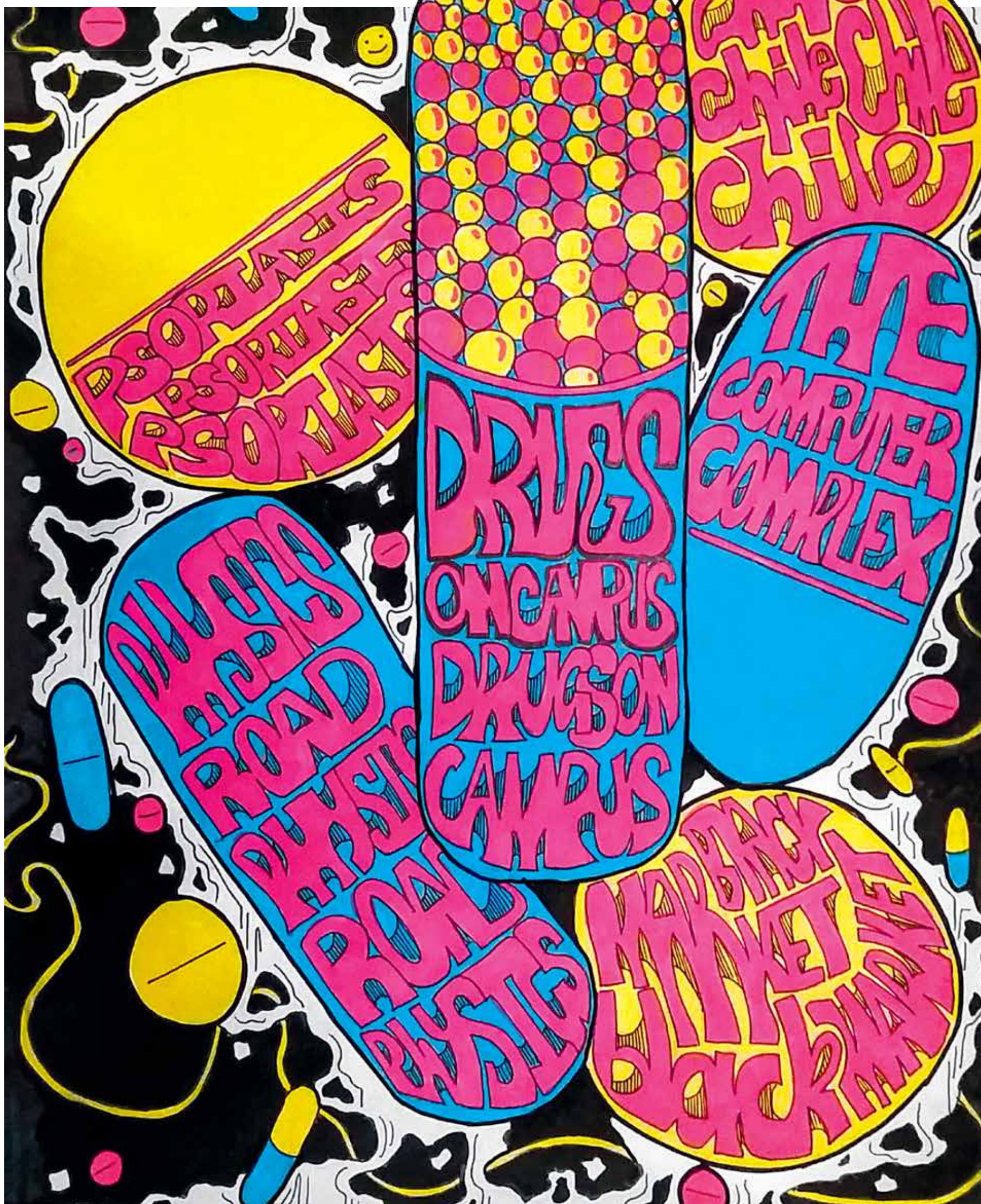


Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • WEEK 9

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Michael Sun and Siobhan Ryan hear nostalgic tales of the "party days": raucous parties from a generation of the broad left merely a couple of elections older than themselves.

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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

Max Hall

There’s a lava lamp on Michael Spence’s desk and I think we can figure out as much about its origin and purpose as we can about any other wretched phenomena on this sun-orbiting rock.

You could be forgiven for thinking last week was somewhat momentous, extraordinary even. The world began its free trial of Tidal, the Papua New Guinean High Court shut down the Manus Island detention centre and Trump surged ever onward.

But let’s not kid ourselves; @Horse_ebooks, may they rest in peace, reminds us that everything happens so much.

A fortnight ago everything was Prince. Maybe this week

everything will be the abject horror of a federal budget.

These pages have everything and it happens so much. Chilean students turn to protest on page eight while Sydney University students turn to drugs, ambition and electoral politics in our feature and USU Board Election coverage.

Psoriasis is everything on page 15. Annual Reports everything on page six. Hell, the squatting rights of pigeons are everything on page 23.

Warm up your lava lamp or help a friend steal the Vice-Chancellor’s. Settle into a deep chair and turn these pages. There is everything. Enjoy.

Lettuce

Tradition

≠

Medicine

As a licensed practitioner in allopathic, or ‘real’ medicine, I am thoroughly done hearing apologists for naturopathy, Traditional Chinese Medicine, chiropractic, acupuncture, and the rest of that rubbish.

I strongly object to the term ‘alternative medicine’ – it implies that these, or any other example, are valid alternatives to real medicine. If a builder offers me the ‘alternative’ of jelly to bricks, I’m choosing another builder.

Previously, we lacked the technology to know what caused illnesses – which is not to say we were less intelligent, we just had less information – but now we do, we no longer need spirits or ‘energies’. Even when not relying on magical

invisible forces, these methods are often just flat wrong. For example, the white patches mentioned in R, Yang’s recent article *Family Practice* are imperfections in the nail matrix caused by trauma. Not zinc deficiency, not ringworm. Eczema? Literally the opposite: caused by an overactive, not weakened, immune system.

Alleged ‘ancient’ origin stories are irrelevant and cultural relativism is just not good enough. We now possess understanding which has taken us beyond bloodletting and eye of newt.

Selfishly saying healthcare is a personal decision is repugnant. Privileging traditional over real medicine because mum and dad said so is not an issue of culture, it’s one of public health – people not treated properly cost the public purse more, and potentially risk others’ lives.

It’s *absolutely imperative* that scientific proof of efficacy be

the *bare minimum* for the use of a treatment, and the fact that this must even be enunciated is insanity! We must approach these ‘traditions’ with the extreme caution warranted by things claiming to hail from the time we believed the planets dictated our lives and lived to the ripe old age of died-in-childbirth.

Furiously,
Joel Hillman
BPharm MPS
HDR I

This college boy is angry

Dear *Honi*,

I read Liss Salander’s piece ‘Inside a college festival’ with some amusement. Salander’s description of the process of ticket-selling by freshers was

certainly more gothic than the architecture of Wesley College, but I fear her imagination has run a little wild.

In her reflection, Ms Salander mentions Surreal Sounds, the annual festival hosted by St Paul’s College. Last year I was a fresher, selling tickets and helping out at the event like everyone else. This year I was one of the seven people who convened it. As such I have ‘seen both sides,’ and have perhaps a little more insight than she into how these events are run.

So freshers ‘have’ to change their profile pictures and wear t-shirts? How awful! I am reminded of when I ‘had’ to change my profile picture to be part of Law Revue last year. Oh, and I ‘had’ to wear a ‘cultish’ Law Revue t-shirt around campus and sell tickets to strangers too! I even wore a shirt for Scoop! Come to think of it, every society, organisation and revue on campus demands t-shirt wearing and changing

of profile pictures ahead of big events. Why does this happen? Maybe because it builds a sense of community—and any community wants its events to be successful. Duh.

There’s neither room nor reason to take Salander’s piece too seriously, but some contrast of experience may be enlightening. As organisers, we never place undue stress on freshers to sell, nor do we expect those who can’t sell tickets to buy them themselves. If Salander’s experience was different, that’s unfortunate. But it is irresponsible of her to generalise about all the colleges so indiscriminately.

Salander’s final throw-away...

Eds: This angry college boy’s letter – labouriously extracted from a PDF – continues on the following page. Please bear with us and the angry college boy, take a deep breath, look beyond the Sexpo advertisement and revue on campus demands t-shirt wearing and changing

LETTERS

Honiscopes

Maxims from Marcus Aurelius’ Meditations



Capricorn

The art of living is more like wrestling than dancing.



Pisces

Nature gives all and takes all back.



Aquarius

What does not benefit the hive does not benefit the bee either.



Scorpio

Jettison the judgement, and you are saved.



Sagittarius

Practice even what you have despaired of mastering.



Leo

There can often be wrongs of omission as well as commission.



Gemini

The best revenge is not to be like your enemy.



Virgo

If it’s not right, don’t do it: if it’s not true, don’t say it.



Aries

Dig inside yourself. Insider there is a spring of goodness ready to gush at any moment, if you keep digging.



Libra

Just as you your bath – all soap, sweat, grime, greasy water, the whole thing disgusting – so is every part of life and every object in it.



Cancer

Disgraceful if, in this life where your body does not fail, your soul should fail you first.



Taurus

What is pain? What is pleasure? What is death? What is fame?

Thurs May 12th, 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Fri May 13th, 12:00 PM - midnight | Sat May 14th, 11:00 AM - midnight | Sun May 15th, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

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- International paintball
- Ricci G from Georgia Shore
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...line made me chuckle: ‘are collegians unable to change their stripes, in the same way the colleges are unable to shed their colonial sandstone walls?’ For the record, Wesley’s walls are mostly brown brick, not sandstone. Perhaps though, she could paint the sandstone bits! Would that maker her feel better? Anything to ensure that all sense of beauty, community or fun is ‘shed’ from our University. Amen.

Then again, what would I know? I suppose my very penning of this letter is just another ‘shameless display of status among the college elite,’ as *Honi* editor Tom Joyner gratuitously wrote in Week 7’s editorial. Have a read. In my opinion, one of the greatest benefits of a college experience is its ability to stop people taking themselves too seriously. Maybe certain people on campus should give it a try.

Time for me to go now, to slip back into my cultish t-shirt and withdraw like the monster I am into my sandstone walls.

What tired, recycled, predictable nonsense. By all means, trash the identity of the University’s 1500 college residents without a shred of objectivity and without regard to your own elite privilege. But that’s not journalism: it’s comedy.

Can’t wait for the next giggle.

John-Patrick Asimakis
Resident Relic
and Cult Worshipper

Considered the possible loss of dignity resulting from submitting a college-fuelled diatribe?

Have you lost your hat too?

You should write a letter.

Send a letter to editors@honisoit.com

by Friday 5pm.

Keep it to maximum

500 words.

NEWS

SATELLITE CAMPUSES

SCA exhibition accused of stigmatising mental health

Alexandros Tsathas

An art exhibition at the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) has been slammed by a psychiatrist and Sydney Medical School associate for its “unethical” representation of mental health care.

Roger Ballen’s “Theatre of the Mind” exhibition, currently on display at SCA, features an installation in the complex’s usually inaccessible basement known as the “Theatre of Darkness”.

It in, manikins, furniture and other objects are arranged in rooms made to look like solitary confinement cells. Pre-recorded screams of “let me out of here” and “help my baby” are played through hidden speakers. The exhibition’s official guide states, “This is the place where people with what nineteenth century medicine might call raving madness were contained.”

The SCA’s Rozelle campus is the former site of the Callan Park Mental Hospital.

According to psychiatrist Dr Richard White, who has published on Australian psychiatric history and interned at Callan Park 40 years ago, it is “unethical to dramatise the space” in such a way, a view he says is shared by many of his colleagues.

“It doesn’t do justice to the nurses, attendants and doctors, who all worked in difficult conditions, and it doesn’t help patients now or back then.”

“There is no evidence patients were ever contained in the so-called ‘dungeons’.” Although a Royal Commission in 1961 found overcrowding and squalor at Callan Park, the solitary confinement of patients in underground cells “simply didn’t happen in Sydney in 1874”.

A University spokesperson said “the content for the exhibition and supporting material

including guides is drawn from research and the expertise of the curator and artist”.

“The history of the site as a place of intense psychological activity and creativity render this a highly suggestive and appropriate place to present an exhibition of Ballen’s work.”

Four other above-ground galleries are lined with pieces in Ballen’s signature aesthetic: black-and-white photographs of the marginalised, poor and mentally-ill in various strained poses.

In a recent Radio National interview, *Arts Today* presenter Michael Cathcart asked Ballen “What would you say to a person on an ethics committee who says that you’re exploiting these people, that they are vulnerable, that you’re posing them the way you want?”

Ballen responded “I would say that person ought to be

committed to an institution.”

According to the University, “the annual exhibition program at the SCA Galleries is agreed by an exhibition programming committee consisting of SCA academics and an external industry specialist. The ethical process for considering exhibitions is part of the role of this committee.” The exhibition closes May 7.

