

Honi Soit

Week 4, Semester 2, 2014

HONI I SHRUNK THE KIDS

ILLUSTRATION BY AIMY NGUYEN



p.12 *Arrested at Leard*

p.15 *In defense of the WWE*

“We aren’t worth enough to them” *Georgia Kriz reviews revues.*

This past weekend it rained a lot. This was unfortunate for the cast of Queer Revue, because the Union assigns us the Manning Forecourt to rehearse in on the weekends, and so, when confronted with a veritable downpour on Sunday morning, we were forced to shop around for another space.

But with all other rehearsal spaces occupied by faculty revues and bands, eventually we had no choice but to retreat to a small, dingy room somewhere in the bowels of Manning that was mildly to moderately cluttered with dead fridges and uninspiringly upholstered Ottomans. And as we spent the day doing vigorous, cheerleader-inspired choreography, more than one face was punched enthusiastically and accidentally thanks to space constraints.

On the face of it, our little Sunday morning misadventure doesn’t seem like much to be worried about. But this mini-debacle actually speaks to a far larger, more sinister issue within the Union and within the Revues community – specifically, the

place, prevalence and prominence of cultural, minority and non-faculty revues.

The problems facing non-faculty revues begin at their inception. Entering the crowded revue marketplace is an uphill battle for new revues. After a period of dormancy, in 2011 several women attempted to revive the Wom*n’s Revue. They failed. A number of these women have since described to *Honi* the difficulty of dealing with the Union when trying to set up a new revue: there were no start-up grants available outside of the normal funding allocations, and there were a myriad of convoluted and unnecessarily bureaucratic processes to negotiate with little guidance from the Union itself. It was, they said, clear that the Union had little interest in supporting and backing a fledgling non-faculty revue.

In the last five years, Jew Revue and Queer Revue have been lucky enough to make it through this minefield of USU bureaucracy and become established productions.

However, since non-faculty revues traditionally receive less funding than their faculty-backed counterparts, their road has not been easy. The Union allocates between \$4000 and \$8000 to each revue. According to a spokesperson from the Programs Office, the exact amount allocated depends solely upon which Seymour Centre theatre space a revue can sell out. Both Jew Revue and Queer Revue received \$6000 from the Union this year, and they have performed in the smallest theatre at the Seymour since their inception. Neither revue attracts any corporate sponsorship (despite concerted efforts), which is in stark contrast to, say, the Law Revue, which year after year pulls well-heeled corporate law firms as its major sponsors. Further, faculty revues receive funding from their faculties, too – this year, Arts Revue attracted \$8000 from the Union and \$3000 from the Arts Faculty.

This funding system clearly privileges entrenched and established revues. With no proven history of success and popularity, new revues can only qualify for

lower tiers of funding, and thus can only book the smallest Seymour space. And in order to graduate to the higher tiers of funding, revues have to sell out this theatre completely. But with a limited budget to spend on production, props and advertising, smaller revues are significantly hamstrung. And for Queer Revue and Jew Revue, there is no faculty to fall back on to fill the gaps, no corporate sponsors to court. Our reach isn’t large enough to attract the necessary attention and money; we aren’t worth enough to them. It’s a self-perpetuating cycle.

In this way, the Union’s funding model prioritises ticket sales and corporate exposure over providing opportunities for traditionally marginalised groups to showcase their talents and satirise and subvert the discourses that oppress them. Christopher Hitchens said that women aren’t funny – unfortunately at Sydney University, an autonomous Wom*n’s Revue might never get the chance to prove him wrong. A revue’s worth shouldn’t be measured by its ticket sales.

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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

Since the rebel Senate fellows started calling for a meeting of Convocation, some USyd students have engaged in furious debate over what constitutes a 'good' mode of consultation. Although few trust the university management to note the concerns of students regarding the higher education reforms, there appears to at least be a consensus that more consultation is better than none.

Calls for Convocation – now dead in the water – would have resulted in an enormous meeting of alumni and staff with no determined time length or speaking list. It was an undeniably flawed model, and would have shut out current students while prioritising the voices of the disproportionately privileged USyd alumni. Although some championed Convocation, it led many on all sides of politics to question the efficacy of such a sprawling debate.

Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence dismissed Convocation as anachronistic, and a compromise was met – there is now to be a town hall-style meeting, in which 25 people will be allowed to speak for two minutes each. The meeting will

consist of however many registered students, staff and alumni can squeeze into the Great Hall, and the speaking list will be decided by the Senior Executive Group (a university body consisting of management staff and senior academics) and, in a recent development, the heads of student organisations such as the USU and SRC.

Registration to attend this meeting is currently open, and we encourage all students who are interested in the future of higher education to attend. However, like Convocation, this method of consultation has flaws of its own. Although the inclusion of current students and the role played by student leaders are both wins, the limitations of the meeting are all too manifest. 25 people speaking for two minutes each is sorely inadequate for assessing reforms that will affect not only the 50,000 students currently enrolled at USyd, but also countless students to come.

For those who decry the town hall meeting as just a tokenistic attempt to placate the masses, perhaps you could take solace in the fact that Spence shares your concern. Given the speaking

list is pre-selected and short, one has to doubt its prospects for a genuine debate. Speaking to *Honi* editors last week, Spence had a brilliant moment of self-awareness saying, "The interesting question is whether it looks a bit North Korea." He defended pre-selection as the best way to get a balanced range of views, but conceded it might not convey the "flavour of the views".

A USyd spokesperson emphatically said that the Town Hall meeting is only one part of Spence's consultation plan, already in action. The rest of his plan includes focus groups, a search event (a speed-dating like occasion which will try to "process" hundreds of students' views in one day) and written online submissions. It remains to be seen when the University will implement these plans. It is also unknown why the University hasn't gone to greater lengths to advertise these additional processes – something which may have assisted in combating its image as a non-consultative ivory tower.

However, the efforts of the university to canvass the opinions of students, staff and alumni is a mere distraction from the

larger issue at hand: the Federal Government sets the direction of higher education, and, in reality, the most impenetrable ivory tower of all is the current Abbott cabinet. The Government's introduction of such serious and far-reaching education reform with no attempt at a national debate is both an insult to the electorate and an indication of their sheer cowardice and arrogance.

The surprise mass deregulation announced in the 2014-15 Budget placed Spence in an awkward position – forced to take on the role of the Education Minister in collecting community views on federal education policy. Of course, this is no excuse for Spence to shy away from the debate, but it is an important factor in considering the ability of USyd to properly collect views on the matter. In June, Spence emailed the student body and said he would be in touch over the coming weeks regarding consultation. Other than the debate over the town hall meeting – largely prompted by the "rebel Senate fellows" – this information has not been forthcoming. Considering the impending passage of this legislation through the government – possibilities of Senate failure aside – the consultation process ought to have begun by now. But it also should have been started by Pyne, well before the Budget was released in May.

Proper consultation is not and has never been convenient – it must be prolonged, it must be time-consuming, and it must be hard. Most importantly, it must occur. Christopher Pyne has committed a great abuse of his position by shirking the responsibility to listen to the community on the future of higher education. It is unfortunate that this task now lies in the Vice-Chancellor's hands.

Elementary, my dear Watson

Dear *Honi*,

I was rather displeased with your article on the University erroneously misplacing some of its funds. It was not the content I was displeased with (anything that highlights University fuck ups is ok with me), but rather, I was incredibly disappointed in your graph.

At first glance, it is a rather hilarious depiction of the disaster. However, upon closer scrutiny, the graph is seriously flawed. First of all, choosing the rather unconventional method of adopting a logarithmic scale as opposed to the more widely accepted linear scale, seems to me to be a decision purely made to trick the reader into thinking that the University's disaster was much closer in scale to the Hindenburg and Titanic disasters than it really was. Not to mention the fact that neither of the costs of those disasters had been adjusted for inflation. According to the website "R.M.S. Titanic costs", the Titanic would have cost approximately \$400,000,000, which, just in case you can't do the maths (as your mistaken graph might have me believe) is 800 times more than the University's fuck up.

I'm not saying that \$500,000 is not a monumental mistake. It is. I'm merely saying that I'm not falling for your trickery, *Honi*. And now I hope the rest of the student population isn't either.

Kind regards,

Lucy Watson

Arts (Media and Communication) VI (though I do have a maths major, which so far in life has really only helped me pull apart your articles and sound smarter than I really am)

It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no senator's son

Dear *Honi*,

Both Tim Asimakis ('Opaque Senate', August 5th) and Patrick Massarani ('Letters', August 12th) make a significant mistake in referring to the two student Fellows of Senate as our "representatives".

Statutory duties of Fellows are laid out in Schedule 2A of the University of Sydney Act 1989 (NSW) and the first duty demands that every Fellow acts in good faith in the best interests of the University as a whole. (The fourth duty deals with improper use of information, which is relevant to the suggestion for student Fellows to ignore confidentiality.)

The alternative – some kind of factional model in which each of the University's stakeholder groups elects or appoints one, two, or four representatives of their own – would significantly impair the functioning of the Senate and could easily be worse for students, who could ordinarily only rely on two out of 22 votes (<10%).

I agree with Mr Asimakis that the student body ignores Senate to its detriment. My recommendation, to the student representative bodies in particular, is that we start doing much more to influence all 22 Fellows. Given their accessibility and sympathies, the two student Fellows would be an obvious place to start.

It's great to see *Honi Soit* taking an interest in Senate and wonder if it is time to offer a regular column to the student Fellows, and perhaps the Chancellor herself? The Senate papers are often less interesting and relevant to students than you might hope, but if we really cared to, we students could set our own agenda and advocate much harder on the issues that are most important to us.

Benjamin Veness

MB,BS IV

Former Fellow of Senate (2010-11, 2011-12)

Stop your bloviating

Dear *Honi*,

I, like Mr. Massarani, also remember the 35-minute phone interview that he endearingly thinks "generated" my piece, 'Opaque Senate'. Regrettably, it was conducted the day the piece was due and after it had largely been written.

Unfortunately for Pat, my article that apparently accused him of many things wasn't actually about him, as he would have realized had his ego permitted him to read it. Rather it was an examination of the institution he is but one member of.

I, like the litany of important persons that Mr. Massarani reeled off, do not doubt his engagement or commitment – I was impressed both when I spoke to him on the phone and when he showed off the size of his list of achievements in his letter. But I did and do doubt the level of transparency that exists within Senate.

If Mr. Massarani is to be believed, then amidst my "self-indulgent 'progressivism'" were calls for anarchy. If asking for the timely publication of Senate minutes, the provision of consistent reports to students, and a website that has been proofread is either progressive or anarchical then maybe his claims are true.

I did indeed suggest electing a candidate "who, where necessary, can explain the need for secrecy, or one who may even be willing to provide information... irrespective of its confidential status." But that is evidently not the hardened call to parachute in Julian Assange that Mr. Massarani took it to be. Rather it was an invitation to a conversation about what students might want in their next Senate candidate, irrespective of the glowing performance of the current one.

And that is the tragedy at the heart of Mr. Massarani's letter. In choosing to hide his own insecurities behind

passive aggression and bluster, Mr. Massarani chose not to engage with any of the issues I presented. If he thinks Senate's current approach to transparency is adequate, he could have said why. If he thinks that Senate Fellow candidates should not be subjected to more scrutiny, he could have said why. If he thinks that it is fine that Senate doesn't make minutes available, he could have said why. If he thinks that it is good that students cannot know about the most important decisions affecting them made by the body that governs their university, he could have said why.

Instead he filled your paper with clichés and tired insults.

Regards,

Tim Asimakis

The Village Idiot

Crouching tiger, hidden Spence

Hi *Honi*,

ASK THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO WRITE DOWN WHAT HE SAID TO CHRISTINA WHITE FOR *HONI SOIT*.

I refer mainly to the article by Christina White, entitled 'Desperately seeking Senate', in the week 3, semester 2, 2014 edition of *Honi Soit*. I cannot understand why she attended the Senate Meeting or why she had to sit outside for three hours. She states that the Vice Chancellor (VC) 'explained the University's financial structure to her in a one-on-one lesson'. However, she provides no information about what he said or how it relates to any funds provided by and/or for students.

As a Glebe resident, former lecturer at Sydney Uni. and Alumni member, I mainly look to *Honi Soit* to find out what is going on in student and university management, as the Uni. of Sydney Union (USU) magazine, 'Bullmag', which I would have expected to contain this information, never appears to tell anybody anything about the rationale and process for the expenditure of students' money. Going to the USU website and reading

the strategic plan, etc. left me with more questions than answers.

A Students Representative Council (SRC) Meeting is discussed in the week 3 edition of *Honi Soit* which also left me wondering how the SRC elections are ideally related to the running of the USU. I note from the SRC website that it relates only to undergraduate students and wondered why.

Christina White states that the next Senate Meeting is on September 8th and asks if anybody wants to accompany her. It would seem more informative, however, to ask the VC to write down what he said to Christina White for publication in *Honi Soit*. One wonders why he said something to a person presumably expected to be a student representative if he did not wish it to go further than White. *Honi Soit* editors should ask the VC to write down what he said to her, for publication in *Honi Soit*.

Speaking as one of the most ambitious, socially conscious and politically engaged Australian leaders and revolutionaries referred to by Milly Ellen, assure Yi Jian Ching he is not the only one bothered by all the giant sewing machines looming in the sky over Sydney Uni. Their operations have driven me nuts for decades. I hope *Honi Soit* can at least fix this smaller mystery of what the VC said to Christina White.

Cheers

Carol O'Donnell

Why not both?

Hi *Honi*,

I wrote you a poem which I can't decide whether to call 'Honi Soit' or simply 'The Future'.

Bigotry no more

Tolerance for all

Cis white scum.

Kind Regards,

Angus Palfreeman
Medical Science II

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YOU GET ENOUGH**

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Whistleblowergate

Joanna Connolly looks at the possible legal consequences of the Whitehouse Institute affair.

Earlier this month, the SRC passed a ‘motion of solidarity’ in support of Freya Newman – the UTS student at the center of the Whitehouse scholarship controversy (and now criminal investigation), and even spoke of offering the 20-year-old monetary assistance in the event of a trial. It remains to be seen whether the SRC’s Legal Service would actually contribute to Newman’s defence. But it does beg the question – what exactly would her defence be?

To recap, in June it was revealed that the Prime Minister’s daughter had been awarded a \$60,000 scholarship to Whitehouse Institute of Design – unadvertised by the school, undeclared by the Prime Minister, and (deliciously) in spite of the broad acknowledgment of Frances’ rather limp artistic talent.

Recently, NSW police chose to charge Newman for her involvement in the affair – nabbing her with section 308H of the NSW Crimes Act. This prohibits “unauthorized access to

restricted data held in a computer” (i.e. hacking). Police alleged that while working as a part-time night librarian at the Whitehouse Institute, Newman accessed the files of Frances Abbott and more than 500 other students. The offense carries a maximum of two years in jail.

The most immediate question to ask is: wasn’t Newman doing some sort of whistleblowing? Exposing an allegedly unadvertised, undeclared and unearned scholarship given to the daughter of a Prime Minister by a close family friend seems like it should fit the bill. It’s not exactly money in a brown paper bag, but it certainly stinks.

Whistleblowing itself is not a technical term and does not have a common legal definition. In its simplest form it’s about the disclosure of illegal or illegitimate practices in the public interest. In January of this year, a new whistleblowing bill came into effect in Australia. The *Public Interest Disclosures Act* gives

legal immunity to Commonwealth public sector officials who give confidential information to an internal government ombudsman and also provides some limited immunity for leaks to the media.

