

# Honi Soit



Week 9, Semester 2, 2014

HONI SOIT QUI #USYDVOTES

**p.4** *Islamophobia at USyd*

**p.11** *Office roleplay*

ILLUSTRATION BY  
MONICA RENN



## Badar banned: Uni cancels SUMSA speaker *Tom Joyner reports.*

A Q&A-style event to be hosted by the Sydney University Muslim Students Association (SUMSA) entitled 'Grill a Muslim' last week was cancelled at the personal request of Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence.

The event, originally planned for September 11 as part of Islamic Awareness Week, encouraged its audience to engage in dialogue with a panel made up of members of Sydney's Islamic community.

"We wanted to provide a platform where questions can be brought forth and misconceptions can be quashed," SUMSA president Ziyad Serhan told *Honi*. "The university prides itself on encouraging the expression of ideas."

Two panel speakers, Sheikh Wesam Charkawai and Uthman Badar, had been confirmed for the event, which was to take place at 4pm in Carslaw 273 on the university's main campus.

It was not until the eve of the event, however, that Spence made a phone call to Serhan in order to raise his concerns over both the timing of the

event and Badar's participation. Serhan alleged that *The Daily Telegraph* had informed Spence of the event, and of Badar's presence on the panel.

"Spence told us that *The Daily Telegraph* had gotten hold of the event and were threatening to run a front-page report saying that the University of Sydney will be hosting [Uthman Badar]."

Last month, Badar was embroiled in a separate controversy when a talk as part of the Festival of Dangerous Ideas entitled 'Honour Killings Are Morally Justified' was cancelled by festival organisers after a public outcry.

The event happened to coincide with the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, though Serhan has denied any deliberate link, saying that he knew it to be a "highly sensitive day".

"[The Vice-Chancellor] said that the event can go ahead but not with Uthman. He based his decision on the fact that he could not guarantee

security for Uthman as well as the audience," said Serhan.

A statement issued from the Vice-Chancellor's office said the university had not known about the event until the day prior, as it had not been "formally registered".

"The Vice-Chancellor immediately commissioned a security assessment to determine risk to members of the University community. Following that assessment, the Vice-Chancellor made the decision, in the interests of the wider University community, that Mr Badhar [sic] should not speak at the event," the statement read.

Events held by clubs and societies are only required to register their plans for an event with the University of Sydney Union if they are seeking extra funding for it. University Venues told *Honi* that Carslaw 273 had been booked in advance for use by SUMSA between 4pm to 6pm on the day.

A statement on the SUMSA website reads: "We were sincere in our belief

that having Brother Uthman on the panel would be an opportunity to enlighten the Australian audience about the splurge of Islamophobic remarks committed by tabloids and various media outlets, such as *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Australian*."

Serhan said that universities should be encouraging of a diversity and exchange of ideas. "When we talk about the free expression of ideas, that's the perfect example."

"[Badar] was an economics graduate [at USyd] and he also won the premier's award for all-around achievement on his higher school certificate," said Serhan. "We definitely thought he was suitable for that role."

The Vice-Chancellor has agreed for SUMSA to reschedule the event but without Badar. A new date has not been set. The Vice-Chancellor's office did not respond to *Honi*'s questions beyond forwarding a statement they had provided to the *The Daily Telegraph*.

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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

Every year since time immemorial (so for the past three years or so) *Honi Soit* has held an SRC debate, with representatives from the student media asking the candidates for the SRC presidency and/or the *Honi Soit* editorship a few questions about their policies. This year we announced that a representative from *Mon Droit*, a publication released by the Sydney University Liberal Club, would be asking questions at the debate in addition to speakers from *Honi Soit* and *BULL*.

Unsettled by the fact that the sphere of acceptable discourse wasn't entirely limited to what they wanted, a number of very vocal students complained that we were legitimising a right-wing publication. There were rumours of a informal motion calling upon the "people of USyd" in the crowd (roughly 85 per cent of whom were campaigning for presidential candidates Amy Knox or Kyol Blakeney) to rise up and rebel at the notion of being asked questions by right-wingers; a move somewhat reminiscent of Clive Palmer storming out of an interview that's not going just the way he likes it.

Like it or not, there are politically conservative students on this campus (though their alleged status as "the silent majority" is more than a little dubious). Like it or not, they can

vote, and they should be afforded the opportunity to have candidates interrogated from something even vaguely resembling their perspective. Excluding the views of a significant number of voters from the agenda through brute force is probably a very effective tactic, but seeing as voter turnout in the SRC elections last year barely cracked ten per cent, it's also antidemocratic and just a shit thing to do.

Every year, left-wing student editors ask left-wing SRC Presidential candidates left-wing questions about their left-wing policies. As far as echo chambers go, this one is pretty damn airtight. Inviting editors from a conservative publication to ask questions is not legitimising their opinions or perspectives; it is merely accepting that they do, in fact, exist among the student population. This is not an attempt at balance, but rather the addition of yet another viewpoint.

We would ask these kind of questions ourselves, but though some of us can pass for pretty convincing Tories, there's just no substitute for the real thing. We think inviting newspaper editors we politically disagree with to the debate in order to foster an ever-so-slightly more inclusive student democracy is worth it. Depending on how much of a flag-waving zealot you are, you may disagree.

*Editors who will be writing your SRC coverage are not associated with any campaign or campus faction. The following eds have signed an affidavit to declare their neutrality: Georgia Behrens, John Gooding, Lane Sainty, and Astha Rajvanshi.*



**Tip:**  
Don't leave the house  
between Tuesday  
and Thursday\*

\*Just kidding – democracy and shit

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## From the Vault

### Shut Up!

Sir, —  
  
I am aware that from time to time letters have appeared in your columns deploring the discourtesy of many students who use the Fisher Library.

Students are perhaps inclined at times to disregard a notice posted by the authorities, but this matter is becoming too serious to be ignored. Numerous requests have met with no response, therefore I would suggest that the Fisher staff be more emphatic in enforcing the silence rules.

I am, etc.,

ANON.

Arts III

1938

HONI SOIT  
COMMEMORATIVE  
EDITION  
Release Date: October 22nd

## This is what legal pressure looks like

Dear *Honi*,

I would like to apologise for my letter last week. I retract it.

Whilst I dispute Patrick Massarani's effectiveness as a representative in his current position, I apologise for implying he had the wrong intentions and questioning his motivations.

I dispute the notion that any candidate running, not least Patrick, has bad intentions.

Patrick and I may disagree on exactly how best to advance the student interest, but there is no doubt that he genuinely believes that what he is doing will help the cause. For implying otherwise, I apologise.

This election must be about who has the best plan to improve student outcomes. To move the debate to a level where we question the person and not their policies, is not conducive to this. I once again offer my sincere apologies and retraction.

I would ask you publish this in the same manner the original letter was published, to ensure equal coverage. I understand putting it on "Page 81" as the original was, is impossible, but please put it in a location similar to that original to ensure this gets the equal exposure it should.

Regards,

Dean Shachar  
Commerce (Liberal Studies) II

## God's back, and this time it's personal

Dear Alex Rothman,

While it is unclear why you being a "doctor to be" is relevant in any way to our discussion at hand, I was intrigued by your response to my letter.

Firstly, thank you for pointing out that in Australia we do, in fact, live in a democracy, not a theocracy. I don't know how I lived the first 20 years of my life under this misapprehension, but thank you for correcting me. I am thoroughly embarrassed. I can't believe I missed passages like Romans 13:1–7 or Mark 12:13–17 where Christians are called to respect and obey their governments as much as is

possible. Silly me.

But anyway, this is small potatoes.

The crux of your letter is your challenge for me to "lay out the best possible defence for this beings [sic] existence". Sadly, I feel this probably isn't the best medium in which to do this. And anyway, greater minds than mine have outlined arguments for the Christian faith. Have you actually read any John Lennox or Timothy Keller? They're both already doctors in case you were wondering.

But ultimately I don't believe in a "being". I believe in a man: Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed ca. 2000 years ago and claimed to be the son of God.

I'm sorry if this feels like me prevaricating, but do you have a better explanation? Seriously, do you have a better theory than the explanation presented in the Bible? It's easy to throw stones at other people's explanations, but can you present a better one for consciousness, history and creation itself? I can't and that's why I'm a Christian.

Luke Tucker (History teacher to be, probably), Arts II

## Just drunk on life, you'll find

To the 'Several Members of Queer Revue MMXIV',

I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations to the Queer Revue cast and crew for your performance. Your passion and dedication was truly evident on stage, and I am proud to be part of an organisation which helped facilitate it.

Congratulations aside, however, I am writing in response to a letter to Honi by 'Several Members of Queer Revue MMXIV' which speculates on why I left the Revue during intermission on Friday night. Their claims that I left during intermission because I had a night of "excessive drinking" and because I was "booze-scented" are simply untrue. I wholeheartedly dispute any imputation that I was near incapacitation, or even simply drunk. I had come to the performance with a headache (brought on from a stressful day and a long Board Meeting) which peaked during the first Act of the Revue. In addition, I have a history of migraines which I have received medical treatment for in the past.

Despite feeling quite unwell, I chose to remain in the Reginald Theatre and close my eyes, rather than leave midway through skits.

The structure of the theatre would have actually required me to cross the stage to exit – I did not wish to disturb the performance, nor distract the audience – and I did this out of complete respect for the cast and crew of the Revue. I left during the intermission in order to get some fresh air with the full intention of coming back inside for the remainder of the performance, however decided that it would probably best to go home.

I find the letter written by 'Several Members of Queer Revue MMXIV' to be callous and unfounded. I have always respected my peers, and it is truly hurtful to hear claims that I do not. To speculate on my condition in that Revue was disrespectful, unnecessary and hurtful, and it pains me that I have to write a letter to Honi Soit to clear my name about something as simple and innocent as a headache.

Regardless, I have had boundless amounts of pleasure and fun watching the Revues of the 2014 season, and it continues to astonish me how students are able to balance their academic workloads with their co-curricular commitments. To see talent like I have seen across these last few weeks is truly amazing.

Kind regards,

Tara Waniganayaka

**STUCCO**

**Temporary Accommodation for students in need**

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

Get in contact with a caseworker from the SRC or SUPRA. They will give you advice for looking for accommodation, with the possibility of a referral letter to STUCCO temporary accommodation service. STUCCO offers temporary housing for two weeks whilst you are looking for other accommodation, with the possibility of an extension in cases of extreme need.

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

For more information and to get contact details: [www.stucco.org.au/temporary-accommodation/](http://www.stucco.org.au/temporary-accommodation/)



# Islamophobia at USYD

Universities should rise above moral panic campaigns, writes *Raghib Siddiquee*.

*“It was always at night—the arrests invariably happened at night. The sudden jerk out of sleep, the rough hand shaking your shoulder, the lights glaring in your eyes, the ring of hard faces round the bed.”*

When Orwell inked down these piercing descriptions in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, on one level it was a sci-fi exercise; a novel prediction about a possible totalitarian world. But like all good sci-fi, it wasn’t so much about *what if as what is* – a reminder of the capacity the modern state has in violating its subjects.

Because ‘violation’ is precisely the word most apt to describe the state-subject relationship in Australia for the past few months. The violation has happened overtly in the form of ramped up Islamophobia: draconian anti-terror laws; targeted character assassinations of Muslims such as Uthman Badar; the announcement of another military intervention in Iraq; and nationwide night raids on unsuspecting Muslim men, women and children who were left bruised and humiliated by an army of 800 heavily armed police.

For weeks on end, the ‘average’ Australian citizen has been led

*“The Muslim bogeyman: a useful threat that generates the public fear required to validate both the unjust anti-terror laws and yet another crusade.”*

to believe by the media that their country’s biggest problem is an ISIS terrorist who will randomly hack off their head on the way to the corner store. Not the budget. Not the attacks on public education and health. Not the recent announcement that troops would once again be deployed to the Middle East. But the Muslim bogeyman: a useful threat that generates the public fear required to validate both the unjust anti-terror laws and yet another crusade. Forget the fact that not a single Australian has been killed in a terror attack on home soil, and never mind the half a million killed by the West in its interventionist war in Iraq only a decade prior.

The reality is that in this moment of manufactured fear in Australia, bombs are being dropped in Iraq. This creation of fear is not a new strategy that states employ to push predetermined policies.

In fact, liberal democracies can do little else but generate these fears to convince its voters of its role as humanity’s saviours.

I understand the logic. Australia’s foreign policy has always relied on its alliance with an external hegemon to assure herself a degree of security. With that in mind, the ideological convergence of the Liberals and the post-Reagan US is a useful parallel with Australia’s foreign policy doctrine. I get it. We’ll mimic US rhetoric as long as they are the leading global power.

But minorities like us, the Muslim community, can potentially play a valuable place in the building of cohesion and understanding in times of tensions and fear. So when an open Q&A session with Uthman Badar and Sheikh Wesam Charkawi — the sole purpose of which was to engage with the broader community, clear up misconceptions about Islam

and respond to the Islamophobic rhetoric — is forcibly cancelled by media pressure put on both the Sydney University Muslim Students Association and the Vice Chancellor, we should see it as nothing less than what it is: a pure and utter tragedy.

If we were to accept that mainstream media functions as largely an extension of the state architecture, then our universities are possibly one of the only remaining spaces for open, critical and non-dogmatic discussion. The leaders of these institutions, the lecturers, the researchers, and the administrators, the student body and unions are all a part of a web that forms a last line of defence for this space.

If this space demands our protection it ought to be a resistance we readily take on.

# A brotherhood of men

*Astha Rajvanshi on the dawn of a new era (for bros).*

The recent formation of the Brotherhood, Recreation and Outreach Society (BroSoc) at Sydney University is not novel. In the UK, an official Masculinity Exploring Networking and Support (MENS) society exists under Manchester University’s student union. Oxford is home to Man Collective (MC), as a “response to the current state of masculinity”.

According to the BroSoc constitution, the society was born out of a genuine desire to encourage young men in finding a sense of their own identities, and to promote and sustain good mental and physical health. As such, the society’s aims do not functionally violate any of the objects under the Union’s Clubs and Societies Program.