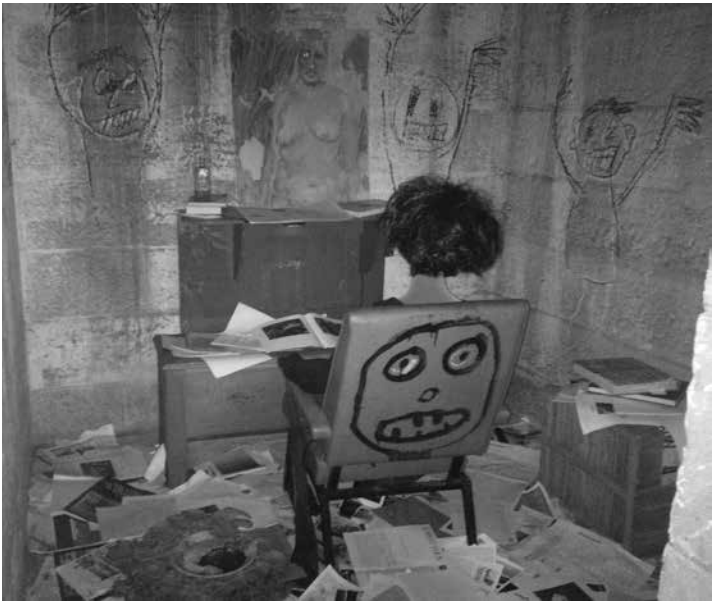


Image from “Theatre of Darkness”



BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

It’s a big campus and a lot happens

Fishing for laughs

Last week the staff of Fisher Library fell victim to a series of prank calls that helped soften the thesis stress of many students studying in the building. At 4:15 pm on Thursday, and 12:30 pm on Friday, Fisher Library staff made an announcement that a “Mazda 2 with the number plate ICUP69” was blocking a car outside the library.

The message was heard throughout the library with some students erupting with laughter and others taking their reactions to Facebook. When contacted, library staff seemed oblivious to the prank. The identity of the prankster remains unknown but if you have any further information feel free to prank email us at editors@honisoit.com.

LifeChoice revived

LifeChoice, a pro-life USU society, was due to hold their annual general meeting (AGM) last Monday. The society, which was founded in 2012, has been thought to be virtually inactive since backlash against the distribution of inaccurate and inflammatory pamphlets regarding the abortion drug RU-486 in 2013.

The group appears to be

revving up again. LifeChoice Sydney’s Facebook page shows an event called “Lifenight for Lifers” on April 22 proclaiming “#wereback” and imploring members to “get your life-loving butts over to...JACKSONS ON GEORGE.” Those who had held concerns about the group’s presence on campus probably don’t have to worry too soon though.

The only people who turned up to the AGM were an *Honi* reporter and two protesters. It was later revealed the meeting had been cancelled, though with no prior public announcement.

Honi understands that disorganisation was a contributing factor. It probably speaks to the dominance of progressivism on campus however, that the only people to turn up to the LifeChoice’s AGM were people seeking to protest it.

Culture wars on campus

A recent USyd Inter-Faculty Pub Crawl has generated heated online debate about cultural appropriation. The event, organised by multiple societies, encouraged Engineering and Information Technology students to dress up “Mexican”.

Student Bridget Harilaou posted on Facebook asking “who on earth decided Mexican and Luau were appropriate themes?”

“Marginalised races and

cultures shouldn’t be used and abused for ‘themes’...I look forward to whoever okayed this contacting me and owning up to this racist mistake”.

In response, other students and certain executive members mocked Harilaou and her profile picture (a promo for ACAR’s upcoming revue) was photoshopped to compare her to a snarling dog.

Honi understands that Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR) officers wrote to the Engineering Undergraduates Association to express concern, and have recently contacted the USU.

SUEUA issued a statement that “the Mexican theme was chosen as a tribute for the many Mexican restaurants that have frequently hosted and catered events for the engineering societies over the past few years... as an executive team of diverse cultural background, we regret that this decision may have caused some personal offence.”

Honi’s take? Don’t dress up as other races.

Spence’s lava lamp

There is a lava lamp on Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence’s desk.

NDA-zed and confused

Physical USU campaigning is set to begin this Wednesday, but

before the A-frames have even hit pavement, drama’s been a-brewin’.

Last week, SRC Education Officers Liam Carrigan and Dylan Griffiths approached the candidates with a proposal to support the National Day of Action (NDA) protest against fee deregulation.

The agreement asked for candidates to stop campaigning for 2 hours on May 11 (the day of the protest); to mention the NDA on all campaign material, A-frames and shirts; and to verbally spruik the protest in lecture bashes and walks.

Honi understands that every candidate, except Esther Shim and the Liberal-endorsed Dom Bondar, signed the accord. Yet a few days later, they began pulling out.

Yifan Kong withdrew entirely, claiming the NDA failed to represent international students.

“The foundation of my USU Board campaign is that international students need to be represented more in student organizations...the main organizer of the NDA, the National Union of Students (NUS), currently does not do much to represent them,” she said.

At the time of the agreement, the NSW NDA did not feature any international student speakers. Carrigan has since approached the organisers about the issue.

Honi understands other candidates remained signatories,

implications for C&S hosting weekly events, like barbeques and drinks. It was justified at the time as a way to “encourage clubs to budget and plan events more strategically by not relying on C&S funding for every event... [providing] executives with stronger event planning and management skills”.

USU BOARD

USU scraps new society funding model after backlash

Alexandros Tsathas

The 10-events-per-semester funding policy introduced by the University of Sydney Union (USU) in January has been repealed at the organisation’s April Board meeting on Friday. Under the policy, Clubs and Societies (C&S) were only subsidised for the first 10 free events held each semester. An attendance fee was required for additional events, or else USU funding could not be claimed.

C&S can now claim their \$4,000 subsidy cap across as many events as they see fit.

The repeal was triggered by a USU survey of 71 C&S, 70 of whom returned negative responses.

Speaking after the meeting, USU Honorary Secretary Shannen Potter said the policy “appeared to cause difficulties for clubs rather than helping them”.

The policy drew criticism when it was introduced due its

implications for C&S hosting weekly events, like barbeques and drinks. It was justified at the time as a way to “encourage clubs to budget and plan events more strategically by not relying on C&S funding for every event... [providing] executives with stronger event planning and management skills”.

Sydney University Pop Culture and Games Society (SUTEKH) President Brendan O’Shea welcomed the reversion.

“I’m glad to hear that the regulations on events funding have been scrapped. Charging for events, especially small socials, presents an obstacle to members and non-members alike. I appreciate the effort made by the board directors to listen to student outcry – it shows that the USU can be held accountable.”

Potter told *Honi* that despite the policy’s demise, “the USU is still very interested in continuing to support C&S in executive skill development”.

STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

SSAF Funding Decided

Max Hall

A University committee has determined the final allocation of 2016 SSAF funds after negotiation between student organisations failed to reach agreement on distribution of the \$14m.

Student organisations were informed of their 2016 funding last week by Professor Tyrone Carlin, the Registrar.

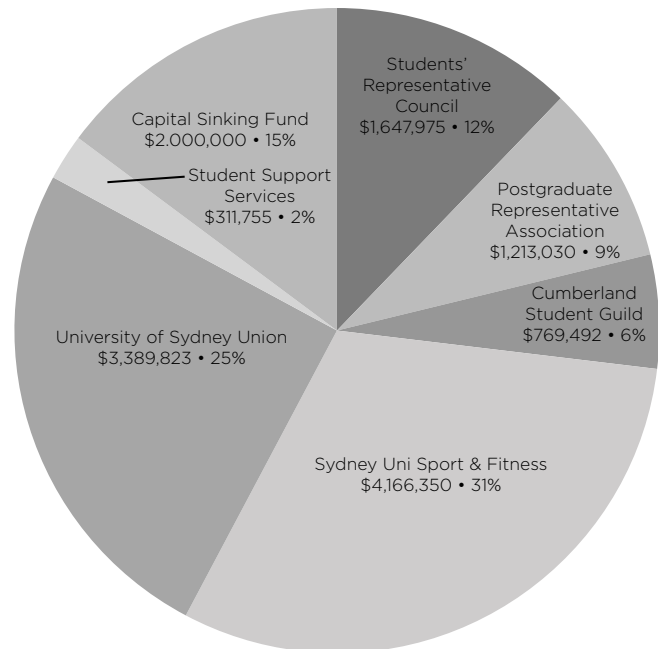
Of the \$1.4m contested by the Students’ Representative Council, Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness, Student Support Services and the Cumberland Student Guild, the SRC will receive \$168,917, the USU \$472,888 and SUPRA

\$255,057. The remaining figures are not yet public.

Honi understands members of the SRC had concerns Carlin informed SUPRA and the USU of the outcome of their bids prior to informing the other student organisations.

“Both of these organisations approached me because of concerns about their financial planning,” Carlin said. “Sympathetic to this I provided an informal briefing to assist them to better understand their likely position, as I would with any organisation that approached me.”

A university spokesperson declined to confirm the funding arrangements before contracts with the University had been signed in May.



OH, SHIT...

Sewage leaks leave SRC offices more than usually full of shit

Sam Langford

A smelly liquid believed to be sewage leaked into the underground offices of the University of Sydney Students’ Representative Council (SRC) in the Wentworth Building on April 20.

The leaks, which began between 3.00 and 3.30pm, affected the President’s office and the Wom*n’s Room, as well as several metres of hallway and the SRC bathrooms.

SRC President Chloe Smith was unable to confirm the source of the leak as plumbing falls outside her constitutionally defined duties. “I can tell you it’s gross, and I don’t want the SRC to pay for it,” she said.

Stacks of excess *Honi Soit* were used to absorb and contain the puddles of sewage. A bystander described the paper as “surprisingly absorbent”.

The SRC offices also house various caseworkers, solicitors, administrative staff, and of course the editors of this student newspaper.

The offices were closed at 4.45pm due to what an SRC Facebook post described euphemistically as “flooding”.

“I was told I would have a lot of shit to deal with in my job, I just didn’t know it would be literal,” SRC Co-General Secretary Georgia Mantle said.

Medicine student left in debt after USyd ‘secretly’ axes rural pathways program

Tom Joyner

A medicine student enrolled in a rural pathways scheme when it was axed by the University of Sydney has been left with \$8,000 redundant HECS debt in a case described as “gross maladministration” by a NSW tribunal.

The pathways program, which guaranteed entry of up to 10 rural students from Southern Cross University who met certain eligibility criteria to Sydney Medical School, was shut down in November 2012 with no announcement or advance warning to students already enrolled.

In a judgment handed down in December, the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal

found that the University of Sydney had acted with “scant regard” to Annabelle Kreutzer, 24, who enrolled in the program in 2012 when she was 20.

“Both universities displayed gross maladministration and a lack of good faith and procedural fairness when they cancelled the pathways program,” the judgment read. “The cancelling was carried out secretly and students were not informed of the termination.”

Kreutzer was already two semesters into her study at Southern Cross University in Lismore when she discovered in February 2013 all mention of the program had disappeared from both universities’ websites.

After making enquiries with

Sydney Medical School, she was told the rural pathways program was no longer running and the University of Sydney no longer had any obligations under its agreement.

“I’m two years behind and an extra year of HECS, and it was quite a stressful time sorting out what’s going on,” she said. “We were doing everything we could, but it’s very difficult when you’re a student trying to talk to a uni which obviously has much more power.”

An ongoing legal battle between the University of Sydney and Kreutzer’s father, Philipp Kreutzer, has seen the case brought to the NSW Ombudsman for mediation.

In March 2015, he wrote

to the University claiming \$375,000 in damages accrued by his daughter.

A spokesperson for the University of Sydney denied Annabelle Kreutzer had been given unfair treatment.

“Since the end of the ‘Rural Pathways Program’ in November 2012, the University has made what it believes to be genuine and good faith attempts to address the concerns raised by Ms Annabelle Kreutzer, and her father, Mr Philipp Kreutzer,” an emailed statement read.

A representative of Sydney Medical School further denied the University had mistreated Ms Kreutzer in an email to Mr Kreutzer in March 2013.

“The University notes that you have asserted that you have

suffered detriment as a consequence of expiry of the pathways program between Sydney and Southern Cross. The University does not share your view,” the email read.

In the termination document for the pathways program, seen by *Honi Soit*, both Southern Cross University and the University of Sydney mutually agreed to disregard a clause in the original agreement that would see them “cooperate fully to make appropriate arrangements for students currently enrolled in the rural pathway program to complete their course of study”.

The University spokesperson said they “hoped” to reach an agreeable outcome for both parties as part of this conciliation.”

NEWS

Why the USU needs a governance shake-up

Kerrod Gream delves into the finances of your Union

The USU has existed in one form or another since 1874, which makes it almost as old as the University of Sydney itself. It owns and manages two bars, multiple food and coffee outlets, two venues and the Wentworth, Holme and Manning buildings. Yet the average student most likely will never see the management behind it, nor the issues the organisation has as a commercial enterprise. The USU turned a small profit in 2013, but ran a \$1.5m loss in 2014. It needs a governance shake-up.

Compared to its peers, the USU releases its annual reports abnormally late. The 2015 annual report is scheduled for release in September of 2016. In comparison, the University's 2015 report is due in May and presented at the AGM. The USU's approach is out of step with pretty much every corporate enterprise that releases financials to members and stakeholders as soon as they are available.

USU President Alisha Aitken-Radburn told *Honi* that the Union's accounts will be released in May (before the report), and further "aren't actually obligated to prepare an annual report because we're an unincorporated entity, but it has been historical practice to do one".