It was promised as a comprehensive reform of whistleblowing laws in Australia. Yet the bill only applies to those who work for the government or in companies that contract to the government. Neither it nor any other scheme for that matter provides protection to a whistleblower from within the private sector. Given Whitehouse is a private educational institution it seems unlikely Newman will be covered by any whistleblower provisions operating in Australia at the moment.

Newman could pursue a common law defense. She might argue that her disclosure was in the public interest. Yet the defense is rare and difficult to establish. There isn’t much jurisprudence around whistleblowers in Australia, and with so little guidance from

previous cases, it is hard to predict any outcome. Moreover Newman’s case involves the release of private information, not public, upon which the law looks much less fondly. It gets even more complicated once you factor in the other 500 students whose data Newman also allegedly accessed.

Without more facts it’s hard to say much about the merits of Newman’s case. Yet regardless of specifics, the Whitehouse incident helps to highlight a hole within Australia’s existing whistleblower law. The United Kingdom has a single, comprehensive protection law that applies to both the public and private sector. United States’ legislation and case law goes even further. Yet Australia lags behind and no one seems to mind. For conduct that is so vital to maintaining the integrity of public institutions, and that carries such personal risk for those contemplating it, the protections we currently afford are too narrow and far too unpredictable.

Money for the old boys

Sarah Mourney investigates a raft of dubious scholarship programs on offer at Sydney Uni.

Who receives an expensive \$60,000 scholarship? Tony Abbott’s daughter, at the Whitehouse Institute of Design.

When everyone heard of Frances Abbott receiving her dubiously allocated scholarship, Australians were outraged. It was unfair, and we recognised it as corruption. She didn’t deserve extra privileges because her dad was Prime Minister, nor should her dad receive benefits without declaring them.

However, it is also worth discussing the current state of the University of Sydney’s scholarship program because people seem to have forgotten that privilege, and cash, is often given for arbitrary reasons, in our own backyard.

There is very little data available on the actual distribution of university scholarships. USyd proudly advertises that it offers over 700 scholarship schemes, which collectively provide a whopping \$65 million to lucky students, a figure that does not even include prizes or college and sporting scholarships. This

begs the question – who do these scholarships actually go to?

Some scholarships offered by USyd stipulate bizarrely specific background eligibility requirements. St Paul’s college offers a special Wallace Anderson Scholarship, which covers a portion of your college fees if you went to the Kings School. The King’s School costs about \$30-50,000 per year for students in high school. It seems odd that students who have been able to pay so much to attend a private high school need a special scholarship available only to themselves.

Equally odd are the few scholarships aimed specifically at men which undermine attempts to rectify gender inequality. The Martin McIlrath Scholarship worth \$3,000 is available to *male* undergraduates within the Faculties of Veterinary Science and Agriculture and Environment with “preference” given to people who have served in the armed forces or their children. Apparently “women who are current or ex-members of the Australian armed

forces are also eligible to apply.” Thank you for recognising women exist but making it clear they don’t get “preference”.

Similarly, there is a Freemason’s Scholarship, providing the children or grandchildren of Freemasons with up to \$3,000. Freemasons do not accept female members, so even though their female descendants might be eligible, it further reinforces the ideas of male success. Further, Freemasonry is just as exclusive and outdated as Kings – so you’re still back at square one.

Worrying still is the fact that merit scholarships also perpetuate privilege. People who achieve an ATAR of 99.95 or 99.90 are eligible for \$10,000 a year. Importantly, most people who succeed in the HSC tend to be from already advantaged backgrounds. Many students miss out because they attended a low performing school, meaning that they do not receive the financial assistance needed to access university.

ATAR scaling schemes like the Broadway Scheme at USyd do

not compensate enough for many disadvantaged students and often offer limited financial benefits. Whilst a clear purpose of most scholarships is to attract bright students to the university to increase its prestige, it is morally problematic that the financial reward is going to kids from the elite backgrounds rather than those in need.

Scholarships are important as they provide ancillary avenues for economically disadvantaged people to pursue higher education. In the case of Frances Abbott’s scholarship, there are clear elements of corruption and nepotism. However, a more subtle kind of social injustice is at work at USyd, where scholarships privilege the already privileged. With university fees likely to increase under Abbott’s proposed budget, scholarships will be the difference between going and not going to university for disadvantaged people. Unfortunately, these students were never quite likely to receive scholarships in the first place.

Download and be damned

Andrew Passarello reckons you should get a VPN.

Speaking about the recently announced data retention proposals at the Govhack 2014 awards, Malcolm Turnbull reassured the assembled geeks that it was all a misunderstanding. Attorney-General George Brandis’ now-viral train wreck attempt to explain what data would be collected was simply incorrect.

Browsing your history is not what the government is interested in. What they want is your source IP addresses – the address you have when you go online. But it’s not information particularly useful to Team Australia in the fight against terrorism.

“Your web surfing history is a matter for you, you’ve all got VPNs

anyway – all of you appear to be somewhere in Iowa when you go online, I know that,” Turnbull said, to guffaws from the geek crowd. Data retention schemes of any design are easily defeated through use of a Virtual Private Network (VPN) service, which masks the true source IP address of a user. The targets of a data retention scheme – terrorism and organised crime – are likely to be tech savvy enough to take basic privacy measures. Osama Bin Laden never sent emails from his Pakistani compound – he drafted them offline, sending a minion to an internet café to hit send.

With the terrorists, criminal masterminds, and nerds well clear of any threat posed by data

retention, the target is the broader Australian public. Only days prior to the announcement of the data retention policy, Brandis declared that ISPs were not “innocent bystanders” to internet piracy. The same week, Turnbull said the film industry should sue “mums and dads and students” caught downloading content.

The issue is that it’s hard to connect downloaders with the real end users, whose ISPs who are not eager to assist the industry. When downloading a torrent, each user publicly “announces” to a centralised server what their IP address is so that other users can find them, but this address is useless from a legal perspective.

But, should ISPs be required to store data connecting IP addresses to users, it becomes significantly easier to hunt them down in a courtroom. Providers such as iiNet have long fought against such proposals, suggesting the cost to retain the data would run between \$60 million and \$200 million a year. The measures are not exactly populist, either. But having the data already stored as the by-product of a necessary “national security” policy would make Brandis and Turnbull’s political lives significantly easier.

Internet users hitting up Pirate Bay anytime soon would do well to take Turnbull’s advice and invest in a VPN.

THE MANNING FILES

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

In a move that has surprised absolutely no one ever, the Labor presidential campaign (supporting candidate Amy Knox) is running on the name “Stand Up!” once again these SRC elections. We’d prefer it if everyone in this election just sat down. *The Manning Files* has confirmed that USU Honorary Secretary Eve Radunz will be campaigning for Knox on polling days, whilst USU Board Director Alisha Aitken-Radburn will be on a Stand Up! National Union of Students (NUS) ticket.

The other big SRC campaign is the Broad Coalition (backing presidential candidate Kyol Blakeney) which is headed by USU Board Directors Bebe D’Souza and Ed McMahon, along with support from various prominent Indie hacks including USU President Tara Waniganayaka, Declan Waddell (likely to run for NUS General Secretary later this year) and Board Director Liam Carrigan. A vote confirmed the Grassroots SRC tickets will be running on the imaginative name ‘Grassroots’, while the Indie SRC tickets will be called ‘Switch’.

Everybody’s favourite antagonistic activists, Socialist Alternative, are rumoured to be running on ‘Left Action’.

“BEING A BIG NAME ON CAMPUS IS NOT JUST A TITLE; IT’S A WAY OF LIFE”

Attention all first years: if you’re dreaming of becoming a Big Name on Campus (aka BNoC), Indie Jethro Cohen (with the help of Felix Donovan and Rhys Pogonoski) wants you! Although Cohen has denied “using the wanky expression [BNoC],” we’ve heard Cohen and Donovan are likely to be at the top of separate Switch council tickets, which might explain why they’re

currently recruiting naïve first years with the tantalising idea of becoming a BNoC.

If you’re eager for shameless recruitment tactics but have a strong bent towards a political party, try one of the factions. Literally. Try any one of them.

RUNNING FOR HONI 2014

Last week we reported there were two tickets in the *Honi* race. Current *Honi* reporters Peter Walsh and Dom Ellis have finalised their ticket and will run with Alexandra Downie, Rebecca Wong, Lisa Xia, Sophie Gallagher, Joanna Connolly, Tim Asimakis, Patrick Morrow and Alexi Polden. Board Director Liv Ronan, *Honi* reporter Samantha Jonscher and former Campus Culture Director Penina Su are managing their ticket.

Honi artist and MecoSoc VP Alexandra Mildenhall was originally on the ticket, but after what we can only assume was a tense conversation, she is no longer on board. Mildenhall told *The Manning Files* that after she declined the position of Designer-in-Chief or 11th Editor, a vote to kick her off took place. She described the affair as “a convoluted process”.

BULL editors Eden Caceda and Katie Davern, along with *Hermes* editor Whitney Duan, were originally heading the second *Honi* ticket. However, this ticket is no longer in the race after fellow *BULL* editor Rob North pulled out. Caceda told *The Manning Files* he was approached by Ellis and Ronan and urged not to run this year, with Ellis saying he would be “happy to help” Caceda run next year if he pulled out of this year’s race. However, Caceda said North’s ‘shock exit’ was what caused the ticket to collapse, rather than the conversation with Ellis and Ronan.

Although Caceda’s ticket has now disbanded, *The Manning Files* has confirmed Board Directors Alisha Aitken-Radburn and Kate Bullen, along with SLS member Harry Stratton, were in talks with members of Caceda’s ticket about working with Amy Knox’s Labor presidential campaign. Funnily enough, when we rang Stratton last week to ask if he was involved in organising an *Honi* ticket, he told us he was too busy for student politics as he had lots of study to do, and said he felt we were calling on “a fishing expedition”. It turns out old habits die hard.

Aitken-Radburn told us “the Stand Up! bloc were exploring their options and consulting Eden to see what was on offer”. She also told us Stand Up!’s major option now is to form a new *Honi* ticket, but refused to indulge us with names. *Honi* has heard third-year MECO student Chloe Saintilan is in talks with Aitken-Radburn, and has been sussing out her MECO cohort for potential fellow candidates.

We’re also disappointed to hear another *Honi* ticket headed by college kids is potentially in the works, because college kids are very marginalised and this student newspaper is very mean to them :’(

SPECUL8 4 SEN8

While the SRC shitfight takes place, the other race we’ve got our eyes on is that for the University Senate. Elections for two student Fellows of the Senate take place every two years, giving undergrads and postgrads the chance to choose their representative on the university’s most powerful governing body. The Senate presides over decisions such as the appointment of the University Chancellor, the allocation of the University’s budget, and [REDACTED].

Thus far, *Honi* can confirm that

fourth-year Law student, former Women’s Officer and ex-NLS member Annabel Osborn will be running for the undergrad position, with SULLS President James Higgins managing her campaign. Annabel will be marketing herself as a progressive candidate, but will not align herself with any political party.

Meanwhile, there has been a flurry of activity on social media in the past few weeks that suggests that incumbent Undergraduate Fellow Patrick “nobody knows what year he’s in” Massarani will be making a bid for another two years in the position. Massarani, a member of Labor Right faction Student Unity, refused to confirm this to *The Manning Files* in the interests of transparency, but we’ll bet you pre-selection in the Hunter that our suspicions will be confirmed when nominations close on Wednesday.

Former Liberal Club President Alex Dore is running for the postgraduate Senate position, and will be backed by SULC. It appears a number of moderate Liberals will also back Dore, including Joel Schubert, who indicated his support when asked by *The Manning Files*.

We’ve also heard Tara Moss is running for election in the postgraduate Senate vote. She needs no introduction.

HONI ENDORSES CANDIDATE IN STUDENT ELECTIONS

This *Honi* editorial team will be throwing our weight behind... all round great guy Martin Ditmann, who is running to be an editor of *Farrago*, the UMelb student paper.

All coverage of the 2014 SRC Elections will be researched and written by Astha Rajwanshi, Lane Sainy and Georgia Behrens. Neither Astha, Lane nor Georgia are involved in any SRC campaign, campus faction or political party.



Alisha Aitken-Radburn
examines the online
presence of five-finger
discounters.

ILLUSTRATION BY MONICA RENN

They blog under pseudonyms like 'Lift Witch', 'Kleptolover', and 'lil-lifter'. They subscribe to informal commandments ranging from "thou shalt not be a snitch" to "thou shalt be a bad bitch." And they are all over the world, with contributors from Australia, the US and the UK.

The hidden community of shoplifters, affectionately known as 'lifters', existed in relative anonymity before Tumblr user 'We-Unhallowed' exposed the subculture. Accompanying a hyperlinked list of the blogs exclusively dedicated to shoplifting, We-Unhallowed posted the message, "[I] have stumbled upon a circle of teenage shoplifters on Tumblr. It's hilarious. They post pictures of everything they steal and call them 'hauls'."

Connecting with each other through hashtags like #shoplifting, #klepto, #stickyfingers and #fivefingerdiscount, the predominantly young, female community post everything from shoplifting tips and tricks to general life updates. They discuss how to evade security through blind spots and cutting holes in the lining of their bags. They even share links to what they deem safe, reliable websites to buy hooks and magnets to remove security devices.

One user keeps a running tally of how much they save by shoplifting, bragging: "Total damage since April 2014: \$366.65." Ever since the community was exposed earlier this year, the lifters have received a barrage of criticism. They share examples of 'hate' they've received with each other – messages from Tumblr users outside the lifting community who condemn them for their actions. While much of the hate directed to the lifters is

expressed through profanities, some users attempt to appeal to the morality of the shoplifters by highlighting the impact of their habit on employees and small businesses.

Many of the bloggers have maintained a high level of anonymity from the get go, insisting their blogs are 'role-playing' or investigations for honours papers in areas from criminology to psychology. With the outing of the community and the accompanying media attention, many of the more open lifters have deleted their Tumblrs. A few mentioned fears that they'll get caught not while shoplifting, but from their posts online.

Lil-lifter's greatest fear was the social approbation of being caught. "Imagine the embarrassment if you are identified and everyone at school/work and your neighbours and family finds out, hopefully it will never happen and im just being paranoid [sic]."

Others remain bold despite the risks. Anne*, a university student in Sydney, claims to have stolen \$20,000 worth of goods. She eBays what she has stolen for profit, a practice known as 'boosting'. She told me her room is full of stolen items she plans to sell in the future. "I started lifting and boosting so I could be independent. I am my own boss."

I asked her if she felt guilty.

"Without being too dramatic... the only time I feel anything is when the money from eBay is deposited into my bank account."

Some rationalise their actions as "retail redistribution". Others say they lift because they "deserve nice things".

In 2013 there were 21,733 reported incidents of theft from retail stores in NSW. And those are only the incidents that are reported. The NSW director of the National Retail Association Michael Lonie told *The Sydney Morning Herald* in December 2013 that retail theft costs the industry \$180 million in the six weeks before Christmas alone.

"Over the entire year, the industry loses about \$4 billion as a result of goods stolen by external parties," Mr Lonie said.

But most of the lifting community isn't too concerned with the politics of the act. They revel in cataloguing exactly how much they've saved. Many do, however, seem to subscribe to a set of shared values. Lifter Gloria*, known on Tumblr as 'acquirerofthings', said she had very little guilt when it came to shoplifting.

"I kept a spreadsheet with dates, items and values with a running total at the top. It was kind of a game to see how much I could steal."

Gloria attributed her lack of guilt to her obedience of three basic rules common in the shop-lifting community: one, don't steal from actual people, two, don't steal from small businesses, and three, don't steal from your own workplace. She tried to minimise the impact of her lifting by only targeting larger companies and ensuring she only stole from those who could afford it.

"Now, I'm completely aware that I'm still a selfish, greedy asshole. But it makes it less bad. [Large companies] expect shrinkage to happen and know it's unavoidable so it's factored into the prices already," she said.

