

Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • WEEK 10

FIRST PRINTED 1929

USU Election Special

How they did in our quiz...

76%



68%



55%



45%



43%



38%



25%



10%



N/A



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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

Naaman Zhou

I’ve always thought that to read *Honi Soit* is to take part in a kind of collective delusion.

As a concept, *Honi* is the middle dot in a Venn diagram of bad wagers: that students would read a print publication in the year 2016; that amateurs would break national news ahead of salaried grown-ups; that volunteer reporters would fill 28 pages every week.

To even go to the stand expecting something there is to gamble irresponsibly. What if half our articles dropped, nothing new happened, and finally after an 87-year hot streak, we just fucking ran out of things to say?

But here we are – present and anomalous.

When you think about it,

this is the local paper of what is essentially a one-street town. Our catchment area is as big as a particularly nice park.

I’d like to think this makes the rag incredibly special, because, for all the pedigree, this is a paper that very few people read. This is a community with a niche and objectively rare shared experience.

University these days is too frequently a place to come, go and brush past people in the hall. But to me, these hasty pages read on the bus and train heading outward, full of new news, gossip, and (for the dorks and tragics) the same cast of characters, probably provide some kind of closeness.

This paper makes no sense, but I’m glad it happens.

Letters

Maybe we’re shit

Dear *Honi*,

I am disappointed by the sensationalist, A Current Affair-style journalism in last week’s feature “Sex Drugs and Stupol”.

I am unsure why such strange moralism against the use of drugs was published in an ostensibly radical, progressive newspaper like *Honi Soit*. Worse, you throw all journalistic ethics out the window in publishing it by not contacting any of the implicated (and [Eds note - allegedly!] defamed) parties for comment.

Similarly, I don’t understand distinguishing drugs from substances like alcohol, when – if ingested properly – both provide safe, enjoyable experiences. (Perhaps *Honi* – soon

to host drinking times at *Honi Soiree* – could publish something on safe drug usage and debunk the myths propelled by last week’s feature). Instead, you chose hyperbole. Descriptions like “messy but not decrepit” read as scripted by Mike Baird for Stoner Sloth.

Similarly, to *The Daily Telegraph* exposé portion: “Crying in the middle of the street. Clinical depression” and “I have no doubt that it was his weekly substance use – substance abuse – that put the nail in the coffin”, I say: 1) you are not a doctor; and 2) is this person dead?

As someone previously involved with Grassroots and present at election parties between 2013 and 2015, I can say aspersions about Grassroots organisers inducing people to use drugs by threatening their place in the social/political hierarchy is false. Of course, drugs are offered to you (the same

way alcohol, soft drink, and terrible storebought party pies are offered to you): in the spirit of party hosting generosity. Across those years, I didn’t use drugs, was never pressured, and the offers only continued at future parties because it’s polite. For people who did, the information was always there, chillout spaces were available, and if people had bad trips (or drank too much), people were on hand to take care of them. The presence of drugs and my not using them never impeded my social/political involvement in the group. In fact, Grassroots defined itself by the variety of its membership, and the period referred to in the article was also the period where Grassroots made efforts to incorporate dry spaces into their organising for the sake of inclusivity. (We can debate the way people feel tacitly left out when they’re not on drugs/sober, but this wasn’t the thesis put forward by the article). If/when drugs are used to enforce insidious hierarchies, then this is surely a problem for many groups on campus, and the moral panic raised by accusing dirty leftist activists only obscures our capacity to interrogate it.

The focus on Kyol’s election party was misleading, considering it was one of the least Grassrootsy events organised by the faction. Kyol’s team composed a contingent of people across factions, across C&S, and indeed outside Stupol. At the party that night (and indeed at the pub before), it was an extremely diverse group, because everyone was welcome as long as they weren’t part of the sorry, sorry ALP (and even then I believe some of them came!). This is not the writers’ fault (they seem to be genuinely concerned) but the editors’ who choose to publish it, without contacting the accused or contextualising the accusations against drug culture at university broadly. You have a limited number of pages in a limited number of issues to bring attention to issues which would otherwise go ignored.

This is not to say there aren’t problems in Grassroots (or any faction), of course there are; this is also not to deny that those individuals felt drug usage was a prerequisite for acceptance; but if that is the claim, you have to contact all parties.

Peter Walsh

However, authors Michael Sun and Siobhan Ryan take liberty in some of their conclusions. ‘Nicole’ suggests that the relative untidiness of a personal residence (used to host election after-parties) is attributable to the deleterious effects of MDMA-use. Drawing on unnecessarily sensational rhetoric, Ryan and Sun make note that Nicole is “one of the few” who successfully extricated herself from this urban drugden, gravely reminding us that “not everyone was so lucky”. I daresay that most of us were so lucky, as the household in question is no more: its inhabitants have long since disbanded, and its grungy charm only ever as reflective of Sydney’s chaotic rental market as anything else.

A thought-provoking read nonetheless, and very well written.

Miranda Smith
Graduate

We’ve been very bad ;)

Dear *Honi*,

To allege that Bondar’s logo is a monosyllabic FetLife profile undermines the most fundamental of *Honi Soit*’s values; equality and diversity. This smear campaign that attempts some degradation of Bondar’s profile through such association is furthered through the assimilation of his logo onto a condom; “Dom: The Safe Option”, as if to allege that condoms, like FetLife were uncool and should be used as an insult.

Bondar is a candidate that represents the view of the silent majority on campus, a belief in a plurality of voice, voluntary student unionism and real club autonomy. Lets keep politics about policy rather than personality and maintain some truth. At least we can be sure that with his alleged FetLife obsession Bondar will ‘whip’ the USU into shape.

Regards,
Anthony Fletcher
JD I

SUEUA speak

Dear *Honi*,

Yesterday, a friend of mine got an email from the president of the engineering undergrad association, SUEUA. It’s a rebut to the students who accused the interfact pub crawl event of being politically incorrect on it’s facebook page.

It’s a shame he sent his reply to only those subscribed to the SUEUA mailing list, so not only would the critics not see, but also no one would be able

to reply to it since it was sent through mailchimp.

Is it just me or does it seem like he’s telling the engineering student body to ignore those who challenge their viewpoints, dismissing discussion and debate a waste of time?

I feel like someone should post it in *Honi* or online so the whole university student body can see and have a discussion, rather than a one-sided final say only SUEUA members can see.

Anonymous

All above board

Hi there,

It was brought to my attention today that in a recent edition of *Honi Soit* there was a description of each board candidate [Eds note – Week 6, page 4]. In the paragraph providing information on Esther Shim it was implied (possibly by her) that she has the backing of several societies including SURG.

On behalf of SURG I would like to clarify that we do not endorse any candidate, and neither should any other club or society as this is a breach of C&S policy. I’d appreciate it if this was clarified in some way in your next edition.

Regards,
Jake Landa

Long-time patron, first time letter-writer

Let’s make things short and sweet. I’m tired and I’m angry so let’s just cut to the chase ...

I have just three teeny, tiny problems with Christianity, they are these –

Through ‘faith’ alone, through ‘grace’ alone, and through ‘christ’ alone. Yes that was a lower case ‘C’.

Let me make my reasons clear to you –

The EU specifically targets the most vulnerable in the student community to meet their daily soul quota for Jesus. They target international students, students who are in a new country, are faced with studying subjects in a new language and they don’t really have any support structures in place.

The EU seizes upon this opportunity and seeks to hijack their soul. Literally.

There is an irreconcilable inferiority complex at the very heart of christendom which states that no matter what you do in this world, you will never be saved unless you have faith in jesus (yes ... that’s a lower case

‘J’). YOU will never be good enough in the eyes of ‘GOD’.

This is a toxic idea and must be brought to Justice (note, capital ‘J’).

No matter what good actions you perform within this world of ours, it is up to the inscrutable mind of the judeo-christian god to rain down his ‘ever loving grace’ and then Judge you.

I say FUCK THAT and I call it BULLSHIT !

If christians say to ‘hate the sin but not the sinner’ then I say I hate the Christian but not the christ within them.

The world is changing at a pace that is hard to believe at times. There is no room for self-aggrandizing, self-righteous, and sanctimonious religions on campus which under the guise of ‘tolerance’ preach hate and bigotry. The world is a far too small place for it.

Yours TRULY,
Lucifer

Sounds fake but ok

Dear Editors,

I am writing to alert yourselves, and the nation generally, to the distressing fact that there is a Communist in our midst. I choose to share this information publicly in *Honi Soit*, because, as I understand it, lynch mobs are otherwise difficult to rouse these days. One needs an atmosphere of unfocused frustration and easy truculence. Without saying more, I have good reason to believe that the political classes of Sydney University are my allies in this fight.

The Communist in question has short-cropped curly brown hair, is about yea high and dresses like an economist wearing a bad attitude (which, I suppose, is what all Communists really are). The name of the Communist in question – our Rogue Red Thumb, our Crown Prince of Moscow, the Kremlin’s Catamite, our Post-History Plug-Ugly, Vlad’s Best, the Five-Year Ferocity, the Pride of the East, our One-Class Wonder – his name, as I say, is Anthony Collins. Mr. Collins indicted himself as a Communist last Friday when he admitted, to a public lecture, that he had read ‘The Communist Manifesto’ for fun. I was so shocked by the perversity of this confession that I sipped my tea twice in a row, if you understand me, and scalded my tongue quite badly, if you catch my drift. I need not say more, except that this individual is clearly a danger to the fabric of our society, and ought to be removed from the thread count forthwith.

Yours in vigilance,
Sen. Joseph McCarthy

Journalism – it works

Dear *Honi*,

Further to our earlier letter about the *Honi* article “The parent trap”, the School of Physics is pleased to announce that a new Parenting/First Aid room has been opened in the School. Room 104, directly opposite the lift and toilets, has been refurbished and equipped with a nursing chair, lounge, change table, a refrigerator for milk/baby food and a microwave. The room is open to all – staff, students and visitors.

Refurbishing and equipping this room was an initiative of the Physics Equity and Access Committee (PEAC) and partially supported by the University through the Equity and Diversity Strategy office in Human Resources.

John O’Byrne
Co-Chair, Physics Equity and Access Committee (PEAC)

A Salty letter from Esther

An open letter to members of the Socialist Alternative,

I support your right to raise awareness of important issues, but find your relentless petitioning down Eastern Avenue annoying. Yet, never have I damaged your property or bullied any of your people.

My name is Esther Shim and I am running as an independent candidate for the University of Sydney Union board election this year and some of your members seem to find that problematic.

The murmur around my campaign, “Shimmy on Board”, on the stupol rumor mill is that I am a “pseudo-independent” with a secret “filthy Liberal” agenda. To clarify any further rumors, I can confirm that in 2015, I was a member of the Sydney University Liberal Club and held the ex-officio position as Women’s Director. I have been inactive with the club for over 7 months now, having withdrawn my membership within the club and as Women’s Officer.

Ironically, it is actually the work of your relentless petitioning against the treatment of refugees and Indigenous rights which first made me question my membership to this club.

One thing that I love about Sydney University is that we have such an enormous and eclectic variety of people and opinions. Anyone who knows me personally knows I celebrate and actively endorse diversity.

The students who put themselves forward as candidates

for the USU elections should be prepared to accept scrutiny, interrogation and even verbal attacks. However, student politics should never tolerate bullying and harassment.

Over the first three days of physical campaigning, I have [had a number of my A-frames broken, hidden and kicked over in front of my eyes.

No, picking up broken A-frames on my way to a lecture bash is not an integral part of the stupol experience. No, you aren’t sending a message with your atrocious attempt of hiding my A-frame in a bush. No, you aren’t being radical by kicking over a sheet of wood with a cheesy slogan painted on it.

Want to do something constructive? Engage in real discourse with me. Run a candidate against me. Keep getting signatures on your petitions. Or at least do enough research on me to warrant some kind of justification for your actions.

Please stop damaging my property; it’s disrespectful and a waste of both of my time and resources...I’m running out of cable ties.

Sincerely,
Esther Shim

Do you have something to say or a historical and/or biblical personality to impersonate?

You should write a letter.

Send it to editors@honisoit.com by Friday 5pm.

Keep it to maximum 500 words.

We’ll edit it if it’s fukt though.

LETTERS

NEWS

BIRTHS, DEATHS
& MARRIAGES

extended-sigh.wav

HONI GETS THE FINAL SAY

Following a heated online argument about cultural appropriation which exploded on the inter-faculty pub crawl Facebook event (in which the faculty participants were encouraged to dress up as 'Mexican' and 'Luau') the Engineering Society President, Nicolas Dai, has railed against political correctness in an email sent to all society members.

"What really bothers me about all of this was that these self-satisfying acts of social justice were actually reducing the identity of an entire group of people to nothing but their victim-hood," he rages.

"The next time you are harassed by those who behaved in this manner, instead of engaging them and feeding their self-righteous gratification from forcing their views onto other [sic]. Perhaps it is better to ignore them completely as a waste of everyone's energy. The engineer's path is one that creates real positive change for humanity."

The email was sent through Mailchimp, so that any members who disagree with the political stance had little capacity to challenge it.

A-FRAME VANDALISM

Members of Socialist Alternative have taken time off petitioning to vandalise the A-Frames of Union Board candidates that they don't like. An eyewitness identified Omar Hassan, a senior member of SAlt (a faction who hasn't actually contested the election) carrying and dumping one of Grace Franki's A-Frames.

He has also been spotted kicking down and hiding Esther Shim's A-Frames with an accomplice. The two cardboard sections have been separated, and connecting cable ties have been cut.

Hassan did not respond to *Honi's* requests for comment. Franki did: "Such a shame though, because they're such hawt A-frames." *Honi* understands that there is a new obligation to keep all A-Frames in the line of sight of a campaigner at all times, to protect against this situation and for general safety reasons. Each candidate is also limited to 10 A-Frames.

PREFERENCE DEALS

First cabs off the ranks are Franki, Koko Kong and Cameron Hawkins in a three-way deal. They've signed a deal whereby half of the how-to-votes of each candidate will preference one of the other candidates second, with the other half swapping the order.

Franki cited the prospect of having "the first international student on board in a number of years" for driving the deal with Kong, and Hawkins' extensive experience in C&S.

Courtney Thompson, Sam Kwon and James Gibson are in talks, presumably to formulate a deal which somewhat resembles the one above. Thompson told *Honi* the candidates were "in talks in the hopes of building a left block". If this deal finalises, it will leave Esther, Dom and Vanessa to negotiate some arrangement between themselves.

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

Postgrads vie for vacant
Senate position

Andrew Bell

Postgraduate students are coming out of the woodwork to fight for an opportunity to sit on the peak governing body of the University without having to contest an election.

The graduation of Simon Hill last week left one of two student-elected spots on the University Senate up for grabs for all members of the Postgraduate student body.

Last week, *Honi* reported that Hill's graduation rendered him unable to complete the final seven months of his term. The relevant statutory regulations allow the current senate to appoint an interim candidate, rather than holding a by-election.

A prominent potential candidate is current USU Honorary Treasurer Edward McMahon, who is aligned with the Grassroots faction.

At the time of publication, McMahon had not formally submitted his nomination. Appointment prior to June 30 would likely mean that McMahon would have to step down from his USU and SUPRA positions.

Zachary Thompson, a former member of Sydney University Liberal Club and USU Board Director, will also be putting his name in the hat.

Another candidate who may contest the position is the loosely Student Unity-affiliated student Josh Preece.

The primary source of nominations will be members of the Student Consultative Committee (SCC). The SCC is composed of peak representatives of a conglomerate of student organisations: the USU, SUPRA, CSG, SUSF and the SRC, among others.

The opportunity raises questions about how those organisations should approach the nominations.

In particular, whether the USU board should bind behind a single candidate, or whether individual members of the board should nominate their preferred candidates, is a current point of uncertainty.

Alisha Aitken-Radburn, President of the USU, indicated that there may be "strength in putting multiple noms in because of the fear that the Senate will find a reason to find something wrong with our candidate", yet putting a single candidate up as an organisation may be perceived as a "strong showing".

Olivia Ronan, Vice President of the USU, told *Honi* that her "personal priority is to put women forward".

The unusual occurrence of the appointment process means that there is no established procedure.

McMahon indicated to *Honi* that he has a conflict of interest and therefore would understand if the Board, in particular Ronan and Aitken-Radburn, takes either route.

The Senate, explained

Save for the intervention of New South Wales Parliament, the University Senate has absolute power over everything that happens at USyd including appointing the Vice-Chancellor and directing the University's "Strategic Plan".

The 22 members, known as Fellows, are drawn from management, students, academic and non-academic staff, alumni and appointed representatives. The undergraduate and postgraduate Senate Fellows (one of each) are elected for two year terms.

The jostling and hackery will ratchet up next semester when elections for the next undergraduate and postgraduate Fellows take place online. The last election, in 2014, nearly ended up in the NSW Supreme Court over allegations the result was distorted by candidates "assisting" voters by personally guiding them through the process.

Of course, it is unclear how much stock the Senate will place in student recommendations. There are no binding obligations for them to consider particular nominations more than others.

The successful candidate will sit on the Senate until November 30 2016.

The secretary to the Senate, David Pacey, has indicated to the SCC that nominations will close on May 20.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Muslim students lament university
inaction on racist letters

Naaman Zhou

Muslim students are calling on the University to take action after yet another Islamophobic letter was mailed to the campus Islamic prayer room.

The letter, received last Monday, referred to Muslims as "pig-fuckers" and featured an image of Numan Haidar, a Melbourne youth shot dead after stabbing two police officers in 2014.

Graffiti was also discovered on the same day near Manning House and on Eastern Ave that said "Stop the mosques" and "Freedom of speech".

Monday's hate letter was the

Visit honisoit.com for more coverage of the University's response to Islamophobia on campus.

third to be mailed to the prayer room in four months. It followed a similar letter in February and a previously unreported letter in April.

Honi had previously reported on repeated ransackings of the prayer room between December 2015 and February 2016, as well as two instances of Islamophobic graffiti in February and March this year.

A University spokesperson said they were "aware of these recent incidents, and are involving our community partners in investigating the events."

The University had earlier promised action after previous

incidents, including increased CCTV and physical security around the prayer room.

University comment provided this week outlined that management were "implementing recommendations arising from discussions held earlier this year" and that students had supposedly been given a timeline for completion.

Nasreen Dean, President of the Sydney University Muslim Students' Association (SUM-SA), was the first to discover the letter. She told *Honi* she reported the matter to police.

The graffiti was removed by campus security shortly after it was reported.

NEWS

JESUS CHRIST

'God is my forever daddy'

Queer students protested a Catholic Society event last week which hosted a speaker accused of promoting gay conversion therapy. Sam Langford reports.

A large group of queer students gathered on Eastern Avenue last Wednesday to protest a talk organised by the University of Sydney Union Catholic Society, titled "Men + Women = Made for each other?".

Around 60 students with several megaphones, rainbow flags and a trombone, drowned out large portions of the Catholic Society event with chants of "queer pride saves lives" and "bigots are not welcome here", in a protest organised by the SRC's Queer Action Collective (QuAC).

The protest followed several complaints made to the USU and the Vice-Chancellor's office expressing concerns about speaker James Parker's association with Journey into Manhood, a gay conversion therapy program.

In addition to the chanting and trombone, the event was also interrupted by a microphone failure one heckler characterised as an "act of God". It is unclear whether the microphone failure was caused by a deliberate attempt to tamper with the power supply to the speakers.

The Catholic Society attempt-

ed to proceed with the event despite the ruckus. At one point Parker walked outside with a handmade sign that read "God Loves Gays" in an unsuccessful attempt to placate the protesters. Parker also denied being an advocate of conversion therapy, attributing his conversion to "regular therapy". He described his previous homosexuality as the result of a fundamental opposition to men he developed in utero, which he claims to have overcome through a combination of therapy and faith.

"Once I found deep resolution within myself, my voice began to drop, and my walk began to change," he said to the gathered crowd. "I began to see women."

Queer students present at the event expressed concerns about Parker's message. Queer Officer Evan Jones said he felt Parker was "misleading people" by claiming to be opposed to conversion therapy.

"They don't call it conversion therapy, but it blatantly is," Jones said.

Will Edwards, a gay student who attended the talk, also described Parker's ideas as



Students gathered at the protest. Photo: Georgia Kriz

harmful. "I came here expecting his speech to be a lot less hurtful than I actually found it. But I was shocked by what he was saying, absolutely shocked. Implying that his 'high voice and mincing walk' were things he had to be cured of, and implying that being gay was a result of sexual abuse – that gayness is such an awful thing that it can only be caused by awful circumstances – is the very essence of homophobia."