Examining the report reveals more questions. 2014 – the most recent report available – disclosed a \$1 million increase in "employee benefits expenses", a \$300,000 jump in "property expenses" and \$200,000 in "administration expenses". No notes were provided to explain the jump in costs.

Aitken-Radburn told *Honi* the \$1 million growth in employee benefits was due to "CPI salary increases, award rate increases, statutory super increases and additional staff to cater for new outlets such as Courtyard."

The property expenses were attributed to "the USU taking on more costs that were previously paid by the University under our service agreement", while the admin expenses were said to relate mainly to the two Supreme Court cases the USU were involved in in 2014.

Though the above may be a legitimate explanation, a reader is unable to derive this from the annual report produced. Operations aside, another worrying aspect of the report is found in Note

25. In 2014, the 14 member student board was paid \$110,400, while "key management personnel" pulled in \$1,092,031 (including super) – up about 40,000 from the year before (\$1,055,050). These numbers appear to be ridiculously bloated when compared to the University's own key man-

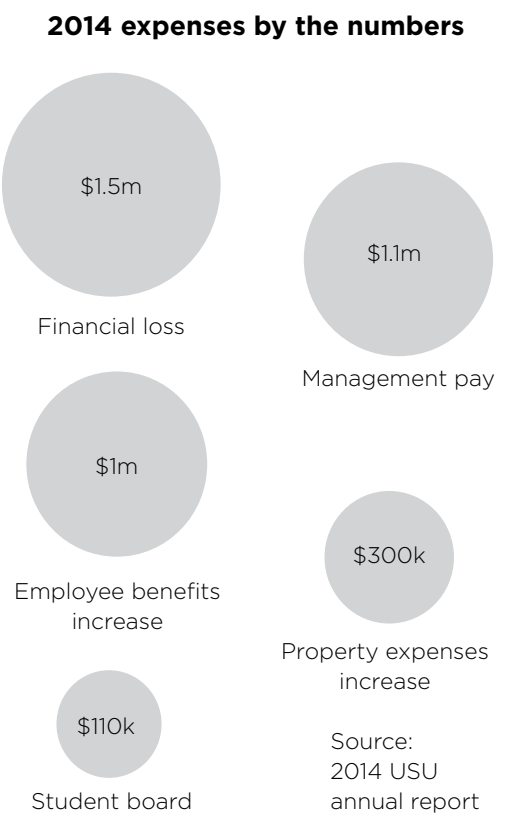
"Despite earning close to 100 times the revenue the Union does, it only pays out four times more to key management. Something doesn't add up."

agement personnel expense. In 2014 the University earned \$1.897 billion but only paid out \$4.1 million to management. That's only 0.22 per cent of its revenue. Partly that's because the Senate (the University's board-equivalent) does its job for free, and partly because key management doesn't cost as much as they do at the USU comparatively.

Put another way, despite earning close to 100 times the revenue the Union does, it only pays out four times more to key management. Something doesn't add up. If there have been protests about how much management is paid at this University, then where are the protests about money being wasted at the Union?

To pay the top people at the USU, you'd need the membership revenue of roughly 16,000 ACCESS students – half the undergraduate student body. Aitken-Radburn told *Honi* the contrast was "just really a maths issue."

"The University employs over 6,500 people



and therefore their key management personnel will represent a tiny percentage of the total staff and therefore cost. The USU on the other hand has less than 100 full time equivalent employees and therefore management personnel represent a higher percentage of the total workforce and cost. "It is important to note that the USU key management personnel earn significantly less than the University staff in key management positions." Transparency is always a key concept every Union Board election, and in this case, we need to begin having a wider investigation into how the Union's finances are operated. In 2015, it received \$3.3 million in SSAF funding, and as members, we should be knowing where our money is going.



Women about campus

Natalie Buckett on the struggles faced by women in student politics



Art: Brigitte Samaha

student political elections do not stop at sexual harassment and verbal abuse. Member of Labor right faction Student Unity Justine Amin says "there's a pressure for you to basically not be an introvert, it's interesting that the nature of what is prescribed as being an introvert is implicitly tied to the notion of being a woman".

Ronan discussed the factional strategy of sending "less experienced belligerent men after other campaigners", often "shadowing" women pursuing votes.

Former *Honi* editor Rebecca Wong observes, "Obviously elections are about contesting physical space. There's a lot of pushing and shoving between campaigners... being blind (as well as small and female), I found that logistically virtually impossible."

Amin notes that "campaigning has shown me my own prejudices... when I'm not feeling too confident I would go for women I think are meek and smaller... I think there are layers of being taken seriously and with every sort of visible oppression you have you're slowly chipped away." Every student election, campaigners swarm international students, particularly women, in a cruel and dismissive strategy to win vulnerable votes.

Feeling like you are being targeted as a woman is exhausting, particularly when intersectional identities are being targeted on multiple fronts. Former University of Technology Student's Association President and current University of Sydney student Andy Zephyr says, "The amount of energy it takes to be a trans woman in student politics is like... it doesn't matter if you're in a faction, you're on your own, you don't have a large number of constituents that understand the perspective that you do."

Once attaining a student representative position, many women felt instances of overt and physical discrimination turned to more insidious sexism surrounding their legitimacy or intelligence. Rahim says, "Being a woman of colour as well, I feel like if I'm speaking in a meeting I need to know what I'm going to say before it goes to the table." SRC President Chloe Smith notes, "Women...often couch what they're saying in passive, apologetic language like 'this might be better if'... or 'sorry, can I just say'". SRC co-General Secretary Georgia Mantle notes, The fact that I'm Indigenous as well... I need to be clear, because as soon as I don't do that... it's like 'she's getting too emotional'".

Some women found that pursuing beliefs or ideologies outside of a traditionally left wing, feminist mold produced immediate and automatic criticism. Amin speaks about her struggle to "assert...legitimacy as a centrist woman" when left-wing groups said "well you have these intersections of oppression so how could you not identify with us?" Zephyr said if perceptions of illegitimacy were not based "on my gendered identity as a trans woman...[it's] in regards to my disability... people look at me and they go you're not even in touch with reality in several aspects of your life, of course I can't trust you".

As their rationality and legitimacy is questioned, women in student politics also faced the undue burden to represent every other member of their identity group when making political decisions. Amin explains the pressure "to be the race activist or the activist woman of colour whereas sometimes...maybe I just want to talk about penalty rates." "Men," she continues, "white men in particular, are never told their [political] position is harming their community group because their community group is never seen as some homogenous identity based grouping that needs protecting or saving".

Aitken-Radburn says the rationales provided by women for specific policies were more likely to be critiqued, "if you're a guy it's much more black and white, it's like they look at the [regulations] and here is the end product, whereas as a woman it's like what groups does she dislike? Who is influencing [her] decision?"

Sexism is not just on the campaign trail or from those in rival factions, women noted it was often men in their immediate circles who perpetuated this inequality. SRC Wom*n's Officer Anna Hush notes the subtle way "administrative or more menial labour often falls to women... things like organising meetings, taking minutes... those kind of things are just often done by women and men assume leadership positions". Frequently, men might not even notice women had assumed these roles. Mantle discusses the small, nagging expectation for women to fulfill domestic tasks in political offices, "Once I came into the Office Bearers' room and there were all these plates and cups... I picked them all up... and started washing up, then a man came in and said 'why are you doing this, it's not your job?' and I had to... say it's because no one else will. This doesn't get done by no one, this gets done behind the scenes and it's usually a woman."

One problem seems to be, in the words of Mantle, progressive men's "ability to think they're better than other men". Co-Education Officer Blythe Worthy says these men pursue activism when women are "working with them or under them, but they don't like it when that activism targets their own propagation of what I like to call "soft-boy sexism". Zephyr notes that political positions are "spaces for power... things like misogyny are really good at dividing and conquering people". Sexism therefore becomes another mechanism of politically edging ahead of your rivals.

A single article could never do justice to the multitude of blatant and insidious experiences of sexism women in student politics face every day. Many of the women I spoke to stressed, importantly, that these experiences shouldn't be a warning against pursuing campus political positions. Instead, their stories are a reminder of how far we have to go before student politics practices the progressive policies it preaches.



All a-loan

EJ Sokias explores the changes to Centrelink's student schemes

Once upon a time, free education was heralded as the progressive push that would break down social barriers and give equal opportunity to all. It lasted 14 years before being scrapped and replaced with the HECS scheme we're all familiar with: study now, pay later. Yes, HECS is meant to ensure equal opportunity. It also ensures across-the-board debt accrual. Rack up a debt, and pay it off later. But don't worry. You're not alone. Everyone does it.

"Pay later" seems to be the same tune the Federal Government is whistling as it implements changes to various Centrelink student schemes. The student "scholarship" schemes Abstudy, Austudy and Youth Allowance have all had a Federal shakeup. Changes do not apply retrospectively, but anyone entering the scheme from 2016 onwards is subject to the new rules. For the uninitiated, the old scheme looks like this:

Every fortnight, a payment is deposited into a student's account. The money helps them afford their living expenses. Additionally, the beginning of each semester brings with it a \$1025 lump-sum "scholarship" to assist with purchasing textbooks. Any income declared by the student will influ-

ence how much they receive from Centrelink.

The new scheme, effective January 2016, changes the \$1025 lump-sum into an optional loan. That is, if you need the money for textbooks, you can still access it, but it will take the form of HECS-style loan.

"The Government's message is resoundingly clear: Australia is inching further and further away from 'free education'."

And herein lies the rub: anyone receiving benefits under the pre-2016 Centrelink scheme, who takes a break from study, must re-apply under the new

scheme when they resume. Taking a break includes:

- taking a semester off studying;
- having six consecutive pay cycles of not receiving student payments due to earnings;
- spending six consecutive pay cycles out of Australia.

This serves as a warning to students under the pre-2016 scheme: think twice before taking time off studying. "Free money" is a thing of the past.

And lo, the "scholarship" became a loan.

The Government's message is resoundingly clear: Australia is inching further and further away from "free education".

With proposals to decrease subsidies for universities – subsequently increasing a degree's cost – and privatisation sweeping higher education, the noose that is the US college system is tightening. The additional burden introduced by Centrelink's scheme change only intensifies the insurmountable debt that students must one day confront.

Ex-treasurer Joe Hockey said it best when he proclaimed "the age of entitlement is over." Indeed, the age of debt has begun, and with it, a belle époque of intergenerational inequity.

Netflix and Chile student activism

Declan Maher looks to examples across the sea for some #activist inspo

A bit over a year ago, unpopular weasel-boy Christopher Pyne tried and fucking failed to deregulate university fees. Now unpopular weasel-boy 2, Simon Birmingham, is trying again.

At times it might feel helpless fighting this Weasel Regime. How do we fight back? Why are their eyes so beady? Why are they so good at digging holes? But there's heaps we can learn from the struggles of students internationally. One of the largest and most successful student movements in recent history has been in Chile.

The Chilean Winter was like a normal winter, but in Chile. It was also an upsurge of student struggle from 2011-2013 that challenged the highly neoliberal structure of the Chilean education system. This system is a legacy of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. Under his rule, Chile had one of the most highly privatised governments in the world. As a result, 84% of all tertiary education in Chile is now for-profit (and 100% of technical education), and Chilean students pay on average three-to-five times more than other students in the OECD.

The Chilean Winter mobilised hundreds of thousands of high school students, university students and workers. Links were built between the student union (CONFECH), and Chile's larg-



Art:
Amandine
Le Bellec

"The evolving Chilean movement can teach us many things here in Australia. Crucially, that political independence from political parties of the establishment is an asset for student unions and movements."

est workers' union, the CTU, which allowed the movement to reflect wider societal discontent.

The upsurge also facilitated the election of a centre-left coalition of parties led by the Chilean Socialist Party, headed by Michelle Bachelet, who promised reforms of the education sector. Bachelet's proposal was to subsidise education for low-income students, whilst still allowing for-profit institutions to operate alongside them. This two-tiered system of education is unpopular amongst students around much of the world – especially in the United States, where collective student debt is over \$1 trillion.

As such, the demands of Chile's students and teachers went further. They sought a complete

break of education from the market, and genuine democratisation of the management of education institutions, so they are run by teachers and students, not a government bureaucracy.

The protests are ongoing. The number of students projected to benefit from Bachelet's reforms was recently downscaled by roughly half due to public spending cuts. In April this year, over 100,000 students and workers again took to the streets, condemning the government for failing to deliver on its promises.

One crucial reason why the Chilean student movement has continued growing since 2011 is the action and perspective of CONFECH. They didn't simply tail a political party, or divert the energies of activists into elections. Instead, they prioritised nationally co-ordinated rallies and involved as many students as possible.

The evolving Chilean movement can teach us many things here in Australia. Crucially, that political independence from political parties of the establishment is an asset for student unions and movements.

The Chilean Winter also drove home that without mass movements championing the interest of students, there is very little counterweight to the greater pressure exerted by the establishment – vice-chancellors, politicians, CEOs and so on, who seek to squeeze every dollar they can from students.

