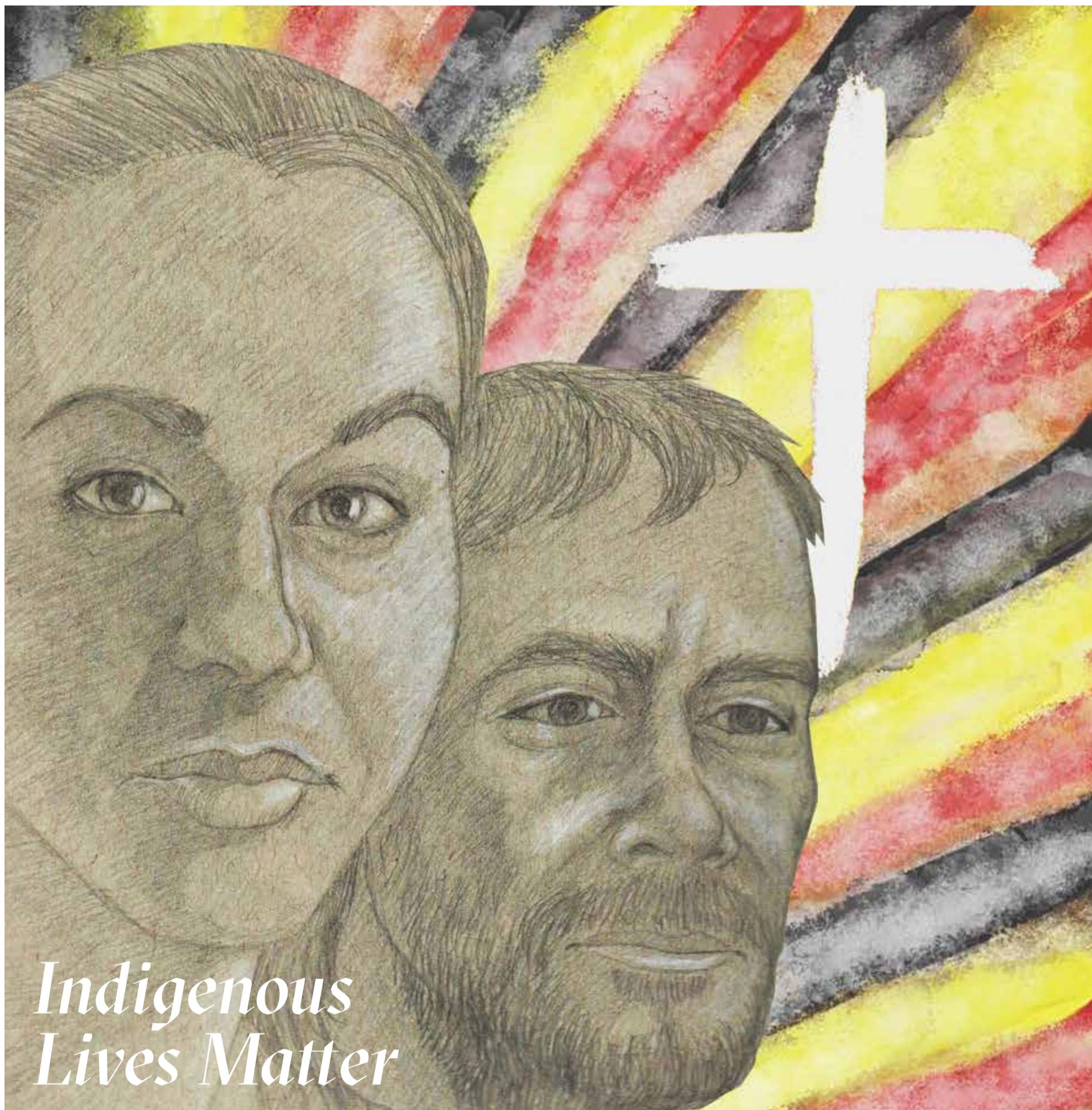


# Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • WEEK 3

FIRST PRINTED 1929



## *Indigenous Lives Matter*

Faculty phone  
lines replaced by  
1800 SYD UNI

**NEWS, PAGE 5**

## Trimesters at UTS

An analysis of the impacts  
on staff and students

**ANALYSIS, PAGE 7**

## My Salty Summer

Inside Socialist Alternative  
with a disillusioned ex-member

**FEATURE, PAGE 9**

Sex feedback  
via Google  
Form

**CULTURE, PAGE 15**

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## 9 / FEATURE

Liam Donohoe reflects on the few months he spent in Socialist Alternative

## COVER

We would like to thank Shaun Harris, who provided us with an interview for the profile on page eight, worked with us on formulating the front cover and put us in contact with Aunty Carol - Ms Dhu's grandmother. We are aware of the cultural issues with representing Aboriginal people who are deceased, but have trusted the consent and explicit support of Ms Dhu's family, as well as our consultation with Students' Representative Council Indigenous Officer, Georgia Mantle.

The photograph the illustration was based on is the image that has circulated in the media, and in campaigns calling attention to Ms Dhu's death. We wanted to depict her with Shaun, to show one of the many people her death left behind. Aunty Carol suggested we incorporate the white cross. The original cross she sent us a photograph of, which commemorates Ms Dhu's death, reads "Black Death In Custody... Cross for Loss".

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Subeta Vimalarajah

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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

Subeta Vimalarajah

In the front of every *Honi Soit*, there's an acknowledgement of country. Too often, that is the only reminder that we live on Indigenous land and that, as an entirely non-Indigenous editorial team (typical of most *Honi* teams), we profit off the continuing exploitation of Indigenous people and their land.

Shaun's profile tells a story often silenced, and that rings true for many articles in this edition. Liam Donohoe's investigation into Socialist Alternative shows us the workings of a notoriously opaque and vitriolic organisation. Tina Huang's perspective piece

tells the story of white-washed media, and Andrea Zephyr and Grace Franki stand up for transgender people, whilst "ethics" debates their very existence.

*Honi* is one of few remaining platforms dedicated exclusively to student voices. These voices are being increasingly silenced as power in the University is centralised. Changes, from the removal of faculty phone lines, to the model of "trimesters" introduced across the road at UTS, epitomise the need for *Honi* to force a conversation, even, and especially when other news outlets aren't interested.

Disclaimer: *Honi Soit* is published by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney, Level 1 Wentworth Building, City Road, University of Sydney NSW 2006. The SRC's operation costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney. *Honi Soit* is printed under the auspices of the SRC's directors of student publications: Tahliia Chloe, Justine Landis-Hanley, David Hogan, Michelle Picone, Siobhan Ryan, and Michael Sun. All expressions are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as the opinions of the SRC unless specifically stated. The Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained within this newspaper, nor does it endorse any of the advertisements and insertions.

# Letters

## Honi Soit made a mistake

Dear *Honi*,

Unfortunately, *Honi Soit's* Week One article on the upcoming board elections contains substantial errors and mis-attributions that the editorial team refused to rectify as requested. We called for an online and print correction and an online apology from the editors. Although Grassroots waited for *Honi* to discuss the issue out of respect for them they declined to post an online apology.

The paper reported on a supposed Grassroots pre-selection drama and an alleged lack of democracy. During collective discussion all potential

candidates affirmed that they believed the process and the eventual pre-selection would and had been democratic.

The fact is, our collective has not yet discussed our election strategy or pre-selection process. Certainly, we've actively encouraged all members to consider nominating. We are prepared to assist any Leftist committed to the struggle for the de-corporatisation of student unions & advancing left-wing politics.

However, we are most offended that *Honi* mis-attributed the words of a wom\*n to another member who refused to go on record unless the statement printed was sourced democratically and anonymously from the collective. Although, the editor interviewing the member agreed to this, the work was

later changed in the process to (mis)identify Courtney and Liam. This violated the wishes of the source to not be quoted, a clear breach of journalistic ethics and conduct. Collectives and activists have consistently voiced concern with their treatment by the 2016 editors and believe they have often failed to cater to the specific needs and concerns of our communities; this is another example of this.

Furthermore, the story attempted to contrive a pre-selection conflict between two Grassroots wom\*n. The structural barriers to wom\*n participating in politics are such that *Honi's* reporting is beyond disappointing - it is unacceptable. Wom\*n are driven out by the misogyny involved in student politics and for *Honi* to entrench this does a disservice to their duty to encourage an inclusive and progressive discourse on campus.

Regards,  
Grassroots Collective

## Honi Soit made another mistake

Dear *Honi*,

In Week One's edition of *Honi Soit*, a letter was written pertaining to the USU's "Dive-rsity picnic", a welcome event for students of colour. This letter was written by Bridget Harilaou, but was mistakenly attributed to the Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR).

It might seem reasonable, perhaps, to suppose that because Bridget is a member of the collective, the misattribution is acceptable. This, however, is crucially inaccurate.

Collectives are comprised of a broad spectrum of individuals. The breadth of ACAR - a collective whose members are bound by their experiences of racism - leaves ample room for dissent and disagreement between members. Attributing the letter to ACAR wrongly depicts us as united, sharing the

views and sentiments detailed by Bridget. In fact, many collective members thought the event was a great success.

Further, attributing the letter to ACAR fundamentally negates the collaborative nature of collectives. To quote *Honi* editor Subeta Vimalarajah in Week One's edition of *Honi*, "all members of [a collective] will have an equal say in the decisions of the group".

For an editorial team who so intricately understands the roles of collectives and how they function, this oversight is unacceptable.

What makes this error even more intolerable is the response of the editorial team. After multiple phone calls with and messages to editors, the *Honi* team's response was a brief addendum at the end of the online version of the letter.

From the editors, we received no apology. No admission of carelessness. Just a recommendation that next time, we make ourselves more clear.

We sincerely hope that in

# More Letters

future, *Honi* is meticulous and careful. Checking the origin of quotes and letters should be as second nature as fact checking. We expect better.

Lamya Rahman  
Aparna Balakumar  
Adam Ursino  
Elizabeth Mora  
Autonomous Collective  
Against Racism (ACAR)  
Office Bearers

"personal growth" instead of this relentless: dealing with "illness" and "disorder".

"For 165 years, our students have been changing lives for the better." Thank you for the lovely quote, main page University website. Question: How are the student's lives going?

We can always be doing more.

Sincerely,  
SLAM Student

## CAPS isn't caring for our own

Mental health is a university issue, a national one and a personal one.

Medicare rebates are available for only TEN mental health services per calendar year, these are provided to people with a referral from a GP and an "Assessed Mental Disorder".

Is it any wonder people generally break down before getting help? Who openly puts their hand up for having a "Mental Disorder"?

I had a psychotic episode ten years ago in the middle of my undergraduate degree, I was 20. It has taken me ten years to work up the courage to do a postgraduate degree in fear of going mad again.

At the orientation I attended last year CAPS did a great talk about their student services and early intervention. I thought, great, I'm going to follow up on that. It took me a while to make contact. Reasons included: uncertainty, maybe I could do it alone, do I really need to revisit the dark past, just move on, isn't it a bit self-indulgent, are my problems any worse than anyone else's and, of course, the ever-present: "she'll be right".

I finally sent off an e-mail to CAPS in Sem 2, the response was that I couldn't book an appointment via e-mail. I didn't proceed. There was no follow up e-mail from CAPS. It begs the question, how many people get that far and don't receive any further support?

I have since obtained the dreaded referral, with even my GP throwing her hands up in the air exclaiming, "You're fine, you're normal!". Do I really need to fight for a referral? I thought. Let me just goddam speak to an objective third party already!

The stigma attached to mental illness needs to transition into an all-inclusive battle.

We take ourselves off to the gym to strengthen our bodies, why don't we offer our minds a similar ritual? Mental health services need to be framed as

## Hacks, don't forget Cumbo

Dear *Honi*,

It seems rather hilarious to me when the student newspaper of the University of Sydney speculates 'about the Union Board candidates' (*Honi* Week 1, p4) for the upcoming USU board elections. It is understandable, though, considering that *Honi Soit* primarily caters to students on the Camperdown/Darlington campus, and thus should be concerned about an organisation that apportions a large sum of student funds to improve the student experience, at least in theory. However, as a student at the Cumberland campus, the University of Sydney Union does not cater for us; the Cumberland Student Guild, an entirely non-political organisation, is delegated the responsibility of both advocating for students and providing the close-knit student experience that the campus is known for, which Cumberland students generally prefer over negatively represented politicised student representation.

The generally negative reputation of student politicians at the University of Sydney, even from students in its main and satellite campuses, is thus not a laughing matter. Trivialisation of the atrocities of communist regimes (*Honi* Week 1, p7), the nationally-publicised debacle that was #reselect, the non-publicised debacle that was the National 'Union' of Students' National Conference, student harassment by campaigners, Liberal punch-ups with the Labor Club at the 2016 O-Week, the 'promises' of 'change' and the promises of electorate officer jobs for MLCs are not a laughing matter. These antics that occur throughout the hallowed halls of the Quadrangle and beyond are taken all the way to big-boy politics, where USyd alumni from all sides of politics engage in for-show slanging matches, contributing little to policy debate and discussion of solutions to real

issues, which I find extremely disconcerting.

In saying that, however, over the short, naïve life that I have led, I have acquainted myself with some individuals that have expressed a desire to participate in the national and hence University of Sydney political process, and they are genuinely caring people at heart. They hold strong beliefs in varying ideologies and use them as a guiding light for their actions. However, the mob mentality that is part of this process strips all prospective politicians of their ability to be compassionate in their ability to lead, if at all. Politics at university level has essentially become West Side Story; where dancing 'gangs' shake their way to Pyrrhic victories.

And if stupor is now being compared to Pyrrhic victories, there's something seriously wrong.

Samuel Chu  
Physiotherapy I

## Let the EU discriminate

The USU's attempt to shut down the Evangelical Union due to the clause in the constitution that requires a person to sign a declaration of faith prior to getting voting rights, and to become a member of the club executive as a disgraceful move on the part of our Union. The clause is in the constitution to ensure those that follow the faith represent the club. This isn't the first time that this has become an issue, as I ran with a policy protecting these clubs' rights to have such a clause in my union campaign last year due to concerns from the EU, Catholic Society, and SUMSA. From my understanding the Catholic Society is also under scrutiny for a similar clause. These clubs are there to represent those that follow the faith, and people such as myself who while have an interest in theology don't follow the faith shouldn't be having a say in what is the best way to spread the message of the society. The claims that they're exclusionary is a complete fabrication, as the EU's large active membership base of both voting and non-voting members is a testament to, and most commonly the religious societies are some of the most welcoming on campus. This also ignores the Union's support of the autonomous collectives, who are widely known to be exclusionary to those that identify with political views that aren't left of centre.

## #ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### CALLS FOR WOM\*N'S OFFICER VANESSA SONG TO RESIGN FROM SRC

Since Subeta Vimalarajah's investigation "Allegations of stacking by Student Unity men in wom\*n of colour election" (*Honi Soit*, Week 1), tensions have been mounting in the Wom\*n of Colour Collective.

Last Monday (March 7), Tina Huang reported on calls from within the Collective for Song to resign. A letter from members of the collective has been circulating publicly, as well as claims Song has not been fulfilling her duties as Wom\*n's Officer. Song has formed a Facebook group of supporters to challenge these calls. *Honi* approached Song for comment, but received no reply.

For the full story, and many others, go to [honisoit.com](http://honisoit.com).

This has occurred to a number of people who are perfectly eligible for membership of these collectives, but are excluded because their political beliefs don't fall into the perceived notion that those particular sects of society are expected to have. The board members should really reconsider whether they want to risk disaffiliating one of the largest clubs on campus and the perceived message that they're sending to people who follow these faiths by undertaking these actions.

Cheers,  
Kerrod Gream

## Let the EU discriminate: an unlikely ally

Dear *Honi*,

Yours sincerely,  
Patrick Hall  
Laws IV  
Attender of Grose 2013-2015

In regards to Andrew Bell's story under Revelations 20:1, was it unnecessary for the EU to write in that specification? Yes, especially since it was a blanket statement that included members. But consider USyd's Athiest Society. They might not have the same constitution for obvious reasons but pretty sure their members wouldn't want someone who declares Jesus as Lord on their board either. To be fair, I don't see any potential for Athiest students to apply themselves for an executive role at the EU. Do they really think Athiests will infiltrate a Christian society to enact a bizzare, twisted plot? I don't believe Athiests are evil demon beings. I'm not sure what the EU think but I don't think this counts as Christians once again being as exclusive as ever. It might not be written but if it came to it, don't you think Athiest Society members would want a similar requirement made to

keep people of religious beliefs out of leadership? All society boards will want representatives that ascribe to their values and ideals. The EU are just being meticulous. I would also call them paranoid but please, not discriminatory.

Regards,  
Supporter of  
Christian-Athiest Relations

## The beginning of a new era

Dear *Honi*,

After reading Mr Gooding's article (The End of an Era) I could only think that attendance at Thursday 9am lectures will increase markedly.

Yours sincerely,  
Patrick Hall  
Laws IV  
Attender of Grose 2013-2015

## Think Honi is left wing trash?

(Or just trash)

Send a letter to  
editors@  
honisoit.com

## CAPITAL WORKS

# University splashes \$70 million on new pad for Chancellor and friends

Alexandros Tsathas

A \$70 million building on the site of the old Madsen carpark is set to become the new home of the Chancellery and much of the University's administration.

