or prefer a principled approach to things, your second reason to care when the ballot arrives is for the sake of student control itself. Long past are the glory days of democratic learning when students were allowed to vote in department meetings. In contrast, it's not so long ago that the University attempted to wrest control of the USU's commercial operations away from students. There are worthy critiques to be made of the methods and decisions of student representatives and board directors, but at the end of the day the needs and interests of student will always be best served by their own and can be defended by simply casting a vote.

Student democracy – however inconvenient, annoying or downright obnoxious – should be embraced wherever we can get it, because at least we have it.

## Environment Officers' Report *Marco Avena, Steven Kuon, Amelie Vanderstock*



The enviro collective have been up to much eco-friendly mischief the last couple weeks. We had a very successful info-night discussing the horrors of the Maules Creek mine up in the Leard State Forest in northern NSW. We were lucky to hear from three fantastic speakers – Steven Laird, a man with great spiritual and familial connections to the area, our very own Andy Mason from Sydney Uni and Emma

Wosson, a sustainability veteran from The Wilderness Society. The mine will destroy a devastating amount of Indigenous forest that is incredibly bio-diverse (396 species of flora and fauna; 34 are critically endangered), as well as disturb important farmland in the area. Whitehaven, the coal company pushing for the mine's development, was shown by Andy to have dodgy plans for rehabilitation of the site and terrible offset modelling: planting a forest for threatened animals to move to in the next 20 years which will only be in a state habitable for them in 100 years at the earliest.

The almost 600 day blockade up at the forest against the new mine

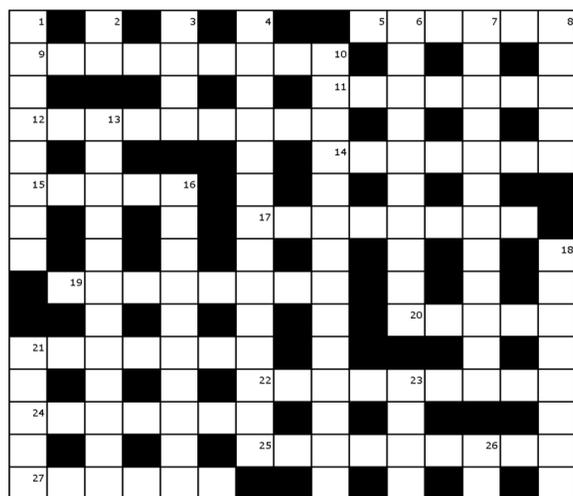
seems strong and a very worthwhile place to be.

We are very excited for May 1st, the National Day of Divestment Action. Look out for the collective on Eastern Ave as we urge the university community to reach out to their banks and to the university itself to divest from coal and gas projects in Australia. This brings us to FOSSIL FREE UNIVERSITIES! You might have caught Amelie as she strongly addressed the Chancellor's building at the National Day of Action against cuts to education a few weeks back, talking about 'fossil free universities'. This is an important issue that we are taking seriously within the collective. As the name suggests, we

are urging the university to divest from mining companies and other fossil fuel producers.

Finally, we will be going to Canberra in early July for the Students of Sustainability conference and encouraging students to come along. Keep an eye out for more info on this and check out studentsofsustainability.org If any of these campaigns tickle your fancy, our meetings are Monday 12pm on the Sunken Lawns next to Manning, and we'd love to see you! Feel free to get involved anyway you'd like from chatting on the Facebook page to realizing your environmentalist vision!

# Speedy Gonzales



**ACROSS**

- 5 First biblical book of the 'Writings' (6)
- 9 One living adjacent (9)
- 11 Pertaining to moral principles (7)
- 12 Karaoke empty this in Japanese (9)
- 14 Involving public disorder (7)
- 15 Zeno or Diogenes (5)
- 17 Nest egg saved for one of these? (5,3)
- 19 Serious setback (4,4)
- 20 Landform at the mouth of a river (5)
- 21 Completely mad up the wrong tree? (7)
- 22 Notes formed by lightly touching a string at particular points of the fingerboard (9)
- 24 Wise (7)
- 25 One who wields a long metal blade (9)
- 27 Aphorism (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Undo (8)
- 2 Casual greeting (2)
- 3 Clarified butter (4)
- 4 Aurora australis (8,6)
- 6 Playground (10)
- 7 Yoghurt bacteria (12)
- 8 Alone (Latin) (5)
- 10 Driver's aid (4-4,6)
- 13 Movement sequence arrangement (12)
- 16 Skeet victim (4,6)
- 18 Final career performance (4,4)
- 21 Underlying principle (5)
- 23 Gambling ratios (4)
- 26 Possessive determiner (2)