Unlike Anne, Gloria has been caught.

"I was super bummed out about it for weeks. But I think that was more because you can only really get caught once. Get caught once, you can play it off as a 'mistake' or 'lapse in judgement'; get caught twice, and they know you're a thief. And I was super annoyed at myself for wasting my free pass on something so stupid."

Gloria escaped her hearing at her local magistrates court with a caution, a fine and a year-long ban from the store in question.

For many lifters, Tumblr simply provides a space in which to gloat over past successes. For others, lifting and online engagement with other lifters constitutes an outlet for other anxieties. Anne said she hasn't told her partner she lifts.

"My boyfriend doesn't know, he doesn't understand my depression or anxiety, so he couldn't even fathom why I would lift. He loves me and everything and he's a sweetie, but sometimes in life people just don't understand mental illness."

Having abandoned her lifting Tumblr for fear of being caught, Anne misses her 'support' network online.

"I really miss Tumblr. I miss having all those messages in my inbox asking my opinion, saying how cool my hauls were and it was just nice to feel like I belong," she said. "It was great while it lasted, and I liked being needed."

* Names have been changed

Show me the money *Alex Downie wants to take an axe to tax... evaders.*

Contrary to expectations, the Irish-Bermudan Double-Dutch sandwich is not a gluten-loaded delight, nor an biracial sex act. It is a tax avoidance strategy employed by transnational companies including Apple, Google, Starbucks and Microsoft.

It works like this: your payment for the iPad you bought last week, or that Caramel Ribbon Crunch Frappuccino we're all judging you for drinking, is directed to an Irish 'paper company', which 'sells' the product to Australian retailers. Royalties are then funneled through Holland and tax-free Bermuda. These companies have, legally, dodged most of their Australian tax obligations.

This is only one of many schemes employed by transnational companies to avoid tax, and the sheer magnitude of tax avoided is astounding. *The Economist* recently estimated large companies and wealthy individuals have stashed around \$20 trillion in tax havens – a figure which is 66 times the

estimated \$300 billion cost of permanently ending world hunger.

In Australia, corporate taxes are meant to take 30 per cent of a company's profits. Companies have circumvented this by carefully classifying their revenues as anything but profit. For instance, Apple has paid the Australian Tax Office only \$193 million on the \$27 billion worth of Apple products bought by Australians since 2002. Apple's substantial tax savings can probably help explain its generous executive compensation – Apple CEO Tim Cook made \$74 million in 2013 – as well as its accumulation of an enormous \$158.8 billion cash stockpile.

This tax shirking has provoked the ire of a wide range of politicians, competitors, and lobby groups. Australian competitors complain about the unfairness of paying more tax than Australian offices of multinational companies. As *The Sydney Morning Herald* has pointedly noted, Google and Fairfax

both earned roughly \$2 billion last year. While Fairfax, which had suffered a \$275 million pre-tax loss, paid \$38 million in tax, Google's total tax expense was less than half a million.

Politicians have also jumped on the bandwagon, with senior politicians from both sides of the aisle complaining that businesses should "pay their fair share" of tax. This is because regardless of the truth to Hockey's warnings of a 'budget emergency', there are huge tax revenues at stake. It would cost only \$42 million to restore the recently axed Aboriginal Legal Service, a program which helped Aboriginal people transition back into society after release from jail, and it would cost \$87 million to reverse all of the Abbott government's cuts to the arts.

One striking element of the tax avoidance described is that many of its perpetrators are otherwise lauded as good corporate actors. Starbucks, which last year paid corporation tax in the UK for the first time in

five years, is noted for offering its workers generous health insurance, holiday time and retirement packages, and just announced a plan to offer free college tuition to both full and part-time workers. Google is committed to diversifying the notoriously male-dominated tech industry, and its initiatives include an offer for three free months of coding for any women and minorities interested in tech.

Perhaps, then, the solution to tax avoidance is to draw attention to those companies not paying their share. Starbucks made the decision not to claim certain tax deductions last year after pressure from politicians, campaigners and customers.

Google's unofficial corporate logo is 'don't be evil'. Perhaps public 'tax shaming' is all that is needed to ensure it – and other companies not paying their share – fulfills that promise.

More like Archi-bored

The 2014 Archibald prize for portraiture is well underway at the Art Gallery NSW, and once again we are left to ponder the reasons we continue to ridicule the exhibition yet flock to see it anyway. The Archibald prize continues to exercise an irresistible pull on your average non-gallery-going-attendee, and temporarily transforms even the most artistically ignorant to definers of cultural sensibilities and taste. The process is as much a sham as the actual award itself.

The Archibald began in 1921, following the passing of John Feltham Archibald. The majority of his estate went to the prize awarded to the best portrait, "preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics." Two main rules apply. The artist must be a resident in Australia during the twelve months preceding the date of entry. The portrait must also be painted from life, and the subject must sit for the artist at least once. Currently, the prize money stands at \$75,000 for the winner – not a bad paycheck at all, considering it only costs \$50 to put in an entry.

In light of these conditions, the accessibility of the Archibald cannot be denied. Indeed, the prize shamelessly prides itself on providing career-defining exposure for amateur artists. I, too, could enter a self-portrait of an ibis defecating on my head. However, a more sensible entry would be a portrait of my law-abiding,

inspiration-inducing, cancer-surviving immigrant godfather for the 2015 Archibald. But I won't, despite fulfilling every crowd-pleasing cliché of a (fictional) sentimental sob story, my chances of winning the Archibald are pretty much nil. Here's why.

There is a formula for winning the Archibald. And it is a formula that amateur artists cannot replicate without substantial difficulties.

The main criterion of the subject matter being a 'distinguished' man or woman is now synonymous with notable celebrities in modern day curating practices at the Gallery. Attending the Archibald this year, my companion was more excited by her ability to identify celebrity individuals than closely viewing the portraits themselves ("Wow, is that Cate Blanchett? She looks so ill lol.") Without the recognisable mugs of Adam Goodes, Torah Bright and Anna Meares, it is inevitable that the Gallery would see slumping attendance rates and shrinking profitability. It therefore becomes a necessity for artists to discover and persuade a 'distinguished' celebrity such as Hugo Weaving and Naomi Watts to pose, if they want to become a finalist with a good shot at winning the Archibald – not a small feat for an amateur artist.

Painting a celebrity adored by the wider population would also ensure a high probability of taking out the People's Choice category, although the paltry \$3500 prize money calls

into question the worth of this pursuit. Nonetheless, this category is essentially a popularity contest. Forget it if the entry entails political elements or experimental technique that goes beyond photorealism, it will not win over Asher Keddie's (of Offspring fame) gentle smile and Vincent Fantauzzo's portrait of his toddler son, complete with a superhero costume and puppy eyes.

A further obstacle exists in the judging method, as the Art Gallery NSW's trustees are appointed as judges. A quick glance at the list reveals that most trustees hail from corporate backgrounds without a distinguished record in fine art. This is offset by the inclusion of three artists out of eleven trustees on the board. Even then, the value of the artists' input in discerning artistic merit is questionable. Rumors of intense lobbying efforts and pre-existing friendships between the certain trustees and artists surfaced when Del Kathryn Barton won her second Archibald for her portrait of Hugo Weaving. Given the tight-knit nature of the Australian art community, it would be naïve to assume that such relationships did not exist, or that these associations had little impact on deciding the winning entry. Throw in a major corporate sponsor in the form of ANZ, and it is easy to see why the winning entries have lacked artistic innovation and controversial substance in the last few years.

Apply the formula and it becomes easier to pick out a winner of the

The iconic art competition is too predictable, writes Helen Xue.

Archibald prize than the winner of an Australia vs Chile World Cup match. This is precisely why media outlets such as *The Sydney Morning Herald* and the ABC called this year's winner as soon as the finalists were announced. Fiona Lowry's portrait of Penelope Seidler, the wife of renowned late architect Harry Seidler and an ongoing patron of the arts, is the perfect subject that the trustees love to endorse and honour. Lowry's portrait won not because of the execution of her airbrush technique or composition. Rather, her victory resulted from her genius choice of subject, a choice as every bit conservative, safe and perhaps a touch drab as the monochromatic palette of the painting itself.

Presently, the Archibald prize is a boring and predictable exercise wholly lacking in artistic merit and imagination. It operates solely as a successful cash cow for the Art Gallery of NSW, guaranteed to bring back audiences year after year due to its devotion to celebrity culture. Long gone are the days where Brett Whiteley won in 1978 for his self-portrait depicting his personal fight with drug addiction. Nonetheless, we continue to be sucked in by the allure of the Archibald prize, inescapably transfixed by its mediocrity and predictability. Our annual attendance is secured, for there exists no other exhibition that provides a visual smorgasbord of random individuals and celebrities alike.

Amateur hour

A strong amateur scene is vital for the nation's rugby future, writes Jonathon Parker.

After the NSW Waratahs' sublime Super Rugby victory two weeks ago, the eyes of the Australian rugby community turned to the Shute Shield, the premier rugby union competition in Sydney. Formed in 1863, Sydney University is both Sydney's oldest and most reviled club, having won eight of the last ten premierships. In recent times, supporters of other Sydney clubs have been seen wearing shirts and other sartorial adornments printed with wishes for 'Anyone but Uni' to win the competition.

Such animosity is not unfounded. For the majority of this century, the Waratahs squad has featured more players from Sydney Uni than from any other club. Building professional experience in an international competition, players from the five Super Rugby clubs in Australian can come back to play the closing games of the Shute Shield for their respective clubs. Consequently every year, Sydney Uni, despite not dominating during the regular season, obtains many of its professional players and decimates clubs featuring mostly amateur players in the finals.

Last year, the Shute Shield Grand Final was played between Eastwood and, of course, Sydney Uni. Bernard Foley, who kicked the premiership-winning penalty goal for the Waratahs, played in the final, despite having played very few games for his club earlier in the year. Along with Wallabies Nick Phipps and Dave Dennis, who both joined the team at the start of the finals, Sydney Uni defeated Eastwood 51-6.

For teams with few contracted professional players, it is an inordinately uphill battle to face teams veritably brimming with top-tier footballers. It is also inequitable for the amateur players who are replaced by professional players, denying them the big game experience they have been striving and training for all year. All the while, the hegemony of Sydney Uni continues to grow, threatening to force weaker teams like Gordon and Penrith out of the competition.

It is convention that players returning from Super Rugby have to have played two regular season games if they wish to play in the finals of the Shute Shield. However, this rule was contravened in 2012, setting a

dangerous precedent. The Sydney Rugby Union Board allowed centre Rob Horne to play for his club Southern Districts in the 2012 finals, despite not having played the minimum two regular season games. Perhaps because of this sudden injection of talent and experience, Southern Districts progressed to the Grand Final that year, losing to Sydney Uni by one point.

The Australian Rugby Union Board needs to avoid the situation that currently exists in France. Cashed-up clubs like Toulon can offer monumental monetary contracts to the world's best players, including Jonny Wilkinson and Bryan Habana, which have stymied young French players from gaining valuable experience. As a result, many players in the current French national team are relatively inexperienced; perhaps this explains their capitulation to the Wallabies in June.

In Australian rugby, a rift between amateurism and professionalism is apparent. Professional rugby is still relatively young in Australia, with the Super Rugby competition beginning in 1996. In the past, it was not an anomaly to see the likes of the Ella brothers lining up for Randwick despite higher state and national honours. For so long, however, there has been no consistent nationwide competition for Super Rugby players without Wallaby commitments to enter after the conclusion of the Super Rugby season.

In March this year, ARU boss Bill Pulver announced the details of a new domestic competition entitled the National Rugby Championship. He stressed that the competition will represent a "development pathway" for future Wallabies, morphing the Shute Shield into a predominantly amateur competition. Ideally, the NRC will help prevent the ubiquity of professional players in club rugby.

The Shute Shield Grand Final played this weekend featured Eastwood and Southern Districts; the first final since 2004 not to feature Sydney Uni. Even with Waratahs Paddy Ryan and Tolu Latu on the bench, Sydney Uni lost their semi-final to Southern Districts last weekend. Finally, perhaps, they are receiving some comeuppance.

iBelonging

MacBooks aren't just for wankers, they're for people in spiritual need, writes Anonymous.

I worked at an Apple store for a few years while completing my undergraduate degree. When the topic was raised in conversation, I was inevitably asked whether I found it as cult-like as Apple's critics claimed it to be. It's undeniable that the retail side shares similarities with worship groups I was exposed to in high school. I was told to carry a text with Apple's core doctrines around my neck; I was encouraged to use terms like 'as it happens', while avoiding 'problem' words like 'unfortunately' when telling someone their phone was fucked; I was regularly asked to clap in the morning before I started a shift.

The idea that Apple is a cult plays into narratives about post-WWII, "post-religion" societies. In short, once religious doctrines and beliefs lost their authority in liberal countries, we began to cast around for new sources of meaning, new movements to invest ourselves in. Branding and technology may have partially filled that void.

Apple is the prime example of this phenomenon. The strength of the Apple consumer comes from the notion of making the interface between technology and user as seamless as possible, creating, in effect, 'heightened beings'. This philosophy is present throughout Apple's design. They make trackpads and magic mice designed to respond to various finger swipes. They've created Siri, a digital sidekick and concierge reliant entirely on one's voice. Store managers go to strange lengths to create interactions between people and machines. Screens on laptops in stores are placed at a 70-degree angle; it's an ugly viewing angle and encourages customers to correct it – creating a physical bond.

There are, however, more overtly religious doctrines that are evident in the company's ethos. The first is the celebration of the similarities between users, the notion of a community based on the shared use of Apple's devices. Support forums, the Apple Genius Bar and the workshops that are conducted in store all act to bring the community of users together, in a similar fashion to churches or other

religious institutions. Once, when conducting a workshop, I was taken aside by a manager. Don't single out customers, she said. "Always refer to them as a group," she told me. "They'll feel like they're part of something bigger." Religious communities rely on an inclusion-exclusion dynamic, with dress often distinguishing the tiers. Despite seemingly going against the inclusive ethos of Apple, the distinct separation of employees from customers with the prominent blue shirts and sleek name tags is intentional. It iterates the various roles within the 'Apple Church' in a show of leadership and insider or expert knowledge. Some employees were fortunate enough to have the word 'Genius' around their necks, a mark elevating them in the hierarchy.

While Apple's critics call it a cult, it is first and foremost just another company that manufactures first world gadgetry by exploiting third world labour. And yet the similarities in structure and branding between Apple and religious organisations are undeniable. It's unlikely the company intended to replace religious faith, but it may have functionally adopted the mantle in the pursuit of a superior consumerist model.

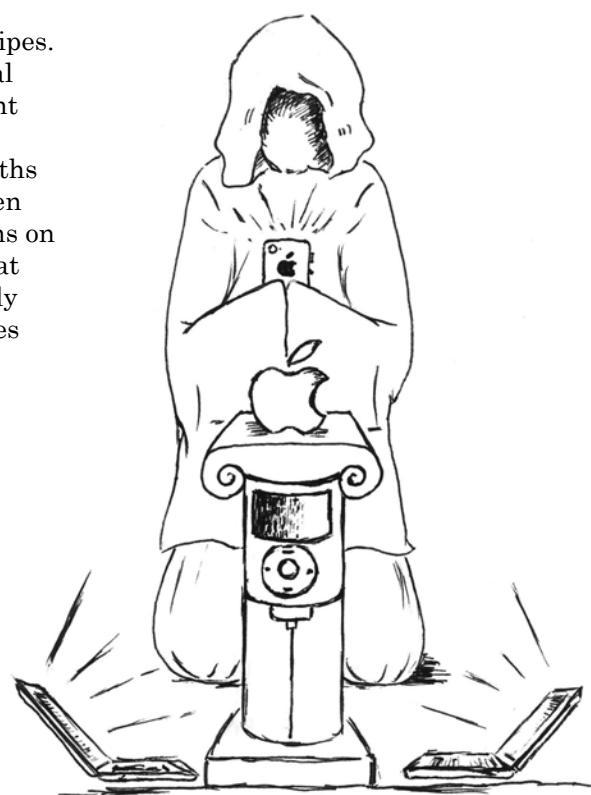


ILLUSTRATION BY WANYI XIN (CABBAGE)

Juice: the thinking man's balaclava

Sam Herzog still doesn't understand what an electron is.