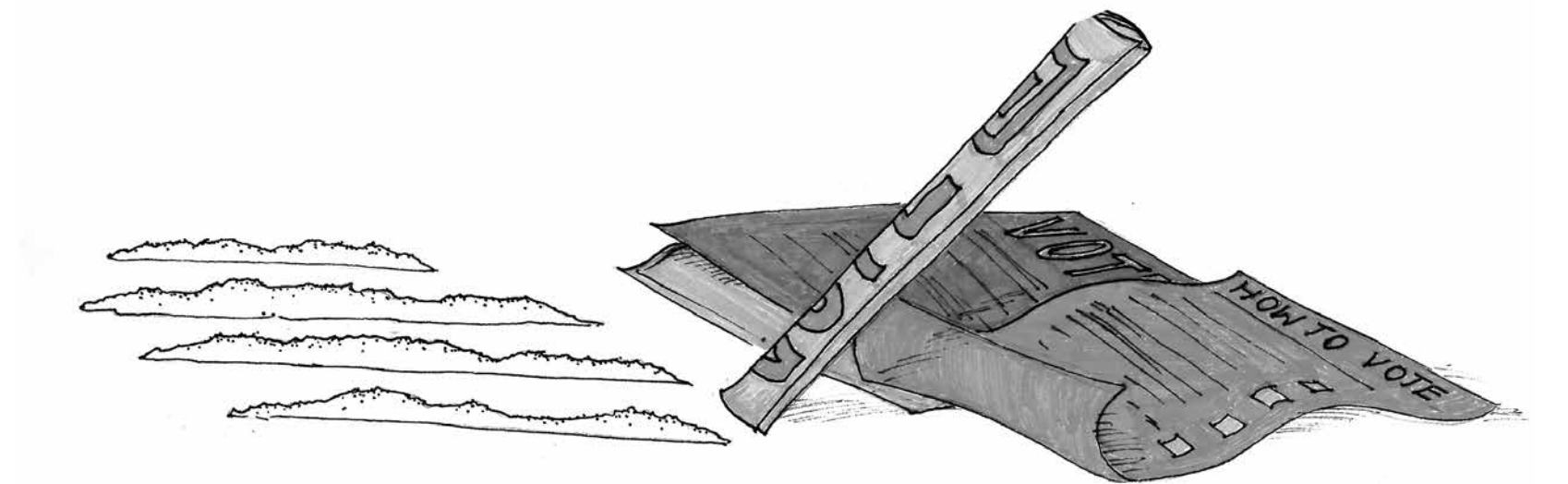
I am sure that higher education will be free again someday. But that sure as fuck isn't going to happen by sinking our hopes and energy into the election of damp Vita-Wheat Bill Shorten. It will happen when masses of students and workers give the powers that be no other choice, and shut down the schools, unis, workplaces until their demands are met.

We aren't there right now, but someday we will be. We can start by defending what we already have. While *Honi* are heaps fascist and won't let me plug this overtly, you should come along to the protest against \$100,000 degrees, 1pm at Fisher Library on May 11.

(sex,) drugs and stupol

When **Michael Sun** and **Siobhan Ryan** entered student politics, they were met with nostalgic tales of the "party days", raucous parties from a generation of the broad left merely a couple of elections older than themselves. They spoke to those who lived them.

Illustrations by **Ann Ding**.



FEATURE

The doormat is wet when Nicole* looks down. It's been raining, and she hasn't changed her sweaty campaign shirt in three (gruelling) days. It's been a particularly volatile campaign. Nicole is happy. She thinks she's happy – it's her first student political victory and she's starting to get caught up in the thrill. She understands the appeal of "stupol" now, but she's wary.

Nicole walks into a kaleidoscopic room. It's messy but not decrepit and the music is almost overbearing. Her eyes dart around, unsure of what to settle on. Bodies blur; mouths move as if controlled by geared mechanics, smiling, emitting pleasantries. It was quieter at the pub they came from, more hesitant even, as they had waited in trepidation for results. But this is different. There's an ecstasy-fuelled splendour in the air.

Or is it MDMA-fuelled? She barely has time to consider the differences between the two before she's pulled into a dance circle that's rapidly spiralling out of control.

Someone shouts in her face and she looks into their dinnerplate eyes.

"Why aren't you on caps?"

It's a refrain that becomes more common as the night progresses. Sometimes it's shouted, other times asked with suspicion, and yet other times as gentle encouragement. Each time she declines with quiet conviction, and even though she takes solace amongst her close friends who have similarly rebuffed offers of illicit drugs, she can't help but feel slightly uncomfortable in a space where she is a Conscientious Objector.

Britney Spears is serenading the partygoers now into a "new era", a new page in stupol. Nicole philosophises on a seat outside.

This is the first, but not the last time this will happen.

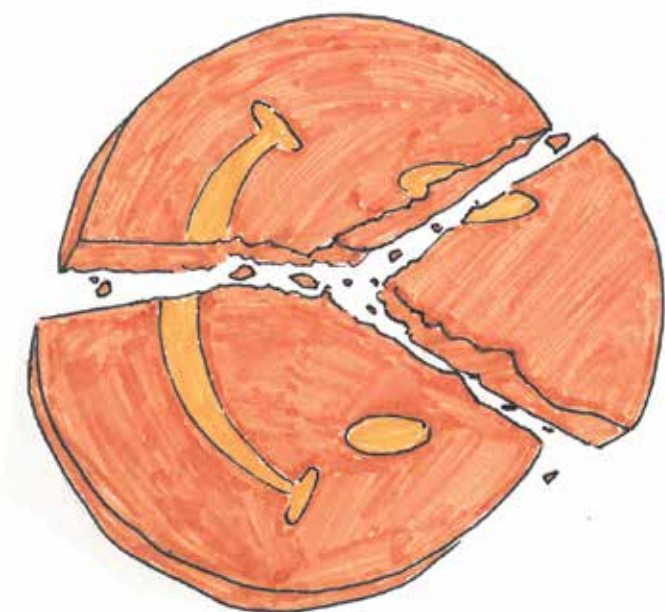
What made us first interested in stories like Nicole's were the whispers we had heard after entering factional student politics last year.**

In passing mentions and unvoiced nuances, we heard tales of the broad left's "party days" – "party", of course, being a thinly veiled euphemism for "drug-fuelled".

"Back in those days..." and "it's not like that anymore" bookended our understanding of the pulsating drug culture that existed in a time before our time, for in the student political arena every few years signifies an overturn of generations.

"Everything I had imagined in Year 9 watching *Skins* was definitely present in the way parties would happen," says Lucy*, a student who's been instrumental in several student political elections, as well as having herself served as an SRC councillor. We are hidden away in a corner behind Eastern Avenue and it is early, too early for anyone to see us.

"So many people would be on caps," she continues. "Even when people were just hanging out cas-



ually in a group, everyone would be smoking weed. There was a very blasé attitude towards drugs."

Lucy recalls one of her own first experiences. She was with friends at a quiet birthday party for a person in the faction she was involved with at that time when a senior Grassroots member approached them and offered them MDMA.

"I was still undecided. Mainly because, in a very 'good girl' way, I wasn't sure if that was 'me'" The member enticed them with the allure of fun, and also promised to walk them through the entire chemical process.

"I felt a little bit coerced, but it's definitely not in the way that you get told in PE in high school. It was because this was someone who I looked up to and I know cared about me, and wouldn't put me in a position where I was unsafe.

"It seemed like a comfortable environment where I could experiment."

This sentiment is shared by Sophie*, who perhaps felt more coerced than Lucy. Sophie's relative distance from student politics, having only been involved in campaigns tangentially through her friends, meant she had never witnessed a "stupol" party. All of her friends, however, had first used MDMA there, and now – ostensibly wanting her to achieve the same plane of experience – urged her to take it with them. "You'll have the best night of your life," they told her. But Sophie was nervous, having only been exposed to "mainstream narratives of it being a really dangerous thing to take".

And thus her first impression of the drug culture in the broad left was one of pressure, shaped by the belief that she would be left out if she didn't join in.

"I felt really intimidated by it," she says.

Eventually, she found herself at her first stupol party. "I was definitely the most nervous of my group," she confesses to us, her anxiety only exacerbated by other members' encouragement, egging her on to take MDMA for the first time.

Distanced from her friends' encouragement, she found herself in a room with a fairly "big name on campus".

"I feel really, really nervous. What if I die?" she asked.

The reply came swiftly: "There is no-one here who is so scared of authority that they wouldn't call an ambulance." Older students also supported first-time MDMA users with constant check-ups throughout the night; bringing them water, checking on their energy levels. Despite her initial anxiety, Sophie came to believe that a stupol party was one of the safest places for drug use.

Part of the reason she felt safe was the seniority of the students who were supplying the substances. However, just as their social standing allows

others to trust them and feel at ease with their experiences, they can also be the ones perpetuating the issue of a problematic drug culture. While she doesn't accuse older students of consciously encouraging younger peers to participate in the culture, Sophie believes the "cults of personality" that stupol crafts inherently pave the path for more well-known figures to act as role models.

"Drugs become an avenue of relating to people who are older than us, and people we admire."

Sophie believes the underlying cause beneath the culture of drug-taking stems from the way student politicians perceive substance use and authority. Drawing off the "ambulance" remark from before, she says the personal connections within the community outweigh the associated risks and fears of authority. "Everybody is quite close, everybody really cares about things deeply," she notes. "There's a very deep sense of intimacy I'd say, and I think people see drugs as something which enhances that."

Despite Lucy and Sophie's experiences stemming from different arenas of USyd's left-wing activist environment, they seem to corroborate in many ways. Just as Sophie affirms her trust in the safety of a stupol environment, so too Lucy recalls one particular incident fondly.

"I hadn't spoken to two of my best friends in ages as we'd had a falling out and we were all high on this bed cuddling and appreciating each other's friendships," she says with a barely contained smile playing on her lips.

"These two or three other women then came over to check that we were okay and consenting. It was sweet. Unnecessary, but sweet that they were looking out for me in a way that was almost too cautious."

However, Lucy said during her time in student activism, senior factional members' generally greater access to substances generated some logical concerns. "Drugs were becoming a coercive tool that was giving some members of the group more power than other members of the group," she explains. The social capital afforded to the members who typically supplied drugs at events became a common topic discussed at factional meetings.

She also thinks drug use is "inevitably going to trickle down" from senior members who just want to enjoy caps or a joint with their close friends, mostly from their faction, to "newer members who will think that it's part of being included".

After her time in the scene, she struggles to come up with a solution. "The only way I can imagine the drug culture not existing is if, almost perversely, senior members restricted themselves from taking drugs at factional events – which would be weird and involve some kind of self-policing.

FEATURE

Throughout our interviews we hear that the constant refrain of "no pressure" echoed by proponents of drug-takers at these factional events alleviated first-time users' anxiety. Trent,* an independent who has been involved in SRC and USU campaigns for the broad left over the past two years, sees this in a less positive light.

"At a party I was at a while ago, a senior figure in stupol approached some first years with MDMA, but some of them expressed hesitation – 'it's my first time'; 'I have bad anxiety and I'm not sure how that would interact with it'."

Trent describes how the senior member, prefacing each statement with "I'm not pressuring you at all", then spent five minutes explaining to them that he had never had any ill-effects of using the drugs and that it would be "the best time of their lives". Although Trent believes this reassurance was generally well intentioned, he also thinks it may be unconsciously coercive – especially in a context where people may feel alienated if they don't want to participate in the drug culture.

In this instance, Trent saw the older student's reassurance lead to some of the students trying the substance – and becoming very distressed under its influence.

Tom,* the most senior figure within student politics who we interviewed, disagrees. Like Sophie, he acknowledges that hierarchies within student politics have been unconsciously reinforced by the drug culture, but stresses it's unfair to criticise those at the top whose personal choices may have incidentally come to influence others.

"We have to respect that this is university and it's a time for learning and experimentation for a lot of people," he says.

Tom was instrumental in his own first experience with drugs, which occurred after his first major campaign win. He captures the excitement he felt as he recounts the experience of encouraging older students to take MDMA with him, but sobers as he explains that the experience came after a "traumatic" campaign.

This pattern became quite common for him for a period of time, as he believes he started using MDMA frequently to deal with distressing periods of his life. "I wanted to run away from my problems," he says.

This is a common thread amongst users of illicit substances in student politics, one that Lucy also identifies. "I think that people in the broad left can have a really tough time of it," she explains, "and I think drugs can be a really easy way to deal with that."

"But more than that...it's also about projecting an image of what we need to look like, as activists."

And so we circle back to the glamorisation of

drug culture not just from popular media, but also from the notes of history. "A lot of narrativising around what the 70s was like still exists," she tells us, and instantly we understand the aesthetic that is still perpetuated by leftist legends of communes and passionate protests and rage-fuelled celebrations.

There also seems to be a preference, in some people, for using illicit substances over alcohol. Sophie leans back recounting conversations at parties where people spoke at length about how they don't drink alcohol because of the type of "drunk" person they are – sad, aggressive – but how MDMA or other illicit make them feel good. "I found that once people get into this drug culture, they become very, very reliant on it."

Unfortunately for them, there's no bottle shop for illicit substances.

Sophie thinks for a minute, her eyes creasing at the edges. "I think the consequence of that is that I know quite a few people who will be on a night out, have no access to things like caps, and they'll be like 'oh, let's just crush a whole lot of' – what's that stuff called? – 'Sudafed'... They're like, 'it makes you jittery'."

Perhaps surprisingly, Sophie's guilt in partaking in the culture doesn't come from breaking the law, or the rules instilled in her by PE teachers and Healthy Harold, but from the very thing that first enticed her into the culture: the safety of taking drugs with the very particular people in student politics.