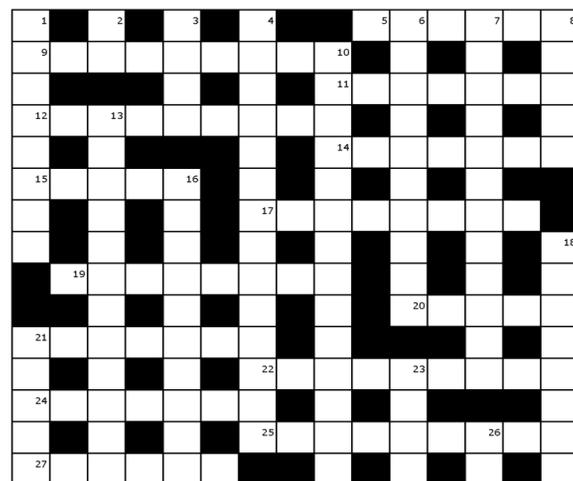
# LA Gang Meets Paralytic Bloodsucker

**ACROSS**

- 5 Spooner's can instrument on beer duty? (3,3)
- 9 Coax Vermin Sterling into halving patterned carpet (9)
- 11 Picts serial unclothed New World chats (7)
- 12 Remain and Francis is gone for the final coin? (4,5)
- 14 Special headless jerseys made of medieval cloths (7)
- 15 Rebecca's picnic contains jelly (5)
- 17 Test seat spins constant flavour (3,5)
- 19 Is it moth all over if the clue were gone...for example? (4,4)
- 20 Chinese call NZ sporting tradition (5)
- 21 4-down mistaken form of axes and graphic components (1-6)
- 22 Courtesy of courteous issue without first two persons (9)
- 24 About vexed veil, a love for raised sculpture (7)
- 25 Bridal possessions of the head Genevan philosopher (9)
- 27 4-down scored explicitly (1-5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Scenes on board golden 4-down (8)
- 2 Withdrawal spot lost a trademark (2)w
- 3 Even agent of outdated churl (4)
- 4 Skip thermostat adjustment to treasure indicator? (2,5,3,4)
- 6 Convert train thief between religions (10)
- 7 Turkish law? (5,7)
- 8 4-down sunshine scans (1-4)
- 10 Bacterial illness play: exploit sick art (14)
- 13 LSD dupe - dermal exile clad innards and upper jaw (12)
- 16 Fractured incest tree encompassing a fraction of a cubic metre (10)
- 18 Had acute pain removed in 4-down palaces (8)
- 21 4-downs ensconce Greek Cupid's singular photocopy (5)
- 23 Buck suture in back tooth (4)
- 26 Former headless intercourse (2)



**Extension Question 1:** Abiding by today's theme, can you find the three 7-downs in the completed grid?

# Quizzle

- 1. Who plays Tywin Lannister in HBO's Game of Thrones?
- 2. Which Australian city was the previous host of the Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix before being moved to Melbourne?
- 3. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
- 4. What is the second-most populous city in Africa?
- 5. Who did Manchester United recently sack as their manager, and who has been named as his interim replacement?
- 6. What does IAEA stand for?
- 7. What is the retail value of a bottle of 1959 Penfolds Grange Hermitage at Dan Murphy's?
- 8. In what year was Beethoven's famous Fifth Symphony premiered?
- 9. What do you bring if you're told not to bring a thing?
- 10. What is the title of the most recently released movie from MARVEL Studios?
- 11. Who's the **bastard** genius that compiles crosswords for The Sydney Morning Herald on Fridays?
- 12. What is the capital of Scotland?
- 13. What was/were the first name(s) of the Italian political philosopher, rhetorician, and historian, *Vico*?
- 14. What is the technical artistic term for using strong contrasts between light and dark?

1. Charles Dance 2. Adelaide 3. "I am, George...I am" 4. Cairo, Egypt 5. David Moyes, replaced by Ryan Giggs 6. International Atomic Energy Agency 7. \$4,850 and the Premiership of NSW 8. 1808 9. If ads can be believed, Cadbury Favourites 10. Captain America: The Winter Soldier 11. David Astle 12. Edinburgh 13. Giovanni Battista (Giambatista) 14. Chiaroscuro

**FROM THE VAULT: VINTAGE SHADES**

SHADES parties are a staple of the USyd social scene. They're always a guaranteed blast, if you like people. This one's themed around all things vintage. Great Gatsby, sepia filters, rotary telephones – all that good stuff. Everyone is welcome to a SHADES party, so get down there this coming Saturday night.