What's that, young child, you want Grandpa to tell you the story about the Dunning-Kruger effect, eh? Well, if you insist, but only if you go steal me some of those little blue pills I was telling you about. Mmm, that's it. That's the stuff.

First described by psychology researchers David Dunning and Justin Kruger of Cornell University, New York, the Dunning-Kruger effect describes the tendency of individuals who are incompetent in a particular domain to overestimate their own level of skill in that domain. This is due to a lack of metacognitive ability in those who are unskilled in evaluating their own performance. Put simply, by Dunning himself: "If you're incompetent, you can't know you're incompetent ... the skills you need to

produce a right answer are exactly the skills you need to recognise what a right answer is." For some of you, the Dunning-Kruger effect also explains why you did better than you thought you would on that final exam, because conversely those with true ability tend to underestimate their relative competence.

Perhaps even more interesting than the findings of the research is the curious incident which inspired the endeavour. In 1995, an American named McArthur Wheeler robbed two Pittsburgh banks after covering his face in lemon juice. Wheeler came to the egregious conclusion that like invisible ink, lemon juice would render his face invisible to bank security cameras.

The security tapes were broadcasted on the evening news, and Wheeler was identified and arrested by police nearly immediately. "But I wore the juice!" he objected while police showed him surveillance footage of the robbery. Wheeler explained to one of the detectives handling the case that he had tested his theory, taking a picture of himself with a Polaroid camera. When his face failed to appear in the subsequent photograph, this somehow vindicated his hypothesis. Detectives later speculated that this may have been caused by a number of reasons, one of them being lemon juice in Wheeler's eyes, and, unsurprisingly, none of them being that lemon juice is in fact conducive towards invisibility.

But don't fret, whilst Wheeler's level of incompetence may be beyond salvage, for most of us who still don't get how $i^2 = -1$, or why the s and p atomic orbitals hybridise to form four sp^3 orbitals, there is hope. Dunning and Kruger also found that if individuals are exposed to training in the particular area in which they are deficient, they would enhance their metacognitive ability to recognise and concede to their shortcomings, as well as the obvious benefits of improving in that skill.

So next time you walk out of a test thinking you probably failed, remember that you may be underestimating your true level of skill. And if you walk out feeling completely confident, bear in mind that you might just suck so bad you don't even know it.

TOP FIVE AWKWARD MOMENTS WHEN REAL LIFE AND SOCIAL MEDIA COLLIDE

Lucy Watson shares the cringes of of our brave new world.

I was going to make this something of an advice column, but, upon realising that this stuff keeps happening to me, I figured I'm probably not best placed to give advice. So, instead, I'll regale you with my tales of awkward times when real life smacks into social media, leaving everyone feeling winded.

5. I complimented your shirt, that doesn't mean you should add me.

I was at a party, a weekly fixture in Newtown's gay scene, and a woman was wearing a fabulous shirt, so I told her so, because I'm nice and because compliments are really great. Later that night, she found out who I was from pictures tagged at the previous week's party on Facebook, and requested my friendship and drunkenly messaged me. I understand we all do creepy things when tipsy, but the following day she messaged again with a message even creepier than the first.

I can never return to that party, lest she be there, waiting to enquire about the status of our friendship.

4. The reason I didn't know you were engaged is because I deleted you.

I recently went on a large Facebook cull, deleting all the people I haven't seen since high school (I'm old, it's been a while). A few months later, I was back in my hometown for Christmas. Christmas Eve is the big reunion night on the town, and so I went out with a bunch of old friends, who ran into a bunch of their old friends, and suddenly, at my table, I was surrounded by people who I hadn't seen since high school. I was genuinely pleased to hear a girl in my class had gotten engaged to her high school sweetheart. "Congratulations!" I gushed. "Thanks," she replied. "But you would've known about it already, it's been all over Facebook, except, I think you deleted me didn't you?"

Fuck.

3. Some "Friend".

I was out, at a party (sheesh, I party hard, right), participating in a spot of karaoke. My stellar vocals attracted an acquaintance, and we bonded for the rest of

the evening, even doing a duet. At the end of the night, we bid adieu, and he proclaimed while smacking a kiss on my lips, "Darling! Add me on Facebook!" to which I responded, because I clearly love thrusting myself into awkward situations, "We're already Friends!" His response? "Oh! Wait, what's your name?!" That was great for my self-esteem.

2. "Have you two met?"

I recently joined Tinder, by and large as a way to seek out my friends' dating profiles, match them, and then write them dirty messages. The first person to show up when I opened the app was a person I knew vaguely from uni, but wasn't particularly close to. Based on Tinder's optimisation algorithms (or whatever), I guessed she'd already matched me. To the left, or the right? The dilemma plagued me all of 30 seconds, until I swiped right (that's yes, you luddites).

A few weeks later, she walked past with a good friend of mine, and the three of us stopped to chat like good, normal, human beings. Our mutual friend asked

if we knew each other, to which I replied "sort of" while she simultaneously replied "no". Apparently, you're supposed to pretend like Tinder matches don't exist in real life.

1. Not all awkward real life/social media collisions are bad.

A few years ago, when my girlfriend and I first met, she mentioned in passing, and probably accidentally, that she had a Tumblr. So, that night, as anyone with a crush would do, I went home to find it. To my humbled surprise, her latest few posts were clearly about me, documenting our last few dates and how cute I'd been on them. I also stalked back a bit, discovered she was into Miranda July, and bought her the best Christmas present ever. When I gave it to her about two months later, I pretended I just guessed she might like her. I only told her about my stalking capabilities after a year or so. She was a bit weirded out, but seeing as we're still together two years later, it mustn't have been too creepy.

Better dead than TED

William Xi examines the TED industrial complex.

Pop academia is nothing new, but it has found itself a particularly presentable and versatile format with TED Talks, which positions itself as a forum for both highbrow, traditional academia as well as left-field story telling. With savvy marketing, a list of speakers including Bill Clinton and Bill Gates, and broad shareable appeal, TED is unquestionably a cultural phenomenon. Its videos have more than a billion views worldwide. And despite criticism for its faux-intellectual jargon, sycophantic crowds, and stating the bloody obvious, the inner workings of the organisation seem to have mostly escaped attention.

Much of this is to do with access, or the lack thereof. Their conferences are on a strictly invite-only basis, audience participation requires an \$8,000 annual membership, and their talks are predominantly delivered by white men from Silicon Valley (women make up only 27 per cent of the talks posted online). The institution and the culture it fosters borders on the cult-like, where videos on their website can be rated as 'magical', 'inspirational', and 'jaw-dropping',

and standing ovations seem almost compulsory. Mannerisms and cadences in speech dress every sentence as profoundly life-changing. Such cult-like behaviour becomes more problematic when the relationship between its speakers and the organisation seems to be exploitative and controlling. TED 'fellow' and chef Eddie Huang described his own conference experience as a "fucking Scientology summer camp", where all speakers are required to network with other speakers and possible investors, attend TED talks and its after events for 12 to 15 hours a day on a strict schedule.

All fellows are also required stay in motels and hotels around the conference with another speaker as a roommate. After not being allowed by the organisation to stay with his girlfriend for one night on his birthday, and travelling up to Long Beach for a few hours, Huang was stripped of his fellowship. More importantly, no speakers are paid, and Eddie Huang's talk was never published on official TED channels. When one of the biggest incentives for being a fellow is having online exposure under the

TED brand, it's a clear issue when there is no guarantee for what is essentially a volunteer having his own talk published.

While they might run with the motto of "ideas worth spreading", TED still reserves the final say on whether your idea deserves to be spread or not.

Others have also been barred from speaking again, with Cambridge biologist Dr Rupert Sheldrake lecture on the "orthodoxy" of sciences and Graham Hancock's talk on psychedelic drugs were banished to what Hancock termed as a "naughty corner" on the TED website. Comedian Sarah Silverman was more famously barred after a bizarre talk that mocked the speaking style common to TED. It is fair to criticise and challenge Sheldrake or Hancock's talks on the basis of scientific validity, but when compared to talks like Felisa Wolfe-Simon's (which claimed bacteria could incorporate Arsenic into their DNA, despite the paper her talk was based off failing under peer-review) there seems to be some sort of agenda at work here.

The censorship of Sarah Silverman's talk (described by curator Chris Anderson as "god-awful") taps into a deeper problem that TED has with its insularity and infallibility. It's not just problems with access either; there are no Q&A sessions after talks, there are recommended guidelines for participants regarding applause, and comments on their website are heavily moderated.

When considering that TED's parent company positions itself as non-profit when annual memberships cost in their thousands and speakers are paid nothing, the organisation's lack of transparency becomes more pressing. There is no doubt that TED is hugely influential, and that many of its speakers are indeed inspirational and that some of its stories are indeed jaw-dropping, but the elevation of poorly researched talks combined with a very apparent agenda does not mix well. Bringing together some of the best minds in the world shouldn't have to constitute a self-promoting and self-labelled elite.

ALT + GAMING

Leigh Nicholson chats to Jason Rohrer about the indie gaming revolution.



There's a real dichotomy in a prolific and successful game programmer living in a small house in a meadow with no car or fridge. The way Jason Rohrer and his family chooses to live ties into a wider, almost utilitarian philosophy, but it also impacts and shapes the way his games are made: low-resolution, an almost non-existent budget, and focused on meaning something rather than only aesthetics.

"I use old computers to keep myself honest as a programmer and to ensure that my games run fine on almost every computer around the world instead of requiring people to buy new, expensive computers." Rohrer has been well-known around his home town of Potsdam since 2005, when the village filed a lawsuit ordering him to mow his lawn. Rohrer won, his argument being that mowing a lawn was an act of vandalism and it would stop him from being free to express himself. Everything he does is influenced by his logic that everything must serve a useful and productive purpose. An essay he wrote called 'Free Distribution' argues against charging money for software already made because it lowers productivity in the programmer. His argument was simple. "How can you charge someone money for something that they can get for free and then call the sale an ethical business practice?"

Passage, probably one of Rohrer's most popular games, is the perfect example of this philosophy. The game is set up as a rectangle of pixelated colours on the screen, with one blob of pixels somewhat resembling a person. As you move the character around, the rectangle stretches out for more area to explore, sort of like a timeline. You collect points, and you can even find a partner, get "married", and then they follow

"Rohrer has been well-known around his home town of Potsdam since 2005, when the village filed a lawsuit ordering him to mow his lawn."

you around. Then you slowly realise your pixelated self is aging into a grey blob, your partner dies, and then you die too – all very arbitrarily and probably within less than ten minutes. *Passage* has since garnered a huge amount of attention, being described as a "video game which will make you cry". In an interview with *Esquire*, Rohrer declared that "games don't have to be bloated and huge and violent ... they can be small and quiet and deep".

Rohrer's work has been praised alongside the recent uprising of indie video games. Developers from blockbuster game companies have begun moving away to form their own smaller companies or just work solo, which Rohrer says is because you don't get any interesting projects in big game companies, and there is less job security. Now that anyone with a computer can make a game, there is an overwhelming rise in low-res,

low budget games, but ones that tend to be very philosophical and meaningful. *Mainichi* is a game that follows a trans character and their interactions with people on a daily basis, which aims to promote understanding through personal experience but is less than one megabyte in size. On the higher end of the scale, there's *Gone Home* and *The Stanley Parable*, which actually don't offer wide areas to explore, but compensate with a quality script and narration. The prevalence of "game jams", competitions where developers try to create games in a short time frame, has inundated the web with free, somewhat simplistic, but fun games. *Passage* was actually made in a similar event: Kokoromi's Gamma 256.

Jason Rohrer has the upmost respect for these kinds of games, believing them to have more expressive power due to being more abstract and less specific. For

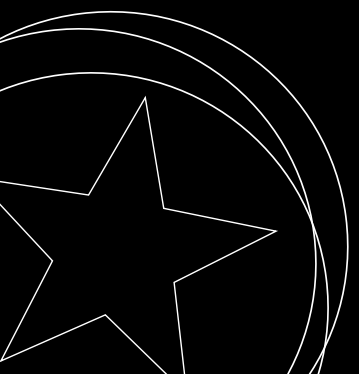
example, the pixelated character in *Passage* allows anyone to impress upon it an image of themselves. "In big-budget games, much of our attention as players is spent studying the optical illusion itself and the flaws in that illusion are distracting. In a low-res game, there is no illusion to be broken." The argument that these smaller indie games justify the conception of video games as art more than the larger, triple-A studio games is frequently made. However, as Rohrer points out, the classification of art in games is often misunderstood. It is not enough to discuss it in terms of visual aesthetics, because that alienates script and narrative. Neither is it enough to discuss in terms of triggering emotions, because of the example that a "tear-jerker of a movie, that uses well established and cheap tactics to make the audience sad, isn't necessarily art". For Rohrer, it is more about trying to elicit an emotional response in an unusual way.

For example, his latest game *The Castle Doctrine* is supposed to confront and trap you later on because of your greed earlier in the game. "I've been thinking about my games as manifolds of interwoven aesthetic experiences, aesthetic cocktails with finely-tuned recipes," he said. The revolution Jason Rohrer and his peers are leading is fundamentally changing the face of video gaming. The effects of this revolution are already evident – big industry players like Sony and Microsoft are falling over themselves to claim indie game "exclusives" for their immensely popular PS4 and Xbox One consoles. But only time will tell us what kind of lasting impact the indie revolution can have on the blockbuster video games that still dominate the market.

"How can you charge someone money for something that they can get for free and then call the sale an ethical business practice?"

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

Notice of 2014 Students' Representative Council Annual Election



Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2014 close at 4:30pm Wednesday 20th August 2014. Polling will be held on the 24th and 25th of September 2014. Pre-polling will also take place outside the SRC Offices (Level 1, Wentworth Building) on Tuesday 23rd of September 2014 from 10am - 3pm. All students who are duly enrolled for attendance at lectures are eligible to vote. Members of the student body who have paid their nomination fee to Council are eligible to nominate and be nominated, except National Union of Students national office bearers. Fulltime officebearers of the SRC may also nominate as NUS delegates.

Nominations are called for the following elections/positions and open 30th July 2014 at 4:30pm:

- The election of the Representatives to the 87th SRC (33 positions)
- The election of the President of the 87th SRC
- The election of the Editor(s) of Honi Soit for the 87th SRC
- The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 87th SRC (7 positions)

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: www.src.usyd.edu.au, or picked up from SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth Building) from 4:30pm July 30th 2014.

Nominations **must also** be lodged online along with your policy statement and Curriculum Vitae (optional), by close of nominations at: www.src.usyd.edu.au. For more information, call 9660 5222.

Signed nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination **must** be received no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday 20th August, either in the locked box at the SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth Building), or at the following postal address: PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

Nominations which have not been delivered (printed, signed, hardcopy) either to the Electoral Officer at the SRC front office or to the post office box shown above **and** submitted online by the close of nominations **will not be accepted** regardless of when they were posted or received.

The Regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available online at www.src.usyd.edu.au or from the SRC Front Office, (Level 1, Wentworth Building).