The new "F23 Administrative Building" will house over 600 staff and aims to "co-locate and consolidate a number of bespoke University administrative departments into one location". Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson and Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence will be counted among its residents, as will the University's human resources, marketing and legal teams, which are currently sprawled across campus.

The consolidation of administration is consistent with the University's overarching \$600 million "Campus Improvement Program (CIP) 2014-2016", which will geographically group similar departments together. Under the program, the faculties of medicine, dentistry, nursing and health sciences are to be relocated to a dedicated health precinct encompassing the Charles Perkins Centre and renovated Blackburn and Bosch buildings.

The new administrative

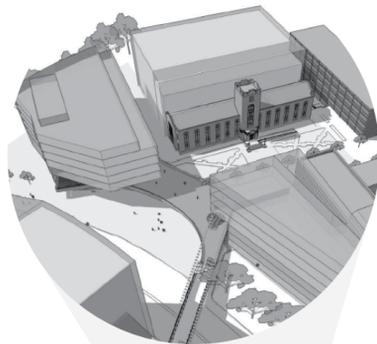
building will have two base-level levels, "typical open plan levels" as well as "high level A-grade commercial fitouts" and an "executive lounge" on its upper levels.

The project's architects, Warren and Mahoney, were chosen after winning a design competition, with each firm given \$15,000 to "dedicate appropriate resources and produce exciting concepts that are worthy of a significant university gateway project".

Director of Campus Infrastructure Services (CIS), Greg Robinson, said that although broad state government approval for the project had already been granted, changes to the winning design are expected to be made right up until the development application is lodged in the next few months.

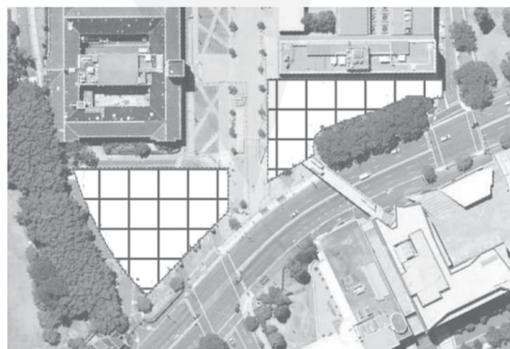
"The design of the F23 building aims to reflect leadership, transparency, accessibility, and to showcase the best of what we do in research and education," he said.

Currently, USyd's separate administrative departments have different locations on campus. Marketing is located within the Jane Foss Russell Building



The proposed F23 admin and LEES buildings in the vicinity of Madsen

Source: USyd's SEAR submission



while the Office of the General Counsel (the University's lawyers) lies within the Margaret Telfer Building, opposite the Parramatta Road footbridge.

Once these teams vacate their respective premises, their old offices will act as "decanters" to cope with classroom shortages caused by building upgrades until at least 2020. After this, many of the older buildings on the campus' fringes will be turned into student accommodation.

The offices of the University's executive in the northern quad will remain untouched after the move to the new administrative building, with a sandstone aesthetic still required to satisfy the "expectations of visiting dignitaries".

The administrative building is to be accompanied by a \$74.5 million extension of the nearby Carlaw building, dubbed the new Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (LEES) Building, which will house the relocated School of Molecular Biology.

Honi will publish a breakdown of the University's infrastructure master plans in coming weeks.



## BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

*Holy shit we have a literal marriage to report on*

### Nerd alert

It's no secret that USyd has a bit of an image problem when it comes to privilege. It's something University PR have been battling for years, and despite its high profile low-SES admission campaigns, it can't hide the fact that students here come from a fairly narrow pool. *Honi* hears that, this year, the median ATAR of all incoming first year students was 92. We're sure it's the result of hard work and true intelligence rather than the natural bump you get by attending a well-resourced Eastern Suburbs school.

### You're terrible, USU-riel

The closing night of a student play was interrupted last Saturday by a raucous wedding the USU had booked in the same building. The cast and crew of *Lady*, put on by the Sydney University Dramatic Society (SUDS), were setting up in the Cellar Theatre when they heard loud music from the ceiling. SUDS members soon discovered the USU had rented out the Refectory, the room directly above, for the duration of the production.

"You could make out every word of the music, and of people making speeches," said one SUDS

member. After repeated requests, the sound was turned down, but only an hour after the show began. Furthermore, *Honi* has been told that a SUDS member who went upstairs to enquire was accused by a USU employee of disrupting the nuptials. The student was asked to attend a "disciplinary meeting" over the incident.

### Simple extensions nearing something resembling simplicity

Following last week's front page story that painted a picture of widespread confusion among lecturers about the University's new rules for simple extensions, *Honi* has a promising development: an advance copy of the University's draft policy.

The draft largely echoes what we reported last week – Unit of Study coordinators can grant extensions of two working days without penalty, but it's entirely at their discretion. This could also cover all faculties.

The draft has not yet been approved by Academic Board, but *Honi* predicts it will be, pending a few clarifications. The clarifications should ensure students can submit applications after the due date and should broaden who has the power to award them.

Student members of the Board told *Honi* that

despite the progression towards finality, discussion in the room was heated. Certain members of academic staff remained vocally in opposition to the idea of simple extensions at all.

### Croissants and crochets

The running of the Conservatorium's Music Café will be put to tender after the USU bailed out of the operation, *Honi Soit* has learnt.

According to our sources, the Conservatorium Precinct Committee (CPC) will put the space out to tender under the direction of the Department of Education (who own the building).

The USU previously operated both levels of the café, including the upstairs food cart.

USU President Alisha Aitken-Radburn told *Honi* the USU was not evicted, as had been rumoured, but decided to bow out of the café because they were "highly unlikely" to succeed in the tendering process, given the CPC had been trying to remove the USU for "quite some time".

For the past three weeks, the café has been operated by independent catering company Cupcakes and Canapes, who told *Honi* they intended to submit a tender when the CPC started the process.

## ACADEMIC POLICY

# Anonymous marking across the board

Ashley Chegwyn

The Academic Standards and Policy Committee have expressed support for a proposed anonymous marking policy, during their meeting last Wednesday, March 9.

As proposed, the policy would involve replacing students' names with student numbers on assessments, where feasible.

"There was broad-ranging discussion and the meeting expressed support for the principle of anonymous marking where it aligns with good teaching," said Director of Education Strategy, Associate Professor Peter McCallum.

"It was recognised that feedback is also valuable and that there are some situations where providing feedback will effectively prevent the marking being anonymous. In other situations there are ways of managing good feedback and pre-

serving anonymity."

Drafting of the policy began late last year after an initial meeting of Committee and Board members, which was attended by Dean Vice-Chancellor (Registrar) Professor Tyrone Carlin, Dean Vice-Chancellor of Education Philippa Pattinson, Chair of Academic Board Tony Masters, and McCallum.

"Peter McCallum kindly undertook to incorporate the required drafting as part of ongoing work on a set of procedures to accompany the new Learning and Teaching Policy approved by Academic Board late last year," said Pattinson. "When ready, the relevant drafts will go to the Academic Board for approval."

The push for anonymous marking began after members of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), Subeta Vimalarajah and Anna Hush, released a report containing overseas research that

highlighted the potential for bias when assessments are labelled with students' names.

Vimalarajah said she was inspired to push for the policy after her mother jokingly suggested she change her name to improve her grades.

"We'd been talking about the studies showing that Asian sounding applicants are less successful when they apply for jobs. I entertained the idea and then thought we shouldn't have to change our names, we might as well change the system."

"Research shows that we are all subject to implicit bias, and that this bias is very difficult to consciously correct," said Hush.

"This doesn't mean that overt discrimination is occurring, but when markers have to evaluate large quantities of work in a very short timeframe, implicit stereotypes tend to come into play."

The SRC's report included data from a United Kingdom

OFSTED study, which found students with African or Asian names received 12 per cent lower marks in institutions without anonymous marking. Similarly, a study conducted by the University of Wales found the number of women achieving firsts (the equivalent of a High Distinction) increased by 13 per cent when an anonymous marking policy was implemented.

While there is no set date for when the policy will be introduced if approved by the Board, members are hoping it will be implemented quickly, to reduce the risk of further bias.

"Work on the relevant procedures is being undertaken this semester," said Pattinson.

"It is unlikely to be in place for the next examination period, but some aspects may be in place by the Semester 2 examination period. We would certainly hope to have this in place by Semester 1, 2017."

## COURT REPORTS

# SUSF's conflicting interests

Tom Joyner

Two senior executives employed by Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF) are also employed by the University of Sydney in senior roles, evidence given before a state tribunal on Thursday revealed.

The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal in Sydney heard the evidence after the University refused to comply with a Government Information Public Access (GIPA) request for the salary information of SUSF Executive Director Robert Smithies and Finance Manager Aleksandra Pozder, citing "personal information factors" overriding the public interest in its disclosure.

The request to access the information was made on August 19 last year by law student Alexi Polden, who made an application to the tribunal after his GIPA request was formally refused.

Counsel representing the University Brenda Tronson argued before the tribunal SUSF

was "legally distinct" from the University and therefore exempt from GIPA requests.

"The only information in scope was the payroll report for two persons and it refused to release that information on the balance that it found there to be an overriding public interest against disclosure," she said.

The tribunal heard SUSF executive director Mr Smithies is additionally employed by the University. Ms Pozder is employed as Finance Manager of SUSF while also as a University senior corporate accountant.

Mr Polden said in the hearing he believed the situation could present conflicts of interest for the two executives, where each had obligations to both negotiating parties when it came to the allocation of University funding.

"The release of the [salary information] would disclose the fact that the University employs two individuals who occupy senior roles in what it claims is an independent body, and the amount it spends doing

so," Mr Polden said. "This is not currently public knowledge."

"The [University's claim] is that the GIPA Act is simply to access government information. In reality, it is to maintain and advance a system of open and democratic government."

SUSF receives the lion's share of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) which is distributed among student organisations, including the Students' Representative Council (SRC) and University of Sydney Union (USU) by month-long negotiations.

In 2015 it received \$4.17 million, or 36 per cent of the total available pool of funding.

The organisation has been criticised in the past for providing very few and unaffordable services to students while funding sports scholarships for non-students.

Senior member of the tribunal Stephen Montgomery said salary information of employees of government agencies (including the University of Sydney) was more likely to be

released under GIPA the "higher up the ranks" they were.

"It's clear that Mr Smithies is representing one organisation [Sydney University Sport and Fitness], and it's clear from his duty statements that he's got obligations to the other [the University of Sydney]," he said.

USU President Alisha Aitken-Radburn said students organisations that receive SSAF funds had a responsibility to students.

"Your services have to be providing the greatest good to the greatest number of students. SUSF is just not on the same page."

It is not the first time SUSF has been embroiled in controversy. In 2015 *Honi Soit* revealed the organisation's president, Bruce Ross, was the beneficiary of a University-subsidised house on campus. The same year it was reported Mr Ross had failed to declare conflicting interests in his business arrangements conducted while also SUSF president.

The tribunal is yet to announce its decision on the matter.

## UNI ADMIN

# USyd's hotline bling

Jennifer Chen

The University of Sydney has closed faculty phone lines and replaced them with a university-wide 1800 number, causing students to wait over an hour for their calls to be redirected.

The 1800 SYD UNI line was introduced at the start of 2015 as part of the Senior Executive Group's vision for a centralised university contact service.

Over the course of the year, faculties surrendered frontline handling of student enquiries to 1800 SYD UNI.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Tyrone Carlin said the central line was intended to "provide a single convenient point of first contact for students".

On average, waiting time is a few minutes, but huge delays surface during peak periods.

"There are occasions when the call centre gets absolutely swamped, where we just don't have enough staff and enough IP points to keep to those levels," Professor Carlin said.

Philippa Specker, a psychology student and former information officer at the Faculty of Science, said she waited "over an hour" before her recent call to 1800 SYD UNI was answered. When she was an information officer, she frequently dealt with calls that were transferred from the new central line. She saw it as only creating "more bureaucratic process".

In addition to long waits during peak periods, 10-20 per cent of all enquires are too complicated or faculty-specific for the call centre's staff, meaning they must be diverted to faculties anyway.

Carlin agreed 1800 SYD UNI is not designed to answer very complex or degree-specific questions, but argued that by centralising and logging call data "we're in a much better position to understand the reasons why students are calling us up... to try and avoid the need for the phone call in the first place."

The Veterinary Science, Agriculture and Environment faculties and the Conservatorium of Music are the only remaining faculties with their own phone lines.

The central line is managed by the Student Centre team from the Jane Foss Russell building.

In February the centre received over 44,000 emails, telephone calls and in-person enquiries.

# Gold, frankincense and more

Some religions on campus are more equal than others, writes Michael Sun

book, lamenting the “particularly vicious incidents of Islamophobia...at Sydney University”.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Society's presence on campus has gone from strength to strength, with new facilities and growing membership.

Damian Wilks, a fourth-year BPSS student and member of the society, attributes this to the continued growth of membership. “In 2013... mission weeks had four people on a stall, and now they have up to a dozen. All the events that are held are much more extensive,” he says. “The new facility has a chapel, a library upstairs, and showers, a kitchen, and a barbecue downstairs.”

These differences in testimonials beg the question: why is it that the Catholic Society receives a brand-new building unit, opened last year, and equipped with all the facilities of an Eastern Suburbs mansion, whilst other religions on campus are not only sequestered into much smaller corners, but made to feel consistently insecure?

The answer is that they had a lot of external help. The Catholic Student Centre was actually the result of a deal struck between the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (which has a long history of working with the society) and (the not particularly student-budget-friendly) student accommodation provider Urbanest.

The Archdiocese owned the land and allowed Urbanest to construct their new residential facility there. It replaced a previous one located near Broadway Shopping Centre. The chaplaincy cen-

tre came as part of the deal.

In contrast, the Muslim Prayer Rooms are provided by the University of Sydney itself, and receive no external funding from local Muslim organisations.

There is a Multifaith Chaplaincy Centre in the Merewether Building. However, students who spoke about their past experiences there for this piece said the facility – designed to accommodate all backgrounds – was largely inaccessible.

It's important to note here that the individuals within the faiths themselves are not to blame.

On my trail, I've encountered genuinely helpful students who have directed me to services and information regarding different religious facilities. However, the distinct levels of privilege afforded to each faith are undeniable.

Religion on campus is likely to remain a contentious topic. There has never been a time where safe and autonomous spaces have been more significant, and especially in a climate rife with complex opinions on the role of religion in a modern society, every student deserves the right to express their beliefs without the imminent risk of having their sacred spaces vandalised.

For the spiritually inclined, the Catholic Students Centre is located in Jane Foss Russell Plaza, opposite the Scitech Library, and the Muslim Prayer Rooms are located in Rooms 309 and 310 of the Old Teachers' College. The Multifaith Chaplaincy Centre is in Room M240 of the Merewether Building.



Tucked between City Rd and Urbanest is a three-story glass building with winding staircases, state-of-the-art facilities, a newly refurbished kitchen and a library filled with bookshelf upon bookshelf of stimulation: “Same-Sex Attraction: A Parent's Guide,” reads one. “Religion and Feminism,” reads another.

I could almost mistake this for the Law Library if it weren't for the sounds of ping-pong balls against hardwood coming from the bottom floor – oft-punctuated by shouts of victory and/or despair – or the glass windows opening out onto a view of the Wentworth Building, or the sign outside which proclaims “University Catholic Chapel and Student Centre” in all-caps.

It's a stark contrast from the dim hallway in the Old Teachers' College where I find the men's and women's Muslim Prayer Rooms.

These two rooms are abuzz as students enter and leave – it's a communal, if slightly crowded area. It's hard to believe that a space which is at once so spirited and peaceful continues to bear the brunt of frequent attacks borne from Islamophobia, with recent acts of vandalism occurring just weeks ago.

Both spaces – the Catholic Student Centre and the Muslim Prayer Rooms – are run by clubs and societies; the former by the Sydney University Catholic Society, and the latter by the Sydney University Muslim Students Association (SUMSA). Both societies are tight-knit, united by common faith – yet the disparity in their resources shows there still exists a hierarchy of religious facilities, even within a university so often proclaimed as “progressive” and “radical”.

A Muslim student, who does not wish to be identified, tells me they are actively afraid of discrimination on campus, and are afraid of another case of vandalism of their prayer rooms.

SUMSA Media Representative Shahad Nomani agrees. “Five times our place of prayer and solace has been ransacked [since the end of the 2015 academic year],” he wrote in a Facebook post regarding the recent vandalism. “Five times these vandals wished to hurt the Muslims at the University of Sydney.”

These attacks seem to confirm a culture of religious tension that was identified by Muslim Wom'n's Collective Office Bearer Zahra Makki in an article for the SRC's Counter Course Hand-



Art: Amandine Le Bellec



# Trimester trouble

Liam Carrigan examines the big change to university timetables across the sector

As far back as universities can remember, the academic year has been divided into two halves. The semester system has become so ubiquitous to university life we plan our time outside the classroom, our family and work commitments, into 13-week units. But with funding to the tertiary sector in turmoil, an overzealous management class at the helm and institutions competing for enrolments on an international scale, the old ways of doing things were always bound to change.

