

Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • O WEEK

FIRST PRINTED 1929



**Sexual
Harassment
Survey Data**

NEWS, PAGE 4-5

The Bone Room

Old traditions, online tirades and the point at which privilege becomes poisonous at St Paul's College

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eels in New
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FEATURE

The Bone Room

Victoria Zerbst and Natalie Buckett investigate.

p.14

Advertisement

Me: Did you book all your Sem 2 classes yet?
You: Almost. Why?
Me: Three words: Emotions & Public Policy: (GOVT 2015)
You: Isnt that four words?
Me: Not if its an ampersand.
You: Shouldn't "its" be "it's"?
Me: I think we""re off the point.
You: You want me to enroll in Emotions & Public Policy?
Me: Yes. It's a new 2nd yr course.
You: What's it about?
Me: Emotions and Public Policy.
You: Could you be more specific..?
Me: No. Not without ruining it.
You: It's just a class, mate.
Me: Well it covers sharks, elephants, AIDS, "king" hits, LGBTQI rights, intersectionality, moral panics, media coverage, psychology, and political cover.
You: Yup, ruined. But I'll enroll anyway.
Me: Nice.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The University of Sydney—where we write, publish and distribute *Honi Soit*—is on the sovereign land of these people.

As students and journalists, we recognise our complicity in the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land. In recognition of our privilege, we vow to not only include, but to prioritise

and centre the experiences of Indigenous people, and to be reflective when we fail to.

We recognise our duty to be a counterpoint to the racism that plagues the mainstream media, and to adequately represent the perspectives of Indigenous students at our University. We also wholeheartedly thank our Indigenous reporters for the continuing contribution of their labour to our learning.

EDITORIAL

Editors

In its seditious 87-year history, *Honi Soit* has been set alight, censored, pilloried and binned. Each week, students hurry past, sometimes stopping to mispronounce its name, as it fills stands inside libraries and outside cafes.

Honi has a rich history of channelling students' voices to challenge the establishment. Past *Honis* reveal tales of incompetent student politicians (many who now sit on the Federal front bench), militant education activists, and deeply unpopular vice-chancellors.

As editors, we vow to tell the stories you've not yet heard, and those society does not speak about. *Honi* can start waves of conversations on issues which would otherwise stagnate.

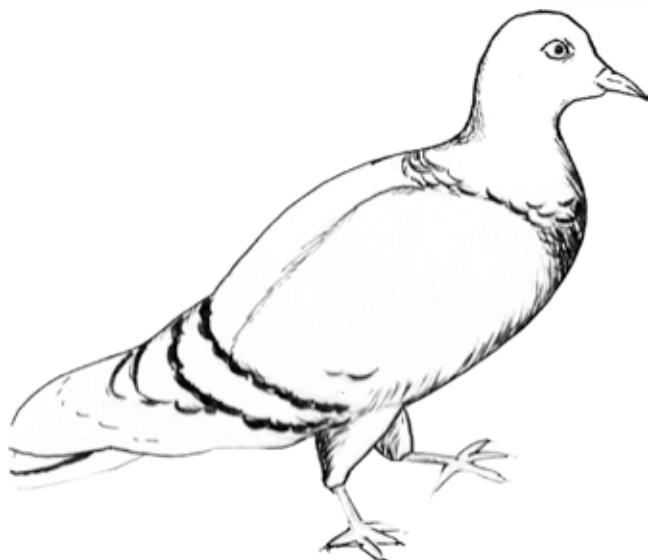
During World War II, *Honi* was there. During the Vietnam War, *Honi* was there. When voluntary student unionism was

introduced, *Honi* was there. When the USU put their *BULL* magazine to pasture, *Honi* was still there.

In this issue we reveal the results of the University's sexual harassment survey, which was prompted by an *Honi* investigation two years ago. Our feature exposes the pervasive sexism still lingering in Australia's oldest residential colleges.

As you look to our cover, know the middle finger is more than a flippant gesture of rebellion. It speaks directly to the maxim from which *Honi Soit* takes its name: "shame upon him who thinks evil of it".

We hope this edition, and those in future, leave you entertained, uncomfortable, and wanting more. We all remember the editions of *Honi* that changed us, stay with us and perhaps one of our editions can do that for you.



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LETTERS

Letters

The things I do for *Honi*

Dear last year's editors,

There's something you should be aware of regarding your final edition.

I travelled to Israel, admittedly in rather peculiar circumstances. I had not slept for a couple of days when in the middle of the night I drained my bank account for the next flight to the Middle East. It was one of the more adventurous breakdowns I've had. I packed my bags, ventured to campus to pick up the last edition of *Honi* and made my way to the airport.

At a security checkpoint, my bag was taken to be searched. I was told to wait.

A security official came out the door where my bag had been taken through. He motioned at me, and said "come". With my bag not in sight, everything that I could have possibly done wrong went through my mind. Had someone slipped drugs into my bag? Am I the next Schappelle Corby?

I followed obediently and was taken to a room that reminded me too much of interrogation rooms in Law and Order.

A lanky security official came through the door we had entered. I was ready to explain my life story and how the drugs in my bag were not mine.

He was holding the copy of *Honi Soit*. I was confused.

"What is this?"

"It's *Honi Soit*."

"What's *Honi Soit*?"

"It's my student newspaper, I go to University of Sydney, it's the paper, they put one out each week, it was the las—"

"Why do you have it?"

"To read on the plane, I read it every week, I picked it up before."

"Who made this?"

"The editors, they're elected each year, there's ten of them, they're on the cover, see. The SRC funds them; I guess they officially own it?"

They opened to the ISIS puzzle page. Yep, ISIS. I was surprised, I had yet to open the paper. You're not meant to mention bombs or terrorism within ten kilometres of an airport and here I am, having booked a flight to the Middle East ten hours before, with ISIS blaring from my hand luggage.

"It's a joke I guess. *Honi* is known for being silly, usually they have this Garter Press at the back..."

Like most people, Israe-

li security didn't want to hear about the Garter Press.

"You think this is a joke?!"

"Of course not"

They then flipped to another page and pointed to a photo of one of the 2015 editors, Peter-bloody-Walsh. He was tied up like a hostage in, quote: "2015 Calvin Klein rope".

They raised their eyebrows, stared into my eyes and pointed, "Is this a threat?"

In the end, the border security accepted my explanation of what *Honi* is and its jovial intent. I was allowed onto the plane but warned that I had been placed on an international security watch-list.

I know print media is dying, but getting readers arrested will probably speed up the process.

Sincerely,

Katie Thorburn
Arts III

Don't buy posters

Dear *Honi*,

David Hogan
JD I

Rats Have Rights!

Dear editor,

I've just come across this article, about killing crabs humanely (I hope). It sounds quite shocking, and I hope it's not a joke. Can you tell me more about it please?

Yours sincerely,
Valerie Milgate (Mrs)

PS: Is that one of the May Gibbs' storks on the cover? And what does *honi soit qui mal y pugs* mean?

Rats have rights!

#ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Online updates from over the summer at honisoit.com

SENATE RESTRUCTURE

Nick Rowbotham and Subeta Vimalarajah reported on major changes passed by the University of Sydney's senate – its highest governing body – to the institution's governance during a closed meeting held just before Christmas last year.

Among the changes was a motion was to reduce the number of senate members from 22 to 15 from 2017. Another approved a significant restructure of University's faculties and schools.

Follow up coverage by Tom Joyner revealed the division in the Senate's own ranks over the changes, as well as the controversial appointment of a new USU Board Director in the same December meeting.

Activists have been protesting the aforementioned changes to the structure of the University, including a stunt which saw an SRC Education Officer asked to leave campus.

In brighter news, Katie Thorburn recounted how the removal of a racist iPhone game from app stores amounted to a win for activists.

Meanwhile, Victoria Zerbst reported on a bid down the road at UTS to withhold \$15,000 back pay from the student editors of the campus magazine.

DIVERSITY IN DEBATING

On debating, Theodora Von Arnim asked why there were no women in the World Universities Debating Championship grand final this year. Spoiler: it's because of the patriarchy.

THE GHOST CAMPAIGN

In a blockbuster investigation, Tom Joyner probed a national student campaign and the student politicians at the centre of it all. Joyner tracked \$200,000 of money from student organisations handed over to an advocacy campaign controlled by members aligned with the National Labor Students faction that produced little more than a handful of social media accounts and a website.

VALE ANTONIN SCALIA

See our most risqué piece, "Satan appoints Scalia to Supreme Undercourt". Go to our Facebook page to contribute to the comments and mount the moral high horse of your choice.

Send us your letters

Have a gripe with the first edition of *Honi* in 2016? Send your letters to editors@honisoit.com. Remember to include your name, degree and year. The best letter will receive a lifetime subscription to honisoit.com.

NEWS

BIRTHS, DEATHS
& MARRIAGES

The gossip we overheard in the
Courtyard bathrooms over the break.

USU FACTIONAL SHAKEUP

At the end of last year, University of Sydney Board Director Tiff Alexander treated herself to a lovely post-exams present: a Labor Party membership card.

Alexander, who was elected to the Board last year as an independent, told *Honi* she has joined the ALP as a “non-factional member”, although she broadly identifies with the left of the party.

The political affiliations of board directors mainly come into play when the Board elects its executive. However, as the election of the executive occurs after the new crop of first-year board directors are voted in by students this semester, it is difficult to know how Alexander’s 2016 Laybah membership will affect things.

For those keeping count, the composition of your USU Board is currently: five Labor (2 x Unity, 1 x NLS, 1 x SLS, 1 x non-factional), three Grassroots, three independent and two non-student, Senate-appointed directors no one really knows.¹

BELLEVIE’S UNDERCOVER BOSS

Observant Wentworth wanderers might have noticed a slight change to one of the University’s bleakest buildings in late 2015: the café formerly known as “downstairs Azzuri” has changed hands.

While “upstairs Azzuri” remains, its closer-to-the-underworld counterpart is now BelleVie (pronounced, according to the friendly barista *Honi* spoke to last week as “bell-a vee”, which seems one syllable too long, but whatever).

BelleVie enters the Wentworth coffee + miscellaneous lunch food market with force, boasting a sandwich board bearing the endorsement of a very satisfied customer: “Mmm... I absolutely love Bellevie’s coffee. It’s the best I have tasted, ever.”

We asked the day’s barista where the quote came from and she replied without hesitation, “My boss.”

1. If this makes no sense to you, turn to our Student Politics explainer on page 8.

INTERCAMPUS

University of Tasmania Union
accused of ripping off
USU’s OWeek branding

Andrew Bell and Mary Ward dive into a titanic controversy embroiling OWeek

The Tasmania University Union (TUU) has unveiled its OWeek theme for 2016 and... it looks pretty familiar.

The promotional material, which features beach-themed imagery, bears a strong similarity to the USU’s “Dive into the USU” branding, prompting some to question whether the design was copied.

The TUU’s branding has been used on their website, Facebook page and events.

TUU student president Tomas Rolf told *Honi* he was not at the time of publication “aware of any similarity between the design and the material of any other University”.

Rolf said the TUU was working on their design in early December, and the material in question was created in early January after the Union engaged designer Lauren Elise Viney, a former UTAS student.

Viney told *Honi* she was “unaware” of the USU’s OWeek brand during the design process.

“I was given the brief of ‘beach themed’ and was in contact with the TUU SRC throughout the design process,” she said. “The similarities were only brought to my attention after publication.”

While the two brandings don’t use an identical “OWeek” font, they are virtually indistinguishable.

A representative from the USU’s marketing department told *Honi* theirs is a custom redraw of existing font Barra-cuda Script, while *Honi*’s analysis suggests the TUU branding uses free font ‘La Chatte à Mama’.

The USU also used the font for their 2015 OWeek promo-



I honestly don’t know which is which.
Images:
Facebook

tional material.

Honi has been provided with a screenshot which ostensibly indicates the TUU design was submitted to their OWeek working group prior to the publication of the USU’s 2016 material.

USU President Alisha Aitken-Radburn expressed her displeasure at the alleged copy-cat design.

“How blatantly the Tasmania University Union’s OWeek logo was ‘inspired’ by our own is what really astonished [me],” she said.

“We can’t hold too much against them but I can’t help but be a little disappointed for the OWeek directors who put heaps of creative energy into the concept.”

Aitken-Radburn indicated that at the time of publication there had been no attempt to gain permission to use the material to her knowledge, but

the USU did not have an intention of asking the content be removed.

Alison Xiao and Jacinta Keast, the USU OWeek directors, told *Honi* they were flattered by the similarities.

“We all know imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. The USU’s design team is brilliant, you can definitely see why they would’ve been inspired by it. Thanks TUU for the extra promo of what we hope will be a killer OWeek.”

Aquatic branding has been somewhat of a trend for OWeek celebrations this year. UNSW’s Arc student organisation has themed their week “immerse yourself”, with a nautical aesthetic.

In fairness, the TUU did manage to distinguish themselves in one way, failing to replicate the long list of corporate sponsors present on the USU’s promotional material.

change... rather than just on a superficial level”.

Jones told *Honi* the University should focus on issues “rather than simply focus on how diverse the university is”.

University Vice Principal (Operations), and Ally Network executive sponsor, Sara Watts, disagreed that a management-led Ally Network was superficial.

“The ability that I have to do those tangible, practical things is then augmented by the ability

to actually raise the profile of this community,” she said.

The Ally Network was established by the University in 2015.

Issues highlighted by the network after being raised by the LGBTQIA community include gender Neutral Bathrooms, collecting information around gender, names and pronouns, and ensuring safe spaces on campus.

NEWS

UOS DRAMA

Growing pains for expanding
Indigenous Studies major

Justine Landis-Hanley
& Naaman Zhou

How the major changed...

2015	2016
Indigenous Australia: An Introduction (Sem 1)	Introduction to Indigenous Studies
Issues in Indigenous History	Introduction to Indigenous Languages
Re-Awakening Australian Languages	Re-awakening Australian Languages
Speaking Gamilaraay	Speaking Gamilaraay 1
Indigenous Health and Communities	Indigenous Health and Communities
Politics of Identity, Gender & Knowledge	Indigenous Art and Culture
Colonisation and Decolonisation	Race, Racism and Indigenous Australia
Comparative Indigenous School Experience	
Issues in Indigenous Rights	
Indigenous Community Development	
Indigenous Australia: An Introduction (Sem 2)	

also unavailable, with an error message declaring the “database unreachable”. At the time of publication, the online listing has returned, but with the internship units still displayed.

Professor Shane Houston, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) and

Professor Barbara Caine (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) assured *Honi* that the major had a bright future. “The number of options available in the major will increase over time, reflecting an [overall] strengthening”, they said.

“Additional elective units are

being developed and these will be progressively added to the handbook in 2017 and beyond.”

SRC Indigenous Officer Georgia Mantle said it was encouraging to hear staff still understood the importance of an Indigenous Studies major, but was disappointed that these

administrative errors occurred. “The University really missed out on a great opportunity to celebrate the position Indigenous Studies has within academia by not highlighting the launch better”, she said.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Students find sexual harassment support inadequate

“Forty-one per cent of students who reported incidents found the University’s procedures did not help them at all”

Siobhan Ryan

A campus-wide survey into sexual harassment and assault has revealed 41 per cent of students who reported incidents found the University’s procedures did not help them at all.

According to the Safer Community for All survey, which was conducted last year, a further 27 per cent of students felt the procedures were helpful, but that more could be done.

Although most of the survey’s respondents believed the University has support services, they did not know where to locate them.

The survey results showed extremely low reporting rates, with only 4 per cent of students who had witnessed an incident reporting it to the University.

Reporting amongst male students was higher than national averages, with 30 per cent of undergraduate males reporting their experiences to the University.

The data, representing the views of over 2000 students, also identified non-binary and transgender students as disproportionately at risk of harassment and assault.

portionately at risk of harassment and assault.

The Safer Community For All survey was developed by Student Services last year, following a 2014 *Honi* exposé into the University to address sexual harassment and assault on campus. The survey was conducted with the support of Elizabeth Broderick, the then Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

The survey’s results were revealed in a working group meeting of student representatives and members of University management on February 5.

Student representatives present at the meeting requested the full raw results of the survey, but were reportedly told they were confidential.

Honi contacted the Director of Student Services, Jordi Austin, and the Project Manager of the initiative, Sophia Barnes, for comment. They were both unavailable.

However, Austin told *Honi* that the results were yet to be presented to the Senior Executive Group (SEG), the body with the power to enforce any recommendations produced by the survey.

The recommendations of the working group so far include the development of a clear policy statement by the University, a sexual violence education program, review of security measures, and improved mechanisms for reporting and support services.

University of Sydney Union Wom*’n’s Portfolio Holder, Tiffany Alexander, said one of the main themes of the working group discussion was the importance of “drawing in” people who did not see the issue as significant.

Students’ Representative Council Wom*’n’s Officer, Anna Hush, expressed concern about the University analysing its own data rather than commissioning independent analysis. She believed this could lead the University to “downplay the issue.”