Authorised by P. Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2014.
Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney
Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au



HONI SOIT OPINION COMPETITION
THEME: DEATH

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Locked up

Andy Mason writes about his time in a rural prison. PHOTOS BY SAM J QUEEN

I'm handcuffed and put into the back of the paddy wagon. It's filthy and there is a large dried bloodstain on the floor. The handcuffs are tight, but I remember a friend's story about them being so tight they cut into his wrists and I realise it's not so bad.

There is no seatbelt and the drive into town, along gravel roads, is extremely bumpy. I'm very thirsty, but am told I can't have water until we get there. The air conditioning is on and it makes the paddy even colder than the chilly winter day. Its real purpose is to drown out sound – I can't hear the cops talking in the front, and they can't hear me.

Maules Creek, in northwestern NSW, is the site of a controversial mine project. If the construction is completed, an irreplaceable biodiversity hotspot and threatened species refuge, the Leard State Forest, will be lost. Local farmers will lose their livelihoods, the local community will be exposed to dangerous dust and water pollution and the local Indigenous people, the Gomeroi, will lose the heritage and culture embodied in the area's sacred sites.

I was arrested there earlier this year for my involvement with the blockade that's been fighting the mine for two years. This is the

story of my arrest and experience of the prison system.

* * *

We arrive at the station and I'm processed. I know the drill, having done this before, and this gives my manner a curt formality that elicits a good deal of hostility from the cops. It's an hour before I'm given my property docket, another two before the charge sheet.

I'm asked what I do when not protesting coal mines and I say I'm studying science in Sydney. They ask what I want to do afterwards and I say I'm in the process of working it out. This is ridiculous, apparently – do I plan to spend my whole life at school? I should get a real job – the cop's kids would get an earful, or worse, if they were fucking around like me.

I'm told the campaign is going to fail and the mine will be built. I smile and shake my head. I'm told I won't be able to work for the government anymore and may have difficulty in other jobs, and it will be hard for me to travel overseas, now that I have a criminal record. I smile and nod.

Then it's back in the paddy and an hour to Moree. When I get there I'm asked a whole bunch of questions. Mostly they're interested in whether I'm going to hurt myself while I'm there. I say

no. Good, they say, lots of blokes try it because they think it'll get them special treatment, and I should get that idea out of my head right now, because it means that everything but my underwear will be taken and I'll be watched all the time.

Do I have any fears about being in jail? Yes – I'm a small, bookish, queer greenie from the city in a rural prison – wouldn't you be scared? Yep, if the warden were in my position, he'd be terrified. I'm told I can either go to a cell up the front in the communal bit, where I will "get smashed", or I can opt for a cell on my own. The second one, please. Then I am strip-searched, becoming instantly as well acquainted with the warden as I've been with any lover. As I'm taken to my cell, I see a man. He is very thin and asks "who's that?". He repeats the question over and over again. "Nobody you know, Reuben. Nobody you know," the cop replies.

It's impossible for me to talk to Reuben once inside my cell, but I hear his repetitive yells. His behaviour reminds me of a cousin with a developmental disorder. I assume something similar affects him and wonder why he is here, and not in care somewhere.

* * *

My experience in prison catalysed much reflection about the society

I live in. Firstly there are my thoughts about institutional privilege; something, which I learned, follows me as a white middle-class person even into such a dim corner of life as jail. The air-con was on in my paddy, while Indigenous people often die in rural Australia in the backs of police cars, denied air-con in a metal box in the summer heat.

If I was hurt or died in prison, it would probably make the news and an inquiry would lead to somebody losing their job. Meanwhile, the search for justice over the death of TJ Hickey at police hands remains fruitless after ten years. Imprisonment creates a condition in which even the smallest displays of kindness have stuck in my memory, and though the experience was far from pleasant, my skin crawls to think of what it would have been like had these special privileges not been afforded to me.

Then there is the fact that my arrest was a matter of choice, a consequence of something that I undertook willingly for political reasons. While I stand by my motivation and my actions, there is clearly something that differentiates what I did from Reuben's "crimes". We never spoke about it, but in his eyes and in his screams I understood everything I need to. This man has no social support network, no job, maybe

not even the dole. He has difficulty communicating with other people, especially if they intimidate him – he missed out on breakfast because he could not answer the warden's question of whether or not he would like it.

Reuben needs care, support and understanding – not to be talked harshly down to like a child by people wearing police uniform.

* * *

There's a camera in a corner of the room, and, again I notice bloodstains on the floor. I organise the bed properly – there's a raised concrete platform with a foam mattress on it, and three blankets. I use one as a pillow and get comfortable under the other two. It's cold, but I've slept in worse, and start to daydream about speaking in front of the judge tomorrow. I will demand that he side with me, with the community and forest about to be destroyed by this senseless mine, to take the side of humanity rather than the side of capital. I have done harm to nothing but a profit margin and punishing me is unjustifiable – Big Coal are the real villains, your honour. Even I don't buy this and soon I am asleep.

Breakfast is two slices of toast with packets of butter and jam; some rice bubbles and a packet of milk; also coffee. I gulp it all down before being put in handcuffs and led to the shower. Showering in handcuffs is a challenge, but warm water feels fantastic. I don't want to be indulgent and I come out after five minutes or so. The warden seems surprised that I was so quick – I realise afterwards that the showers are usually a little long, as they're the only alone time inmates have away from the CCTV.

When I come out, Reuben is there, and I say "G'day Reuben, I'm Andy."

"Hello Andy, what did you do?"

"I climbed up a drill rig to try and stop a coal mine, Reuben, what did you do?"

"I stole food from Woolies, Andy, and now I'll be here for two weeks."

"Chat's over boys," another voice says. I'm led to the visitors' room for a meeting with the solicitor – he says court starts at 9:30 am and that I should be out today.

* * *

In the cell the TV is on and 90 minutes of infomercials numbs my mind. The TV goes off suddenly and things start to stretch out and blend together. With no clock and

no ad breaks, I have absolutely no idea how long I've been sitting there. The constant tension of expectation is unbearable – surely it must be 9:30 by now? I stretch. I walk the five paces between the back wall and the door. I feel utterly powerless and ignored, acknowledged only by a number and the room I'm sitting in.

I imagine what it must be like in a detention centre, with this uncertainty being an ever-present feature of life, as days became months or years. I feel I can better understand the parts of Amnesty and Human Rights Commission reports I have read which say that efforts to improve the mental health of detainees always fail because they leave the underlying cause of their misery, the very fact of their ambiguous condition in prison, unsolved. I'm horrified by the realisation of how grateful I am to be sitting in this cell, and not in one on Manus.

* * *

The most challenging part of those 26 hours was the sense of isolation and uncertainty. After the communality of life at the blockade it was extremely confronting to be so severely atomised. Everything was about me – MY belongings were indexed, MY details were noted down, MY fingerprints taken. I was told only about how MY actions reflected on ME and would lead to consequences for MY future. At the same time, I was totally removed from my context – it was of no real interest why I was there or who I was, that I had any identity outside of the items listed on my property docket and

a list of the pieces of legislation I had broken. I was reduced totally to my little self, and then even this melted away.

At some moments in the cell I had no thoughts at all except a reiteration of some instruction that I had been given – at these times I had no identity apart from the prescriptions placed on me by the punitive wing of the neoliberal state. It told me what to eat, put some consumerist scare-propaganda on my TV, told me when to shower and sleep. I'm astonished that people have endured years in solitary; after my tiny glimpse of that life, I never want to experience it.

The truth is that those in power delineate the bounds of what is and is not acceptable political engagement. Similar protests would cripple the coal industry if allowed to happen on any significant scale – the recent victory at Bentley shows this.

The awesome power of the police and prison system is used to demoralise anybody who is unsatisfied with merely taking their outrage at the state of things to the ballot box in three years' time. If parliamentary politics were any real threat to coal mining, it would have been abolished long ago. Rallies and petitions are not going to change anything on their own. Direct action is a clear alternative. Even when it fails to prevent injustice, it necessarily expands the horizons of the public debate and can encourage laypeople to see that their voices and actions have real power.

* * *

Finally, I'm handcuffed again before being taken to the court. I'm told it's 1:30 pm and this is the last session before lunch. I don't get to say goodbye to Reuben, but I walk past a cell with a middle-aged bikie in it, who tells me I look "delicious" – lucky we were in different cells.

In the courtroom proceedings seem to be almost finished, having largely proceeded without me. No heroic Castro-esque speech then; a shame. I'm given bail conditions – I must return to the bail address in Sydney straight away and not come within 50 km of the mine site. Judge says if I break this, I'll be in jail for a week. I nod and it's over. I go back to the cell, and then I'm given my things and led outside. A few friends are there and I give them all long hugs before we drive back to Narrabri, where I leave them to continue the 520 km drive home alone.

* * *

There is an urgent imperative for drastic action to push the world towards a sane, humane, ecologically mindful future. Putting my body between the machine and the irreplaceable forest was one way to contribute. It's important to note that I made this decision as white and middle-class – I expected procedural fairness, even-handed treatment by the police, to be safe and fed – and that my reasoning here is probably only applicable to people like me. My Indigenous activist friends are right to be more hesitant.

As a person with PTSD I was very reluctant to expose myself to new trauma, but after being gently explained the procedures of arrest and trial, the best way to deal with police, and the value of the proposed action, I felt I was able to do it. The network of support I had around me was integral to my decision.

I don't wish to pressure folks into doing something like what I have done. It takes careful consideration, preparation and time. I do want to dispel some of the apprehension around this kind of thing, and to encourage people to convert their feelings into action. Serious action has serious consequences, but if I got through it, I reckon you can too.

If you'd like to learn more about the forest and the campaign to save it, and hear stories from myself and others who've been there, come to Verge Gallery at 6pm on Tuesday 2nd September.



Axe the tax on Aussie TV

Our government punishes success before Australian television even gets there, writes **Eden Caceda**.

Two weeks ago Australian television series *Offspring* ended its fifth and most successful season with over a million viewers. As one of the most watched Australian dramas on Network Ten – or, for that matter, any other network – *Offspring* has become one of Ten's greatest successes since its debut in 2010.

Centered on neurotic obstetrician Nina Proudman (Asher Keddie) and her crazy family, *Offspring* finally gained traction in its third season after a few rocky years of low ratings. The series, now syndicated in 11 countries, enjoyed particularly good reviews of its most recent season, which has been considered its strongest so far.

However, in news that shocked many viewers, *Offspring* is likely to have finished its run this season because of a government tax rebate that the series is now ineligible for. Introduced in 2007, The Australian Screen Production Incentive, offered by the federal government to TV and film producers, provides a 20 per cent tax rebate for television series that have not exceeded 65 episodes. Losing the rebate means that *Offspring* will cost more to produce and contracts with cast members, many of whom are sought-after locally and abroad, will have to be renegotiated.

Popular Australian series such as *Rush*, *Sea Patrol* and *Dance Academy* ended their runs partially as a result of losing the rebate. In such a small market with so few Australian films and television series, it's unfortunate that financial and legal barriers prevent the continuation of such a successful series. With *A Place To Call Home* ending at just two seasons and the future of popular *Puberty Blues* still up in the air, it's shocking to think that *Offspring's* large following and creative excellence

alone cannot keep it alive.

At its most basic level, this policy punishes success. The rationale behind the rebate is to encourage the production of Australian film and television projects, helping foster talent by exempting producers from fees they would otherwise face. Once a series exceeds 65 episodes, it is considered a success; it is then regarded as not being in the taxpayer's interest to continue paying for a presumably economically stable project. This commonly results in the premature ending of Australian shows because they have breached the 65-episode threshold, which presents a major hurdle for Australian television breaking into the international market. Rather than support Australian television's strides into the international market, this regulation serves to preference long-running American and British series.

Despite Ten and the *Offspring* producers confirming they are in discussions for another season, it seems as if the series will not return to the screen, with the conclusive final moments of season five indicating the same. Producer John Edwards has openly blamed the tax rebate as a reason for the series being under threat. "At the moment we're seeing all these short-running series, but I don't think that's sustainable," he told *TV Tonight*. "I don't think it's the most rational way of being. I'd like to be doing a long-running show."

For a nation with enormous creative potential, it's a shame to see this regulation adding to the barriers faced by Australia television producers. In the small market current series exist in, there is no reason why the few long-running Australian series that make it should be so harshly punished for their success.



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

Want some work! Polling Booth Attendants Required

The SRC is looking for people to work on the polling booths for its elections this year.

If you can work on
Wed 24th Sept and/or Thurs 25th Sept,
and attend a training at 4pm Tues 23rd Sept,
we want to hear from you!

\$32.30 per hour

There may also be an opportunity to undertake additional work at the vote count
Application forms are available from the SRC Front Office
(Level 1 Wentworth Building).
For more info, call 9660 5222
Applications close 4pm, 3rd September 2014



Authorised by P Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2014.
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney: 02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au

Spoiling for a fight

WWE will, WWE will, rock you, writes **Lane Sainty**.

Last Friday night, my partner and I embarked on a rare excursion outside of our inner west bubble. After boarding an uncharacteristically punctual westbound train, we travelled to Olympic Park via Lidcombe. Arriving at Allphones Arena, we showed our tickets and weaved through the popcorn-gobbling, coke-swilling crowd to find our seats. Then we settled in to watch a bunch of ridiculously large men and muscular women pummel each other as part of the Sydney WWE Live show.

Yes, WWE as in World Wrestling Entertainment. Yes, that is the one where people hit each other with chairs. Yes, I know that it's fake. Yes, I can explain.

I work as a captioner for live TV, providing subtitles for programs that cannot be pre-captioned, such as live news or sport. While some captioners rapidly tap out text on a phonetic keyboard known as a stenotype, the majority of TV captioners these days are 'respeakers'. As we watch a live program, we repeat everything that is said into a microphone, as close to verbatim as possible, and speech-recognition software turns it into text.

When I caption a sport with lots of distinctive names and events – for instance, the WWE, which I caption at least once a week – it's necessary to learn the vocabulary of that sport, or else unique names, phrases and events will not be accurately converted from speech to text. So when working with WWE, I watch it, I repeat everything they say – adding punctuation, which in WWE is usually just exclamation marks – and I have to know all the characters and their backgrounds so I can follow the show properly.

In short, I am literally paid to not only watch the WWE, but also to know everything about the WWE. That's how I ended up in Allphones Arena last Friday night. And it's also why I was disappointed with the live show that I saw there.

You see, it's not until I started to watch the WWE on something of a regular basis that I discovered the true appeal of the show. Most outsiders condemn it as stupidly violent, operating under the misconception that the appeal to the masses lies merely in the

hundreds of fake punches, tackles and head slams that occur every show.

But they're wrong. Any regular watcher of the WWE knows the true genius of the show lies not in the ridiculous fake fights, but in the behind-the-scenes drama that is constantly brewing between Superstars (male wrestlers), Divas (female wrestlers) and The Authority (Wrestler Triple H and his wife Stephanie McMahon, the faux owners of the WWE). The WWE bills itself as a clash of strength, but in reality, it is a clash of personalities, a series of dramatic interactions that rivals the most lurid of Big Brother Up Late episodes (minus the sex).

For instance, one of the most closely followed storylines of 2014 was the ascension of the bearded Daniel Bryan to the title of WWE World Heavyweight Champion. Although The Authority attempted to manipulate Bryan's matches to exclude him from the title, Bryan started the WWE "Yes!" movement, got the fans behind him, and, in David and Goliath fashion, stuck it to the man. But Bryan paid a price for his success – he came down with a shoulder injury, Stephanie McMahon threatened to sack his Diva wife Brie Bella, and then, as part of their ongoing feud, Bryan was revealed to be having an affair shortly after he was stripped of the title.