However, Catholic Society President Francis Tamer said he thought "the event went really well".

He maintained that those opposed had a right to protest,

but said he would "also like to make clear that anyone who listened would have found that [Parker] was not in favour of the things that people thought he was in favour of, such as gay conversion therapy. Hopefully those that did attend did learn something new from it, whether or not they agreed."

The USU withdrew support for the event on the morning of the event, on the grounds that "events premised on the entertainment of the suggestion that diverse genders and sexualities are illegitimate or worthy of conversion are inconsistent with the principles of the Union as enunciated in our Constitution."

LOCAL HEROES

Honi saves
pedestrian lives

The offending buzzer.

Alexandros Tsathas

A pedestrian buzzer at the City Road crossing has been repaired after angry lobbying from the *Honi Soit* editorial team.

The buzzer, situated on the east side of City Road (outside Hermann's) is thought to have been out of action for six months before its repair.

Formally known as "Audio-Tactile Pedestrian Detectors", pedestrian buzzers are designed to assist the vision and hearing-impaired to cross the road, but their ubiquity means all pedestrians have been conditioned to cross on their signal.

Their absence can cause annoying and dangerous "slow-starts", where pedestrians come to a late realisation the light has changed, and run across the road to compensate.

Honi reported the matter to the University's Campus Infrastructure Services (CIS) on April 14.

A University spokesperson responded "the maintenance of the traffic lights located on the intersection of City Road and Butlin Avenue falls under the jurisdiction of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), and the University of Sydney has brought this issue to their attention as soon as were notified of the situation."

An RMS crew was dispatched later that day.

Regular crossing-user and former *Honi* editor Rebecca Wong, who is visually impaired, welcomed the fix.

"For blind people, the audio signal is the only reliable indicator of when to cross. Without it, you pretty much just have to walk when other people do, and students love engaging in acts of civil disobedience like jay-walking."

"I'm glad it's been fixed, now I can drink alone at Hermann's at midday like everyone else."

The City Road crossing is 65 metres from the Jane Foss Russell Building, where the University's Disability Services staff are housed. It is 250 metres from CIS' Darlington headquarters and represents the closest crossing for both departments.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

St Andrew's College risks losing charity
status after bungling financial reports

Daniel Ergas

St Andrew's College is at risk of losing its charity status and associated Commonwealth tax concessions after failing to submit its mandatory financial reporting to the Australian charities watchdog.

Honi can reveal the College is over nine months late in turning in its 2014 annual financial report, and has just weeks to file the documentation before it is designated for deregistration.

St Andrew's College relies on its charity registration to be eligible for its status as a deductible gift recipient (the little accounting trick that allows its donors to deduct the sum of their donation to the College from their tax-assessable income each year).

Without that status, the College would be unable to access the

already-donated assets that comprise its Foundation's \$8.8 million in funds earmarked for annual scholarships and irregular infrastructure development. In other words: without a current charity registration, no more scholarships, and no more building fund.

Micah Burch, a senior lecturer at the University of Sydney Law School specialising in not-for-profit law, said that the College's failure to report was "a little baffling", and that the financial documentation was "information they should have readily available".

While revocation of its registration is unlikely, the College's failure to fulfil very basic reporting standards calls into question the governance practices of the College administration.

"This [overdue reporting] doesn't appear to be best practice. This is not a good look for them, but it's not catastrophic

either. It can be easily fixed," said Burch.

When asked if this possible revocation was a concern, the principal of St. Andrew's College, Wayne Erickson, thanked *Honi* for "its note regarding the ACNC's reporting requirements".

"St Andrew's College will meet its requirements under the legislation, lodging all necessary information in relation to 2014 and 2015 with the ACNC before the end of June 2016," Erickson said.

If deregistered, the College would join the ranks of 14 other charities that have had their registration revoked in the past 24 months.

These include Help Save The Furry Ones, a South Australian charity deregistered last month after its founder improperly used donations on her online gambling addiction, and The First 24 Hrs Foundation,



The offending college.

a charity established to promote disaster preparedness but notably made a \$7,400 donation to the Liberal National Party before it was deregistered in March.

Nonetheless, *Honi* is happy to have reminded St. Andrew's College of its, by all accounts, very standard obligations. We wish it luck in submitting its regular financial reporting. Hopefully it will not take nine months this time.

Outnumbered

Siobhan Ryan speaks to men studying female-dominated degrees

John* is about to finish his combined Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Nursing and has noticed a dramatic gender skew towards women in the Nursing component of his degree. Although most of his classes in Nursing have had three or four men, he’s had a few tutorials in which he was the only one.

When I ask if he finds this strange, his immediate response is “Not at all. Nurses care for both men and women, often at a very personal level, and have to be able to maintain a trusting therapeutic relationship with any patient. Gender stops being a major point of difference fairly quickly,” he says.

The only way he’s ever felt excluded in his degree is by “throwbacks” to older attitudes in literature and with some academics. “Occasionally nurses will be referred to in the feminine in a reading or during a lecture,” he says, but notes this is quite rare.

Tom Roberts is a close friend of mine who studies the same degree as me, Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications). He estimates that there would be about nine female students to every one man – “a ridiculously high proportion” – but he doesn’t find the experience particularly strange. However, he sometimes finds the tiny pool of men in the degree (which only has around 120 people in total) socially limiting.

Sitting across from me at Courtyard, Tom also points out what could have been a barrier to us becoming friends. “When you’re trying to talk to girls – especially in the early stages of the degree – sometimes they’re like ‘OMG, is he hitting on me?’ and it’s like, ‘no, I’m not, there are very few men, I have no choice but to talk to girls in my degree’” I sink low in my chair laughing as he says this looking directly at me, half accusatory, half holding back laughter: this is exactly how we met.

Louis Bridle, who studied a Bachelor of Arts

“You’re told, for example in domestic violence, that as a man, you will never work in that area in a face-to-face capacity... [but] I feel like that kind of stuff just doesn’t outweigh the already big disadvantage that women have to men in finding jobs and pay.”

and Bachelor of Social Work at USyd, agrees that the social barrier was the main difficulty in his Social Work units. He estimates that out of a cohort of around 100 students, there were four or five men. “It was probably the biggest gender disparity I’ve seen out of any other unit I’ve done at university by far.” He thinks the feeling of being an outsider came partly from the assumption that he wouldn’t contribute appropriately during dis-

*Surnames of some students quoted in this article have been withheld.

cussions on gendered issues.

When his class was discussing domestic violence from an academic standpoint, and they acknowledged that women are far more likely to be victims of domestic violence than men, a man in the class started arguing it was a problem to look at it that way because men are also victims of domestic violence. “Just this weird ‘men are important too’ argument,” Louis describes. The other people in his class were “put off” by the comment and “people did look at me, like, as another guy in the class to see if I would have the same view, but then when I spoke, obviously I didn’t, and I think people kind of accepted that.”

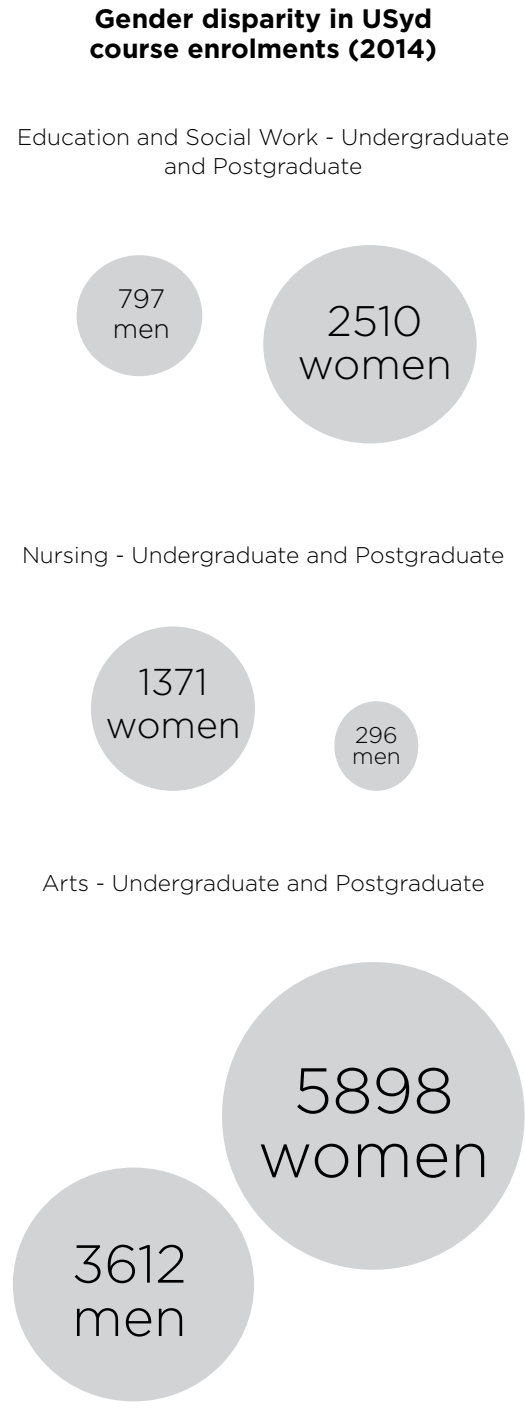
Tom agrees about the nature of class discussions, noting that early conversations surrounding the type of media consumed by students in the course were often focused on “more female oriented culture” in television, such as shows like *Girls*. Further, when more male-oriented shows such as *Game of Thrones* were mentioned, the discussions revolved around a feminist perspective, addressing the representation of women or critiques of the male gaze in media.

However, as he commented that male-oriented shows like *Game of Thrones* and *Mad Men* were discussed in some depth, he stopped to think. “Maybe it’s just the experience of actually having female-oriented media talked about that makes it feel like it’s skewed towards women.”

By contrast, Sophie is a female Bachelor of Design Computing student, who feels a similar need to prove herself to the men in her degree. This was worse when she was younger. “In high school, whenever I was talking about tech topics I felt the need to say everything I knew to validate myself.” Now she still feels worried about speaking up when she doesn’t understand something in her course. “I’m conscious that I think I sound like a stupid little girl who doesn’t know anything.” Sophie feels very included in her degree, despite being a woman in a sometimes hostile, male-dominated field, which she attributes to studying computer design rather than programming. In her degree “the men are a lot more welcoming of women and very, kind of, conscious that they don’t just talk about masculine topics... I find that people make a lot more effort to be socially conscious of everyone, rather than in the Faculty of IT where they are themselves and you have to fit in with that [masculine] environment.”

Louis identifies future employment as a concrete example of when men can be excluded. “You’re told, for example in domestic violence, that as a man, you will never work in that area in a face-to-face capacity,” due to the overwhelming majority of domestic violence victims being women. However, in the end he believes that he still would have been more advantaged than disadvantaged by his gender in job seeking. “To be honest, I feel like that kind of stuff just doesn’t outweigh the already big disadvantage that women have to men in finding jobs and pay,” he reflects.

Tom agrees to some extent. He estimates that, of people he sees in the media, “it’s close to a 50-50 split, but probably leaning towards the male side,” although studies would suggest that female representation in the media is much lower than 50 per cent. When I ask if he thinks it would be hard to get a job as a male in the media, he concludes “the fears of not getting a job because of the limited market [in media] outweigh the fears of not getting a job because I’m a man”. John, by



contrast, believes that “There’s always a need for more nurses, both female and male”. As a result, he doesn’t think his gender will be a factor in his ability to get a job.

Men, if anything, are seen as vital to providing balance in many female-dominated areas, such as nursing or education. Women, on the other hand, are often overlooked. “If I was going into a corporate environment I would be very worried about how I’d be perceived as a woman... because you have to wear the right heels and like the right skirt or something, but you can’t be having children, or stuff like that,” Sophie says. In contrast, she believes technology start-ups provide a much more welcoming environment, because “they’re much more individual and humanistic, and more understanding of who you are as a person”.

Just as we’re about to dig into some pizza and I stop taking notes, Tom pauses, and sums up the experience of being a man in a female dominated degree. “At the end of the day, if being in this degree is the only time in my life that I feel marginalised because of my gender, you know, I don’t have much to complain about, do I?”

Does the USU still need an affirmative action policy?

Five of the nine students running for USU Board this year are women. Mary Ward asks whether this means affirmative action has done its job

In May 2007, every person walking up and down Eastern Avenue in a coloured shirt, begging passing students to step inside a booth so that they could send a vote their way in the race to become a USU Board Director, was a man.

This was not because no women were interested, but because those who were had been automatically elected under the USU’s new affirmative action policy, which had been implemented at the previous year’s AGM. There was no need to campaign; the three female candidates in the nine-strong lineup were guaranteed a spot.

Reflecting on the 2007 election in the USU’s 2014 publication *We are Women: One Hundred Years, One Hundred Stories*, the organisation’s former Vice-President Courtney Tight wrote, “While the women who were elected to the Board were impressive, capable and intelligent, their voice was missing from the election process itself. We had three and a half weeks of just dudes on campus, telling us their thoughts, trying to give away their t-shirts, poster their names on every noticeboard from Holme to Engo.”

The decision to introduce an affirmative action policy came after only two women were elected at each of the 2003, 2004 and 2005 Board elections. The resulting policy, found in section 10.2(c) of the USU’s constitution, stipulates that “five directors shall be elected during years ending in an even number and six directors shall be elected during years ending in an odd number, provided that in any year ending in an even number, two, and in any year ending in an odd number, three such elected Directors shall be wom*n identifying”.

The policy is designed to ensure that, at any time, at least five of the 11 USU student Board Directors are women.

Unfortunately, in its first year of operation, the policy had the – unintended, you would hope – result of making women in student politics more invisible than ever before.

After its stark entry onto the University’s stupol scene nine years ago, affirmative action in the USU Board elections has really become more of a silent overseer than a cause of disruption to campus democracy.

Of the nine elections it has been implemented for, affirmative action has affected the results of just three: 2007, 2009 (in which five women ran, two were elected at the ballot box and one by affirmative action) and – after a prolonged period of inactivity – last year, when it somewhat shockingly came into play on election night, placing SLSs Shannen Potter above Unity candidate Georg Tamm, who was subsequently knocked out of the race.

(*Honi* asked both Potter and Tamm to provide comment for this article. While Tamm failed to provide comment by our publication deadline, Potter (who is now the USU’s Honorary Secretary) declined to comment specifically on last

year’s election, instead telling us, “[Affirmative action] polices are well known and in my experience well respected within the USU community, and are an essential and established part of operating in a Board election.”)

Describing five years as a “prolonged period” might seem to be a bit hyperbolic: it could have just been a fluke that a sufficient number of women were elected from 2010 to 2014, and five elections is a small sample size. But there were certainly other indicators in that time that real change had occurred regarding student representation and gender within the USU.

“Of the nine elections it has been implemented for, affirmative action has affected the results of just three: 2007, 2009 (in which five women ran, two were elected at the ballot box and one by affirmative action) and – after a prolonged period of inactivity – last year, when it somewhat shockingly came into play on election night”

Nearly a decade after affirmative action was implemented, it is hard to argue that women are underrepresented on the USU Board. The organisation’s past five Presidents have been woman-identifying and, if bizarre statistics about the upbringings of USU Presidents are your jam (please, not all at once!), consider this: not only have the past five been women, but they all attend-

ed single-sex high schools. Not only did they all attend single-sex high schools, but from 2011 to 2013 they had all attended the *same North Shore selective single-sex high school*. Clearly something in the water at North Sydney Girls.

Women have also been elected at a rate higher than men. During the “even-year” elections of 2012 and 2014 (where the affirmative action quota only required two women to be elected within the five successful candidates) three women made it onto the Board, out-performing their male peers.

This year, for the first time, more women are seeking to be elected to the USU Board than men, with five of this year’s nine candidates identifying as women.

Despite this, USU Wom*n’s portfolio holder, Tiffany Alexander, disagrees that affirmative action measures are no longer needed in the organisation’s annual elections.

“I think the fact that a board, which practices AA during its elections, has had a wom*n-identifying president for the past five years is evidence of the success of AA,” she says, adding that she does not believe examining the gender of executive position holders is a good metric for determining whether the policy is needed, as the executive are elected from within the Board.

“In the general election for Directors, wom*n still undoubtedly face barriers that male candidates don’t – this [has been] both my experience and something I have witnessed numerous times – and until this isn’t true, AA will still be relevant to the USU”

When *Honi* asked this year’s crop of Board hopefuls whether they thought the USU still needed a gender-based affirmative action policy at the conclusion of their USU knowledge quiz (see page 16 for how they fared) the answer, from candidates representing all ends of the political spectrum, was a resounding “yes”.

However, some believe the policy needs to go further. NLS candidate Sam Kwon is running on affirmative action for queer and ethnocultural students. Although in recent years queer students have been incredibly well represented on the Board from a statistical perspective, there is certainly a case for the latter: the Board’s Ethnocultural Officer position essentially went to first-year Board Director Atia Rahim by default last year as the only student on the Board who identified as a person of colour.

Developing affirmative action policy is ultimately a subjective act. In 2006, the USU determined female representation on the Board to be problematically low, but there are plenty of other identities with important voices who struggle to either be elected or put their hands up for election: people of colour, postgraduate students, people with religious beliefs, engineering students.

The question for the USU is whether womanhood is still one of those identities.

Measuring student satisfaction

Andrew Bell and Nick Bonyhady on the web of data collection which founds University policy

Last week, the entire student populace received an email from University Quality and Analytics which contained an independent survey they called the ‘Student Barometer’. It aims to create a comprehensive data picture of the student experience at the University of Sydney.

Measuring the student experience is particularly important to Sydney because it usually lags behind other Australian universities like the ANU and Melbourne on several rankings of research performance and reputation. The University’s marketing pitch to international students, who are essential to its financial health, reflects the Uni’s perceived strengths: rankings and research are mentioned only twice, while the Uni spends paragraphs on clubs and societies, facilities, orientation events and student services. If the results of the Student Barometer are good, they will reinforce this powerful marketing story by allowing for a positive comparison between Sydney and its competitors. If students are dissatisfied with the Uni, the Student Barometer will present a different message to Uni administration – a message they at USyd might actually listen to.

Professor Pip Pattison, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), told *Honi* that “These responses had a “major influence in the development of the University’s new strategic plan” and they “regularly influence policy development, projects designed to improve students’ experiences and changes to individual units of study.” She said the responses were “reviewed regularly at many

levels of the University”. Importantly, she also confirmed that the Barometer gives Sydney an “opportunity to compare our performance with universities in Australia and the rest of the world”.

While it is hard to track the direct impact of survey results, there are some reassuring examples. The Senior Executive Group, which is made up of some of the University’s most powerful administrators has agreed that “units of study should have no more than 20% of students disagreeing that they are satisfied with the quality of their units of study”. One wonders though whether any other multi-billion dollar organisation would tolerate a fifth of its ‘customers’ being unhappy with any of its products. Nonetheless, relative to the impact that student protests seem to have on University decision-making, survey results seem to have some power.

However, when asked whether the survey results will be released to students, Professor Pattison told *Honi*, “The survey outcomes are made available to staff through regular reports to committees and our survey website; we are increasingly seeking to ‘close the loop’ on all surveys by providing aggregate responses to survey respondents as well.”

Why the University has not committed to ‘close the loop’ by releasing the full results of this survey is unclear. Other surveys, like the University Experience Survey, a national survey of uni students funded by the federal Department of Education, make their results freely available online. So, logistics do not seem to be a barrier to

greater transparency.

Ironically, despite the fact that students provide the data for surveys in the first place, the University has long restricted access to its survey results. For example, students can see how Units of Study that they took in the previous semester performed in the USS survey, but they cannot see other units. Consequently, they get largely redundant information about the past, rather than being able to make more informed choices about what units to take in future.

Perhaps one reason that Sydney is reticent to reveal the results of the Student Barometer survey is that it has not done well in previous major educational surveys. In 2014, on the predecessor survey to the SES (the largest higher education survey in Australia), the University placed below the national average on 37 of 46 measures of student satisfaction amongst continuing students, that is, about 80%. In accordance with national trends, the University’s worst area was student support. For instance, only 20% of continuing students in 2014 were satisfied with the Uni’s efforts to provide “appropriate English language skill support”.

Hopefully the University’s past performance does not deter it from releasing the full results of the Student Barometer this year. As an institution that has committed to a core value of ‘openness’, it ought not to matter whether the results of the Barometer aid the University’s marketing or not. However, the fact that the two are at least potentially linked should give students some confidence that their survey answers will carry weight.