Hush also expressed the importance of having a dedicated page on the University’s website with resources and “clear, transparent ‘steps of action’ that you can take”. This was promised in 2014 when the campaign started, but has not yet come to fruition.

LGBTQIA

University to enter first ever float in Mardi Gras

Andy Zephyr

The Ally Network of the University of Sydney is entering a staff and student float into the Mardi Gras parade.

While the University has previously endorsed floats organised by various student groups, this is the first time the University has led a float.

“This is a modern, exciting tradition,” University staff accessibility manager Penelope

Pitcairn said.

This feat is not only a first for the University, but is a first for any tertiary education institution within the Group of Eight.

The float’s riders come from a variety of University communities, including four members of the University’s Senior Executive Group.

The Ally Network’s entrant will include around 75 marchers, a dance routine, and will

feature a giant replica of the symbolic Jacaranda tree.

“During O Week, students and staff will be invited to write a message of inclusion for the LGBTQIA community and place that leaf on the tree” University diversity inclusion officer Louise Bannerman told *Honi*.

SRC Queer Officer Evan Jones is optimistic about the network’s intentions, but said the University needs to “get down on the ground and make

*Gately, Wayne,
Kittenplan, and Troeltsch*

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Tyrone's admissions

Alexandros Tsathas takes a closer look at ATARs, assumed knowledge and alternative entry schemes.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Tyrone Carlin is a man itching to tell his side of the story. When his secretary alerts him that my allocated interview time has expired, he ushers her out of his office with an emphatic “no, this is important”. We speak for another thirty minutes, on a topic that is Carlin's administrative domain and one which he is clearly passionate about: University admissions.



Happily admitting.
Photo: USyd

BELOW THE CUT-OFF

The annual spike in ATAR dialogue was more pronounced than usual this Summer. In January, the *Sydney Morning Herald* revealed the extraordinary extent to which students are being admitted to University with ATARs below official course cut-offs. Generous bonus point schemes make this possible. USyd was the most conservative of all NSW universities in awarding bonus points, but still one-quarter of its admissions require them.

There was a considerable reaction from vice-chancellors, many of them claiming the ATAR is a poor predictor of University performance. The subtext was: ‘it doesn't matter that my University admits so many students below cut-off, because the ATAR is an invalid metric. And those students can still do great at University and in the workplace’.

The role of the ATAR was never to predict university performance. It was a way of solving the problem of too many students vying for too few spots. The University Admissions Centre (UAC) still paints a very ‘market forces’ picture of ATAR cut-offs. Its website explains “the interaction of three factors determines cut-offs: the number of places available in the course, the number of applicants for the course and the quality of those applicants”. No mention is made of universities’ influence in setting the cut-offs.

Their role is thus: faculties limit spots where there are resource constraints (such as the availability of qualified lecturers) and to satisfy their pedagogical preferences (such as small lectures). This has the effect of driving up ATAR cut-offs, a necessary coincident of restricted supply. Additionally, faculties also consider what the minimum intellectual requirement of a course should be, elevating the ATAR cut-off if necessary.

Carlin thinks it irresponsible of Universities to admit thousands of students below the cut-off if the Universities themselves have established “evidence-based” minimum intellectual thresholds. He refutes the claims of other vice-chancellors, saying that USyd's own analyses have found the ATAR to be “quite a strong” predictor of University performance. Regardless, he does not believe the main question in the cut-off debate is the predictive value of ATARs. Instead, it is: “how do those admitted below the cut-off fare at university compared to their peers?” This analysis is yet to be conducted, but he predicts the relevant statistics on attrition and progression “would be telling”.

Carlin is fortunate to preside over an institution that does not need to make many below cut-off offers. Its position and prestige ensure that a steady stream of high-ATAR candidates keep knocking on its doors. A bank of ‘Inspired’ alumni helps balance the books. Less well-established Universities need cut-offs that still convey quality, but they are understandably even hungrier for government funding. They cannot afford to be too selective in their admissions. Though, as Carlin suggests, they may be aware of poorer student outcomes, they have little choice. The situation for their VCs is not as black-and-white.

I ask Carlin about the demand-driven university funding model, which was introduced in 2012. Are institutions jumping to boost enrolments without properly considering students’ suitability for courses? “Yes, I am certain that there is an element of gaming going on [on the behalf of universities].”

FIRST PREFERENCES

Carlin's background in financial regulation is an emplacement from which he shoots down the superficial statistics of an SMH article proclaiming UNSW is now “the number one choice for school leavers”.

“It's a furphy” according to Carlin.

Back “in the good old days, when I was a pup”, University admissions were a singular event. The main round was the only round. Nowadays, the process lasts from September through to February, encompassing six separate rounds.

Carlin says UNSW's alleged victory came only in the main round. 40% of offers are made after this, and after all offers are considered, USyd apparently comes out on top.

The article also claimed that University administrators secretly acknowledge that first preferences are vitally important. Carlin rejects this. A more important admissions metric is the first preference of qualified candidates, those with an ATAR high enough for their desired course. Otherwise, preferences are merely “aspirational” and have little meaning.

Carlin is justified in his clarifications; when taken into account, the state of USyd's admissions seem much less dire. Though the article rightly attributes UNSW's inaugural ‘victory’ to its guaranteed entry scheme, it does not mention that this was also the inaugural year of the generous scheme. As yet, it has no USyd equivalent.

PREREQUISITE MATHEMATICS

From 2019, 2-unit HSC mathematics will be introduced as a mandatory prerequisite for 61 courses at USyd, including B Commerce, B Science/M Nursing and B Design in Architecture. Previously, it was only ‘assumed knowledge’.

The change was spurred by declining partici-

pation rates in Advanced Mathematics (2U, 3U and 4U) and University research that showed a clear correlation between the level of mathematics studied for the HSC and academic success. The proposal ostensibly enjoyed the support of USyd's staff (who want University-ready pupils) and student bodies (who don't want to see their peers struggle) at the final Academic Board meeting of 2015.

According to a past Dean of the Faculty of Science, USyd has never before imposed prerequisites. This was because the University was conscious of high school students’ volatility when choosing a career, and thought it best to let them keep their options open.

It will be interesting to see if the historical reason USyd avoided prerequisites proves problematic for Year 12 students in the years to come.

DUX ENTRY SCHEME

This year's fresh crop of USyd students are the first to benefit from the Dux Entry Scheme. The scheme asks school principals to nominate a dux (before or after ATARs are released), who can then enter courses with higher cut-offs than they could based on their ATAR alone. The scheme effectively awards bonus points to school duxes.

Admissions Committee minutes bill the scheme as having two motives: nabbing the state's best and brightest, and addressing socioeconomic disadvantage. Carlin reaffirms this in person.

The University has a fair claim to the former, but a more dubious one to the latter.

In the University press release announcing the scheme, Carlin justified it by saying “Students from low socioeconomic backgrounds or rural and regional areas are statistically less likely to receive high ATARs, despite often outperforming their peers with higher ATARs at University”. Media coverage at the time also pushed this angle.

There is nothing wrong with chasing the state's best, but it is somewhat disingenuous to dress up this pursuit in the rhetoric of disadvantage.

If the scheme has such a focus on disadvantage, then why was it rolled out to every high school in the state, including wealthy private schools?

Carlin then refers me to the scheme's ‘best and brightest’ justification, telling me that the University is “utterly disinterested in whether your parents are billionaires”.

The University cannot have it both ways. There is nothing wrong with chasing the state's best, but it is somewhat disingenuous to dress up this pursuit in the rhetoric of disadvantage. If the University were truly concerned with disadvantage, it would restrict the scheme to needy areas. The scheme is a brain-grab competing with UNSW's equivalent, but older, Academic Achievement Awards.

Courting the elite

Nina Dillon Britton asks why Universities continue to line the pockets of the most privileged

When you get a 99.95, the courting by Universities is immediate and aggressive. There's Sydney's incessant emails about scholarships, highlighting the huge amount of money and how good this will look on your CV. There's also the pre-UAC deadline high tea where the Vice-Chancellor, Michael Spence, gives a welcoming speech. It's an opportunity to rub shoulders with a handful of faculty heads and your ‘elite’ peers as an acapella group serenades you. Holding your hand every step of the way are members of management who are more than willing to set up phone calls and meetings with any number of staff.

Though she's since chosen to study at Cambridge, the spectacle evidently worked for school-leaver and ‘elite student’, Alice Hawkins. “The event gave me an appreciation for the true internationalism of Sydney as a player on the world stage, and its capacity to attract the best minds from around the world in a way that other institutions in other cities can't,” she says.

Meanwhile, the average student stumbles into O-week and attempts to find their feet with nothing more than the hopeless University website to answer their questions.

The University of Sydney is not alone in its approach. It's an unavoidable fact that all the Group of Eight Australian Universities are competing for a particular brand of student. Five years ago, perhaps, the University of Sydney's courting methods did not need to exist to the same degree. Whilst the sandstone prestige of Australia's oldest University may have once been sufficient, it is no longer. UNSW, for example, now not only outranks the University of Sydney in QS University Rankings for competitive subject areas like engineering, but has also overtaken Sydney as the primary preference of NSW school-leavers.

There's actually very little Australian data on what sort of students receive these lucrative scholarships. What is clear, though, is that there's a relationship between ATARs and the privilege of a student's background.

“What we know is that students who come in via private school have their results inflated, because of that sort of intellectual cossetting that they've had,” says Professor Jane Kenway of Monash University. She goes so far to agree that it is “not impossible, but highly improbable” that a disadvantaged student could receive required perfect ATAR for these scholarships.

The myth of making a difference

40K is just another exercise in self-serving voluntourism, argues Ajay Sivanathan

On any given day at the University of Sydney, the beginning of your lecture may be commandeered by someone encouraging you to “make a massive difference” with 40K Globe, a social enterprise based in India. University endorsements of independent groups are rare, but even more so is the six credit points offered to those who take on this offer to be a “Glober”.

The 40K Globe program involves volunteers undertaking a prolonged process to develop a “social business” that villagers in rural India can utilise. Their model reverses the traditional dynamic of charities by having villages pay for the services themselves.

A team of Globers, accompanied by trained team leaders, travel to India over a 17-day period to harness the power of the free market to eradicate poverty. Failing that, they write quirky blog posts like “a sugar addict's guide to junk food in India”.

40K is not the average charity, because it's not a charity. In fact, CEO and founder of 40K Globe, Clary Castrission OAM, despises the charity model after he attempted build a school that, after five years, cost much more than the \$40 000 initially predicted.

Instead, Globers interview villagers to identify needs, and over a long period of time attempt to create and implement products as solutions. When questioned on his approach, Castrission is adamant that, “by forcing them to put a price on a good and pay for it themselves, enterprise that villagers don't want will be rejected because they simply can't afford to waste money.” In this sense, 40K is not the voluntourism popularly despised. Castrission freely admits that this has “pissed volunteers off”.

Castrission's social enterprise model should not, however, be left without critique. On their website 40K ask, “imagine if you could combine the social footprint of a charity with the commercial principles that underpin good business?” Herein lies the insidious underside to 40K. It's an organisation that looks to the profiteering free



Source: 40K website.

market to solve problems created by the profiteering free market; an approach affirmed by Castrission's past position as President of the Young Liberals.

Beyond the theory of the social enterprise, there is also little evidence from Globers to say that they give as much as they get in #traction on their new, exotic profile picture. The online presence of 40K Globers is indistinguishable from well-building North Shore kids on their gap year in Tanzania. They still take selfies with poverty-stricken children as a backdrop and caption them #squadgoals.

It's difficult to sever the orientalism of Globers from the program itself, as the vague platitudes about “making a difference” that make up 40K's promotional material are a side note to the dominant images of Globers running through fields of colour, wrapped in saris.

The emphasis is therefore on what Globers can get out of the program in travel and CV padding, not on what the program does for the communities. Even past team leader Tom Gibson says “adding to the resume is definitely something that motivates volunteers”.

Most Globers or team leaders were hesitant to speak ill of the organisation. Those that did, John Smith* in particular, had quite a bit to say. Smith

It seems bizarre then, that \$10,000 per year is given in the form of the Sydney Scholar Chancellor's Scholarship to any student who achieves an ATAR of 99.95. Knowing the profile of these ‘elite’ students, we can guess they largely attended private schools or highly ranked selective schools like James Ruse High School, which has a higher proportion of students coming from families in the top income quartile than Knox Grammar School.

The university does, of course, offer equity scholarships. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Tyrone Carlin was keen to point out that the University's approach to its scholarships programs seeks to “achieve a number of ends”. In managing the need to attract ‘elite’ students and support disadvantaged students, Carlin argues, the University “does a reasonable job to balance these aims”.

Despite the extensive discussion around the reliability of the ATAR as a complete measure of a student's potential at University, there's been no questioning of the expensive courting of students with the highest score. If we are genuine in our commitment to an accessible and diverse student body, then the way in which elite students are valued and bartered for also needs a radical rethink.

agreed that “the kids from Sydney definitely go over there with a ‘party’ mentality.” Smith identified them as “middle class and wealthy white Sydney kids who pay to go and pretend to be some saintly ethical capitalist.”

Whether or not they made a difference is difficult for each Glober to determine, as their project inevitably passes hands a dozen or so times. Smith, for example, said that his jewellery-making project had “pivoted in every iteration”. Likewise, ex-Glober Kundai Khuleya said explicitly, “whether we made impact, positive or negative, at this level I would say no”.

Attracting Sydney's elite is in fact part of the business model. With a hefty \$2600 price tag on a 40K trip, it's hardly accessible. Castrission does not see that as a problem, as he is “happy to charge a premium on the Globe product if the money goes into improving solutions for villagers”. Similarly, Smith conceded, “as long as the money ends up in the school, it's a good program, even if it's masturbatory egotism on the part of the kids who go over.”

The perspective that is still lacking is that of the villagers. Perhaps unsurprisingly, *Honi* could only receive quotes from 40K on their behalf. Apparently Vara Lakshmi of the Mylanahalli village has said “it doesn't matter that we don't know anything about where you're from or who you are. We will treat you like our daughters, like our children.” Undoubtedly a choice quote for the website, but it says very little about 40K's impact.

It's difficult to find the truth when 40K – like any corporation – is protected by its marketing department. There are undoubtedly merits to 40K as it does attempt to harness the acumen of tertiary students (unlike school building projects), but to consider it a radical rethink of voluntourism would be incorrect. The pull of the organisation is a chance to travel, meet friends and to think your three-week trip will dismantle the shackles of poverty. In reality, the impact still hinges on the principles of the fallible free market.

Frequently asked questions

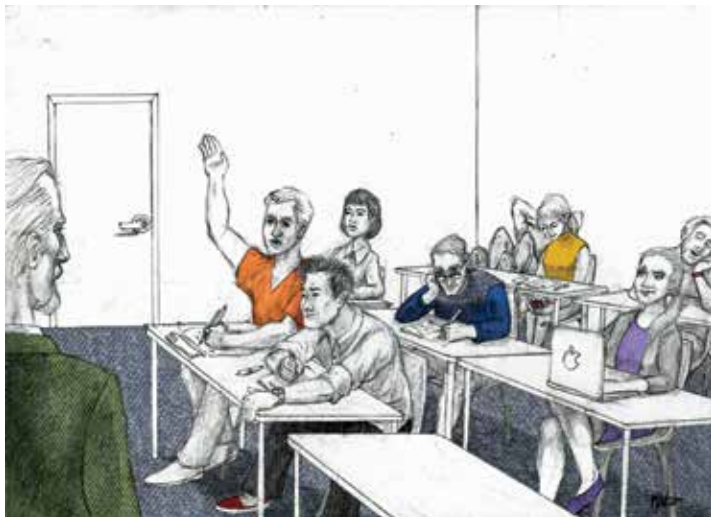


Illustration: Matthew Fisher

Where should I sit in my tute?

Stephanie Paglia

Welcome to The University of Sydney! While you may think all the hard work to get into this grand establishment means you can now relax, chill out, and let your Ps get you a degree, the hardest test of your intelligence occurs when you walk in the door of your first class.

The information you are about to read is far more important than what sits in your overpriced textbooks.

At the front of the room you'll see those with their notebooks out and dates written on the paper, otherwise known as The 10% Participation Party. If you're eager to get ahead and want to be known just by your voice, then take a seat with a good view to the action. But be warned, once you start in this position of power, you'll have to maintain it for the rest of your degree.

Watch out for the Back Row Bludgers, these people have too much faith in one pen to get them through the semester. But if you want to spend your tutorials scrolling through Facebook without anyone noticing, this is the seat for you. Just maybe invest in another pen, for backup.

The middle of the room is referred to as the Sweet Spot: not too close and not too far. Here you can easily fake attention when the 9am tutorials are just getting too much, but also keep an eye out for buzzwords that sound important enough to turn your laptop on for.

Your choice of seating will define you as a person for the length of your degree. So choose wisely, young one.

What the fuck is student politics?