The ascension of cultish creep Bray Wyatt is another fascinating storyline, with his delusional ravings and masked cronies much more interesting than his fighting techniques. The WWE knows it, too – every time Wyatt appears to fight, the lights are blacked out and he enters, flanked by his followers, complete with creepy music and lantern – a process that usually takes longer than his fights do. Wyatt's strange breed of nihilism has gained him more fans than his infamous wrestling move 'Sister Abigail' could ever do.

The WWE engages in a strange type of political commentary too, harking back to the tensions of the Cold War whenever Russian fighter Alexander Rusev comes to the ring. In particular, a recent fight between Rusev and

Jack Swagger – part of a tag-team dubbed 'The Real Americans' – seemed much less about their relative strength and more about the type of American nationalism displayed circa the McCarthy era.

All of these characters are more defined by their storyline than by their fighting style. Yes, everything is fake – the fighting, the feuds, the whole thing. But the WWE is an entertainment program, and the stars do a damn good job of entertaining as actors and athletes alike. The genuine physical prowess of WWE Superstars and Divas should not be ignored either – for instance, the phenomenally square-headed Brock Lesnar is a former UFC Heavyweight Champion, and has a college wrestling career record of 106 wins to five losses.

The live show was disappointing because it contained far too few of

these character storylines, and far too many men pretending to punch each other. When watching the WWE on TV, it's all too easy to get wrapped up in the plot. But when you're in the second-to-last row of Allphones Arena, squinting to see wrestlers going at it, it all seems a little small, a little stupid.

Although the tendency of WWE stars to hit each other with chairs is reasonably indefensible – though I will point out this only occurs in certain matches – the WWE contains all the hallmarks of a great show. Bizarre feuds, over-the-top characters, stupid struggles for power, aggressive confrontations, questionable decisions, car park ambushes, shocking affairs, projectile vomiting, celebrity cameos – it's all there. The fighting might be all non-fans know about, but real fans know it's beside the point.

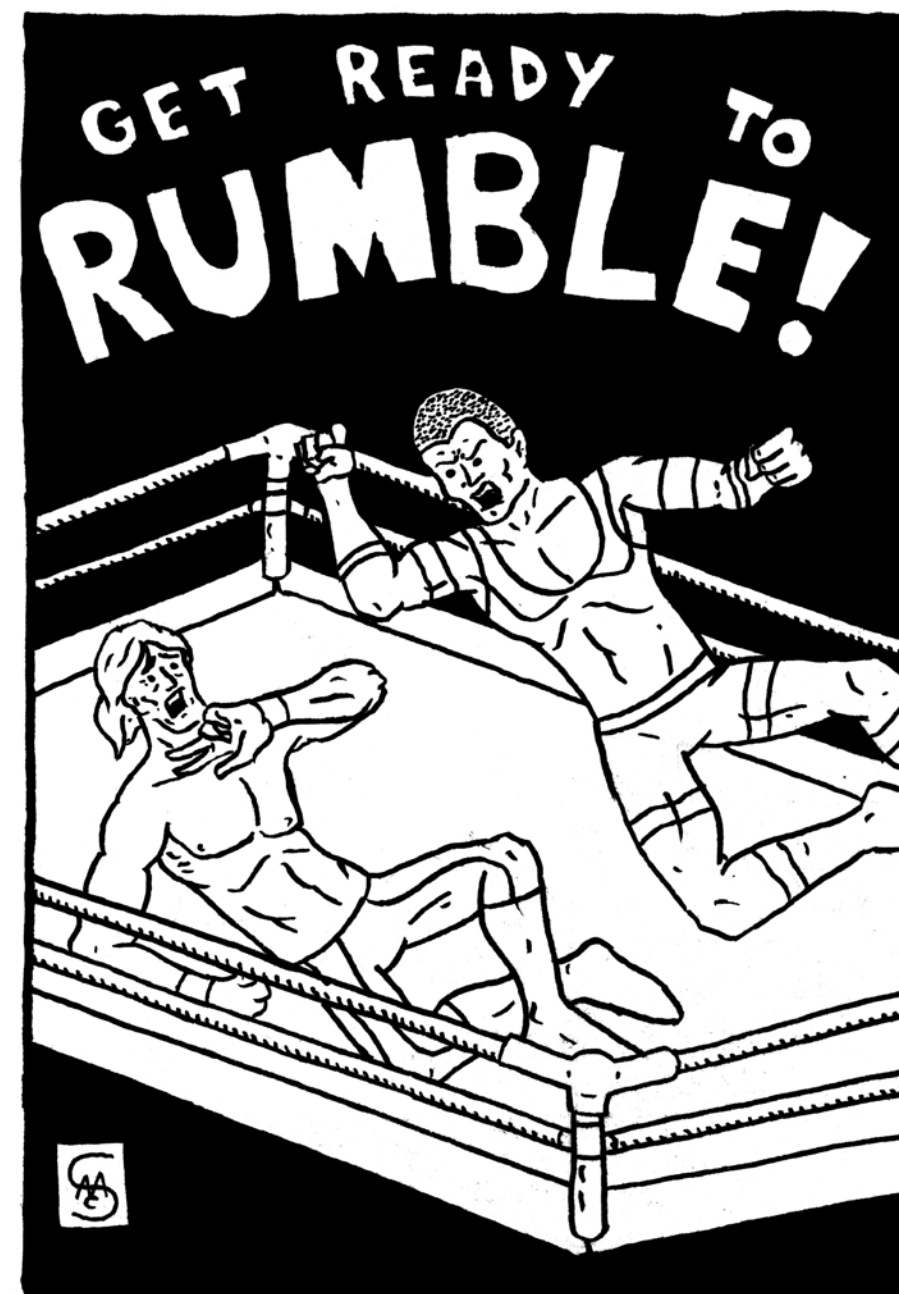


ILLUSTRATION BY SAMUEL MCEWEN

Easy as CPC

Six months on, has the Charles Perkins Centre lived up to expectations, asks **Alex Gillis**.

"It's our cathedral to impact and innovation and it is from here that we will change the health of a nation." - Academic Director Stephen Simpson

Launched with much fanfare six months ago at a cost of \$385 million, the Charles Perkins Centre promised a "world-leading research and education hub" that is "all about doing things differently, harnessing the power of collaboration and creating unique opportunities for students and researchers". Six months on, is the dream still alive?

Entering from the tastefully paved avenue, students are thankfully advised which door is ours. This is useful, as two of the other three are regularly out of commission and Spence forbid we should mingle with anyone else. A centrepiece of the "vibrant community of early career researchers and students" is the much-touted X-lab. This vast space promised to churn through undergrads with completely unprecedented efficiency. Eight classes and 240 students from a huge variety of faculties can run side by side – hence the cross, get it – with only an hour's struggle needed to establish which lecturer is actually teaching you.

By employing cameras, microphones and local video streaming, the amount of a young science student's life spent watching brilliant professors reduced to gibbering wrecks struggling with technology has grown exponentially. Huge touch screen computers with no keyboards make data entry as easy as one-two-three-THY9, while a combination of few computer labs and strict OH&S policy means you MUST

be wearing a lab coat to use Microsoft Excel. While engaged in computer-assisted learning, students may also be requested to put on safety goggles (not due to high concentration acid being used in the vicinity, but because there is yet another advertisement being filmed).

Facing west over St John's oval is the exercise gym. To all appearances this is a misnomer, as it appears to be used as classroom overflow. A lack of blinds prevent the useless information being presented getting in the way of appreciating a glorious setting sun, while seating is limited to three chairs and about twenty exercise bikes. An array of six flat screen televisions run continuous ads promoting the building to people who are already in it. For medical science students, splitting classes between the CPC and Bosch means the next lecture is only a short, muddy walk through the rapidly eroding hillside and car park away.

But the true brilliance of this modern masterpiece is observable in the low-slung 360-seat lecture theatre. While the thick concrete walls manage to completely eliminate any mobile reception, they serve to concentrate the sounds of a new, directly adjacent café. The smooth sounds of frothing milk, grinding coffee and the rabble of the caffeine-dependent masses really accentuates neuropharmacology lectures.

The Charles Perkins Centre allegedly shares its namesake's philosophy, and is "looking for solutions beyond traditional boundaries". Unfortunately, the grating white interior appears distinctly ivory.

Immersing at USyd

Alex Wu, President of Unimates, discusses his first experiences at Sydney Uni.

Before I came to Sydney, I had heard enough cliché about how international students should try to immerse themselves in the language and culture of their study destination.

"Don't stick to your own cultural group", "Get involved with local students", and "speak English as much as possible – try to think in an English way", I was told. However, after more than one year of living here, my experience tells me that you cannot force yourself too much. Instead, just give yourself a chance to get exposed to your new environment and let it flow naturally.

One of my first memorable experiences at Sydney Uni was during a random group discussion in my very first tutorial. We quickly finished the questions and fell into some awkward quietness. Trying to act like a 'local student', I introduced myself with a few handshakes.

After this first step out of my comfort zone, I thought: "That's it, I may never say a word to these people ever again." Luckily, I came across one of the guys from this tutorial in another tutorial. Although everyone else was busy with their own stuff, we tried to learn more about each other and a cross-cultural friendship started. I admit that I was bit absent minded in the rest of the tutorials, but I enjoyed them a lot. We both extended our horizons in terms of cultural difference, which I definitely didn't expect when I introduced myself. Sometimes, just give it a try

and you will discover a whole new world.

My second story is all about finding belonging. Loneliness is a big barrier that nearly every international student faces, but the amazing thing here is that no matter what you like, there is always a club/society waiting for you. I didn't have a specific area I was really passionate about, so I chose Unimates, which I had heard a bit about at an information session as a society for fun people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Members of Unimates are from all over the world and the majority are international/exchange students. I felt frightened in the new environment at first, but then I realized that most of us were in similar situations! I just joined a conversation and let the natural chemistry between cultures do the rest. Through weekly events they held, I could always feel the friendliness and fun. But it's more like being a member of a big family – I'm appreciated for being unique and accepted at the same time.

Luckily, I was elected President of Unimates and became the new 'mum' of the society. Life here is full of surprises, especially for us international students. You will never know what you're going to get.

Coming to study on this unique 'island' means a lot to us and we have a lot of expectations. But don't be stressed, with only a little bit of effort, your life here may end up beyond your wildest imagination.

Getting it on in Darlington

Angela Collins gets *Camperdown and dirty*.

Spring is fast approaching and the birds and the bees are spreading their wings around USyd campus. However, with the multiplication of couples on campus, there's an inevitable battle for romantic territory. Hot date spots are in high demand so students can ensure their relationships bloom as beautifully as the springtime flowers. Here's the lowdown on the hottest, tried-and-true places of passion scattered around campus.

For something a little bit fancy:

Nothing screams class like a baguette in a long paper bag! Treat your boy-toy by taking him out for a casual but chic dining experience at Taste Baguette in the Law Annex. You can drop pick up lines and witty banter in the never-ending queue, eat your elongated bread roll on the tables while gallantly defending him from rogue ibises, and then finish things off on the Law Lawns for a bit of Edward-and-Bella-style gazing meadow action. Every guy's dream, right?



For a time-honoured Sydney Uni dating experience:

The eighth floor of Fisher library has built up a bit of a reputation for being the go-to place for tonsil tennis and hanky-panky. It's classy, it's discrete, and if the smell of books doesn't get your hormones going then what kind of uni student are you? This floor is dedicated to "quiet study" - QUIET STUDY OF EACH OTHER'S MOUTHS, THAT IS.



For the "alternative" types:

Why holiday in Melbourne when you've got an even better version of Hoosier Lane right here on campus? Hold hands through the Graffiti Tunnel and inhale the paint fumes for a multi-sensory date experience. It ain't called the "Tunnel of Love" for nothin'. (NB: no one actually calls it that so don't drop it in casual conversation).



If your date's a smoker:

Smoking pretty much equals instant coolness, so to show your date you're a rebel without a cause, take her to the dirty patch of concrete behind Bosch. Light up, share a ciggie and finish the date off with a tasteful feel up.

For those on a budget:

Romance doesn't have to equal splashing out the cash. ACCESS was created for a reason, and the USU is proud to support frugal hook-ups all over Camperdown – I mean, who ISN'T in love with those crazy concessions? Take your sweetheart to one of the USU's fine establishments for a date they won't soon forget. If you go late enough, Uni Bros will throw you a definitely-still-okay kebab for \$3. And nothing says "I love you" more than a garlic breath pash.



False Medical Certificates

Have you come across ads online offering false medical certificates? Has anyone ever suggested you get one to use for Special Consideration? Ever considered making your own medical certificate? If you answered yes or maybe, then our strong advice is DON'T!! Just don't do it.

Did we mention, this is not a good idea....at all....EVER.

There are a number of other reasons we say this. First and foremost because in creating, buying and/or submitting a false medical certificate you are committing FRAUD. This isn't just against University rules, it's also against the law, federal law, and potentially carries the risk of a prison sentence of twelve months, if prosecuted by the police.

Sounds serious right! It is! The University also treats this as Academic Misconduct and is

referred to the University's Registrar who appoints a solicitor to investigate. What may have seemed a quick and harmless way to gain special consideration may suddenly find you suspended for a semester or two, or even at risk of being kicked out of Uni. Think how hard it would be trying to explain to your family why have suddenly stopped attending Uni.

Beware, the University knows there are false medical certificates out there. Your Faculty receives hundreds of medical certificates every semester. They know what to look for, so their ability to identify a medical document that doesn't look right is pretty high. This might be because the certificate looks unusual, or a high number of medical certificates are coming from the same medical practitioner or practice. Faculties routinely check the authenticity of medical documents with medical practices and practitioners, so

submitting false documentation is far from "the perfect crime" and more likely to result in you facing serious misconduct allegations and potential police investigations if the University also decides to refer the matter to the police. Is it really worth it?

If you are stressed or struggling to the point that you even consider obtaining a false medical certificate, your best option is to talk to someone about what's going on. You could speak to an adviser in your Faculty, a Counsellor at the University's Counselling and Psychological Services, or an SRC HELP Caseworker. You can help explore other ways you might be able to manage your study load without risking far more serious consequences in the long term.

If you need to see a doctor, but your regular one is not available, look for a medical centre nearby, or attend the casualty unit at your

local hospital. If you are too sick to move you can get an after hours doctor to visit your home. Check for details on the internet.

If you are stressed or struggling to the point that you even consider obtaining a false medical certificate, your best option is to talk to someone about what's going on.

To see an SRC Help Caseworker call **9600 5222** to make an appointment or email: help@src.usyd.edu.au

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SRC CASEWORKER HELP Q&A

Ask Abe

Abe,

I am very confused about what the census date is. This is my first semester. Do I need to do anything or is it all automatic.

Cen-suss.

Dear Cen-suss,

The census date is always the 31st March and 31st August. It means that whatever you are officially enrolled in on that day, you will be billed for. This is for local students with HECS or for international students. The census date is approaching now, so look carefully at all of your Units and make sure that you are happy to be doing the ones you are enrolled in. If you withdraw before the Census date you might avoid a later fail mark. If you're not sure what to do, talk to a faculty subject advisor.

Remember: if you are receiving Youth Allowance or Austudy you will need to maintain a minimum full time load, which is 18 credit points or more (24cp is the standard load). If you have a "temporary incapacity" such as illness or a longer term disability that prevents you from studying full time then talk to SRC Help to see if you can get Centrelink on a lighter study load.

Abe

Abe's answers can provide you with excellent insight and helpful tips for surviving as a student.

To ask Abe a question send an email to: help@src.usyd.edu.au

President's Report *Jen Light*



So a couple of weeks ago I wrote about the upcoming SRC elections; nominations closed on the 20th August and it is now time for the

campaigning to start.

Why should you care? And why should you vote?