And yet, it comes as no surprise that across the left there has been an eruption of mockery and outrage at the formation of these societies. Those who criticize

BroSoc see the existence of men’s groups as undermining women’s or feminist groups; a conclusion often reached by assuming that men’s oppression is not equivalent to those who are directly oppressed by male privilege. In a complex sphere of gender relations, the struggle for women’s, trans’ or other non-cismale groups continues. They beg the question: are men’s issues valid in this space, and can they coexist?

Gendered expectations permeate our society in many apparent ways. A few months ago, *Honi Soit* released a survey with an extensive list of gender options, which was met with some shock and outrage. It seems that some people were simply unwilling to accept that gender is indeed a non-binary construct. Gendered behaviour, often founded on the binary of ‘male’ and ‘female’, is taught to us at a very young age, and builds up over time to define

our many personal experiences, identities and expectations.

Presumably, the men in BroSoc feel conflicted about these very expectations. For example, British gender historian John Tosh recalls that in history, masculinity has often been a tool through which the men of the ruling classes could coerce the men of the lower orders. Today, cis-men suffer from modern notions of masculinity through assumptions that, for example, men should toughen up in the face of personal hardships and not “cry” about their feelings. Exercising masculinity is assumed to be an innate quality that is expected of men. This is something worth talking about, because everyone deserves to be in an inclusive and safe environment free from societal pressures or coercions.

However, my attendance at the BroSoc Inaugural General Meeting as a woman of colour also made something very clear.

I was walking into a room that was predominantly filled with cis-males who were interested in connecting with, and promoting the views of each other. Fundamentally, they are built on a white-centric, heteronormative idea of a ‘man’. And while they are seemingly open to engaging with other groups, the reality remains that any meaningful engagement with issues of oppression can only occur when those groups go out of their way to educate BroSoc. For many oppressed groups, however, acting as educators is neither desirable nor easy. I would certainly prefer not to have to explain to a group of white men the way in which our society prioritises their interests above those of white women, men of colour, and women of colour.

Therein lies BroSoc’s problem. Their discussion of masculinity, and how it affects identities, will be an insular, self-directed one.

## THE MANNING FILES

PAULENE, PAULENE, PAULENE, PAULENE, I’M BEGGING OF YOU DON’T TAKE MY MAN

If you find dealing with student politicians trying during election season, try being Paulene Graham. As returning officer, she is paid to administer the elections and listen to the many gripes and grumbles of the candidates.

Although Paulene declined to comment on any specific complaints – though we’ve heard of several – she told *The Manning Files*: “There have been a variety of claims made from all sides about promises that are made. Free political speech allows for quite a bit of hyperbole.” Paulene added that the relationship between the two presidential candidates has been surprisingly congenial. “The two presidential candidates are being very nice to one another,” she said. *The Manning Files* team is pleased to hear this, though the polling days are sure to tell a different story.

However, the University has been less agreeable. According to Paulene, USyd has booked a number of events on and around Eastern Avenue throughout the campaign, preventing campaigners from chalking and poster in certain areas. Some of the noticeboards have also disappeared from Eastern Avenue, something Paulene described as “disappointing”. Next year USyd will put the SRC elections as a permanent marker on their calendar to avoid future clashes.

## SMASHING BALLOTS AND DODGING BULLETS

The 2014 Presidential Debate occurred last Thursday. Right off the bat the presence of Sydney University Liberal Club publication *Mon Droit* on the interviewing panel caused some consternation (see the editorial on page two), but fortunately the indomitable former USU IPP and debate chair Astha Rajvanshi was on hand to crush any resistance to our reign of terror.

A major point of difference between the candidates that emerged was the candidates’ approach to the National Union of Students (NUS). When Kyol Blakeney (Grassroots) was asked how he would fund his policy platform, he suggested cutting funding given by the SRC to NUS. However, when asked later how he planned on fighting

fee deregulation without the coordinating with NUS and its affiliate student organisations, he clarified that he would not work to actually disaffiliate from the organisation, but merely to reduce the level of funding it receives.

Amy Knox (National Labor Students) was also asked if she felt comfortable giving SRC office bearing positions to members of Socialist Alternative, a group who have sided with Grassroots in the past. “I’ve never publicly said I’d give them spots in the future SRC,” said Knox. She refused to comment on if that meant she would *not* be giving them spots.

But without a doubt the biggest bombshell was when the candidates were asked to name the most objectionable quality of their opponents. After a lot of awkward thumb-twiddling, Blakeney nominated Knox’s inexperience as her most objectionable quality, whereas Knox suggested she disliked Blakeney’s attitude towards NUS.

## FREE PALESTINE VS STUDENTS FOR PALESTINE FOR SRC


Although Grassroots, Stand Up!, Left Action and Switch have had their fair share of disputes over the past couple of weeks, little compares to the running feud currently playing out between the two Palestine-focused tickets. Omar Hassan is running at the top of Free Palestine (a Left Action/Socialist Alternative ticket) and Fahad Ali is running at the top of Students for Palestine for SRC (an independent ticket).


From September 16-19, Ali sent six emails to Returning Officer Paulene Graham detailing various complaints against Hassan. Ali alleged that he approached Hassan on September 11 and asked for their two tickets to work together in some capacity, an offer that Hassan allegedly declined. While this is perhaps understandable in the heated election arena, other complaints made by Ali were accompanied by evidence of Hassan’s alleged wrongdoing.

Ali’s next allegation – that Hassan covered up Students for Palestine for SRC posters with Left Action posters – came with accompanying photographs. The next allegation – that Hassan claimed to be the only pro-Palestine ticket in the election – was confirmed by a student

# Tweets from the trail

 · Sep 18  
SRC campaign ceasefire for the next hour. Quick HEIST, now's our chance. #usydvotes

 @clifford336 · Sep 17  
Overhead: ‘one guy’s Kyol - the other guy running is also called Kyol’. Separate SWITCH and Grassroots confusing non-hacks? #usydvotes

 Rhys Pogonoski @RPogo · Sep 18  
Postgrads and non-USyd students outnumber undecided voters at the Presidential forum #usydvotes

 · Sep 18  
#usydvotes Before it's even begun, we know that democracy is the true loser.

witness. The next – that Hassan has allegedly been telling voters Ali is not committed to the Palestinian cause – came with an audio recording of Ali interviewing a voter. In the recording, the voter recounts a Free Palestine campaigner saying Ali’s “heart really isn’t into [the Palestinian cause] and the main thing he’s trying to do is campaign because he wants a position”.

The animosity between the two is well documented, with public Facebook barbs traded even before the election. Omar Hassan did not respond to several requests for comment.

## THE HONI RACE: IT’S GOING TO BE A REALLY, REALLY CLOSE ONE

Dom Ellis, member of *Honi* ticket Heist, is nervous about the upcoming *Honi* elections. Despite the only other serious ticket, SWAG, dropping out of the race, Ellis and his team insist on campaigning. “It’s about letting people know our plans for the year ahead so they know what they’re voting for,” he says.

When asked how he thinks Heist’s chances of winning are looking, he replies: “good”. The team is planning to have a relatively decent campaigner base coming out for the 12 or so hours of voting. “I may or may not have engaged in a wager about winning with certain Honi editors\*, but we don’t have a target, we just want to win,” says Ellis.

So who’s looking like more of a threat out of the other two Honi

tickets: Pravda or Chris Pyne? “We get the impression that most people don’t know what Pravda is but having said that most people also don’t like Chris Pyne ... But Chris Pyne is probably slightly more likely to be a threat because Celeste Arenas, who IS Chris Pyne, has made one post on Facebook,” Ellis responds.

Arenas acknowledged her lack of formal campaigning, but said her campaign has received “a great response” regardless.

“Campaign material may or may not become more visible during upcoming election days which is all subject to whether or not I have the time,” she said.

“I think my chances of winning are pretty high,” she added. “It all depends on my base support.”

On the other side, Pravda’s sole ticket member Pedram Mohseni describes his campaign as “pretty tough” due to the language barriers between him and his campaigners. “Most of them are Cossacks so I’ve had a hard time explaining to them that the RO says beheading other campaigners is against the regulations. But walk-and-talks are pretty great when most of your campaigners are on horseback,” says Mohseni. We’re glad to hear it.

Mohseni also aptly points out that none of the tickets have a three-letter slogan and circular logo, so the possibility that nobody could win still remains.

*\*We cannot confirm nor deny this.*

*Editors who produced this coverage are not associated with any campaign or campus faction. The following eds have signed an affidavit to declare their neutrality: Georgia Behrens, John Gooding, Lane Sainty, Astha Rajvanshi.*



# Take no prisoners

*Natalie Czapski visited Silverwater Metropolitan Remand Centre.*

If I asked you to imagine what prison in NSW looks like, chances are, you’d probably picture something a little like *Orange is the New Black*, or reflect on that time you watched a season of *America’s Hardest Prisons* in an effort to procrastinate from exams. If you’ve never been to prison, and don’t know someone who has, your reflections are most likely grounded in popular culture, if it’s ever something you’ve considered at all.

When I found out about a ‘prison visit’ excursion scheduled for one of my classes, I honestly had no idea what to expect. Our state statistics tell a story of a 43 per cent recidivism rate, an inmate population of 11,000 and rising; as well as disproportionately high numbers of Indigenous Australians, people from low socio-economic backgrounds, the substance addicted, and the mentally ill. For quite some time, I’ve wanted to work in criminal justice and reform – but I couldn’t tell you a single thing about what our system actually *looks like*.

Our visit was to Silverwater Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre, about 21 km west of the CBD. It could be considered the lynchpin of the system; it is the single largest correctional centre in the state, with over 900 beds filled with male inmates awaiting, or undergoing, trial or sentencing, and others in transit to prisons around the state.

It’s business as usual in the inmate reception area. There was no one passing through when we were there, but we were told people would begin to come in as early as 5 or 6 am. Many are at

the Centre only for the weekend – arrested on Friday night, refused bail, off to the Local Court on Monday – indeed, the prison population is in a constant state of flux. Many more go to Court via video link – around 8,000 inmates in the past year.

Arrivals are stripped, their personal belongings bagged and stored for return on release. They are given a green jumpsuit to wear, a plate, bowl and cup, a towel and blanket. The standard-issue shoes are green as well – Velcro straps, no laces – that’s a suicide risk. The blankets are specially designed so they can’t be torn. That many inmates are at risk of self-harm or suicide is dealt with in a painfully matter-of-fact way. The Centre is equipped with a set of ‘safe-cells’ – clear Perspex doors, no hanging points, 24-hour camera monitoring. The goal of keeping at-risk inmates alive trumps what little privacy is afforded to the rest of prison population. There is an acute mental health unit in the Centre as well – many there are waiting for space to free up in the newly built Long Bay Prison Hospital.

Monitoring, assessment, protection and support seemed to be common themes throughout the complex. When inmates first arrive, they must be placed in ‘Darcy Unit’, where they are closely assessed and monitored, put on drug rehabilitation programs if needed, assigned relevant medication, and placed on watch if at risk of self-harm. Only once an inmate has been cleared may they be moved into the general prison population. It is a bottleneck of sorts – even if there are spare beds throughout the rest of the

Centre, if Darcy Unit is full, then no more inmates can come into the prison.

What struck me about this process is the degree of support provided, and vitally needed, for members of the prison population. There is a GP, a dentist, nurses, psychiatrists, and even radiology equipment on site. The officer, who was showing us around, said that many of those coming in were being tested and treated for basic STIs: problems which weren’t dealt with on the outside, quite apart from the more complex trauma, substance abuse, and mental health issues that so many present with. It made me question how these individuals cope upon their release from prison, without these institutionalised systems of support. I recalled an anecdote I’d heard about an ex-prisoner who needed to attend 17 different appointments in a week following her release from custody. A huge proportion of those who leave custody end up homeless, heavily in debt, lacking financial support or familial networks. We were at a Remand Centre, and not a centre holding those serving long term custodial sentences, but a lack of continuity between support within the system and support upon release seems similar. Little wonder our recidivism rates are so high.

The in-prison work system did not seem especially targeted towards rehabilitation either, but more like a method of behavioural management. If you’ve ever wondered who repairs Qantas in-flight headphones, the answer lies in Silverwater Remand. Apparently the inmates who work there get paid around \$35 a week for 6 hour days, 5 days a week. This equates to \$1.17 per hour, with options for higher pay if promoted to more senior positions. On one hand, these inmates are being given work to do and incentives for better

behaviour – but at the same time, they were paid far below minimum wage, without the capacity to develop skills or save for the outside. Wages enabled inmates to purchase expensive cigarettes. And one wonders what will happen to the 80 per cent of inmates who smoke when the prison-smoking ban is rolled out next year. From the anecdotes we heard, smuggling in contraband, including drugs and mobile phones, is not uncommon, despite rigorous security.

Behavioural management in custody is not just about protecting inmates from themselves, but protecting them from *each other*. There are various protected cell populations within the Centre – child sex offenders, for example, need to be protected from other inmates. The risk isn’t a far-fetched one either – we heard about an incident involving an inmate who murdered his cellmate because he thought he was a paedophile. Warring gangs, too, need to be separated from each other. Apparently offenders from various gangs are allocated to certain prisons around the state: preventing gang warfare in already overcrowded prisons, but also insidiously enabling individual gangs to gain a strange sense of ownership over the prisons they populate.

It was a short and fleeting glimpse into the system that I got that morning, but it was a glimpse nonetheless into a complex system that very few members of the public know anything about. Perhaps it was a product of visiting a Remand Centre, but I couldn’t help but feel as though the system suffers from a sense of tunnel vision - designed to keep inmates alive, stable, and well-behaved, but not to keep them from returning. I need to learn far more than this complex and bizarre system, but my resolve about prisons, in general, remains clear – something needs to change.

## The myth of the false accuser

*Sarah Armstrong on society’s myopia surrounding false rape accusations.*

TRIGGER WARNING: THIS PIECE CONTAINS REFERENCES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT.

A man is accused of sexual assault, and his accuser is met with a resounding chorus asserting that she’s an awful liar, after his money, or an attention seeker who regretted her decision after the fact.

It’s a disappointingly repeated scenario, and one which belies Australia’s problems with sexual assault. The trope of the predatory accuser lying to ‘ruin a man’s reputation’ is difficult to combat. It reflects why less than one in three incidents of sexual assault will be reported in a country where 17 per cent of women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes.