Alexandros Tsathas

Real-life politics is a shitfight at the best of times, so you can only imagine what the student version is like. For every student politician genuine about instituting meaningful change, there are countless others who do it to pretty their CV and make the right connections for careers in government.

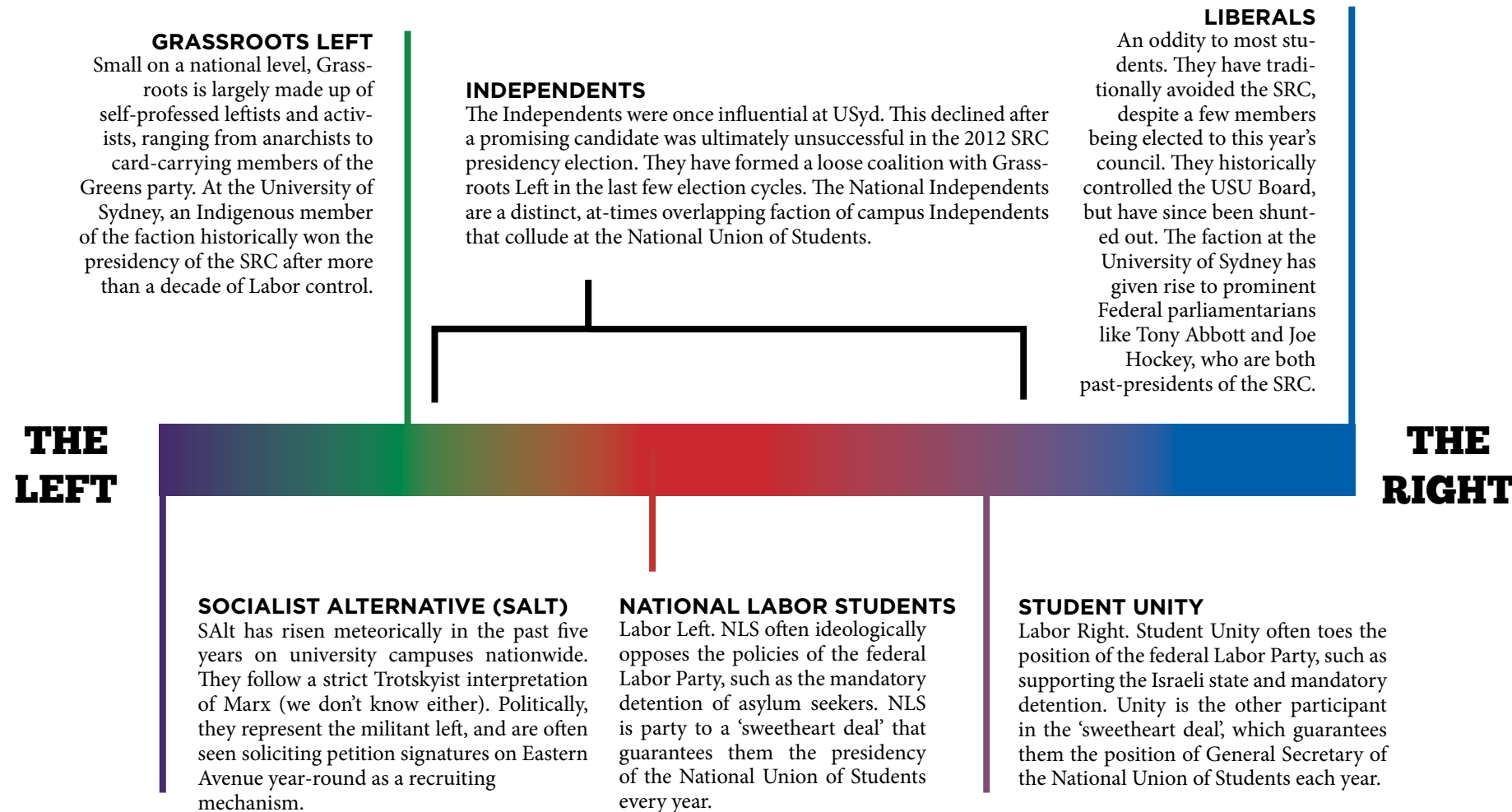
Politicians, by definition, try to hold a position. The two main forums offering this at USyd are the Students' Representative Council (SRC) and the University of Sydney Union (USU). The SRC is run by undergraduate students and is concerned with student welfare, representation and activism. The USU has closer ties with the University, is more corporate in flavour, and is in charge of the student experience: clubs and societies, food outlets and events like O Week.

Student politicians lie relatively dormant until the annual elections of the SRC and USU, held respectively in September and May. Each party nominates who they will run as their candidates, then they spend two weeks assisting them to campaign. They'll approach you in a primary-coloured tee, pretend to be interested in your life, hand you a how-to-vote and bully you to the polling booth.

Aside from the SRC and USU elections, student politics offers the opportunity to protest against university administration, attend senseless national conferences and mingle with like-minded folk—with notoriously salacious consequences—all whilst being recompensed handsomely with your constituents' amenities fees. Now that's a livin'!

The lay of the land

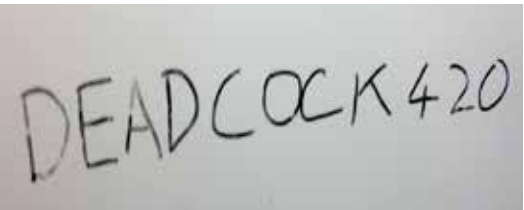
Forget high school cliques, welcome to the world of student factions, baby!



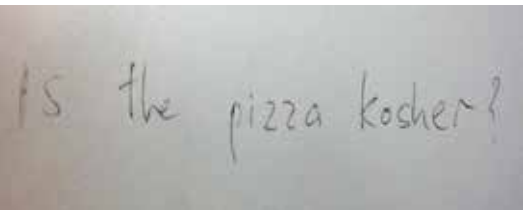
Writing on the wall

Will Khun got some low-res photos of some low-brow art

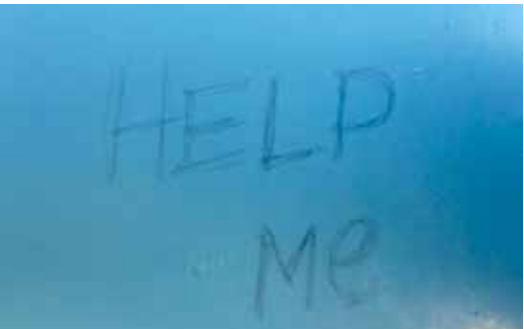
With the controversial winding down of the Sydney College of the Arts Rozelle campus, many expect to see a far greater variety of exciting graffiti and street art on campus. However, what our readers may not be aware of is that there is already a flourishing artistic community already at main campus! Ripe, well-fermented, and occasionally overflowing with student-produced materials, one reporter traced this odour of artistic endeavour to its source, bringing you the best and brightest in student art.



This piece is particularly intriguing; an intersectional commentary perhaps? A reference to the recent Deadpool movie? The reader is left in an off void; the more one thinks about the juxtaposition of 'dead' and 'cock' the more one is disturbed, whilst the '420' reference doesn't quite ameliorate any confusion.



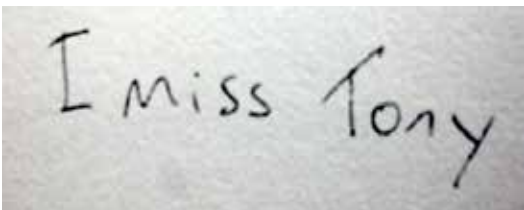
Beginning to delve into the deeper, existential aspects of GAC-OF's work, we have to ask – Is the pizza kosher? Which leads to similar questions: where do birds go when it rains? Is there life after death? Is the Newtown Domino's Kosher? The answers to all of these, of course, offer deep insight into the human condition; namely 'sometimes', 'trees, mostly', 'life is an bleak existential void, barren of meaning, and we have no reason to suspect that death will bring us anything beyond release from our suffering', and 'obviously not'.



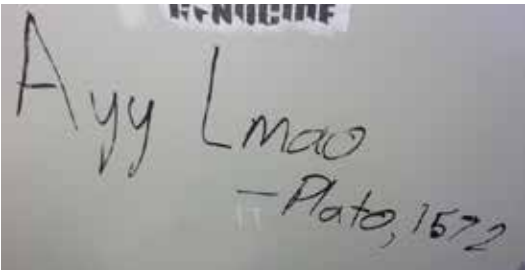
For this next image this reporter ventured out to the back of Storie Dixon, where they became unfortunately stuck for several minutes whilst they tried to find the door back to the stairwell. This piece sums up their feelings perfectly. It also probably summed up the feelings of the original artist, who may well still be in there. Never let it be said that reporters don't suffer for their art.



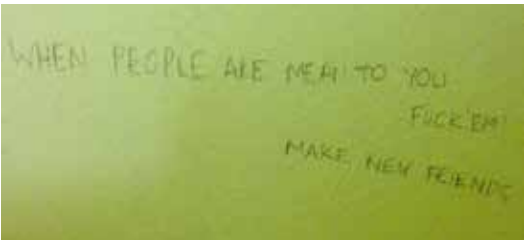
The piece which started it all, this scribble dates back from Fisher 2014 and was this reporter's first insight into this Graffiti Art Collective of Friends (GAC-OF). This subversive and ironic interactive is unfortunately no longer visible due to extensive gallery cleaning over the January break. This, dear readers, is why funding the Arts is a double-edged sword.



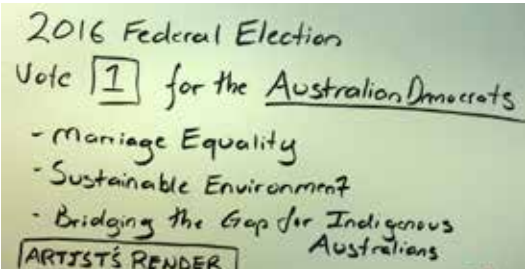
Untitled, but what this reporter likes to refer to as "I swear I'm joking," this piece highlights the paradoxical nature by which we are simultaneously repulsed by and entranced by catastrophes. There is something simultaneously hypnotic and horrifying in its grandiose tragedy. Alternatively, the thought of Tony in budgie smugglers is intended to act as a contraceptive counterpoint to the "People should have sex more often" thoughts below.



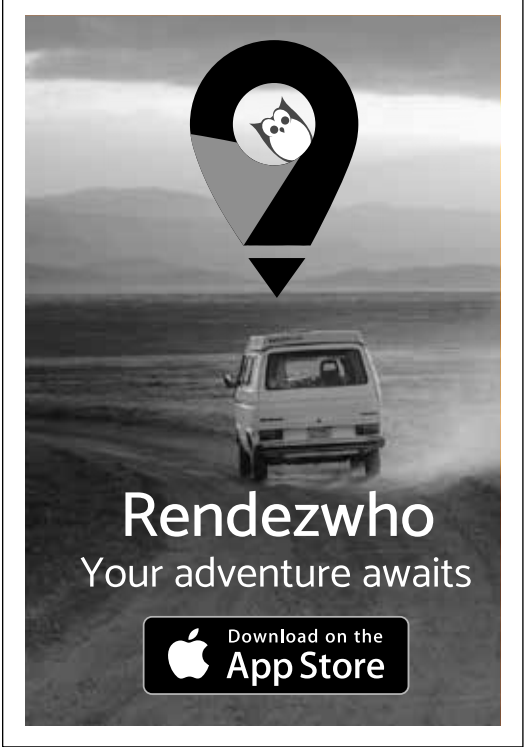
Moving to a dodgy toilet halfway up a back stairwell in the Institute Building, we continue the theme of electoral misfortune. Here, the historical origin of Ayy Lmao is finally clarified. A search for Plato 1572 turns up a translation of Timaeus by Plato archived by The Gutenberg Project, in which readers of Plato are first introduced to the story of Atlantis. The parallels for student politicians should be obvious.



Detouring via mechanical engineering¹ we find this gem of advice. After endless parades of dicks and dick jokes and unsolicited offers of oral sex it is a true highlight to see genuine advice.



In our final piece from the Merewether Galleries we have a public appeal for votes for the Australian Democrats. Perhaps titled "An Exercise in Futility," given that the Australian Democrats were deregistered by the Australian Electoral Commission in April 2015, forever dooming real progressive change in Australia. C'est la vie.



Must Rhodes fall?

All historical figures should be held to the same standard or none at all, argues Josh Kobe Wooller

There is no doubt that the many crimes attributed to Cecil Rhodes mandate utter condemnation and contempt. At the very least, Rhodes, the patriarch of Apartheid in South Africa, is answerable for his conviction that the white race was superior to all others.

He enslaved Africans into his monopolistic De Beers diamond production company and he instituted the ‘Masters and Servants Act’ of 1890, which called for sanctioned torture against slaves. He is directly responsible for 60,000 deaths after creating a white police force designed to kill those not fitting his vision of racial superiority. Rhodes is, to put it simply, what he would often decry native Africans as: ‘A savage’. But let’s get something clear: the crimes committed by Rhodes are abhorrent in a twenty-first century context, and Rhodes did not exist as a quintessential racist in a vacuum.

The #RhodesMustFall movement, which emerged at the University of Oxford, seeks to expunge all mention of Cecil Rhodes from campus buildings, including statues and plaques. The initiative, led ironically by Rhodes scholar Ntokozo Qwabe, does not want to remove the funding which makes it possible for him to go to Oxford. Whether he likes it or not, Qwabe attends Oxford University because of Rhodes. Indeed, Rhodes’ scholarship makes it possible for many students to attend the prestigious institution who would otherwise be unable to. Qwabe is unlikely to give up his scholarship, and so we should treat his call to create a ‘safespace’ and erase Rhodes from history at Oxford as a double standard.

If Oxford, and Western universities more gen-

erally, were the institutionalised ‘cesspools of racism’ that Qwabe describes, then we should spare no effort in bringing them into modernity. But, in the absence of any other evidence, a vestige of the past in no way makes Oxford a racist institution. Dealing with the past through our current understanding of society requires no nuanced or contextual understanding and undermines the study of history. Tearing down a statue does nothing more than impose our values upon the past, therefore creating an impossible standard for figures in history. We are in effect engaging in historical revisionism.

Should #RhodesMustFall’s model for history be accepted, we could not hope to have any historical figures to revere. Thomas Jefferson for example, would be derided as nothing more than a slave-owner, rather than an individual who emancipated people from an authoritarian monarchy. Churchill would be nothing more than an Islamophobe, rather than the voice that stood firm against Nazism. Closer to home, the statue of William Wentworth in USyd’s Great Hall would be nothing more than an antiquated and offensive vestige of our past, considering his association with the racist anti-immigration movement during the gold rush.

No figure in history lives up to the standard of the present, simply because they were not surrounded by the contextual values of our era. Cecil Rhodes is a racist, but the image of the Rhodes scholarship is not. Many Rhodes scholars have campaigned against the colonialism and racism championed by Rhodes himself.

His legacy to the university has changed since colonialism. The legacy of Alfred Nobel, a weap-

PROBLEMATIC USYD NAMESAKES

The **Edmund Barton** medal – awarded for academic achievement in a Masters degree, despite Barton’s association with the White Australia Policy.

The statue of **William Wentworth** – situated inside the great hall, Wentworth supported a tax on Chinese immigrants during the Gold Rush.

The statue of **John Henry Challis** – located in the Great Hall, the University benefactor supported bringing labour from India to replace convict labour. These Indian ‘coolie’ labourers were often poorly treated and underpaid.

The statue of **Gilgamesh** – standing tall beside the Old Teachers’ College, Gilgamesh was an ancient Mesopotamian king who insisted on sleeping with all brides in his kingdom on their wedding night.

ons manufacturer whose creations undoubtedly killed millions, has changed. The Nobel Peace Prize recipient is an individual who has contributed substantially to world peace. The Rhodes scholarship, which now provides an education to those that otherwise would not receive it, similarly has transformed the legacy of its namesake.

DJ dreams dashed by lockout

Frances Magiera on the unintended consequences of Sydney’s lockout laws

Festivals, nightclubs, parties... all shut down. It’s no new topic of debate, but, despite the heavy media coverage of Sydney’s lockout laws and consequent nightlife crisis, few realize just how much these changes have impeded the future of young DJs.

Music is an integral part of Sydney’s nightlife.

A lot of the Australian artists who have spoken out in opposition to the lockout laws have produced some incredible electronic and acoustic music. It is both shocking and saddening to think, had these laws existed in their time, these artists may have never emerged.

The pressure on venues to keep afloat has resulted in managers choosing to book fewer DJs.

Lach Mackay is a Sydney DJ who had a residency

at SOHO, a nightclub that closed last year as a result of the lockouts. Since then, he has been struggling to get regular gigs in the city because the demand for DJs has decreased dramatically.

“Personally, I think it’s shocking that when you go walking around Kings Cross (and the rest of the CBD) on a Friday or Saturday night, it literally feels like a ghost town... there’s no liveliness and people walk around cautiously,” he says.