Well out of 32,000 undergraduate students there is a voter turnout of approx. 4000 students. This can be attributed to the voluntary voting system and the fact that there is no physical incentive. But I will ask you PLEASE VOTE.

The SRC is the peak body at Sydney University representing all undergraduate students and it is up to all undergraduate students to choose who will be their next SRC president, councilors, and Honi Soit editors.

Student Elections can be overwhelming, annoying and seem completely irrelevant to

your day-to-day life. This is partly true but I will tell you this. Who you elect will be responsible for the for a \$1.5 million budget, will be the head of the legal service, will negotiate funding from SSAF (student services and amenities fee) and ensure that the irreplaceable services like the casework and legal service are up and running to help you out when you need.

The President of the SRC is responsible for sitting on many University committee meetings. This year I have been pushing to ensure there are no longer 100% exams for any subject you do, that lecture recordings and slides will become an opt out system instead of an opt in system. As well the SRC has been fighting for fair and affordable student accommodation,

so that all students are able to live while they are at University.

Prominent former Presidents of the Sydney SRC include a Prime Minister of Australia, Cabinet Ministers, and Members of Parliaments, State and Federal, Justices of the High Court of Australia and the Supreme Court, including a Chief Justice of New South Wales and a Court of Appeal President.

It is important to make your voice heard and vote during the election season.

The elections will start on 8th September and the elections will be held on the 24th and 25th September. Hope to see you voting

General Secretary's Report



Each year thousands of students vote to elect a new group of representatives to run the SRC. For many students, perhaps most, this is their only interaction with the SRC. Many students are not even aware of the SRC, or the services and representation the SRC provides, as anyone who's

worn a lurid shirt during elections can attest to.

This is due to the fact that in many ways the SRC is a democratic anomaly. It's a weird conflation of a student union with some form of representative democracy. It acts pre-emptively in a representative fashion but is also beholden to its council members and the wider student body. It provides behind-the-scenes help in the form of services but also publically negotiates with the university. The SRC operates on

James Leeder discusses the approaching SRC elections.

many fronts, many that are less visible, and it is from this that many students can attend the university and remain unaware of its purpose.

Despite the lack of knowledge about the SRC within the student body, SRC elections remain an important aspect of the organisation and are a reaffirmation of the principles on which it operates. In conducting an election each year the SRC brings in a new wave of students with new concerns and ideas.

That being said, like most elections, some candidates are better suited than others. Candidates with organisational experience have a better understanding of the organisation they will have to oversee, as well

as a better idea of what the SRC can actually do. Year after year candidates run on impossible platforms that are never achieved. As students, you should hold your representatives to account. Further to this, the SRC is an organisation that has prided itself on diversity. In ensuring that students of any cultural, socioeconomic, religious or sexual background can become a part of it, the SRC has ensured that it best represents the diverse concerns of the USYD student body.

As elections approach, I encourage you to find out more about your SRC, to question the experience of the candidates running, and to look for candidates that represent the diversity of our student body.

Education Officers' Report



Last Wednesday we celebrated Chris Pyne's unhappy birthday, after all lizard people age too. We wanted him to know that even on his special day, we won't let up in our campaign against his higher ed. reforms. So exactly one week out from the next education protest on August 20,

the Education Action Group set up a stall on Eastern Ave, handed out a bunch of cake, and got the word out about the upcoming protest. Students also signed a card to Chris, mostly leaving an impressive array of insults and curse word combinations. My favourite was the eloquent "m8 get fucked." Truer words have never been written.

Later that day, the cross-campus education action network organised a protest at NSW Liberal Party HQ. We brought our card, sang happy birthday and even brought a cake to cut and share. The security thugs and NSW pigs were the most discourteous party hosts we've come across though. They tried to

Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley

steal our banners and physically force us out, then even threw the cake in the bin. Bastards. Nevertheless, we occupied the lobby for a while and made our message clear.

This Wednesday is the next national day of action for education. So far this year we've disrupted live TV, countless Liberal party love-ins, rallied in our thousands and refused to be silent in the face of the Liberals' attacks on higher education and welfare. Our protests have made a real impact on the public debate with Labor, the Palmer United Party and the Greens all committing to block the cuts when they hit the Senate. The National Tertiary Education Union also

recently published research results which found that around 69% of people oppose the deregulation of fees, making it among the most unpopular measures in the budget. The campaign is also hitting Chris Pyne personally; he now sits on a 50% disapproval rating which gives him the title of most unpopular government minister.

There's a real chance that we could win, and that the reforms could be trashed. But it's important to keep fighting and putting pressure on the opposition parties to keep their word.

So join us next Wednesday, Aug 20, 1.30pm outside Fisher for another day of action for education and sticking it to the Liberals.

Queerkat Officers' Report

Elsa Kohane and Robin Eames take us through the happenings of Queerkats this semester.

Queerkats is a fabulous new collective created this year as a subset of the Queer Action Collective. Queerkats aims to create a safe and welcoming space that acts as an alternative to spaces and groups that are often dominated by cis men (cis men being people who were assigned male at birth and agree with that assignation). At the beginning of the year we were defining ourselves as a 'non cis male' collective, but this definition has proved insufficient, and we are currently workshoping a better and more inclusive definition. At the moment we are defining ourselves as a queer collective for those who identify as women (trans, cis, butch, femme, transfeminine), nonbinary folks (genderqueer, genderfluid, agender, androgynous, bigender, demigender, polygender), people

who are gender diverse (including non-Western and indigenous gender identities such as two spirit, hijras, and third gender), intersex people, trans men, and anyone who experiences oppression for their gender identity. We're still working out a definition that fits us, but part of our concerns stem from our desire to define ourselves by what we are rather than what we are not.

So far this semester we have already organised and created a magnificent zine made up of collaborative work from our community. This was for the USU's Pride Festival, and aimed to showcase the voices of people who aren't usually heard in mainstream society. The party to launch it was super successful, with spoken word performances, readings from the zine, and lots of

rad queer dancing.

Continuing on from this great start, we have a lot of exciting plans and ideas. We will be starting up a fortnightly workshop/social event on Tuesdays, the first being a poly discussion group held Tuesday from 5-7 in the Queerspace. In the future this time can be used in a variety of ways, from dry events, to potluck dinners, to drinks, to informative workshops and skill shares, and movie nights. During this regular event and beyond, we will be working towards a celebratory Art Party to showcase the creativity and scope of non-normative queer



experiences, to be held at the end of the semester. We're also hard at work organising the production of Queer Honi, which we're hoping to make a particularly inclusive and intersectional issue.

Queerkats meet 1pm Thursdays, and we always love to see new faces!

Interfaith Officers' Report

Henry Maher and Monique McKenzie

The interfaith portfolio within the SRC is concerned with ensuring that all religious and spiritual expression within our community is accepted and approached with dignity and respect. The world around us is one of growing religious and racial intolerance and this needs to come to an end. We need to actively move towards a society where all culture and faith is both respected and recognized.

The foundation of peace lies within mutual understanding and respect of each other's beliefs and religious expressions. Our

world is rich with an elaborate fabric of expressions, culture and faith, which simultaneously challenges and enriches our lives. The beauty of faith is that it can touch us all in different ways; it is unique to us, our morals and our view of the world. We view the world with unique eyes guided by our individual worldviews, whether it is informed by faith, science or anywhere in between, our understanding of our surroundings is unique to us. It is the combination of our unique expressions of worldviews that creates a world flooded with both complex and conflicting views,

which can either, enrich or damage society. But that depends on how we approach faith.

We need to approach faith and religious expression with an open mind and a keenness for understanding rather than an attitude filled with assumptions and unfounded misconceptions. Whether you are deeply religious or anti-religious, it is vital that we are accepting of each individual's expression and view of the world. You do not have to agree with it but you should respect the individual and listen to their explanation before pushing your

assumptions onto them. Our society then, rather than being built on suspicion and judgment, can be founded on curiosity and mutual respect.

So we encourage you to go to seminars, read widely and deeply, listen to those who share different view to you and enrich your lives with an increased understanding of the unique worldviews of those around you. It is not hard to sit and listen rather than jump in and judge.

Disabilities & Carers Officers' Report

Sarah Chuah, Alexandra Radburn and Jasmin Camdzic

If you are a student with a disability there are a huge range of supports that you can access by registering with the university's Disability Services. It is not compulsory to disclose your personal circumstances to the university, however, by registering with Disability Services, you can avoid struggling needlessly with your condition whilst individually negotiating assessment protocols. Instead, Disability Services provides support through a formalised mechanism which maintains your privacy around your exact circumstances to your teaching staff while advocating for the necessary adjustments you are entitled to. If you are considering registering with Disability Services or would like to seek independent advice in doing so, you can make an appointment to see an SRC Caseworker by

calling 9660 5222 or visit the SRC at Wentworth Building Level 1 for a Drop-in visit on Tuesdays & Thursdays, between 1 and 3pm.

Carers

Our *Access & Inclusion for Carers in Higher Education Campaign* is continuing into semester 2 this year. When this campaign launched last year, we sought to raise awareness at the national level about the barriers that young and mature-aged students with significant caregiving responsibilities face in accessing and successfully completing an Australian university education. The campaign this year has focused on advocating for carers' support in universities within NSW, particularly those in the Sydney area and above all Sydney University. With the recent launch

of the *NSW Carers Strategy 2014-2019*, the support and transition of primary and high school student carers into higher education is a major objective, and will likely see numbers of young carers reaching university increase. For this reason, it is ever more important that universities are prepared and willing to support this valuable group in realising their full potential through education. We are particularly impressed with the momentum with which the University of Western Sydney is moving toward the implementation of meaningful support for their student carers.

Seeking Student Involvement

We have formed a Student Consultative Group and are encouraging students to get involved and give their input in

the development and progress of the university's current Disability Action Plan. The first meeting is coming up soon and will meet again in October. The Disabilities & Carers Department is also looking for students who are interested in helping plan some activities throughout the remainder of the semester. We are looking to hold some picnics in Victoria Park when the weather warms up, and also a gardening and art workshop so students can get together for some food and fun activities to encourage everyone to take the occasional break from their studies when assessments kick in. If you would like to get involved in any of these activities, send us an email at disabilities_officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

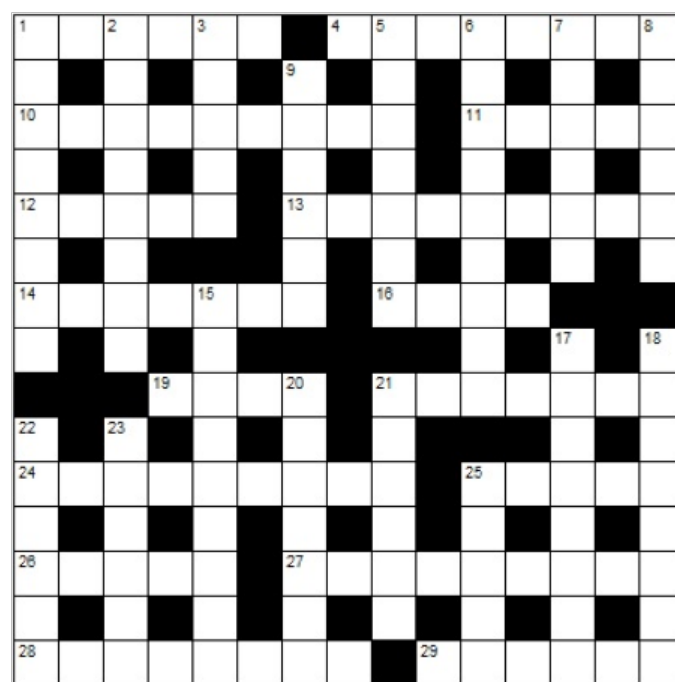
Quick

ACROSS

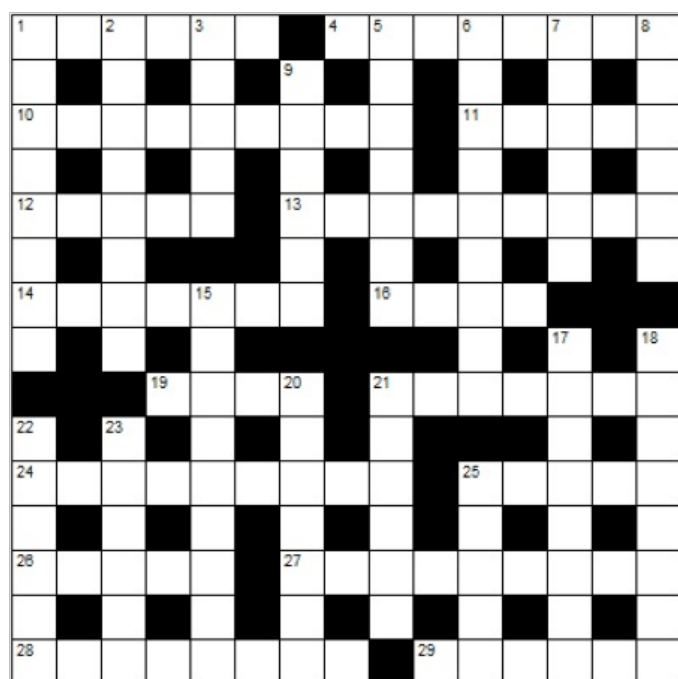
- 1 USU card (6)
- 4 Savoy or Napas (8)
- 10 *New...*, periodical (9)
- 11 Constellation, *Southern...* (5)
- 12 Wipe out (5)
- 13 Not here (9)
- 14 Genteel (7)
- 16 Definite (4)
- 19 Piles of dung (4)
- 21 Occupation of singular 19-ac? (7)
- 24 Food cookers (9)
- 25 Unravel (5)
- 26 Not dead (5)
- 27 Say sorry (9)
- 28 Debacle (8)
- 29 Burden (6)

DOWN

- 1 Picked up phone (8)
- 2 Weather conditions (8)
- 3 For the reason that (5)
- 5 Pollock, Rembrandt and Iggy Azalea (7)
- 6 Unmodernized, say of a community (9)
- 7 Gauntlets (6)
- 8 Order (6)
- 9 Of highest quality (6)
- 15 Perception (9)
- 17 ...*salts*, spirit of hartshorn (8)
- 18 Additional money owed on a loan (8)
- 20 ...*sizzle*, using 24-ac? (7)
- 21 Small firearm (6)
- 22 On a boat (6)
- 23 Curved paths around celestial bodies (6)
- 25 Glowed with light (5)



Cryptic



We think 5 of these clues share something in common and are therefore not defined

ACROSS

- 1 Bun seeds, I say incorrectly? (6)
- 4 Cram together foodstuff (8)
- 10 Treats oil blend (9)
- 11 Brush brush (5)
- 12 Where you put the key? (5)
- 13 Support entourage who sold tea for a cent (9)
- 14 Demanded soft petrol (7)
- 16 Purveyor of candles at nightfall (4)
- 19 Exploited, or exploited without muscle (4)
- 21 Pollywog somewhat like extremity (7)
- 24 Height promotion (9)
- 25 Contraction negating existence? (4'1)
- 26 Broke; steal the fewest (5)
- 27 Youth re-generates?! (9)
- 28 Slope fell team (8)
- 29 Questions editions (6)

DOWN

- 1 Runs, laps, stumbles at the traffic jams (5-3)
- 2 Liloed and joined? (8)
- 3 Mere model entered length (5)
- 5 Sanctioned capriciously by ensconcing gossamer cedar (7)
- 6 Did I guess 20-dn?! (9)
- 7 Raid in way (6)
- 8 Animated tiger (6)
- 9 Be present within the great Tendulkar reception (6)
- 15 20-dn seder cast (9)
- 17 Bridal linen lost a ton (8)
- 18 Specialists of concavities? (8)
- 20 Was wayward when carried by water (7)
- 21 Dig type of vision (6)
- 22 Wellbeing left in the Ledger (6)
- 23 De thing on de back of de animal (6)
- 25 Say, about Wally's pots (5)



Quiz, Quiz, Quiz

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1. What did Albert Einstein win his Nobel Prize in Physics for? | 5. What does L.E.D. stand for? | 9. What is Clint Eastwood's most successful film (to date)? | 13. Names of the four main characters in <i>Sex and the City</i> ? |
| 2. Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable botanically? | 6. Within common usage, what is the longest word in the English language without vowels? | 10. Recently deceased actor J.J. Murphy was due to play which character on <i>Game of Thrones</i> ? | 14. Homer Simpson's middle name? |
| 3. On which continent are the most landlocked countries found? | 7. Which film won the 1955 Academy Award for Best Picture? | 11. Who is the current Governor General of Australia? | 15. What is the 35 th Element of the Periodic Table? |
| 4. Who is the highest-selling individual musician of all time, based on certified units? | 8. What year did the Battle of Hastings take place? | 12. What is the meaning of the name, Jordan? | 16. What can you catch but not throw? |

1. For his work on the photo-electric effect 2. A vegetable 3. Africa 4. Elvis Presley 5. Light emitting diode 6. Rhythms 7. Marty 8. 1066 9. Gran Miranda Hobbes 14. Jay. 15. Bromine. 16. A cold.