She sees the idea of having access to "clean drugs" – whose sources are known by the people around you – as a privilege.

"There's a privilege in knowing that the people around you probably won't get into trouble if they did take you to the hospital, and I certainly feel very guilty a lot of the time about partaking in a culture that I think disproportionately affects people who are disadvantaged and don't have that privilege."

"And I think that's something that, given these are groups that care about social justice, and care about the discourses around privilege, isn't discussed enough."

More than a year after Nicole first sat outside, philosophising to the tune of early 2000s pop hits, she's sitting opposite us, brazen and unashamed. What ultimately makes her testimony so brutally honest is her belief the drug culture was not isolated within itself, but actually manifested in other areas of its participants' lifestyles, lifestyles she saw perpetuated by a significant portion of her left-wing student activist friends.

"I had to arrive at their parties early," she

recounts. "Their house was so dirty...it was a terrace and it was just filthy. I had to physically clean up the house before parties and clear away belongings, otherwise they would've been stolen, strewn around on the floor of the living room... There's just so much dysfunction."

After her first experience, she began to buy into the culture, despite her misgivings, spending more and more of her time with certain people who had regular and frequent substance abuse habits. But she was one of the few who successfully extricated themselves. "I was lying on the grass on the front lawn and I was so faded," she says recalling her epiphany. "I was itchy from the grass, but I was scratching my back on the grass. I realised that I needed to stop putting myself in those situations because that wasn't who I was. That house was fucked... my friends were too far gone. I didn't recognise them as the people I first met."

Not everyone was so lucky, however. And while it's apparent that a certain level of respect should be given to individuals' choices regarding consensual drug use, it's only when Nicole tells us this last story that we realise the rampant drug culture within student politics is a zero-sum game.

"I was going to get my groceries one day and I saw someone who I knew from my stupol days, crying in the middle of the street. Clinical depression.

"I have no doubt that it was his weekly substance use – substance abuse – that put the nail in the coffin."

The drug culture experienced by the broad left mere elections ago has come and gone... or perhaps has just spread to other campus groups. As the influence of political organisations like Grassroots has shrunk, the power plays of dealers and first-timers can now be seen replicated across closing night parties and debating tournaments.

Out out of everyone we spoke to, perhaps it is Shoshanna* who best summarises the "party days". Having been involved in the broad left since campaigning for JAM for Honi in 2012, she's seen more student elections than most – yet she's surprisingly concise.

"It's an intense environment," she says, describing the left-wing bubble at USYD. "I think those who choose to get involved are often under immense amounts of pressure to succeed. Win or lose, drugs tend to be an easy way to get release from that pressure."



USU BOARD ELECTIONS

USU Board elections: a primer

WHAT IS THE USU?

In the year of our lord 2016, the nutshell summary of the University of Sydney Union is two rather unsexy words. Service provider. The USU is quasi-political – after all this is an election – but for the lay-student, the USU looms largest through fun and foodstuffs.

The USU owns and operates the Manning, Wentworth and Home buildings and runs the Clubs and Societies program. It's your food and coffee, your beer, your SciSoc camp and GreekSoc cruise. Like love or christmas, the USU is sort of all around us.

Every year, students vie for election to its Board of Directors for a two-year term. Together with the Immediate Past President and two (unelected) Senate-Appointed Directors, the 14-person Board is the highest democratic decision making body in the organisation.

But amidst all the election

promises, the thing to remember is the USU is basically a corporation. It has an appointed CEO, numerous marketing directors and long-term, in-house financial plans. The student board has power, but it's a power one notch below the CEO's. Sometimes, your Board will be hamstrung by the disapproval of a director above them, or tied up by unbreakable, actually legal obligations to the corporation (known as fiduciary duties).

Thus, a large portion of Board meetings and USU operations are secret – for example, we don't know how much the CEO is paid or which outlets are making a loss. The Board has the power to eject *Honi* editors and students from their meetings at any time (known as in camera portions).

We – as students and members – partially fund the USU. Roughly 20% of our \$145 SSAF fee (\$108 if part time) goes to them, as does our \$65-75

ACCESS card, if we buy one.

The USU is a \$22 million organisation. It is hard to change. Its elections breed either cynicism ("it's all just parties") or superficiality ("MORE PARTIES"), but at least the USU offers you one of this campus' rare, now basically-semesterly chances to cast your vote.

WHAT IS A BOARD DIRECTOR?

At any given time, there are 11 elected Board Directors buzzing (in theory) about the Holme Building. This year, we will elect 5. In odd-numbered years, it's 6. Each director is paid \$4400 a year, with a daily \$11 meal allowance from USU outlets. In return, they must attend a monthly meeting, one information meeting a fortnight and one 'working party' meeting a week.

Executive directors (Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary) are

paid roughly \$13,000. The President earns about \$26,000.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

This is your money, your campus and your Union. Board Directors can push for, and vote on fairly substantive things. From gender-inclusive bathrooms, disability access and more.

Then there's the scandals. In 2015, an *Honi* investigation revealed that Directors Liam Carrigan and Robby Magyar abused a USU privilege that granted them free CabCharges to and from Union events. An internal investigation claimed that 23 of Carrigan's 27 CabCharges were invalid, as were eight of Magyar's 12. Both directors offered qualifying conditions and repaid the money – amounting to more than \$500.

In 2013, Director and then Vice-President Tom Raue leaked confidential informa-

tion (citing the public interest) to *Honi* that the University had colluded with a strike-breaking police action that resulted in physical injury to a number of students. The Board's attempt to remove Raue resulted in a lengthy legal stoush in the NSW Supreme Court, racking up a bill of roughly \$50,000.

For better or worse, Raue's actions – which most reckon you could have predicted from his election platform – go some way to demonstrating how much power an individual board director can have.

HOW TO VOTE

For the love of god remember one thing. *You don't need an ACCESS card to vote.* A student ID is enough to nab you a slice of the democratic pie.

The main election day is 18 May but pre-poll opens on 12 May and voting for the Con, SCA and Mallet St is on 17 May.

CANDIDATE LOGOS: UNFORTUNATELY LEGIT



Campaign slogan or monosyllabic FetLife profile? His logo is the meatiest part of his candidacy.



Where is the fifth finger? These aren't hands, they're half-melted forks. In a way, a cycle of endlessly-reaching arms is the perfect symbol for a Union Board campaign.



A shimmy is a half-assed dance move. It's the way a lanky white boy enters their year 10 formal when they couldn't get a date.



The feel when you do your assignment sitting next to a friend.



The feel when you do your assignment sitting next to a friend.



V for Vanessa is the slogan someone named V uses to run to for the office of "Vanessa".



We counted. There are 17 spots.



Can do? Can do what? Will she do? Will anyone let her? Why have you not already done it?



Piracy is a severe issue for the economic and personal safety of people moving through the waters of Somalia. It is a phenomenon which began to occur after the second phase of the Somali Civil War. Typically a pirate attack will occur in the early hours of the morning. The typical strategy is to coordinate a speedy approach by multiple 'skiffs' with slower but...

USU BOARD ELECTIONS

If the world were a better place...



SOME ARBITRARY STATS

Before their social media campaigns went live at midnight on Monday May 2, all of the candidates took the opportunity to change their Facebook profile pictures to a suave, electable photo. To the right are their like counts as of the midnight launch time.

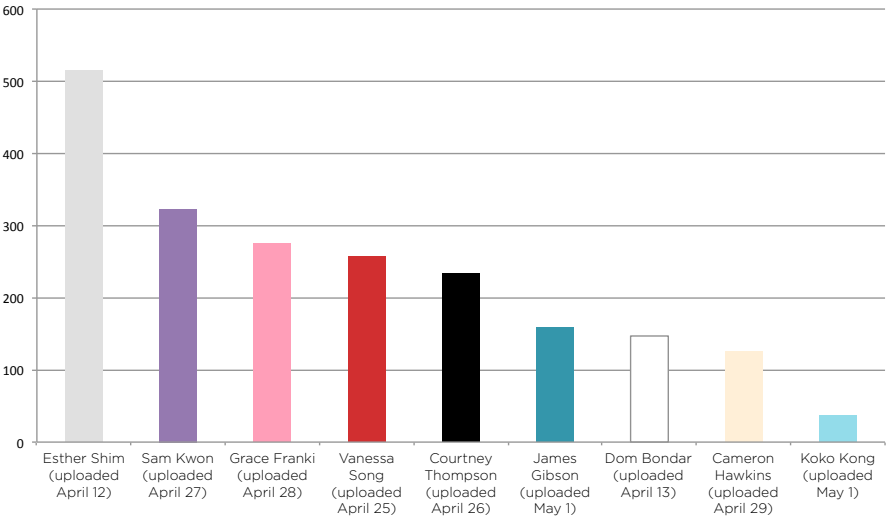
POLICY STATEMENTS BY READABILITY

In case you were hoping to use a candidate's policy statement in a primary school politics class, we ran them a through a Fresch-Kincaid readability test. Behold, the reading age(s) required to engage with this year's stupor:

GRACE FRANKI: 5th grade
SAM KWON: 7th grade
COURTNEY THOMPSON: 7th grade
VANESSA SONG: 10th grade
JAMES GIBSON: 10th grade
DOM BONDAR: 10th grade
KOKO KONG: College level.
ESTHER SHIM: Still on picture books*
CAMERON HAWKINS: Still on picture books*

*no policies online as of obscene AM hour on Monday

CANDIDATES PRE-ELECTION DSLR SHOTS RANKED BY NUMBER OF LIKES*



*This is only good for measuring your ability to convert aggressive friend-requesting behaviour into meaningless internet points so you feel supported in your solipsistic ambition.

PERSPECTIVE

Fuck Physics Road

Sam Gooding doesn't have a very high opinion of mild aerobic exercise

"Physics road is a stain on the face of the university. I hate it, and I cannot deal with it. I would honestly rather swap to a sociology major than have to walk up that road again."

I was speaking with a friend from class about my walk to University that day, and had been (once again) traumatised by my encounter with Physics Road.

"Oh please, you live on campus. I have to get a two hour train from Campbelltown every day."

"Yeah but you only have to walk from Redfern. You obviously don't have to deal with Physics Road," I replied.

She rolled her eyes and walked away, oblivious to her privilege.

I remember my first encounter with Physics Road vividly. From a distance it was quite striking, really. As I approached from the University ovals I could see leafy green trees overlooking an open field and tennis courts, and an inter-war Mediterranean style building on the right hand side of the street.

"What a treat!" I thought to myself. "It's so pretty!" In the ever-vague cautionary words of my mother: "Well you know what thought did?"

As it turned out, walking up Physics Road at 12pm on a 41-degree day was potentially the worst life choice I have ever made (that's including the time I briefly dated an actual member of the Greens party). Class had just ended, and what seemed like hundreds of students suddenly started pouring onto footpaths that were barely a metre wide. To add insult to injury, the gentle – yet never-ending – slope and sun had drenched me in a layer of sweat that would make me the laughing stock of my Contracts tutorial. This may seem a bit dramatic to those of you lucky enough to travel via Redfern, but it

The commuter complex

Erin Jordan ponders privilege on the train to USyd

The world at 5am is a bleak at best. It is the time of pre-dawn, filled with pitiless darkness, lit only by metallic shards of light. My alarm sounds and pulls me from my notably brief and only period of repose. I take no pleasure from this task: I do not jump from the sheets and onto the pavement for a "refreshing" run, nor do I welcome the morning gleefully from a yoga mat whilst sipping green morning juice.

Instead, I awake to join the hoards of my fellow hollowed and sleep-deprived student commuters. Those patched-together legions that are forever in flux, forever just out of the reach of their destination, but *always*, and this is key, on time and there. Together we watch the sunrise through the retro-tinted windows of an old and seemingly equally tired train. I cannot speak for everyone of course, but I derive no pleasure from witnessing this otherworldly phenomenon. It is a blaring reminder that while I have been ripped from my place in bed there are *some* who still remain in its toasty-raptures.

"We have 12 hour days!" my friend Georgia reminds me as we crunch unappetisingly into

our shares of dry cereal. The hassle of carrying milk, we discovered, is just far too difficult. I nod, I am painfully aware of this fact. Over the past weeks of travelling five hours each day, I have started to notice a trend.

Those who are noticeably missing from lecture halls, tutorial rooms and seminars are college students, living a tempting stone's throw away. Those who claim waking up "anymore than 10 minutes before is stupid". As I complete readings and study within the confines of a questionably green train seat, jammed against the window in an attempt to be out of reach of non-deodorant users, I cannot help but feel frustrated by their privilege of proximity.

What would it be like to study without the noise of someone shaving their beard with an electric – and believe me – loud razor aboard city rails innovative 'quiet carriage'? Perhaps it is the privilege of living so close to university, which makes extra-curricular activities, or late nights seem more appetising than the middle-class nuisance of a university education.



Art: Katie Thorburn

was a blatant violation of my most fundamental human right: the right to cleanliness.

Over my years at the University of Sydney one thing has become abundantly clear to me. Our infrastructure and roads are sorely outdated and in need of immediate attention. Instead of constructing that baffling new building to replace Transient, we need to immediately invest in shading, escalators, or literally anything to make the process of walking between Ralph's Café and New Law less of a burden. (By the way, what's up with that new building? It looks like they just ran out of money and said, "fuck it, let's just not render it or put any paneling up. As if anyone will give a shit anyway – I mean look at Carslaw".)