Media coverage skews public perceptions by presenting rape as a crime typically committed by clearly deviant, disturbed males who are unknown to the victim. Perhaps this is why it’s so difficult to view sexual assault by an acquaintance as a ‘proper’ assault. Until we accept that these common depictions are

misleading and that there are no visible cues for identifying rapists, it’s going to be a struggle to believe victims if they accuse anyone outside this category.

This urge to accuse rape victims of lying is deplorable. Numerous studies show that false rape accusations are no more common than false accusations regarding other crimes. Despite this, 38 per cent of Australians surveyed in 2013 agreed that often women ‘lead men on’, regret sex, and then lie about rape. Only 59 per cent believe that it’s rare for women to make false accusations. These damning statistics make clear the need to re-evaluate our understanding of rape. Cases dropped for insufficient evidence, or where a victim decides not to complete the gruelling court process, are not the same as false accusations. Absence of a conviction doesn’t mean absence of a crime. Just because some people find it difficult to believe that a friend could have sexually assaulted someone doesn’t mean it should be

socially acceptable to blame victims. Finding it easier to rationalise it as a miscommunication or a case of the victim ‘making it up’ rather than a ‘respectable’ person committing rape only shows society’s myopia.

The persistence of the ‘false accuser as prominent social concern’ myth illustrates a lack of awareness. If you took this view at face value, you’d be led to believe that, much like the witch trials in 17<sup>th</sup> century Salem, women accusing others of crime are met with flocks of sympathetic onlookers who prosecute the accused without evidence and throw away the key. In reality, the rate of sexual assault convictions is abysmally low, survivors of assault often face stigma and lifetime PTSD.

Opening up about sexual violence clearly isn’t pleasant; the ambivalent social attitudes facing victims are abundantly clear. Publicly accusations aren’t something often done on a whim, or for revenge or profit. Research has repeatedly shown that sexual

assault, and the judicial process surrounding it, have long-standing impacts on an individual’s mental health. Public understandings of what a survivor looks like, and how they act, are incredibly out of step with psychological realities. Armchair commentators clamouring to discredit victims should take note.

Sexual assault is a gendered crime, and generally considered a woman’s problem (although four per cent of Australian men do face sexual violence). Given that fact, maybe some men believe false accusations are a greater threat to them than sexual violence. However, it’s not a fear borne out in reality. Assuming victims are lying makes it harder for them to come forward, and makes sexual assault harder to prosecute and thus harder to eliminate. Globally, one in 5 women and one in 33 men will be sexually assaulted; so perpetuating the myth that false accusations are common actively reinforces social hurdles to justice.

## BroSoc, more like NoSoc

*An SRC candidate thinks BroSoc is fucking stupid.*

Two weeks ago the IGM of BroSoc (Brotherhood, Recreation, and Outreach Society) was held in the Isabel Fidler room in Manning, to no small amount of protest. The society was to be, according to its (later deleted) event description, “a safe space for men on campus”.

I know what you’re thinking – a space for cis men is *just* what I was after at university! And it gets better: next week will see the formation of HetSoc (Husbandry, Empathy, and Tradition Society), a group raising awareness about the struggles of straight life. The week after, CisSoc (Creativity, Inclusion, and Sorry But Are You A Girl Or A Boy? Society), who will make it their mission to ensure cisgender individuals can “finally be themselves”. Once a month the three will assemble for a “Not That There’s Anything Wrong With That!” Party to drink beer (white wine for the ladies!) and discuss how hard it is to feel so guilty all the time.

It’s somewhat difficult to be mindful of any serious issues a “bro” society may present when the notion of it existing in the first place is so ridiculous. The founders of BroSoc want a forum at uni to be able to talk about men’s views on stuff – have they not been to, you know, almost any lecture on campus? Does BroSoc realise their full name sounds like a camping trip for Bears? How do I find out if I qualify as a “Bro”?

However, this does not mean that BroSoc does not represent some incredibly problematic views regarding gender to which society has clung.

Indeed it’s highly probable that BroSoc is not just a front for MRAs to whine about “reverse sexism”. BroSoc’s main goal, stated in its

(again, deleted for “broccountability”) mission statement, is to start a campus Men’s Shed. Men’s Sheds are intended to be safe spaces for men to engage in discussions about their mental health.

The Australian Men’s Shed Association (AMSA) has said: “Unlike women, most men are reluctant to talk about their emotions and that means that they usually don’t ask for help. Probably because of this many men are less healthy than women.” According to them, the activities one can hope to see in a Men’s Shed include: “...restoring furniture, perhaps restoring bicycles for a local school, maybe making Mynah bird traps or fixing lawn mowers or making a kids cubby house for Camp Quality to raffle.”

For one thing, there is already a society on campus for mental health—MAHSoc. To create a distinct society “just for men!” on this issue typifies the way we as a society deal with most problems: it’s only worth giving a shit about once The Men are involved.

What’s more, there is very little about Men’s Sheds that endeavours to break down heteropatriarchal standards of masculinity – in fact, this emphasis on “building stuff” only reinforces ideas about what a man should be. As a result, there are masses of male-identified people who are excluded from this kind of space. Men’s Sheds do nothing to address the problems queer men, trans and intersex men, men of colour, or differently-abled men face in the intersections of oppression. Instead, it says to those men that there is not a space in which they can get help.

This brings us to the most important point, the crux of what makes BroSoc

a problematic mess: the founding members of the society claimed they are fostering a space that will be safe and comfortable for non-hegemonic masculinities, non-male identified people, and gender non-conforming identities. They then proceeded to not listen to a single complaint by the many non-heteromasculine and non-cis male individuals who explained that the society made them feel unsafe and uncomfortable. In its quest to uphold diversity, BroSoc implicitly supported a culture where it’s fine to say a being a man means “well, biologically a man...” . I had never been so concerned for my safety on campus, but that’s okay, because The Men get what they want out of it.

It comes back to this inexplicable notion that, in a conversation about oppression, the privileged party has as much right as the oppressed to an opinion. This is simply not true. There is very little meaningful that cis, heterosexual males can offer in a discussion about gendered oppression that is not vehement agreement with wom\*n, trans and gender-non confirming voices. The idea that because sexism *sometimes* affects men, men have the right to speak to the issues of sexism, is so very disturbing, because it allows cis, heterosexual men once again to speak over and drown out other identities.

When BroSoc chose not to listen to the voices of the non-cis males who objected to the society’s problematic gender politics, they said all they needed to say on how they feel about other identities. It remains to be seen whether or not Clubs and Societies and the Board will allow this clusterfuck of an attempt to uphold heteropatriarchy to be legitimised.

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# What do WE want? When do WE want it?

*Maral Hosseinpour, International Students' Officer of SUPRA, examines why International students should increase their involvement in the campaign against Education cuts.*

NDA's. Marches. Speeches. Chants. "Stop the cuts." "Hands Off Our Education."

Australian students are angry and their demands are clear: "No government funding cuts. No fee deregulation. No interest on HECS debts. No corporate universities."

And yet, there is one unanswered and even unasked question: "What do WE want?"

Who are WE? We are the more than 250,000 international students completing higher education degrees and courses in Australia. As a group, we are larger than the entire population of Hobart, and almost the same size as Wollongong.

As Simon Marginson said in a recent *SMH* article, we are the population in the shadows, expected to stay on the fringes of society, to pay up on time, to be seen and not heard. However, it seems that the wall of this lamentable tradition has been cracked through the campaign against education cuts. The question of whether or not

international students activists will grab this opportunity and smash the wall completely, however, is still to be asked and discussed.

We are clearly aware and deeply concerned by the effects of education funding cuts, fee deregulation, student support cuts, and staff cuts on our lives as international students as well as on domestic students. We cannot and should not remain silent in this situation.

The main student body campaigning against the cuts, the Education Action Group,

provides a natural way for us to get involved in blooming education activism in Australia. We can add to this struggle by sharing our diverse political experiences gained though activism in our home countries. More importantly, this is a unique opportunity to draw public attention to numerous problems and difficulties international students face in Australian society and to struggle against budget and education cuts united with the entire student body while fighting for our own specific demands and rights.

We demand a well-recognised and well-defined legal identity in this

country.

We demand full public transport concessions.

We demand an end to exploitation of international students in Australian job market.

We demand better healthcare, housing, financial and psychological support.

We want our basic human rights back. Australia sucks up 16 billion dollars per year from us, so it is time to pay an utterly insignificant amount of it back to support people who make the rich of this country richer.

We are fully aware that rights are fought for and not granted. A government that cuts welfare and education of its own poor students and working class will not fulfil any of our demands unless we push for their fulfilment from below. So maybe it is time to join local students in their struggle and to ask them to join us in ours because at the end the fight is one and the enemy is the same.



## IVFukt *Leigh Nicholson reports on the potential price hikes facing IVF users.*

IVF clinics in Australia are currently at war over whether or not to simplify their methods in order to drop the costs to a more accessible price. Most clinics currently offer IVF procedures at costs ranging from \$5,000-\$9,000, while some researchers are arguing that it could be done for even a few hundred dollars.

Unfortunately, IVF also invokes debates about the 'price' of pregnancy. In an interview on ABC Radio National two weeks ago, Prof. Geoff Driscoll, the director of Reproductive Medicine at UNSW, and Adnan Catakovic, CEO of City Fertility Centre, discussed the reasons why the costs of IVF can so often be inflated: you can't put on a 'price on a child'. The difficulty in having a discussion like this is that IVF procedures shouldn't be conflated with 'buying a child'.

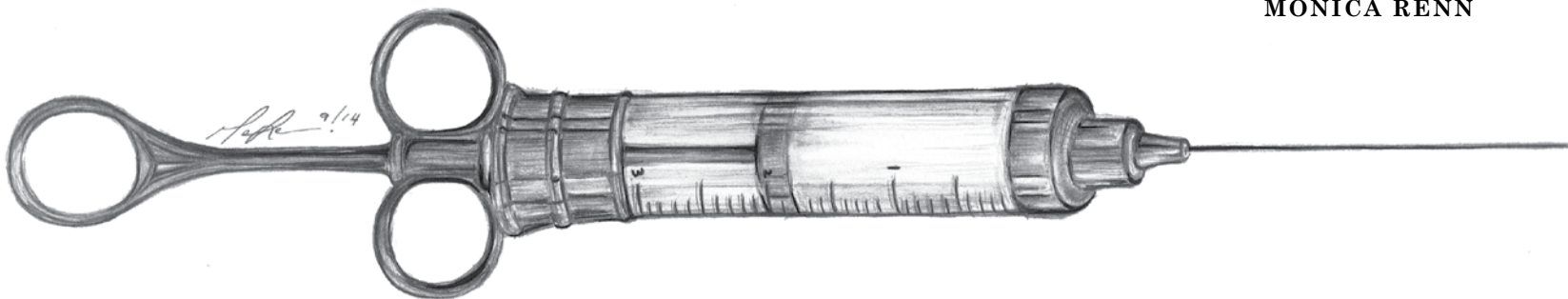
At a forum hosted by the Society of Reproductive Biology last month, Prof. Alan Trounson, a scientist who led the first successful IVF birth in Australia, spoke in support of low-cost IVF clinics in Australia, stating how changing methods could cut the current procedure costs significantly. Trounson suggests

swapping out costly technician staff for automated services; something he sees as inevitable in the next 5-10 years. Obviously this would be mean less employment in this area, which is already an understated but important field of research, but it would be mean quicker and less expensive methods.

Researchers have understandably criticized these clinics and their affiliated CEOs. Trounson has been attacked over his role in the conception of IVF and the incredible financial gains he would have originally made. Catakovic called Trounson the 'Clive Palmer' of IVF, and in an interview with *The Age*, James Thiedeman, CEO of Monash IVF, copped out by saying "We're dealing with people's gametes here, so I'm always a little bit wary of automation."

IVF is currently a medical service which has evolved in much the same way as pharmaceutical companies. It's a free market: services can be charged for exuberant prices under the guise of being the most 'medical' and 'scientific', just because they can. Success rates in IVF are dictated by a number of factors, such as health, fertility and age, and in some cases it would be the best option to go for a more specialised and costly procedure. But making a blanket rule that all people have to go down this path is an unnecessary waste of resources, money and is also predicated on the assumption that all people seeking IVF are doing so because of infertility issues. The problem is that the people who choose the prices of IVF are the ones invested in the companies.

ILLUSTRATION BY  
MONICA RENN



### *Winston H. Bernstein reviews #EngoRevue.*

Engineering Revue 2014 was the most groundbreaking piece of theatre I, renowned theatre critic Winston H Bernstein, have witnessed in my entire 40 year career of reviewing the art form.

The show was a bold inversion and perversion of all things that normally make a show what we call 'entertaining' – solid writing and comedic premises, good acting, lines being audible and tech that actually worked. This brilliant postmodern approach to structure and technique was severely underappreciated by the ridiculously alcohol-plastered plebeian student audience.

It was almost impossible to tell whether there was a throughline that tied this supposed Game of Thrones themed Revue. The first act seemed to be all about Game of Thrones, only to be completely abandoned in the second half. For the director to take such a show widely-known for being entertaining and strip it of any of the interesting aspects of the series is a bold ironic move that challenged the catatonically inebriated spectators.

The Revue doesn't shy away from facing its dissenters either, with one memorable female performer making a sharp ad-libbed retort to a foolish audience heckle. With this multi

directional heckling, the audience are immersed in the show – the audience becomes performer, the performer, the audience.

Men appeared half-naked in almost every sketch, this inclusion to the scene mostly not remarked upon or necessary to the comedic premise. The revue acutely understood their audience, drunk idiots who wished to shame the actors by making them submit to their will of revealing their precious privates. But in almost all cases, the genitalia remained obscured, an endless torture for the audience, reminiscent of Beckettesque absurdism. The Coveted Penis was Godot, and the blind-drunk audience were Vladimir and Estragon.

For the show, on the surface, to seem to be 'bad' actually is what makes it good – for the audience expects it to be bad, and it is, and therefore gives them what they want – making it good. Entertainment it is normally a simple submission of what the audience wants showing them what they want to see. Engineering Revue, however, manages to give its audience exactly what they don't and do want, and never changes, year after year. If I could physically ejaculate pretentiousness, I would do it all over Engineering Revue's pretty little face.

Five stars.