The trimester was one of many such changes. Private universities like Bond University first introduced them, before they spread to the University of Canberra, the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and at least six other Australian universities. The wisdom behind them was simple – they would allow students to complete a three-year bachelor degree in just two, with the academic year divided into three equally sized blocks.

For the main part, this will mean these blocks, or ‘sessions’ are equal in length. At just ten weeks, they are shorter than semesters, but provide an optional session over summer.

In New South Wales, UTS staff and students have voiced concerns with the trimester system introduced for 2016. According to UTS National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) branch president Vince Caughley, the trimester system compromises working conditions for university staff. “[Trimesters mean the] intensification of work, threat to the academic integrity of subjects being taught and learned in shorter time, and inadequate consultation, planning and information about the implications of the change for staff and students,” he says.

Critics of the system have pointed to the implications for students too, with universities speeding up the “conveyor belt” to push students through degrees quicker and increasing efficiency in a competitive and underfunded sector. University managements naturally reject these claims. “I can see no other reason why the change has been introduced,” says Caughley.

Enoch Mailangi, a third year UTS communications and law student shares similar concerns to the NTEU. “[Trimesters] have been marketed to be to the benefit of students and this is what makes how they were introduced, marketed and sprung on us even more insidious,” he says. “We're seeing more mechanical learning, less face-to-face teaching, teaching weeks cut, and moving more and more of our education online.”

Caughley is especially critical of the lack of consultation. In a December meeting with the NTEU, the Provost of UTS admitted there should have been better consultation and promised to do better.

University managements and the federal government are the key proponents of the shift to the trimester system. According to UTS Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Shirley Alexander, talks about a trimester system began with pressure from the government over funding and streamlining the allocation of existing (but admittedly scant) university resources. But it's a shaky argument when you account for the considerable burden such streamlining would have on staff, particularly at a time when the nation's casual tertiary workforce is at an historic high.

“There could be a case for trimesters if it was about utilizing university facilities throughout more of the year and allowing for an academic research project by concentrating teaching work-

load in two out of three semesters, says NTEU National President Jeannie Rea. “But this is not the way it is approached. It is about contracting student learning time and increasing academic and professional staff workloads.”

From many students' perspectives, a trimester model better meets the modern demands placed upon Australian university students, argues Professor Alexander. She explains balanced semesters as a “more student centred approach” that offers a greater degree of flexibility to students who wish to finish their degrees in a shorter time frame and enter into the workforce faster – an argument Jeannie Rea vehemently rejects. In fact, it is precisely the opposite, she says, a “national agenda” for universities to do more and provide less, to increase efficiencies and decrease spending, all in the name of students. “It's not about the quality of the students' learning experience,” she says.

Harrison Stanton, a UTS Bachelor of Accounting student, echoes the same benefits of trimesters as Professor Alexander, praising the faster degree completion time, flexibility around work arrangements and better practicality for pursuing summer internships. Stanton explains that trimesters allow essentially what students have asked for years – for summer school classes to be payable by HECS loan. “[The new] option to HECS the summer semester

**Total weeks of class in a year**

Semesters

26

Trimesters

30

and the ability to spread the same amount of subjects over more semesters arguably results in a decreased workload and better learning and results,” he says.

Professor Alexander argues poor attendance at lectures since implementation of online recordings, for instance, has fundamentally changed the expectations of what students can do on their own and what they need to do on campus. Caughley and the NTEU aren't convinced. “The benefits of a university education aren't just about a return on investment or meeting the study requirements of particular subjects – why not just move entirely online?” he says. “It's the human face-to-face element, meeting other people with new ideas, being exposed to challenging ways of thinking, developing as a person that should always be part of the picture.”

With Education Minister Simon Birmingham this week proclaiming to a conference dinner hosted by Universities Australia that higher education reform is necessary for the federal budget's “sustainability”, serious questions remain around the national trend of course restructures, staff cuts and “efficient” academic calendars. “The mentality amongst the people making these decisions is out of touch with everyday students,” says Mailangi. “We're nothing but a figure to them, and that's why it's so scary.”



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# Shaun Harris:

## “They all say that she was faking it. How could she fake dying over three days?”

Subeta Vimalarajah met someone who taught her more in thirty minutes than any University class ever did

As Shaun Harris and Simone Davison approached the Students' Representative Council (SRC) stall during OWeek, they asked us if we could take a photograph with a sign that read “Justice for Julieka Dhu.”

I'd read about Ms Dhu's story before – an Aboriginal death in custody. A 22-year-old woman, similar in age to many of us, who was incarcerated for failing to pay fines, only to die of staphylococcal septicaemia and pneumonia three days later. “Her only crime was being poor,” Shaun – her uncle – put it later.

Shaun walked in and out of my life that morning, as the issues of Indigenous Australians often do. I was overcome by the story he'd told, but it would soon slip to the back of my mind, like a Guardian article on my Twitter feed, or an eloquently phrased Facebook post.

That afternoon, an activist – Rachel Evans – brought Shaun to the SRC for an impromptu interview. I ushered them inside and to the office bearer room. Simone is a fellow Black Activist, who is a member of the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy. She was showing Shaun, who's from Western Australia, around.

As our conversation progressed, the surrounding banners and drums grew inconsequential in comparison to the struggle that Shaun had been forced to know.

Ms Dhu's fate was not an unfortunate failure of the system, it was a product of the system.

“The CCTV footage is something I'll never forget in my life,” he said. “It was unbelievable, the way they treated her. They all say that she was faking it, and feigning... you can hear her, and see her limping and begging and moaning.”

Shaun weaved together the complicity of government policies and state-sanctioned institutions so seamlessly. His words painted a picture of a world structured to disenfranchise Indigenous people, perverse in its cohesion.

“They kick us off our homelands, our communities, and the crime rates are going to go up – it's already happened in Western Australia from Colin Barnett's forced community closures. They're leaving their communities and going into rural centres to live on the streets, homeless. They have to steal for food, for medication... they're going to end up being incarcerated. More deaths in custody,” he explained.

Since Ms Dhu's death, Shaun has been a central figure in the movement to bring her justice. One inquest on, there have been no real answers. “There was a lot of cover-up and shifting of blame and that was mainly from the health system. We heard from the nurses and doctors trying to make up excuses and give reasons why they did not take my niece's temperature, or other basic stats,” he says. The second part of the inquest is due to take place on March 14.

Shaun never shies away from Ms. Dhu's story as one in a series. The names of Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland and others are stamped into the brains of Australian progressives, but few of us look to our own Black lives, that should also matter.



Photo: Twitter

When asked for the names we should remember, Shaun reminds me of Cameron Doomadgee and TJ Hickey, two of only 339 victims Australia's racist police state has produced in the last few decades.

“We're only 2%, roughly, of the Australian population, which is much less than the black population in the US or South Africa,” Shaun explains.

“That's part of our problem, as well, we're such a minority, and especially on our own lands, dispossessed lands – there's no treaty – and that all brings it back to the fact there's no jurisdiction, as well.”

Despite, and perhaps due to the indictment Ms Dhu's death delivers to the “fair go” we want to believe, the mainstream media have only reported on it in pockets of the news cycle.

“The mainstream media, they did not want to get on board – but we knew that if the story got too big they'd have to, or lose ratings, and that's happened.” I wondered what it felt like to be told

**“My daughter lives in the same town where all this happened to my niece... she's got the same perpetrators of my niece's murder in her space.”**

that fifteen minutes was all the “fame” your murdered niece deserved.

With media often diametrically opposed to the interests of Indigenous people and instead controlled by corporate interests, Shaun had to craft his own platform through social media. As a result, his Facebook profile is a political anthology, as dense as that you'd find in a library.

He carefully documents rallies and events,

tagging most of his posts with hashtags like #NoPrideInGenocide and #BuildCommunitiesNotPrisons; he runs his own Facebook pages and has organised multiple events and rallies. It's an avenue that makes him hopeful. “With my niece we've tapped into that global support to a certain extent, which has a lot more effect than we've been able to in the past.”

Despite the overwhelming force that Shaun wakes to battle against each day, he maintains a sense of optimism, an optimism I felt I didn't deserve from him.

“We can't get to the top of that hill unless we're standing together as one. It's the only way we can enforce systemic reforms and custodial reforms for our entire country – and not just for black people; we're a united nation and we have to stick together,” he assures me.

I delve cautiously and uncomfortably into his personal life, I want to know how he has sustained this fight for so long.

In the most harrowing point of the conversation, he shares his personal motivations.

“Ms Dhu passed away on the 10th anniversary of my son's death... that in itself is a big factor... I clearly remember the day that happened, and I'll never forget that. My daughter also lives in the same town where all this happened to my niece. She's not a trouble-maker or anything like that, she's sensible, but that doesn't matter when you're black. If she gets in trouble with the police, she's still got the same perpetrators of my niece's murder in her space, and if she gets sick and has to go to hospital she's still got the same medical perpetrators in those wards as well.”

As centuries of government policy have attempted to eradicate Indigenous Australians, activists like Shaun have fought the system at every step.

As I led Shaun and his friends out of the SRC, I felt a mixture of gratitude and undeserved privilege. He asked, smiling, that we keep at least ten copies for him if we published the article in print.

We kept in contact and Shaun gave me the opportunity to talk to Aunty Carol – Ms Dhu's grandmother. In her voice she carried the deadening weight of every meaningless inquiry and uncharged policeman. As she spoke with strength and conviction, I started to cry and Aunty Carol apologised for making me upset.

After their land, their culture and their children have been stolen by Australia's racism and the colonial project, Aunty Carol and Shaun still have the energy to share their story. They even have the empathy to console the tears of wide-eyed non-Indigenous people who are part of the system, yet crumble at being reminded of that.

With their continuing labour comes our obligation. I asked Shaun what non-Indigenous people could do. “Little things like sharing posts, or when there are events up – say you're going, regardless of whether you are because at least it shows your support”, was his unspeakably modest request.



# My Salty Summer

Liam Donohoe reflects on his bitter-not-so-sweet summer as a member of Socialist Alternative.

Art by Brigitte Samaha and Katie Thorburn.

It began in a similar way to how it probably begins for everyone. My friend Brian\* and I were attending a dance rally against the tampon tax at Martin Place on August 14 when we were approached by Sarah Garnham, Socialist Alternative's National Students Coordinator. Brian\* and I stood alone on the crowd's periphery, an awkward island unaccustomed to protest, naively ditching school to be there.

It may have been our isolation that piqued her interest, our novelty in a parochial scene. Our subsequent conversation, which lasted the duration of a now subordinated rally, indicated that we were obvious targets.

Flattered and eager to please, I replied to her torrent of questions with some Marxist thought derived from an HSC English course.

“How'd you hear about this?”

“Do you consider yourself anti-Capitalist?”

“Where do you / did you go to school?”

As Brian and I ambled back to the North Shore line, my private school sports bag brimming with a litany of leftist literature, I was met with a series of concerned text messages from older friends who'd observed the proceedings. They swiftly and definitively discouraged further contact. Lucy\*, in particular, passed on her experiences of Socialist Alternative at USyd, saying they were sectarian and a blight on the left.

Yet in the face of a post-HSC purposelessness, a budding interest in leftist politics slowly ripened.

Brian and I took to Martin Place again on November 25 in order to support an anti-Reclaim Australia counter rally. As Lucy rightly predicted, a familiar face greeted us. Sarah, immediately recognising us, brought us over to their stall, isolating me in an attempt to sell the first of many books as fellow rades insisted on our attendance at

a post-rally meeting.

When *Honi* asked Socialist Alternative if Sarah recruited me, they said, “No she did not recruit Liam.” Unfortunately our many exchanged messages tell a different story.

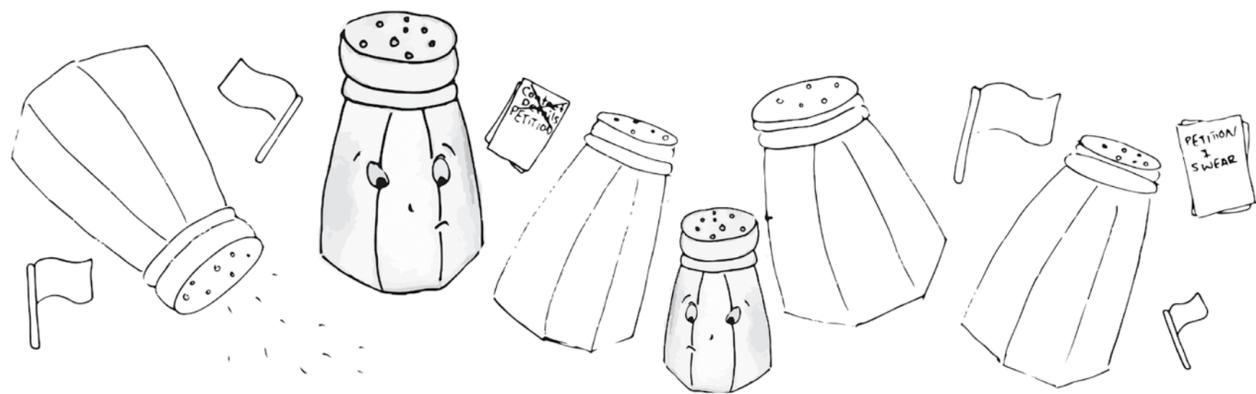
Things moved quickly from there. Within a week I'd completed a number of Marxist Discussion Groups (MDGs), finished reading their “Introduction to Marxism” book, and shared in post-meeting merriment with my new friends. I was always greeted with a warm smile, always welcomed into discussions if I looked out of place. I was made to feel wanted, even appreciated, as I moved deeper into the organisation and its quasi-familial nexus.

This nexus was not the only source of wisdom, however. Lucy met my daily recounts with an intrigue and concern. She helped maintain an existing scepticism and curiosity that belied my image as a faithful recruit. Her constant surprise at every revelation made clear how opaque the organisation is. Fortunately for me, Lucy was the constant source of perspective that other recruits might not ordinarily have. She made clear that Socialist Alternative were not the only option for an anti-capitalist, a reassurance that lingered in the back of my mind.

### The road to membership

My goal was to understand the organisation and I performed whatever version of myself was necessary for their approval.

This performance soon led to work on stalls. Socialist Alternative has a clear modus operandi – to establish within the first minute of conversation whether you are a potential member, or “contact”, with a view to recruiting as many members as possible.



## “My biggest regret is my complicity in the recruitment of curious, enthusiastic youngsters. To them I offer an unreserved apology”

Alongside phone, email, and Facebook details, I would evaluate each prospective member, sharing conversation details in a post-stall caucus while devising a tailored recruitment strategy characterised by constant contact, surveillance, and conditioning.

Unique to Socialist Alternative, the transition from “contact” to “member” is arduous, requiring satisfactory achievement in the aforementioned MDGs. I was certain from the outset these “courses” had a more insidious purpose, as they provide an opportunity for the organisation to vet members, eliminating views inconsistent with the organisation’s, while inculcating doctrine.

Socialist Alternative told *Honi*, “We offer Marxism discussion groups to people who are new to Marxist politics and interested in learning about it.” My experience was different.

The MDGs involve contacts being run through common arguments and told what the “right” refutation is, the analysis of specific historical events with a pre-set interpretation, and a diagnosis of the current political climate, complete with disparaging descriptions of rival organisations.

It’s perhaps the reason members of Socialist Alternative echo each other with such precision. During the day of that fateful Reclaim Australia rally, six different people told me “50 per cent of the people who voted for the Golden Dawn party were police officers”.

And yet it was the concurrence of a trip to visit family in Victoria and the National Union of Students’ National Conference (“NatCon”) that taught me the most.

Prioritising the organisation over family and other interests had, by now, become the norm. Leaving my grandfather on his farm in Gippsland, having been given a makeshift conference pass, I attended two days of NatCon. When asked, Socialist Alternative told *Honi* I came along for “a couple of hours on one of the days”.

Though I was pursuing the organisation out of interest and free will, I still had limited capacity to rebuff their offers. When pressed about my attendance at an upcoming “Marxism Conference” for example, my response – that I would probably be occupied with family Easter celebrations – was met with the unsympathetic retort that “[I could] do family things every year”.

### NUS National Conference

At NatCon I observed Socialist Alternative’s interactions with other political factions for the first time. It was the aggressive, fanatical, and dishonest side to the organisation I had been warned of from day one.

Perhaps unlike the average member though, I followed the conference on the *Honi Soit* live blog, which demonstrated how purposefully constructed the reality of a Socialist Alternative member could be. Lucy was also at the conference, so

although we resolved to ignore each other, we’d meet up and chat away from the conference.

As Socialist Alternative prepped their ethno-cultural and educational policy stances, I was given a customary rundown on rival political factions. There was a pre-existing spiel for them all and, like the Golden Dawn example, it was repeated in various iterations throughout my tenure. In the heat of factional tension, it went something like this:

**Labor Unity (Labor Right):** right wing, careerist fuckwits who uncritically conform to, and advance, Labor party policy.