I will not rest until Michael Spence offers his grossly overdue solution to this problem. If you're reading this Michael, don't underestimate my determination. I've kept my Ninten-Dog from running away since 2008.

Student politicians: busted

Samuel Chu on stupol's false promises to Cumbo

Karpaty Credit Union in Lidcombe provides many important services to the local community, including personal banking and insurance. Another, less-celebrated service it provides is sheltering the hordes of USyd students who wait in line for the M92 bus.

"The M92? I never see that bus name around City Road!", the casual reader might exclaim. That casual reader would be correct, as this bus is only found near USyd's Cumberland campus. It is the only full-day operational service linking "Cumbo" to the outside world. But it wasn't always like this.

As the Sydney University Physiotherapy Society's orientation guide explains, "previously, a dedicated shuttle bus ferried students to and from Lidcombe Station every 10-15 minutes, all day long. This shuttle bus ran in conjunction with the M92 service... Then Transport NSW ceased operation of the dedicated shuttle bus, presumably because it was not cost-effective".

Cost-effectiveness. Understandable, but unsurprising.

"But nothing new for Cumbo, which, in the eyes of student politicians, is viewed as a dispensable pawn."

In response, waves of prospective SRC councillors have pledged to reinstate the shuttle. In 2012, Isabelle King promised to "stand up" for the return of a free shuttle bus, going so far as to propose a 30-minute shuttle between Cumberland and Camperdown. In 2014, another ticket, #CumboRepresent, campaigned with a mandate to improve Cumbo's general availability of services, including the provision of "FREE regular Lidcombe station shuttle buses".

One of the ticket members, Elizabeth Li, outlines their success: "We were able to push to get the [late-night] shuttle buses to start at 5:30pm", instead of their prior starting time of 6:30pm.

A lofty election promise. A paltry outcome. But nothing new for Cumbo, which, in the eyes of student politicians, is viewed as a dispensable political pawn. A Zoe Barnes to their Frank Underwood. If harnessed correctly, the campus represents hundreds of uncontested votes. As an added bonus, Cumbo's students are geographically removed and overwhelmingly uninitiated in stupol. More often than not, they do not understand the positions being contested, or even what different student organisations do. All this naivety means there is no holding to account on the pipe-dreams sold to them during elections.

Cumberland deserves better. Candidates should take a genuine, not tokenistic view of this satellite campus, which comprises 10 per cent of the student population. They wouldn't spin such abject lies to stupol-savvy main campus folk, why should they be allowed to get away with it at Cumbo? This is not just another case of student politicians making promises they can't keep. It's a chronic, concerted attack on the uninitiated that needs to be addressed, with regulations if necessary.

PERSPECTIVE

Kim, Cara and the rest of us

Liam Carrigan and Subeta Vimalarajah on why they split with Storm Model Management

Before Kanye, or even her ill-advised 72-day marriage to Kris Humphries, Kim Kardashian came out as a psoriasis sufferer.

A true activist, with her 2011 admission Kim championed the plight of the 2.6 per cent of people who suffer with the non-contagious, hereditary skin condition, catapulting it into the public's consciousness.

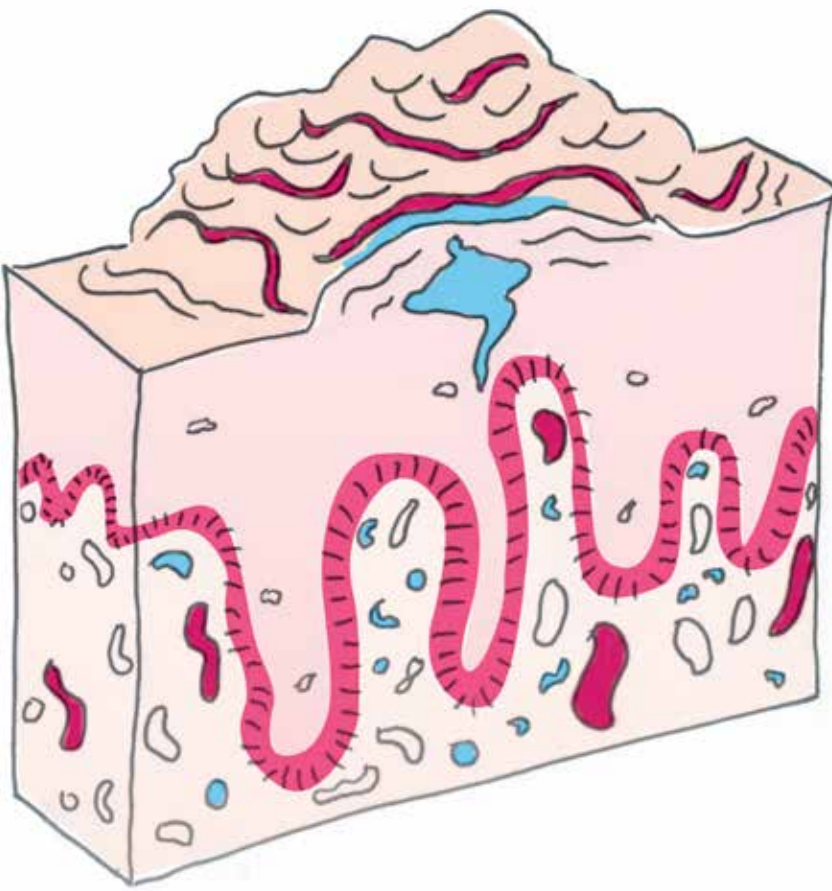
Psoriasis is caused when skin grows too fast. Cells pile up instead of falling away on their own, causing red marks covered in dead skin that are usually prominent on one's elbows, knees and all over one's fucking body.

Kim is not the only A-lister to suffer from the condition. Cara Delevingne's illustrious modeling career was cut short after her struggle with psoriasis. Just last month, the condition took another victim: everyone's (self-described) favourite controversial campus personality, Liam Carrigan, who cites "sectarianism in the education movement" as the trigger for his flakey elbows.

While it's not leprosy, as Cara initially self-diagnosed, with triggers including stress, drugs, smoking and alcohol, it's hardly ideal for the average university student (or model). A lack of knowledge about psoriasis has left many unable to ask for help. Our Cara tells the story of how Kate Moss stepped up as others shamed her from a distance.

"A nicotine habit, love of dirty mimosas (goon with orange juice) and the stresses of student unionism means he slathers himself in Daivobet to keep his affliction at bay."

Witnessing a makeup artist smothering Cara's psoriasis with concealer before a Louis Vuitton show, Kate made sure Cara saw a doctor the next day. While fifth-year USyd law student Subeta Vimalarajah is not a chain-smoking British supermodel, she also managed to calm Liam's initial



Art: Sam Langford

¹In this article. Which he wrote.
²An ointment prescribed for psoriasis.
³Although, crucially, not an author of this piece.

concerns by sharing her history with the condition.

It wasn't the stress of 53 runway shows over Paris Fashion Week that got Subeta, but the comparable stress of the journey to becoming dux of year six at Ermington Public School.

Years later, she had put the reality of the condition behind her when a Facebook status from Liam caught her attention: "Apparently I have psoriasis like Kim Kardashian! Fame and glamour!"

Now, whenever Subeta sees Kimmy on TV, she softly chants, "One of us, one of us."

Liam and Subeta's responses to the diagnosis have been notably distinct.

"I don't really drink any alcohol and don't smoke. I actually went substance free last year because I couldn't deal with my psoriasis flaring up all the time," Subeta tells *Honi*.

Unfortunately, Liam confesses¹ he has not been as responsible. "It's always been my motto that if you wanna have a dart, have a dart," he says. A nicotine habit, love of dirty mimosas (goon with orange juice) and the stresses of student unionism mean he slathers himself in Daivobet² to keep his affliction at bay.

Psoriasis most commonly develops in people aged between 15 and 35. It is basically incurable. One of the only known ways to completely treat the condition is light laser treatment, which increases one's risk of skin cancer.

Lane Pitcher, also a sufferer,³ divulges to *Honi*, "Classic Lane decides to do light therapy because it's the only way you can still drink and look hot." The 20-year-old's choice came after months trying various treatments, even resorting to a naturopath.

"The diet was insane, it all had to be organic and I couldn't eat 'night shade foods'. Then I had to do this skin regime, where I washed myself in this tar soap twice a day, including my scalp. After I got out of the shower I'd have to rub this horrific cream over myself," she explains.

With summer looming, Lane gave in. "It was this pressure my mum instilled in me. I remember her saying to me when I was young that I had a responsibility to be presentable to a future partner," she says. *Honi* understands Kris Jenner instilled a similar pressure in Kim post-Kris Humphries.

The desire to impress a future partner, or more realistically, a one night stand, also weighs heavily on Liam. "I had previously worked through the majority of my sexual and body image issues, and trust me there were a few as I was the fat gay

Psoriasis: the 411 (the low down)

Psoriasis is a long-lasting autoimmune disease characterised by patches of abnormal skin that are typically red, itchy and flakey. It is a genetic condition triggered by environmental factors.

Treatments include steroid creams, which about 75% of people manage with. It varies in severity, with 90% of cases being "psoriasis vulgaris", the least severe type.

kid in high school! Psoriasis brought them back again. I started feeling anxiety that people I was going on dates with would think I had a contagious condition. To avoid any awkwardness I've been turning the lights off," he says.

"In the battle with improving my psoriasis and white beauty norms, I went with psoriasis."

As well as ointments and creams, sun exposure is recommended as a method of moderating psoriasis. For Subeta however, this posed a greater obstacle than not drinking. "I'd spend time in the sun, and then feel shit about my skin getting dark. In the battle between improving my psoriasis and white beauty norms, I went with psoriasis. As a result, I usually wear covered clothing, but I'd prefer that to a dark tan, as terrible as it sounds," says the insecure Sri Lankan woman.

For those who have mild psoriasis, it's often nothing more than an entertaining episode in a generally dramatic life. "For some people, this could fuck them up and upset them, but I've got bigger problems. Severe ADHD and fighting capitalism you know," Liam says. The trials and tribulations of psoriasis sufferers are not on par with world hunger or the refugee crisis, but they are real, and there is no need to be scared next time you see one. After all, they might be Kim or Cara.

The breast milk black market

Maani Truu explores the online communities sharing breast milk

Hi. I have approx. 900 ml of breast milk in freezer expressed in March. Pick up from Sydney. Non smoker, non drinker. Not on medication or drugs. Bub is currently 6 months.

For most of us, this isn't a typical post we'd see scrolling through our Facebook feeds, but for users of the NSW page of Human Milk for Human Babies (HM4HB), it's nothing out of the ordinary.

A global operation, HM4HB operates via localised Facebook pages which act as platforms for donors and recipients to be matched, based on location. A post will often include information such as location, amount of breast milk needed or to be donated, and the age of their child, along with more specialised provisos such as: "non smoker", "non drinker", "vegetarian" or even "gluten free". The term "healthy lifestyle" is also thrown around a lot.

Under Australian law, it is illegal to sell human products. This makes a formal system of milk banks difficult to establish. Currently, Australia has only five banks and of these five, only one provides milk to the general population.

The "one" is a charity called Mother's Milk Bank, which provides breast milk to any parent, but only after a compulsory "donation" of ten dollars per bottle.

HM4HB-user Terri* – who describes her family as "upper-middle class" – believes this cost to be "completely unsustainable" considering her daughter's appetite of six bottles a day.

But why would someone want a stranger's breast milk?

"I think people forget how hard breastfeeding is to establish," says Daina, another user of HM4HB. "We think it is just going to be this natural phenomenon, that your baby is born, they crawl up, latch onto the breast and everything is fine. Very few women have that experience."

There are countless reasons a parent may not be producing breast milk. Medical issues, surrogacy and adoption are the most common, but these by no means represent the entire spectrum of HM4HB users' experiences.

Perhaps a more important question is: why we should care about breast milk, when formula is available, and in most cases, a fine source of nourishment? For many of the mothers on HM4HB it comes down to one belief: "breast is best" – regardless of whose breast the milk is coming from.

Parents are not always involved in milk-sharing out of necessity. As Daina puts it, "formula is a substitute that is always available and is fine



"Pay attention, this is a very dangerous product. You could feed a kid with it."

Art: Amandine Le Bellec

to use, but I think there are a lot of health benefits for a newborn baby to be breastfed, whenever possible."

Despite the perpetuity of the "formula versus breast milk" debate, "breast is best" is endorsed by the World Health Organisation. Its guidelines state "breast milk from a healthy wet-nurse or human-milk bank" is the next-best option where traditional breast feeding is not possible. Of course, with an emphasis on "healthy".

Which is one criticism made by opponents of milk sharing – that "healthy" isn't guaranteed.

HM4HB users figure the risk is negligible when the milk has already been quality-tested by donors' children.

"These are mothers who have recently given birth and are altruistic enough to find someone to donate their milk to. Those people by nature are responsible," says Terri.

And, according to mums like Terri, the fact that donors aren't financially remunerated speaks to their trustworthiness.

Viewed conversely, sceptics question the motives of donors. There's no economic benefit to be gained from peer-to-peer milk sharing: is it really all altruism?

Others seem to be sceptical because of the attached social taboo.

"As women's bodies are objectified for sexual

needs, the biological function of women's bodies is viewed as repulsive," says Terri, "so sharing breast milk is seen as degenerate."