May 3 @ The Vault Hotel, \$10, facebook.com/sushades

**USU INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

The International Festival is about promoting cultural diversity on campus. Run by international student interns at the USU, this three day event will be exploring all the customs and cultures the University has as part of its broad community. Each day of the festival is going to be about a different part of the world. By the end of the week, apparently attendees will have visited Europe, America, India, Asia, and the "world". Some highlights include free croissants and Portuguese tarts, Asian food stalls, Middle Eastern Dance, and a walk of fame on Eastern Avenue. Also expect some cameo appearances from Board Directors past, present, and future! Sick.

April 29-May 1 @ Eastern Avenue, somewhat free, usu.edu.au

**SALMONELLA DUB SOUNDSYSTEM**

From New Zealand, Salmonella Dub Soundsystem has come out to Sydney to bring their unique mix of rock, jazz, horns, D&B, electronica, and reggae to Aussie audiences. A full five piece outfit, SDS will be playing at Manning Bar.

May 2 @ Manning Bar, \$30, manningbar.com

**SYDNEY COMEDY FESTIVAL 2014**

The biggest comedy event in Sydney's calendar, the Sydney Comedy Festival is back for 2014. There's stuff going on everywhere in the city and inner west for this, from the Sydney Opera House to the Seymour Centre. Some names this year include Bob Saget, Effie, Adam Richard, Alex Williamson, Amos Gill, and Alex Wasiel.

April 22-May 17 @ assorted places, assorted prices, sydneycomedyfest.com.au

**WORM FARMING**

Kitchen scraps are now garden gold, according to the City of Sydney. They're offering a free (yes, free) workshop on worm farming. Participants will be taught all the ins and outs of advanced worm farming so that they can get stuck into it from the safety of their own home. Compost worms and worm farm accessories will be made available for purchase afterwards, so the more clued-in worm farmers could come just for the shopping.

May 6 @ Brown Street Community Hall, free, greenlivingcentre.org.au



**THE SALZBURG CONNECTION**

Two of Salzburg's greatest composers, W.A. Mozart, and Michael Haydn, will be presenting a special concert at the University of Sydney. Well, not quite,

but the Sydney University Graduate Choir will be demonstrating the best of these two composers' music at the Great Hall. The great part is that it's on the mid-afternoon, so you can sneak in a classical music concert between lunch and dinner. Living the dream.

May 4 @ The Great Hall, \$42, seymourcentre.com



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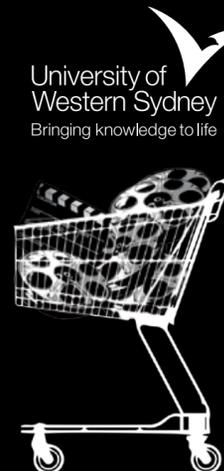
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**Peter Szendy THE AESTHETIC SUPERMARKET**

**Thinking Out Loud: The Sydney Lectures in Philosophy and Society**

Organised by the Philosophy Research Initiative at UWS, *Thinking Out Loud* presents intellectuals talking about the impact of fundamental philosophical ideas on how we understand society.

Welcome to the era of the aesthetic supermarket where brand images dominate the visual fabric of our society through film, television, advertising, and social media. So, what happens when we take the expression "exchanges of views" literally? How have our eyes turned into a marketplace, with iconic currencies, debts, and credits?

**Monday, May 5, 2014, Lecture 1:**

"From the Department Store to the Shopping Mall: Cinema and its Markets"

**Wednesday, May 7, 2014, Lecture 2:**

"The Value of images"

**Friday, May 9, 2014, Lecture 3:**

"The Commodity Gaze"

5.30pm to 7.30pm (including drinks reception from 5.30pm to 6pm)  
Metcalfe Auditorium (State Library of NSW), \$10 per lecture or \$25 for the entire series

To find out more and register, visit: [uws.edu.au/thinkingoutloud](http://uws.edu.au/thinkingoutloud)



# Honey Soy

## BREAKING: Social Outcast “Actually Enjoys” Election Cycle

*No-one likes Peter Walsh.*

Students loudly bantering at Manning last week were shocked to hear that one student, Michael Billings (BIGS ID), “actually enjoys” being harassed by campaigners during elections. Michael, whose severe body odour and outward displays of prejudice make him unpopular around campus, enjoys the “forced contact” that allows him to stock up on social interaction.