There has already been a 19 per cent attendance decline for live venues, and this vicious cycle will only continue.

“I’ve just come back from a six week Europe trip, and the nightlife over there is really exciting, but you also feel comfortable walking around the streets,” Mackay tells me. “For us DJs and producers, it makes it really hard to not only get gigs, but we also have to rely on things like social media and word of mouth to get our music out to people and create a fan base.”

This leads me to question the future for budding DJs and other musicians. Had it not been for the once-vibrant Sydney nightlife, many of our homegrown and now internationally recognized electronic artists may not have made it. Who will we be listening to in five or ten years?

A close friend of mine is an upcoming Sydney artist. Yes, he shares his passion through online mixtapes and DJing at friends’ parties. Yes, he goes clubbing and networks with those at venues to get a foot in the door for prospective gigs. Yes, he saw clubbing in Sydney before the February 2014 lockout laws were introduced. But sadly, no, he will probably not get the opportunity to perform at such venues.

Unfortunately, we can’t all move overseas or interstate to further our nightlife pursuits. The less drastic option is to fight to keep Sydney’s nightlife open. Acclaimed artists, including WhatSoNot, Alison Wonderland and Flight Facilities, have publicised the #keepsydneyopen campaign via social media.

The lockout laws affect so much more than just the mass of club-goers no longer having a “proper” night out. Fighting the lockout laws may be the last viable solution for Sydney’s upcoming DJs, because at this rate, there is no future in nightlife entertainment.



DaRhodes Sandstone. Katie Thorburn

The Victoria Park eels have been to New Caledonia

Elliot Brennan has not been to New Caledonia

If you’ve ever found yourself compelled to stop on the bridge across Lake Northam in Victoria Park and stare wistfully into its radioactive-green waters, you might have seen a long-finned eel. Hell, you might have felt sorry for the poor ugly bastard you thought was spending its life condemned to this one tiny pond.

But before that ugly bastard of an eel had turned one year old, it had probably seen more (and achieved far more) than you.

In what has been an undemocratic blight on the fauna of Sydney University, these apex-predators have been completely neglected by the student media in favour of an extensive documentation of the ibis population. This i-bias manifested itself most clearly when a lengthy *Honi* Article published last year posed the question, “Where are all the ibis babies?”

The answer was palm trees and long grass. Sick. But, if you asked the question, “Where are all the long-finned eel babies?”, the answer is *New Caledonia*.

Eels 1, ibises 0.

When they reach sexual maturity, long-finned eels are compelled to leave the pond they have called home (sometimes for up to two decades) and make for the ocean. Before the European colonisation of Australia, the eels in Lake Northam would have had an easy time of it, too.

Back on those days the lake was more of a spring that connected to the swamps of Blackwattle Bay. But, now there are a myriad of multi-lane roads, high density housing zones, quaint cafes built in 2013 and general obstacles that don’t involve water between Lake Northam and Blackwattle Bay. So how do the eels get to the ocean?

To put it simply, however the hell they can. Long-finned eels rise to meet every challenge

modern society and nature throws at them and overcome it. Even when it is dry land. They will just go over it.

Yes, eels can *travel on land*. Bonus fun fact: They also don’t have sharp teeth, so you can pat them.

The eels will leave their pond either through its inlet and outlet system or will scale its banks and slither along the ground until they reach a stormwater drain. These drains will link to other ponds, and those ponds to other drains. They will continue doing this until they reach the ocean.

If this journey is literally (actually literally) impossible, the long finned eels will just continue to grow; the largest reported is a 3m long, 22kg marvel of biology. The Parramatta Eels are the only eels that lose.

When the majestic majority make it to the salt water of the ocean, receptors in their nose trigger a physiological change that puts a butterfly’s life cycle to shame. Their eyes enlarge and undergo pigment transformation to improve their vision in the salt water, their pectoral fins enlarge to rub more salt in Nemo’s wounds, their stomach disintegrates as they have eaten their last duckling and their anus shrivels to keep the salt water at bay.

The fasting, owl-eyed, anus-less eels then swim along the coast of Australia, up past the northern tip of New Zealand (where their Kiwi brethren join them), and further north to the southern tip of New Caledonia, presumably using the slip stream of P&O cruises the whole 2,020km. Here,

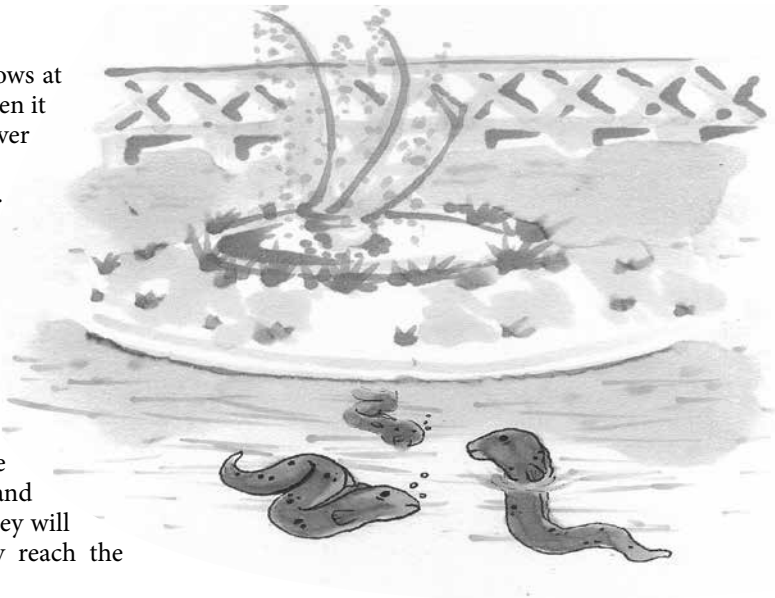


Illustration by Johanna Roberts

the females release millions of eggs, of which an estimated one per cent survive.

The adult eels- after doing everything in their power to give their spawn a tropical life free from Sydney University college kids pissing in their pond- die.

Their offspring then undertake the journey in reverse, having never met their parents to know that life in Pacific paradise is a lot nicer than that in an overcrowded share-pond on City Road.

ALTERNATIVES WAYS TO GREET IN O WEEK

1. Form a beak with your left hand and place this in one another’s shirt pockets.
2. Your ears serving as fulcrums, apply intermittent downward pressure on the ends of the arms of your sunglasses. At an identical frequency, raise and lower your eyebrows.
3. ‘How dost thou, reeky pumpkin?’
4. Lean in close, open your mouths and inhale deeply.
5. Tug each other’s earlobes with both hands.
6. Wave and nod politely.

Professor Mary-Louise McLaws, a renowned infection control expert from UNSW, doesn’t think so. She believes fist-bumping in healthcare is banal, misguided and potentially dissuades people from washing their hands properly, which is the gold standard in controlling the spread of disease. Interestingly, Professor McLaws also tells me that the practice of shaking hands possibly stems from the Knights of the Round Table. Apparently, they shook hands as a showing of peace and an indication they had put their swords aside.

I suppose that keeping to this noble and ancient tradition makes sense when distanced from the typically extreme germs of a hospital. Still, I’d prefer we just touch knuckles. If you’re a lazy hand washer, at least with a fist-bump you’re only transmitting one-tenth the bacteria you normally would.

Shake it off

The haters gonna hate, but Melissa Chow still won’t shake

The very true fact is that hands are carriers of germs. When we shake hands, we spread disease. Touch a surface where influenza is chilling (door handle, bus rung, Wentworth food court’s sticky tabletops), then rub your eyes or eat lunch, and you’ve likely been infected.

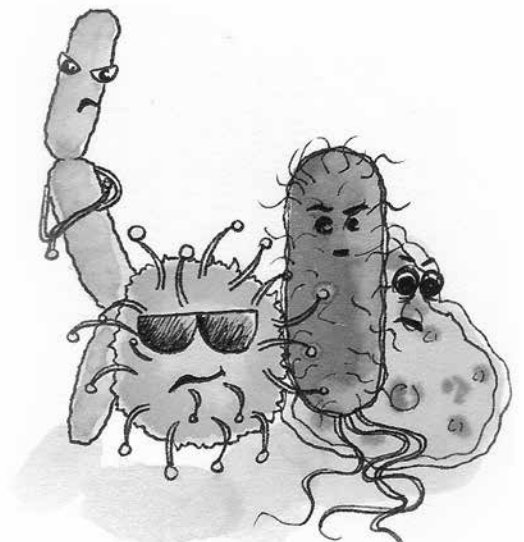


Illustration by Johanna Roberts

I slept with a rapist

Anonymous remembers an average night

While ago I hooked up with a guy I'd known for a little while. We'd met a few times and he was attractive, seemed nice, and was well liked by many of my close friends. We were chatting at a party, we started kissing, and after a while we went back to mine and had sex. It was nothing special but totally fine.

After this, I found out that he had previously sexually assaulted one of my friends by continuing sex after she had clearly and vocally withdrawn her consent.

I want to make a few things clear – I am not writing this as a victim, nor am I claiming that my experience is in any way like what happened to my friend. I have not experienced sexual assault and I cannot speak to that experience. What I do want to share is what that night taught me about those who commit sexual assault.

Current discourse around sexual assault does a good job of emphasizing that the vast majority of rapists are not strangers in dark alleys, they are most likely to be those we know and those in our homes. This is something I knew intellectually, I recognised that I more than likely knew someone who had or would commit a sexual assault. I

understood that rapists look just like anyone else – but I don't think I really believed it.

We all put a great deal of stock in our judgment of other people, especially those we form friendships with and those we sleep with. While I can't claim to have perfect standards, I always trusted myself to impose some sort of character test on those I have sex with, but that test was premised on a lie. I agreed to sleep with someone that I thought was a good guy, that my friends thought was a good guy, and yet he was the kind of person to disrespect a woman and her autonomy in the most heinous way.

After I found out, I analyzed what the sex I'd had with him was like. I thought surely he must have been aggressive; there must have been something 'wrong' that I missed at the time. But there really wasn't. We had absolutely vanilla sex, with no trace of something off.

Because here's the thing – sexual assault isn't someone who likes it rough going too far, it's someone disrespecting another person and violating their consent. This guy hadn't liked that someone wanted to stop having sex with him, so he kept going. What this taught me was that our intuitions are deeply fucked up. The first questions I asked myself were about why I hadn't figured it out – and that assumed that those who commit sexual assault are 'marked' in some way, that we can tell.

CW: Sexual Assault

If this piece raises any issues for you, you can contact Lifeline on 131 114 or NSW Rape Crisis Centre on 1800 424 017

That intuition leads to us question whether victims are telling the truth because we think the perpetrator seems alright. That intuition leads us to blame victims because they should have picked it up before they started a sexual encounter.

When I saw the guy again shortly afterwards I expected him to look different. I expected him to look like a monster, but he didn't. He was still attractive, still charming, and still looked like a normal guy. I guess the point is this – we all know that rapists look like everyone else, and that we probably know a few – but I don't think we really comprehend it.

I don't write this to try and scare you about your friends or every future hook up – but I want you to think about what your picture of someone who is capable of sexual assault looks like. This isn't something that happens to other people, it happens to our friends, and it is committed by those we trust. If I could go back and not sleep with this guy I would, but if I said I fucked up in deciding to sleep with him at the time I would be lying – because I had no idea.

When people question the truthfulness of victims because he just 'doesn't seem like that kind of guy', they're being not only being dickheads, they're being arrogant ones – because I couldn't tell and neither can you. So please, believe those who come forward, and question why you might doubt them.

The race debate

The debating circuit is plagued by whiteness, writes Kevin Lee

The World Universities Debating Championships, much like the name suggests, brings together debaters from all four corners of the globe. Yet somehow, in a tournament that prides itself on its span of diversity, the speakers who end up on stage winning awards as the best speakers in the world, always seem to look the same.

In last year's Worlds held in December, more than half the speakers in the Open Grand Final were from non-white backgrounds. For a tournament whose historical omission of successful people of colour rivals the Oscars, this was positive news. Other signs, unfortunately, weren't so promising.

Renowned English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and English as a Second Language (ESL) speakers consistently failed to receive speaker scores above 75, a result that would be almost unimaginable for many English-speaking teams. Neither speaker from Malaysia's Universiti Teknologi MARA "A" team, ranked second at the end of the round robin stage and tipped by some to win the tournament, made the top ten speakers list.

Debating at Worlds is challenging even for the most experienced debaters. Four teams of two compete against one another after just fifteen minutes of preparation. Now imagine competing in your second language, or better yet, in a language that has been your primary language of instruction for no more than six months. That is precisely what ESL and EFL speakers must do.

If that wasn't difficult enough, racism is another hurdle they are consistently hounded with. Accents and speaking styles play an enormous role in the adjudication of even the most respected judges. "When persuasion is conditioned to be a white man from Oxford," says former University of Sydney debater Subeta Vimalarajah, "when someone doesn't mimic that style, you should see it as not persuasive". An accent is often the deci-

sive factor in a closely fought debate.

Many adjudicators pay only cursory attention to or make little effort to understand speakers who "sound foreign", despite the strength of their material. Conversely, poorly made or assertive arguments are far more commonly accepted if presented in an 'authoritative' English, Australian or North American accent.

With the impetus on adjudicators to overcome

Many adjudicators pay only cursory attention to or make little effort to understand speakers who "sound foreign".

their own unconscious biases, it's all too easy for those who are complacent to dismiss an ESL, EFL or person of colour's material, attributing the blame to messy or subaltern arguments. "Comments I've occasionally heard range from 'they were quite good for a [insert non-western region] team' to 'they were impossible to understand,' says former Australasian Intervarsity Debating Championships (Austral's) Deputy Chief Adjudicator Steph D'Souza. "Comments like that belie a discrete form of condescension: 'if you don't express yourself in the way I'm used to, I'm doing you a favour by crediting your ideas."

The engrained presumption that people of colour, or those for whom English is not their native language, are inherently less competent consistently undermines their sense of legitimacy and belonging in debating. Lucian Tan, Equity Officer for last years Australs, recalls being shunted by a disappointed American team he adjudicated at his first Worlds. The team refused to hear his feedback, only seeking out his Caucasian panelists. "After the break [announcement]," he says,

"they were all super nice and saying things like, 'Oh I didn't realise you went to Sydney.'" Tan was forced to rely on his western University to reestablish his legitimacy as an adjudicator, pressured to distinguish himself from ESL and EFL competitors in the process.

The pressure to prove your place in debating often means downplaying the importance of your cultural background in favour of black tie dinners and alcohol-fuelled socials. Vimalarajah notes debating success is often inherently connected with your social conformity, 'if you do have that [cultural connection] it becomes really convenient to strip that away.' Often privileges such as a western private school education or simply speaking with an Australian accent can make the difference between acceptance as an Australian debater and relegation to the status of 'just another ESL speaker'.

Admittedly, the debating community is not ignorant to the problem. Adjudicators are now warned against dismissing arguments because of the accent in which they are delivered. At this year's Worlds, software was used to ensure regional, gender and language status balance on adjudicator panels on each debate. Despite this progress, Deputy Chief Adjudicator Chris Bisset noted that "while representation helps development and builds experience, we shouldn't be complacent about the structural forces that can marginalise individuals on panels or co-opt them to unfair ends."

Yet those who seek progress must look further than the structure of debates, and look to the culture that surrounds them, where for example, an emphasis on drinking and drugs is often exclusionary at international events. When socialising is so frequently approached with an Anglo-centric skew, it is not hard to see why people of colour, particularly non-native English speakers, are still commonly treated as outsiders. They shouldn't be. It is the World Universities Debating Championships after all – and that should mean the whole world, not just the English-speaking one.

USyd's O Week Rituals

Victoria Zerbst has done four of these

MICHAEL SPENCE'S PEN15 CLUB

As far back as the 1960s, brave students have snuck into the Vice-Chancellor's Office during O Week and left scintillating letters on his desk. This tradition has evolved with the times, and in its current form, students dare each other to steal pens or pen holders from the office of Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence. Allegedly, an exclusive Facebook group called 'The Spence Pen15 Club' exists for those who have stolen pens or taken O Week selfies in his office.

NAKED GRAFFITI NIGHT (NGN)

For the past three years, the second night of O Week has ended with the NGN. As the sun goes down on O Week Thursday, students undress and retag the entire Graffiti Tunnel. In the past, students also spray-painted their bodies and danced, but university administration has warned against this after a student suffered an allergic reaction last year. Students taking part must now wear a yellow hard-hat so facilitators can identify them.

SUDS GOAT RUN

Since the 1978 production of *The Goat, Or Who is Sylvia?*, members of the Sydney University Dramatic Society have staged an O Week ceremony where they worship a life-sized goat prop. Every year, on the opening night of their O Week show, student thespians don ritualistic robes and wheel 'Billy' around the quad in a theatrical parade. In 2013, the parade featured a real goat and two kids. This attracted calls for its removal from animal rights organisation PETA. Now the event is strictly vegan.