The stigma seems particularly misplaced when looking at the variety of uses for breast milk. For Amber, a donor on HM4HB, her milk donation journey begun when her sister-in-law was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma and her oncologist recommended drinking colostrum to boost her immune system. Colostrum is the first few mils of breast milk expressed , with higher levels of antibodies and protein.

"Everyday I would pump about 20 mils of colostrum," Amber recalls, "and my sister-in-law would come over and have a cup of Rooibos tea with a splash of rice milk and colostrum."

What is striking about the HM4HB community is how they have established their own small sisterhood, so firm in its communal goodwill, that it's common for a mother to drive across Sydney to ensure another mother's baby is fed. It is a sisterhood of women gifting milk.

Amber put it simply, "I'm a blood donor and I'm an egg donor, it just made sense to me. If you can give something without it having a detrimental effect on you – why not?"

**Some names have been changed.*

Annita Stark, were impeccable; all perfectly timed and added so much depth to the performance.

I found myself flinching away from Neil when he flung his cup of bourbon at the floor, and from James as he beat his defenceless girlfriend. Even the errors which the actors made – Neil using his own name when meaning to referring to James – were quickly corrected and did not detract from the immersion at all.

A View of Concrete left very little to be desired. The story of escape, drugs and paranoia, shown under a sky lit by artificial stars, spoke to the sadness of our contemporary world where the media, like that within the play, "were the creators of global conflict".

It was a performance that lived up to its full potential, and one that everyone should see if they can.

As director Tabitha Woo said, "it is vital that we continue to find human connection, empathy and creativity together", because without it our world may as well be one made of cold, hard concrete.

A review of concrete

Nabila Chemaissem reviews the latest SUDS production

A View of Concrete began in darkness. And from that darkness emerged four characters – Billy, Jacques, Neil, and James – through which the play painted a world overwhelmed by smog, death, paranoia, and sadness.

The backdrop had been coloured in greys,

browns, whites and purples, and spoke to the dreariness of a world corrupted by corporate greed and paranoia. The floor too had been made to look like cement, cold and bleak.

The audience found out quickly that "all the animals are killing themselves". Dogs consumed one another, a cat hung itself on a loose piece of green twine, a bird collided with a closed window, and the characters too, were slowly destroying themselves before our eyes.

The motifs within the play, the books without covers that Neil reads, and the drugs they all take – ketamine, acid, and speed - are simply a means of escape from a world consumed by pollution and corruption.

It was overheard that the USU may have accidentally flicked the switch on the lights, and that there was a chance that the many lights – which had all been painstakingly put in by the crew – would not work. However, this didn't appear to be an issue. The cues from the lighting designer,

"It was a performance that lived up to its full potential, and one that everyone should see if they can."

An(ti)notations

Pranay Jha and Alexandros Tsathas thought Miranda wasn't so Devine

The Daily Telegraph

Opinion

+

Miranda Devine: Stop telling boys to act like girls

April 24, 2016 12:00am
Miranda Devine The Sunday Telegraph

Succumbing to Stockholm syndrome and turning on your fellow man is certainly easier, especially if you still have a chip on your shoulder about the alpha jocks at school who effortlessly attracted the attention of all the hot alpha girls, hanging around the sidelines with their short shorts and shiny hair.

It's probably been that way since caveman days when the sweaty warriors came home full of bravado and testosterone. Me Tarzan. You Jane. Eat my woolly mammoth.

Only, now, our society actually values the nerdy guys who stayed behind to write poetry and pick berries with the ladies. Look at Bill Gates. And Mark Zuckerberg. After millennia of evolution, we're living Revenge of the Nerds. You'd think they'd be grateful. But no.

Take Pranay Jha, a former student of the prestigious King's School and a bespectacled GPS debater, who has penned a tour de force of craven self-loathing in the Sydney University campus organ *Honi Soit*. It comes with a trigger warning, naturally.

Far be it from me to say he has an inferiority complex about the more popular, athletic, physically disciplined boys who played rugby or rowed in the First Eight at his alma mater, while he toiled away thanklessly in the Seconds Debating team.

They had "the ability to get girls, be invited to parties and to hold a reserved seat at the Royal Oak Double Bay". No wonder he's upset!

But his message is brutal. He has smeared all boys who play those sports at a handful of private schools as rapists. "Perpetrators" he calls them at one stage, without a skerrick of actual proof.

His incendiary claim is based entirely on vague anecdotes from three anonymous female friends, "Lucy", "Emily" and "Hannah", who he claims had their "consent" "violated".

"If that's not a a culture of rape I don't know what is," is how he puts it.

Having dispensed his casual defamation, he returns to his favourite theme, bemoaning a "deeply entrenched culture that glorifies rowers and rugby players (and sets them) on a pedestal.

"It would always be the boys who hooked up with as many girls as possible that would be celebrated, and not those who stood for the rights of young women," he says.

The psychological trauma at the heart of Pranay's complaint is revealed when he writes about the Hogarthian horrors of the Head of the River.

"On the Friday morning before the race, the school hall is filled with chatter about how each crew is shaping up ... The seniors bellow a war cry. The rest of the school joins in. A thousand students lean back and scream at the top of their voice, as the eight 'heroes' walk in. Their eyes are forward, heads held high, chest out: they are the pinnacles, the 'ideal' GPS boys.

"At that point, the juniors understand what it means to be a student at this school ... Inextricably linked to this are rigid and destructive constructions of masculinity."

Well poor Pranay needn't worry. Masculinity of the alpha kind that he so resents is already on the endangered list, thanks to decades of toxic grievance feminism which casts women as helpless victims and men as brutes — unless they surrender and become self-flagellating male feminists.

How to housewarm

Victoria Zerbst

You can afford to pay over \$200 a week to live in the Inner West AND you live with cool university friends. You need to have a house warming party to celebrate this cool and independent time in your life.

House-warming parties are generally informal. Usually there are no planned activities besides a possible tour.¹

Get the event up at least two months before the party so people can get really pumped. You are going to need a cool cover photo that says I am cool and good at photo shopping my housemates' faces onto movie posters or other cultural items. It can be a bit shit cause you are students and need that grunge feel.

You live in a quaint 3-bedroom terrace, it's cozy and small so you need to invite 300 people. Each housemate should invite 50-80 people each. That's the minimum. Also, if you want your party to be really dank, don't forget to invite all the *Honi* editors you know. They are such a big deal. People think they like you if they turn up and drink your wine.

Leading up to the event select the most popular housemate and make them to post a funny gif or meme to keep the event pumping.

The day before, make a really chill and breezy post letting your friends know that you don't really care if they come or not. Then let mild panic set in. There are so many 21sts this weekend. Will people even turn up? Tell your 120 'attending' guests they can all bring plus ones and plus ones for the plus ones.

The panic. You have invited way too many people. Your house is too small and your neighbours already hate you.

On the day of the event, buy some cheap wine for punch and remind that one friend they cannot fuck on your bed.²

Get blind drunk. Don't even look at the damage being made to your new place. Get Alex out of your fucking room. Get your most sober housemate to turn the music off at midnight cause you don't want to piss of your neighbours. They already hate you. Try to get everyone to hit the Marly. Please God get out of my house. It's too hot in the corridor and I think someone vommed on the carpet in the bathroom.

¹This is pulled directly from Wikipedia. It's funnier if you know that. It's funnier (and more true) than anything we would have come up with.

²Seriously, Alex, you CANNOT fuck on my bed. I will know if you do. Don't even think about it.

SRC REPORTS

The SRC is responsible for the content of these pages

President

Chloe Smith

Last week, student representatives from the SRC, SUPRA, and the USU met with Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and other senior university figures to discuss the university’s newly-released Strategic Plan for 2016-2020. This glossy orange document outlines the vision for what the university wants to be in four years’ time, and lays the groundwork for further beyond that. Whilst it does go into specifics about degree structures, facilities, and programs, the plan is also fundamentally about the culture and ideological direction that the leaders of the university want to take us in.

We questioned the Vice-Chancellor about future changes to the Honours program, the expansion and ratification of the role of corporations and businesses in degrees, the financial challenges facing the university’s implementation of the strategic plan if the Federal Government continues cutting tertiary funding, the merging of faculties, support for low-socioeconomic and international students, and how the university will ensure that students don’t have to pay more and incur further debt as a result of the changes outlined in the plan.

I urge all students to read as much as they can of the Strategic Plan, and to approach your student representatives to ask questions and find out what these organisations are doing for you. Whilst the VC provided some answers in response to our questioning, many of our concerns around the Strategic Plan remain, including where the university will seek to source the funding to implement the plan if government funding falls through, and what impact this may have on students.

Finally, this week you’ll will notice a sudden influx of coloured t-shirts and a-frames on campus – it’s union board election season! Whilst being approached on your way to and from class to talk about what different candidates want to do may seem annoying or intimidating, it’s extremely important you’re aware of what each candidate stands for. Not least because the USU, like all student organisations on campus, is funded by the Student Services and Amenities Fee that we all pay. So talk to the campaigners, ask them questions, check out their Facebook pages and interviews in *Honi* – and make sure you vote! To quote one student particularly enthused about student leadership, “Apathy breeds apathy. Awareness breeds better student reps.”

General Secretaries

Georgia Mantle and Lachlan Ward

It is that time of semester when everyone has the same stressed out look on their faces. Being stressed and overworked is sometimes unavoidable, even the most organized of us suffer in the same way. At this time in the Semester it is very important to remember to take care of yourself physically, mentally and emotionally that means getting enough sleep, remembering to eat (good food too, not just chocolate and caffeine). If you are feeling overwhelmed and unsure of who to turn to remember that the SRC provides a free casework serves, if our caseworkers can’t help they will be able to point you in the right direction to ensure you get the help you need. On a more bureaucratic note, last week the SRC received our final funding figure from SSAF.

Now with the President we are working on the internal SRC budget for 2016. We hope to be able to fund as many student activities and campaigns as possible while continuing the services the SRC provides to the student body.

On the 11th of May the Education Action Group along with the National Union of Students are holding a National Day of Action at Fisher

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Library at 1pm. We urge all students to come to this action and take a stand against the Liberal government’s cuts to tertiary education. USYD has a strong reputation of standing up and fighting for the rights of all people, this is your chance to be part of that legacy and be on the side that fights for education.

Indigenous Officer

Georgia Mantle

Last week the collective put out our special Indigenous edition of *Honi Soit* we would like to thank all the Indigenous students who contributed and made the paper possible. Special thanks to Emily and Dean from Sydney College of the Arts who contributed their amazing art. We will be co-hosting a launch event with the Wom*n’s Collective in week 11, more details will follow.

The Collective has been having fortnightly meetings down in the Koori Centre Common Room every Tuesday. Our next meeting will be on the 3rd of May. We have also started monthly potlucks down in the Koori Centre on the Second Wednesday of every month.

collective is busy organizing Reconciliation Week Events with the University and external Indigenous organisation. We are hoping to create a wide range of events open to all students to celebrate Indigenous history, culture and people. Keep your eyes peeled for more information about the week.

We would also like to promote a Justice Walk coming up this week on the 5th of May, Walk for Justice for Colleen, Evelyn and Clinton is happening at Hyde Park Fountain at 10:30am. The walk is to demand justice for the the Indigenous victims of unsolved murders from the early 90’s.

As always if you want to know more about the collective please get in touch at: indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

Queer Officers

Marcus Wong and Evan Jones

In the past few weeks the collective has been incredibly active. Pride week was an interactive weekthat comprised of many workshops hosted by collective members as well as a time for us all to let our hair down. The week started off with a rainbow campus launch. We called on the university to implement six steps to alleviate the daily injustices LGBTQIA+ and questioning folks experience.

These steps included: an accessible LGBTQIA+ space on campus, to commit a portion of the Student services and amenities fee to LGT-BIQA+ services, comprehensive LGBTQIA+ staff training, giving transgender students their names back, signing onto marriage equality and gender neutral bathrooms. Students and staff marched down Eastern avenue, then up to the Vice Chancellor’s office, amid bubbles and a large rainbow flag. Greeted at the door by Ms. Jane Oakshot, chief of staff to the

Vice Chancellor who was welcoming of our requests. Since the launch, a meeting has been organized for the Vice Chancellor to meet with the SRC queer department, the ally network, SUPRA, the

Australian Queer students network and the NSW Queer students network. We look forward to informing you on the outcomes of this meeting. We would like to thank Rachel Evans, Andrea Zephyr, and many others for their hard work in launching the campaign.

Many workshops and panel discussions were also held throughout the week. An interactive safe sex workshop was a fun, and informative start to the week. Held by ACON representatives, participants learned a range of invaluable skills, and we would like to thank Tim Wark and the

crew for their time.

Along with the workshops, we all had a blast singing at Queer Karaoke. Amid the free drink vouchers and Britney Spears, it was a great way for collective members to bond and share a laugh or two. Thank you to Tess and Eden for the liquid confidence and being great organizers.

A couple other highlights of the week included a massive rainbow cake provided by the USU at the Pride picnic. It was great sustenance for the national day of action we attended afterwards with our fluorescent ‘Queers against cuts’ banner. Queer Action collective has also been collaborating with various other campus collectives, including the conservatorium and Rozelle, with the aim of setting up safe spaces and collectives on those campuses.