### *Will Edwards drank at Manning... and also saw a show.*

HBO's *Game of Thrones* perplexes viewers by an ostensibly unending series of shocking twists and fantastically rich revelations about its characters and setting. Engineering Revue's *AGM of Thrones* perplexed viewers by inebriating them beyond comprehension. (The USU encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol.) Yet #engorevue did more than that, for behind the façade of yet another revue lurked one of the best experiences to be found in Manning Bar.

Before anything else, I must be clear: #engorevue was bad theatre. The cast had mere days to learn the script and, to their credit, while not many lines seemed dropped, few viewers would've noticed if they had been, such was the quality of much of the writing. Weak humour paired with little practice had predictable results. Even the few genuinely funny sketches weren't enough to redeem the rest of what occurred on stage.

One particular joke was misguidedly repeated throughout the show, much to the audience's displeasure. On so many occasions that I lost count, men wore dresses. No clever message about gender was made, nor was anyone deserving of it satirised. Rather, someone in #engorevue thought a man in a dress is just inherently funny. It isn't. While many believe members of one gender can dress as another gender for humour's sake – drag queens and

kings, for instance, are widely considered funny – doing so isn't a joke in itself. Think of it this way: drag is a setup, not a punchline.

Having said all that, I thoroughly enjoyed the night. You see, #engorevue isn't about the show, it's about the experience. And what was wrong with the show was well compensated for elsewhere. Two things particularly stood out: the band, whose excellent playing was beyond appreciated, and the live Twitter feed on screens beside the stage.

The latter provided an outlet for a type of heckling that, in its erasure of the need to actually interrupt the performance, enabled even the most polite viewers to unleash their inner critics, and promoted considerable intra-audience interaction. While a weak punchline pains an individual, the collective #engorevue audience was beyond able to tweet the bright side on such occasions, prompting much – if not most – of the night's laughter. That sense of community, equal parts amused and bemused, only grew throughout the night.

A show to laugh at rather than with, a quirky band, more drink than Hemingway could handle, and camaraderie Marx could only dream of: these were #engorevue 2014's ingredients, and they worked.



# THE RISE AND FALL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY DRAMA SOCIETY

PATRICK MORROW CHRONICLES THE LIFE AND DEATH OF  
STUDENT THEATRE ON CAMPUS.

“...*The sky is overcast  
Here in the English autumn, but  
my mind  
Basks in the light I never left  
behind.*”

Clive James, “*Sentenced to Life*”,  
*Times Literary Supplement*, 2 May  
2014

This year the Sydney University Dramatic Society (SUDS) turned 125. To celebrate, Australia’s oldest continuously operating theatre company was ousted from The Cellar Theatre, our home beneath Holme, and shoehorned into Studio B. Due to the discovery of asbestos we were stuck for ten months (of a refurbishment scheduled to take three) in a mausoleum to a long-dead culture of performing arts on campus.

Studio B occupies the space immediately behind what used to be The Footbridge Theatre, because, in the days when Footbridge was still a designated student theatre, it used to be a part of it. What was once Footbridge’s designated rehearsal space has a disorientingly high ceiling, which once accommodated mechanists, stage-hands, a catwalk and lighting rig, but now, in the absence of any of these resources, serves only to ruin acoustics.

The move was a poetic blow, as part of what many members of the society perceive to be an inadvertent attack on culture on campus; a war of belt-tightening attrition, waged by generations of exploitative bureaucracies that

don’t appreciate they undercut one of the university’s greatest assets. And it is an asset that holds value despite being housed in a venue in which the damp will kill you, or the electrics will kill you, or the asbestos in the ceilings will kill you. (Or would have. These things are nominally fixed.)

Studio B was a draughty, hostile, cold and cavernous relic, but an exterior fire escape left ajar led to a whole world of impossibly spacious, but disused dressing rooms, no longer to OH&S standards. Rows of incandescent, Broadway bulbs skirt mirrors, hardly aged, which still boast the lipstick of sixties campus stars.

And what stars they were. It was the gateway to a time when the

performing arts on campus were taken seriously – or so it seemed.

At the time of the commissioning of the Footbridge Theatre in 1959, the USU declared: “A university theatre is essential.” The theatre seated several hundred, was fully equipped, and was intended to replace the theatre-cum-lecture halls that had been used in the past. More impressive than the theatre itself was the SUDS cohort that attended it. Robert Hughes, Mungo Macallum, Germaine Greer, John Bell, Barry Humphries, Bob Ellis, Clive James, all interacted with SUDS in the late fifties and early sixties.

Dr. Laura Ginters, Senior Lecturer of The Performance Studies Department has been working on

a history of the society for almost a decade, with a focus on these golden years. She praises the period as one in which “University was a genuine period of creativity and self-development”.

This was partly due to the nature of pre-digital coursework. “It was said that in first semester first years worked, in second semester not even they worked, in third semester everyone crammed,” Ginters explains. “The students only had exams at the end of the year – assessment was not part of the deal, so for two thirds of the year, everyone had masses of time, so the volume of productions they did was huge.”

And the programming was predictably impressive. Bob Ellis, prominent Labour Speechwriter (and slightly racist, girl-centric and still sometimes SUDS critic), starred in the first Harold Pinter play ever to be staged in Australia. Previously unperformed works by Brecht were almost common in 1961 and 1962.

In 1967, the breakaway Architecture Revue – *The Great Wall of Porridge* – was founded by Graham Bond, who would go on to wear a dress and fake moustache as the immortal Auntie Jack, along with Geoffrey Atherden (writer of *Mother and Son*), Peter Weir (director of *The Truman Show*) and Peter Best (composer for *Crocodile Dundee*).

The incredible cultural output continues throughout the seventies and eighties. The USU’s current Head of Marketing, Alistair Cowie, was Publicity Officer for SUDS in 1989 and the list of those he met through the society is similarly staggering: Chris Mead, Vince Sorrenti, Julia Zemiro, Neil Armfield, Marion Potts, Lucy Bell and Anita Hegh have all gone on to success in their fields, via The Cellar.

In 1986, *Guardian Australia* editor David Marr would direct Spike Milligan’s *The Bedsitting Room*, while the stalled revue program of the late sixties had by now returned to the Footbridge Theatre, with the Union, along with the Law and Medical Faculties, staging variety shows similar to those given today.

Ian Maxwell is now a lecturer in Performance Studies, but in 1986, he was president of SUDS and received a terse letter from the Seymour Centre threatening a two dollar fine if first-time director Andrew Upton could not produce the key to the downstairs space.

Maxwell and Cowie both fondly remember their time in The Cellar.

Both cited SUDS punch – brewed in a garbage can and laced with acid, a feverous attachment to political, post-modern texts that dealt with nuclear fallout, spectacular sustainable poverty, and an evening where all the society’s lighting equipment was stolen by the Divinyls.

The successes of the period are attributable to a kind of insularity, described by Maxwell: “It didn’t feel careerist. I don’t think we had any sense of the future. I don’t think we had a notion of the history of the place. I can never remember us having people talk about the famous generation of the sixties. Maybe we were just completely self-absorbed. We were still in the notion of an opening up world.”

“The basic cost of living was smaller. They were much more innocent days,” Maxwell explains. The cohort lived in Glebe, and Newtown and Chippendale and rarely wasn’t on campus. While nobody had any money, nobody needed it, because there was the dole and free education and it seemed like nobody could take either away.

SUDS got three weeks of time in the Seymour Centre, twice a year thanks to the on campus Theatre Service – a protean iteration of today’s Performance Studies Department.

What could possibly have changed?

The introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism in 2005 left the USU predictably gutted. Where previously, every April, 8 million dollars (approximately \$280 per student) would reliably line its coffers, current arrangements see the USU receiving \$80 per student, and a further \$70 should they buy an Access Card.

To stay afloat, the Union sold most of Footbridge, level 5 of the Wentworth Building, and a handful of other union spaces for \$5 million, and \$3 million per year thereafter – a decision that Cowie laments as necessary.

The increased financial burden is not felt only by the Union. The fundamental difference between now and the past, Ginters argues, is that “it’s all too easy for students to just bow down under the fact that they have to earn enough money to live, and to pay for their books, and their HECS – and to not be here very often. There are now pressures to balance in the getting of a degree”.

But these pressures don’t really constitute a new threat to campus culture. It seems that the performing arts have existed in a

permanently precarious position on campus, the Golden Days included. In fact, the degree to which our present obstacles are incidental becomes clear when we look to the past without rose tinted spectacles.

That vulgar reminder of the good old days, The Footbridge Theatre, for example, was ultimately very rarely used by students. By all accounts, it was as unforgivingly unclean and under-maintained as The Cellar is nowadays, and was largely hired out by non-student theatre groups instead. According to Ginters, “everyone thought it would solve all the problems of student drama – it didn’t... the fantastic new, purpose built theatre was too expensive for students to use.”

The lack of administrative support, both at University and more broadly, resulted in what Howard Jacobson called “a seething cauldron of belligerence” among the student theatre community. John Gaden, now a member of Belvoir and Australian television aristocracy, confessed to Ginters that he spent much of his time in SUDS pilfering construction sites for set-sized lengths of timber, or breaking into The Wallace Theatre for wont of a performance space after hours or on weekends.

And the society was hardly any better off: twice bailed out by the Union in the eighties and nineties, the group operated out of facilities that were notoriously “flea ridden” and “rat-hole”, according to Cowie, “but everything is beautiful when you look back at your twenty-year-old self.” The Cleveland Street Theatre, PACT Centre for Emerging Artists, Manning, Footbridge and The Cellar – all were trying spaces that were whipped into produced magic.

Even as far back as the late nineteenth century the struggle for a sense of place was real. The society was allowed to perform in The Great Hall, “and then they’d do something horrendous like not clean up properly and they’d be banned for thirty or forty years,” Ginters explained.

Triumph in the face of logistical adversity is integral to the SUDS narrative – the incredible pressure exerted by VSU and increasingly finite budgets are new problems, but having problems isn’t.

SUDS perseveres, and many of its graduates from the past ten years, just as previously, are making their names in Australian theatre. Former member Kip Williams this month directed Hugo Weaving in the Sydney Theatre Company’s *Macbeth*, while 2011

President Olivia Satchell has already founded a fledgling theatre company, Somersault, to cultivate and refine new Australian plays.

Fact is, as reflecting on SUDS’ notable alumni and the society’s flourishing comes closer and closer to the present, the narrative I’d previously accepted about campus performing arts – that they are victim to a new, highly – successful, bureaucratic conspiracy to sink them- begins to look less convincing.

Ginters naturally dismisses the suggestion. “The perception that there is less activity, and less support for activities is a perpetual one. It was a constant struggle to finding funding for shows as well as for other activities.”

To say that the sixties were the glory days of campus culture is only to say that the period’s alumni have secured their notoriety. Those who graduated in the eighties and nineties are doing so now, and the current assembly of undergraduates will one day do the same.

“The University,” Ginters observes, “is very keen on cutting the arts left, right and centre but whenever they want to advertise how brilliant they are on their website, you always see someone playing an oboe, or people clapping hands.”

In an increasingly competitive tertiary education market, universities such as Sydney are looking to promote themselves to potential new students on the basis of activities and institutions such as SUDS, but until now have been hesitant to facilitate their flourishing. The Vice-Chancellor has this year provided extensive financial support to the SUDS 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner, which seems indicative of a new commitment by the University to the cultural institutions that differentiate it from other tertiary education providers. Cowie, moreover, plans to remodel the Wentworth Building into a campus culture hub by 2020 – at the heart of which would lie a (clean) venue with the means to seat 250 people, exclusively for students.

But even in the event that this optimism is unfounded SUDS is, at the very least, home again. And history suggests that, come hell, or slowly rising damp, or asbestos, or faulty electrics, the society will make the most of it.





# Courting controversy

BERNADETTE ANVIA PROFILES FORMER AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM FRASER.

“We need the United States for defence, but we only need defence because of the United States.”

So argues the former Prime Minister of Australia, the Honorable Malcolm Fraser, in his new book *Dangerous Allies*. Released in May, *Dangerous Allies* is a 360-page polemic calling for an immediate end to what Fraser terms Australia’s ‘paradoxical alliance’ with the United States of America.

Malcolm Fraser is no stranger to controversy. His candid and forthright opinions on Australian politics and politicians – most of them about his former Liberal Party – have seen him court criticism and praise in equal measure. Indeed, Fraser’s displeasure with the arguably ultra-conservative policies of the Coalition finally culminated in his resignation from the party in 2009, following Malcolm Turnbull’s replacement with Tony Abbott as leader of the party.

Fraser’s opinion that Australia should end its military dependence on the US may well be his most controversial yet. But, as he tells me frankly, he has no qualms in expressing such views, especially not when it comes to being criticised by current politicians.

“No, that wouldn’t worry me because I think [my views] are shared by ordinary Australians,” he says. “I think there is a great gulf between [ordinary Australians] and the political elite who have really been seduced by America.”

According to Fraser, our outdated relationship with the US has led to a number of “dangerous” foreign policy decisions by Australia in recent years that are more “appropriate to a past age”. These include Howard’s decision to join America in Iraq as part of the ‘Coalition of the Willing’ in 2003, accepting the stationing of American troops in Darwin under the Gillard government, and allowing Australia’s Pine Gap spy base facility to be used by America for its extensive drone program.

“If America goes to war, if they use those forces, or if they use the offensive weapons at Pine Gap, then they have the power to take us to war and I don’t believe any other country should have that power,” says Fraser. “[If] America starts to use forces deployed out of Australia, then how can an Australian Prime Minister stand on their two feet and say we’re not involved?”

“What makes me fearful for Australia’s future is we’ve now put ourselves in



the position that if America goes to war in the Pacific, they have power to take us also to war. That to me is a total betrayal of Australian sovereignty.”

Australia has spent most of its life on the international scene complying with the foreign policy interests of England, and now, America. In a period of major international instability and turmoil in countries like Iraq, Syria and the Ukraine, along with regional tensions in the Asia-Pacific between nations like China and Japan, urging Australia to cease its ‘strategic dependence’ on the US would appear to be a decision fraught with danger. But to Fraser, the biggest danger would be to stay on with America.

“People... have said that abandoning strategic dependence is risky, but I think it is the least risky option open to us,” he says. “I happen to believe giving America the power to say when Australia goes to war is the most dangerous position that Australia can bear.”