“Think of it as social photosynthesis,” he said. “I absorb as much as I can during the elections, and, like a bear, store the energy to stave off loneliness during the social winter.” Michael also added that he enjoys tutorial icebreaker exercises and when lecturers ask you to discuss with the person beside you.

The week before the election goes into full swing is Michael’s busiest period. “A lot of planning goes into this,” he said while gesturing to a wall of campus maps with routes drawn on. “I generally walk Manning to Fisher, Fisher to JFR, and JFR to Redfern

station. I put new clothes on at Redfern and do the circuit in reverse. It’s a great way to meet people.”

But has the strategy resulted in any lasting relationships? NLS member and experienced campaigner Sarah Riggs, recalled Michael as “open to conversation and sort of familiar looking” but had some misgivings about the way he burst into tears on reaching the no-campaigners-past-this-point sign. “He took me by the arm and told me he loved me,” Helen recalled, “which was incredibly difficult to segue into a question about whether he had already voted.”

Michael, however, would not be dismayed, calling election time the happiest time of the year. “A lot of people only vote for the free drink voucher,” he said while looking into the middle-distance, eyes watering, “but for someone like me, that free beer tastes only of bitterness, longing, and regret.”

## Clickbait Article Fails To Answer The Big Questions

*Lucy Connell wrote this article and you won’t believe how it ends!*

“I just don’t think journalistic standards are what they used to be,” says student Ingrid Blackman, 23. Speaking on behalf of a generation dissatisfied with the depth and quality of news available, Ingrid criticises dropping journalistic standards. “For instance, I have often wondered which animal Prince William looks like,” she points out, “but Buzzfeed’s answer of ‘bonobo’ just doesn’t ring true. I mean did they even look at him from different angles? They are treating us like we are idiots.”

Other young people express similar concerns. Jake, 24, notes that journalists are under increasing pressure, with tighter margins, and competition online. However, in his view, this is not an excuse for sloppy research. “When I click on ‘Twenty Animal Celebrity Stories You Will Never Believe!’ I don’t need to be patronised,” he declares. “Number 3 - ‘Lassie had anxiety’ - was actually fairly foreseeable. And I don’t think they asked nearly enough hard questions about Flipper’s drug problem.”

Such sentiments may explain why Gen Y are opting out of traditional media in increasing numbers. “I just want my news straight,” explained Sarah, a 20-year-old Veterinary Science student. “I get so sick of all the spin and political bullshit that creeps into any coverage of the issues. Just tell me 10 weird ways to lose belly fat, and leave your bias out of it.”

What answers do they suggest to the decline of journalism? “Ultimately I think it’s about taking ownership of the problem,” answers Taylor, 22. “Journalists need to say, ‘You know what? This isn’t good enough. I’m going to take responsibility, and be that change.’ When I click on ‘12 Dating Site Selfies That Will Blow Your Mind’, they genuinely need to be committed to blowing my mind.”

Taylor looks concerned. “I mean at the end of the day, surely the subtitles could be more thought-provoking than ‘Cat lady is a cat-ch’ There are just so many puns out there to be made about dating site selfies.”

## USU Pre-emptively Dismiss ‘Transparent’ Board Candidates

*Dominic Ellis is sick of this shit.*

Taking its first steps towards eradicating insolence, the University of Sydney Union (USU) board has expelled four of the nine prospective board directors up for election next month.

The four candidates made election promises to do with increasing transparency and accountability in the Union and have since come under fire from the current Board executive, who say they are unanimously “sick of this shit”.

“We have a duty to our staff first and foremost and if that means undermining democracy and so-called ‘students’, then so be it,” said USU President Hannah Morris.

“It’s nothing personal, we’re cutting red tape and we’re increasing efficiency. They’ll thank us when they’re paying five cents less for their dirty vegan food.”

The case will be presented in the Supreme Court next week and if successful will leave just five aspirants to fill the vacancies on board, all of whom are joke candidates. With Kade Denton entering the second year of his tenure, that will make a total of six joke candidates successfully on Board.

## In Other News:

George Bush Releases Portrait Series in Blood of Iraqi Citizens on Canvas

TEDx Audience Member Moved to Inaction by Far Away Problem

NSW Labor’s Decision to Run “We Have a GRANGE of Policy Alternatives” Campaign Proves Ill-Judged.