**National Labor Students (Labor Left):** perhaps worse than Labor Unity in that they redirect leftist rhetoric and momentum towards the advancement of the Labor party. Especially pernicious is their use of identity politics to advance right wing interests.

**Grassroots, aka the Swamp:** opportunists who betray the left through ‘class collaboration’ (i.e. lobbying university management directly) and who aren’t real activists anyway.

**The Liberals:** fuckwits who shouldn’t be allowed to attend NUS.

**The Independents:** inconsistent and fascist.

**Socialist Alliance / Solidarity:** crumbling, yet bitter, rivals who only exist to get in our way and make life difficult for us. Maybe one day, when they become more ideologically pure, we’ll merge with them.

**Anarchists:** people with drug problems and whose beliefs led to the Franco regime.

Despite their scathing review of all other factions, the *Honi* live blog elucidated something they would not: they were willing to compromise on their values to work with all those groups, just as swiftly as they were prepared to dispose of them.

It was with no trace of remorse that Socialist Alternative members readily, and hypocritically, made deals with Unity to rename the “Queer” department to the “LGBT” department, without my or, I assume, other lower ranking members knowledge. It was with no hesitancy that Socialist Alternative compromised their political opposi-

tion to affirmative action and backroom dealings to lock Grassroots, the group they have the most in common with ideologically, out of all office bearer positions. It was with no tinge of guilt that they mocked Grassroots members, including deserving candidates for various positions, while a senior Sydney member privately praised the “stroke of bureaucratic genius” that enabled it.

Following a series of deceptive manoeuvres that saw them secure two Queer Officer positions, the aforementioned senior member posted an out-dated and incorrect screenshot of the *Honi* blog with the caption: “glad we could lock Dylan [Lloyd, UNSW Grassroots member] out...who dealt with the Liberals to get his spot”.

Like high school mean girls, members descended in the comments celebrating that Dylan and others had cried. Without external sources to tell a different story, I too would have joined the chorus of celebration.

### Life as a disillusioned footsoldier

In spite of increasing, yet still private, disillusionment, I left Melbourne with a membership card. It was at this point I was informed of “dues” I would have to pay in proportion to my income. This was justified to *Honi* as “like any union or political party.”

It was insinuated that, because of my private education, I should nominate for a higher amount. On top of this I was also expected to pay for an annual subscription to *Red Flag* – a newspaper established and run by members of Socialist Alternative. Badges, t-shirts, tote bags and other kinds of merchandise were also available for the trendier Bolshy looking to accessorise.

For an anti-capitalist group, I thought, they certainly have a great business model. I still have no idea where the money went, nor do I know how it was distributed.

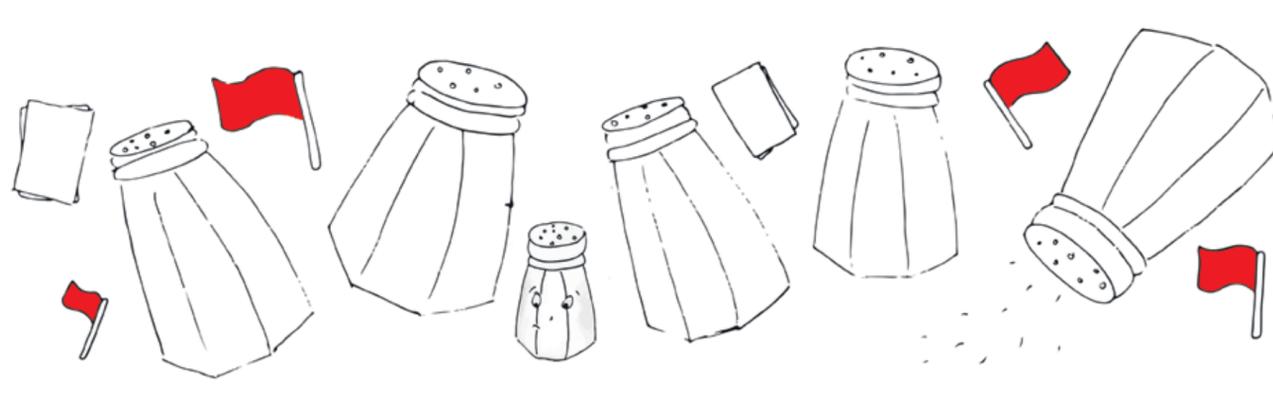
Interestingly, however, I heard rumours, fitting with my experience of a highly stratified organisation, that some members were afforded a stipend of sorts from the organisation. Socialist Alternative denied this to *Honi*.

I was never party to any kind of meaningful policy debate or to any discussion around upcoming actions, be it online or in person. Each meeting, each news item that cropped up, each planned event, would be described, having already been decided in advance.

Of course, there were opportunities to express opinions but that process was severely limited. Such opportunities followed, and were a reaction to, the presentation of an existing choice.

“The existing leadership slate has nominated the following five people to take over for 2016... what do you think?”

Choices, if they were presented, were narrow in nature. In essence, the leadership would provide a



finite number of options, with one to be selected.

“Should we put posters up tomorrow or on Tuesday?”

Yet the largest constraint was the subtlety, as members are sorted into, then groomed for, one of three roles. My independent assessment of the organisation is that most become what I’ve referred to as “footsoldiers”, occasionally getting minor, bureaucratic roles on a rotational basis, but mainly performing tasks like stalls, poster runs, etc. Some particularly intelligent members become the “intelligentsia”, theory buffs that help construct and maintain the organisation’s doctrine. Finally there are the leaders, members who, it is hoped, will ascend up the hierarchy.

Further rankings exist within that final group. One older member in Melbourne, from memory, disclosed that Omar Hassan, a senior figure of the Sydney branch, was “ranked third” when they initially sorted him into the leadership box on account of his “hippie” qualities and proclivity to random international trips. Omar had “exceeded all expectations” by getting as far as he had, apparently.

### Planning my escape route

Following a comparatively dormant period, I resolved to leave the organisation. I had been working on stalls regularly. My curiosity had been satisfied, the commitment had become tiresome and recruiting others was starting to feel morally dubious.

Though their constitution spells out quite clearly that “members may resign at any time by communicating their resignation to any body of the organisation” I had heard different stories. I’d read student publications describing harassment. I’d spoken to friends, some old and some new, who relayed personal experiences of vitriol, spitting, and physical intimidation. I’d been told of an ex-member receiving unstamped death threats in their mailbox. Reassuringly, they denied this to *Honi*.

It took a while before I mustered the courage to write, crosscheck with Lucy, and then send, my carefully constructed message of resignation. Playing on their perceptions of my merciless bourgeois family, I wove a tale of familial discord epitomised by the looming threat of expulsion from my home.

Given our history I chose Sarah to be the recipient of my message. Her disappointment was tinged with the hope that I would re-join. Despite that, messages and phone calls accompanied continual event invitations and Facebook tags. Either Sarah withheld my resignation or the organisation had ignored my request.

Omar, in keeping with the latter suspicion, would later send me what I perceived to be a confrontational message suggesting that I “owe it to them” to meet up “face to face”.

It was not all bad cop, however, as a young female member, with whom I was hardly acquainted, randomly asked me on a date. Overwhelming insecurity, perhaps, led me to speculate that it was another, albeit humorous, ploy to reel me back.

### Reflections, concessions and apologies

There are members of Socialist Alternative who have given their lives to activism. There are others who are on a similar trajectory. It is impossible not to admire that kind of dedication. I see in many of them a genuine and well-intentioned desire to improve the world.

But the uncomfortable truth is that this drive is the result of deliberate and organised conditioning. This energy is maintained through subtle and overt manipulation. This agitation is symptomatic of, and perpetuated by, a system that makes the simple act of resigning one to fear.

My biggest regret is my complicity in the recruitment of curious, enthusiastic youngsters. To them I offer an unreserved apology and an invitation to ignore my hollow words.

To them, and those who are considering or in the process of joining, I urge you to tread carefully and think critically. Your enthusiasm and vigour, much like that of current members, won’t be channelled into the improvement of the world. Rather, it will be funnelled into the improvement of their world, one that is defined and controlled by those at the top.

It seems, therefore, that Orwell’s famous aphorism echoes through generations of struggle to describe my salty summer perfectly:

Some animals are more equal than others.

\*Names have been changed

### Socialist Alternative: the basics

Socialist Alternative is a revolutionary Marxist organisation that “stands for the overthrow of capitalism and the construction of a world socialist system”. Members range from passionate high schoolers to seasoned activists. They galvanise around a strict Trotskyist interpretation of Marx.

Colloquially, they are referred to as “SAIt”, but members of the organisation prefer “SA”. At the University of Sydney, they are known for their makeshift table set up at the New Law annex or Fisher library, where they call on passersby for petition signatures. Relative to their size, they are a formidable

force in student politics. They have three members on the Students’ Representative Council. They are most known for their involvement in the Q&A anti-deregulation protest in 2014, and their involvement in the Education Action Group.

The organisation formed as a result of a split from the International Socialist Organisation – now known as “Solidarity” – which also has a Usyd faction. They are one of the largest on the far-Left, with approximately 350 members across the country.

*Honi Soit* contacted Socialist Alternative for comment and they wanted to reassure our readers. “The reds are not lurking under your beds.”



# From Suburbia

Tina Huang on the stories that made Australia

Scorn for the suburban is a staple of Australian life. Suburbia is portrayed, as historian Hugh Seton once said, as a place, “where mum does the dishes, dad potters and mows, and the kids pick their acne while watching the telly”

From Alison Lester and Sidney Nolan, to *Neighbours* and *Kath and Kim*, suburban works seem like a human desert, barren of the different. A place one tries to escape. And yet, for many of us who are different, the suburban still feels like home. Why is this?

When my family first immigrated in the ‘80s, home was Elwood in Melbourne. It was a town where diversity moved across like a tumbleweed, slowly and often to an extremely clichéd effect. Elwood was a place with only one miscellaneous “Asian” takeout place and dozens of primary school kids who mocked my mum’s affection for “Mao-come Fraser”.

And yet, we, like most people, enjoyed living there. Elwood was a seaside town lined with terraces that spilt laughter and television programs out onto the street from their bosomy verandahs.

Each night we would lie down and watch TV shows, the screen above us glowing with stories, like a light turned on at dusk. Overtime, my family’s gently obsessive viewing of shows like *Neighbours* led to a kind of sympathy for the very suburbanites that mocked us.

We began to invest in the stories of the average Australian family. We cross-gendered and cross-racialised in order to relate to protagonists like Harold the grandfather, or Mrs Kennedy, or Kylie Minogue. What began out of necessity continued in earnest, as if we had worn the proverbial shoes of white, straight, Australians for long enough that they had become comfortable.

Slowly, sympathy for the suburban followed

my sister and me into adulthood – even if intellectually we knew that it was a bad thing. We knew that more people needed to assume the perspectives of queer protagonists, and people of colour, and female characters to see how they too lead remarkably rich lives. But, as with most people who have had the privilege of a progressive education, we struggled to escape our middle class, suburban sympathies. And such sympathies showed.

While watching Eddie Huang’s *Fresh Off The Boat*, we would find ourselves identifying more with the white neighbours and employers observing the Huang family, rather than the Huang family themselves. We too didn’t understand why New Year’s was in February or grasp that Eddie’s parents were from Taiwan and not China. We too thought Eddie’s black bean noodles were gross.

Our experience with Huang’s Australian counterpart, Benjamin Law’s *The Family Law* also betrayed an odd conformity to suburban views of the exotic, albeit in context rather than content. That is, we totally forgot to watch it. The show’s premiere on SBS meant that it, along with its Asian protagonists, came to exist only in the fringes of our cultural landscape.

*Those who condemn Australia’s cultural landscape forget that it is still a work in progress.*

And then the Oscars. Reading #OscarsSoWhite tweets inspired no heretical notions. We had to rely on BuzzFeed articles the next day to understand the nuances of the boycott. It never occurred to us

that actors of colour were either totally absent, or only present in ways that pandered to the beliefs of white viewers. We just accepted that Asians were Kung Fu-fighting heart surgeons.

This acceptance however didn’t stem from apathy. I just always resisted having dramatic things happen to me. Or rather, at least never perceived things that happened to me as being dramatic. The idea that I, as an Asian, was a “victim of racial stereotyping” made me cringe. Yet, however my sister and I understood Asian actors, or the Oscars, or new “progressive” TV shows, the presence of these things undeniably did signal something quite dramatic.

The way we viewed them, even while burdened by conservative, suburban sympathies, embodied the way change had always unfolded: slowly and imperfectly. These things signaled that change had finally come to the heart of suburbia: the living room.

All too often, those who condemn Australia’s cultural landscape forget that it is still a work in progress. Look closely at this landscape 20 years ago and marvel at the development that has occurred. From *Neighbours* and *Home & Away* to shows about a queer, Chinese boy living in suburban Queensland. Our cultural landscape is still being coloured in, it’s still very much in the process of creation.

To this day, my family still lives in Elwood, Melbourne. It has become a suburb of gasping hills and pricking lights. Here the reading bulbs and television boxes of Australian families shine on. Every night, you can still find my family captivated by the stories that made this country. You can still find us cross-gendering and cross-racialising and sympathising.

I long for the day these stories sympathise back.

# This side of home

Yifang Kong tells a tale of two cities

Imagine a white, freezing, and hazy Beijing covered in thick smog, as it was when I went back to my city last December.

People like me – those dwelling in a densely polluted city – get into the habit of checking the pollution index every morning. After the government launched an environmental assessment program estimating the pollution level 24/7, we could easily gain access to the result via apps on our smartphones. Every moment was scaled from zero to 500 and people adapted more and more to heavy numbers as the situation worsened. One hundred to 200 is ‘what a nice day’, 200 to 300 is ‘grab a mask and it’s fine’, 300 to 400 is ‘better skip breakfast at that outdoor pancake cart’, and when the figure soars above 400, you pine for a car. 99 is ‘Incredible! Can’t believe it! Perfect timing for hiking!’ Zero is Sydney.

All windows are tightly shut. The view over my neighborhood is a dramatic scene – secluded, chilly and eternally sluggish.

Two of my foreign friends, Indonesian sisters, planned to visit me at home. One week before they arrived around 4am I woke up struggling to breathe. I was stunned when I found the pollution scale had climbed to exactly 500 on the meter.



Rumours started to accumulate and flow over the city. Some claimed the index was actually above 2000 and, when a similar figure was reached by London in 1952, 4000 citizens died. I was desperately stressed out, wondering whether to ask my friends to cancel their flights.

They landed on a gloomy morning, leaving their sunny island behind and stayed for nine days. We were out for the eight of them. In retrospect, the entire thing was a bit crazy, dragging two souls without any resistance to smog around my old, beloved city.

In smog, cultures clashed. We were in the subway entrance and caught sight of a Chinese guy

tying shoelaces for his girlfriend. We jumped into a debate about feminism. It seemed like they couldn’t help being frightened by the Chinese tone since it sounds like quarreling to them. We argued about politeness. One day we fought because I wanted to take them to the Summer Palace when they insisted on using a precious sunny day to buy fried jackfruit. I called them philistines and lazy. They called me cynical and pretentious.

I am sentimental for those days when my friends and I traded our health to venture into my polluted city, but I secretly hold onto that one sunny day where the glamor of my old city forgave all modern mistakes.

# Impermanent ink

Tansy Gardam hopped off a plane at LAX

It’s 10am on a Thursday, and the waiting room for tattoo removal at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles is already half full. Dr Paula Pearlman, an ER surgeon with over 30 years experience, introduces herself as Dr P to each of her patients, before asking which tattoos they are looking to remove. She is one of over a dozen volunteer doctors at Homeboy who remove gang and potentially employment-jeopardising tattoos for the community. Homeboy has the highest rate of tattoo removal in the United States – and all treatments are free.

Anyone can visit Homeboy for free tattoo removal, although there is a priority list in appointments as well as removals, and the doctors request that while they are removing the tattoo over around 18 months worth of treatment, patients not get any more tattoos.

There’s a priority order for removal: anything gang-related comes first, then visible tattoos on the neck, hands or face. Tulio, Dr P’s first patient for the day, has a pot leaf on his stomach the size of an A4 sheet of paper, but Dr P shakes her head. Mistakes, she says, are the lowest priority, especially ones that can be easily covered when going for a job interview. Tulio seems disappointed, but he’s hardly in a position to complain, especially as Dr P lasers away a large tattoo on his arm and another on his calf. It’s Tulio’s first treatment, and Dr P explains that the laser itself feels like being snapped with hot rubber bands. Halfway through, Tulio jokes that he’s glad for the tinted glasses that protect his eyes and hide his tears.

The laser itself looks like something out of science fiction, though that’s mostly the gyroscopic arm it’s mounted on for ease of manoeuvring. The business end almost looks like a stick mixer, and

it thwaps rhythmically as Dr P traces the tattoos. At first the treatment seems almost too effective – the tattoos fade beautifully – but Dr P explains this is called “laser snow”, where the heat of the laser causes the skin to whiten and fade the tattoo temporarily. By the time Tulio’s treatment is done, the tattoos have returned almost to normal, but will fade over the next six weeks as the cells clear the debris of the ink.