“In spite of the view that they’re a very great military power, American influence cannot point to any success,” Fraser says.

There aren’t many former world leaders of Fraser’s repute and status who would freely and candidly admit to believing that the West is primarily responsible for the crisis in the UkraineBut Fraser blames the West for the problems we are now seeing – problems, he fears, that Australia will be dragged into as a result of Prime Minister Abbott’s closeness with the US.

on behalf of a party and is no longer concerned with approval ratings.

His disappointment with Australia’s current domestic situation is also widely-known. “The [Liberal] Party has changed, the Labor Party has also changed – both have moved increasingly towards the right” admits Fraser. In moving to the right, Fraser believes that both parties have abandoned the principles that they once stood for in favor of ultra-conservative policies that achieve nothing for the nation’s betterment.

“If you look at the things my government did... we were concerned with the less well off in our community, [we had] a concern for social equity which has not been exhibited in the recent government’s budget, for example,” he says.

Whilst Fraser concedes that his government’s achievements may not have been “much noted at the time,” he is proud to look back on a period in Australian history where his government “opposed apartheid, had a generous attitude towards refugees- especially from Indochina- passed the Human Rights Commission, [and] the Administrative Appeal Tribunal.”

The question must be asked – what would Fraser do if he were Prime Minister now?

“I would want to work much harder on establishing really good relationships in our own region. I would say to America to withdraw those troops in Darwin, and give them not too much time to do that.”

As for domestic politics? “We would need to reassert the moral tradition of Australian values of a ‘fair go’ for all Australians; try and give a helping hand to those who need it.”

“I would be wanting to emphasize the need for scientific research, [and] for high quality education to be accessible for all of those who can take advantage of it – I don’t believe we should try to restrict the number of Australians who go to university, which seems to be the current policy.”

While Fraser may no longer have the political power to achieve his vision, perhaps one day, we will have an Australia that Fraser knows it can be: “an independent middle power and cooperating with other middle powers to try and build a better and a safer world and to espouse the principles of the United Nations.”

## THE SICK SAD WORLD OF GENERIC OFFICE ROLEPLAY

FACEBOOK HAS PRODUCED YET ANOTHER BIZARRE SOCIAL SIMULATION, REPORTS **AN SRC CANDIDATE**.

“Dear Colleagues,

Regards,  
Carter Campbell

*As I reflect on my first week here at the Eastern Division I must express a number of concerns I have had. I understand that a number of these may be due to my recent arrival from the Milwaukee Western Division, and my need to adjust to ‘Eastern Office Culture’, yet I feel I should at least alert you all to some of these.*

*Firstly, in the weekly consultative relations meeting with HR I was told by one staffer to “take a chill pill”. Now I must remind all staff members that section 27(C):III[b] of the employee contract states...*

*[several paragraphs of similarly bureaucratic drivel]*

*... Do not hesitate to get in contact, or CC: CC (the nickname I had in Milwaukee West). I always welcome constructive feedback (note: “beige” and “soulless” are neither warranted nor constructive).*

*Vice-Director Strategic Services and E-Mail (formerly Senior-Deputy-Vice-President Marketing and Cleaning, Milwaukee West)”*

The above reads like an email leaked from your average mid-tier firm that sells something, dripping with the sort of corporate despair you could expect from an impotent man whose career has stalled in lower middle management. And that is sort of the point.

Welcome to *Generic Office Roleplay*, a Facebook group whose members enact the email exchanges of a fictional office. Stackwell Enterprises’ mission statement is simple “we shift units”. From this starting point roleplayers dedicate hours to creating masterpieces of bureaucratic obfuscation, all written in the passive aggressive tone of a weary occupant of a cardboard cubicle or the self-important bluster of management.

As perversely interesting as the pages’ material might be, why people would want to simulate petty office dramas is more curious. The effort and attention to detail that goes into the posts is frankly bemusing. Perhaps it’s the last triumph of capitalism to convince young people – the page appears to be mainly used by students – that there is recreation in play-acting a ‘real’ job. Maybe it’s just nice that you need not acquire a desk job or even so much as type a resume to partake in the masturbatory indulgence of bureaucracy.

I’d like to think the motivation has more to do with finding alternative content to the carefully constructed selfies and humble brag statuses that populate newsfeeds. What better relief from the social posturing of our friends and hundreds of links to articles that you could never possibly read than frivolous satire of the working world? The growing variety of niche Facebook pages that serve up anything other than typical content suggests this might be close to the truth.

Say you’re the type to fall down the rabbit hole of Wikipedia’s blue related links and mysteriously wind up reading about the taxidermy of stoats sometime after three in the morning. *Cool Freaks Wikipedia Club* is for you. Yes, it will swamp your news feed with links to Wikipedia’s greatest hits and the guest commentary of weirdly invested group members. No, none of the information will be remotely useful. Some personal favourites include “list of lists of lists” and “list of sexually active popes”.

Not interested in esoteric knowledge? Perhaps something less intellectually demanding? *The Same Photo of Jim Carrey Every Day* has you covered. The title is self-explanatory and the sixty-seven thousand followers can hardly be wrong.

Best option? Join all three and let the river of posts float you away from anything significant at all.



## Learning how to sex

ISABELLE COMBER LEARNT CUNNINGLINGUS FROM YOUTUBE.

Ever felt confused around those magical flowers that are vaginas? Ever been confronted with a penis only to feel an overwhelming sense of ‘blargh!’? Ever found yourself in the mood and situation for bumping uglies, but not knowing whether to gyrate, thrust, wiggle or starfish?

Me too!

Like many people on the whole cusp-of-life-desperately-trying-to-discover-any-sense-of-personhood spectrum, I often turn to the internet to acquire skills. When I wanted to learn how to put people’s faces on other people’s bodies, there was a YouTube tutorial that helped me deform via PhotoShop. When I started enjoying deep house music so much that I wanted to stop munting to it and start making it, the web was inundated with tools to help me navigate Ableton music software. When it was my first rendezvous with a lady in a while and I’d forgotten how to...

Enter Tristan Taormino, a sex-positive educator who has starred in, directed and written ‘feminist’ porn and, in more recent years, has produced a series of videos called the ‘Expert Guides’. Taking a YouTube tutorial approach to a myriad of practices (fellatio, anal pleasure for men, hand jobs, g-spot hitting positions – pick your team, sport!), Taormino’s videos had been touted to me as both informative and enjoyable. So, with much anticipation, I downloaded the ‘Expert’s Guide to Cunnilingus’ and turned the volume waaaaay down in my share house.

Taormino’s work is confrontational to say the least. Within the first 20 seconds I was presented with a human diagram of the vaginal area and then a live demonstration of cunnilingus – from the female lecturer to the female demonstrator. Although poorly dubbed and kind of like the ‘Pop-Up Video’ of the sex world, it was extremely informative and stressed that communication is the key to good lovemaking. Was it porn? Maybe. But

as I watched the demonstrator have orgasm after real orgasm – it felt a million miles away from the ‘Big tit bitch gets facial and likes it’ calibre of porn that inundates most adult sites.

To see the good time that the demonstrators were having in the video made me feel strange. This was maybe the first time that I had watched a piece of sexual media that had actually shown authentic pleasure, communication and mutual benefit. It couldn’t have been further from the media I was exposed to when sexual activity first came into my realm of consciousness as a horny little sprout.

Indeed, when we think about teaching young adults about sex, what do we tell them? Visions of the “You will get pregnant, and you will die,” PE teacher from *Mean Girls* rings most of the bells. We refrain from mentioning the capacities of safe, considered and consensual sexual pleasure to young adults, stressing the dangers instead. As a relatively recent school-leaver,

my peers and I learned about STIs, pregnancy and little else as part of our sex education and acquired most of our nookie-in-practice educatin’ from free-to-access pornos (none of which came in handy when I lost my virginity whilst watching a 28 Days Later DVD... it’s all about the #ambience).

Is it so crazy to suggest that we should start showing young people this kind of sexual material and talking to them about how to pleasure their sexual partners? As our society becomes increasingly permeated with harsh images of sexual performance, the emphasis is moved further away from spaces of sexual pleasure. Maybe if we brought pleasure – in conjunction with affirmative consent and consideration – into an open conversation, we might find that our sex lives are safer, more informed and a helluva lot more satisfying.





# PAULENE'S PAGE ON FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

Honi Soit is electorally obliged to print both of these opinion pieces on the referendum regarding fossil fuel divestment.

## FOR DIVESTMENT

*By the Fossil Free USyd Collective.*

Sandstone, photogenic lawns, students laughing under jacaranda trees, complicity in catastrophic climate change. Wait, what? Something is not quite right here.

Our University invests millions in the fossil fuels fuelling climate catastrophe. We pump money into fossil fuels companies, and they pump carbon emissions into our atmosphere.

It's time to show leadership in the global fight against climate change. From September 23-25th USyd undergraduates will have the chance to vote on the following:

"Should your university stop investing, via its shareholdings, in companies whose primary business is the extraction, processing and transportation of coal, oil and gas (fossil fuels)?"

Vote YES to DIVEST in the upcoming referendum to let our University know that these stakeholders have been consulted, and we are calling for an end to investment in fossil fuels. Similar referendums are being held across Australia, with UMelb, UNSW, and UTS set to vote on divestment, and ANU having voted overwhelmingly in favour with an historic 82.1%. But we think USyd can beat them.

Our University has already acknowledged that our investments are due for a spring clean as management recently announced a review of the portfolio and a temporary ban on purchasing further stock in fossil fuels. Let's make sure they hear the voice of students calling for action on climate change and divestment from fossil fuels.

Is it viable to divest? Certainly! We've done it before. In 1982, the University of Sydney became the first institution in Australia to divest from tobacco, taking a bold

position of leadership against an industry harming our community. By refusing to profit from an industry claiming lives, the University took an ethical stance and paved the way for other institutions to do the same. Similar leadership was demonstrated in the early 2000s by divesting from cluster munitions. Fossil fuels pose a similarly grave threat to health, our agricultural and tourist industries, the Great Barrier Reef, food security, clean water, breathable air and a habitable planet.

Our University already has the policy infrastructure in place ready to divest. The Investment Policy (2013) states that USyd will abide by Environmental and Social Governance principles, and our Environmental Policy (2002) is to abide by best practice and create new, even better, standards where none currently exist.

"The University will manage the activities over which it has control and which impact upon the environment in accordance with the principles of ecological sustainability." (University of Sydney Environmental Policy, 2002, Policy Statement)

Given that the Aperio group found that removing investment from the top 200 fossil fuels companies affects risk by only 0.01%, or rather 'statistical noise', it is investing in climate change that is the radical, wreckless, irrational decision.

It's important to recognise that USyd must not only take ethical and environmental principles into account when making investment decisions, but also ensure that our portfolio is profitable and stable especially in the face of government funding cuts and fee deregulation. There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that carbon assets are currently overvalued in the short term and will inevitably crash in the

medium term.

To avoid the worst of climate change, world leaders have agreed that we must stop temperature rises of more than 2°C. Current stock prices for fossil fuels do not account for "unburnable carbon" - emissions we cannot release lest we suffer extreme climate disaster. Fossil fuels companies currently bank on 2795GT of reserves in the coal, oil and gas fields, but 80% of this must remain in the ground if we are to limit warming to 2°C. Thus a "carbon bubble" exists, making fossil fuels a reckless and irrational investment on a long term purely financial basis as well as a morally bankrupt one.

Our political system has failed us. Far from pursuing action on climate change, our government gives nearly \$11 billion in subsidies to fossil fuel producers annually, is the first globally to repeal a price on carbon, and advocates instead its laughably titled 'Direct Action' policy which experts say will fail to deliver the emissions cuts necessary to save us from climate catastrophe. Our political system has failed workers, who are employed tenuously by multi-national mining corps that fire them by text (seriously), close down mines on short notice when they are no longer profitable without a thought for dependent communities, and provide no energy bridge into the future for their children.

We have marched on Canberra, protested at MPs offices, and will continue to do so to push for carbon regulation. But to win real legislative efforts, we need to take the social license away from the fossil fuel companies so they can no longer dictate our national energy policy. Divestment is a way to both economically and politically marginalize the fossil fuel industry and to build a movement large and powerful enough to overcome the political clout they secure

through millions of dollars in lobby campaign coffers.

We urge the University of Sydney to join institutions around the world such as Stanford University, the City of Seattle, the Uniting Church Australia and the World Council of Churches in refusing to be complicit with an industry that is consuming our planet. As the first and oldest university in the country, the University of Sydney once again has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and be the first university in Australia to divest from fossil fuels and act against climate change.

Climate change is not only a threat to future generations, but a stressor for many of the world's poorest, who are paying for the West's inaction on climate change with their lives, homes, farms, roads and infrastructure and their money. Kiribati spent 15% of its GDP last year building sea walls and repairing damaged roads. These costs are never acknowledged by fossil fuel advocates, who use the political and geographical distance between "us" and "them" to deny responsibility. By continuing to invest, we are saying that we wish to profit at the expense of the vulnerable - our university community can do much better than this.

"Through critical analysis, thought leadership and active contribution to public debate, we help to shape Australia's national and international agenda."

The University of Sydney

Let's see USyd demonstrate this leadership and make an active contribution to the fight against climate change. Let's see USyd stand with residents of rural Australia, and residents of the Pacific Islands, with our agricultural industry and with Indigenous communities, with Australian workers and future generations.

## AGAINST DIVESTMENT

*By Chaneg Torres.*

A recent report by Professor Sinclair Davidson found that the divestment case rests on false premises and unsubstantiated claims, and may breach Australian law.

The divestment campaign is environmental activism dressed up as investment advice, and anyone choosing to take investment advice from environmental activists do so at their own financial risk.

This submission will prove the importance of fossil fuels, demonstrate the flawed logic behind the divestment campaign and recommend that the University of Sydney should not divest from its fossil fuel assets.

The importance of fossil fuels to NSW, Australia and the world

The International Energy Agency predicts that overall energy demand will increase approximately 30% by 2035 and that China and India will account for half that growth. If NSW and Australia can capture this rising demand it will mean more jobs and more support for local businesses and mining communities like the Hunter.

Cheap abundant energy drives economic growth, it is the main reason why America eclipsed Europe as the strongest economy in the 20th Century. It is also largely the reason why over 500 million people have been lifted out of poverty in China since 1978.