## Ben Bernanke: “I Miss Casual Sex With Groupies”

*Luca Moretti spoke to the man behind the women.*

Ben Bernanke looks wistfully through the cigarette smoke and surveys the small highway diner he finds himself in. I ask him if he’s missed anything since his retirement as Chairman of the Federal Reserve earlier this year. He takes a sip of his double bourbon and then fixes me in the eye. “Casual sex with groupies,” he replies. “Don’t get me wrong, I didn’t do it all the time ... not like Alan Greenspan. I remember he once trashed a whole suite at the Hilton during a G20 conference with two Econometrics PhD candidates from MIT.”

It’s hard not to pity Ben Bernanke; undoubtedly the matinee idol looks of his early days as Fed. Chairman have faded now. And even among his fans the indie credibility

of his youthful work, up to and including the Bernanke doctrine, has given way to a feeling that his more recent output, notably quantitative easing, may be the greatest sell-out in economic history.

Since leaving the Fed., Bernanke has been largely quiet. Occasionally he’s hit the road and played small rooms of Chicago School economists, but he says he has no plans for a comeback. He takes another drag on his cigarette as I ask him whether he feels the industry has changed since he started out. “I don’t know,” he mumbles, “some of these new kids on the Fed., I just feel like they’ve lost the soul. What’s happened? You know man, it used to be about the macroeconomics.”



## Big Pharma: “No Cancer Cure Until Selfie Gets Million Likes”

*Peter Walsh is one of our few comedy writers.*

In a press release this morning pharmaceutical giant Pfizer revealed that their “cure for cancer” was “basically finished”, but would be kept on the shelf “until a no make-up selfie receives one million Facebook likes”. When asked to clarify, their spokesperson said, “Yes, all cancer,” and “No, Instagram likes don’t count.” As of writing, three photographs had achieved the requisite number of likes but were disqualified for a little bit of foundation, some mascara, or, in one case, performance-enhancing botox.

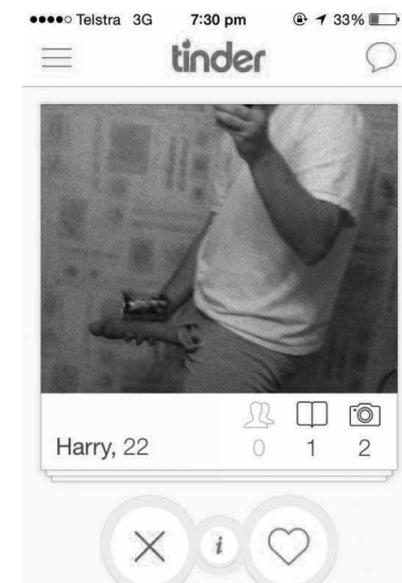
While many have decried the action as inhumane, critics would be wise to recall the pharmaceutical industry’s history of tributes. In the late 1980s, Roche refused to release their latest antiretroviral until they were gifted one hundred thousand no hairspray Polaroids. Going back further, GlaxoSmithKline (then just Smith) suppressed knowledge of a cure for polio until they received a thousand bare ankle

daguerreotypes—a scandal in its day. Even Da Vinci was known to traipse about Florence, camera obscura in hand, exchanging pinhole glances of a solar eclipse for bloodletting. What’s next for the pharmaceutical industry? “We’re thinking of trading scalps for STI vaccines,” the spokesperson said.

On the bright side, the controversy has established once and for all that the pharmaceutical industry is a mechanism whose cogs are oiled by human blood. “The cure will not be launched in Africa till 2030,” the spokesperson continued.

Responses to the scandal were varied. One survivor said “the whole selfie trend is a living mockery of the sufferers, I’ll be writing to *Honi* if they publish this garbage.” A North Shore housewife, after a long day, replied, “I couldn’t care less what they do so long as they don’t cut my Xanax”.

## IS THIS THE REAL LIFE?



## Classifieds

### FOR SALE:

Public Health Insurance Company, quite profitable, contact T. Abbott.

Virginity, free or nearest offer. Contact C. Pyne.

1 USU chair, barely used. Contact T. Raue.

Nothing, you sodomites. Contact Mrs. Sippi.

### FOR SALEM

3 Women accused of witchcraft (magical ability not guaranteed) Contact M. Walcott.

### WANTED

Information about any international students seen using the word democracy. Contact S. Pie c/o the Chinese Embassy.