[REDACTED]

Legal advice suggests that we can't publish this one, but if you head to the women's bathrooms in New Law Level 0 (just down from Taste), the end stalls have some clues.

UTS DOM TOSS

To celebrate the end of the O Week, USYD students traditionally set upon UTS to take part in the UTS Condom Toss. Disguised as UTS students, students climb to the top of their phallic main tower and toss condoms onto the rest of their ugly campus. Last year, the Dom Toss erupted in fracas after a number of USYD students allegedly shouted "UTS! Don't reproduce! UTS! Don't reproduce!"

ELECTION TOAST FIGHT

Apparently initiated by the members of the Chaser's War on Everything in their student days, every year the SRC election ends in a Toast Fight (TF) outside the Jane Foss Russell Building. Student Unity are ardent upholders of the tradition, and have set up an Instagram account to document the crusty brawl.

CARILLON PRIMAL SCREAM

During Stuvac, students take breaks from studying in Fisher Library to partake in the Carillon Primal Scream. Every time the Carillon rings during the day, hundreds of undergraduates run to the Quad and scream at the tops of their lungs. Some have even managed to scale Carillon tower and scream in its echoing chambers.

OBITUARY

Transient in life, never in our hearts

Sam Langford shed a single tear

Loss comes in many forms. Sometimes it creeps in quietly, unobtrusive until it is felt. Other times it comes in like a wrecking ball. For the late Transient Building, it was the latter, in the dead of summer, with nary a lost first-year to witness its passing.

How to mourn something so patently shit? Apparently not by paying respects in person – the cavity where Transient once stood is blocked off by a rent-a-fence and a sign warning "danger: deep excavation"¹, a move basically on par with stationing bouncers at a funeral. The best I could do was stand mournfully on Fisher Road and try to enjoy the newly unimpeded view of the Chemistry Building. It doesn't come close to replacing the chemistry Transient and I had.

Transient was many things,

but it was mostly asbestos. It never pretended to be what it wasn't, i.e. in range of USyd Wi-Fi. It remained the home of those with expendable majors, for whom the challenge of complex room numbers, chair shortages and jamming bathroom doors served as a dry run for the perils of job-hunting with a degree in linguistics².

The people who knew Transient variously described it as "[seeming] structurally stable" (Lost on Campus), "the ugliest building on campus" (everyone), and, bizarrely, deserving of heritage listing (sydneyarchitecture.com). Yet in the end, the building lived up to its name. Vale, Transient. You will not linger in our hearts, but (given the fibrous asbestos), you may yet remain in our lungs.

¹ Yeah, of my *heart*.

² One thing a linguistics major does qualify you for is making good puns. For example, the Linguistics Department's blog is titled "Transient Languages and Cultures", almost certainly a nod to the building that was the department's home for many years. The same blog also describes the Transient Building as "symbolising the impermanence of language". We at *Honi Soit* hope the building's demise isn't a bad omen.



The mighty, fallen. Photo: @slangers.gov.au

The Bone Room

Students of St Paul's College have made an art of bullying. **Natalie Buckett** and **Victoria Zerbst** investigate old traditions, Facebook tirades, and the point at which privilege becomes poisonous.

Art by **Zita Walker**

It was Sunday night at the Women's College, in the hungover conclusion of O Week 2014. Amongst the expected kaleidoscope of decadence, sexual deviance and lots (and lots) of drinking, something was different.

Whispers flitted between bedrooms, snippets of information carried across corridors: freshman girls had reportedly been invited to a secret room by a group of seniors from neighbouring St Paul's college, selected on the basis of their attractiveness. They called it the Bone Room.

Up until that point, we, as Women's freshers, had bonded over our mild discomfort at college life: the Paul's boys chanting at us, the suggestion that half of us would meet our husbands next door. We helped each other laugh it off; this was supposed to be the greatest time of our lives.

But this sandstone mythology made them feel different.

How could something so blatantly sexist be celebrated?

They chose her? Really?

Jealousy mingled with outrage, and we stared at the spectacle of college, sickened yet entranced.

Almost two years later, we are still trying to understand the Bone Room.

The Bone Room's etymology is easy. The name reportedly comes from the history of the room in which it is held: the Rogers Room, within Paul's. The Paul's residents we spoke to said the room used to be used to store bones for the medical students, making the innuendo element for a party venue too good to pass up.

Defining what a Bone Room looks like in 2016 is more difficult.

For starters, there are multiple "Bone Rooms". The name is used to describe a particular type of

party held after college victories, ranging from rugby to debating.

The Paul's boys secretly invite women to the party, one woman for each man. They have normally never met. The women are instructed to wear fancy dress, and their date for the evening arrives in a matching costume.

"There is no other way to describe how [the invitations] are decided, because they are based on looks," a former Women's resident told us.

As we spoke to college residents, it became apparent the O Week Bone Room we remembered from our freshman year was the tradition at its most secretive and insidious. Although the Bone Rooms that followed intercol sports events seemed similar, we spoke to some residents who attended debating or drama bone rooms, and casually invited friends with no reference to their perceived attractiveness.

Attendees are wine and dined upstairs at Thai La-Ong, before being led to the Rogers Room. Some women described the room as full of mattresses. From the descriptions given by past attendees, the Bone Room appears like less of a party, and more of a ritualised drinking event.

"Like, it's founded on alcohol; that's the predating factor," a Paul's resident told us.

At events like college O Week, when students are first exploring an environment that essentially becomes their home, women are disproportionately expected to make an impression.

A former Paul's resident admitted, "If you're an 18, 19-year-old girl and this institution of men deigns to recognise you and invite you to this secret event that you literally don't know anything about... saying no to that is impossible."

Some women felt this sense of exclusivity might compel attendees to immediately and

indiscriminately accept invitations. They discussed the "seedy side to it... of 'getting chosen'". This sense of exclusivity caused those "left over" to question the legitimacy of the guest list, rather than questioning the legitimacy of the event itself.

Perhaps most concerning, complex power dynamics can, in the words of one female attendee, "create a weird expectation". She added that there's "obviously sexual connotations to the whole thing".

A Paul's resident assured us the men are "in charge of making sure that [their dates] are okay and get home safely". The issue with this prescribed couple format, though, is that often the women and men are total strangers. At the O Week Bone Room, this pressure is compounded by the fact that the girls have only arrived on campus a week before.

Many of the people we met at college who previously decried the Bone Room had changed their minds by the time we contacted them for this story. They said it was just another party, and if you weren't ready to get that "messy", you should just opt out. One attendee said although she ended her night "running naked through a fucking hallway", she didn't find it scarring, advising that if an attendee was to feel upset by something, they would probably look back on it with nostalgia.

We expected our friends at college to be just as critical as when they had first heard about the Bone Room. But it seemed they thought the moment you started to question these traditions, was the moment you stopped belonging.

As we disengaged with college and moved into sharehouses nearby, our friends settled in, socialising and befriending the same boys who ran these events.

As our investigation continued, it felt like the more people we spoke to, the less information we found. The students who first volunteered their personal experiences as public information were now suddenly shy to speak out.

Some interviews became strained, or awkward. The contributions of good, reliable sources became evasive. The Bone Room was being phased out, they told us. The Student Club had reportedly suspended multiple events last year, and even if it wasn't, was it really that different from any other night of alcohol-fuelled college debauchery?

Delving deeper, it became clear women in particular did not want to discuss the event.

For some it was a public image disaster they didn't want to be tarred by. They were concerned that their compliance and involvement in the Bone Room would reflect badly on themselves and the college. Others were concerned the dramatic connotations of the Bone Room meant it was just another anti-college *Honi* article.

For most, though, it was something more than that. What they wanted to talk about, and express, couldn't be simplified or strawmanned as one event.

It was only when we broadened the scope of the interviews, that the men and women we were speaking to began to open up. We heard stories of harassment, of impenetrable old boys' networks, of internalised misogyny and shocking, raw experiences of sexual assault. The stories were stark, aching and each time, individual. Yet, they shared too many similarities for comfort.

Most instances of intercollegiate bullying and harassment occurred, in some part, online. They usually targeted a female's sexuality. The perpetrators appeared careless, and remorseless.

One college resident's friends allegedly photoshopped the faces of girls he had slept with onto an existing group photo to document his year's hook-ups. Another posted a "to do" list of females, ranking them one to five on Facebook. The women involved were tagged; one had a tick placed against her name.

Anecdotes of experiencing cruel behaviour, both casual and calculated, flew out of the mouths of women, often breezily.

In late 2015, one Paul's resident was allegedly hacked on Facebook to publish a post singling out the incoming Women's College house committee, naming Paul's residents they had been romantically connected with in titles such as "Honorary Pleasurer" (Honorary Treasurer), "Senior Serpent" (Senior Student) and "In-her-hole Rep" (Intercol Rep).

Women's College residents called out the behaviour, leaving the Paul's resident no other option than to apologise. However, a leaked screenshot of an internal Paul's Facebook group revealed college residents discussing the apology. They laughed at it, all the while mocking the

"If you're an 18, 19-year-old girl and this institution of men deigns to recognise you and invite you to this secret event...

saying no to that is impossible."

Women's College feminist organisation, Femco. Comments ranged from the sarcastic "#menco", to "the senior serpent I voted for never would have reneged" and, simply: "chicks suck".

We realised women didn't want to talk about the Bone Room because it was not an isolated event we could critique, and instead was, as one Women's College resident told us, "emblematic of a deeper problem".

The women we spoke to believed the men next door often didn't bother to consider their feelings, or if they did, maybe just didn't care about them.

Online bullying where women are tagged in cruel or sexualised Facebook posts had broadcasted untrue or sensitive information to their entire social network, often including employers and family members. Perpetrators defend their actions as "frapes" or "jokes", pushing the accountability onto one another and ultimately escaping it individually.

The harassment is personal, and physical too. A resident of college told Honi of being bullied by her friends after she stood up against an unwanted sexual encounter. The intimidating social environment of the dining hall meant that she simply "didn't eat" because she was "too scared and uncomfortable to eat with others".

Interestingly, most women we spoke to stressed that The Women's College provided both thorough and approachable resolution processes for bullying, and would probably "take complaints that come to them quite seriously".

The more overarching issue however, seemed to be that any complaints rarely left the women's bedrooms.

At the heart of this intercollegiate dynamic is a historical power imbalance.

Women's College residents feel indebted to Paul's men due to the events and opportunities they feel are provided for them. With a bar on site, Women's residents told us they felt Paul's controls the area's "social hub". Women's College facili-

ties, whilst still exorbitantly privileged, boast no personal bar, no sandstone quad, and considerably fewer alumnae donations than Paul's.

Some thought this resource disparity was the outcome of archaic views about "how women ought to behave". After all, why would an all-female college need a bar? Others felt Women's simply couldn't compete financially with the Old Boys network and financial privilege of Paul's. They felt the men were able to use their disproportionate access to events as leverage, or "licence" to interact with girls with little need to assess or evaluate the consequences.

The extensive and often unchallenged privilege of college institutions can act as a hurdle for change. As one former Women's College student noted, "Confronting issues of elitism and sexism means confronting an institution that many people hold as important to their identity."

One current Paul's student indicated residents often feel pressure to live up to strange college "roles they think they are expected to play". Similarly, the heteronormative discourse of "brother/sister" colleges, where women who go on to marry Paul's men are playfully referred to as successful "statistics", can generate further pressure for women to ignore or accept their peers problematic behaviour.

In an attempt to curb this behaviour, the St Paul's College Handbook, helpfully provided to us by Paul's Warden Dr Ivan Head, says, "Men are very specifically advised that if something is harassing or sexist... they should cease, desist, and remove immediately any offensive post as [it is] against clearly stated college policy."

Critics question whether this policy further reinforces a tendency for college men to apologise when the reputation of their college is at risk, rather than because they acknowledge their actions wrongful.

Of course, not everyone at college behaves in this way. Yet, even the most progressive students at college, including ourselves when we attended, sometimes passively ignore and accept structural and institutional power dynamics, encouraged by a culture of secrecy and silence.

The policies of both colleges instruct their residents to refrain from making public statements about the college that could endanger their public image.

The Women's College residents we spoke to almost all insisted on appearing off the record. When we repeatedly tried to engage with the St Paul's College Student's Club they simply responded with, "The St Paul's College Students' Club Committee fully supports the statement of Dr Head."

Many Women's College students we had assumed would speak to us instead sent us polite messages noting they would prefer not to be involved, as our article may tarnish the college and their friends.

We remembered the two hours of media training held at our college O Week. We remembered being told never to talk to journalists.

When people aren't able to openly discuss the problems that plague their institution, they are doomed to remain. One former Paul's resident noted, "When you talk about sexual assault in the army and a silencing culture in the army, I understand the culture that forces soldiers to try to defend the army but, when I look at them, I don't really forgive them for it. But I do the same for college."

When we started this piece, intrigued by a maze of secret rooms and scandalous rumours, we expected to expose a world of sexist college tradition. But instead of rituals, the sexism we discovered was casual, and untraceable, more likely to take place in private Facebook groups than private parties. For us, and the women we spoke to, this was far more insidious, and far more damaging, than any Bone Room.

A different state of play

Nathan Sheldon-Anderson

In preparation for the release of the latest Star Wars film, I loaded up my decade-old game, Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic. After scrolling through my old saved games I noticed a recurrent pattern. Eleven-year-old Nathan had played the game four times over and always with a black protagonist. Curious, I then checked my other Role Playing Games. I had chosen every protagonist to be black.

I always loved Bishop - an Indigenous anti-hero from the X-Men comics. Bishop is an Aboriginal man who fled to America following a nuclear attack. Following his story of discovery had always touched me as an Indigenous person.

There has also been a push for diversity in game development teams and the games they produce.

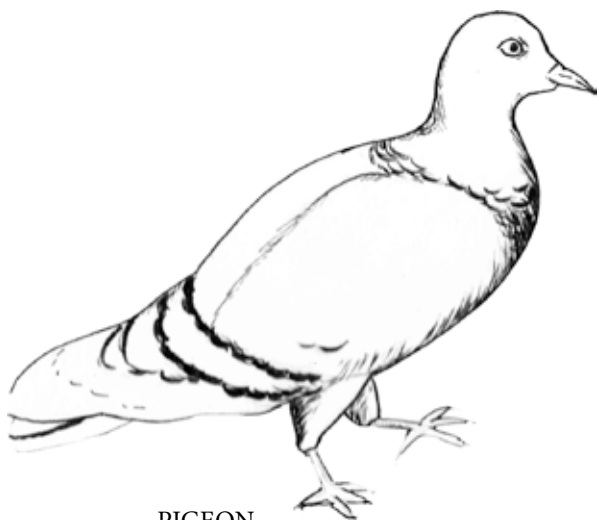
I recently attended the first ever Australian RTX Gaming and Internet Convention. It turned the Convention Centre at Sydney Technological Park into a bazaar of online gaming, cosplay and all things nerdy. There were sideshows and stages dedicated to gaming, as well as appearances from gaming franchise personalities of RoosterTeeth Gaming fame. Thousands of enthusiasts cued outside in the heat to experience the American born event. A centrepiece was a panel discussion on the homogeneous nature of the industry.

An increase in diversity allows for a wider array of narratives and perspectives that gamers would never otherwise experience. These narratives are also more compelling. Stories of a gutsy-badass-white-cis-hetero-male are a dime-a-dozen.