It will take six to eight treatments for the tattoos to fade completely – some of which Tulio will be unable to have done at Homeboy because he’s transferring his job at Home Depot to Vegas, closer to his parents. He works in the garden department, although the pot leaf tattoo probably wasn’t intended as a mark of dedication to his job. Outside of Homeboy, laser tattoo removal can cost around US \$300-\$500 per treatment and is not covered by most health insurance as it is considered a cosmetic surgery.

Dr P has been volunteering at Homeboy for around 12 years now, usually in three hour shifts where she sees around 15 patients. She’s proud of her work, and very precise with the laser. Tulio recommends she take up tattooing herself, with her clean lines and steady hands. She’s not a big fan of the current laser, a newer model which is flashier but less familiar than the larger, older machines that are still in the treatment room. Her biggest achievement, she says, has been in the purchase of a skin cooler – essentially an AC unit with a hose – which reduces pain and blistering when used in tandem with the laser.

She’s seen some serious tattoos in her time. Her strongest memory is of a woman with her postcode tattooed all along her jaw line, complete with the words “fuck off” on her cheeks.

There is another priority in removal, Dr P reveals after seeing her third patient: any tattoo related to domestic violence, abusive relationships or past trauma. With female patients, she largely has a “don’t ask” policy to avoid any triggers. If a woman requests a tattoo that may not

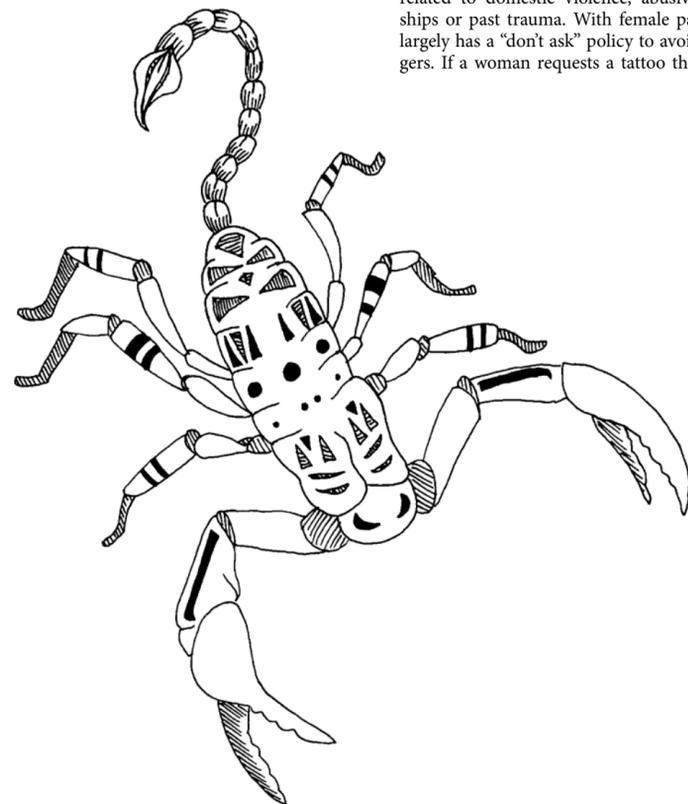
initially meet her criteria, Dr P will give her the benefit of the doubt. She has a similar policy for gang-related tattoos. It’s hard to keep up with the myriad of symbols associated with the gangs, so she’ll remove any that her patients tell her are gang related. Dr P’s third patient of the day – the twin sister of her second – wants to remove a tattoo of a man’s name on her upper chest. He’s an ex, she explains, a gang member who threatened to burn her with acid if she did not get the tattoo. Upon examination, Dr P realises that the last two letters of the tattoo are scarred from the tattoo needle going too deep, and, while she can treat the ink, the scarring will remain. The patient nods, understanding and keen to be rid of the tattoo regardless. She holds her sister’s hand through the painful treatment.

*Her strongest memory is of a woman with her postcode tattooed all along her jaw line, complete with the words “fuck off” on her cheeks.*

Most of Dr P’s patients are having their first or second treatments, though one older woman is onto her fourth, after their first two did nothing to fade her tattoos. They are all of Latin and Hispanic backgrounds, as are most of the Homeboy clientele and the majority of LA gangs. One patient’s moral support talks us through the tattoos he used to have – teardrops on his cheeks, a variety across his neck and skull – which have all been completely removed by the Homeboy doctors.

The last patient I see Dr P with – the older woman on her 4th treatment – compliments the skin cooler, saying it makes the treatment far more bearable. Dr P beams.

“I wish my arms were longer,” she says with a grin, “so I could pat myself on the back.”



# The sex form

Courtney Thompson explores the untapped potential of Google forms

It was a typical Friday night. I was eating pho out of a pot with friends at home while we reflected on our summer. Specifically, the casual sex we'd engaged in and found unfulfilling.

My issue with casual sex is perhaps best expressed by a conversation with my friend as we slurped our noodles. She'd been unable to land a second date. Pondering why this might be, she asked, "What if I'm just bad in bed?" While I was quick to refute the claim (there are no bad lovers, only bad listeners) she continued, "No, but seriously, how would I know?"

In long-term relationships, you're afforded the privilege of an ongoing dialogue regarding your sex. This continual communication manifests in a general improvement of your sexual performance. However, for many of us who have casual sex, this is noticeably absent. You have sex once, maybe twice, and then never speak about it again with that person. This lack of communication leaves little base to improve upon.

Having ruminated on this, I decided to take matters into my own hands. I decided to ask the people I have had sex with for feedback on my sexual performance.

The Google form has become a ubiquitous tool in administration and organisation. I thought it only fitting for it to be the means by which I asked for feedback from all of my previous sexual partners.

The reactions to receiving the form were largely positive; all were quite comfortable with the idea. That is, save for Bob', who voiced his concern with the premise itself, saying he didn't view sex in an easily compartmentalised way. After telling him this was spectacular fodder for the Google form, he filled it out.

## Top four fried foods

Courtney Thompson and Maani Truu

### PICKLES: THE CHIPPENDALE HOTEL (CHIPPENDALE)

M: One word: perfection. Salty, crispy, tangy, slippery, sweet perfection. Good opportunity to align Eastern European heritage with current batter-loving identity. 5/5

C: Despite my initial misgivings, I'm a fan. Probably not a would-stake-out-the-hotel-in-the-hopes-of-meeting-Harry Styles fan, but I would attend the concert of the deep-fried pickle. Salty & crispy, an easy finger-food option. 3.5/5

### ICE CREAM: THE GREEN PALACE (NEWTOWN)

M: Some mysteries will never be explained (the Loch Ness monster, crop circles, where the second sock goes, etc.) and deep-fried ice-cream is one such mystery. Warm and crunchy on the outside, yet, frozen on the inside. A scientific anomaly! Would hit up again. 3/5

C: It is a myth that deep fried ice cream is good. It is NOT. The ice cream was shit and the batter tasted like my foot. If I had to choose between eating the ice cream and sleeping with an improv comedian - I would fuck the comedian. 0/5

### MAC 'N' CHEESE: THE NORFOLK HOTEL (SURRY HILLS)

M: With the key ingredients being cheese, pasta and batter - did you really need us to tell you it's good? A festival of carbs conveniently packaged in mouth-sized balls; easy to shove in your face between sips of beer. My only gripe is the cheese could have been more flavourful, but not everyone can devour a block of blue cheese in one sitting. 4.5/5

C: Deep-fried cheese and pasta - me in a ball. Perfect amount of batter, not too cheesy. Forget about following the Middle Way to reach Nirvana - just eat this delicacy and trust me, deep-fried mac 'n' cheese will be forevermore synonymous with "orgasm". 5/5

### MARS BAR: BLISS & CHIPS (NEWTOWN)

M: For this delicacy I recommend taking a trip to the OG dealer at Bondi, rather than settling for Newtown's vegan alternative. Still an enjoyable experience, but like most things, would have been improved with dairy. 4/5

C: I'm not sure if it was the 'vegan' part or 'deep-fried' part of 'deep-fried vegan mars bar' that has me dubious. I struggle to trust any establishment that advertises itself as a seafood shop - but is vegan? What? WHY? Despite my concerns about the actual ingredients, it was quite good. Goopy and sweet, a decent dessert. 3/5

On average, they rated the sex they had with me an 8.2. While a few explained the rating by saying it was "a lot of fun", Tim waxed lyrical on his frustration with rating systems themselves. "Even if it were a good idea to shoehorn all the complex things we use [sex] for... into a single number," he said, "then they're still nigh on impossible to do usefully." Having insightfully noted this, he complied with the rating system.

I was especially keen to know their feelings on protection and who prompted its use. Alan in particular showed signs of amnesia about our use of protection (I had to be quite adamant about using a condom), saying, "It was mutual and I was glad." Ironically, it was during sex with Alan that the condom came off inside and I had to fish it out of my vagina with my finger. We got another condom and continued. He rated me a seven and a half.

When I asked for specifics on what they did, or did not, enjoy, Tim was the only one who detailed - quite beautifully - a preferred method of performing fellatio: "One hand on the shaft, one on their testicles and sucking the head." He rated me a seven - room for improvement, apparently.

I found this interesting given that while performing fellatio on Tim, I remember him repeatedly telling me how great I was at it. A perfect exemplar of the purpose of the Google form: you end up walking around thinking you're ace at sucking dick when really you're just a seven. To be fair, that rating improved over the course of my experiences with my most recent sexual partner giving me a nine. Practice really does make perfect.

On foreplay, the only respondent who noted more time could have been given was the one where adverse circumstances limited our time (hot tip: you'll need to book a Fisher sound booth for longer than an hour). In comparison, the others - where we had both a bed and more time - all said that an adequate amount of time was given to foreplay, despite having spent less time on it.



Art: Ann Ding

The average woman takes 45 minutes to reach full arousal. Thus, if you're having sex with a woman and not spending at least 30 minutes on foreplay, it could be longer.

One question that produced varied results was whether or not our sex was better or worse than they expected. While one said it was "fun and not overly serious", Tim said it was, "about as good as I expected, which is to say good" and Bob disagreed with the terms of the question, again.

My final question was whether or not, regardless of any other factors of our relationship, they would have sex with me again. 85 per cent said yes, and Bob said no. His philosophical justification - that the question was absolutist and ignored how "decisions to not have sex can be entirely embodied in one party" - served as a reminder of why I've sworn off fucking' philosophy majors.

Sex is not easily quantifiable or able to be neatly summarised. It is complex, nuanced and incredibly subjective. But when you are having casual sex, the absence of an ongoing dialogue can leave you feeling alone and clueless.

This was one woman's pursuit to enable her own improvement as an Independent Woman. What resulted was an elaborate listing for the student newspaper advertising me, my 8.2 rating and a 10/10 Google form.

1. Perhaps unsurprisingly, anonymity was key to getting responses. None of the names are real as a result.
2. Used as both an adjective and a verb.



# The ethics debate

Grace Franki and Andy Zephyr

It was easy to be optimistic walking into an IQ2 debate about trans identities just days before Mardi Gras. This was not the regular crowd. Rather than white, middle-class retirees, the room was buzzing with vibrant members of the queer community. Sadly, what should have been a nuanced, respectful discussion about social inclusion descended into nasty irrelevance.

Perhaps this should have been unsurprising. Following public outcry, the St James Ethics Centre was forced to change the debate from "trans wo/men can never be fe/male" to "society must recognise trans identities". The original topic appeared to have been deliberately divisive and hurtful to members of the transgender community. But, while the wording changed, the debate's sentiment did not.

Pre-debate, just 4 per cent of polled audience members opposed the motion with 76 per cent in favour, and 20 per cent undecided.

The debate started with a moving speech from Peter Hyndal, an advocate for trans recognition in government legislation. Cleverly, he began by speaking about trans identities in the third

person, linguistically implying that he was cis. He influenced those few in the audience who assumed his identity, and finished his speech with trans experiences in the first person.

American activist Andrea James followed, subverting language that assumed a worldly order that transgender fit outside of, whether it be religious, legal or natural order. She also critiqued the Ethics Centre's premise, by acknowledging that acceptance comes from community not society: "nature loves diversity, society hates it."

The negative team was carried by University of Sydney lecturer Bronwyn Winters and the thoroughly unremarkable academic John Haldane. Winters focused on protecting women-born-women and lesbians from perceived bullying and misogyny by "male to female trans-genders" [sic], who, she claimed, use "a narrative of victimhood" to dominate discourse and claim political capital.

Questions from the floor were aplenty, but noticeably dominated by older feminists supporting Winters' perspective. As we progressed, pro-trans narratives became prominent, mostly drawn from personal experiences.

Poignantly, in response to Winters' heartless remarks that "adolescence is traumatic for everyone", a trans student from Newtown High School commented on their school struggles, which could be changed swiftly: inclusion, recognition and kindness. The audience replied with thunderous applause.

For a topic with a reasonably broad scope, the entire discussion repeatedly boiled down to trans women and "gender critical" feminists. Labels such as TERF (trans-exclusionary radical feminist) were shamed by Winters as "extremely damaging", but at the end of the debate still felt fitting. Disappointingly, 20 per cent of people were swayed to vote for the negative in the exit poll, up from 4 per cent. We still have work to do.

It was disappointing the St James Ethics Centre chose to use this platform to give a voice to a small, exclusionary minority. Debates like this are only truly valuable when they approach complex topics with a wealth of respectful opinions. Otherwise, they risk alienating the vulnerable, and do nothing but create controversy from suffering.

# Muzzad skipped a beat

Alexandros Tsathas expected *No Mediocre*. No, mediocre.

Most people have heard DJ Mustard, but few have heard of him.

One of the driving forces behind the revival of West Coast hip-hop in recent years, all his tracks are recognisable through his signature "Muzzad on da beat" intro murmur.

Mustard has gained a reputation in the industry as the go-to producer for artists seeking a super-catchy, super-sampled track for their album. He has worked with the likes of Tinashe, Wiz Khalifa and Tyga to produce popular (and explicit) tunes like *2 On, You and Your Friends* and *Rack City*.

Consistent with his under-the-radar approach to production, the venue for DJ Mustard's only Sydney concert was the Albion Hotel in Paramatta. The Albion is best described as a steakhouse that seems like a great place to host after-work drinks. I was more than happy to run with the entire 'niche-venue' vibe - I thought that any inconvenience caused by its location would be compensated by Mustard's lengthy list of production credits and a pulsating crowd.

I was wrong. Despite initially being as keen

as mustard to watch him spin the 1-2's, his gig unfortunately only represented a paltry suck of the sauce bottle.

His DJing was technically sound-it seems as though even a trained ferret can DJ these days, so I made sure to closely scrutinize his flapping of the crossfader.

Muzzad let the team down with his choice of songs. Rather than a Mustardy slather, his set was dominated by less-popular tracks that weren't his own. He only played for one hour, which was disappointing in itself, so why didn't he lay on the Mustard thick? When *In My Room*, *Whole Lotta Lovin'* and *Right, Left* rang out, the energy ascended to the level it should have been the entire night.

The crowd was also too tame. Maybe it was apprehension about how they would get home. A body-on-body moshpit is what I expected. A sprawling archipelago of groups of friends surrounded by streams of spilled Vodka Red Bulls is a more accurate description of the venue. People seemed to be there to make it look like they were having a good time, rather than actually having a good time.

The night started late and finished early. My cravings for Mustard remain unsatisfied.



Art: Gillian Kayrooz

"His DJing was technically sound-it seems as though even a trained ferret can DJ these days"

#### Selected DJ Mustard production credits:

**Rack City** - Tyga

**Don't Tell 'Em** - Jeremiah ft. YG

**The Fix** - Nelly ft. Jeremiah

**Party Ain't A Party** - Jamie Foxx ft. 2 Chainz

**Summer In The Winter** - Kid Ink ft. Omarion

**Saved** - Ty Dolla \$ign ft. E-40

# A tonic for your woes

Peter Burrell-Sander on the emergin' genius of the gin scene

Hayman's, Poor Tom, Gordon's, Hendricks and Tanqueray. These are not the line-up of a Victorian novel but instead, brands of gin. It's the national drink of England and that's not hard to see, but in Australia gin has carved out its own niche and just won't stop whittling away. Though long associated with retired or older folks, the gin scene here has developed into something that far surpasses its humble origins as the cheapest shot the poor of London could obtain. It's a spirit with a history, but that history is still being made today.

Gin is made using juniper berries and any combination of other botanicals. This allows gin to have wide-ranging and unique flavours, including but in no way limited to rose, coriander, cinnamon and lavender. Many gins are made with citrus botanicals but there exists wide variation – Hendricks is a well-known and popular gin which is in large part flavoured by cucumber essence. Ophir is a citrus gin loaded with spices to create a decidedly savoury liquor. Gin is rarely aged and is therefore a largely clear spirit. It's consumed several different ways – neat, on the rocks, with soda water or with tonic. Snoop Dogg takes his with juice.

Over the past decade or so, the gin scene has really changed both in Australia and globally. It's no longer the sole purview of retirees, no longer as constrained by the gin-making traditions of England, no longer something your friends can laugh you out of the bar for ordering. Several Australian companies now create their own gins, which seek to utilise ingredients other than the Eurocentric staples which dominate most of the alcohol industry.