Yet today world energy poverty remains widespread. 1.3 billion people still live without electricity and 2.7 billion live without clean cooking facilities. In India 600 million people cook with wood and organic material, putting their lives at risk through respiratory diseases.

Cheap energy is a necessary condition to alleviate global poverty and coal is the cheapest, most abundant and most reliable energy source

available. It is also easier to store and transport than many other energy sources. It is baffling that those who scream loudest about inequality and global poverty are often the first to condemn the coal industry.

Coal mining is not a short term industry that can simply be phased out. Australia's first ever export was a shipment of coal from Newcastle to India in 1799. It is an industry that keeps the lights on in NSW and Australia and makes a significant economic contribution, even weathering us from the full force of the global financial crisis. Australia's three largest exports are now iron ore, coal and gas, delivering a huge economic windfall for our nation. Coal is NSW's single largest export with 167 million tonnes of coal exported in 2013/14 worth over \$15.2bn to our economy. Around 93% of this coal is exported from the world's largest coal export port at Newcastle. Royalties from coal also provide the NSW Government with around \$1.3bn of revenue each year, the equivalent of 12 regional hospitals or 12,000 nurses. Across Australia the coal industry paid over \$38.2bn in company tax and royalties between 2006-07 and 2012-13.

In 2012/13 mining companies directly spent over \$12 billion on wages, salaries, community contributions and purchases of goods and services with businesses across NSW, around half of this was spent in the Hunter. This represents over a third of the entire Gross Regional Product of the Hunter, benefiting over 4,800 local businesses and supporting over 70,000 direct and indirect local mining jobs. Behind these figures are real local people who depend on mining for their livelihoods. If taken to the full extent, the divestment campaign would see coal mining regions like the Hunter, Illawarra and Western NSW shut down and face an economic depression.

The flawed logic of the divestment campaign

The divestment campaign is an answer seeking a question, as most of the assumptions behind the campaign are simply incorrect. Professor Sinclair Davidson highlights that most governments are making little or no progress on climate targets and that "the divestment campaign logic ignores technological improvements that could vary the maximum amount of CO2 emissions". He also notes that "the World Wildlife Fund has not divested its fossil fuel exposure, but rather hedged that risk, following the practice of ordinary investors, who are indeed pricing the risk of climate change, but just not as highly as the environmental movement would like."

The divestment campaign may also contravene the letter or the spirit of the Corporations Act, in particular section 1041E. Professor Davidson explains that the divestment campaign could be classified as an unlawful secondary boycott by ASIC since the campaign aims to stigmatise the fossil fuel sector and restrict coal mining in Australia by targeting a critical supplier to the sector.

However, even if the divestment campaign were to succeed in Australia by destroying our coal and gas industries, Australia's international customers would simply substitute our resources for poorer quality coal from international competitors. Australia is in the fortunate position of exporting high calorific, low to medium ash, low sulphur content coal. Our coal burns cleaner and that means less pollution and higher energy efficiency. Indonesia is one of our main competitors in the coal market. Most of their product is rated around 3800 to 4400 kcal/ kg. In comparison, Australian coal is usually exported with values higher than 5500

kcal/kg. As the IEA figures show, none of our trading partners are planning on using less coal in the future, so our product will probably be quickly replaced by less energy efficient, dirtier coal. It is also likely the coal from our competitors won't be extracted and developed to the same rigorous Planning standards. They won't have our requirement for biodiversity offsets; comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments; water protections; safety standards and rehabilitation plans. Divestment in our Liquefied Natural Gas industry is even more ludicrous, since both conventional gas and coal seam gas emit about two-thirds the Green House Emissions of coal.

Divestment not in the best interest of the University of Sydney

In particular the Greens have called on the University of Sydney to divest from its very modest holding in Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek project claiming that it will somehow damage the institution's reputation. The Leard Forest is not 'pristine wilderness', as the extreme activists claim, but a patch of timber assessed in detail by the Federal and State Governments and under an Act of Parliament in 2005 zoned for forestry and mining – the lowest of all zonings. The project is already delivering significant economic benefits to the Gunnedah region and will provide over 400 long term local jobs. Whitehaven have also made a commitment to provide over 40 local jobs for indigenous Australians.

Demands from the Greens to end investment in this project are completely out of touch with reality. Most Australians already invest in mining directly through shares or through resources stocks held as part of their superannuation funds.

This piece is intentionally truncated as it exceeded the allotted space.





It seems that everyone's still looking for the 'next big thing' in music. Unfortunately though, this quest for revolutionary music has, since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, been completely in vain. In terms of genuinely novel sound and style, massive musical innovation appears to be a thing of the past.

Think about it. What was the last huge shift in the musical paradigm? EDM? Noise Rock? Math Rock? Death Metal? Whatever it was, it probably happened in the late 1990s at the latest. Since that point, the development of musical sound and genre has only occurred through 'micro-innovations'. The huge paradigmatic shifts brought about by The Beatles and The Clash just don't happen any more, because musicians now are working with well-established musical techniques. The Beatles defined pop music, The Clash built punk, but now we're running out of 'new music' to construct and create.

And who cares? We live in the twenty-first century, where every new creative endeavour is a messy, ironic pastiche of the long line of great art that came beforehand. Every stand-up comedian constructs their own voice, knowing that they're kind of ripping off George Carlin. Every author writes knowing that their novel is a bit too much like 'Tender is the Night'. And in exactly the same way, every musician composes their music with a kind of fatalistic acknowledgement that they're playing with the exact same material that their favourite artists played with. The definition of music is now entirely dependent on its similarity to other, established, genres.

On top of this postmodern mess, the barriers of what constitutes musical sound have been pushed, stretched and chewed. And there's nothing wrong with that. It just means that we're running

out of new sounds. Vocalists can croon, scream, shout, whisper, screech, or mumble – and it has all been done before. Now that white noise is used as a musical technique, the boundaries of sound have reached their limits. The tonal palette of music has become so broad and diverse that it appears that there's very little room for any significant further experimentation. (Granted, I can't wait to be proved wrong. The second we find some alien species that communicates through some new kind of vibration, I'll be there with a tape recorder, losing my shit).

Music now isn't limited by imagination but by the human ear. When coupled with artists' realisation that there isn't room for the creation of a brand new genre, things start to get surprisingly interesting. Seeing as musos no longer strive to create something brand new, the scale of innovation has become so much smaller. Bands find their niche by blending sub-genres, instead of creating brand new ones. For example Death Grips, a group that's been touted as one of the most innovative and exciting groups of the last few years, is the product of introducing noise influences to hip-hop. Blending one with the other doesn't broaden the spectrum of what music can be, but rather it fleshes out what already exists within that spectrum. Die Antwoord is weird as all hell, but when you get down to it, it's just EDM mixed up with rap and a terrifying visual aesthetic. The edgy electronic minimalism of Tim Hecker is just John Cage or Steve Reich, adding a dash of experimental electronics to add an extra dimension to the texture. Individual songs and artists can no longer exist in a vacuum. Everything comes from somewhere else.

Don't get me wrong, this is not a bad thing. When artists can't just rely on the fact that something's 'brand new', they have to depend on their ability to write well within or between genres. And that's why this whole situation is so exciting. Now that bands don't feel the need to innovate, they can finally focus on making the best music they can write, rather than just trying to create the newest, biggest thing. Nothing is new, so now music needs to be better in order to succeed.

## Earthly limits of music

*There is no such thing as new music any more, ponders Lachlan Cameron.*

# From China, with love

*We can learn from China's version of The Bachelor, writes Marcus James.*

Twenty-four girls are approached by a male suitor who must prepare video profiles and answer the girls' questions, as well as banter with host Meng Fei and psychology experts Huang Han and Le Jia. Throughout the routine the girls register their interest, or brutal disinterest, by turning off their lights. If the candidate gets a date, the couple wins a bunch of home appliances and a honeymoon to the Aegean Sea.

*If You Are the One* regularly draws over 36 million viewers in China. Here in Australia, the Chinese dating show has developed a cult following since its introduction to SBS 2 last year. Dr Jing Han, Manager of Subtitling at SBS and translator of *If You Are the One*, explains the key to the show's appeal: "All the candidates are ordinary people off the street and it is unscripted. It's unpredictable."

For this reason the program is often discussed as a window into modern China, especially its youth. Sometimes the contestants stress traditional values of filial piety or ask about the suitor's pay cheque so directly you choke. Candidates are often blasted for being elitist or materialistic.

Dr Han says the show not only reflects change in China but also drives it, particularly as a guide for youth. For example a current female contestant born without arms, Lei Qingyao, has become a favourite in China. "We have a girl that has taught my colleagues and I the true meaning of independence and life," said host Meng Fei. Even animal rights have been debated, which is an issue with far less exposure in China than in Australia.

The Chinese government is well aware of the show's effectiveness

as an export, and at times it does feel propagandistic, especially when contestants argue the nuances of ethical debates (remember, this is on a dating show). *If You Are the One* underwent production and format changes in 2010 after controversy sparked by a contestant saying they'd "rather sit and cry in a BMW [than ride a bicycle]".

Yet while its ideals may tow the party line, the people that appear are interesting and multifaceted, and the show itself is relevant for Australian audiences. The popularity of the program in Australia demonstrates how far we have come, according to Dr Han. "Five years ago, we never could have bought a show like this. There just wasn't a readiness in the Australian audience ... Australians are more exposed, more travelled, perhaps [with]

more Chinese friends. With exposure comes readiness".

*If You Are the One* is part of this exposure too, as are all translated and foreign media. Through entertainment, these programs educate us by broadening our perspectives and turning the foreign into the everyday. However, Dr Han expressed concern that cuts to SBS may endanger this cultural exchange. "I think it's definitely a step backwards. The services that SBS provides to Australia are really quite enormous and are a shining example to other countries to see how multiculturalism helps a nation get informed and educated," she said.

"Unfortunately everything is measured by dollar value but there are benefits that can't be measured by a dollar sign."

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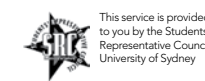
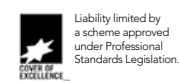
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## Careful what you say on Social Media



Most faculties have Facebook pages, but what they are used for varies significantly. Some faculties use it as an opportunity for staff to make announcements to students. Some faculties let students use it as a way of communicating to each other. This is meant to be for clarifying questions in assignments, sharing concerns about things that are happening in the course, or having discussions about related topics.

is concerned this is considered cheating (academically dishonest).

Like anything on the internet, what you write is permanently recorded somewhere. You might be able to delete it from where you can see it, but technicians are able to uncover it if they want to use it against you. Try to remember that before writing things to Facebook friends or in forums.

Some examples of things that should not be written online are threats to someone directly or indirectly. This may be just a joke or meant to be taken metaphorically, but the University is able to treat it as a serious matter.

The most effective rule of thumb you could use is only write what you are willing to say to the faculty and to the other students in person.

Facebook is not meant to be where you share your answers from previous exams, especially if other people have not yet completed the exam. As far as the University

To see a SRC Caseworker call 9600 5222 to make an appointment or email: [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)



## Ask Abe

Hi Abe,

I hope you can help me. I have a million things due in at once, and the boss at the shop I work in is pressuring me to work extra shifts. The more work I get at uni or at the shop the more stressed out and unable I am to use what little study time I have productively. What should I do?

Rushed

Hi Rushed,

I'm really glad you wrote. There are literally hundreds of other students in your situation. The first thing you need to do is develop a time plan. Some people say they just can't afford the time to plan, but in reality you can't afford to not do it. Go to the Learning Centre website then their resources section. Complete the module on time management (module 10), which will give you a day to day schedule as well as a semester assessment planner. If you are absolutely unable to complete all of your subjects successfully you may need to drop a subject to concentrate on the others. There are, of course, consequences for international students or students on Centrelink, so check with the SRC caseworkers first.

Most importantly deal with this NOW rather than waiting until you are completely overwhelmed.

Abe



## President’s Report

*From the President, who is running on an SRC ticket, so we cannot print their name*



Hi guys!

It’s that time of year when undergrads can feel a bit jaded about the multi-coloured shirt people interrupting their lunch and yelling at them from the front of their lecture, but hear me out.

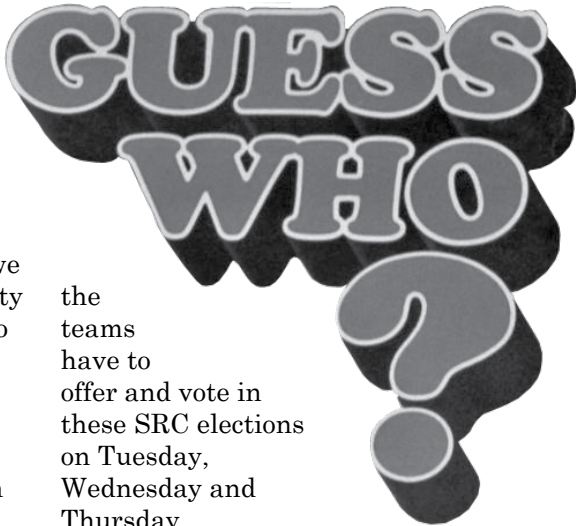
Your SRC matters. In the past three years alone, it’s fought for, and won, changes that have radically improved students’ lives, from making the Wifi free to making Discontinue Not Fails not wreck your marks to getting all lectures recorded online by 2015. We stopped cuts to staff numbers that would have left you drowning in a 30 person tutorial and created a free labcoat lending program so no student fails their lab just because they forgot their equipment.

Like all member-led organisations, our SRC has only thrived by members getting involved and

having a say. The best changes we have seen happen in our university is when students work together to get things done. There are many ways your are able to be involved in your SRC, this week is one of the most important: take two minutes out of your day to vote in our elections.

Your SRC can make real change, but only if we all work together to make it happen. It speaks for you, and uses your voice (and your SSAF money!) to try and make your life better. So, forgive that annoying colourful shirt person for interrupting your lunch, and take a moment to find out about what

The mystery face game



the teams have to offer and vote in these SRC elections on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Good luck!