SSAF and the student movement

Liam Carrigan on the political implications of the Student Services and Amenities Fee

Contemporary student unionism in Australia is a difficult beast to define. The introduction of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) in late 2010 by the Gillard government came into effect during a deeply depoliticised and dull era in the student movement. The introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism in 2006 had achieved its aim of hollowing out student activism and destroying vibrant campus communities. Although SSAF legislation placed power in the hands of increasingly corporate University administrators and expressly forbid the funding of political activities, as student organisations began to receive their share of fees, student life was again re-invigorated. Serious student opposition to Labor’s attempted \$2 billion in higher education cuts, impassioned protest campaigns against staff and course cuts at a range of campuses and mass student opposition to fee deregulation marked the reemergence of student activism. One only had to walk down Eastern Avenue last week to see a flurry of coloured shirts, queer students protesting the Catholic society and incredible live music booming next to free Union cupcakes.

A closer look at recent history uncovers a worrying undercurrent in student unionism however, as the political implications of SSAF have encouraged the demobilisation of student protest and a shift towards a focus on service provision and managerial collaboration. For those fighting for their jobs and fearing unaffordable fees, this is arguably against the interests of university communities.

Away from the unstoppable activist culture of Sydney University’s political milieu, the University of Western Australia Guild – which combines USU style service provision with SRC-esque activist departments – recently passed a controversial motion. Moved by President Maddie Mulholland, the motion stated the Guild would not run any

protests against the University’s “Renewal Project”, which involves the slashing of 300 staff jobs. Such protests, often run in collaboration with the National Tertiary Education Union, were arguably instrumental in shelving the Liberal government’s plans to deregulate university fees. They are vital to mobilising students and staff against the corporate power of the modern university.

On the UWA Guild’s decision, NTEU UWA Branch Vice-President (Academic Staff), Stuart Bunt commented, “Obviously we don’t see that as particularly helpful. We try to work with the Guild, however they are beholden to the university. I can’t tell you their reasoning but I think it’s very difficult for the Guild to act politically as they are now dependent on University funding and audited so closely that anything that smacks of politics must be explained to management.” However, unlike universities in other states the UWA guild is assured an immediate allocation of 50 per cent of SSAF due to state-specific legislation, which makes their decision to not support protests against the University politically questionable. Bunt noted that this trend of demobilisation began with VSU, a move he saw as “A very purposeful move from the Liberals. Student unions are generally hotbeds of the left and the Liberals wanted to destroy student activism.”

However, evidence of the power of SSAF to politically control students extends back to its initial implementation. In 2012, a protest campaign against the vicious restructuring of La Trobe University was quite successful, fighting some of the deeper cuts. However, the then-Vice-Chancellor threatened the President of La Trobe Student Union, Clare Keyes-Lily with the rescission of their SSAF funding, which had allowed the Union to reform after a post VSU collapse, unless the campaign was wound down. Keyes-Lily co-operated and the union leadership thereafter opposed the

campaign against the cuts.

Closer to home, the University of Sydney Union Board, in 2013, voted against most measures proposed by then-Vice-President Tom Raue showing solidarity with the NTEU strikes due to concerns the disruption of commercial operations would affect their bottom line. Only last year, the RMIT student union released a statement criticising their NTEU branch from going on strike, as “Students should not be used as chess pieces between bargaining powers”. A pattern emerges: student union administrations are regularly forced to be compliant to University governing bodies, lest they jeopardise their funding and existence.

Heidi La Paglia, the current National Union of Students Women’s Officer, experienced these realities as Tasmanian University Union President in 2015: “Management tied the SSAF to specific uses, we couldn’t use SSAF for anything political such as NUS organised protests. Management used us as a service. The underlying threat was that if we engaged in anything they considered too political they would deny us funding.”

La Paglia explained that it is essential that “student unions are working with staff in solidarity and we recognize issues facing staff and students are usually the same issues. Working against each other hurts us both.” Bunt expressed similar sentiments commenting, “We share a common cause. The University used to be entirely run by staff and students, something that has been too easily forgotten.” The SSAF is imperfect legislation, and so the student movement must collectively decide how to continue to mobilise in a context of austerity and internal division. Student unions can either become service arms of University administrations or stand with staff to collaboratively articulate a different vision of higher education in Australia.

Dereg delayed until 2018 in tepid election budget

Mary Ward, Victoria Zerbst, Alexandros Tsathas and Max Hall report from a Canberra bunker

Fee deregulation is off the table until 2018, tonight’s Federal Budget has revealed. In an overwhelmingly tame election budget, the Turnbull government appears to have simply shifted pennies around. *Honi’s* Budget lock-up team looks at what the bean-counter-in-chief has prepared for students.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Turnbull makes sure dereg won’t cost him any votes.

After the apocalyptic university fee deregulation proposed by Abbott and Hockey in their 2014-15 Budget was defeated twice in the Senate, Turnbull and friends settled on a compromise: reducing the taxpayer’s contribution to the cost of a degree by 20 per cent.

Now, with an election around the corner, the Government isn’t even prepared to back that plan.

For its 2016-17 Budget, it has released a “discussion paper” and postponed making any calls on higher ed until 2018, comfortably after Australians go to the polls in July this year.

“Driving Innovation, Fairness and Excellence in Australian Higher Education”, released with the Budget, should have been called “The cost of HECS is ballooning and here’s some shitty ways to shift the burden onto students”.

Ideas floated in the paper, which will probably be introduced if the Coalition are re-elected, include:

- (Still) reducing the taxpayer’s contribution to degree costs by 20 per cent.
- Introducing interest on HECS loans, set at 20 per cent of the cost of your degree.
- Lowering the threshold at which you have to start paying HECS back from \$56,126 to \$45,000. Quicker repayments mean cheaper loans.
- Cutting cheaper degrees for areas of national priority, like sciences.
- Recovering HECS debt from deceased estates.

With this glossy piece of toilet paper, the Government has tried to avoid making its higher ed reforms an election issue. It still intends to punish students, only surreptitiously, and further down the track.

The lack of major changes and general air of “hush now” around higher education in this year’s budget doesn’t mean nothing has changed.

Support for Indigenous students

The budget brings uncertainty to funding for Indigenous support services at universities by collapsing three existing programs – the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Program (ITAS), Commonwealth Scholarship Program and Indigenous Support Program – into a single “Indigenous Student Success Program” which will allow universities to decide what sort of support is provided to Indigenous students. This means Indigenous students may see reductions in their scholarships or less access to tutoring under the popular ITAS scheme.

In an effort to incentivise institutions to retain their Indigenous students, the government will now fund Indigenous support services based on how far students progress through their degrees, rather than by the number of enrolments. No further details were confirmed beyond the government’s vague commitment to “more flexibility to implement responses that best meet the needs of individual students”.

QLT and Excellence

\$8 million will go towards publishing better information about university admission processes and the job prospects of graduates from each university, likely in response to controversy early this year about the number of students admitted to universities below the published ATAR cutoff.

\$10 million will also be spent bolstering TEQSA, the agency that accredits higher education institutions, to deal with the influx of private education providers that are now allowed to use the FEE-HELP scheme.

These changes were funded by abandoning \$21 million plans for a university Centre of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Simon Birmingham’s pocketed the rest. Summary? Who needs good lecturers or public education when you can read about your shit job prospects on a pretty website.

WORK AND WELFARE

You get an internship, and you get an internship!

You know what is really controversial? Hiring young people and paying them a liveable wage. But, in a move Scott Morrison said is for “de-risking that investment”, the budget introduces a new youth employment package, Youth Jobs PaTH: a voluntary scheme for up to 30,000 job seekers under the age of 25 starting in April 2017.

If the chatroom-circa-2004 mix of lower and upper case letters didn’t give it away, “PaTH” is an acronym. It stands for “Prepare”, “Trial” and “Hire”. Yeah, we don’t know where the “a” came from either.

In the “Prepare” aspect of the scheme, the government will be funding industry-endorsed, pre-employment training for job seekers. The “Trial” sees the government subsidise up to 30,000 voluntary internships for jobseekers who have been registered with employment services for more than six months. Job seekers will receive \$200 for every fortnight of their internship (on top of their existing welfare payments), and businesses will receive a flat payment of \$1000 for taking on a ragamuffin youth, which means if your internship goes for the program’s maximum 12 weeks, you’re \$200 ahead of your employer! (Except for all of that virtually free labour you just gave them.) For PaTH’s “Hire” element, employers will receive a wage subsidy of between \$6 500 and \$10 000 for hiring someone who has been registered with employment services for six months.

Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) payments remain unaffected throughout the process, meaning under-25s will still need to meet the job-seeking requirements in their first four weeks

Cough it up

Heads up, smokers, the government wants your money. They plan to make \$4.7 billion dollars from your bad habit with four annual 12.5 per cent (tax) increases to tobacco excise starting Sept 2017. That means packs will be double the dosh by 2021. Buy your ciggies now or you’ll huff and puff and blow it all away.

Dealing with domestic violence

The Government have allocated \$100 million over three years to break the cycle of violence against women and children. Right on. Power to you, government.

Carping on

“The common carp is Australia’s worst freshwater aquatic pest.” – Christopher Pyne, his sexy media release, 3rd May 2016.

The government are splashing out \$15 million to establish a ministerial taskforce and “tackle” the impact of the common carp on Australian waterways. As part of the “National Carp Control Plan” the government will appointment a national carp control officer (hire us pls, see CV attached) and attempt to cull 95 per cent of carp in the Murray Darling Basin by 2018. Carpe Diem, fish. (RIP)

What was not in the Budget

Missing from this year’s budget was a table comparing budget benefits respective for each tax bracket. There were also no answers to the average Aussie’s incessant ontological Questions: What is Dark Matter? Why didn’t they tax nangs?

of registered unemployment established under last year’s budget in order to qualify for these payments.

If you’re reading this thinking, ‘Has the government abolished Work for the Dole?’, never fear: if you fail to turn your “Trial” into a “Hire” – or weren’t able to secure an internship in the first place – that shit still exists. However, instead of being pushed onto it after six months, if you are deemed a “Stream A job seeker” on Jobactive, you can now laze around refreshing Seek for a whole year (or – as a smiling policy adviser told *Honi* repeatedly – volunteer for the scheme at any time).

“I’m not applying for grad jobs. I have a start-up idea that’s going to be huge”

Another change to unemployment policy is the government’s \$88.6 million commitment to the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme, which was introduced in last year’s budget to help low income earners develop small businesses. Now, the entrepreneurial scheme is being extended to people not on income support (provided they are also not taking part in any employment, education or training), so every recent college grad with an app idea can apply.*

But, how do you help someone start a business short of giving them cash? The budget proposes a series of workshops titled – and we are not joking – “Exploring Being My Own Boss” as well as “Entrepreneurship Starter Packs”. We expect these agile and disruptive seminars will be held at Double Bay’s Royal Oak.

*To take part in some, non-financial benefits of the program, which, with 8600 participants budgeted for, only has 300 more places than last year.

Left of Centre-link?

Students will now automatically be issued Health Care Cards when they apply for student payments from Centrelink. That’s good, in our experience, because often students do not even know they are eligible.

The government are also aligning Youth Allowance means testing with other welfare payments. This mean you won’t have to re-send your family’s financial information if it’s already in the Centrelink system. That’s good if you’re bad with forms. Also, money gifted by your parents will no longer be counted as income when you apply for student payments. That’s good if you’re rich.

There are also slight updates to the geographical classification of regional or remote students, which are used to assess eligibility for students who receive the Relocation Scholarship or an independent rate of Youth Allowance. Is that good for you? You should find out.

These changes are purely administrative and only affect a small amount of students. The value of Centrelink payments remains the same and the Turnbull Government sits at your student feet praying for no drama.

Our problematic faves

Ajay Sivanathan and **Subeta Vimalarajah** think there's no shame in having less than politically perfect friends

Much like a love of Amy Schumer, Taylor Swift or Nick Kyrgios, many of us have problematic faves hidden away. As you might turn your Spotify to “private” when you listen to their music, or claim never to have watched that frankly micro-aggression ridden Netflix series, some of you may also have problematic friends you hide away from the judgmental stares of call-out-culture loving student politicians.

Some of us were not born into perfectly left-wing families. Our parents weren't the ones to introduce us to the power of direct action and they wouldn't dream of gleefully paying our bail should we be arrested for protesting. For some of us, the first problematic faves we encountered were actually our own parents.

Traversing the divide between the debt you feel you owe your parents and their entirely different political views to you is not hugely different from reconciling changing politics at university with old friends and their differing political views. There is, however, an implicit expectation one should rid oneself of all friends with inconsistent politics to embrace a radical-or-die lifestyle.

It's one thing when people apply this logic to themselves; it's another when they impose the obligation on others. Many a time we have felt embarrassed or kept quiet about friends working in profit-driven sectors who wear business casual clothes to university, and to pre-emptively appease the pure leftists among us, we've even changed our notifications to hide message previews.

The expectation that your friendships remain politically pure reflects a growing individualism

in the broad left. It's an attitude that engenders insecurity and encourages division, backed by a steadfast belief, “If I don't know any problematic people, they're not my problem.”

“In actuality, the process of constantly calling someone in... is a far more politically and personally difficult, but potentially rewarding act”

When your long-time friend acts in a way you know they shouldn't, it's honestly hard to deal with. In actuality, the process of constantly calling someone in – instead of shouting them down in a public Facebook post – is a far more politically and personally difficult, but potentially rewarding act. Engaging in ongoing dialogue – sometimes over years – is a way both parties can come to terms with their perspectives.

It's an opportunity to learn and debate with people who are staunch supporters of a school of thought now far removed from your own, but who respect you enough to listen and not troll you. Often keeping friends who are proponents of the “average” person's thoughts is also a useful means of keeping political struggle in perspective.

Problematic faves, like all good friends, listen and engage honestly about their thoughts, providing conversations that, like friendships, are mutually rewarding. They unlock the motivations that actually underlie their beliefs, and often they're more complex than “they're racist”. Unlocking that complexity is the key to building a political movement that's aimed at changing the views of the “problematic”, instead of just cutting them away.

These relationships also require talking about politics not with the language of political economy and gender studies units, but just with words that can persuade the average casual bigot. Often, people are skeptical of the methods those with ‘good politics’ use because their ideas simply aren't conveyed in a relatable and understandable way. Instead of using a pre-existing relationship you have with the person to discuss these issues, the assumption is if they don't get it, they're not worth trying. They should educate themselves after all.

The result is a broad left that enforces safe spaces even amongst it's own friendship circles. Of course, no one should be obligated to interact with someone they don't want to, but the ease with which people hurl political criticism at others reflects a callous disregard for the various circumstances by which people find themselves in the left and the fact problematic views are socialised by conservative media and government propaganda.

Beyond a question of personal autonomy, when considered politically, the expectation one should cut ties is entirely futile. And so, we will defend our problematic faves, and we won't succumb to the bitter glares of die-hard leftists any longer.

Volunteer expectations

Will Edwards won't be replying to your messages outside office hours

Flashback to my summer holiday. I was sitting in a Fidel Castro themed café in Wellington, New Zealand with my best friend, a Kiwi whom I see about once a year. For the tenth time since my milkshake arrived, my phone buzzed. “For fuck's sake,” I grumbled, “who wants what?”

I probably should have turned my phone off before it reached that point, but OWeek was rapidly approaching and I couldn't shake the persistent worry that one of those notifications would be important.

Like many people involved in campus culture, I had volunteered to take on certain responsibilities, so I can't really fault people for asking me to do what I said I would.

But there's still a problem here, which I never noticed until I had the gall to take a holiday. At home, receiving urgent demands at all hours and stopping whatever I was doing to satisfy them was a standard part of my routine. It wasn't until I tried to take a break from my student lifestyle, to enjoy travelling and the limited time I had with someone dear to me, that I noticed how demanding that lifestyle is.

It's not that I want to shirk my responsibilities. Apart from the moral duty to keep promises, I genuinely enjoy the roles I volunteer for; that's why I do them. But under the status quo, volunteering in campus culture – be that clubs and societies, student politics, journalism, or performance – often requires being on call all day, every day.

And that simply isn't healthy. The mental health risks of working on call are well documented. Paid



Art: Frankie Hossack

work usually involves set hours for good reason. Unions fought and continue to fight for limits on working hours for good reason. Yet when it comes to volunteering, people seem to think that removing the obligation to pay people also removes the obligation to give them a fucking break.

A factor which severely compounds the issue is social pressure. Most volunteering roles on campus don't formally require permanent availability, but those of us who occupy them are quite willing to demand it of each other anyway. Whether it's by passive-aggression (I was once told, upon not replying to a message quickly enough, “You're

the President of [club], remember?:)”) or even by more well-meaning exhortation, our fellow volunteers are as often as not the cause of our stress and worry. The work may be hard, but the fear of letting down your friends is harder. We'd all find our roles easier if we didn't perpetuate that fear.

I do want to help. But I also want to eat dinner in peace, spend time with my friends, get to sleep on time, and fulfil all my other duties.

So by all means, ask me to help you. You can even send the message at 2am on Saturday if you like. But don't expect a reply before work hours on Monday.



*All work,
no pay*

With the announcement of the federal government's PaTH internship program for young job seekers, **Catherine Bouris** looks at how university students are already forced to work for free in order to get ahead, if they can afford it.

Art by **Matthew Fisher**.

My first internship was for a charity last year, for about two months, one day a week. It wasn't a mandatory component of my degree (Arts), but I wanted to get some experience before starting my Masters this year. It was a fun workplace, and the work was interesting and more than menial administrative tasks, plus since it was for a charity I didn't mind working for free.

My second internship was not so pleasant – this workplace is notorious for relying on interns, as they only have two paid staff members. Two interns come in for two days a week on average, which means that at any given time there is at least four interns in the program.

The work primarily consisted of writing event listings, editing photos, and proofreading. It was a low pressure environment, which was good, but also not one in which a student can hope to

learn much that will help them beyond entry-level positions at similar publications.

After about two weeks there, I found myself embroiled in a scandal. After not taking a lunch break that day, I asked to leave early. My supervisor said yes, then emailed me ten minutes later reprimanding me for doing so. I posted the email to my private Facebook page (with no identifying characteristics of my workplace), asking for advice as to whether it sounded passive aggressive to anyone else or whether I was just being sensitive, and was surprised by the number of comments criticising the tone and content of the email.

However, one Facebook friend sent my post to my employers, and, while I wasn't fired, I left, as it would have been too uncomfortable to continue interning there after that.

Upon leaving that internship, I learned that others had had negative experiences with this workplace, and that the work I was asked to do amounted to administrative work that, under the Fair Work Act, I most likely should have been paid for. While it's not worth chasing up payment for five days' work, the experience did inspire me to look into unpaid internships in Australia and how they affect students and job seekers.

With the introduction of the Prepare, Trial and Hire program (PaTH) under the government's latest budget, a serious discussion about the legalities and ethics surrounding internships is needed. The program will provide employers who take job seekers on with a \$1 000 upfront payment, and if they take the intern on at the end of the internship, another payment of between \$6 500 and \$10 000, paid out in the form of weekly wage subsidies.

Meanwhile, job seekers will be paid a \$200 a fortnight for undertaking these internships, on top of their Newstart payments. When you consider that the suggested internship hours are 15 to 25 a week, this works out to be between \$6.67 to \$4 an hour, paid not by the employer, but by the government.

This means that workplaces will essentially be receiving free money as well as free labour. The scheme will encourage employers to continuously hire new interns, rather than take them on as waged employees that they would have to pay out of their own pocket, and will see interns performing tasks typically reserved for paid employees.

The kicker is that the examples provided by the government to explain this internship program involve job seekers 'interning' at supermarkets, cafés and newsagencies – the part-time and casual jobs they could have been working in for an award wage before they became unemployed.

Unpaid internships fall into a legal grey area in Australia. Under the Fair Work Act, they are legal if undertaken as part of an education or training course. The government lays out criteria for unpaid internships to be considered legal, such as the length of the placement, what the interns' obligations are, and who benefits from the arrangement. Essentially, if the intern is learning the ropes of working at a publication in a primarily observational role, and their duties are not essential to the operation of the business, the internship is most likely fine. As Interns Australia put it "you're there to learn, not perform the work of a paid employee".