The most notable example of this is Forty Spotted, a Tasmanian gin crafted only from botanicals native to Tasmania, excepting juniper berries. While Gordon's (the world's best-selling London Dry gin) uses lemon, elderflower and liquorice, Forty Spotted substitutes in Tasmania Aromatic, or pepper-berry. Whether or not you enjoy the resulting unique taste, it is a remarkable break with tradition rarely seen and celebrated in a liquor culture which adores its roots in Europe so very much.

Recently, I was fortunate enough to attend a meeting of a gin club. Gin is, like so many other good spirits, not exactly cheap here in Australia, and this was not a club for retirees. Nonetheless, each attendee brought a quality taster. Not one of us had passed the age of 23 and yet we gathered with our offerings, diverse of gender, with the finest tonics we could afford, to indulge in consumption so pretentious we astounded even ourselves. Flavour profiles were discussed, full-bodiedness debated, and the detrimental, nay, devastating effects of cheap tonics decied.

This is a phenomenon new to Australia. Gin is becoming something that the young have taken up and made their own. Not everyone wants to down vodka shots and chug beers – not that there's anything wrong with that, but if it's not your style and you don't want to give up on alcohol altogether, gin might be worth a try. The closest parallel is scotch and other whiskies, with their established culture. Gin, however, is cheaper, easier, lighter and lacks the same associations with power and wealth.



Art:  
Rina Yang

Gin is undergoing a global revival. New gins are being created and experimented with, and new people are drinking them. Sydney is now home to multiple specialist bars and Australia to over 30 distilleries. Archie Rose is a very popular gin distilled right here in Sydney and their distillery doubles as a gin bar, as many of these do. If you care about the taste of what you're drinking, gin is almost certainly for you. It's a spirit with sufficient complexity to excite anyone who wants to natter on about botanicals for hours, and easy-drinking enough that you can enjoy quite a few gin and tonics over a night without keeling over. That's not even getting into the cocktails – anyone who's picked up a cocktail guide book will know, gin is the spirit. It's great for experimenting with and very adaptable. Be it a drink to take to a party to impress all your friends, as a refreshing beverage on a hot afternoon or something to sip while you write an article, gin suits the situation astoundingly well.

If you'll excuse me, all this has worked up a thirst. Where did I put the Hendricks?

## A few of your options

Windsor Gin \$27-30.  
*Here be dragons.*

Gordon's London Dry \$35-.  
*Your grandparent's drop of choice.*

Bombay Sapphire \$40-45.  
*A classic London Dry, widely regarded.*

Four Pillars Rare Dry, \$68-70.  
*Australian gin, with all the advances that entails.*

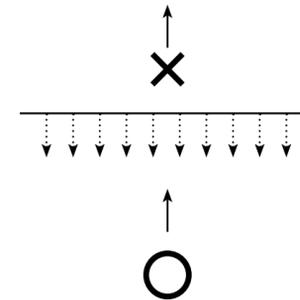
Hendricks \$65+.  
*Half the reason gin is back. It's a game-changer.*

The Botanist Islay Gin \$75+.  
*Costly, but an exemplar of what gin can do.*

# Tryna run game

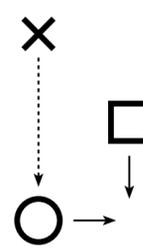
Alexandros Tsathas on how to dodge a frenemy on campus

## THE OFFSIDE TRAP



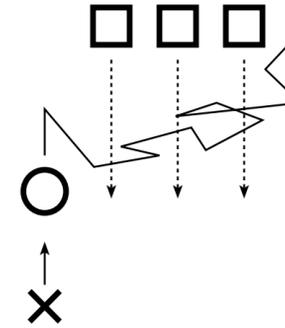
Run this play when you've spotted your frenemy walking ahead of you, in the same direction. Slow down your pace and remain behind them, taking care to stay out of their peripheral vision.

## THE DUMMY



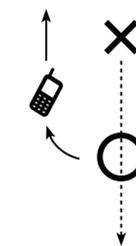
The instant you lock eyes with your frenemy, embrace a nearby stranger—any stranger. Joke with your new best friend about your ludicrous timetable and unrealistic weekly quiz expectations. Any bewildered facial expressions should be beaten out with convincing back-slaps. Frenemies will float right by.

## THE SIDE-STEP



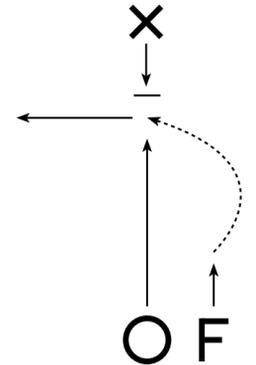
For when you've seen them behind you in the reflection of the UniMart window. Quickly and erratically change your direction. At the last possible moment, dart perilously in front of groups walking the other way. Drop your shoulder across your body to really baffle poursuivants.

## THE SCREEN



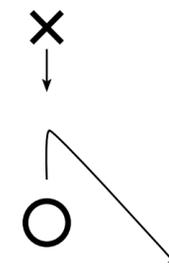
Whip out your phone and shade the side of your face with your palm, as if trying to make out the screen on power-saver mode. Pound the pavement until you've put sufficient distance between you and your frenemy.

## THE ALLEY-OOP



You'll need a close friend for this one. The minute you see your frenemy, instruct your friend to leave your side. Approach the frenemy, hand outstretched, as if to greet them. Your friend should then appear from obscurity to steal the embrace and convincingly play the role of friend who hasn't seen you in years.

## THE FAST BREAK



As soon as you see them, turn and run. Run. Keep running.

# Say no to idols

Justin Pepito would prefer the struggle be real

For years, mainstream media has painted elite athletes as celestial beings. Figures such as Denver Bronco's two-time Superbowl winning quarterback, Peyton Manning, set societal ideals for modern American men, while former NRL player Jarryd Hayne's move to the NFL was akin to Jesus Christ's heavenly ascension.

Elite athletes are expected to do what they can on and off field to maintain perfect personal brands for massive revenue-pushing media agendas. The general public froth over the idea of superhumans, and the sports media industry scrambles endless resources to brand these men and women as paragons of this limitless heroic spirit.

But does a fan's positive idolatry lead to any positive impact for them? Do fans, many of whom see elite athletes as role models, benefit from an untouchable deity? Or do they gain more from a familiar struggler?

Athletes accomplishing great feats under opposing pressures are common in history, but aren't commonly represented. At the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Jesse Owens, an African-American athlete who consistently endured racism, wooed Nazi



Peyton  
Manning

Germany's crowds after placing first in the 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and long jump events; Hitler had used the games and his athletes to showcase a renewed Germany under Aryan dominance. Although fiercely apolitical, Owens' legacy profoundly influenced diversity in American sport.

Struggle tends to outperform success as a common human experience, and the public can

learn more about the winding path to personal success from athletes who suffer major drawbacks. In 1998, American snowboarder Amy Purdy contracted bacterial meningitis and lost her legs. She went on to win several Paralympic and Winter Games titles with prosthetics. Purdy is now a motivational speaker and manages Adaptive Action Sports, an NGO dedicated to reintroducing physically handicapped athletes back to their respective sports.

Cases where an influential figures' struggle becomes a positive inspiration aren't exclusive to sport; a recent American study found that teens performed substantially better when learning about the personal struggles and failed experiments of Albert Einstein and Marie Curie. Again, struggle teaches.

Mainstream media needs to ditch age-old PR perfection and embrace the entire human condition in athletics. Passion, discrimination, rejection, societal oppression, jealousy, power, lust, perseverance and the unrelenting hunger for glory make the games raw and human – let's stop convincing ourselves otherwise.

# PALM SUNDAY RALLY

# WELCOME REFUGEES

**20 MARCH SUNDAY**

**1 PM BELMORE PARK**

**(OPP CENTRAL STATION)  
MARCH TO VICTORIA PARK**

**FOR INFO CALL IAN 0417 275 713  
PENNY 0402 355 205  
PETER 0418 312 301**

**JUSTICE \* PEACE \* UNITY  
CLOSE MANUS! CLOSE NAURU!**

## How to eat at Abercrombie Terrace

### Victoria Zerbst loves a good business luncheon

Abercrombie Terrace, the USU's latest campus food outlet, is situated in the new state-of-the-art Business School.

Like any interaction with Corporate Australia, eating at this venue requires an acknowledgement of, and adherence to, appropriate etiquette and cultural expectations. I have outlined them as follows.

1.0 - Shuffle through the door and marvel at the open space and innovative architecture. A large winding staircase. Wow. You are on time for your business luncheon so you may enter the market.

1.1 - It is customary to scowl at the lonely diner who has claimed a monopoly on the big tables. That is inefficient.

1.2 - Allow your blood pressure to rise.

1.3 - Now walk to the counter and plan your assets. Try not to absorb the tangible anxiety emanating off the staff members when the eggplant stocks plummet. There is one stuffed eggplant left. It is only nine dollars. That is a very good deal.

2.0 - You demand. And they supply. That's how cafés work. Also, economies.

2.1 - When your associates sit down it is common to notice your interest rates in the meal across from you rising. Begin looking into your swap options for all your mates' meals.

2.2 - If you have a comparative advantage in nicoise salad, offer to merge your meal with the chorizo option to your left. This merger is a success.

3.0 - Spicy food is too flavourful for you so you can refinance the Tabasco sauce on your table, and ask for a loan on the café latte that hasn't arrived.

3.1 - Go fetch your cutlery. Two businessmen walk into you at different times. They don't see you. They are too busy. They also have much nicer shoes than you so your aggression rises again. (See 1.2)

3.2 - When your digestive system begins its insider trading, it is time to leave and go back to your portfolio. That is what it means to be in the workforce.

4.0 - You leave with a heavy stomach, heavy heart, and a surprisingly heavy wallet.

4.1 - Abercrombie Terrace: excellent food, sleek interiors and low prices. But at what cost?

### AN(TI)NOTATIONS

## Happy fucking birthday



HON. BOB BALDWIN MP  
Member for Paterson

Dear Maxwell,

It is with great delight that I write to warmly congratulate you on your 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday, celebrated on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2015.

For generations it has been the Australian way to celebrate this occasion, as a time of reaching maturity as well as having responsibilities, challenges and opportunities.

Whatever your future <sup>2</sup> and your chosen career, remember life is what you make it. Enjoy the time you have with family and friends, and the experiences you have that can make you a richer person.

As you celebrate your 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday, I wish you every success for the future.

Warmest regards,

*Bob Baldwin*

The Hon Bob Baldwin MP  
Federal Member for Paterson

1. Has it?

2. I do a B.A

3. See 2

He's a lib

Good font  
Student debt  
Climate change  
laundry

FACT CHECK: true

investing in property  
stocks  
Voting liberal

### Honiscopes

These are horoscopes, according to Marx



**Sagittarius**

As the repulsiveness of the work increases, the wage decreases.



**Leo**

You do not like money, money is the reason you fight.



**Aries**

The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.



**Libra**

Man is the world of man - state, society.



**Taurus**

You are horrified at our intending to do away with private property.



**Scorpio**

The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honored.



**Gemini**

The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil.



**Capricorn**

Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.



**Virgo**

The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas.



**Aquarius**

The last capitalist we hang shall be the one who sold us the rope.



**Cancer**

The more you save - the greater becomes your treasure which neither moths nor dust will devour - your capital.



**Pisces**

To be radical is to grasp things by the root.

Art: Zita Walker

### REVELRY IN REVIEW

#### SUBSKI's Soiree

Frances Magiera

In accordance with the OWeek tradition, the SUBSKI Skiing Society's back-to-semester party was set to make a splash. The theme? "Salt, Sand and Snow"

While the promotion in the weeks leading up to Saturday did not attract as much attention as previous events have, a solid turnout of daytime drinkers filled the Ivy's glistening Poolclub on Saturday - certainly a step up in venue choice.

The society promised some light debauchery with \$5 drinks

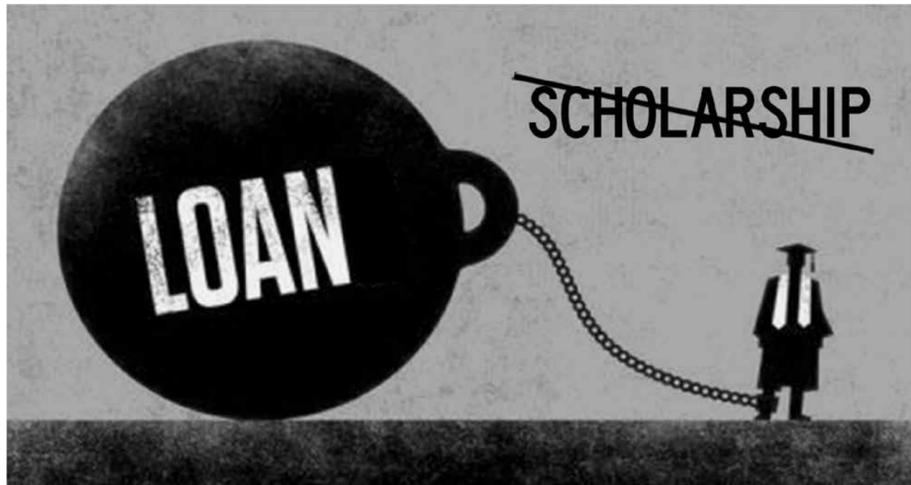
as well as free entry to the Ivy's Pacha level, which normally boasts a \$40 entry fee.

Combining local DJs and shirtless bodies, SUBSKI and their new branding of 'SUBSKI loves you' certainly delivered. However, as the day went on, the party-goers did not.

Poolclub was completely empty by the early evening, and not a single university student was to be found at Pacha downstairs in the night. So was it a success? Most attendees were likely too intoxicated to remember.

But, with the venue's layout, "Salt, Sand and Snow" allowed USyd students to dance, get intimate, and drink away their already-due-assignment stresses heading into week three.

# Scholarship Becomes a Loan For Students Now Applying For Centrelink Payments



### The Old "Student Start Up Scholarship"

Centrelink used to have a Student Start Up Scholarship. That was \$1025 per semester that you could use to buy text books, stationery, and other study expenses. This was a great way to make sure that some students had an opportunity to get what they needed (or at least a reasonable chunk) when starting the semester.

### The New "Student Start Up Loan"

That Scholarship has now been changed to a loan. That is, YOU MUST PAY THIS AMOUNT BACK. New recipients of Youth Allowance and Austudy will be offered this loan. The repayments work the same as HECS, and are subject to a yearly CPI increase. You do not need to repay it until after your HECs debt has been repaid. However, it would be wise to consider whether you want to have that debt, before opting to take out that loan.

### For those current getting the "Student Start Up Scholarship" - take care not to 'break' full time study.

If you currently receive the scholarship you will continue to be eligible for it (as a scholarship not a loan) unless you stop getting the payment for a period and have to re-apply. That is stop being a full time student, such as changing to part-time, deferring or otherwise have a 'break' (including some overseas travel), even if it is for only one semester. While you will not have to pay back what you previously received, any new payment will count as a loan. Seek advice from a SRC caseworker if you want further information about 'breaks' in study.

## Ask Abe



SRC caseworker HELP Q&A

Abe,

What is the deal with being sick? Do I need to tell my lecturers / tutors if I can't come to a class?

Sick Not Tired

Dear Sick Not Tired,

Depending on your course if you miss 10- 20% or more of your classes you might be given an Absent Fail grade. That is regardless of what your marks are for any assessments. If you are going to miss a class it is advisable to get a Professional Practitioner's Certificate (the University's format for a doctor's certificate) from your doctor. It is good manners to email your tutor to explain that you will not be in class. You could take that opportunity to ask what you missed out on, and how you can catch up.

*If you are sick for an assessment you should apply for Special Consideration. Check with your faculty for details on how to apply.*

If you are sick for an assessment you should apply for **Special Consideration**. Check with your faculty for details on how to apply. The rules have changed since 2015. **You now only have 3 working days after the due date to apply.** Do it as early as you can. Late applications may not be considered, so get it in on time (unless extreme circumstances prevent that). Please note that if you are given a supplementary assessment, and you are too sick still (or again) to complete it, you should apply for Special Consideration again.

Abe

SRC Caseworkers offer advice and support on a range of issues including: Academic Issues, Tenancy issues, Centrelink and more. 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Withdrawing from a subject before 31st March SEM 1 August SEM 2 avoids a FAIL on your transcript & HECS\***

\*International students should seek advice about their fees from the International Office or the SRC.

**Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you.**

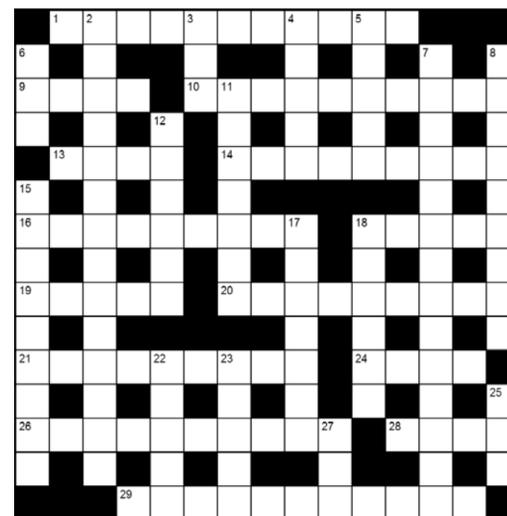
The service is FREE, independent and confidential. Phone for an appointment: (02) 9660 5222

We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)

help@src.usyd.edu.au | src.usyd.edu.au | facebook.com/srchelp

# Cryptic

Crosswords by Sqrl



### ACROSS

- 1 Social leaders nudge demons in disarray (4,2,5)
- 9 I'd see and I'd hear? (4)
- 10 Hence, skies at sea have sassy quality (10)
- 13 Statue is two feet shorter now (4)
- 14 Maybe the kneecap and the top of the head started lobotomy late (9)
- 16 I help myself first. Nothing sounds correct. Is no solution stronger? (9)
- 18 Visitor conjectured soundly (5)
- 19 Thanks, slut, for a wet body (5)
- 20 Whitecollar state in a cull and a mess (9)
- 21 Oceanic bird at sea was futuristic? (9)
- 24 Tease and tease... Finally gets angry (4)
- 26 Leaders' necrotic ear piercing holes rot. Oh my! Not healthiest start for operation. (10)
- 28 Stay away! No enemy initially is cogent. (4)
- 29 Minor email on a bizarre poem (7,4)

### DOWN

- 2 Choose treatment, or back inside current treatment. (14)
- 3 What's up, dwarf? (3)
- 4 Clear above the start (5)
- 5 Doctor: sick practice. (5)
- 6 Half a bean runner? (3)
- 7 Cease! Bogus, strange nation that offers oil ... (9,5)
- 8 ... must have stormy seas and inlet. (9)
- 11 Organic livery? (7)
- 12 Pen my first one, then editor started to thwart. (6)
- 15 Belongs to him, thanks. Mine provokes a reaction? (9)
- 17 Head Greek character in circular section retreated (7)
- 18 Duck in strange tiger's swelling. (6)
- 22 Sure! Matron's last concoction is for the matron. (5)
- 23 Entire NATO talk held inside (5)
- 25 Soaked world's first alien (3)
- 27 New York ends: capital corrupts money (3)

### ACROSS

- 1 Epiphanies (11)
- 9 Inspirational character (4)
- 10 Fast Italian dance (10)
- 13 Make null something already done (4)
- 14 False name (9)
- 16 Backwards enumeration (9)
- 18 Reject disdainfully (5)
- 19 Classical architectural style (5)
- 20 Adjust to a new place (9)
- 21 Boundary between two objects or spaces (9)
- 24 Space just below a roof (4)
- 26 Cataclysmic disaster (10)
- 28 Malicious (4)
- 29 Appeals made using emotional rather than rational arguments (11)

### DOWN

- 2 Process of bleeding (14)
- 3 Rent out (3)
- 4 Livid (5)
- 5 Wellknown (5)
- 6 Bicycle motorcross (3)
- 7 Kissing disease (9,5)
- 8 Someone who desires fighting (9)
- 11 Greek vase (7)
- 12 Written with aesthetic or emotional impact (6)
- 15 Of, or related to the back of the head (9)
- 17 Central part (7)
- 18 Smother, suffocate (6)
- 22 Plunder (5)
- 23 Sacred inner sancta of temples (5)
- 25 Alcoholic beverage (3)
- 27 Ovum (3)

## Target

S	Q	R
L	B	E
E	U	U

Average: 11, Good: 23, Very good: 27, Excellent: 32

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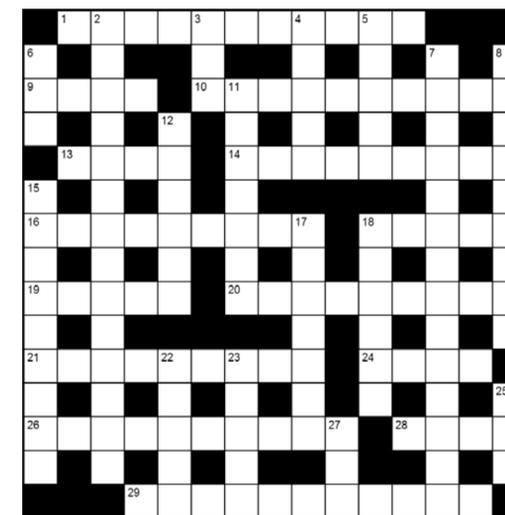
## Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by Atrus

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

Week 2 quiz solutions: 1. University of Western Australia  
 2. Monica Trapaga 3. Six 4. Mark Holden, Ian "Dicko" Dickson, Marcia Hines 5. International House 6. North Queensland Cowboys 7. \$4 8. 1978 9. Troy Grant 10. 17

## Quick



## Quiz

- You board a train at Newtown and travel west for three stops. Which station are you now at?
- Which is bigger: Uranus or Neptune?
- In what year did Dami Im win the X Factor?
- A "shrewdness" is a collective noun for which animal?
- In what year was Michael Spence appointed to Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney?
- The life of which US Founding Father is the subject of a Broadway musical currently playing at Richard Rodgers Theatre?
- Who won the women's final in the Australian Open this year?
- When referring to computer memory, what is RAM an acronym of?
- True or false: the University of Sydney has a collection of buildings called the Demountable Village?
- Which country produces the most avocados?

To learn how to do the cryptic and meet other cruciverbalists, find the **Crossword Society** Thursday 10am-12pm outside Herrmann's.

# The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY 

## The Aboriginal Irish of Australia

By Mike Butler.  
SUPRA Indigenous Officer.

Free film screening: *An Dubh ina Gheal (Assimilation)*

Seeing that for the first time that I can remember there will be no St Patrick's Day parade down Sydney this year, SUPRA is paying its own Indigenous tribute to the Irish with this new film about the ties between the Irish and Australia's First Nations.

The Irish were the first and longest suffering people to be oppressed/colonised by the English (since the 1067 invasion) and Australia's First Nations are some of the last (1788 – present) to live under the yoke of English law.

Given that, it is perhaps unremarkable how many Aboriginal people have Irish heritage – political activists, politicians and members of the Stolen Generations among them – and are proud to claim it. Yet conversely the Irish were embedded into 'white Australia' by assimilation and were fully complicit in the dispossession of the First Nations peoples.

This film is about both. *An Dubh ina Gheal (Assimilation)* is a fascinating documentary that reveals the hidden history of the Irish in Austral-



Gary Foley,  
1971

ia. By balancing the historical, the personal, the poetic and deliberately spoken in mother tongue over English, it crystallises the intimate and complex ties that bind First Nations and the Irish. 55 minutes run time.

**Screening at 6.10pm, Friday 18 March, New Law School Lecture Theatre 024, Darlington Campus.**

## Supervisor of the Year awards for 2016

By Francine Seeto.

SUPRA Student Advice & Advocacy Officer.

This semester SUPRA launched our Supervisor of the Year awards for 2016 to acknowledge and celebrate the many excellent research supervisors at the University of Sydney.

Last year SUPRA conducted a student survey on supervisory bullying at this university and published key findings in an article we ran in Honi.

Our survey found that many research students experienced bullying behaviour by their supervisors and that more than half of students in this situation did not have confidence in their faculty or the University in assisting them. SUPRA called on the University to adopt a zero tolerance approach to supervisory bullying and for new policies to provide a clear pathway for students to follow where they have concerns about supervisory bullying. We also wanted students to have clearer and more effective options for taking a complaint, external to the Faculty and the University.

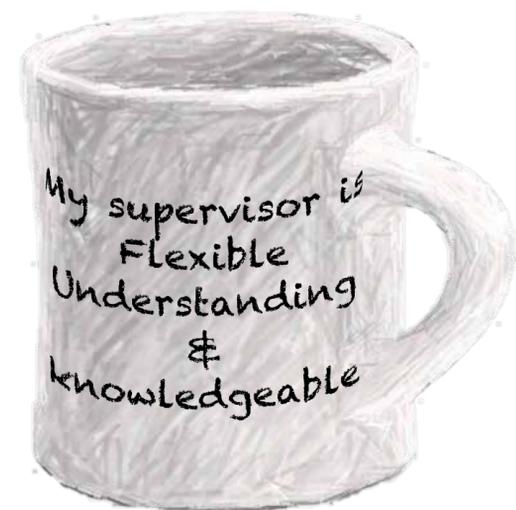
This year SUPRA is pleased the University of Sydney has improved policies for research students who seek an end to unacceptable behaviour by their supervisors. Both the *Harassment and*

*Discrimination Resolution Procedures 2015* and the *Students Complaints Procedures 2015* should provide better protection for students and we will closely monitor how students fare. For our part SUPRA wants to change the culture of higher degree research at Sydney by making excellence – as judged by students and not academics – the most worthy reward for all research supervisors at the University of Sydney. We hope that in time supervisory bullying will not be tolerated anywhere in faculties and that excellent and supportive supervision is the norm.

***This year we have one award available in each faculty so if you have a great supervisor we encourage you to nominate them for SUPRA Supervisor of the Year.***

This year we have one award available in each faculty so if you have a great supervisor we encourage you to nominate them for SUPRA Supervisor of the Year.

Contact [francine.seeto@supra.usyd.edu.au](mailto:francine.seeto@supra.usyd.edu.au)



## Rainbow Community Organises for Refugees

By Rachel Evans.

SUPRA Queer Officer.

Capitalism is constant crisis – revealed with the displacement of sixty million people from their countries in 2015. This year, poverty, war, climate change and persecution forced more people from their homes than the world has ever experienced.

The war, poverty and mass migration forced on poor and working people has polarised opinion. Racism, and homophobia in some regions, are on the rise. Millions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI) and sex and gender diverse identifying (SGDI) face life-threatening persecution. There are around 2.7 billion people living in the 76 countries that criminalise homosexuality. The death penalty for homosexuality is applied in Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. In China several hospitals have been found to use electric shock therapy as “anti-gay treatments.”

Queer refugees flee to escape hanging, state sanctioned murder, beatings from mobs, they flee laws imported from colonial powers and the imperialist-backed, Christian right. David Kato, a Ugandan activist was murdered campaigning against a US Christian right developed anti-gay bill in his country on 26th January 2011. His case reminds us of how dangerous it is for queers in countries where governments are polarising opinion to detract from their corporate crimes, their social crimes.

Contrary to arguments of bigoted conservatives within the global south, homosexuality is not foreign, or alien, or a Western imposition on Africa, Asia or the Middle East.

Anti-gay laws are a colonial imposition - Indian Penal Code Section 377A is a case in point. An article by Han and O'Mahoney *The British Colonial Origins of Anti-Gay Laws*, in the Washington Post notes that 'former British colonies are much more likely to have laws that criminalize homosexual conduct than other states in general. Almost 70 percent of states with a British colonial origin continue to criminalize homosexual conduct.'

In times of economic crisis, rich governments polarise and scapegoat. They use homophobia as they use racism - to break down solidarity - to divide and rule. Despite marriage equality victories sweeping the global north, and some countries in the global south, homophobia is on the rise in Russia, Iraq, Syria, Africa, Indonesia and the arch-enemy of queers - the far right - are getting more organised.

As President of Australia's Human Rights Commission Professor Triggs elucidated at a meeting on February 24th, hosted by the Uniting Church LGBTIQ Refugees: Australia can do more, 'around 175 million people are vulnerable to persecution for sexual and gender identity. Only 250,000 ever achieve the dream of finding asylum.'

A sex and gender diverse identifying (SGDI) refugee can legally seek asylum under the 1951 International Refugee Convention, which Australia signed.

But Australia and its Immigration Minister, its department and all its officials, and Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) members all flout the Convention. They jail children, families, queers, women fleeing torture and persecution in clear violation of the international agreement.

They become the oppressor government by jailing queer refugees in PNG on Manus Island which has 14 years imprisonment for homosexuality. This government demeans SGDI queer refugees in the interview process, they foist a Western 'coming out' and LGBTIQ identity framework on applicants to reduce their chance of success.

These are just some of the questions we know

***“none of us will be free until all of us are free”***

immigration have grilled applicants with: How many partners have you had? Which places have you visited? Can you conduct a secret relationship in your home town? Do you know Madonna? Do you like Graeco-Roman Wrestling? Do you use lube? How many times have you had sex with him/her? Any hesitancy, any slight inconsistencies, are seized upon and refugees are declared untrustworthy.

In one case a strict gay Muslim couple spent a torturous six years back and forth from the RRT

of one woman on Nauru who is being harassed because she is suspected of being a lesbian. We don't know if she is, but we know she is being threatened.'

At the forum it was also revealed there is a Iraqi Muslim transgender person stuck in Indonesia trying to get to Australia. There was also mention of a gay male couple in a Melbourne detention centre. Activists reported one of the couple was raped but cannot report it as the crime was carried out by a senior official.

The rainbow community has had a proud tradition of fighting for queer refugee rights. Activists fought alongside and won the freedom for courageous queer Pakistani Ali Humayan. We battled beside these brave queers and won: Motahar, Biblop, Clary and Walter's queer refugee status. Mass outcry erupted at the news the immigration department was to deport gay Pakistani Ali Choudhry from his long-term partner Dr. Matthew Hynd. We won that campaign too.

We've won an end to children in detention under Howard, the closure of offshore processing. We can win this again, and more. We can win individual cases, and the macro.

But it is hard for SGDI refugees to be public - they have to sign 'codes of conduct', they get bullied by community - rainbow and migrant. We have to be sensitive to this - in the advent they can't go public - we can walk beside them in any way they are able, and hold their flag.

The tide is turning in favor of refugees. Asha and her family and the 267 refugees the government attempts to shunt them back to Nauru and Manus, has led to a tremendous outcry. It is not so much about the 267, it is about the 3500 onshore, it is about the 800 offshore. It is let them all in, it is let them all stay, it is free them all.

And from this revulsion the polls are dipping, the Liberals are now down in two party preferred.

How can the rainbow community do our bit? We can resurrect the 78ers chant 'stop police attacks on gays, women and blacks' and add our sizeable political strength to this great moral fight of our time. We can address the root cause of this crisis.

First world capitalists erect borders against the global south. They scapegoat, smear and jail the poor. They organise the free movement of capital. We need to organise for the free movement of people.

There is significant work being done. Our LGBTI elder leaders - the 1978ers - did a 'Let-ThemLand' photoshoot at a recent QueerThinking forum. The 2016 Mardi Gras Board led a 'Let-ThemStay' chant and action at FairDay.

The Uniting Church LGBTIQ Refugee meeting held 409 people with 60 organisations represented. The 'No Pride In Detention' Mardi Gras float was inundated with requests to participate. The rainbow community is marching, lets us cohere this anger and strike united.

We can make a difference, solidarity is strength and together we are strong. The movie *Pride* shows our proud tradition of standing up for oppressed groups. Victory to the poor, for we are numerous and we will win. Free free the refugees.

**'No Pride in Detention: Queer Block to Palm Sunday rally' meeting at 12:30 on 20th of March, Department Of Immigration And Citizenship, Ground Floor 26 Lee Street, Sydney.**

Rachel Evans is the Queer Officer for Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, a long-term marriage equality and refugee campaigner and Green Left Weekly journalist and socialist activist with the Resistance Club on campus



No Pride in Detention at Mardi Gras

to the courts. This couple was desperate enough to offer to show the RRT them having sex, to prove their homosexuality. The RRT said this was extreme, and once more, refused their application. As an activist lesbian refugee commented at a refugee rights meeting 'there is too much weight placed on storytelling - this is also the power game - a voyeuristic fascination - instead we need to devote more time to the social justice stories.'

It is the principle of the gay liberation movement that none of us will be free until all of us are free.

For this, the rainbow community, as we go into a year where a plebiscite for marriage equality will polarise as well as popularise our rights, we need to remember queer refugees. That we see SGDI refugees, that we love you, that we will fight with every inch of our breath until you are free.

In PNG we know of migration agents who have told refugees to stay in the closet because laws are against them. They cannot apply for asylum to Australian migration and begin their rightful claim for asylum because ALP Prime Minister Julia Gillard rebuilt the Nauru & Manus jail cells then Kevin Rudd declared 'no one who arrives by boat will ever be settled in Australia, they will remain on the islands until a third country accepts them.'

At the ground breaking meeting hosted by the Uniting Church LGBTIQ Refugees: Australia can do more Professor Denis Altman, said 'we know of a gay male couple on Nauru who are not leaving their tent for fear of being bashed. We know

## SRC REPORTS

### President

#### Chloe Smith

This week, I want to talk about Simple Extensions. You've probably heard rumours, whispers, maybe been told one statement that's been contradicted by another. But here's the truth – Simple Extensions are not dead. They are very much alive, but not as you knew them.

Previously, Simple Extensions were only granted in the Arts faculty. They gave students up to five extra days to submit a non-examination assessment, without academic penalty, for reasons that don't require documentation such as minor illness or misadventure. Last year, the university moved to scrap Simple Extensions in favour of a centralised Special Consideration system. The idea was that this would be a better way to keep track of individual issues, rather than relying on individual discretion to grant extensions.