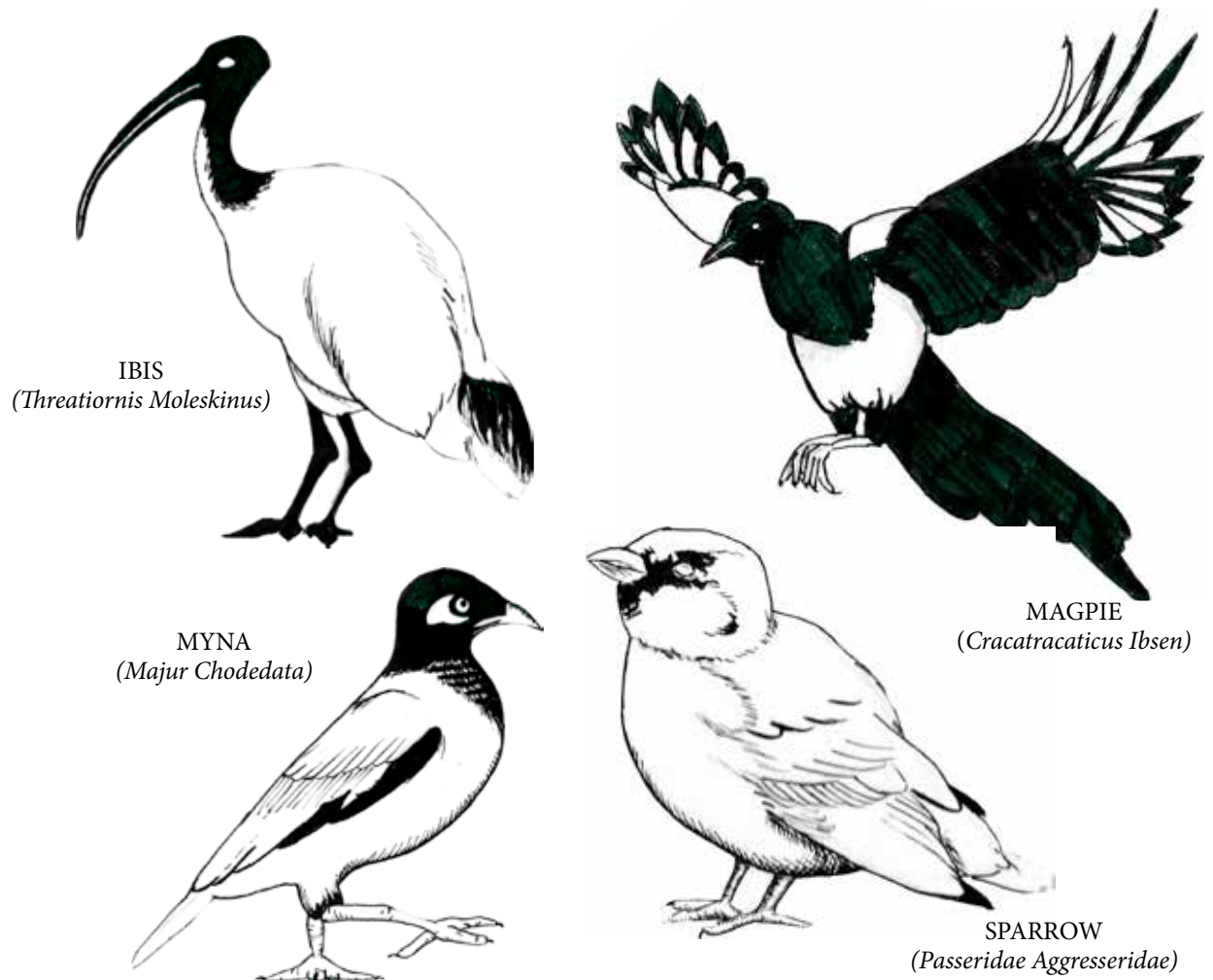
In fact, games have moved towards guaranteeing that their narratives are complex and different. A game like RUST facilitates diversity by limiting the availability of white players. From last year ethnicity and gender were not chosen by the user but randomly determined and permanently linked to your Steam account. The only way to change character is to start a new account and buy the game again. Unsurprisingly, people cared more about their bank account than their preference to have a white protagonist.

Panels and discussions about diversity in gaming are absolutely crucial. While women and people of colour are represented stereotypically in the current gaming market, development teams consisting of these people can guarantee a nuanced gaming experience.

It would reflect sections of the audiences that are not consistently represented. Seeing someone who looks like you, feels like you or has similar experiences creates a sense of inclusion. Vicariously following and directing a player as they fight through a game is even better. It is exciting to see a community like Rooster Teeth embracing diversity and making online gaming a better space.



PIGEON
(Columbidae Cocainus)



The right kind of risk

Peter Burrell-Sander does not want you to pass go or collect \$200

Most people have dipped their toes into the ocean of board games. Maybe a family member brought home Dixit, or perhaps you've tried the genre's breakout success of the last few years, Cards Against Humanity. Everyone has dabbled, even if they don't call themselves 'board-gamers'. I, however, think that most people could benefit by wading in a little deeper.

I can't assert that specific games are good, or bad. They are, like all things, subject to taste. The worst offenders are, however, often guilty of being almost entirely beholden to the roll of a die. Chance can be the catalyst that gives a game risk and meaning, but when it's the centrepiece of play, it generally makes for a poor design.

One such flagship game has unfortunately dominated most people's experience. It's Monopoly. It's a terrible game, and I'm not the only one to think so. In the world of designer board gaming, where people pay close attention to game mechanics, aesthetics, and plain enjoyability, Monopoly is universally despised. "But," you cry, "I've had great fun playing Monopoly. I'm the best at Monopoly. I'm the one who sticks with it to the bitter end, when everyone else gives up!"

I've played quite a bit of Monopoly myself. I've even had fun playing Monopoly. Then again, if you handed me a game that consisted solely of bashing my head against the wall, added a vaguely competitive element and a few good friends, I'd probably enjoy that too. This cannot redeem it from its sins. It remains a drawn-out struggle against boredom. The winner of Monopoly is just the person with the stamina to finish.

Monopoly does not create interesting decisions. Buy, or don't buy. Lap after lap, watch the lucky individual who landed on Mayfair first slowly increase their funds while yours are chipped away. There is no mechanism to keep the experience contained within a reasonable time frame. Its origin as a parable about capitalism doesn't make an iota of difference. It's not being sold as a lesson—it's being sold as a game.

Birds of
Sydney
University
By Ludmilla
Nunell

RISK, the classic wargame, is plagued by similar concerns. It's a tedious slog. The first person to gain the lead will usually finish in the lead. Everyone else spends several hours watching their friend's plastic soldiers slowly consume the board, like bacteria invading a host.

At this juncture, it's critical that you hear about what board games have to offer you. Dixit is a marvelous game with gorgeous art that tests how well you know your friend's thought patterns. Carcassonne is also brilliant—you must create a beautiful map of medieval countryside by laying tiles while simultaneously working towards victory in a calm, subtly strategic masterpiece of design. Every move can help you advance, or hinder your opponents. You can work on your own

Chance can be the catalyst that gives a game risk and meaning, but when it's the centrepiece of play, it generally makes for a poor design.

tasks, or seek to inflate beyond control the tasks of others.

I've had more interesting decisions and interactions with my friends in one game of Arctic Scavengers than Monopoly will provide in my lifetime. A deck-builder, Arctic Scavengers involves drafting cards into your deck to suit your strategy whilst keeping other cards in reserve to compete over a prize deck of valuable resources.

These are games brimming with interesting decisions, difficult choices and that are inherently rewarding. They maintain a core strategic element, balancing it with engaging themes and a feeling of constant progress.

Quality gaming should not be the niche activity it currently is. Look into it. Without wanting a megaphone, Sutekh, the University pop culture society, holds frequent board-gaming days. Shut Up And Sit Down is a website that can point you in the right direction. There are plenty of great gaming shops throughout the city.

Heed my claims, explore board games! Just stay away from Monopoly.

The dating game

Courtney Thompson explores the spread of dating apps for the non-normative consumer

You have just arrived at university; fresh-faced, bushy-tailed and ready for a sexual awakening. The question is, how will this awakening come to fruition? Hermanns on a Wednesday night could be a suitable option, but let's face it, you are probably going to be downloading a dating app instead. And you are not alone.

While no official data is available for the number of Australians using dating services online, industry participants claim that the membership numbers would total in excess of 4.6 million. With such a broad cross-section of the commuwnity taking to dating apps, it is time to question the negative stigma that shrouds them. Mainstream discourse tells us that in order to meaningfully connect to another person, it must be romantic, sex will be involved and the relationship will be monogamous. However, more progressive narratives are beginning to be written, and dating apps are starting to embody them.

Here's the lowdown on a few:

BUMBLE

Bumble, the 'feminist' dating app, was launched in response to Tinder. The app is similar to Tinder in that you swipe right or left to indicate interest, and are matched with people who have similarly swiped right. It differs however, where if the woman doesn't strike up conversation with a match in the first 24 hours, the connection disappears. In doing this, the app aims at empowering women to reject patriarchal dating scripts, which prescribe that the man makes the first move.

While the premise is strong, people are still catching on to Bumble, so numbers are low. As a result, it takes roughly an hour to exhaust all swiping options. Moreover, when you do happen to land matches, and initiate conversation within the 24-hour time limit, only a small number will

reply (2/40). The app also places more emphasis on appearance, as the person's bio is not as readily available. Seemingly, this choice runs counter to its label as the "feminist" app.

3NDER

3nder challenges our society's emphasis on monogamy. The app allows you to sign up as single or as a couple, providing the opportunity for threesomes. People are turning to it in order to explore, in a non-judgmental environment, the possibility of sexual encounters that exist outside of the heterosexual, monogamous conceptions of sex we were taught in sex-ed.

The app functions exceptionally well, and provides a wealth of options in terms of gender identity and sexuality, with one friend describing the vibe as "open" and "really chill". Interestingly, she noted that of the couples she did speak to, it was often the woman taking charge, saying, "I mostly talked to the girls and they were like, "my partner is shy," or they were just the ones leading it." For her, however, no actual threesomes came about, she said, "it was more chatting...it didn't really go anywhere."

SPOONR

Spoonr, an app with the tag-line, "ever just want a cuddle?" provides an opportunity for people who want a cuddle, without anything sexual, or even romantic. With the ability to report those who want more than a cuddle, the app gives space for the connections that don't require sexual intimacy.

By not allowing people to set preferences for gender or age, the app encourages people to cuddle those they might not be attracted to, while still allowing for people to exercise consent by rejecting certain people they know they do not want to cuddle. Spoonr challenges our ideas of what kinds of



Amandine Le Bellec

people deserve comfort, and highlights the value of relationships as brief as a five-second hug.

This is all well and good until you actually download Spoonr and are confronted with a sausage-fest. Of the 38 people who were twenty minutes walk away from me, only 2 were women. Decidedly, I was not keen for a cuddle.

Clearly, we are not giving dating apps the reputation they deserve. Companies may be capitalising on progressive ideas of relationships, but nonetheless, small victories still must be celebrated. This explosion of new apps offers a more diverse and accessible understanding of what meaningful relationships are, contrary to the norms consistently pushed by the mainstream media.

A swipe in the right direction?

Michael Sun and Lamya Rahman on a misspent night-in

Our Sunday night begins like any other - scrolling through the same Facebook feed six times while making snarky comments about an acquaintance's travel photos - until a new post catches our attention.

"BAE: WHERE PEOPLE OF COLOUR CHAT, MEET, AND DATE."

Our reaction teeters between scoffing and genuine interest; both of us are all too familiar with the inner machinations of dating apps. Yet if our love lives were a Bushfire Risk Scale on the side of a highway, both of us would fit in the 'catastrophic' zone, so we decide to try it out. In terms of functionality, BAE is a lot like Tinder: we log in with Facebook, select our least terrible photos, and type out bios that make us seem funny but dateable. "My 2 favourite things are corgis and wikihow," reads Michael's. "Western Sydney socialite," reads Lamya's.

An unexpected part of BAE is that it's more stringent about location than Tinder. The app insists on finding matches nearby; a source of great anxiety for Lamya since there's at most two degrees of separation between all the ethnics in her neighbourhood. Her recurring nightmare of meeting a Nice Brown Boy only to later discover home videos of the two of them bathing together when they were three is now a serious possibility.

The first guy Lamya sees says 19 on his pro-

file but looks like the recently divorced 40-year-old down the road. She means to swipe left but accidentally swipes right, and is searching for an 'undo' button when the profile of the next candidate appears on her screen - a White snap-back-wearing Westie.

"if our lives were a Bushfire Risk Scale on the side of a highway, both of us would fit in the 'catastrophic' zone"

A perpetual optimist, she ignores it and swipes left, but it becomes apparent that White dudes with a fetish have gravitated to this app. It's not until swipe 12 that she actually sees another man of colour.

Lamya swipes right on him. She waits but he doesn't message her. Already disheartened, new messages from Divorced Man suddenly pop up, reminding Lamya her only match so far is an elderly neighbourhood man, whose kids she's probably helped walk to school. "I look older than I actually am," he insists. She blocks him.

Meanwhile, Michael tries to find a boy who is also adventurous enough to use such a medium. But, after one first right swipe, there's... nothing. Not a single other QPOC (Queer Person of Colour) using this app, not even a white dude with an ethnic fetish! If he was more forgiving Michael might have blamed it on BAE's location settings, but he changes them to show users within 400 miles and is met with the same radio silence. Not a single queer, ethnic man from Sydney to Byron Bay was ready to mingle on this app.

Defeated, Michael is about to close out of the app when it auto-refreshes and shows him a glittering beacon of hope—a single candidate in the form of fifty-year-old, white-haired "John". John is white and immediately informs Michael of his wealth and willingness to expend this wealth. Michael has never used Grindr, but imagines that this is what it must be like. For a split second, he considers his tragic bank account balance, but is knocked back to reason by Lamya. If BAE has taught us anything, it's that, although People of Colour are often left with the responsibility of creating safe spaces in areas where there are none, it's up to White people to have the courtesy to respect that space.

Oh, and that writing about yourself in third person sucks.

AN(TI)NOTATIONS



Hi Max,

We've been working hard to create a membership to the USU that rocks and we're pretty pumped to tell you that **ACCESS** is more epic than ever this year!

We'll be bringing you a whole bunch of new perks this year, and what better way to kick things off than with OWeek?! **Renew or join ACCESS** to find your **Mates** (through things like our Clubs & Societies - check 'em all out at OWeek), cut loose at our **Parties** (from kickass start of semester shindigs to gigs at Manning and Hermann's) and save with our **Perks** - check out some awesome OWeek ones below.

It's a no brainer!

like the average union board candidate

Are you selling Native American headaddresses again?

Annotated by
Natalie Buckett and
Subeta Vimalarajah

you tell 'em, Dad

Cabcharge

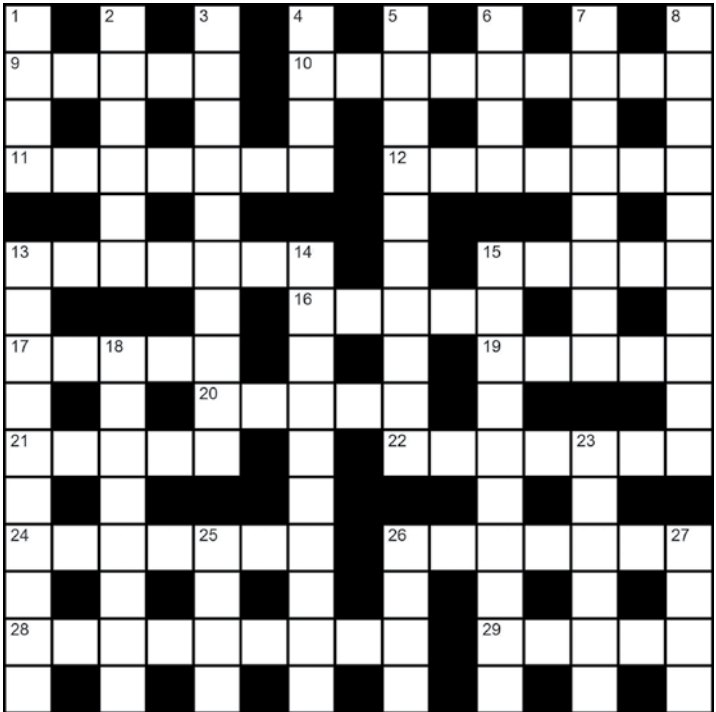
Spence

great mini-rhyme

PUZZLES

Cryptic

Puzzles by Zplig



ACROSS

- 9. Quite angry to provide institute rank (5)
- 10. Side-splitting satire on Silver Age lead quitting first movie, then retiring for a drink (9)
- 11. Nauseous experiences reported by current comedian? (7)
- 12. E-reader for the everyman (7)
- 13. Consults books about early trends (5,2)
- 15. Set of numbers approaching zero? (5)
- 16. Suggest flaunting sex appeal after bribe was rebuffed (5)
- 17. Horrible to just leave out the captain? (5)
- 19. Wordy reference book omitted first independent record holder? (2-3)
- 20. Excuse was improvised by me, not close to prepared (5)
- 21. Store's top tire promise (5)
- 22. Excellent deputy demoted to civil officer (7)
- 24. Once again, employs concerning heirs to manage? (7)
- 26. I've not changed, initially, God forbidding (7)
- 28. Boycott line of foods without milk? (9)
- 29. Proust's lost daughter found in part of South America (5)

DOWN

- 1. Everything's heard; according to US leaning (4)
- 2. Persian market crashed from Emperor's speech? (6)
- 3. Writer, while constructing a slur, came to like Wales? (10)
- 4. About to knock mum out in a frenzy (4)
- 5. Boat favoured by comrades? (10)
- 6. French coffee - it's about strong seeds essentially (4)
- 7. Regularly admit a medicine? It's possibly major (8)
- 8. Fabricated scar? No act's sacred (10)
- 13. Copy Levi's devotees, perhaps with red and navy striped crop tops? (10)
- 14. Choose one person who seeks unity with God, sounds like Dr Pangloss... (10)
- 15. ...way before poetically old characters were a formula (10)
- 18. Cool boyfriend in first-year? (8)
- 23. Expat of new regime (6)
- 25. Libertine tool to gather filth and the like? (4)
- 26. Against books on English support (4)
- 27. Wander about university in a flashy robe e.g.? (4)