If you're doing administrative tasks that would otherwise be done by a paid employee, and are not learning any new skills, then the organisation is getting more out of the agreement than you are, and it probably should not be an unpaid position. Unfortunately, most students are not aware of their rights under the Fair Work Act when they begin interning, although organisations like Interns Australia have been established to try and rectify that, as well as the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance's latest campaign about ethical internships.

Last year, Interns Australia made submissions to the Productivity Commission Review of the Workplace Relations Framework on the basis of surveys they had conducted of university students. Of 490 respondents, 90.61 per cent had completed at least one internship, and over half had completed two or more. Of these, only 38.65 per cent of respondents undertook the internships as part of formal education.

Seventy-four per cent of respondents to the survey were women, and the industries that most rely on unpaid internships are have a higher number of female employees than those that do not. Unpaid internships were found to be the most common in media and communications, at 23.43 per cent, followed by the arts at 15.7 per cent and law at 11.35 per cent.



In the same survey, roughly four in five respondents reported that their internship did not lead to a paid position with that employer. The authors of the submission found that unpaid internships are far less likely to lead to paid employment, with only one in five unpaid interns receiving an offer from the employer with whom they interned.

The survey found the median length for an internship was nine weeks. The authors calculated the foregone wages for this period of time as equaling roughly \$5,913, based on the national minimum wage.

Hours of free labour required by USyd degrees

Degree	Hours
Media and communications	140
Speech pathology	280
Vet science	420
Law*	600
Secondary teaching	600
Nursing	900
Social work	1,000
Psychology*	3,080
*Hours not required to graduate from the academic degree, but to enter practice.	

Several degrees offered by the University of Sydney include mandatory unpaid work placements. Degrees with mandatory unpaid work placements within the University include Media and Communications, Primary Teaching, Secondary Teaching, Early Education, Engineering (Software), Computer Science, Information Technology, Nursing, Social Work, Animal and Veterinary Science, and Applied Science. For Psychology and Law, the degrees themselves do not involve internship or placement units, but to become certified in those fields, you need to complete 3,080 hours and 600 hours of supervised work respectively.

those hours, whereas international students only have one semester.

One Law student I spoke to was able to work three days a week, as her placement was only two days a week, but this was in addition to studying full-time and completing her thesis. Despite being unpaid, law placements are extremely competitive, and it took her three months to find a community legal centre to take her on. Unfortunately, the caseload was huge, and the work grueling, and her university work suffered as a result. Eventually, she had to resign from the position as she was unable to sustain that level of academic and financial strain.

To be registered as a professional psychologist, students must complete a two year internship, two years of further study, or one year of each after completing four years of study.

As many unpaid internships are full-time (last month Fairfax Media faced social media backlash after revealing its mid-year interns would be required to work for seven full weeks unpaid), it means that only those who do not need to work to support themselves are able to undertake them. This forces students into an extremely difficult position; required to complete unpaid placements before they can graduate, and yet unable to generate significant income during semester.

Many students rely on Centrelink payments during this time, but often those are not enough to cover all living expenses, so they have to try and pick up nighttime and weekend shifts where possible. Some students rely on savings. One Media student said his prestigious summer internship – once you factored in lost shift time at his paid job – cost him over \$2 000.

For the most part, those who are in the best financial position to undertake full-time unpaid internships are those who do not need to work to support themselves; those who live at home with full parental financial support. Even then, a non-negotiable full-time internship means

students are unable to attend classes at the same time, which may result in them dropping classes for the semester and falling behind with their degree.

One Secondary Teaching student said she had endured 15-hour days, arriving at her school placement at 8am, leaving at 4pm, and working a closing shift until after midnight four days a week. She was teaching four or five lessons a day, on four different texts (this was an English placement), which equates to a full-time load. This placement lasted nine weeks, and in her second week, she came down with a fever because her body could not cope with the stress.

Unpaid work privileges those who are able to give away their time for free, in exchange for

“Unfortunately, most students are not aware of their rights under the Fair Work Act when they begin interning”

potential ‘exposure’ or ‘experience’ or eventual paid work in the future. Mandatory unpaid work placements within university degrees disadvantage students who have to support themselves, and forces them to barely scrape by for a set period of time to undertake work adults would typically be financially compensated for.

Considering how many female students are enrolled in Nursing, Teaching and Social Work degrees, the intensity of the mandatory unpaid

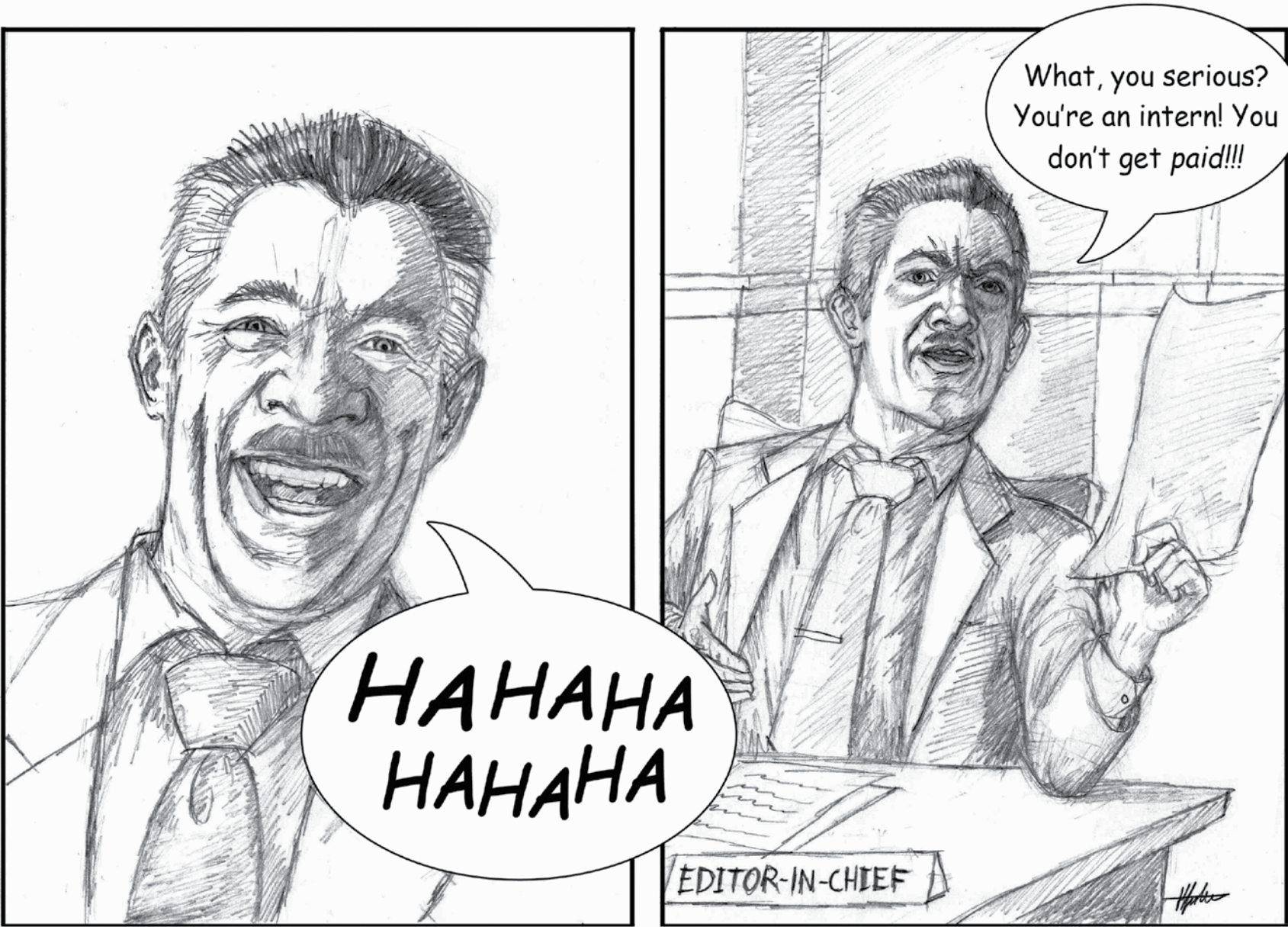
placements in these degrees is troubling. Interns Australia's survey found that unpaid internships were most common in female-dominated industries, and less common in male-dominated industries such as information technology and engineering. Social work is a prime example of this – government statistics show 80.4 per cent of social work employees, both full and part-time, are women. While male-dominated fields have fewer internships overall, roughly 50 per cent of them are paid, compared to only two to 11 per cent in other industries where unpaid internships are more common.

All of the students I spoke to agreed that these placements were valuable, and none of them support abolishing them entirely. However, all said, some form of compensation or stipend, either from the university or the employer, would make a huge difference, and make it easier for them to manage the work/study/internship/life balance.

The reality of unpaid placements is that they put students who are already disadvantaged at even more of a disadvantage, including female students, students from a low socioeconomic background, and international students. Students who are able to rely on their parents are fortunate, but this is not the reality for many. Many depend on Centrelink payments, part-time work, the kindness of strangers and scholarships to get by.

To say that expecting students to struggle to complete their degrees is unfair would be an understatement. Gone are the days of free education and spare time spent lying around the Quad – the university experience afforded to our parents is completely foreign to the students of today. Instead, scrimping, saving and working 60-hour weeks have become the norm for all but the wealthiest of students.

If you believe a workplace is taking advantage of its interns, you can lodge a complaint with the MEAA, or get in touch with Interns Australia.



An anatomical model of diversity

Tayler Wishart investigates the value in being ethnic, limb-less and hermaphroditic with one's organs exposed

As any anatomy student will tell you, your first day inside Anderson Stuart's famous anatomical labs is a memorable one, and my first practical experience in the Harvarian Theatre was just that. For many, the most memorable moment is their first experience of a cadaver lab, and the awe of holding a human brain in their hands. For me, it was the anatomical models.

Over the course of my scientific career, I've been in countless labs and seen countless anatomical models. They all look very similar: white skin, blonde hair, male genitalia and, usually, a detachable organ or two.

But these weren't just any anatomical models. As I scanned the models in the lab that day, I found myself doing double takes. These models were not the white-skinned, penis wielding teaching tools of the norm. They displayed a variety of ethnically diverse features, but also varied widely in male and female genitalia, some even appearing as hermaphroditic.

I was struck by the novelty, closely followed by the disturbing realisation that this was something that inspired novelty at all. As I strayed from my dissection table to further examine a hermaphroditic model with Asian features and breasts, I found myself grinning and overwhelmed with the most peculiar kind of University pride.

"As it would turn out, Sydney University stands very much alone in its model diversity."

If the great philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein was right and the human body really is the best picture of the human soul, who nominated a million identical John Smiths to occupy the endlessly eclectic and anatomically-diverse nature of the human race in our anatomy labs, and what motivated Sydney University to head the rebellion?

As it would turn out, Sydney University stands very much alone in its model diversity. Calls to several anatomy faculties and medical schools in Sydney including the Sydney University of Technology, the University of NSW, Western Sydney University and the University of Notre Dame Medical School not only confirmed their anatomical models are distinctly Caucasian, but that many of them had never even so much as heard of ethnically diverse options for models, despite having purchased them from 3B Scientific, the same company as those found in the Anderson Stuart labs.

A quick search will land you on the 3B Scientific web catalog of anatomy models. A few more clicks will get you a 24-part Deluxe Dual Sex Torso in "African", "Asian" or "Classic" for only \$1 035.33

AUD. The product page of each model offers several promotional blurbs ranging from the high quality manufacture of your hand-painted model, extensive list of removable organs and even an assurance that your model can be used to "answer all questions on internal human anatomy you ever had". There was however, no comment about the ethnic models, other than that Asian models had been developed particularly for Asian schools.

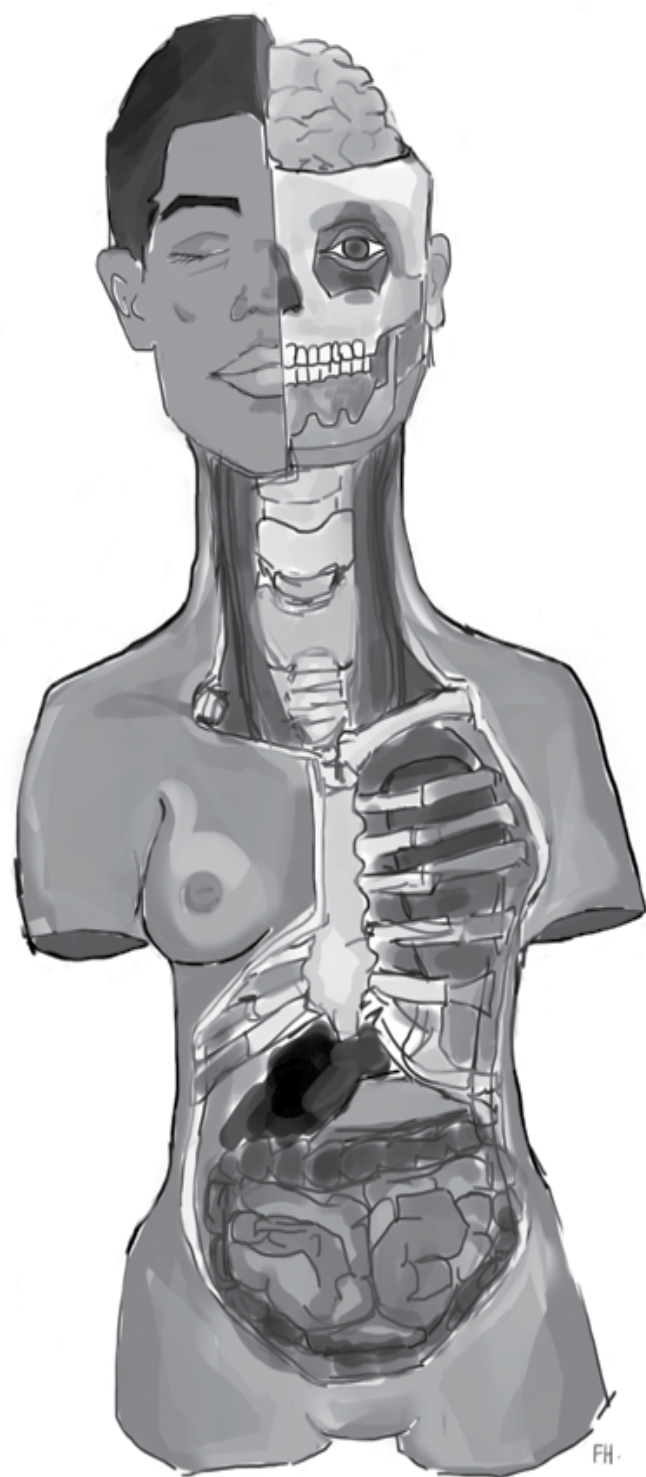
"We believe the environment we teach in can reflect our student and staff make up better and this is one way we can do that"

As for the motivation behind the purchase of the African and Asian models for Anderson Stuart, head of the Discipline of Anatomy and Histology Dr Kevin Keay and Manager of the anatomy facilities in the Discipline Dr Marcus Robinson confirm that the intention revolved around creating a more ethnically diverse learning environment for anatomy students. Dr Robinson goes on to elaborate that although "[The Discipline of Anatomy and Histology] is mostly concerned with the internal anatomy in our teaching – which is no different regardless of a person's ethnic background – but we believe the environment we teach in can reflect our student and staff makeup better and this is one way we can do that."

As for the opinion of the Anatomy and Histology faculty staff, Senior Anatomy and Histology lecturer Dr Karen Cullen maintains the reason for their purchase was clear. "I thought it was a good idea, because they've always been just these pale skinned models, but of course that's not what we look like. The updated lab provides an opportunity to refresh the picture so it looks more like us". She laughs when I ask about student comments on the models. "It is kind of funny, because the thing that bothers people the most about them is just the hairstyle. Just really bad hair, I hear that comment all the time."

There is an argument to be made for the negligible importance of ethnic diversity in a learning tool that is used exclusively for the purpose of teaching internal anatomy which is, of course, entirely unaffected by external ethnic features. In this sense, the colour of a plastic model's skin might seem insignificant. However, the most powerful reason behind ethnic diversity of anatomical models lies in the very connotation associated with their role in education.

The role of an anatomical model is to do just



Art: Frankie Hossack

that, model human anatomy. The anatomy that is the most fundamental, visceral representation of what it means to be human and the one undeniable connection between all seven billion of us. The true brilliance of diversity conveyed by our anatomical models is the concurrence of these ideas – the external reminder of the magnificently diverse uniqueness of each and every individual, and the knowledge that just below the surface, we are one.

REFUGEE RIGHTS FORUM



MANUS IS ILLEGAL NAURU, IN CRISIS

HOW CAN WE END OFFSHORE PROCESSING?

WITH EYEWITNESS SPEAKER, CHARLOTTE CHOMPF
Former Manus worker

Last week the PNG Supreme court ruled it illegal to detain asylum seekers in Manus Island detention centre. The PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neil said the centre has to be dismantled. But the Australian government is refusing to take responsibility, saying the detainees can be resettled on PNG or transferred to Nauru. But Nauru is complete social meltdown. A young man Omid last week passed away after he lit himself on fire in protest. The Labor opposition are making things worse, demanding the government "save" the Manus detention centre. Offshore processing is in a deep crisis, but it will take a fight to end it. Come to this forum to discuss the way forward.



Wednesday 18th May
5pm - 6.30, New Law 100

HOSTED BY CAMPUS REFUGEE ACTION COLLECTIVE
CALL: ADAM 0400 351 694



Quiz 2016

With thanks to Astha Rajvanshi

A. USU FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE (12 marks)

1. As of the 2014 Annual Report, does the USU run at a deficit or a surplus? How much to the nearest \$100,000. (2 marks)
2. How many meetings is a director allowed to miss before being automatically dismissed? (½ for partial answer, 1 for fully correct answer)
3. What is the name of the joint-University/USU corporate entity that technically controls the USU's commercial operations? (1 mark)
4. Who is the current CEO? How many years have they been in the position? (1 mark)
5. What is the name of the only president to have been an international student while they held the position? (1 mark)
6. What is the Occupation license and when does it expire? (1 mark)
7. To the closest \$1m, what is the total annual revenue of the USU in 2014? (1 mark)
8. To the closest \$100,000, how much total money did the USU receive from SSAF funding in 2015? (1 mark)
9. True or False: The USU's employees are exempt from paying tax. (1 mark)
10. Everyone can attend Board meetings of the USU, but only certain people have the right to speak and vote on decisions. Who can speak but not vote? (1 mark)
11. Name one constitutional change to be presented at the upcoming AGM (1 mark)

B. CURRENT BOARD AND C&S (9 marks)

12. Over how many events can a club or society claim their USU subsidy? (1 mark)
13. What is the maximum funding cap, per ACCESS attendee, for an on-campus non-major C&S event? (1 mark)
14. How can students start a new club or society? (1 mark)
15. True or False. It is possible to be President of more than one USU club or society. (1 mark)
16. Name 4 directors elected last year and one policy they ran on. (2 marks - ½ for each 2 candidates, ½ for each 2 policies)
17. Name three resolutions passed by the 2015-16 Board (1 mark)
18. Who are the Senate appointed directors? Name their most recent role before this. (2 marks)

C. USU CULTURE (12 marks)

19. What is the USU's twitter handle? (1 mark)
20. Name the O-Week directors for 2016 and 15 (1 mark)
21. What was the theme for 2015 Hermes? (1 mark)
22. How many coffees on ACCESS do you need to buy receive a free one? (1 mark)
23. How many childcare services is the USU affiliated with? What are their names? (2 marks - 1 mark number, 1 mark names)
24. Name 10 businesses on campus that provide ACCESS discounts (2 marks for 10, 1 mark for at least 7)
25. How much is a pide from UniBros on ACCESS? (1 mark)
26. True or False: the USU has an Indigenous officer. (1 mark)
27. As of 2014, how many members does the USU have to the nearest thousand? (1 mark)
28. What is the INCUBATE program? (1 mark)

D. OTHER CAMPUS ORGANISATIONS (6 marks)

29. Who is the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar)? (1 mark)
30. Who in the SRC prepares the annual SRC budget? (1 mark)
31. Which student organisation(s) received more in SSAF funding than the USU in 2015? (1 mark)
32. Which Indigenous peoples do the University acknowledge as the traditional custodians of the land the University is on? (1 mark)
33. What is the capital sinking fund? (1 mark)
34. How much money went into the capital sinking fund in 2015? (1 mark)

E. STUDENT LIFE (3 marks)

35. To the nearest thousand, how many Usyd students are international students? (1 mark)
36. How much do full-time students pay in SSAF per semester? (1 mark)
37. What is the maximum number of days you can receive for a simple extension? (1 mark)

Meet your 2016 Board candidates

Each candidate completed a quiz on the USU, gave an interview to Honi and were required to provide details of their policy proposals to bring you these profiles.