2014 SRC President

## Wom\*n’s Officers’ Report

*Julia Readett, Georgia Cranko, and the other Wom\*n’s Officer, who is on an SRC ticket so we can’t print their name.*



We are very excited to announce that nominations for Wom\*n’s Officer roles are officially open! You can find the nomination form on our Facebook group (USyd Wom\*n’s Collective) or email us at usydwomenscollective@gmail.com

To nominate to be the Wom\*n’s

Officer, we recommend applying in pairs. You don’t need to have extensive experience in organising or activism. We will make sure that we pass down the skills that we’ve learned from lovely Office Bearers this year and be here to support you and talk through different situations.

We will be using an Affirmative Action policy to elect our members which means primacy will be given to applicants who indicate that they experience an intersectional oppression.

Being a wom\*n’s officer is an incredibly challenging, rewarding, enriching and life-changing

experience. Some of the things that I’ve learnt and will never forget is learning to work with others to create a space that can be inclusive and foster a collective commitment to non-oppressive behaviour. While I know I still have a lot to learn, I feel that I have learned from other Officer Bearers and skill-shared on how to facilitate meetings, workshops and film screenings.

We also wanted to thank our film screening partners in crime Xiaoran Shi and Andy Mason for co-hosting a fabulous screening of Leah Purcell’s “Black Chicks Talking” on Thursday night. We were joined by Mykaela Saunders who shared her knowledge

about transgenerational trauma and healing in her community, Minjungbal community, in Tweed Heads. We learnt that sharing stories and personal narratives is a strong power of resistance and healing in Indigenous Communities and Mykaela also shared tips on how to connect productively with people who might say something racist or oppressive.

We are indebted to Shareeka Helaluddin and Tabitha Prado-Richardson for giving us their space this week. Good luck with ACAR Honi and remember that submissions close Monday 22nd of September.

## General Secretary’s Report

*From a General Secretary who is running on an SRC ticket, so we cannot print their name.*



The elections for the 2015 SRC are this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. By now, I suspect most of you who read this column will be well acquainted with the groups who are running and their respective politics, but I thought it would be useful to clarify some aspects of the SRC to help you make a more informed decision at the ballot box.

First, the primary decision making body of the SRC is the executive, not the President. Whilst it is true that the President is beholden to council, this is a group which meets monthly and which does not consider the day to day operations and expenditure of the organisation, or the concerns of staff. These duties, instead, fall on the executive – a group which the President sits on, but one which must also hold the President to account. The rest of the executive is comprised of the Vice President, General Secretary and five general executives, who are proportionally elected by the 33 SRC councillors at their first meeting, known as Representatives Elect. This means that when casting your vote you should not only consider who

would make the best president, but also consider the way your council vote will influence the make up of the executive.

The second thing to realise is that a year is not a long time. Year after year we see policies proposed that are far beyond the ambit or capacity of the SRC. These include changes to federal legislation or vast changes to both lecture and exam timetables which are logistically impossible. Instead, when voting, realise that the President, executive and council only have a limited time in which to make an impact on the organisation and on the university. Policies that are simple, realistic and affordable are the policies that should be prioritised and

rewarded.

Finally, in this year’s elections there will be one more ballot paper than usual. Fossil Free USYD, a collective of environmental activists, has been running a campaign in recent months to encourage the university to divest from fossil fuels, that is, to stop investing its shareholdings in companies like Whitehaven Coal whose primary business is in fossil fuel production. Fossil Free USYD is part of the global divestment campaign that has seen success at universities like Stanford. I encourage all of you to vote yes in this historic referendum.



It has been a bad week for progressive students.

It started going bad when the referendum on Scottish independence was lost 45-55. This was an unfortunate outcome after a mass movement of students, workers, pensioners and others

had demanded an end to neo-liberal austerity, militarism, and everything else horrible about the UK.

In New Zealand the smiling assassin, Conservative PM John Key won the elections in a landslide, with the only genuine radical in parliament losing his seat to a labor candidate backed by the tories and the far-right NZ First party.

Here in Australia we’ve got our own share of problems too. In the last month Abbott has cynically reignited the War on Terror in attempt to distract attention away from domestic issues. We

have seen early morning raids on suburbs across Sydney, as over 800 police did their best to terrorise the Muslim population of Australia. And we’re now witnessing the start of the third invasion of Iraq.

The racists among us have heard the dog whistle loud and clear, and have begun attacking Muslims at random. Mosques have been defaced, cars have been destroyed, women have had their hijabs ripped off, set on fire, and more. This is all part and parcel of Team Australia. In supporting the new invasion of Iraq

How should we respond to this garbage? The key is to not let

it get us down. With the help of the corporate media, Abbott has successfully turned public debate away from the budget, but it’s our job to bring the budget back. It means keeping the student movement going, the unions strong, going to the next March in Whatever. The political landscape has been shifted to the right using the age old tactic of racist divide and rule, but we can turn it back with the age old tactic of unifying and fighting back.

Next chance to fight Abbott is on October 16, USyd students meeting 1pm outside Fisher.

## Education Officers’ Report

*From the Education Officers, who are running on SRC tickets so we cannot print their names.*



A few weeks ago the Education Action Group held a protest outside the University Senate meeting. This was in response to the appalling views on fee deregulation taken by Michael Spence.

While the majority of the University community thoroughly oppose deregulation, Spence has been lobbying politicians and

appearing in the media to urge the acceptance of Christopher Pyne’s horrors for Higher Education. Our Vice Chancellor may be greedy for the profits the Go8 Uni’s are set to make if deregulation goes through, but we don’t want to see the doors to a quality education shut firmly for working class students.

Our protest was a “stick-in”, where students wrote messages to Spence on sticky notes, as he has refused to listen to students and staff all year in our protests against dereg. It was good to hear words of support from the Senate Fellows who also oppose Pyne’s reforms, the EAG welcomes their support.

The following week the Education Officers attended a forum held by the NTEU, featuring Michael

Spence, Labor MP Kim Carr, NTEU national President Jeannie Rea and Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon. Unfortunately (but not unexpectedly) Spence left just half an hour into the event. However, the remainder of the evening – which focused on the impacts of deregulation – was a success, and staff and students were able to question the panellists. Carr once again expressed the ALP’s opposition to Pyne’s policy, but was hostile to comments which outlined Labor’s dubious recent history on Higher Education funding. We appreciate the Labor party’s opposition to fee deregulation, but it was only last year they announced \$2.8 billion in funding cuts to University. It is clear we cannot rely on the ALP to

provide us with a decent education system; instead students need to continue to protest.

The next event on the education campaign’s calendar is a national day of protest on October 16. Students in Sydney are holding an end of year action to present report cards to Pyne and Spence. Both of them have clearly failed students this year, so we will be failing them in return. Fee deregulation, cuts to library staff and the refusal to listen to staff and student demands have proven these two are not our side.

We may be reaching the end of the University year, but the campaign for a fully funded education system is nowhere near over.



Welcome back to the new semester! Earlier in this semester, we organised a free legal seminar for International Students. The topic of this seminar ranges from dealing with dubious landlords to defending workplace rights and interacting with police officers. A Redfern Legal Centre solicitor who is specialised in International Students issues was there to give practical tips and answer

questions from students. Students found this event very helpful as most of them used to think that these events were merely ‘misfortunes’. They were glad to know what their lawful rights are and that they have a place to go to when they need help. All the tips have been uploaded in the International Student Collective Facebook group.

During the holiday, the International Students Collective delegates attended the annual CISA conference in Adelaide. This conference’s theme was ‘engage locally, connect nationally’. Our delegates had the opportunity to speak to representatives from various government departments and NGOs, including the manager of International Group in

Department of Education, Director of Department of Immigration and border protection as well as the Director of Overseas Students Ombudsman. These interactions enhanced our understanding of the relationship between the Australian and International Students community. These organisations are crucial to International students’ wellbeing in Australia. The delegates also attend workshops that enhanced their activism skills, including how to motivate people and how to run a campaign. We will endeavour to benefit the USYD International Students community by sharing what we have learnt and utilising them when running campaigns for international students.

During this year, we continue

to see international students being exploited and attacked in various occasions. The Australian First Party’s ‘Overseas Students Go Home’ was one of them. There are also countless cases of International Students being underpaid at work, being trapped in horrible housing conditions and being victims of racism on public transport. If you or your friends are suffering from any of these, please let us know so that we can help you out. We will maintain a close working relationship with CISA and NUS to continue fight for equal rights for International Students. If you have any question concern, feel free to shoot us an email at [international.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:international.officers@src.usyd.edu.au).

## Mature Age Students Report

*James Cruz and the two other Mature Age Students Officers who are on SRC tickets so we can’t print their names.*

## International Students Report

*Xinchen Liu and the three other International Student Officers who are on SRC tickets so we can’t print their names.*

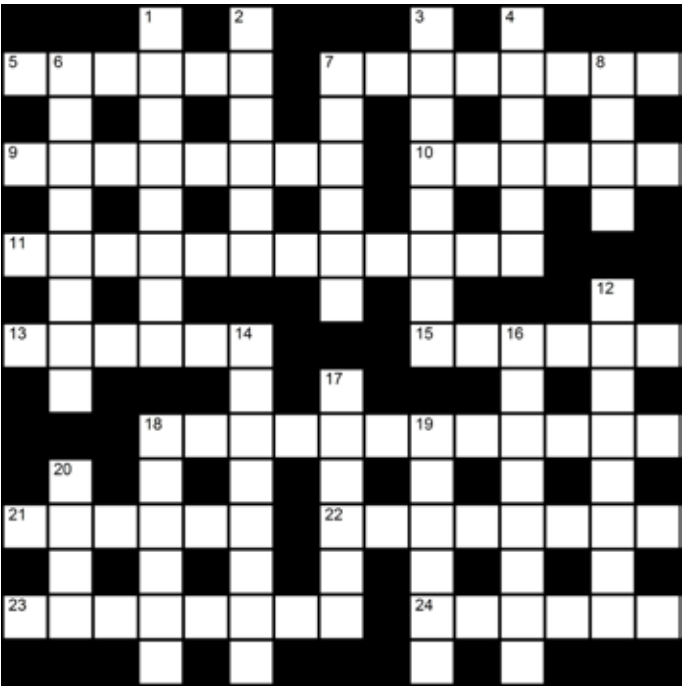


ACROSS (QUICK)

5. Typos (6)  
7. Semiformal evening dress (5,3)  
9. Patrick, for example (8)  
10. Film genre like Halloween (6)  
11. Not candid (12)  
13. L in NRL (6)  
15. Feeling of intense unhappiness (6)  
18. TV show with Kevin Spacey (5,2,5)  
21. Sartre novel (6)  
22. Coat made for wet weather (8)  
23. Usually the lowest level of a building (8)  
24. Sound system that is unlike mono (6)

DOWN (CRYPTIC)

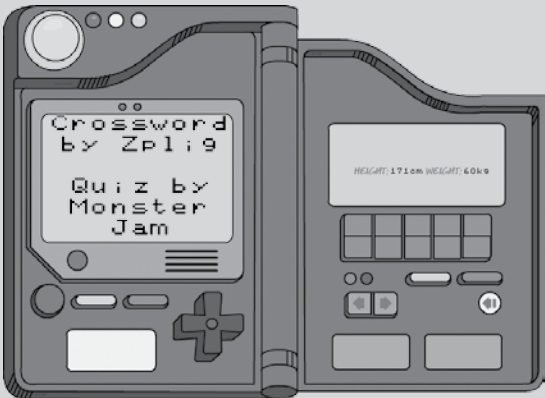
1. Strange racy grin is persuading? (8)  
2. Radically new Friday Crossword writer has a characteristic sound? (6)  
3. Toilet cave dweller initially had space (8)  
4. Avoids primarily female garments (6)  
6. Shop from an oddly earlier time (8)  
7. Keep in place eh? Inside or toward the rear? (6)  
8. Eidolon's contents are a paragon (4)  
12. Alum's mark is about au fait - odds aside (8)  
14. Trained cadet due in unusual fashion (8)  
16. Explored curved southeast beforehand (8)  
17. Shrouded in an unfinished release (6)  
18. Lodge lets O'Hara inside - then sent back (6)  
19. Unconvincing new films end poorly (6)  
20. Information is encoded in DAT ASS (4)



# Wild HALF-AND-HALF CROSSWORD appeared!

## DON QUIZOTE (SUPER FUN DIGITAL EDITION)

1. What was the name of the computer that beat chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov?
2. What is the name of the aestheticisation of digital or analogue errors?
3. Which awful 90s movie stars Johnny Lee Miller and Angelina Jolie as digital delinquents?
4. What is the name of the ancient analogue computer designed and constructed by Greek scientists around 150-100 BC?
5. What was the first song sung using computer speech synthesis?
6. What is the condition where the human brain retains less knowledge because it knows the answer is easily accessible?
7. Which university is Bill Gates a drop out from?
8. The author of which novel originated the idea of a virtual reality dataspace called the matrix?
9. What was the name of the computer specifically designed to answer questions on the quiz show Jeopardy?



10. Which sport was Alan Turing talented in?
11. Which country owns the world's fastest super computer?
12. For a zillion bonus points! what is the computing speed of this computer?
13. Who is the main antagonist in the cyberpunk movie Ghost in the Shell?
14. Which Microsoft operating system came between Windows 95 and Windows 98?
15. What do the letters in the name of the evil computer from 2001: A Space Odyssey stand for?
16. What comes after ♦♦write it, cut it, paste it, save it, load it, check it♦♦?

# After 21 years, it feels like Holme

Lane Sainty interviews Holme Building cleaner and institution Antonio Santos.



Like many Sydney University students, my first encounter with Antonio Santos occurred in my fledgling weeks on campus. I was part of the residual crew at a merry society event in the Holme Building that had run overtime, and in a characteristic Antonio/ student interaction, he entered, broom and bag in hand, gave us a pointed look, and left. Even through our intoxication, we picked up the social cue, and, somewhat

haplessly, began packing up. As we meandered out, grasping backpacks and empty pizza boxes, Antonio returned and started to clean.

Antonio Santos, 67, has been cleaning the Holme Building for 21 years – longer than many of its frequent inhabitants have been alive. A Portugese national, Antonio has previously lived in Mozambique and Brazil. He says

he decided to come to Australia after his father, mother and brother emigrated here in 1991 and Antonio visited to find his family “very happy”.