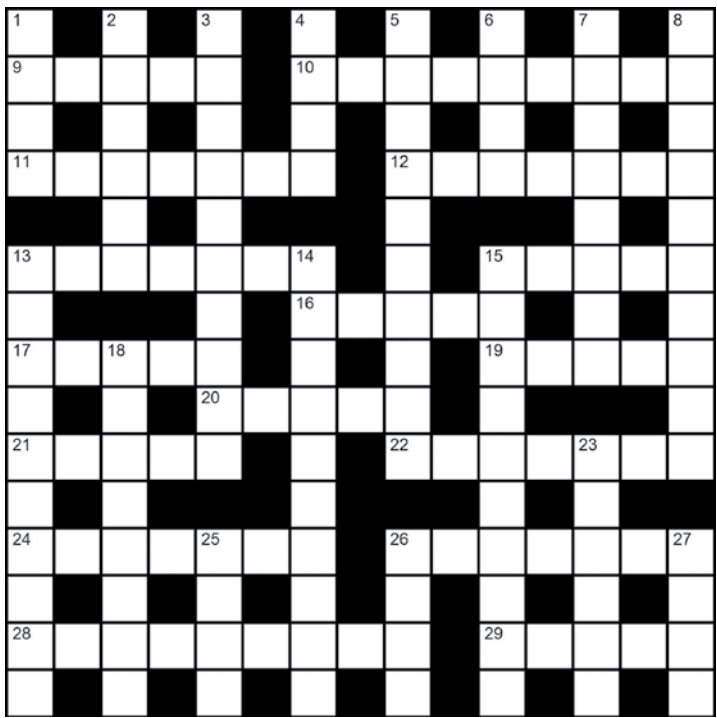
DOWN

- 1. Long (4)
- 2. Kind (6)
- 3. Hesitate (5,5)
- 4. Pimple (4)
- 5. Informal (10)
- 6. Attendant, in India (4)
- 7. Someone who judges (8)
- 8. Where one keeps their nose when working hard (10)
- 13. Temporary exclusion (10)
- 14. Approximate calculation (10)
- 15. Art of arranging texts for printing (10)
- 18. Not moving (8)
- 23. Low budget film (1-5)
- 25. Opulence (4)
- 26. After (4)
- 27. Discharge (4)

ACROSS

- 9. Slavic language (5)
- 10. High ranked university academic (9)
- 11. Died out (7)
- 12. Carried light (7)
- 13. Most recent 007 film (7)
- 15. Many four inning matches (5)
- 16. Be a student (5)
- 17. Cold Japanese dish (5)
- 19. Trainspotting sequel (5)
- 20. Most populous country in the world (5)
- 21. Clear (5)
- 22. Capable of reading (7)
- 24. Sleeveless shirt (7)
- 26. Final competition (7)
- 28. Offensive (9)
- 29. Three lined poem (5)

Quick



Target

R	E	O
S	O	S
F	P	R

Bad: 10, Okay: 20,
Good Shit: 30, Ripper: 40

Sudoku

5			2			6		
9		7						3
4						7	8	
				6	2			
8						5		1
				9		8	6	
						3		
7			5				4	
	1	5			7			

To learn how to do the cryptic and meet other cruciverbalists, join the **Crossword Society** Wednesdays 2-4pm outside Hermann's (look out for the banner).

Quiz

- 1. How much is a 2016 single-year ACCESS card?
- 2. By what name was Boardwalk Café previously known?
- 3. Which was the first University of Sydney residential college to become co-educational?
- 4. How many of the seven current High Court judges attended Sydney Law School?
- 5. Who is the Chancellor of the University of Sydney?
- 6. What is the Arts Society commonly abbreviated as?
- 7. The Edgeworth David Building on the University's Camperdown campus is named after the 19th century geologist. In which Sydney suburb is Edgeworth David Avenue located?
- 8. Who is the Vice-President of the USU?
- 9. Name five of the University's satellite campuses.
- 10. You are standing in the centre of the quadrangle. Where is your closest McDonald's restaurant?

Answers to all questions—42—will appear in next week's paper.

SRC CASEWORKERS

Welcome To The Big House

(well, not in a prison kind of way...) write the *SRC caseworkers*.

It doesn't matter how big your school was, it was not as big as this place. This place even has its own postcode, which makes it even bigger than the Rooty Hill RSL. Even the satellite campuses are many times bigger than most high schools. So whilst adjusting to this change can be exciting and challenging, it can also be down right horrifying.

The workload here is significantly higher than for most high schools. There is less individual direction and increasingly larger class sizes. The onus really is on you to stay focused and do lots of work to learn all of the required information. That's right – you are the only one responsible for your success or failure. Most students will tell you that you don't have to do the readings before tutorials or read all the resources you list in your assignments. What they won't tell you is that this is an extremely stressful way of not doing very well at uni. Being full time at uni is definitely more work than being a full time worker. We don't mean to alarm you, we're just telling it like it is. But don't despair, there are ways to make it work for you.

Studies have shown that if you don't make some sort of attachment to the uni by about week six you'll find it very difficult to be successful in your degree. What do we mean by attachment? Your attachment may be that you've met some other people who like the same hobbies as

you, so check out all of the different clubs and societies available through the Union. If you get the chance, go through the O-Week stalls so that you can meet them face-to-face and join straight away. If not, you can also find them online and go along to a meeting.

Your attachment may be your love for the subject material. Take the time to complete at least the required readings so that the lectures make sense to you. Attending classes is compulsory for a reason, so save the socialising for another time. Most people say that doing the reading before attending the class (not to mention paying attention whilst you're there) makes the exams a lot easier.

“Being full time at uni is definitely more work than being a full time worker.”.

Your attachment may be as simple as meeting a new friend or potential new partner. This is always exciting. Remember to have (safe, consensual) fun, but don't neglect the main reason you are here. You are now a University of Sydney student. Embrace it like you would a blossoming new romance.

SRC caseworkers are trained and experienced staff who can assist undergraduate students at the University of Sydney with issues that affect them, by providing advice, advocacy and support. The service is FREE, independent and confidential.

Remember that most people feel just as nervous and out of place as you do – even the students that have come to USYD already equipped with friends from high school. The best thing that you can do is to try to be yourself, be open to meeting new people and having new experiences, and know that if you ever need to talk to someone, USYD has a free counseling service.

Another area of difference to high school is the increase to your own personal freedom. The University prefers to treat you as an adult. You are free to make your own decisions about alcohol and other drugs, and sexual activity. If you have questions about anything to do with these feel free to contact the SRC. We can always point you in the direction of reliable and non-judgemental information.

Living in Sydney is increasingly difficult for anyone on a limited budget. Where you live needs to be affordable so you're not spending more than 10 – 15 hours a week working (for a full time student) to be able to support yourself. It needs to be stable, so you are not worrying about whether you'll have somewhere to live next week, or whether your flatmates are going to pay their rent. It needs to be appropriate. Some students we have met were sleeping on a balcony in the middle of winter and not getting very much sleep...probably not the best idea they've ever had. Exhaustion and illness does not a good student make. Having trouble with accommodation? You guessed it; the SRC can help you out.

Always remember that you are not alone here. There are lots of people willing to help you settle in. The trick is to ask.

SRC caseworkers offer free advice & support in the areas of:

- Tenancy & accommodation
- Academic rights & appeals
- Special consideration & special arrangements
- Withdrawal, discontinuations, fee queries
- Misconduct & academic dishonesty allegations
- Academic progress, show cause & exclusion
- All Centrelink matters
- Harassment & discrimination
- Credit, debt & financial issues

p: 02 9660 5222 or e: help@src.usyd.edu.au

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



The Ask Abe column allows you to ask whatever question you might have that affects you as a student, gaining the best advice that a very worldly mutt* can give.

Abe has been a columnist for *Honi Soit* since 2000, and the best piece of advice he can give you is this:

Whatever your problem is, whatever your question, ask as soon as you can. It is much more likely that we can help you, if you give yourself enough time. As much as we'd like it, things don't just go away if you ignore them.

*Abe is an undefined breed of terrier, with poodle overtones. He moved in with his forever family at the age of three after spending many cold nights living on the streets of Western Sydney. Since then he has been a truck driver, retail assistant, barrister, and social worker. All of his life experiences allow him to give you excellent advice on a broad range of issues. To ask him your question email help@src.usyd.edu.au

IN A PICKLE?



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p: 02 9660 5222 | w: src.usyd.edu.au
e: solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au
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who speaks Cantonese,
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sydney.edu.au/sca/electives



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- Digital Music Techniques
- Spirituality as Music
- Animation
- Photography and the Darkroom
- Screen Printing: an Introduction.

SRC REPORTS

President

CHLOE SMITH

The start of the year is always a busy time for the SRC and 2016 has been no exception. Planning for O-Week has dominated a lot of time, including writing, editing, and finally approving handbooks, organising stalls for SRC collectives and departments, and packing showbags for new students. Keep an eye out for the SRC stall at O-Week and come say hi - our team will be happy to answer any questions and we'd love you to get involved in the Education Action Group or Wom*n's Collective!

The SRC also had a presence at Info Day, talking to prospective students about the university's restructure, which will see huge changes to degrees and faculties. A highlight was rolling out the Education Department's 'Inspired' campaign, satirizing the university's 'Inspired' campaign featuring USyd alumni while the university Senate moves to cut alumni representation.

As President, I've also been familiarizing myself with the committees the President sits on, including some of the highest decision-making bodies like Academic Board. Some issues I've raised with university management on behalf of undergraduate students include the simple extension policy, changes to opal cards affecting international students, safety on campus, academic honesty, the shift of SCA to main campus, and plans for student housing. I will continue to engage with the university over these issues throughout the year and report back to you. For more enquiries you can email me at president@src.usyd.edu.au.

We are also currently in the process of SSAF negotiations - deciding how much money from the Student Services and Amenities Fee will go to the SRC to improve our student services and resource collectives and departments to run campaigns around student issues. Every student pays the SSAF to support student programs, from clubs and societies to psychological support services and careers advice. It's an incredibly important fee to make sure every student gets the most out of their time at university, especially those who face more barriers to higher education than others. The SRC will always advocate for a return to universal student unionism, but in the meantime we support the SSAF because we support our students. Come visit us to find out how to get involved - <http://srcusyd.net.au/>.

Note: These pages belong to the Office Bearers of the SRC. They are not altered, edited or changed in any way by the editors of *Honi Soit*.

Vice-President

ANNA HUSH

It's been an exciting summer beginning my term as Vice President! After the chaos of NatCon in December, it was great to meet all the other members of the Executive and embark on what I hope will be a very productive year in the SRC.

Last November in Honi, Subeta Vimalarajah and I published an article about anonymous marking, and the various biases that can arise from students' names being attached to their work. Our campaign continues this year: after we met with various academic staff to discuss the value of an anonymous marking policy, the university has now commissioned a working group to investigate the viability of such a policy. I am passionate about ensuring that students' work is marked fairly, and that staff are held to the same standards of academic integrity that are demanded of students.

Another project that I'm very excited about for 2016 is the organisation of the SRC's. Inaugural Radical Education Week for Semester 2. Like Rad Sex & Consent Week, the week will have a student-organised program of talks, workshops, film screenings and skillshares. We want to strengthen engagement between SRC collectives and the broader student population, and promote free knowledge-sharing between peers. If you have ideas for workshops or events that you'd love to see at Rad Education Week, or would like to get involved in organising the week, get in touch -- radeducationweek2016@gmail.com.

Getting everything ready for O Week has been busy, but it's a very exciting time for the SRC -- a great opportunity to meet new students and spread the word about all the great things the SRC does. Make sure you drop by our O Week stall to pick up a bag full of goodies and say hi!

Wom*n's Officer

ANNA HUSH (AGAIN)

The past few months have been a very exciting time as Wom*n's Officer!

Editing the annual Wom*n's Collective publication, Growing Strong, was an amazing experience. The journal is a showcase of art, stories and articles by wom*n and non-binary people. The launch will be held on March 22 at 107 Projects, and will be an amazing night of art, readings and music. Free copies are also available at our O Week stall - come grab one and check out the incredible creative talent of WoCo members! We'll also have some sweet stickers, zines and info that you can pick up.

fEMPOWER, our program of feminist workshops for high school students, has grown exponentially over the summer. High schools from Wagga Wagga to Melbourne have contacted us with interest in our workshops, so it will be a busy year delivering workshops and expanding the project! If you'd like to volunteer or find out more, email us at fempower.workshops@gmail.com.

I can't wait for the coming year of activism and education with the Wom*n's Collective! Drop by our O Week stall for a chat, and come to our weekly meetings - they'll be held on Tuesdays at 1pm, in the Wom*n's Room (Level 1, Manning).

Fun fact: Officer Bearers represent different portfolios within the SRC and are elected by students through ballots held each September.

General Secretary

GEORGIA MANTLE & LACHLAN WARD

Welcome new students to the University of Sydney and welcome back to all who are joining us for another year of madness. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves we are the Co-General Secretaries of the Student's Representative Council (SRC). What does that mean? We are responsible for the SRC's budget, ensuring that you the student body know what we do and who we are as well as generally assisting the President and being a voice for students on campus.

Over the summer we put together the SRC's Orientation Handbook which is available to all student this handbook is a detailed guided to everything students need to know about being at University. It has articles from all the SRC's collectives with details about how to get involved so be sure to check it out! While you are at it pick up the Education Department's Counter Course Handbook which provides you with a no bullshit account of education at USYD with detailed reviews of subjects and units across all faculties.

Make sure you swing by the SRC's stall on Eastern Ave and pick up a FREE goodie bag! Packed with loving care by the members of the SRC with lollies, condoms, stationary and important (but also fun) information.

Some of you maybe aware that the University asked you to pay some money for something called, 'Students Services Fee' basically this is money that students pay that gets divided up between the different student organisations so we can provide our services. Negotiations are currently underway to ensure that the SRC gets enough of that money so we can continue to run our super important free casework and legal service as well as funding student run collectives.

These pages in Honi every week will be written by members of the SRC Executive team and collective Office Bearers and will give a great insight into the happens of the SRC. Alternatively you can get in contact by sending us an email general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au with any questions you have about the SRC and we will be sure to answer them.

Wom*n of Colour Officer

VANESSA SONG

Hey all and welcome to semester 1 of 2016, as I write this, I am admiring the t-shirts that have just come in for the Women of Colour Collective, which we will be selling for a gold coin donation that will go towards the Women's Shelter, Lou's Place.

The t-shirts look amazing and the stickers are on their way. It has been a bit difficult to get the Women of Colour Collective off the ground and it has been a bit of a teething process, but we are finally moving and doing some great work.

The beginning of the semester has been quite busy, with the Women of Colour collective working collaboratively with the Welfare department to send a USYD contingent to the Health Care Cuts rally, held on the 20th of February 2016 at 1pm.

The Women of Colour Collective will be meeting fortnightly and meetings will be held on Mondays starting in week 2 of semester at 4-5pm in the Women's room at Manning House.

My aim for this year is to see the Women of Colour collective stand on its own two feet and I look forward to a year of intersectional crusading and feminist ass-kicking.

SRC REPORTS

ACAR Officer

ADAM URSINO, APARNA BALAKUMAR, ELIZABETH MORA & LAMYA RAHMAN

Hi there! The Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR) is a space for people of colour, Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander persons, those from ethnocultural backgrounds, or those marginalised by white supremacy.

As your 2016 ACAR Office Bearers, we're here to be a point of contact between students and the SRC. Our goal is to represent the voice, greater interest, and desires of the students in our Collective. We're also here to offer general advice and support to students and groups on campus regarding race, racism, and white privilege. And, yes, we have a crazy exciting year planned in 2016!

From social gatherings, workshops, activism, festivals, film screenings, and creative opportunities, we are committed to fostering an inclusive space on campus and online where students can come together to meet other like minded-people, while dismantling stereotypes (and having fun!).

In the next few weeks look out for auditions for the inaugural ACAR Revue. This is an opportunity for you to show off your singing, dancing, acting or comedic writing prowess to the student community. Interested in sketch comedy that challenges and entertains while educating and perplexing the most conservative of audiences? This is for you.

To meet the family, search 'Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR)' on Facebook, and come say hello at 'DIVE-RSITY Ethnocultural Welcome at the Quadrangle (3-5pm Wednesday 24th of February).

As your 2016 ACAR Office Bearers, we're here to be a point of contact between students and the SRC. Our goal is to represent the voice, greater interest, and desires of the students in our collective. We're also here to offer general advice and support to students and groups on campus regarding race, racism, and white privilege. Feel free to give us a shout anytime at etho.cultural@src.usyd.edu.au



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OR GO BUY WHATEVER YOU WANT.



Level 4, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney
(Next to the International Lounge)

p: 02 9660 4756 | w: src.usyd.edu.au/src-books

NOW BUYING FOR SEMESTER 1

Notice of Council Meeting

88th Students'
Representative
Council, University
of Sydney

DATE: 2nd March

TIME: 6 – 8pm

LOCATION: Professorial
Board Room (Quadrangle)



Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney
Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au

The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY SUPRA

O Week for Postgrads

By *Kylee Hartman-Warren*,
SUPRA Co-President.