The profiles and quiz results that grace the following pages underscore that the job of a USU Board Director is as difficult as running for the position in the first place. For the elected few, A-frames are swapped for binders full of financial reports, sweaty tshirts for meal cards and preference wrangling for tense SSAF negotiations. The complexities of running a \$22m organisation are not to be underestimated.

Only one candidate scraped by the skin of their teeth into the Distinction range of our quiz, set with the help of the USU's 2013 President and 2014 *Honi* Editor, Astha Rajvanshi. The quiz was hard, but no harder than it needed to be. It aimed to test the knowledge that a candidate ought to have of the Union they wish to run and the students they seek to represent.

We should not be cynical about the

ability of students to lead an organisation so large and (ideally) so vital to our time at Sydney University. Do not forget that student control of students affairs is as important now as it was when Board Directors fought Voluntary Student Unionism and protected campus food outlets from profit-motivated University takeovers.

Nor should we consider the results of a single quiz or 40 minute interview the be all and end all in identifying the best candidates.

If you grumble at the cost of ACCESS cards or think you know how campus life is lacking, engage with the candidates. Take the time to interrogate a coloured shirt or three. Use your questions and suggestions to ensure they are prepared for the job. Vote on May 17-18 to get the right ones elected.

SEE THE FULL INTERVIEW VIDEOS LATER THIS WEEK AT HONISOIT.COM



Cameron Hawkins

CAPTAIN HAWKINS

Best known for his part-joke, part-anti-establishment protest ticket in last year's SRC election, Cameron Hawkins' bid for Union Board is no gag this time. Yet, for an individual whose C&S experience spans 12 societies, Cameron's difficulty in answering questions about the role and activities of the Union might strike you as a little bit funny.

Whilst Cameron is quick to assure us he is taking this election more seriously than the last, he failed to produce any substantial distinction between his approach this time and last time, except that "This time I've got actual policies that are serious, and not things like abolishing gravity from campus." Cameron admitted he hasn't put much effort into his role as an SRC officer, however said his C&S "experience" should convince voters of his commitment to the Union.

Cameron performed surprisingly well in his quiz, which might boost voter confidence in his capacity to take the role of Board Director seriously. Coming third overall, Cameron guessed the USU's overall revenue and the USU's SSAF funding to the dollar. During his interview, Cameron

was most impressive when discussing how the C&S program can be helped, explaining that the process of organising meetings and AGMs often trips up club executives.

But, while Cameron has a good understanding of the USU from a student perspective, he seemed to be less clear on the operation of the Board itself. He did not understand what the process of the Board taking meeting proceedings "in camera" meant, however, when the concept was explained he said he was "all for transparency" and said SSAF-paying constituents should be privy to conversations about CEO salaries and similar. It took him 55 seconds of thinking to say who he thought was the Board's most effective member elected last year (Michael Rees, who will also receive Cameron's vote for president), and he was unable to name a "best policy" the Board has developed over the past year.

Cameron's experience with C&S would be an asset to the board, provided Cameron takes the role seriously enough to educate himself on the range of other activities he would have to engage with as a board director.

QUIZ RESULTS:

55%

A. 5/12 D. 6/6
B. 4.5/9 E. 1/3
C. 6.5/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

"This time I've got actual policies that are serious, not things like abolishing gravity from campus."



Grace Franki

EMBRACE GRACE

As Grace managed the current editing team in their election, this profile was written by **Eden Faithfull**.

Grace Franki is running as an independent, though her policies reveal a progressive platform. Her *Honi* interview demonstrates she is well read on matters of fine print often overlooked by other candidates, such as Board members' fiduciary duties, and is enthusiastic about a student-driven USU.

When asked the tough questions, Grace remained composed and confident, taking time to consider each answer thoroughly before replying with generally precise responses.

With the promise of a long-anticipated USU app amongst her policies, Grace elaborated on her ability to cooperate with Board members to develop it, also referencing her internship at Google.

Grace believes it is important Board members establish professional relationships. When asked how her friendship with current Board member Michael Rees would affect her candidacy, she pointed to the example of Rees and Olivia Ronan, another member of Board. Both had been friends before being elected to the USU, and Grace believes this could foster nothing but a positive working relationship.

Grace referred to this as a "continuity" of friendship. However, she failed to mention how this "continuity" would accommodate possible differences in ideologies among Board members.

When asked to name a policy of hers that differentiated her from the rest of the candidates, Grace's dignified pause became pregnant, indicating that her policies constitute a run-of-the-mill platform. Though somewhat unimaginative, the policies promise attainable objectives that Grace appears to have assembled with consideration.

Grace scored a rather impressive 76 per cent in the *Honi* quiz, demonstrating a comprehensive knowledge of current Board and C&S trivia. A notable slip-up was misidentifying the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Tyrone Carlin, as Michael Spence, the Vice-Chancellor himself. Grace also made an error in reporting the number of times a board member may miss meetings without being dismissed, as well as the number of international students that attend Sydney University. This may be reason for pause considering the importance of these points, though she should be commended on her impressive result.

QUIZ RESULTS:

76%

A. 8/12 D. 5/6
B. 8.5/9 E. 2/3
C. 8.5/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

"A Board Director has a right and almost a responsibility to direct their vote...to a candidate they think will be good at the job"



Esther Shim

SHIMMY ON BOARD

Esther Shim attributes her recent disassociation with the Sydney University Liberal Club to "becoming more socially progressive". Interestingly, progressivism isn't really reflected in a policy statement with a strong focus on keeping things the same, such as preserving free college ACCESS cards.

Where her policy statement does introduce new ideas, they are mostly vague. When asked how the impending demolition of Bosch would impact her plans to introduce a Unimart-style USU outlet, it was unclear whether she was aware of the demolition plans at all. Another policy ensuring ACCESS members can 'access' any event apparently refers to recent instances of individuals being barred from SULC events, though Esther acknowledged that the average punter probably wasn't going to make that connection.

Esther's youth and energy lends vibrancy to her ideas, such as her suggestion to merge the Verge Festival with SURG for "some kind of music festival" supporting "young artists and musicians on campus". However, whilst Esther's optimism is appealing, it also points to a lack of experience in dealing with the Union. In her quiz, Esther immensely

overstated the revenue of the USU was \$1.6 billion (in reality falling closer to \$22 million). Despite her popular "save Unibros" policy, Esther could not identify the cost of one of their pides. When passionately announcing her mentoring program seeking to overcoming the "domestic/International enclave kind of barrier", Esther hesitated before requesting a copy of her policy statement in order to explain the policy.

Esther claims, as most candidates do, to represent students presently sidelined by the board. In her case, this is potentially true – she has policies geared towards engaging college students, and describes herself as having a "personal Christian faith", which she argues would have been helpful in preventing the recent USU v EU situation from escalating to an "us versus them" situation.

Overall, Esther seems enthusiastic and well-intentioned, but it is unclear whether she has the institutional knowledge and policy clarity necessary to effect real change on Board. To her credit, she's upfront about this limitation: while she didn't know the fiduciary duties of Australian board directors, she at least told us she was happy to read up on it.

QUIZ RESULTS:

45%

A. 3.5/12 D. 3.5/6
B. 5/9 E. 2/3
C. 5/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

"I think at the moment I'm very malleable in seeing where my actual politics lie."



Courtney Thompson

COUNT ON COURTNEY

Courtney Thompson is one of this year's most experienced candidates, with a long history of involvement in the USU (C&S executives, revues, festival director) as well as other student groups on campus such as the Wom*n's Collective. Given this experience, which saw her place second in the *Honi* quiz, it is surprising to see some of the tired and often unachievable policies of yesteryear recycled in her policy statement (revitalising campus nightlife, for example).

Other policies seem well-intentioned but ill thought through – Courtney was unable to explain how policies like reducing funding to "elitist, inaccessible programs" such as INCUBATE and debating would be put into practice given the entrenchment of these as some of the USU's flagship programs. She also struggled to articulate the link between her proposed vegetarian café and greater sustainability, and acknowledged that her confidence in demand for the café vis-à-vis other dining options was based purely on anecdotal evidence.

Nonetheless, many of her policies are smaller but more achievable, such as C&S reform allowing online signups, and equipping ACCESS desks with

feminist support service information. Her experience with collectives suggests an ability to follow through on collaborative campaigns and consultation. She also gave one of the most considered responses to the question of whether she would breach her fiduciary duties to the USU if it were in students' interests, responding that she would exhaust all available options before considering it, but ultimately would.

Older students may have noticed that Courtney is the first Grassroots candidate in years to eschew the traditional green shirt and branding. She says her glitter-themed campaign is simply more true to her, and that she saw no reason to embrace the "hack mentality" of sticking with a "safer" colour. She also stresses that as a non-binding faction, her affiliation with Grassroots will not impede her ability to make decisions independently on board.

Despite struggling to defend some of her more ostentatious policies, Courtney's policy statement also features smaller, more achievable ideas backed up by the experience of someone who knows the Union, and has already spent several years engaging with and fighting for its change and development.

QUIZ RESULTS:

68%

A. 5.5/12 D. 4/6
B. 7.5/9 E. 2/3
C. 9.5/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

"I'm not a candidate who's going to see a breakfast bar as the most important thing to put into the Union"



Vanessa Song

V FOR VANESSA

Vanessa Song, as one of the more experienced candidates across the field, outperformed many of her fellow candidates when discussing the role of the Union and the reality of its politics.

However, following successive controversies surrounding her roles as the SRC's Wom*n of Colour Officer and Publicity Officer of SHADES, the burning question is whether her track record of performing on-campus roles intermittently or poorly should inform voters' decisions. She blamed emails sent to the wrong accounts and strict parents as reasons for her absences, adding that she would take less than three subjects if elected.

For a candidate with so much C&S experience, Vanessa's quiz performance might indicate rumours as to her shaky executive performances are true. Vanessa claimed the controversial '10 free event' rule for C&S was still in place, despite recently being overturned by the Board with much student media attention. Vanessa's understanding of the Union's revenue was also blatantly wrong, claiming the Union made half as much revenue as it does in reality.

Vanessa was undoubtedly passionate, however her eagerness to please her fellow students often gave the impres-

sion she was searching for the "correct" answer, rather than the most realistic or accurate one. She adamantly stated that elected executive salaries should unequivocally be on the record in the interest of transparency, yet would only publicly discuss other management positions at the consent of the individual. This position effectively came at the cost of her stance on transparency

Similarly, when questioned about the recent Evangelical Union controversy, Vanessa claimed her ideal approach encompassed "consistency" as well as a "case-by-case", individualised approach.

Vanessa's experience became more apparent when capably answering questioning relating to her fiduciary duties, saying that she would abide by those duties even if she perceived it to be in the interests of students, since those students were electing her to a position subject to those duties.

Vanessa's knowledge of what is expected from a board director surpasses most of her fellow candidates. Whether she will live up to those expectations, given her performance at other student representative roles, remains a relevant question for voters to consider.

QUIZ RESULTS:

43%

A. 3.5/12 D. 2/6
B. 5/9 E. 1/3
C. 6.5/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

"The Union's come to be where I spend most of my time. I've made most of my friends through the Union."



Sam Kwon

GIVE A DAMN, VOTE SAM

Sam Kwon is personable, political and boasts enough campus experience that his following is equal parts friends and faction. However, he arrived at our interview having put less thought into the feasibility of his policies than we did - acting at times like a candidate ambushed by his own ideas.

Sam's major policies telegraph the kind of idealism you would expect from a self-styled progressive. The question is whether this is supported by any practicality.

His ethnocultural quota is a can of worms. Sam told us it would apply to USU employees who self-identify as “marginalised by white supremacy”. But citing a belief that “you shouldn’t police anyone’s identity,” his policy has no oversight mechanism or appeals process. He ended up admitting his own plan would accept people he personally believed did not qualify, such as those of Hungarian heritage. Similarly, despite promising “more taps and bubblers”, Sam did not know how many bubblers the USU currently operates, or if it can even legally access Sydney Water.

When reminded that many of his policies, such as noodle markets

and more vegetarian food, had been promised in the past without success, Sam’s answer was limp: “I can add one more to the yes vote”.

Sam was disappointing, if not terrible in his quiz performance. He was one of only two candidates to claim the USU ran at a surplus (it has a deficit of \$1.9 million). Sam also stumbled over what legal fiduciary duties a director owes the USU, trying to claim that former Vice-President Tom Raue had “expressed his fiduciary duties” by leaking confidential information, when in fact, he had broken them, triggering a lengthy court battle last year.

A member of Labor Left faction NLS, Kwon is accountable to a “binding caucus”, and all but confirmed fellow NLS member Jack Whitney as his pick for President. Yet in contrast to his Labor Left stablemate James Gibson, Sam hinted at a sense of personal principle. He said he would leave NLS if he fundamentally disagreed with his caucus and promised to withhold confidential Board information from his faction. We left with the impression that Sam’s policies – whilst undercooked – would be fought for with some political independence.

QUIZ RESULTS:

38%

- A. 3/12 D. 4/6
B. 4.5/9 E. 1/3
C. 3.5/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

“I’m going to be honest, I hadn’t thought about that.”



Dom Bondar

IS DOM, IS GOOD

Dom Bondar spoke eloquently about the welcome introduction of Garlos pies across campus food outlets. This was about the only concrete knowledge Dom seemed to have about the services provided by the Union.

For a candidate who admitted voters might be concerned by his limited knowledge of the Union, Dom is seeking to implement some major changes to it. His policy statement advocates Voluntary Student Unionism as part of an overarching desire to “simplify the Union”, and introducing an ANZAC week equivalent of festivals such as Radical Sex and Consent Week.

Dom advocates “simple, common sense changes”. Few of his policies actually make much sense though. When questioned on his proposed plan to direct money towards alternative student publications such as *Mon Droit*, Dom’s only idea was fundraising. When reminded *Mon Droit* already receives financial support from the union, the policy drizzled down to simply constructing more newspaper stands around campus.

This may point to a broader issue in Dom’s understanding of Union financing. Dom performed last in the quiz by a significant margin, and claimed the

revenue of the USU was one-tenth of its actual sum.

Dom, like his fellow conservative candidate Esther Shim, bases his appeal on catering to a “different” group of students. Dom passionately announced he would not have deregistered the Evangelical Union, and went as far as to say “religious freedom” on campus should be “paramount”.

The problem with Dom’s major policy proposals is that they’re fairly unachievable in the context of an otherwise progressive group of student Board Directors. Luckily, Dom doesn’t believe his pivotal opposition to the Student Services and Amenities Fee or cutting the payment of Board Directors would prey him from working peacefully with other candidates should they be elected. This may be because he doesn’t really know who they are, as Dom struggled to discuss the merits, or policies of any current candidate aside from Esther.

Dom might cater to a conservative group less likely to be involved in the politics and activities of the Union, however this does not provide an adequate justification for his significant lack of knowledge about the Union he wishes to make such drastic cuts and changes to.

QUIZ RESULTS:

10%

- A. 1/12 D. 0/6
B. 2/9 E. 0/3
C. 1/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

“Not ANZAC day but rather an ANZAC week.”



James Gibson

NO MORE GAMES, JUST VOTE JAMES

James Gibson is the idealist’s idealist: articulate in defense of abstract views, floundering and abject when pressed on detail or knowledge.

His quiz performance was pretty shocking. Not only did he place second last overall, but a series of gaffes indicated his relative youth and inexperience. He claimed, for instance, that a pide cost \$8.50 and that current USU President Alisha Aitken-Radburn was one of this year’s OWeek directors.

A centrepiece of James’ platform - ever the good Labor unionist - is to increase the pay of everyone employed by the Union, from your elected Board Directors to your baristas, to a fair, living wage. James, however, seemed unaware of what a ‘living wage’ for a director was - nominating a mere \$6 000. On top of the substantial wage costs, James has promised a \$5 000 donation to Muslim groups and \$50 000 to a charity, as well as subsidised advertising and skills training for all students.

This policy platform is undercut by a fundamental lack of knowledge about the Union, especially its financials. James misstated the USU’s revenue by half, claimed that its employees were exempt from tax (they’re not) and failed to offer a plan to pay for the significant outlay (read: potentially millions) of his proposals.

QUIZ RESULTS:

25%

- A. 3/12 D. 1/6
B. 3.5/9 E. 1/3
C. 2/12

IN ONE QUOTE:

“Both should be more prioritised.”



Koko Kong

CAN DO KOKO

Koko Kong is a single-issue candidate. Every policy in the first-year international student’s campaign pitch is aimed squarely at her fellow students-from-abroad. On this point, Koko is eloquent and genuine, motivated by an injustice that few of us can quibble with – that international students represent a fifth of our University but are almost totally socially and politically marooned.

Koko’s campaign aims at increasing international student involvement – reserving a place on every Club and Society executive for an international student, and creating an International student portfolio within the board.

It’s something of a purposefully narrowed platform. Even when given the opportunity to expand her scope in discussing non-international student reforms, she expressed no desire to do so. Koko stuck to her guns that her proposed international portfolio could only be filled by international students, even if this meant it laid dormant in years where no appropriate candidate served on the board. She described a domestic student acting as an advocate as “pointless”.

Koko decided against taking our quiz, but based on her interview, there are genuine concerns around her knowledge of the USU. Koko was the only candidate to be completely unaware of the recent EU deregistration issue – arguably the single most prominent scandal the Board has faced in the past year. She told us outright that it was an issue she “hadn’t thought about before”.

QUIZ RESULTS:

N/A

Koko did not attempt the quiz.

IN ONE QUOTE:

“All my policies are about international students. That’s the main reason I’m running for Board.”

Trollus Ironicus

Nina Dillon-Britton and Liam Donohoe report on a newly discovered internet species

Once endangered by a lack of moist, dark bridges to hide under, the troll has seen a reemergence of late. The internet has provided the humble troll with the familiarity of the damp and dark (their mother’s basement) without sacrificing their right to express ‘useful’ social commentary. Though typically solitary creatures, trolls occasionally hunt in a pack, coordinating their activities from central command centres like 4Chan, Reddit and shady recesses of Facebook. However, not all of these exquisite inconveniences are made equal.

There are three different species of troll, each with their own unique set of characteristics. *Trollus Amoralus*, the first of these, is particularly nasty. Having shed empathy and morality at some point in their evolution, the *Amoralus* is willing to say anything, regardless of the consequence, in order to get a brief, cheap laugh. They are not to be engaged with at any point, so extreme is their irrationality.

Trollus Politicus, their tamer cousin, engages in trolling as a way of expressing their political beliefs. As they are particularly prevalent around student election season, it is imperative that the average punter identifies their often all-too-obvious allegiance to a major party, which guides their species in the hope of future pre-selection to a safe seat.

The final and most dangerous of these is *Trollus Ironicus*, a new, hybrid strain that combines the worst aspects of the other two. You might have encountered these intrepid beasts sitting silently, but smugly, in your tutorials, their brain too enlightened for basic interpersonal discourse. Their general targets include “SJWs” (Social Justice Warriors), “Feminazis” (women), Safe Spaces, Political Correctness (not being maliciously offensive) and other leftist groups and phenomena they consider sensitive and ‘irrational’. Though predominantly white, wealthy, straight males, they are highly resistant to the suggestion that they have privilege, positing instead that they are oppressed because the left has “won the culture war and therefore the right to offend”.

Though engagement should be kept to a minimum, if confronted aggressively and with vigorous arguments the *Ironicus* will quickly back away from their initial act, begging for forgiveness and pleading that they actually “believe in equality”. The *Ironicus* explores the fine line between irony and sincerity, claiming that, despite their support for ‘equality’, all groups and identities should be subject to the same humour and critique; they value free speech and jokes over all else. Despite this, there is undoubtedly a legitimate insecurity and sincerity in their irony, even if they’re loath to admit it.

This view is, of course, discredited by the fact that their privilege – which, despite their claims to the contrary, objectively exists – makes them unable to understand the nuances of oppression. Informed by a myopic Libertarianism that fails to distinguish between equity and equality, the species thrives in insulated bubbles that allow them to normalise their behaviour. Ultimately, however, their philosophy is betrayed by their insistence on punching down, applying their supposedly neutral commitment to humour only to victims, rather than beneficiaries, of oppressive structures.