We look forward to continued engagement with other groups including the Ally Network and Safe Schools working group in light of cuts to the safe schools program by the liberal government. With radical education week coming up in semester two and queer collaborations, we are sure to be keeping busy over the next few months.

If you have any questions or want to be involved with Queer Action Collective or Queer-Kats, please do not hesitate to email us, Evan and Marcus, on queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

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WHAT IS FEE DEREGULATION?

The Liberal government is reviving Christopher Pyne’s 2014 plans to deregulate university fees. This time around the deal for students is even worse than in 2014, with a slew of additional attacks on HECS and university funding in the works.

\$100K DEGREES

Projections have shown that a number of courses, including law, medicine, dentistry and optometry, would cost students over \$100,000 in fees, with other course fees expected to double or triple in cost and for increases to continue yearly.

THE LIBERALS ALSO WANT TO...

Decrease funding to universities by 20%. Expected to lead to a 25% increase in student fees, before the impact of the broader deregulation policy has been considered.

Lower the HECS repayment threshold. The HECS repayment threshold for graduate income sits at \$54,126. This would be lowered to \$42,000.

Base HECS repayment on 'household income'. Graduates living in households with a combined income of greater than \$80,000 will be forced to repay their HECS sooner and at a greater rate.

Raid the estates of dead students. The Liberals also want to be allowed to collect unpaid HECS from deceased students.

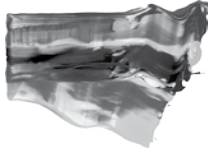
40% average increase in student fees, +2% yearly increase in fees

TWO-TIERED U.S. STYLE MODEL

Deregulation of university fees would mean that individual universities can charge students whatever they think they can get away with. This would create a ‘two-tiered’, US style system in which the prestigious sandstone universities, like USyd, UNSW, Melbourne Uni and ANU will only be accessible for the rich.

Students beat back dereg twice in 2014. Join the protest and let's finish the job!

MAY 11 @ 1PM
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
OUTSIDE FISHER LIBRARY



MULTICULTURAL
NSW

Applications now open for youth representative

Do you enjoy working with people from diverse cultures?

An exciting opportunity is now available for a Youth Board Member for the Multicultural NSW Advisory Board. Multicultural NSW plays an important role to build and maintain a cohesive and harmonious multicultural society that enriches the lives of all the people of New South Wales.

As a Board Member, you will work amongst leaders in providing advice and feedback directly to the Minister of Multiculturalism and the CEO of Multicultural NSW. Help implement policy and the legislative framework to support our cultural diverse community, and bring the youth voice to guide best practice.

This opportunity is open to people between the ages of 18 and 25 years old, are currently actively engaged and committed to cultural diversity.

For further information and to complete an application form visit multicultural.nsw.gov.au

Don’t miss out on this exciting opportunity.
Applications close Friday 5pm **13 May**.



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The Qursor Quiz: Are You The Real Number One Dad?

Peter Walsh is in need of a surrogate.

1. Your sweet baby son's a-running around the hall with his sockerinos on, what do you say?

- (a) Is that an Ice Cream truck I spy with the ears embedded in my eyes? I'll race ya!
- (b) Woah there Mister, where's the fire? I thought we agreed no running on the fresh linoleum?
- (c) You keep runnin' and I'm liable to get my belt.

2. Wuh-oh! Your bouncing baby boy didn't make the grade on his Math test, can he still go to camp?

- (a) Learning's a fine thing but sometimes a boy just needs to go out and meet girls. Grab your fishin' pole and we'll am-scray to the quarry.
- (b) That's okay mister, we'll just spend some extra time making up the difference till you make the grade.
- (c) Only thing math ever did for me was ensure my selection in the draft.

3. That mean cousin Philip took his hand to your precious progeny, what are you going to do, Daddy?

- (a) Up and at 'em, Philip. No boy takes his hand against my boy without a reckoning.
- (b) Violence isn't the answer, my son. Now why don't we go have a chat with Philip and see if we can't sort what's what.
- (c) You probably deserved it.

MOSTLY A:

Aw shucks, you're Jeffrey's Dad. Always hootin' and hollerin' and carrying on with the good stuff! Nothing beats Cowboys with Jeffrey's Papi, except for maybe the tall sarsaparilla glasses of milkshake he serves after we're done. I wish Jeffrey was my Dad.

MOSTLY B:

You're Rodney's Mum. Sure she's not a Dad like these other Dads but she's the next best thing, especially with Rodney's Dad working those long shifts on the oil rig. Rodney learned to shave with a Gillette Venus but Rodney's Mum can roughhouse with the best of them.

MOSTLY C:

Oh... You're Michael's Dad. The other Dads say I'm not allowed to talk to you. Not after what you did.



@JayceCarrano

Experience: I Fucked Every Surviving Former Australian Prime Minister So That You Don't Have To

William Edwards took one for the team.

Australians, you can breathe a collective sigh of relief. I have done it. It wasn't easy and it wasn't enjoyable, but it needed it be done. We all knew that but no one wanted to be the one to get their hands (and genitals) dirty.

So in the spirit of mateship, I took one for the team. I fucked every surviving former Australian Prime Minister so that you don't have to. The details don't really matter. How I charmed six former Prime Ministers into fucking me isn't appropriate content for our nation's histories.

Nor would it do to shock my readers with graphic recounts of Prime Ministerial fuckery, though such images are terrifyingly vivid in my memories. What matters is that our national crisis has been resolved and everyone should stop worrying about it. Our surviving former Prime Ministers have been confidently and tenderly fucked.

Not by some expert fucker with qualifications, nor by a greedy fuckist seeking reward, but – in the spirit of Ned Kelly and Banjo Patterson – by an everyday Aussie bloke.

If not me, any other patriot would have done the same. Because sometimes when a problem arises, you just have to say: "Fuck it. Literally."

This Woman Gave Birth on Stage and VICE Didn't Even Write an Article About It

Victoria Zerbst loves sugar and spice and everything VICE.

Yes, I like theatre. The higher the concept the better. I once saw a man piss in his own mouth in Berlin. I am pretty sure that was a play and I LOVED it.

Recently I saw a play that shocked me. A woman, who appeared to be pregnant, became not-pregnant when she gave birth on stage in the second act. I couldn't believe it.

What's more, not a single VICE journalist reported on it.

This woman's vaginal canal stretched to the size of a small head, and I saw it under the mist of a theatrical smoke machine. But where was VICE?

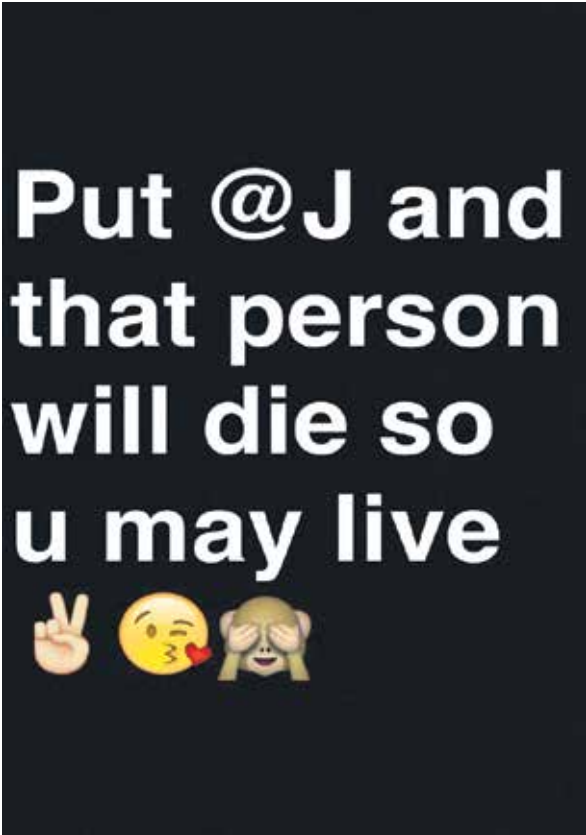
A small medical team pumped the woman full of intravenous drugs while reciting sparse but poignant dialogue. VICE was not there.

Placenta literally flew into the crowd and I leapt to my feet screaming "THIS IS SO EDGY."

Did VICE forget about theatre?

Around peak #traction that night VICE posted two pieces: "This Jewish Marxist Dealt Drugs with Castro" and "Does Swedish Paincore Take Penis Humiliation Too Far?" Are these articles really edgier than the miracle of life, LIVE on stage?

Dejected, I sat down to read their latest work. "99 Times a Fat Socialist Shat on My Face". I felt slightly better but I will still be sending them an email about this. Who is their Culture Editor? I need to know.



Top 3 Correctional Facilities That You MUST Visit Before You DIE!

Turns out Annabel Cameron doesn't know that many prisons.

1) Guantanamo Bay

Of course I know you were all expecting this one, you've all heard about it before, and believe me, it lives up to expectations!

With seaside views, top-notch security and plenty of helpful staff, this correctional facility is a must. Also, there's plenty of activities to keep kids occupied, so you can have some well earned me-time!

2) Mordovia Gulag

Now, here's something to put in your 5-year plan. This is an exotic, highly exclusive facility in Russia. While it may get a little chilly (remember to pack a jacket!), you'll never be bored with over 20,000 other inmates to chat with!

And hey, while you're there, you might even learn a bit of the 'lingua franca'! There's nothing like going home and surprising the family that you can say "shiv" in Russian.

3) Silverwater Women's Correctional Facility

This max-security facility is right on our doorstep here in NSW! Just goes to show you that you don't necessarily have to travel to a different country to visit a great correctional facility. Come here for a short 6 month stay with the gals, and get away from those husbands for a bit! Girl power!

Burr... it's cold outside (Frozen/ Hamilton Modern AU, Rated: T+, English – Romance/ Shit Writing, Words: 123,652, Favs – 9)

By Mary Ward (review).

It's wintertime at Valley High and student club treasurer Alexander Hamilton is busy organising the school's 'Let It Snow' social. His fellow senior Aaron Burr always seemed happy to live in his quite significant shadow, but now Hamilton is not so sure. Meanwhile, in the Valley High drama department, sisters Elsa and Anna are putting the final touches on their original musical 'Glee: the Musical'. But, there's a problem! The social is on Elsa and Anna's opening night! Why would drama captain Burr refuse to wait for the social to be over for opening night, when so few amateur original musicals survive! New chapters every Tuesday.

Pigeons Win Squatter's Rights To Manning House

Adam Chalmers swigged Red Bull, now has wings.

After a four-month legal trial, lawyers representing Greenpeace can confirm that Manning House is now owned by two common pigeons.

"NSW law clearly states that if a squatter occupies a property for 12 uninterrupted years, adverse possession applies and they can assume ownership," said Ms. Satler, a Greenpeace lawyer representing the pigeons.

"Today, NSW law has listened to a decade of eyewitness student testimony, and granted these pigeons their legal right to property."

The pigeons cooed affirmatively in response.

Their legal victory validates the pigeons' decision to reject an out of court settlement offer of two million dollars and five breadsticks.

University of Sydney Union management are "dedicated to working closely with the new owners of Manning House" and agree on a new leasing arrangement.

Students will see "little change in day-to-day operations," said USU president Alisha Aitken-Radburn.

"For now, we'll be hiring new staff to throw breadcrumbs around everywhere, and instructing the cleaning staff not to chase the new owner's."

In an interview with *The Cursor*, the pigeons said they hope students will "coo, coo, peck, [sound of birds shitting on my notepad]".

Everything You Need To Know About The Presidential Election

By Jestika Chand, who knows nothing about the Presidential Election but wrote this anyway.

Donald Trump: Currently the dude who is like winning and probably will win. Uses China as an example excessively, wants to build a wall between the US and Mexico. Meme hair. Is a real big asshole. Talks over everyone a lot. Had those 3 dancing kids for some reason. Poor kids.

Bernie: The guy everyone at Uni likes. The President the United States of America need but don't deserve. He seems pretty cool. He lost New York and that was bad. He sings.

Some dude with a funny nose. Hold on. I'm looking it up. Cool, found it. Keep reading.

Trending

Via BuzzFeed: Wow!
[This Artist Re-imagined Disney Princesses as War Criminals on Death Row for Committing Violent Atrocities Upon Their People!](#)

[BREAKING: Professor Replies to Email](#)

[I Can't Make Bagels But I Am Still Worthy of Love](#)

[Experience: I Bought Prescription Drugs On The Darknet Rather Than Speak to My Doctor About My Genuine Mental Health Disorder](#)

[Incredible: This Gang Mugs People of ALL Faiths](#)

[+ Knife Throwing for KIDS!](#)

Ted Cruz: His face looks like his bae just broke up with him but he's trying to keep it together.

Kasich: He looks like a 2003 grandad from popular Australian television show Neighbours.

Hillary Clinton: She's part of the democratic party so she's on Bernie's side but she's also not good? Keeps getting mansplained which sucks. I face swapped with Hillary and it didn't look bad.

Jeb Bush: Pitiful dude. Tried real hard, not running anymore. Memes: "Please clap" and "Jeb is a mess".

That is all I know. Thank you.

NO \$100,000 DEGREES

**NO 20%
FUNDING CUTS**

**NO FEE
DEREGULATION**

STUDENT PROTEST

WEDNESDAY MAY 11

1PM SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
OUTSIDE FISHER LIBRARY (EASTERN AVE)



authorised by Max Murphy

STRIKE