What's On

Tuesday, August 19

Wom*n's Collective Film Screening: WoCo is holding a screening of two short films that sound awesome: *Women's Empire* and *Nice Coloured Girls*. This is a non-autonomous event. Carslaw Lecture Theatre, 5.30pm.

A new issue of *BULL* hits the stands.

Wednesday, August 20

National Day of Action: If you haven't heard of this, you've been living under a rock. The USyd contingent will meet at Fisher at 1:30pm, then head to UTS and march to Town Hall. Fisher Library, 1.30pm.

House of Clerks (Law Revue) opening night: They say that this year's law revue is what you should watch if you can't wait long enough for *Dirty Dancing*. Let's

see if their navy-hooded army live up to their promise of singing, sex, and dancing. Seymour Centre, 8pm nightly until August 23.

USU Humanitarian Week: FredSoc Bacon & Eggs, FUNCH Amnes-Tea, PhotoSoc Polaroid Playground, Volunteer Matchmaking. Various times and locations around campus, 19-21 August.

Thursday, August 21

The Unlimited Dream Factory (Arts Revue) opening night: They promoted director Sophia Roberts as ever-nurturing and other director Patrick Morrow as senile. Please let us know if you feel dodderingly nurtured or not. Seymour Centre, 7.30pm nightly until August 23.

The Price is Frank Lloyd Wright (Architecture Revue) opening night: This revue promises

a quest for fame, fortune and sequined jackets. We wonder if Eddie McGuire could afford Fallingwater. Seymour Centre, 7.30pm nightly until August 23.

USU Humanitarian Week: Developing Nations Pregnancy Kit Preparation, Climate Change forum, Amnesty International Film Screening, Young Vinnies Winter Sleepout. Various times and locations around campus, 19-21 August.

Robots Fabrication and Design: Architecture and Design student showcase, with a light design and vivid exhibition. Includes a Kuka robot bar serving cocktails and a Trotec Router that paints faces. Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning, 6pm.

Friday, August 22

Nothing. Nothing at all.

Saturday, August 23

Weekend, don't come to uni. Find your own fun shit to do.

Sunday, August 24

Ditto.

Monday, August 25

"Why the Scientific Revolution wasn't a Scientific Revolution": Professor Daniel Garber from Princeton University will discuss the intellectual world in the early modern period. 6pm, Law School Lecture Theatre 101.

Tuesday August 26

Next *Honi* out. WOOOOOOO



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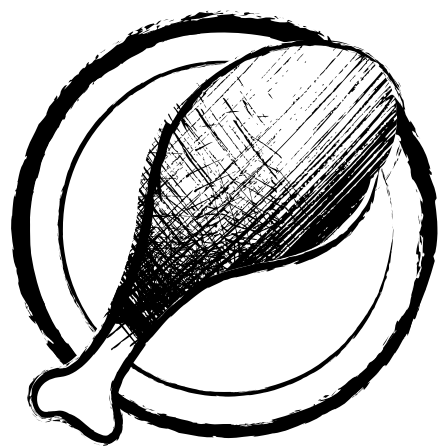
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Honey Soy



Abbott Unveils New Policy To Stop The Boats

William Edwards reports on the latest news from Canberra.

Tony Abbott has unveiled his government's newest policy to make Australia seem less appealing than the places asylum seekers flee from. The new policy, named 'Operation Fuck Off We're Full', aims to introduce scurvy to people smugglers and their customers, thereby preventing them from setting sail or, at the least, from ever reaching Australian waters.

"I have to stop the boats," Abbott declared, while bashing his chest. "I tried to buy them and you mocked me. Now I'm trying this. In the end we are in a fierce contest with these people smugglers and if we were at war we wouldn't think giving our enemies scurvy was wrong, so why should we now?"

Bill Shorten took four seconds to regain his composure after the announcement, the longest time an Opposition Leader has

ever taken to contradict a Prime Minister. "Labor would never use such farcical tactics," Shorten finally said, obviously confused by Abbott's comparison and electoral success. "Scurvy isn't even contagious! How does the Prime Minister plan on infecting anyone with that? Huh? Labor would use a plague."

Abbott immediately grew defensive of his policy, vehemently disagreeing with Shorten's suggestion that scurvy was not contagious. The two attempted to consult a nearby doctor to settle the issue, but were refused assistance when neither had \$7 available to pay.

They subsequently attempted to consult a scientist, but none could be found within 100km of the nation's capital.

OTHER DOMAIN NAMES THE LIBERAL PARTY SHOULD PURCHASE

Mary Ward helps out the Libs.

After they sneakily acquired AbbottLies.com.au, we decided to help the Libs decide which other pieces of cyber real estate they should invest in before someone gets there first:

- OneWomanCabinet.com.au
- 40JobsADay.com.au
- FrancesAbbottScholarshipFund.com.au
- ThatTimeOurPrimeMinisterSaidAustraliaWasUnsettledPre1788.com.au
- WeirdFacesChristopherPynePulls.com.au
- BrandisIsABigot.com.au
- TheRhodesActuallyHasLittleToDoWithAcademicProwess.com.au
- SuppositoryOfWisdom.com.au

Perth Train Pushers Unable To Affect Real Change

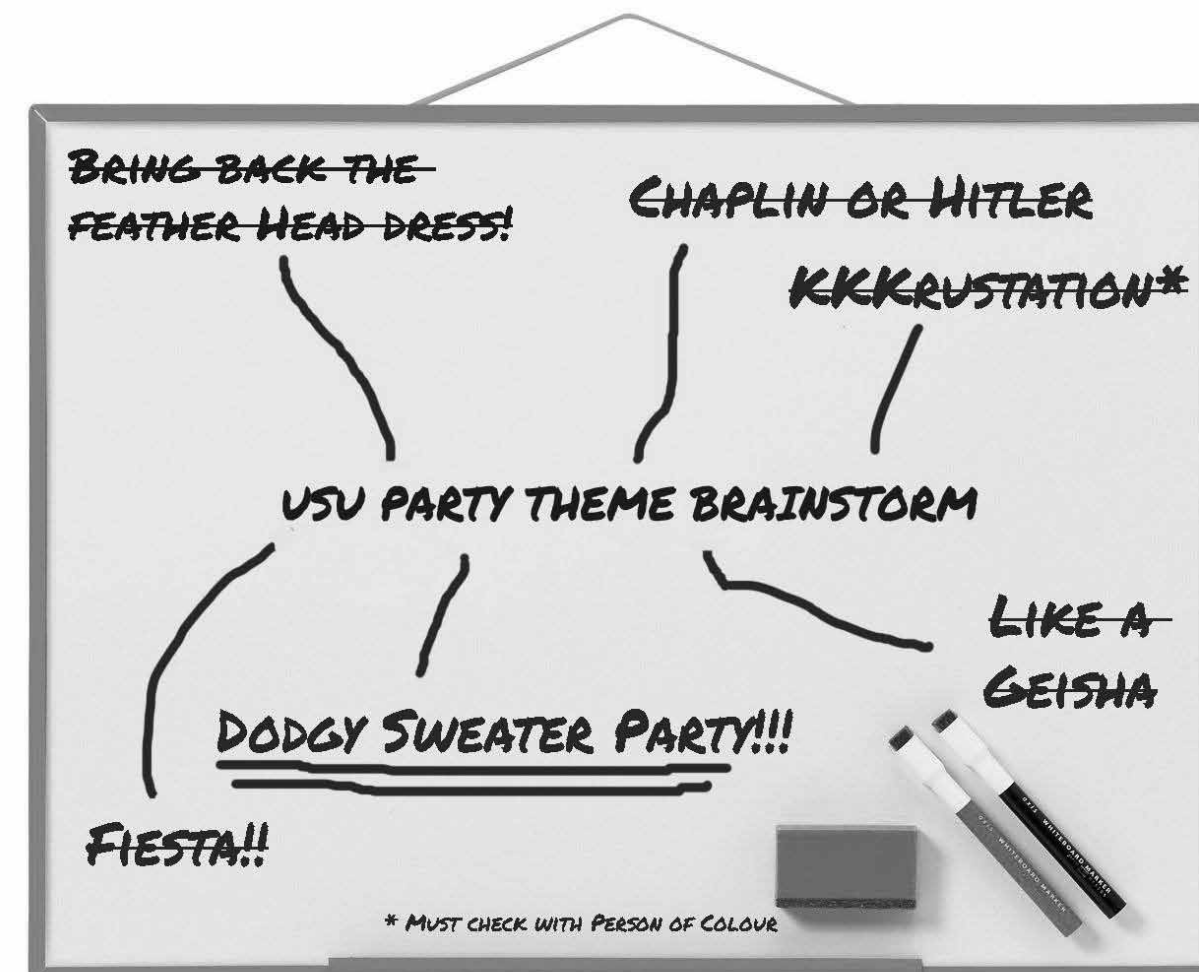
Peter Walsh is a pusher.



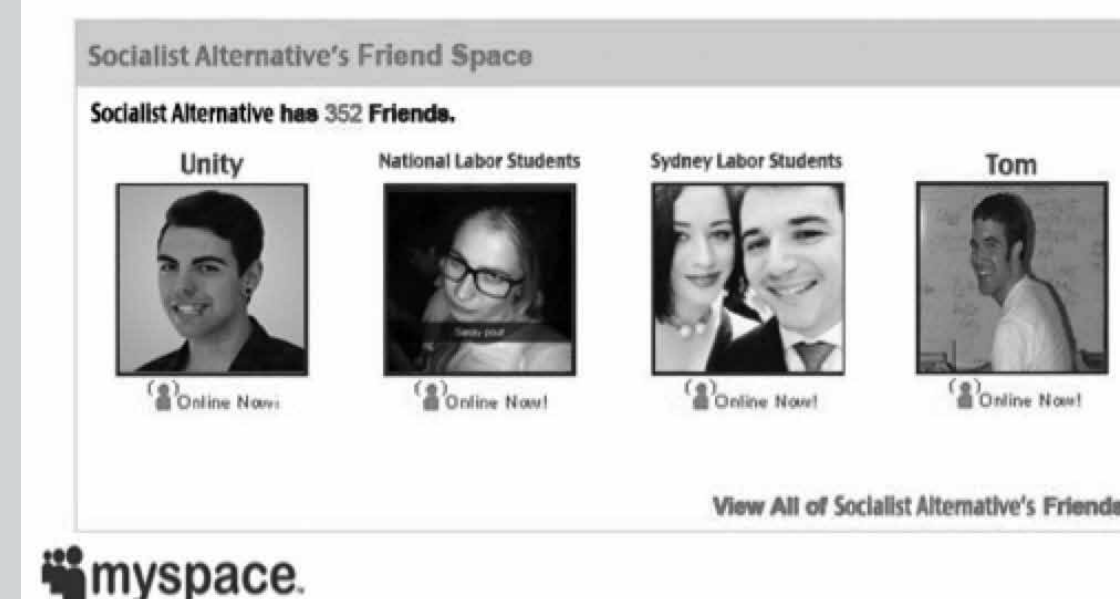
The group of Perth citizens who pushed a train off its tracks to rescue a trapped individual had a press conference Saturday, in which they outlined a manifesto for pushing away Perth's social ills. "It's all well and good to push a train", said defacto leader Sheryl, "but our anachronistic city needs a few more pushes before we can call it a safe place for our kids". The group identified a number of targets, including bikies, pollution, and homophobia.

While the group has made some headway – especially with bikies, because pushing over bikes is, in many ways, easier than a train – they have faced significant criticism that you can't just push your problems away. "Look, he's got us there," said group member Barry. "Homophobia is an abstract thing, so we couldn't just push it over." When questioned further, Barry clarified that "we did find a homophobe, and yes, we pushed him over".

At the time of publishing, there is a warrant for Barry's arrest in relation to a 'one-push assault', the latest in a number of 'coward-pushes' plaguing Perth's CBD.



This Week In Hack News: Dated Left-Faction Changes MySpace Top Friends



IN OTHER NEWS

Joe Hockey feigns disability between carpark and parliament

Tony Abbott confirmed as lead antagonist in 'Braveheart 2'

BREAKING: SAlt angry about something

Homeschool student describes English teacher as "hot"

REVUE REVIEW HAIKU: LAW

Dom Ellis gets poetic.

There were hackneyed hacks

And corporate sponsorship

But where was the heart?¹

1. King & Wood Malleasons

Tony Abbott's Twitter Account Revealed as Performance Art

Yi Jian Ching is following erryone on Twitter.

The Twittersphere has been alight for the past week after revelations that the Twitter account, @TonyAbbottMHR is in fact a piece of elaborate performance art, joining the ranks of other notable and popular Twitter "hoax" accounts such as @horse_ebooks and @JoeHockey. The revelations came amidst an investigation started by postgraduate Arts student and savvy Twitter user, @blink182rule. "After following this account for weeks I realised something was up," said @blink182rule. "This account was endlessly spewing about taxes and boats without actually being constructive whatsoever whilst using endless buzzwords like 'Economic Action Strategy'. I mean, what does that even mean?"

It was at that moment that @blink182rule paid computer science student, Jeremy Gigaballs to help him reveal just who would have so much time to be behind this Twitter account. After a week long process involving masquerading as Twitter account @rupertmurdoch, they discovered that the account was being managed by two employees at Liquorland. When questioned, the two employees simply replied "Have you ever worked here?" before returning to their phones and ignoring customers.

Honi Life Hacks

Instead of using the 'Save As' button on when you're working on those pesky assignments, just hit 'Save'. That way, you'll update your work and avoid awkward duplication. Double whammy.

The end of winter can be pretty awkward for temperature regulation. Why not avoid the existential crisis of the 'jumper on or jumper off' debate by simply rolling up the sleeves?

Going on an overseas trip? Border security can be a nervous bunch. Break the ice with a classic bomb joke.

If you find yourself awake in summer 'cos it's too warm, just flip your pillow over and you'll find the other side is astonishingly well-chilled.

Worried about mum finding your porn folder? Try hiding it in plain sight – on the desktop, in a folder called "Tom's boring shit".

Keep wearing that fedora. That way, it will be easier for normal people to avoid you.

Find making tea is a real fucking struggle? You can now get 'tea bags' where all the tea leaves are contained within non-soluble bags.

Always late? Try walking around faster.

A giant
ibis once
stole
my holy
sandwich.


Wanyi Xin
2014



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