Whilst there may be some benefits of this new system, Simple Extensions are still very important for students. The new system is still experiencing teething problems and anyone who has ever tried to register with Disability Services knows it's not exactly a walk in the park, especially for students with mental/physical illnesses. Sometimes, students don't have the capacity to see a doctor, especially their regular GP or psychiatrist. Sometimes you don't know that there's going to be a problem until the night before a due date. Simple Extensions exist to give students some breathing space in the event that something does happen.

So, what's the go now? Student representatives from the SRC and SUPRA formed a working group with Disability Services and faculty staff and came up with a new matrix, which will see extensions reduced from a maximum of five days to a maximum of two. If an extension is granted, it will not affect a student's ability to also apply for Special Consideration. Importantly, this new matrix will also be available to all schools and faculties. This proposal will be put to Academic Board on March 30 and will hopefully be passed. In the meantime, your student reps are pushing faculties to clearly communicate the situation to all students – that Simple Extensions still exist and that students have a right to them. If you have any questions about the system or the information you're receiving in your courses, get in touch with the SRC caseworkers. Enjoy week three!

### Education Officer

#### Dylan Griffiths

The March 16 rally against the restructure is now a staff and student rally co-hosted by the National Tertiary Education Union. The restructure's faculty amalgamations will see general staff lose their jobs, decreasing support for academics, leading to a decrease in our education quality. This is why we must fight back!

In the University's latest paper on the new degree program 'next steps', Pip Pattison (the DVC, previously employed by Melbourne University) showcases the new Bachelor of Philosophy. Indeed it seems that some of SRCs biggest fears are coming true. Smaller schools and departments will struggle to provide the new 4000 level subjects required for a major under arrangements made by the new B/Phil. One high up academic in the school of Arts and Social Sciences claims this will lead to larger departments adopting the curriculums of smaller ones. It was also reported that the B.phil will also lead to curriculum and staff cuts as small departments, centres, and programs close, unable to provide the with the new degree program.

The B.phil threatens the current honours sys-

#### Note:

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tem. 'Next steps' proposes that B.phil students can be awarded honours if they graduate with a credit average and after the completion of a fourth year project. One academic noted that this new honours system will not qualify students for entry in to PHD programs in the faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). One footnote in the paper noted that the University plans to completely phase-out honours as a pathway towards a PHD moving students into masters programs. But the vast majority of masters' placements are full fee paying, more generalized and two years in length.

Running two honours programs concurrently will place further hurt small departments already underfunded. Vertical degrees are still considered in the new degree structure. Vertical degrees include a generalized undergraduate degree followed by a deregulated postgraduate specialized degree. This is the University's way of shifting a bigger cost onto to students, it will see us spend more time studying at University and see average student debt increase exponentially.

The Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies has also been dragged in to the USYD restructure with the Australian reporting that its independence could be lost through a merger with FAASS.

The SRC will stand up for students and staff! In the first week of semester we hosted an open meeting at SCA. Here students moved a motion with consensus condemning plans to move SCA from Callan Park and merging with FAASS. The Education Officers have been leafleting and lecture bashing classes to promote the March 16th rally, but there is no doubt that the campus needs to activate if we are to stop the restructure. This Wednesday join students and staff marching to Michael Spence's office and demand – NO STAFF CUTS – NO DEGREE CUTS – NO TO SCHOOL AND FACULTY MERGERS.

### Sexual Harrassment Officers

#### Olivia Borgese and Gina Tran

It's more than just 'a joke'. Humour is old, humour is new. It can be basic, convoluted, quick, long-winded and it can be dogs that look like fried chicken. For those who devote their lives to it – it's a daring step into unknown and unsettling territory. But whilst humour (and the internet) are forever, sexism, racism, transphobia, ableism, transmisogyny and queerphobia don't have to be.

An inappropriate joke isn't 'just having a laugh'. We shouldn't have to 'lighten up, relax,' or listen to 'it's ok, I don't actually believe it.' Because no matter what you say they are always doing harm - maybe not to those who hear the joke, but through these every day passing comments they normalise the inferiority of wom\*n and non-cis male bodies in a casual, 'socially accepted' way. These jokes dominate our social spaces and perpetuate the way society still sees us as second-tier, from when we are children, through education, our workplaces, on the street and even our own homes.

As Sexual Harassment Officers, one of our main focuses this semester is to draw awareness to the harmful nature of oppressive comments and jokes.

Offensive jokes follow us everywhere. They might be in a tute, something going viral on social media, a meme, an ad, a lewd caption on a Tinder profile, in your favourite show, or maybe just a conversation at the dinner table with unfortunate family members. Some are subtle, some are more explicit - but all are wrong. There are many different types of uncomfortable - but if you feel hurt, humiliated, offended, uneasy or even if something just doesn't sit right when you hear one of these 'jokes' - it's always right to let them know. (If you feel safe and comfortable doing so!)

It's always more than just 'a joke'.



## When does your student visa run out?

It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with all your student visa conditions, especially the length of stay allowed under your visa entitlement.

You can find out about all the applicable visa conditions and your visa expiry date using the online service (Visa Entitlement Verification Online – "VEVO") on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website. Use this URL: <https://online.immi.gov.au/evo/firstParty>

When accessing this online service, you will need your passport number and other identification details which can be found on the visa grant email sent by the Department.

If you are not sure how to use VEVO or have trouble with this online service, you can get FREE help from the SRC registered migration agent by contacting 9660 5222.

Make sure you put the visa expiry date in your calendar and remember to NOT overstay your visa! Overstaying leads to serious legal consequences which in some situations may require you to leave Australia immediately and you will not be able to come back again for 3 years.

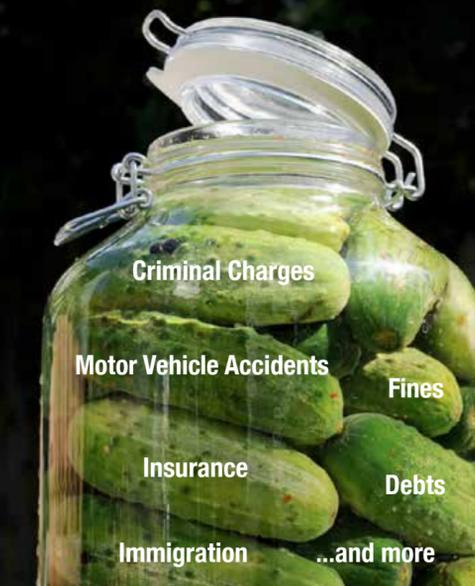


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## DID YOU KNOW?

### The SRC can help with:

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- Tenancy Advice
- Legal Advice
- Special Consideration
- Academic Appeals
- Plagiarism ...and more

Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you.

The service is FREE, independent and confidential.  
Phone for an appointment: (02) 9660 5222

We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)

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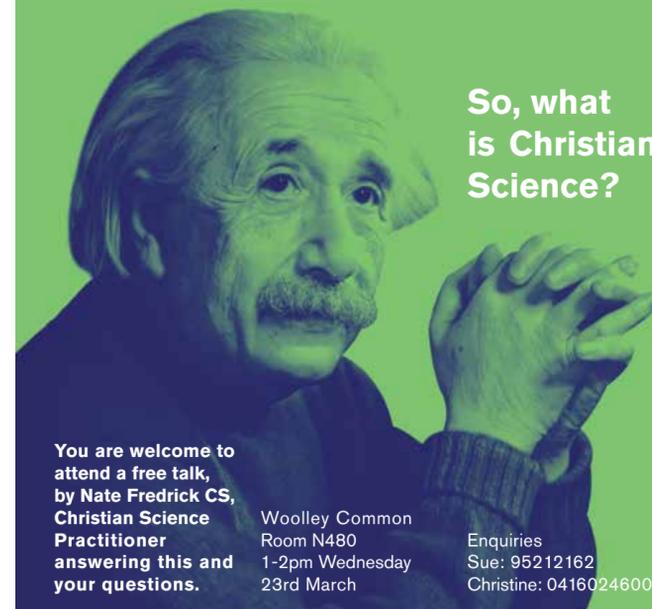
You are welcome to  
attend a free talk,  
by Nate Fredrick CS,  
Christian Science  
Practitioner  
answering this and  
your questions.

Woolley Common  
Room N480  
1-2pm Wednesday  
23rd March

Enquiries  
Sue: 952 12162  
Christine: 0416024600

On April 28, 1954 Albert Einstein  
after attending a Christian Science  
church in New York asked;

“Do you people realise  
what a wonderful thing  
you have?”



So, what  
is Christian  
Science?

## EXCLUSIVE: Abbott's Forthcoming Novel

Colossus or, My Brilliant Career by TonyAbbottMHR 6 Nov 2015  
Political RPF - Australian 20th-21st c

**Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings, Tony Abbott/Greatness, Tony Abbott, Julie Bishop, Browyn Bishop, Malcolm Turnbull, Christopher Pyne, Joe Hockey, The Pope, John Howard, Julia Gillard, Bill Shorten, Alternate Universe, AU: Australia**

The life of a career politician is not an easy one, nor should it be. The task of leading a party, a nation, to greatness, is one of the most demanding endeavours mankind can conceive of. The road to victory is not one to be undertaken lightly, and yet it is one I find myself standing upon today.

Fallen once from grace, cast out by those whom I had given nothing but my highest praises and upmost confidence, I find myself at the beginnings of a very long road indeed. Watch now, dear reader, as I climb my way, once more, to the greatness to which I am destined. WIP, no flamers, don't like don't read

@Oliver Moore

## So, What The FUCK Are These?

Thomas Sydney St John is not angry... just like... curious.

What up readers? Just a quick one for you, anyone down with whatever these things are?

I have been at uni for just over a year now, and not only do I not yet know the precise purpose for and/or motive of these machines - I don't think I've even met a soul yet with the requisite knowledge to fill me in.

Let's start with what I know. They, in fact, are not the Martian transport pods famously depicted by H.G. Wells in his novella *War of the Worlds*. So the most common myth has been debunked, and it gets no clearer from here.

The tri-footed Machine Of My Nightmares generally prefers human company, but apparently can co-exist with others of the same species.

They definitely don't take photos, and I've never been close enough to hear the noises they make.

I recently spoke personally with the Dean of Engineering about this slippery barnacle on the hull of University culture.

I was given his room number through a helpful lady at the general Faculty number, which I was put through to from a not-so-helpful gentleman at the general University help line, who I was put on to after having dialled 000 in a jumbled frenzy due to seeing three of these things pointed at each other in a circle with no humans present.

The Dean, upon hearing my question spluttered out, responded with a tepid, "Oh is that my phone ringing? I think that's my phone ringing...sorry I have to leave the room because my phone is ringing."

In short, if you could please direct any fan theories or instructional blog links through to editors@honisoit.com that would be much appreciated by all.



## Three Relationship Tips From Someone Who's Never Been In A Relationship

Will Edwards is not lonely. He is NOT. Do you think he is lonely? Because he isn't.

### 1: Communicate Effectively

Communication is key. While I haven't tested this myself, because I've never had someone to test it with, I'm certain that talking honestly and openly with your partner is essential to maintaining a healthy relationship.

None of us can read minds, so if you really want to understand each other you need to share your thoughts and feelings. There's no way around it. If you can do that, your relationship has a much higher chance of lasting as long as I hope mine will.

### 2: Make Time For Each Other

I get it, you're busy. But a relationship doesn't just take effort during the courting stages, when you went for romantic dinners and cute day trips that people like me can only dream about. It still requires effort now that you're committed. Even more effort than I put into my fruitless dating app profiles.

You have to find time between your job, studies, and social life to remind your partner why they love you in a way that no one has ever loved me. Try scheduling a weekly date night - or even a whole day each weekend - to keep your passions high.

### 3: Spice Up Your Sex Life

You've been fucking the same way for years now and sure, you still enjoy it, but the prospect doesn't excite you the same way it used to. So why not change the prospect a little? Try new positions, toys, and kinks to keep each other on your toes.

I mean I'd personally settle for any sex at all, or even just a hug every now and then, please, but you've already got more than I have and likely ever will. With demonstrated success like that, you may as well keep aiming higher.

## Best Ways To Spell Annabel Cameron

Written by Annabel Cameron

Annabelle-Cameronne  
Annybel-Camyrin  
Ennabel-Comarun  
Annabbel-Camerin  
Annabel-Cameron

## DEATHAMATION

Ellie Rogers read the defamation Wikipedia page and has things to say about the un-defamable.

### Nancy Reagan:

Looked 60 years old for her entire life. Googling 'nancy reagan young' shows me exactly the same person as 'nancy reagan old'. She also apparently didn't believe in AIDS.

### David Bowie:

*Dancing in the Street* was a sell out and you know it.

### Alan Rickman:

His deep sombre tones haunted me as a child, and now no disapproval feels quite as deep.

### Grandma:

Chocolate slice was always too dry and her house smelled weird.

### Jesus:

Call that wine? More like vinegar.

### Clive Palmer:

Not technically dead, but our lawyers have informed us if we call him a heaving snot-nosed swine it somehow doesn't classify as defamation.

## First Year Student Still Excited

Adam Chalmers met a firsty in the flesh.

Juliette Wakefield - Julez or Julezzy to her friends - described herself as "having a great time at uni" and "still excited" today.

In an exclusive interview with *Honi*, Ms. Wakefield, 18, said she's been "finding lectures hard" but has enjoyed a number of free barbecues.

"I've been to 23 different club events already! I even made a friend at one!" she said, excitedly showing *Honi* a picture of Ms. Abigail Wong, a 19-year-old Archaeology student.

Ms. Wong could not be reached for comment.

Ms. Wakefield has missed "a couple of lectures" but doubts this trend will continue.

"This week was an exception, because I was so excited to go to all these events. Next week I'm going to go to every lecture - even the 8 AM maths one."

Experts remain cautiously optimistic about the claims.

At time of writing, Ms. Wakefield was "very excited to be in a real-life student newspaper!"

## The Qursor Quiz: Iceberg or Cos Lettuce?

Which one are you? Take this quiz by the leafy and occasionally crisp Emma Balfour.

- What sound gives you a chilling shiver?  
(a) A crunch  
(b) A slurp
- What is the horror that burns in your eyes?  
(a) The ground, it is silent  
(b) The sky, it is loud
- What is the worst part of agony?  
(a) When it begins  
(b) The eightieth hour of it
- How do you sleep at night?  
(a) I do not, for I do not trust the darkness  
(b) I wish I could not dream, it would be such peace

**MOSTLY A:**  
You are COS LETTUCE! You are great with most salads, especially Greek style, and brighten up any plate!

**MOSTLY B:**  
You are ICEBERG LETTUCE! Crunchy, pleasant, and pale green, you are a great addition to a Caesar salad, and make for a fine BLT.

**MOSTLY C:**  
Ooh, BOK CHOY, surprise entry. You add a creamy texture to any stir fry or pho - keep doing you, buddy, don't let kale get you down.

## Troll Under Bridge To Return To M4 Motorway

Mary Ward is from Western Sydney and has literally driven a car on this motorway before. Wow. What a diverse comedy writing group.



The troll will return to the M4 motorway, six years after government acquisition of the road resulted in his unemployment.

Vladivard Ygrrelvish, a professional troll of 27 years, said he was glad to have been reinstated to the post he lost in 2010.

"Obviously it's great to be back on the M4," Ygrrelvish said.

Ygrrelvish was first appointed to the position of M4 Troll in 1989, under the Greiner government.

The father of three said he felt there was no substitute for trolls on our roads.

"When they let me go, they said the traffic on both Silverwater Rd and Parramatta Rd was acting as a sufficient deterrent to motorists passing down the M4, but nothing deters a trespasser quite like a good riddle."

## Dog or Muffin?



@Mary Ward

## Trending

[10 things someone else wrote about plagiarism](#)

[Area man reconsiders list of celebrities he would fuck following tragic breakup](#)

[Intersectional bullies not sure which bathrooms to take nerds for headflushing](#)

[7 things you have to do, otherwise you will never, ever die](#)

[+ More John Lennon Tribute Songs](#)

## How Do I Take Care of My Demon Spawn?

Oliver Moore knows soothsayers.

Have you found yourself the new mum of a monster child? Conventional parenting advice just not cutting it with the acid spitting and unruly wings? Here are some top tips from our resident Soothsayer.

Use oven mitts when handling your precious demon. You never know when the cheeky little thing might just burst into flames.

Work on your reflexes. Use a ball to practise ducking and weaving. Before you know it you'll be dodging that spitting acid just as well as Todd keeps dodging those childcare payments.

Invest in some quality swaddling cloths. These can be enormously helpful for keeping extra limbs, tentacles, and tails contained when you're out and about. If fireproofing is an issue, use a fire blanket.

Think of ways you can use your demon spawn to your advantage. When your little one leaves all those holes in the space-time continuum lying around the place, remember they are perfect for nipping back to grab the groceries you forgot.

Remember, parenting is an art. Use the incredible colours of those wonderful body fluids to showcase the experience of parenting such a unique creature.

# STUDENT & STAFF 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**