After moving here in 1993, Antonio quickly found a job with ISS cleaning and was stationed to the Holme Building, working the graveyard shift. “Started after midnight, worked until 4 o'clock, after parties, cleaning the floor,” he says. The late shifts continued until 1996, when Antonio was stationed on from midnight to midday.

In 1997, his hours moved to 3pm – 11pm: the shift he has now consistently worked since 1997. “I close the rooms at night after meetings, after parties,” he says. “I finish at 11pm, close the building and go.”

Antonio and I are chatting in the brand new Holme Courtyard, a major refurbishment that replaced the old schoolyard-style wooden tables with an open plan café. I mention he must have witnessed a lot of change over the years, and he enthusiastically agrees, saying there used to be an Italian

restaurant in the Holme building called the Casa d'Italia.

“It's been maybe three or four years since you started here?” he asks. “Four years, yes!” I say, delighted he has, in some small way, kept track of my awkward waves among the thousands of students.

I ask why he has stayed in this job so long, and he says the conditions are good in the Holme Building and he has no interest in leaving. “I like it here, it is my job.” He smiles and opens his arms into a wide shrug. “If I didn't like the job, I would go.”

But doesn't he get irritated at having to kick out students like me who stay past our welcome? Antonio says no, he likes being around students. “They have the parties, okay, no problem,” he says. “Wild parties, wild dinners, maybe people drink more drinks, be very happy, no problem. People respect you, you respect the people.”

“All the students are young people, they are very happy,” he says. “I might be an old man, but my spirit is very young.”

# You won't believe how these 6 Greek philosophers died, it's pretty bizarre but you should probably read on (and pay us money) to find out, hey

Tom Gardner has the latest from Ancient Greece.

Ancient Greek philosophers died as they lived: preposterously. These are the six Greek philosophers who died in the most utterly ridiculous ways.

6. The delusional Empedocles earns a special mention for Most Dramatic Death. In about 430 BC, trying to prove that he was an immortal god, he decided to jump into a Sicilian volcano. His trick failed: his sandal was thrown from the volcano, disproving his divinity, and he was roasted alive.

5. We all know that one person who pedantically corrects everybody's grammar. In 300 BC, Philitas of Cos was that person. Ancient sources claim that he studied grammatical mistakes so intently that he wasted away.

Soon, he had to put lead weights in his shoes to stop the wind from blowing him away. But eventually his pedantry caught up with him, and he wasted away into nothing.

4. Diogenes the Cynic was an eccentric character. He lived in a barrel. He didn't believe in civilisation and did not hesitate to urinate on other people or defecate in the theatre. According to his biography: “Once, when a man had conducted him into a magnificent house, and had told him that he must not spit, he spit in his face, saying that he could not find a meaner place to spit.” Charming.

Weary of life, Diogenes successfully committed suicide by holding his breath for a very long time. A different account says that

he died from eating a raw octopus.

3. You may know Heraclitus from his aphorism “It is not possible to step twice into the same river”. But his death is less well-known. When Heraclitus's doctors could not cure him of his chronic illnesses, he self-prescribed a treatment of being buried in dung. After covering himself in manure and sitting around for a while, he realised that he couldn't free himself and he died soon after, still trapped in a huge pile of actual shit.

2. Anaxarchus is a top contender in the stakes for ridiculous deaths. The ancient philosopher made an enemy of Nicocreon, a powerful tyrant. In order to get revenge, Nicocreon crushed Anaxarchus up

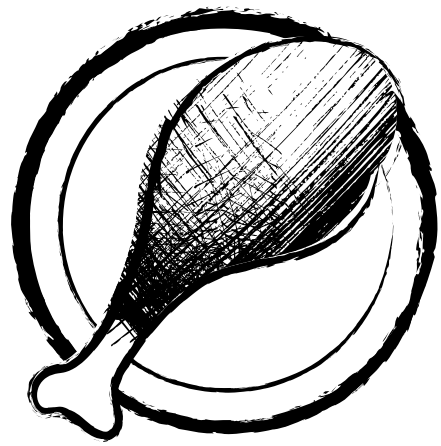
using a giant mortar and pestle. A murder weapon worthy of Cluedo.

1. The most preposterous death of all is that of Chrysippus. One day in 206 BC, he was carrying home a plate of figs when a passing donkey decided to eat them all up. Chrysippus chortled: “Why not give the donkey some wine to go with the figs!” He found the situation so hilarious that he laughed and laughed and laughed, and eventually died of excessive laughter.

Although you may think that Chrysippus was a bit simple, he is the central philosopher of early Stoicism and the author of hundreds of important philosophical works. So maybe it's you who doesn't get the joke.



# Honey Soy



## Scotland Votes On Independence, Rest Of Australia Looks At Queensland, Coughs Meaningfully

*An SRC candidate just made a whole state’s worth of enemies.*

As millions of Scots took to the ballot-boxes last Friday afternoon, a conference of State and Territory Premiers gathered at Campbell Newman’s Queensland home to nudge him slightly and drop subtle hints while pointing at the TV.

In what was a covert attempt to convince Queensland to leave the Commonwealth, leaked emails reveal that multiple links to Scotland’s ‘Yes’ campaign have been sent to Newman’s office, accompanied by phrases like “Huh...”, “Wow” and an emoji of a thumb with a question mark next to it.

In private, the Premiers have claimed that the state – which allows ‘fear of homosexual advance’ as a defence to murder and has elected Clive Palmer and Pauline Hanson to national office – is simply too terrible to function.

“Queensland is like if the abstract concept of bigotry was condensed into an irregularly shaped triangle,” said Victorian Premier Denis

Napthine. “I know the Scottish result doesn’t set the best precedent, but I’d never forgive myself if I didn’t at least try.”

In an impromptu press conference the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir asked assembled journalists if they “had ever even been to the Gold Coast”, and simply nodded with a knowing expression to any that replied with yes.

“I would totally deliver the news myself,” continued the 83-year old Dame, “and I wouldn’t even do it face-to-face. I’d just text. Stone cold.”

Despite the ‘No’ result in Scotland, Australia remains optimistic about Queensland. Analysts have predicted that the concerns over economic uncertainty that swayed the issue in the UK are unlikely to resurface, given the Sunshine State’s primary exports are Big Brother contestants and racism. The new country’s flag would most likely be maroon and feature an image of a cismale telling an Asian to go home.

## USyd To Divest From Fossil Fuel - Seeks New Source Of Misery For Profit.

*Bennett Sheldon wants 20 new cafes by 2020.*

This week the University of Sydney is predicted to vote to divest from all forms of fossil fuel. In preparation for this, the university has put together a new investment portfolio so as to best account for the financial future. “We’ve done our research”, commented the University’s head of finances, “and we’ve concluded that the most profitable investment is to get in at

the ground floor on child slavery and Afghan opium”.

The University Finance Committee believes that with investments such as these, and the growing markets of rhino horns and recreational seal clubbing, the campus can reach its goal of 20 new cafes by 2020.

## Michael Spence Responds To Harvard’s \$350 Million Donation

*As told to Victoria Zerbst.*

Dear Students,

It has come to my attention that a Gerald L. Chan of Hong Kong has donated \$350 million to Harvard University, which is the fancy one in The United States.

Chan, an alumnus of the university, that is to say he went there, donated the largest amount of money in Harvard history and is having the Public School of Health named after him.

In response to this I think it appropriate to encourage current students to think of the donations they might want to make once they graduate with their arts degrees and earn some of their own money.

I think it also fitting to entice you with what could be yours for a \$350 million donation to The University of Sydney. Firstly, your name will be mowed into the Quadrangle grass patches every day, weather permitting. You will also be able to name three classrooms in the Brennan MacCallum Learning Hub. A University Revue will thank you in their program, you will become an honorary SUDS member, and last but not least, you will receive a \$350 voucher to Laneway Café, which should cover cronuts and hot chocolates for you and a friend.

So please think about it.

That is all,

Vice-Chancellor, Michael Spence

### IN OTHER NEWS

Aussie Dollar Plummets Below Sofa

Yeezus Makes Crippled Man Walk

## NSW Government Introduces New Opal Cards That Are Actually Just Opals

*Astha Rajvanshi is the Former Immediate Past President of the University of Sydney Union and also an opal.*

Earlier this week, Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian announced that in an effort to further improve Sydney’s transport network, the State government is replacing Opal cards with actual opals.

Ms Berejiklian expressed concerns over the smooth transition that took place in September from paper tickets to the new smartcard system, with more than 700,000 commuters having secured their card within the first week.

“When we introduced the Opal Card System we didn’t think that so many people would start using it so quickly,” said Ms Berejiklian.

“It’s been a problem, but I think that opals, being the national gemstone of Australia and all, will really help Australians understand that public transport is actually a privilege and not a right,” she said.

To introduce these changes the State Government has invested \$5 million in a new advertising campaign of the “Opal Man,” an anthropomorphised opal with human facial features and limbs.

However, Sydney commuters were taken by surprise by the State Government’s scrapping of electronic cards. Many also experienced

significant transport delays.

Brandon Smith, who commutes from Werrington to Town Hall on a bus and a train, said he was left frustrated with the added expense.

“The Opal card was already costing me more since some of my buses don’t have it yet,” the 33-year-old said. “But how am I going to afford a fucking opal?!”

“I’m anticipating customers who haven’t made the switch to opals may be inconvenienced,” Ms Berejiklian responded. “But we know that at least 90 per cent of our customers will be either the same or better off financially.”

“It’s got great incentives built into it,” she added, admiring an 18K black opal and gold ring on her finger, valued at US \$5,000.

Concerns over whether the majority of middle-class Australian income earners will actually be able to afford the precious gemstones are widespread. A good opal can cost anywhere between \$40-120 per carat, while an extra fine one ranges between \$2,800-9,200.

“Bad luck, suckers,” Ms Berejiklian shrugged. “Earn or learn.

## Tony Abbot Demoted To Tony Prior

*William Edwards is an anagram of Honi 2016.*

A Vatican spokesperson has announced that Tony Abbot, whose title was long misspelled by members of the public, has been demoted from the religious rank of abbot to the lower rank of prior. *Honey Soy* spoke with Cardinal George Pell, heavyweight of Australian Catholicism and honourary BroSoc member, to better understand this development.

HS: Thank you for joining us, Cardinal. For those who don’t understand the intricacies of religious hierarchy, would you explain the difference between abbots and priors and what this means for the public?

GP: Put very simply, both abbots and priors lead monasteries, but abbots rank higher. For most Australians this won’t mean much. But the Catholic Church has spent two thousand years developing an extremely confusing bureaucracy and utilising that really matters to us.

HS: And why was Tony demoted? Was it because of his arguably un-Christian treatment of underprivileged Australians, like women and queer people?

GP: [Laughs.] Good one! Tony treats them just fine, I believe. He’s even got a woman in his cabinet. Do you think the Church would do that?

HS: Then what did the Church take issue with? His asylum seeker policy?

GP: Well that’s certainly more objectionable. But we don’t feel we’re really in a position to criticise him on that front. After all, the Church has a proud history of exploiting people without the resources to defend themselves. No, that’s also not the reason.

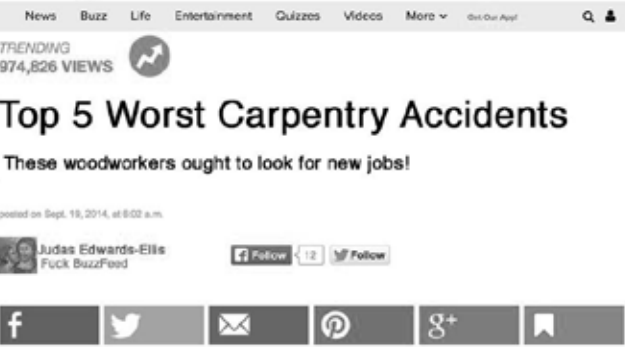
HS: Then why?

GP: The National School Chaplaincy Program.

HS: And what, in your view, was wrong with that?

GP: Oh nothing, nothing at all. In fact, we rely on reaching impressionable young minds before other religions do to survive. He was demoted for failing to make it happen. [Pause.] He had one job!

### SoyFeed



## Paramount Announces 2014 Director’s Cut Of Braveheart

*Bennett Sheldon wrote heaps ay.*

“They can take our lives, but they can also take our currency and leave us with billions in debt” murmured Mel Gibson’s William Wallace, self doubtfully. In the most recent release of the film, the Scottish forces put in a good innings, but ultimately decide that freedom isn’t for them.

In over fourteen hours of never before seen footage, Wallace is informed that it isn’t really his place to make decisions such as rebellion on behalf of an entire group of people, and so after a lengthy surveying process concludes that this very moment just isn’t the right time to secede, he is told: “Every man dies, not every man has a passport for all of Britain.”

Whilst influential groups did push strongly for the military resistance, Wallace was able to point out that Scotland doesn’t actually have a military of its own, and in fact would be relying on combined British forces. With that in mind, the abundance of blue face paint available lost some of its previously motivational qualities.

Director, producer, lead actor, and historically racially sensitive Gibson has stated in interviews that this is the film that he always wanted to make, as it perfectly balances inspirational hope and longing for freedom, with a well-thought-out sensibility that is all too often missing in the Hollywood era of reckless driving and frivolous use of highly dangerous firearms and marijuanas.

“We all end up dead, it’s just a question of how and when... and how many medals we can get at the Olympics in that time, and whether the per capita accomplishment of going as an independent country would trump the grand total of going as a part of Britain!”



HONI SOIT  
PRESENTS

# OPINION COMPETITION

ARE YOU SICK AND TIRED OF  
SOMETHING? ARE YOU ANGRY, OR  
JUST DISAPPOINTED? DO YOU HAVE  
STRONG FEELINGS? WHAT MAKES  
YOUR BLOOD BOIL?

WE'RE AFTER YOUR OPINION  
PIECES FOR HONI'S 5TH ANNUAL  
OPINION COMPETITION. THIS  
YEAR'S THEME IS DEATH.

## PRIZES:

1st place: \$800

2nd place: \$500

3rd place: \$300

Highly Commended: \$150

**Submissions due before midnight, Wednesday October 8.**

Send them in to [opinion@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:opinion@src.usyd.edu.au). They must be 800 words or less. The competition is open to all undergraduate students at USYD, so include your name, student number and degree in your email, but NOT in the attached document.

THEME:

# DEATH