A rare, but more pernicious, dimension of their outlook is their belief that trolling is a productive force for change. For instance, *Ironicus* occasionally advances the view that its criticism forces “circlejerk” activist groups to be more than self-congratulatory safe spaces, supposedly encouraging them to dismantle structures rather than police individual behaviour. More common, however, is the claim to intentionally present absurd, exaggerated caricatures of groups in order to point out the foibles of mainstream thought. The impact on its targets aside, the subtlety of its perspective, such as it is, is frequently lost on observers, who instead co-opt the offensive tropes *Ironicus* disseminates. Beyond merely confirming existing views, *Ironicus* provides new tools for the budding racist or sexist, enhancing hostility in the long-term where it – perhaps –

Art: Brigitte Samaha



Blokes and bagpipes

Annabel Cameron is letting the cat out of the bagpipes

I started playing the bagpipes with my school’s Pipe Band. It was, and still is, the only all-female band in NSW. It takes at least two years to even get onto the pipes. Playing for fifteen minutes sometimes feels like you have run a marathon, and it’s certainly not an instrument for those too attached to their sense of hearing.

Playing the bagpipes requires strength, co-ordination and pretty excellent lungs, and I was lucky enough to be in an environment that encouraged girls to pick up an instrument that is athletic and difficult-to-master. I soon came to realise, however, that outside my school, there were hardly any female pipers or drummers in pipe bands.

Every year, my band would whip out the pipes for ANZAC day. When we performed in the march and massed bands, we’d be lucky to see anything upwards of five other women.

The majority of the pipers on ANZAC day were old, white men who were often ex-pats from Scotland or Aussie blokes with proud Scottish ancestry.

With this demographic comes a culture of heavy drinking, yelling and spitting out sexual jokes. They would often make jokes about the “ladies’ band” or ask if my pipes were too heavy for

me. We were always described as “well-dressed” and “pretty”, instead of being commended for our playing ability or how we sounded. Growing up, I accepted this behaviour as part of the piping community. For the male pipers, playing music in this environment is a total joy. It is a chance to let loose and celebrate their culture.

Then, I finished school and joined a professional, adult band. Now the blokey atmosphere I’d only experienced on ANZAC day became my weekly reality. This is not to say that the male pipers were all terrible people, I was just obviously different to them.

Piping and drinking go hand in hand, and badges of honour are earned through winning drinking games: *the piper who can drink the most and still play their instrument is the victor*. I didn’t participate. Hanging out with a pub-full of very drunk, very loud men who were mostly over 40 didn’t really appeal to me. After a year of sitting mostly by myself in rehearsals, of not being included in conversations, and being unwittingly condescended to, I decided to quit the band. Pipe Band was no longer enjoyable.

Nowadays, I play at pubs for ANZAC day, private parties, Scottish celebrations, or New Year’s Eve

intended to minimise it.

Even to the *Ironicus’* most charitable observer, their actions are unjustifiable. Fortunately, the *Ironicus* is prone to occasional moments of sanity and rationality. They can, if the victim feels so inclined, be confronted. Tears often ensue. In any case, an alternate solution, and one that works for all species of troll, exists: do not feed them.



Euro(centric) vision

Swetha Das actually watched it or something

When it was first revealed that Australia was going to compete in the annual Eurovision contest, I was furious.

Despite being situated in the Asia-Pacific, our colonial history has reduced our perception of Australia to a white, Western country. We also have an entertainment sector that has consistently neglected to represent Aboriginal Australians or the diversity of our society more generally. Our entry in Eurovision, to me, only solidified this notion of Australia as an extension of Europe.

To my great surprise the three Australian acts that have since graced the European stage were Indigenous singer Jessica Mauboy, Malaysian born Guy Sebastian and 2013 X-Factor winner, Dami Im, of South Korean heritage. That's three people of colour representing Australia to 180 million people on the world stage.

Eurovision is a contest in which phenomenal artists from across Europe battle it out in an entertaining, and, more often than not, hilarious competition. It's a great opportunity to showcase one's culture and tradition through a medium that unites: music.

Australia's inclusion in the contest stems from years of viewers religiously watching and celebrating this competition alongside Europe. It's now a chance to showcase Australia's diverse, home-

grown talent, in contrast to some of Europe's culturally and ethnically homogenous countries. It's also an opportunity to beat England in something that isn't cricket.

“It’s a small reprieve to promote the multicultural and talented portion of our country in a competition that transcends music and celebrates diversity, culture and acceptance.”

Each country's national broadcaster takes on the role of selecting the year's candidate. Some countries find their candidate through a televised competition that's similar to the X Factor. In Aus-

Watch Eurovision from May 13 – 15 on SBS One.

tralia, we have the wonderful SBS to select Australia's representative, which most likely accounts for the candidates so far.

If there's a place to be radical, it's Eurovision. The show's history has always been progressive and advanced. In 1998, Israel's Dana International was the first trans-woman to win the competition and in 2014 Conchita Wurst, a drag queen from Austria, took out the title. Wurst has since been a prominent champion of queer rights around the world.

Eurovision also has a political history. In 2008, after Russia's (failed) bombing of Georgian city Tsitelubani, Georgia's candidate was a blind woman who sang “Peace will come”. During heightened tensions with Russia, in 2009, Georgia had to withdraw from performing in Eurovision after refusing to change their politically charged lyrics. The song was called: “We Don't Wanna Put In”.

We may be 14 000 kilometers away from Europe, but we too have our own battles with racial tensions, conservative governments, and intolerance. It's a small reprieve to promote the multicultural and talented portion of our country in a competition that transwends music and celebrates diversity, culture and acceptance.

Australia in Eurovision may represent what we want to be, but it also represents what we should become.

The not-so-smart watch

William Ryan questions whether society has gone too far

Every so often, a society is faced with a choice that will define how history perceives them. For the Ancient Greeks, it was the decision to adopt the Socratic foundations of philosophy.

A similar, defining choice confronts the contemporary citizen: should I get a smartwatch? I put a Huawei Smartwatch through its paces, to see how it stacked up against the chronographs of old.

TIME-TELLING

The Huawei Smartwatch tells the time with the same precision as your orthodox watch. Or, at least it does for the 24 hours before its battery goes flat. Yep, just 24 hours. Finally, a watch that not only tells the time, but also makes you value it! Instead of being mildly inconvenienced once a year by a spontaneous flat battery, we can now predict with certainty when our watches are no longer useable! And on a daily basis too!

WATCH SCREENS

The watches of old only had one face, taunting wearers daily with its mediocrity. The Huawei Smartwatch has around 40 inbuilt digital watch faces. It is true that 90 per cent of them are tacky, probably making your friends hate you more than when you first got the watch, that still leaves around 4 quality watch faces. Or, a 400 per cent improvement!

PHONE COMPATIBILITY

Don't you just hate the current method of texting? You know – stretching your hand into your pocket, grasping for that always-just-out-of-reach phone, heaving it up to your line of sight. And that's if you don't drop your phone in the process.

Someone contact NASA, because Huawei has found a solution! The Huawei Smartwatch uses Android, and can hook up to your phone through



Art: Andrew Bell

Bluetooth. This means you can use it to activate voice calls and text using vocal recognition. I will admit that this last feature is quite exciting (I impressed my friends at a house party with it last night, actually) and the recognition is quite crisp. But the question “why bother?” still remains.

PRICE

Like anything, the price of a smartwatch varies between brands, from affordable to “big spender”. For the sheep out there, Apple iWatches range from \$430 to \$1600. Well, you know what they say: time is money.

UNIVERSITY

With the option of syncing-in your diary and reminders, the smartwatch does have an advantage over traditional watches in a university or work setting. Although it is difficult to locate the University's policy on smartwatches in examination rooms, it is likely that they will not be permitted. Or Spence et al could go full-rogue and permit smartwatches, starting some sort of new super-suit era of examinations.

IN SUM

The above comparison isn't to say that I don't feel an intrinsic sense of excitement when using the smartwatch. I feel a sense of indulgent pleasure when I set my watchface to rural landscape photos, or interrupt a conversation with friends to text via voice.

But this pleasure will only take me – nay, society – so far. Do we really need the smartwatch? Do we really need an invention that seeks to digitise one already loved and well-functioning? The result is a complicated device whose battery life is so short that its primary purpose, to tell the time, is compromised.

Society, we have come too far.

In defence of the humble biscuit

Shon Ho spent \$2 writing this piece

Plain biscuits are a symbol of simplicity and respectability in a world gone mad. Whilst some might call the Rich Tea and its various cousins boring, bland and disappointing in comparison to the sweet and seductive promises of the Iced Vovos, Wagon Wheels and Monte Carlos, I stand firm in the belief that the beige and slightly anaemic biscuits of the world deserve a place among the best.

Joel Golby, a writer for the *Guardian*, attacked plain biscuit-eating folk in an article late last year. He equated unimaginative biscuit choices to a psyche of disenchantment and encouraged his readers to “love yourself a bit more” and indulge. I was deeply offended by the suggestion that I lacked culture, ambition and humanity for loving a malted milk.

“Without a doubt, pedestrian and pallid biscuits are the best accompaniments to tea”

Without a doubt, pedestrian and pallid biscuits are the best accompaniments to tea. I may prefer a plain digestive to the disturbed perversion that is a strawberry flavoured double cream Oreo, but in a world cluttered by so much extravagance and self-promotion, maybe it is time to revel in the simpler things and look for inspiration in the understated.

Some would have you believe that a plain biscuit signals a lack of innovation, represents an unfounded resistance to progression, and stifles creativity.

Perhaps, but is that always a bad thing? Especially when so much change is fixated on novelty.

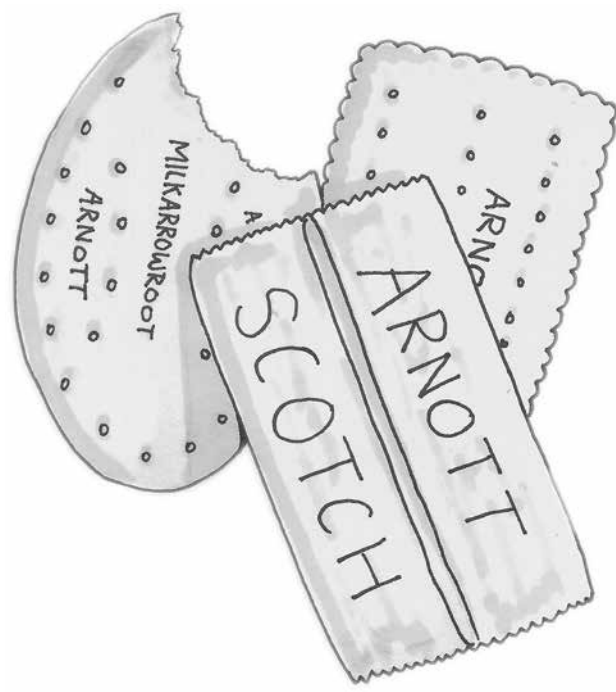
Contemporary culture seems to be increasingly characterised by excess. Who thought it would be a good idea to invent jelly sandals? How does one comfortably finish their business on the loo whilst wearing 3D nail art? Why do Johnny Depp's dogs fly with more luxury than I do? When we promote the slightly cannibalistic abomination that is the ‘turducken’, the future is bleak.

Arnott's Family Favourites may well be the most standard biscuits on the planet, but they belong in their natural habitats: on napkins in our hands as we huddle around crusty steel water boilers at mandatory formal events, clutching Sty-

rofoam cups of weak black tea. A plain biscuit is not only timeless, but practical – the Milk Arrowroot is an excellent cure for diarrhoea (my mother tells me that they settle the stomach).

Mediocracy has become an insult. We are constantly pressured to stand out more and to be more interesting. We're told that normalcy does not deserve attention.

Of course, this is not to say that flamboyant biscuits can't be good – we should be able to enjoy whatever food we want. However there is definitely something confronting about glitzy marshmallows that masquerade as biscuits – deceptive, crafty and passing themselves off as “Milk Chocolate Royals.”



Art: Johanna Roberts

Like that frankly confused biscuit, we lose sight of reality when we get distracted by all the inconsequential glam and pizzazz of too much sugar, coconut, jam, honeycomb and caramel. And so we beat on, empty vessels against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past as we try to fill the inherent emptiness with icing and a false projection of fulfilment.

So let us raise our digestives and sip a cuppa in honour of the basic.

After all, less is more, right?

The importance of being earnest

Who critiques the critics? James Holloway, that's who

On May 12 and 13, the 2016 Sydney Uni Revue will be performed in conjunction with the Sydney Comedy Festival. It's a kind of “best of” show, a compilation of last year's individual faculty performances showcasing the best sketches, songs and dances of the 2015 season.

But how good were those performances really? *Honi Soit* doesn't have the answers.

For many readers, scrolling through the review section of the *Honi* website can feel a little like eavesdropping on a kindergarten show and tell. Each play and musical production is met with only the bare minimum of scrutiny; they are received not with discernment but instead with an automatic chorus of patted backs and high fives. It is a realm dominated by tacitly mandated positivity and dire inoffensiveness, where to lodge an even slightly negative review has been known to generate more drama off stage than on.

While it is important to celebrate those university productions (and there are many) that well and truly hit the mark, plenty miss it, and to say otherwise is dishonest and even potentially damaging. In our rush to create a culture of growth and positivity we run the risk of doing the opposite. When we refuse to challenge our performers or hold them to a high standard, we risk rewarding and reinforcing mediocrity.

When it comes to reviews, there are a few factors holding back even the smallest hints of neg-

ativity. The first, and probably the most influential, is an unwillingness to upset close friends or future associates. This is understandable. To find yourself aiming crosshairs at the enthusiastic faces of your own peer group can be daunting. But this attitude assumes the term “criticism” need be synonymous with “negativity”, when reviews can and should strive to be constructive and honest without delving into cruelty.

that encourages enthusiasm and promotes teamwork, to strive for these values at the expense of critical reporting does a disservice to the ambitions of many of the University's performers, whose aspirations do lie beyond the humble doors of the Cellar Theatre.

If the purpose of a review is to indiscriminately celebrate its subjects, what function does it serve in the first place? What incentive is there to read a

“For many readers, scrolling through the review section of the Honi website can feel a little like eavesdropping on a kindergarten show and tell.”

The second is the risk of being seen to be “taking things too seriously”. This is the University of Sydney, not NIDA or Juilliard – the people performing aren't professionals. For many, the stage may be a refuge from the artillery fire of the tutorial or Turnitin page. Yet while the theatre is, and should be, a place that celebrates inclusivity, one

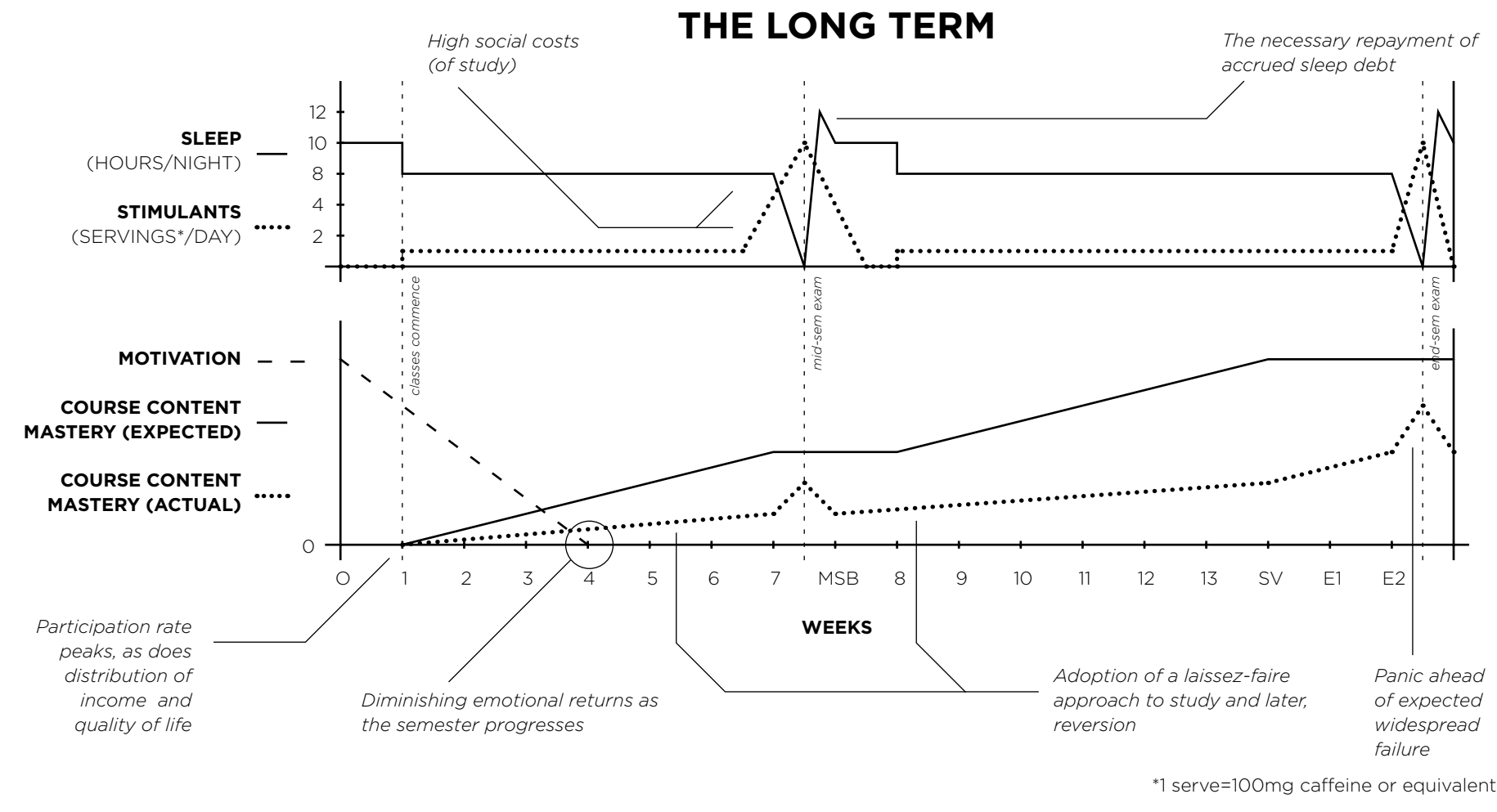
review when the article is written before the curtains even rise?

So when it comes to reviewing this year's productions, let's practise balance and discernment and challenge our performers because, simply put, sometimes the things we make suck.

And that's OK.

Applied echonimics

Ed Furst and Alexandros Tsathas analyse the semester's trends



Actually, there are a number of reasons.

1. Wiping your arse with Honi will leave you with an ink permeum and tough-to-remove stains on your briefs.
2. For folders, the grade of paper is too smooth. Instead of absorbing your shit, it would smear it over your pimply cheeks.
3. For scrunchers, it would be like using 40-grit sandpaper.

USYD Rants May 2 at 8:34am

To all those commenting saying "Read Honi Soit for the answers to all your questions"...

Fuck right off, everyone knows that the only reason Honi isn't used for toilet paper is because the paper is too dense to be flushed.

Much like the thought of the paper and those that plead with us to read it, a flushed Honi will come back up the S bend just as you think you're rid of it for good.

So don't tell us to read it, give us the answers we want in words that we will understand.

Finding Honi a bit of a slog, ey? There's a great book, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', that covers much the same content.

USYD Rants April 16 at 1:59pm

HONI SOIT CAN YOU PLEASE PUBLISH EASIER SUDOKUS.

Up your game, Rookie.

USYD Rants April 24 at 12:57pm

Honi Soit has had its ups and downs over the years, but this year's editorial team have to be the worst yet. The quality of the articles is piss poor (for the most part) and I cringe every time I read a 'story' that is purely opinion-based. I'm not saying I can do your job better than you; if I thought I could do that I would have joined the staff. I'm just saying that you should lift your game, because I used to actually enjoy Honi.

To be fair, it says 'opinion' on the top of the page

Not at all! We appraise all submissions using standardised criteria, including news worthiness, originality & flair. Submit to editors@honi.soit.com

You used to be cool.

Yeah. Neither are we.

Now we really need your writing!

USYD Rants Yesterday at 8:33am

I want to submit a proposal to Honi Soit but I'm scared they will reject it. It's about how the virginity of most of their editorial team is negatively affecting the quality of the articles.

If you want people to read your shit, hire less social outcast virgins.

Do you mean hire 'fewer'? Or hire outcast virgins who are less social?