Happy New Semester Postgrads!

O Week is upon us and we have a wild array of both SUPRA traditional and new events for you to attend! For me, O Week is a great time to meet new people, try new hobbies and get engaged with a number of causes that affect students. This will be my last O Week and I'm grateful that I knew to get involved every year. Joining clubs, societies and being a part of SUPRA has been one of the most enriching aspects of my student experience and I am going to miss O Week in years to come.

SUPRA will be active this year with a booth on Eastern Avenue and presentations and publication giveaways at faculty inductions across campus. We hope you'll join us through the week and please bring your friends!

Wednesday afternoon kicks off with a Welcome to SUPRA event at our home office. Come join

*“We hope
you’ll
join us
through
the week”*

us, meet the team, check out the space and learn the ways that our talented Student Advice and Advocacy Officers can help you.

On Thursday, Visa Lawyers Australia will deliver a presentation to introduce international students to the Visa options available to them, and that night our Vice President and Education Officer will treat us to movies and pizza with the screening of *Pride* (2014).

Finally we will close the week with our traditional SUPRA BBQ on Friday, and it will be the first time we host this event at the Manning BBQ by the squash courts!

Please see the details of these events in the latest *eGrad* and be sure to keep tabs on Facebook for live updates and coverage of the week.

We look forward to seeing you this semester and good luck with the new academic year!

HONI SOIT SEMESTER 1 • 0 WEEK

Co-Education Officers' Report

*Fatima Rauf & Ahmed Bin Suhaib
report on the activities of SUPRA's
Education Portfolio*



Muhammed Bin
Muhaib in the
JPRA offices

“The break has been a busy one for SUPRA and for the Education portfolio.”

Hello Postgrads!

We hope you've had an enjoyable summer break and are ready to get back into the swing of semester. The break has been a busy one for SUPRA and for the Education portfolio. We have worked on SUPRA's contribution to the Counter Course handbook, planning campaigns around the restructure, and launching a campaign for international students to get transport concessions. We've also planned lots of exciting social events for this semester so keep an eye out for those!

SUPRA was allocated two pages in the Counter Course Handbook that is compiled each year by the Student Representative Council (SRC). The Handbook is a guide to undergraduate units and degrees offered by the University and is based entirely on the feedback of students who have taken these courses. This year we were fortunate enough to include some postgrad feedback as well! The handbook will be available during O Week from the SUPRA stall and the SRC stall so grab yourselves a copy to get an idea of the different faculties, units and lecturers and what students have to say about them. Reading through the undergraduate section will be beneficial to postgrads as well as the lecturers are largely the same for postgrads and undergrads. Postgrad coursework students in particular do a lot of the same units as undergrads.

A large campaign that we are working on at the moment is to get travel concessions for international students. We are working in conjunction with the SRC, the National Union of Students (NUS) and UNSW Arc. SUPRA believe that it is very unfair for international students to be discriminated against and denied the facilities offered to domestic students. As it is, international students pay exorbitant fees and face exploitation in the workforce and the rental market. We're

hoping to get as many international students involved as possible and to get the campaign on the ground as soon as possible. If you would like to get involved with the campaign, visit our stall during O Week!

We are also planning campaigns to oppose the University Restructure. For those of you who haven't heard about the restructure, the gist of it is that the University of Sydney is following in the footsteps of Melbourne University and plans to reduce the number of faculties from 16 to 6 by merging similar faculties together which will result in the loss of many jobs. Additionally, the number of degrees and subjects that are offered are also going to be cut down, thus offering less choice and flexibility for students. A lot of the admin have been moved to centralized admin which will affect the quality of guidance postgraduate students will get for their majors.

More information on the restructure is going to be released in April. If you would like further information or would like to be involved in the campaigns, shoot us an email!

Another way to get involved in all our campaigns is by joining the Postgraduate Education Action Collective (PEAC). PEAC is a network of postgraduate students, student representatives, and student leaders outside of

SUPRA. We meet every week to discuss various issues in university, and strategies for campaigns. I urge all postgraduates, especially all postgraduate representative and leaders, to join the PEAC Facebook group so we can better engage with faculties and academic board.

And finally, we have heaps of social events planned for this semester because why should undergrads get to have all the fun? The biggest event we're planning is the Postgrad Ball which will allow us all to dress up fancy and take a break from our hectic schedules. We will also be continuing Wine & Cheese with our first event being a 'Wine & Cheese does Trivial' to be held on 3 March. During O Week, SUPRA is holding other social events as well such as a Pizza & Movie night and a BBQ. For more details, check out SUPRA's Facebook page and pop by the stall during O Week!

We hope you all have a wonderful start to the semester and if you would like to get in touch with either of us, send us an email on <education@supra.usyd.edu.au>. If you have any ideas for campaigns, any questions, would like to get involved or want to find more about SUPRA in general, don't hesitate to contact us!

“As a postgrad I made sure to ‘dive in’ as it were”

specific Facebook page, and encouraged social get-togethers with people in our course. This was especially important because as Film and Media students, we eventually relied on each other for crew and production help needed to complete our projects.

As a PhD student, I was an active participant at conferences, and I used these conferences to outline, and structure the writing of my Doctorate. Oddly, this was a bit of an accident at first, but it saved a lot of stress in the final years when I was writing up the document that is now a 200 page thesis. I also got to travel to amazing cities and meet fellow Postgraduates in my area. You can take advantage of similar opportunities by engaging with the associations related to your field, and funding the process through the Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS).

Thoughts From an Outgoing Postgrad

By *Kylee Hartman-Warren.*

A beautiful thing that comes with a new academic year is the opportunity for a fresh start and new social situations by which to meet new people, whether they be your new lectures or a fresh group of students who've caught the same interest for the club or society you've decided to join. This is an experience that's unique to academic life, and it's an experience I missed greatly when I left the drill and drum of the semester calendar as an undergraduate. As a postgraduate I made sure to "Dive In" as it were. I joined as many clubs and societies my first year as a Masters student, but as the years went on I found which groups most suited me, and made friends through them and through my involvement with SUPRA.

There were academic choices I'm glad I made. As a Masters student, I attempted to engage with other students, volunteered to make a class

SUPRA Wine, Cheese
&
TRIVIA!!!

 **Thursday, 3rd March 2016** 
6pm — 8pm
Manning Bar

Register your team of up to 5 people on our Facebook event page by leaving the team name and members' names in the comments.

Find our event on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/sydneyunipostgrads/

Student Advice & Advocacy Service for postgraduates

SUPRA Student Advice & Advocacy Officers provide a professional and confidential service that is independent of the University.

.....

Academic areas we can help with include (but are not limited to):

- Academic appeals
- Show cause & exclusion
- Harassment, discrimination & bullying
- Special consideration
- Academic dishonesty allegations
- Supervision difficulties.

Our Student Advice & Advocacy Officers (SAAOs) also possess a wealth of knowledge about the range of non-academic welfare and wellbeing issues that can affect postgraduate students, such as those involving tenancy/housing, finances, employment, mental health and disability.

During our drop-in times you can see a SAAO without making an appointment. Drop-in times are 2-4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (please arrive no later than 3:30pm).

Students are seen by the SAAO on-call for that session in the order they arrive, so you may have a short wait.

You can contact SUPRA to make an appointment at another time or to receive advice via email, phone or Skype.


Phone: (02) 9351 3715
Toll-free: 1800 249 950
Fax: (02) 9351 6400
Email: help@supra.usyd.edu.au
Web: www.supra.usyd.edu.au

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm (closed for lunch 12pm-1pm).

Address: Level 2, Holme Building (A09), Science Rd, Camperdown Campus.

Access via the lift in the Holme Courtyard (next to Courtyard Restaurant and Bar).

Our offices are accessible however the nearest accessible toilet is on Level 3 of the Holme Building, adjacent to the Holme Courtyard.



SUPRA
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

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@Oliver Moore

3 Times Queen Hillary Clinton #SLAYED The Middle East

Victoria Zerbst and Mary Ward support female leaders

1. Hillary’s Death Squad #Goals

#tbt to 2011 when Hillary totally empowered foreign mercenaries in Libya. Those NATO-backed rebels killed it in Africa and DESTROYED former Gaddafi officials. #dronestrikeonpoint Slay, rebels. Slay.

2. Two minutes into Benghazi & Chill and Hillary gives you that look.

Why did Hillz attack The Middle East? Because ISIS. And how hot did she look at that Benghazi hearing? More like Sex-retary of State. Slay. #ridewithhillary

3. When Hillary looks after BAE

aka Israel #sorrynotsorry

Girl knows how to pick her clique. Hillz is always up for dranks with and dnms with #netanyahu. #droppingtruths #droppingbombs. #Gaza. Slay.

Entire Generation Resolves To Steal Alan Jones

Oliver Moore is a voice of their generation.

Today a spokesperson for the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) announced they would be updating their goals for the year to include stealing shock jock Alan Jones as soon as possible.

This move, whilst controversial, has been touted as being “for the good of a Australia,” with the organisation seeking to represent the interests, rights and issues related to youth on both a national and international level.

“His poisonous views have too long been allowed on air,” said the spokesperson, “as no-one has taken steps to remove him from our airwaves, we have taken it upon ourselves to rectify this unacceptable state of affairs.” Another coalition member added that “his removal will be for Jones’ own benefit”.

This sentiment has been widely lauded by other youth organisations. It has also drawn the support of a number of Indigenous organisations, including the National Congress of Australia’s First People and the Redfern Tent Embassy, who have long objected to Jones’ racist comments. The spokesperson ended with a rather ominous message: “Andrew Bolt, we’re coming for you next.”



@Luke Tisher

MOSTLY A:
You are Bertha, the sensitive queen of the recycling bins. You like the garbage in the bin of your mouth. You are the gutter reviver, pulling things from dark places and taking them to darker ones. You hide behind lecterns to frighten me at my most studious.

MOSTLY B:
You are Thomas, the proud prince of the now-filthy skies. You like to do a fly and make the clouds feel dreadful. You are the atmospheric turd who seeks me in my peaceful moments to remind me the reasons you are bad. Well done, you really pissed up, Thomas.

MOSTLY C:
You are Dita, the young punk of the roof. You enjoy the scratching with your spiked toes, and your cry is most malevolent. Each gulp of food is more violent than the last, and you have a beak covered in hellish and bad things. You carry with you a list of vengeful acts to do to me, and maintain eye contact constantly.

Your O Week Guide To: Burning Down The Law School

Jamie Lowe probably never read section 195 of the *Crimes Act*.

Looking for a fun O Week activity that will kick-off your year in style? Try burning down the law school and disposing of all evidence

Trust me, it’s fine. I have read dozens of laws, and I can’t recall any that say “do not burn down the law school”. So, semantics over – let’s talk burning.

The first step is simple – equip yourself. You’re going to need lighter fluid, lighters, at least two medieval-mob style torches, and a comfortable pair of shoes. I recommend Keds.

The next step is avoiding security. Place an anonymous call alerting security to a nearby crisis. University security personnel respond to calls regarding leaking taps, rogue academics, and reports of rage-filled ibises pursuing bystanders to feed on their nutrient-packed eyeballs.

Once this step is completed, take a stroll through the ‘Corridor of White Men’ on the first floor. The portraits of jowly white men will provide excellent fuel for your fledgling blaze.

Ensure that the fire will devour the law café, incongruously known as ‘Taste’. The only taste left will be that of the bitter ashes of overpriced coffee.

Once you’ve had your fill, make one last round of the building. There’s nothing worse than burning down the law school only to realise you’ve forgotten to torch a tutorial room.

Congrats! You’ve successfully burned down the law school, freeing us all from an oppressive manifestation of Foucauldian discipline, and making some awesome memories that will stay with you long after your prosecution has concluded.

USyd To Introduce Nerd Quota

Victoria Zerbst and Jacob Henegan report.

The University of Sydney will lead the attack on declining academic standards by instigating a minimum intake of Nerds.

University management has deemed the ATAR a poor judge of future academic performance and will be switching to admissions criteria like ‘size of anime collection’, ‘opinions on bitcoin’ and “uncomfortableness at parties”.

Marie Fairfield, the University’s Talent Acquisition Manager, told Honi that the University has “classes full of students in top academic disciplines who have never even written a single blog post on why teleportation is a strictly better superpower than flying”.

However, as Nerd Culture becomes more mainstream, the challenge of identifying the truly unfuckable weirdos who make the best research candidates may grow increasingly difficult.

Staff members noted that top students used to be hated enough to retreat into really innovative research. These days intelligence is so celebrated that well-adjusted and popular all-rounders are taking valuable University places from the basement dwellers who make University great.

The Vice-Chancellor said the move would lift academic standards, which have suffered due to students’ ‘impressive social skills and cool interests like drugs.’

The new policy will take effect for students commencing their studies in 2017 so that students have enough time to purchase loose fitting t-shirts with chemistry puns and watch Star Trek.

Trending

[Trump shoots Rubio on the street, loses no votes](#)

[Gravitational waves “gnarly”: stoned teenage surfer](#)

[Barnaby Joyce appointed Deputy Prime Minister](#)

[Area Woman Buys New Sports Bra: “I’ll really do it this time.”](#)

[Shane Warne revealed as generation’s greatest performance artist](#)

[+ More Most Viewed Hate Speech](#)

The Qursor Quiz: Which Sydney University Ibis Are You?

Which one of these ungodly birds are you? Find out in this quiz by Emma Balfour.

1. Which microaggressions have you forced upon me?

- (a) You, a bad ibis, wore a small hat and held a miniature pipe in your terrible beak. You used this to become Detective Ibis, and brought even the smallest of my secrets to the public eye, uploaded to a daily blog.
- (b) You, the dreadful two-wings, made passive aggressive squawks towards a coffee cup I discarded outside Fisher Library.
- (c) You, a scoffing featherlord, achieved a higher participation mark in ECOP1001 than I did.

2. With your awful mouth, you ate a dearly loved possession of mine that I once did hold. What was it?

- (a) An access card belonging to my long lost brother who is made of stone.
- (b) One human thumb taken from my favourite hand (the left).
- (c) A take home exam I had not completed yet, and before you took it into your disgusting mouth you filled out every question with the falsehood “I love the silky ibis.”

3. Once I went to sit a lecture but the time in my timetable had been altered by one of you, the wicked feathers. Tell me ibis, was it you who altered my timetable?

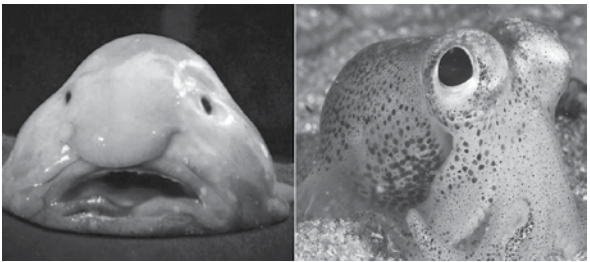
- (a) Yes, and I attended the lecture in your stead and I did not take notes for you.
- (b) I did it gloriously from my throne of garbage.
- (c) I used my stinky talons to type an incorrect timetable, and I’d do it again for a new trash nest to sit and croon to my beloved in.

4. You defiled a treasured part of the campus, my campus that I love, and you did it with a poo from your tum. Where did you leave this poo?

- (a) On the Law Lawns, my home, my dominion. I live in my toilet and I love it there.
- (b) Within the bell tower I left my garbage gift. Music is the bad thing, and I despise the melodies I hear in the knowledge town.
- (c) My poo was done near the colleges and became the Bosch lecture halls. I love my big poo and I visit it every Sunday, god’s day.

Hentai Industry Blamed For Unattainable Tentacle Standards

Peter Walsh’s laptop has a virus, he swears.



BEFORE

AFTER

In a press release published Friday, the Coalition for Cephalopod Positivity (CCP) condemned the Japanese Hentai Industry for propagating unattainable tentacle standards.

The paper, which shows one hundred and thirty instances of tentacles before and after digital enhancement, links photo manipulation to feelings of inadequacy among young squids. “Young invertebrates are growing up believing their tentacles have to stretch metres beyond their bodies”, said one spokesperson from CCPE. “And you can tell none of these performers have had a clutch of their own, the way their tentacles stay rigid for hours on end”.

The paper comes after an earlier release from the CCP, which suggested videos depicting humans devouring live squids was promoting unequal relationship standards between the species.

LOAD MORE

★★★★★
L'Osservatore Romano
★
Ballarat Courier

GEORGE
DELL'S
DAYOFF



@CatherineBouris

STUDENT PROTEST



**NO TO DEGREE CUTS • NO TO STAFF CUTS
NO TO FACULTY AND SCHOOL MERGERS**

**DEFEND
QUALITY EDUCATION!
FIGHT MANAGEMENT'S
RESTRUCTURE!**

**WED 16 MARCH
1PM CARSLAW BLDG**