Gas, preferably not Russian. Contact Europe.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Daily prayer services offered at various politically sensitive sites, contact Church of Modern Day Beliebers.

### TRADE

Willing to trade name with other ironically named country in the Arctic Circle. Contact Greenland.

### FOUND

Large pile of old computer disks, may contain priceless artworks, don’t have time to check. Contact A. Warhol.

Painting, possibly either by a two-year-old or a President. Contact A. Murica.

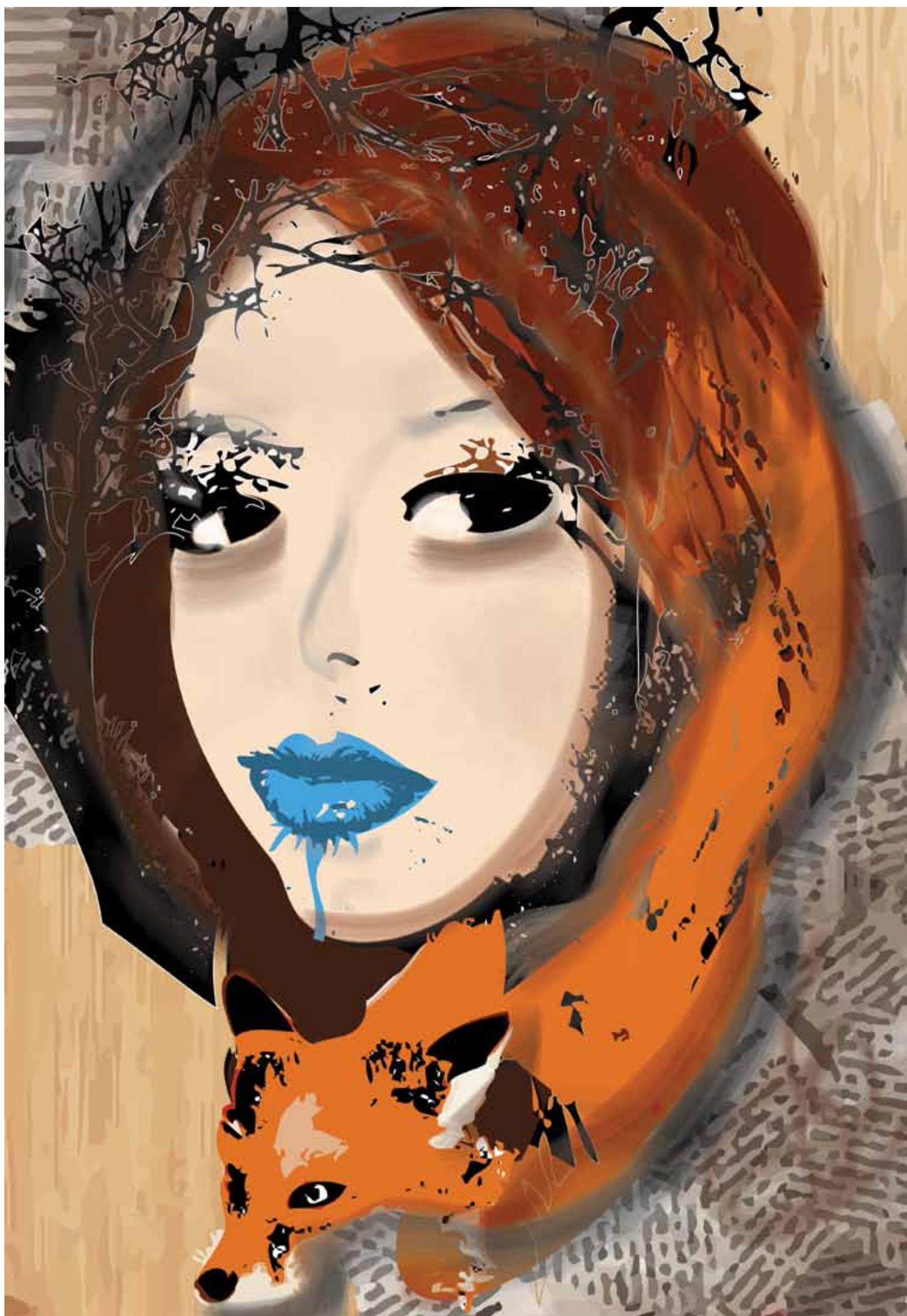


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