An(ti)notations

Yep, we've stooped that low

PARTY SCOOPER

Offshore law

Jayce Carrano is writing this with a hangover that should be illegal

Last Thursday, the Sydney University Law Society (SULS) held their first party of 2016 – a cruise on Darling Harbour with the timeless theme: “The High Seas”. The night got off to a turbulent start when our boat docked at the wrong wharf. Soon enough, it shuffled across to us with as much subtlety as when you're walking in the wrong direction, pull out your phone, do a 180 turn, and hope no one noticed.

The costume competition offered the enviable prize of a reserved Law ball table (you win the opportunity to drop your \$200 before anyone else does). Law ball tables usually sell out within minutes, leaving many studious students disappointed.

A very convincing Poseidon complete with trident, beard and bed sheet toga was a notable entrant. His watery rage was fierce when he discovered some drongos had decided to challenge him by building a three-person cardboard boat (the Habseas Corpus).

One guy had a stellar outfit (which included polished shoes, an actual sailor's cap and pressed canvas uniform) but turned out to be part of the boat's crew. The jury's still out on whether that disqualifies him.

A number of people also took the rare opportunity to wear boat shoes and not be called wankers.

Students seduced each other with detailed analysis of Michel Kirby's best points and hearty retellings of Lord Denning's wit-tiest quips. The primary school classic, where you take the (pirate) hat off your crush's head and run away, was also in full effect.

Although mostly smooth sailing, some big swells forced many to sway with far more rhythm and timing than law students are usually capable of producing on a dance floor.

The bar closed occasionally for no discernible reason leading to a respectable number of people shouting, “But why is the rum gone?” Drinks included beer, cider and something that looked like vodka but wasn't alcoholic.

The after party's hyped SECRET LOCATION was Side Bar. I'm just letting you know in case that was keeping you awake at night.

All in all though, for a boat full of Sydney law students, the SULS cruise was smooth sailing and well planned. I'm giving it five out of five pieces of eight.

REVELRY IN REVIEW

LifeWeek homosexuality debate

Georgia Kriz shares excerpts from the diary of a tortured queer soul

12:58pm: Arriving on Eastern Avenue, I see an oppression (collective noun) of queers. They're brandishing trombones and yelling outside the Catholic Society marquee. Catholics are clustered around in “Men + Women = made for each other?” shirts. This is going to be good.

1:04pm: The talk is about to start. James Parker, the speaker who stopped being gay after therapy that was Definitely Not Gay Conversion Therapy, has stuck a sign on his podium that reads, “GOD LOVES GAYS & EVERYONE ELSE (LGBTIQ-QIAAPUSA)”. What is PUS? I do not ask.

1:05pm: Parker asks for a moment's silence to remember his dead gay cousin who died of a drug overdose because his gay civil union didn't work out. I'm unsure, but I think this could be performance art.

1:08pm: Parker says he was the gayest kid in school and university. He even WALKED gay. He was so gay that he had gay sex with over 200 gay men.

1:11pm: After all this gay sexing, Parker says he found love with “Steve”, a human man.

1:17pm: Trouble in paradise. There's ANOTHER MAN. His name is... Oh, wait. It's Jesus. OK.

1:21pm: Parker is saying that he dumped human man for spirit man, and went into therapy – “BUT NOT CONVERSION THERAPY DO YOU HEAR ME” – to help him with this new stage in his life.

1:27pm: Parker is saying therapy helped him realise that because he was abused as a child and adopted, he caught The Gay.

1:30pm: “I put up a wall in the womb against real men and real masculinity.” I... I see.

1:32pm: “Gayness is a cul-de-sac.” Oh, no, you lost me.

1:35pm: Parker reckons prayer helped him notice women and their hair and their curves. No one suggests to him that he might be bisexual. Now I cannot stop thinking about Ellen Page's breasts.

1:40pm: Parker is saying he was CURED of his gay – just like 10 or 12 other men in Western Australia whom he reckons he met last week. I'm now thinking specifically and obsessively about Ellen Page's nipples. This isn't unusual, Parker is just exacerbating the situation.

1:48pm: Parker is bringing it home strong by encouraging all the gays to follow in his footsteps and come to God because “there is an eternal Daddy waiting for all of you! God is Daddy!” There's not many things that could distract me from thoughts of Ellen Page's breasts, but this last sentence is definitely one of them.









1:55pm: We end with some questions from angry queer onlookers, all of which Parker rebuffs with some version of “GOD LOVES YOU”. To be honest, I doubt this.

1:58pm: The Catholics disperse and so does the oppression of queers – my ears are still ringing from the trombone. This was just another day in the life of a queer person in Australia in 2016.

2:00pm: One quick Google image search for “Ellen Page” confirms: I'm still heaps gay.

Honiscopes

Honiscopes straight from Beyoncé's Lemonade.

 Sagittarius It's such a shame you let this good love go to waste	 Aries Go back to your sleep in your favourite spot just next to me	 Taurus Tonight I'm fucking up all your shit	 Gemini Middle fingers up, put them hands high	 Virgo You can taste the dishonesty/ it's on your breath
 Cancer Don't hurt yourself	 Leo Are you cheating on me?	 Libra Suck on my balls	 Scorpio True love never has to hide	 Capricorn A winner don't quit on themselves
 Aquarius If you try this shit again . . . you gon' lose your wife	 Pisces When you hurt me, you hurt yourself			

Bits of Paper When Renting

There are so many bits of paper involved in renting a house. Some of these can end up being worth thousands of dollars to you, so it's definitely worthwhile knowing about what to keep and what to throw.

LEASES AND CONTRACTS

You should get a lease or contract outlining the conditions of the home you want to rent. This lease/contract should be written in English and signed by the landlord. It is also important that you know what that person's full name is, and where you (or the Sheriff) can contact them. Please read your lease/contract BEFORE you sign it. Regardless of whether you understand or agree to a clause in the lease/contract, if you have signed it, you are bound by its conditions. You should definitely keep a copy of your lease/contract.

RECEIPTS

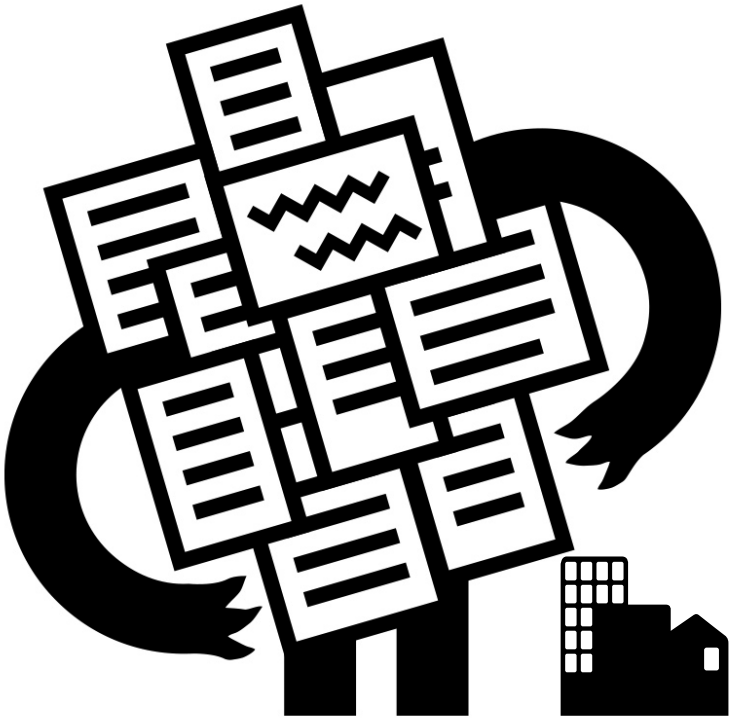
You should get a receipt for any cash or bank cheques that you give to the landlord. Your receipt should have the amount that you paid, why you paid it (e.g. bond, rent for February etc.), and what the address of the home is. The landlord should also sign it. Again, it must be in English. If you have paid by a bank transfer you should still ask for a receipt. There are some situations where the landlord is not required to give you a receipt, but there is no harm in asking. You should definitely keep all of your receipts.

CONDITION REPORT

The Condition Report is what you agree, with the landlord, as being the condition of the property at the time that you moved in. If there is damage to the property, beyond reasonable wear and tear, you will be liable to pay for its repair, unless it is noted in the Condition Report. In addition to the Condition Report it is a good idea to take photos of the property (e.g. each wall, the floors, the oven, the windows, etc.) and email them to your landlord. This will 'timestamp' those photos and will allow you to refer to them at a later date to show that whatever damage you are being blamed for, was already there when you moved in. You should definitely keep a copy of the Condition Report and the photos.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

It is a good idea to email your communications to the landlord. This will give you a record of the time and date that you spoke, plus what was said. If you have a telephone conversation with the landlord it is a good idea to send a follow up email that might reiterate the outcome of your phone conversation. It's a good idea to keep these on your email account.



The SRC has caseworkers trained in many different aspects of accommodation laws.

You can email your questions to help@src.usyd.edu.au, or if you prefer a face-to-face appointment call 9660 5222 to book a suitable time.

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



Dear Abe,

I've been on Youth Allowance for the last two years. I've got some family stuff happening and I need to drop to part-time. Is there anything I can do to keep getting paid?

50%

Dear 50%,

If you needed to drop to part-time because of illness there is a possibility of getting Youth Allowance with a 'temporary incapacity'. You would need all the right documents of course. If you are 21 years or older you might be able to move to a NewStart payment with part-time study as your 'activity'. If you are under 21 years old and have completed Year 12 or an equivalent (i.e. Certificate III of higher) Centrelink may be able to change your payment from Youth Allowance (Student) to Youth Allowance (Jobseeker). This is paid at the same rate, but you will be required to look for work or undertake other 'approved activities' in combination with your part-time study.

Abe

I need to drop to part-time.

Please note that as you have been getting Youth Allowance from before the beginning of 2016 you would currently be receiving the Student Start Up Scholarship. That's \$1025 each semester to help with the costs of buying text books, etc. This money does not need to be paid back as it is a scholarship. HOWEVER, if you have a break from full-time study, you go into the same category as students who started in 2016. This means that any new Student Start Up Loan must be paid back. It is not compulsory to take the loan, so please consider that before accepting the money.

DID YOU KNOW?

The SRC can help with:

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

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

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

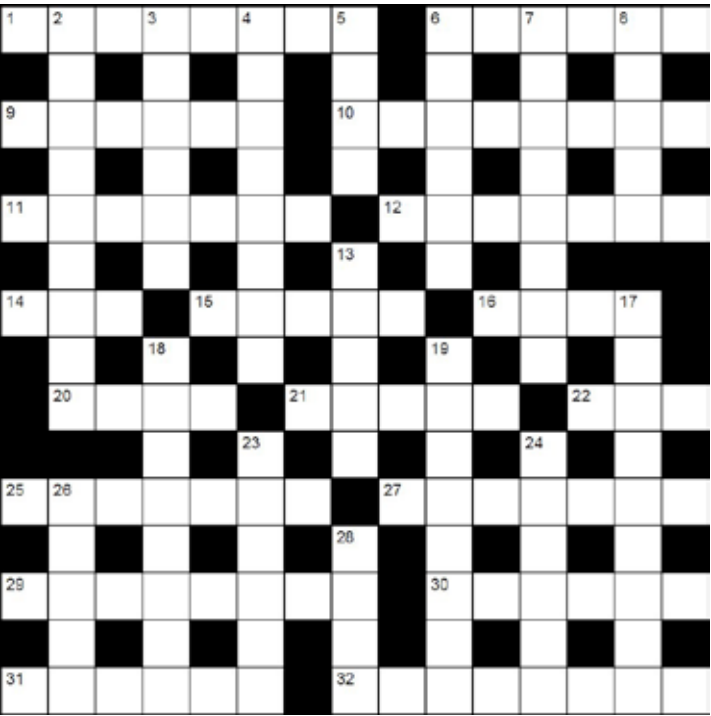
We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)

help@src.usyd.edu.au | src.usyd.edu.au | [facebook.com/srchelp](https://www.facebook.com/srchelp)



Cryptic

Crosswords by *Atrus*



ACROSS

- See 10-across
20. Bless top lady's man (6,4)
- See 15-across
1. Perversely longing after date with halfback, approach quiet boy (8,8)
- See 12-across
- 12,11. Vid-maker short-selling features in retro yawnfest? (7,7)
32. Homeless hub (no drill) charges for shelter - they want board? (3,8)
- 15, 9. Girlfriend wins competition with top score (5,6)
- See 27-across
- See 6-across
31. Blockage backed up nose (clogged) with heavy, stuffed head (5,6)
- 22, 30. Top doctor discovered explosive radon isotope? (3,6)
- Knows stuff about radio mode (3,4)
- 27, 16. Detailed thesis dissecting Greensleaves? (7,4)
- Singer releasing covers after three big hits (4,4)
- See 22-across
- See 21-across
- See 14-across

NOTE: All across clues are 14,32-across, and go otherwise undefined.

DOWN

- Cryptic 25-across' caring message (4,1,4)
- Decorated (6)
- Unconventional (8)
- Clean (4)
- Notoriety (6)
- Renovate an area (8)
- Eye-related (5)
- Perfect (5)
- Wireless message? (9)
- Falling for someone? (8)
- Condemn (8)
- Ordeal (6)
- Sundial's protrusion (6)
- Stocking stock? (5)
- Diner's choices (4)

ACROSS

- Oblivious (8)
- Cryptic 22-across's above-average message (2,4)
- Not in a 22-across way? (6)
- Precise (8)
- Cryptic 12-across's chief message (7)
- Cryptic 15-across's inclusive message (7)
- 14, 20. Trouble (3,4)
- Cryptic 29-across's able message (3,2)
- Cryptic 27-across's initial message (1,3)
- See 14-across
- See 30-across
- 1 mod 2 (3)
- Cryptic 6-across's agreeable message (2,5)
- Cryptic 10-across's calculated message (5,2)
- Elevation (8)
- 30, 21. Cryptic 21-across' prohibitive message (2,4,5)
- Mystery (6)
- Login detail (8)

Target

E	N	A
D	F	R
E	R	E

Small, annoying rocks: 12
When you fart on the train: 25
Saw someone walking their cat like a dog: 29
Free food samples at Coles: 33

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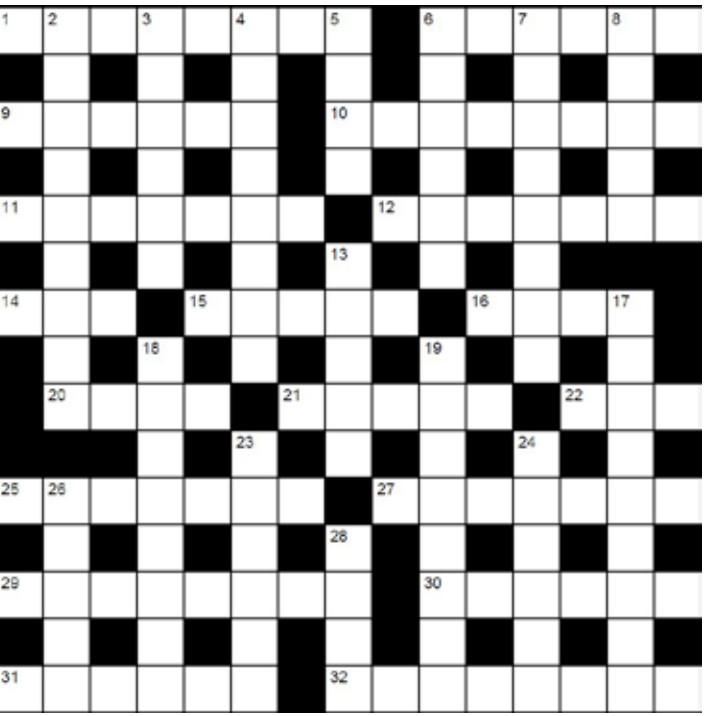
Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by *Atrus*

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

Week 9 solutions: 1. August 2. Three 3. Twitter (founded March 2006, Tumblr was February 2007) 4. False 5. Platform three 6. C) Knox Grammar 7. Moldova and Ukraine 8. 123 9. Kourtney, Kim, Khloe, Rob, Kendall, Kylie 10. Carillon Ave

Quick



Quiz

- Which country has won the most Eurovision Song Contests?
- Which of the following coloured shirts is not being used by a 2016 USU Board candidate? A) White B) Purple C) Blue D) Green
- Who is the head coach of the Parramatta Eels?
- Cool Ridge and Frantelle are bottled water brands owned by which company?
- What is the capital of Belarus?
- Boko Haram originated in which West African nation?
- Name the two Taste Baguette locations on the University's Camp-erdawn-Darlington campus.
- Sydenham station is located on which two train lines?
- In what year did the final season of Donald Trump's The Apprentice go to air?
- The 2015 federal budget was delivered under which treasurer?

President

Chloe Smith

Last week the Federal Government presented its 2016 budget, crossing off the checklist before Malcolm Turnbull calls the election for July 2. Whilst not the most exciting budget in recent years, there's a hell of a lot going on that will affect university students and young people. And some of it is pretty concerning.

Whilst the government has finally ruled out full fee deregulation, this budget outlined cuts amounting to almost \$2 billion from higher education. The Liberals are contemplating uncapping fees for some courses, giving "universities flexibility to attract additional revenue" and placing the cost burden on students to make up the funding shortfall. Alongside, the government added cuts of \$152.2 million to the Higher Education Participation Program, which funds universities to enrol students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, and cuts to the Office of Teaching and Learning which supports scholarships.

This paints a pretty bleak picture for the state of higher education under a federal Liberal government: less funding for universities, higher costs and debts for students, and dismantling the support structures for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The new PaTH Program, aimed at getting under-25's on employment benefits into the workforce, centres on an internship program of four-12 weeks, with six weeks of intensive pre-employment training. Interns will work for about 20 hours a week and receive \$200 on top of their existing welfare payments, whilst businesses will receive generous subsidies for participating in the program.

However there is concern this program could exploit vulnerable young people desperate for work. Under a system that allows employers to pay \$4/hour whilst receiving government hand-outs, with no requirement to hire workers with proper wages after the internship, the potential for exploitation of labour is obvious. Young people already know how hard it is to find secure work and gain experience; exploitation is already rife with unpaid internships and dodgy contracts. What we need is secure work with good conditions and decent pay.

There's a lot going on in this budget that will affect us. I urge you to read up and have a look at the policies of the Opposition and other parties. When we go to the ballot box on July 2, it's a chance to shape the future of Australia, and your future as an individual. How much do you think you're worth?

Women of Colour Officer

Vanessa Song

The women of colour collective is currently trying to create a constitution and set of regulations in order to allow OBs and members to clearly navigate the collective.

Our fortnightly meeting times have not been attracting very many collective members and so the collective is looking at amending the current fortnightly meeting time of Mondays 4-5pm to another time as dictated by a majority within the collective.

The women of colour collective hopes to run a race and sensitivity workshop in conjunction with other collectives before the end of semester.

We will hopefully begin to engage more women of colour on campus after establishing a constitution and regulations. If you are interested in getting involved with the Women of Colour Collective please email usydwomenofcolourcollective@gmail.com or like our facebook page!

Kindest Regards,
Vanessa Song

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

Welfare Officers

April Holcomb, Isabella Brook, Matthew Campbell and Dylan Williams

With the release of the Liberals' federal budget on May 3, it's crucial to resist the extreme attacks the government has in sight for students, young workers and the young unemployed.

Firstly, a \$2bn cut to higher education funding and the reduction of government contribution, means a 25% direct increase to student fees. Students will be expected to pay their HECS back on an income close to minimum wage. Or, you know, if they die.

Secondly, the right to a liveable income will be completely trashed, and the rights of workers with it. Work-for-the-dole schemes will see young unemployed people working for businesses at a rate of \$4 an hour, while the business pockets \$1000 from the government for each slave they drive. No right to workers' compensation means bosses can push you as hard as they like with no concern for injury or death.

On top of this are regressive taxes on tobacco and alcohol, as well as cuts to aged care. Meanwhile, "Mum and Dad" investors with a turnover of \$10m a year can enjoy generous tax cuts, and billions saved by millionaires through negative gearing remains untouched.

The Welfare Department completely opposes practically every measure the government is proposing for our education, health, taxation and welfare systems.

The National Union of Students has called a National Day of Action for May 11. Protests remain the most powerful method ordinary people have to influence and drive back the government's offensive. It's why they've had to keep total deregulation in the top drawer until after the election, because they know student protests are a force to reckon with.

Don't just wait for the vote on July 2, your voice matters more on Wednesday, May 11.

Rally 1pm at Fisher Library to stop funding cuts, slave labour and a government ruling for the rich. Enrol to vote: www.aec.gov.au/enrol

Education Officers

Liam Carrigan and Dylan Griffiths

Treasurer Scott Morrison did not mention higher education in his 2016 budget speech – but make no mistake the Liberals remain determined to squeeze students. They have had to walk away from their preferred policy of full fee deregulation, citing "community concern". We can chalk this up as a victory for large student demonstrations in 2014.

We won the battle, but not the war. Major reforms have simply been delayed by one more year. They are hoping to keep these plans quiet until after the election in July. Our demonstration on May 11 will be crucial to putting a spotlight on the Liberals' plans and making sure they aren't re-elected.

The 2016 budget contains \$2 billion worth of cuts over the next four years. To achieve these cuts, they have left open the option of a 20 per cent funding cut to undergraduate degrees.

At the same time a "discussion paper" has been released which outlines other "optional" proposals to be implemented from January 2018, including:

- Deregulation for "flagship" courses, which could enroll 20 per cent of students
 - Increased student fees to raise students' contribution from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of cost of degrees
 - Lower the income threshold for HECS repayments (eg. from \$54,000 to \$42,000)
 - Collect unpaid HECS from the dead, or tie HECS repayments to household income
- The Liberals are determined to claw more mon-

ey off ordinary students and those who can least afford it. Yet they have handed down a budget with a massive tax cut for big business, down to just 25 per cent.

Funding cuts will encourage further corporatization of the sector as universities slash jobs and courses to make up for lost funding. At the same time, universities will rely more on corporate "donors" and industry partnerships, which distort our education.

Whilst they have dumped full deregulation, they are trying to get a watered-down version through the back door. The discussion paper suggests that perhaps 20 per cent of students could be enrolled in deregulated "flagship" programs – if this goes through, it could mean 1 in 5 students paying skyrocketing fees! The Sydney University Vice Chancellor has already named veterinary studies, medicine, agriculture and music as courses he wants deregulated at USyd. This could still mean that \$100,000 degrees become a reality.

As it stands, there is no crisis. \$32 billion has been budgeted for defence spending this year. It costs about \$1.2 billion annually to maintain offshore processing centers that detain refugees. Now Turnbull is cutting the corporate tax rate further. Yet the government has ruled out changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax that could save upward of \$11 billion.

Spending priorities, as always, are political priorities.

As a social good, university should be free – just as primary and secondary education are. It can be publically funded through higher corporate tax and closing tax loopholes for the rich. When university fees were first introduced, it was just a tiny "administration fee". Now we can see clearly this was the thin edge of the wedge. We have to stop this trend in its tracks.

The fight we need:

The fight against Abbott's 2014 budget showed that protesting works. Student rallies, along with "Bust the Budget" demonstrations, and a vigorous campaign to Save Medicare, helped keep public opinion against Tony Abbott – and even got him kicked out of office!

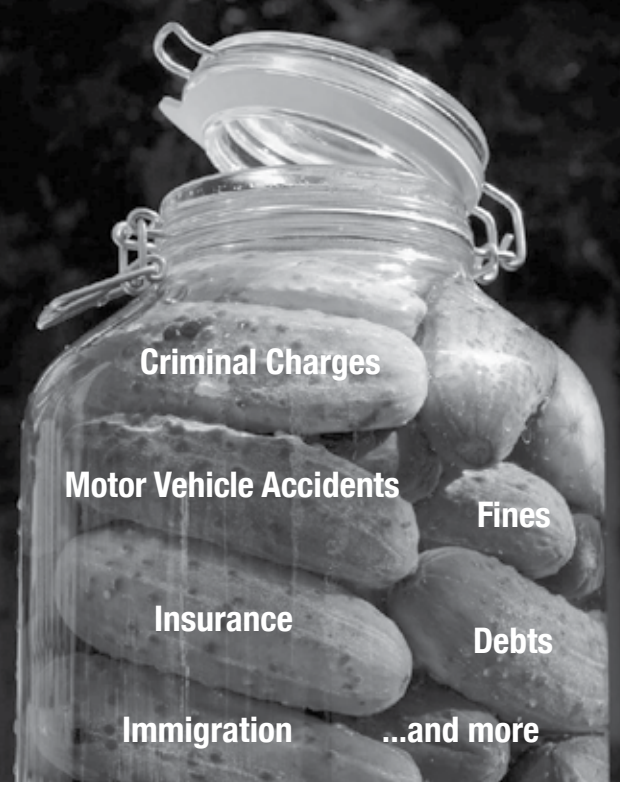
The May 11 rally is our first chance to send a warning signal to the Turnbull government, and show we are prepared for a fight if they are re-elected.

There is every reason to believe we can beat Turnbull. His popularity has been falling. The gloss has come off. People can see he stands for everything Abbott did: refugee cruelty, homophobia, climate inaction, attacking Medicare, union-bashing, and handouts for the rich.

We need to connect these fights and build a united fightback against the Liberals' agenda. Students can help lead this fight.

Join the National Day of Action, Wednesday May 11, 1pm, Fisher Library, Sydney University.

IN A PICKLE?



If You Have a Legal Problem,
We Can Help for FREE!

SRC Legal Service
Level 1, Wentworth Bldg, University of Sydney
p: 02 9660 5222 | w: src.usyd.edu.au
e: solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au
ACN 146 653 143 | MARN 1276171

法律諮詢
法律アドバイス
We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese
This service is provided to you by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

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

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BOOKS
CHEAP

Buy for 70%
of retail value*

SELL
BOOKS
FOR
CASH

Highest cashback
rate on campus!

Get 40% of retail
value paid in CASH!*

* Conditions apply, see details in store



Level 4, Wentworth Building,
University of Sydney
(Next to the International Lounge)
p: 02 9660 4756
w: src.usyd.edu.au/src-books

The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY SUPRA



Postgraduate Ball

By **SUPRA Executive** (Ahmed Suhaib, major contributor).



On the 29th of April, postgraduates dressed up in formal attire for a night of delicious food, great company, and upbeat music at the inaugural SUPRA and USU Postgraduate Ball held at the Refectory in Holme Building and attended by over 120 postgraduate students.

Co-Education officer Fatima Rauf, who came up with the idea of Postgraduate Ball, said “there aren’t as many social events for postgraduates as there are for undergraduates and thus, the Ball was a great way for postgrads to socialise and enjoy themselves and also, find out more about SUPRA.”

The Postgraduate Ball had a space theme, with centrepieces filled with planets, stars and cosmic ring. Each guest also got a thank you card with pictures from Hubble space telescope. Kylee Hartman-Warren, Co-President of SUPRA, said “this year SUPRA did space theme for its O-Week stall and publications so we continued that theme. I find symbolism in the fact that the colours in the Hubble photography are the rainbow-like colours which champion Pride and diversity campaigns that SUPRA supports for all Postgraduates.”

Kylee gave a talk emphasising the importance of collaboration across student organisations. “To me, this event celebrates the power student bodies have when they build relationships,” she said. “We must work together to face higher education challenges today, and social opportunities also empower students because they can lead to friendships and address the social isolation many postgraduates feel. This ball would not be possible without positive relationships with USU and the hard work on behalf of our teams.”

Students were treated with a three-course meal and free drinks by USU catering company Host-Co, and themes of diversity and collaboration continued through the night. At the ball, SUPRA

promoted its petition on Travel Concessions for all International Students, which the attendees signed. SUPRA councillors also encouraged guests to take pictures in support of refugees with signs saying “Close the camp” and “We remember Omid.” The night ended with techno music from DJ Xiaoran.

“To me, this event celebrates the power student bodies have when they build relationships”

The ball was sponsored by Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association and University of Sydney Union. Christian Jones, SUPRA Co-President, “This Ball was not only the first major collaboration with the USU, but also our first post-VSU Ball! Things are finally getting back to normal for us here at SUPRA since the devastating changes by the Howard Government”

Alisha Aitken-Radburn, President of USU, said at the ball “the USU has dropped the ball in providing for postgraduate students, but we would like to do more for the postgraduate community.”

At the end of the ball, Co-Education officer and one of the organisers for the ball, Ahmed Suhaib said, “SUPRA and USU Postgraduate Ball went great and I have heard nothing but positive feedback from the attendees. These events are a great way for students to meet other postgraduates from different faculties and network with them. Next year we are planning to go bigger and invite postgraduate representatives from across NSW.”

Federal Budget 2016 for Postgraduates

By **Adrian Cardinali**, SUPRA Advocacy Coordinator.



The politics are clever. The Government has put off making unpopular decisions about higher education before the July 2016 Federal election.

Last week’s 2016 Federal Budget was a quiet one for postgraduate students. It was more notable for what it did not include more than what it did. Not included was failed deregulation plans from 2014-2015, that would have led to subsidised coursework Commonwealth supported students paying full fees. That’s good news for the 3000 University of Sydney postgraduate coursework students currently with Commonwealth supported places, and for those looking to get such places starting in 2017. Also not in the budget was the 2014-2015 plans to charge local research students fees. Currently such students receive tuition free places, which is more than fair given such students have already built up debts from previous studies. They are enough doing research of high social utility but without financial reward or clear and stable academic employment at the end. Of

course from the perspective of students and student organisations there is also the argument for free education on principle, and that it should be extended to all students. In the interim it is at least pleasing that one group of students still does not have to pay fees. The message from the Government was there would be no changes this year or in 2017.

The picture beyond 2017 is less clear. A discussion paper released last week by the Federal Minister for Education, Simon Birmingham, proposed options for changes in 2018 and beyond. It suggests a review of the allocation of Commonwealth Supported Student places in postgraduate coursework programs. On the one hand this appears designed to increase allocation of postgraduate subsidised places, and so would be positive. On the other hand to fund the expansion there is a suggestion to lower the level of subsidy and so increase cost to students. Separately, the same paper proposes that certain flagship programs, presumably in high demand areas like Law and Medicine, could be deregulated with Universities able to charge full fees to all local students. A 20% reduction in Commonwealth funding of Universities is also back on the table, resurrected from the 2014-2015 deregulation plans and making it much more likely Universities would take up the option of charging high fees for flagship degrees. The same discussion paper also proposes reducing the repayment threshold for HELP repayments and increasing the repayment rate. There is no mention of research student tuition fees at all.

The overall message for postgraduates from Budget 2016 is that there will not be changes for now or in 2017, but for 2018 and beyond stu-

dents can expect to pay more and have to pay it back faster. The politics are clever. The Government has put off making unpopular decisions about higher education before the July 2016 Federal election. However unlike the last time they attempted deregulation they have given some indication of intention before going to the polls. Post election and if the current Government wins, they will no doubt try and claim they have a mandate to legislate deregulation. Already student organisations and staff unions have seen through the wafer thin ruse, and you can expect campaigning against this attempt at deregulation by stealth. Still, for now postgraduates and other students can be somewhat relieved about the temporary and partial respite, from an agenda that is essentially about deepening and lengthening the already-progressed consumerisation of higher education. One should not lose sight that the respite was achieved in the first place, through campaigning and activism that made it impossible for the Government to get its way just now.



Co-President’s Report

By **Christian Jones & Kylee Hartman-Warren**.

Congrats, you’ve made it through the majority of Semester 2 without discontinuing entirely (probably, if you’re reading this)! If you’re a research student – Winter is coming and it’s a perfect time to get to know your thesis with a warm drink in hand.

Well. How about that budget aye? On the 3rd of May, the Turnbull Government delivered its first budget and gee was it horrible for students overall. If you want a great overview of the budget, consider reading ABC’s budget winners and losers, but also remember to think for yourself. We are sceptical as to whether some of the winners are actually winners in this picture.

For example, the Government will endorse the Youth Jobs PaTH (Prepare-Trial-Hire), which gives incentives to businesses in order to hire young and unemployed individuals. These indi-

viduals will perform 10-25 hours of work a week to the tune of \$200 a week on top of their regular welfare benefits (roughly \$4 an hour). This is essentially saying to business that slave labour is alright when it’s young people.

Higher Education also failed to achieve a priority in this year’s budget, and the While cuts were not announced, the government has also maintained \$2 billion in education savings. Dr. Spence did speak to the budget on Hack expressing concern for students with low income backgrounds if fee deregulation or partial fee deregulation becomes the way of the future. Visit Triple J Hack website for more details.

Unfortunately, the Government has not committed to a Higher Education plan for the coming year. We must keep demanding for answers and transparency in this area.

This Omnipotent, Omniscient Being Was Turned Away by NINE Publishers - What He Did Next Will Blow Your Mind

Ann Ding understands the art of creation.

Everyone has heard the inspiring story of how J. K. Rowling fought her way from poverty and hardship to being a world-famous author; but not many people have heard of how God, once a young, struggling deity, held fast to his dream of publishing his very own universe and overcame all obstacles to become a successful Creator.

Ever since he was a fledgling celestial being, Yahweh had dreamt of making his very own universe, but he knew that his Plan would not be an easy one to achieve.

By the age of 300,000,000,000,000 (equivalent to his late teenage years), he had put together a complete final manuscript for a universe. When we talked to him, the immortal recalled that he “definitely deleted like, my first three or four drafts and started over a bunch of times”.

He says of his creative process: “When it comes to me, it just comes, you know? I ended up finishing the final version in six days.” Yahweh, or as his friends call him, Jehovah, began to submit his universe to publisher after publisher – but was turned away nine times.

Disappointed but not disheartened, he pushed on and took the risk of his immortal life – he decided to start his own indie publishing house and break into the notoriously impenetrable intelligent design market.

Now, roughly 6,000 years later, he has sold billions of copies of his reality – and it’s so successful and well-known that some believe his universe has existed for almost 14 billion years! Truly an inspiration to all the omnipotent, omniscient divinities out there.

We Put These Neurosurgeons on Stage... You Won’t Believe What Happened Next

Oliver Moore demands more glitter.

This year, in an event that has been dubbed “Neurovision,” each country of the European Union (and Australia, for reasons that have never been satisfactorily explained) will enter a team of their top neurosurgeons to compete for the honour of being the best, and for the international fame which will undoubtedly follow.

USU Board Candidates Injured After CVs Were Stacked Too High

Jayce Carrano called the medic.

An accident in Sydney University’s Great Hall last week has shed light on the true method by which Union Board members are elected.

Although votes are indeed counted, it has been revealed that candidates are quietly struck off if they do not pass this initial trial.

The contest requires candidates to stand in a circle. Flying around the Great Hall’s ceiling, up to eight metres above the candidates’ heads, are nine winged keys. To be eligible for the board, each nominee must retrieve one of these keys.

To elevate themselves, candidates print off their résumés and lay each page on top of the last.

They then stand on their stack while their campaign manager passes them more pages to place under their feet, to raise themselves higher and higher.

Nominees can usually succeed if their résumé is 120,000 pages long although particularly tall candidates have been triumphant with a mere 110,000.

Sources indicate that the accident occurred when one unidentified candidate, who had managed to balance their vice-presidency of one society, presidency of two others, full time degree and revue participation, foolishly attempted to add the entirety of their internship experience all at once.

This caused their stack to overbalance and set off a domino effect around the circle that left four candidates with bruises, sprains and several fractures. The unaffected nominees were each able to reach a key.

Nominees now have a short break until their second challenge tomorrow evening when they compete to determine who pulls more Facebook likes.

The format of the competition is ominously identical to that that of Eurovision, with each team dressing in elaborate costumes with backup dancers and detailed scenery.

They are then given approximately three and a half minutes to perform the most impressive feat of neurosurgery they are capable of for a live TV audience of approximately 600 million.

Pipped as the favourites are the Serbian team led by Miroslav Djordjevic, who has been conducting groundbreaking research in the area of cognitive impairment in the frontal lobe.

The mystery here is which particular operation will the team perform under the rigorous and highly controversial time limit. Neurovision will air in Australia on May 13 and 14 on SBS and voting polls will open at 11.59pm EST.

Star Point Guard’s Father Arrives During Fourth Quarter

Peter Walsh is a plucky young satirist writing against the odds.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM, INDIANA. Anxious supporters of the Bethel Selective Deacons Basketball Team—who have only just started to believe again after years of disappointment—were shocked to see star point guard Micah Trentholme’s father arrive to the championship game.

The arrival threw a spanner in the works for Micah Trentholme, who not seen his dad since he walked on the family ten years ago.

“Some say Micah tried to fill that dad-sized hole with a basketball”, said Assistant Coach Bethany Bridges. “But basketballs aren’t dad shaped.”

Micah rose to prominence last month as he overcame his ballhogging tendencies to lead the Deacons to their first berth in the playoffs this decade.

The arrival of Micah’s father followed an eventful first half. The Deacons lost significant ground early after learning that long time supporter Little Benjamin had been hit by a car en route to the game.

They closed a gap during the second after a tearful reunion between Micah and longtime flame Amelie Slander, who he had previously pushed away in a fit of hormonal boyness. By the third, Benjamin’s condition had stabilised, but it did little to prevent crosstown rivals Hartford taking the lead.

At press time, Micah’s father had taken his seat courtside, prideful tears welling in his eyes, as Micah prepared to do his customary look to the audience before shooting a pair of free throws, down two, with 1:10 remaining.

Bankrupt Billionaire Divorces Trophy Wife; Marries New Medal Wife as a Replacement

Emma Balfour won a participation award for this article.

It was the marriage everybody expected. George Anderson, a Wall St executive famous for his recent fraud charges which saw his net worth plummet, this week married Alicia Faye-Smithe, a literal bronze medallion attached to a blue ribbon.

The marriage follows Anderson’s recent divorce from his first wife, Amanda, a blonde southerner who majored in Pink Cashmere Sweater Studies in college.

Amanda, a classic trophy wife, had little to say of her ex-husband’s recent affair, saying “next you’ll be telling me he’s fucking a Highly Commended award.” The alleged Highly Commended award could not be reached.



REVIEWED: Civil War You Won’t Believe It

Oliver Moore does not endorse the flimsy and outdated notion of civil war used by recent Marvel blockbusters, and instead supports the Collier–Hoeffler Model used by most academics in this field.

I must say I was deeply excited to see the American Civil War, as I greatly enjoyed previous installments in this franchise, most notably the Thirty Years War, which was a huge stand out not only in length, but in the desecration of Germany, something that was genre-defining for wars to come.

With strong ideological roots and a clear clash of moralising forces, the premise of the American Civil War rang clear.

The leaders, in particular Abraham Lincoln, were rousing and inspired loyalty even in the heart of this reviewer.

Of particular note was the Battle of Fort Sutner, which really set the action rolling, and from there the dryer legislative slant of the war gave way to the bloody battles and smaller skirmishes that we were all there to see.

The main theaters of the war thoroughly engaging, though the Trans-Mississippi area and the naval elements could really have gotten more of a look-in.

A very enjoyable coda to the main action came in the form of the Gettysburg Address. It was given by Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of a memorial following the end of the war, which I’m sure audiences present and future will look to as a speechmaking staple.

An inspiring series of events all round. Well-executed and politically charged. I give it four stars.



Here are the stars I give.

Dermatologists Hate Him!



Local man exposes shocking anti-aging secret. Keep visible signs of aging away for CENTURIES with this one weird trick!

LEARN THE TRUTH NOW

The Tollund Man has discovered an ancient secret to keep skin looking flawless WITHOUT botox or surgery.

Read on to learn how an everyday man has beaten the plastic surgeons - and how YOU CAN TOO!

Over the years, the Tollund Man’s skin deteriorated due to daily stress, exposure to sunlight and the natural ravages of time.

To keep his 40-year-old visage youthful, he decided to take effective steps to LONG-LASTING RESULTS - by dying and being buried in a PEAT BOG!

Now, over 2000 years later and he hasn’t aged a day - he’s even on display at the Silkeborg Museum. People come from far and wide to see the AMAZING results! - Call **Ann Ding** for more information on 1800 567 895.

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University Desk ⭐

Review summary

3.4

20 reviews

Write a review

Underwhelming. View of star expertly obstructed. Solid wood structure, though.

I loved the consistency of the gum left underneath. It was FREE. Would recommend.

I do not understand why this table is so shi. Not ergonomic OR warm under my knee.

Google reviews

Liam Sanders

1 year ago

I don't know why everyone complains about the underside of this desk. It was pleasant and welcoming and not poisonous. That is important for a student. I am a student and I enjoyed that this desk was sturdy. I am not trying to convert anyone to Satan or anything. [Read this](#)

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