

Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • WEEK 12

FIRST PRINTED 1929

Dropping out of uni

Why the wrong students
are dropping out, and the
wrong students are
staying in.

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How the colleges
make and spend
their money

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Doomsday
preppers: are they
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9 / FEATURE

Andrew Bell and Joanita Wibowo on why the wrong students are dropping out, and the wrong students are staying in.

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

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sam Langford

EDITORS

Andrew Bell, Natalie Buckett, Max Hall, Tom Joyner, Alexandros Tsathas, Subeta Vimalarajah, Mary Ward, Victoria Zerbst, Naaman Zhou.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elijah Abraham, Emma Balfour, Nabila Chemaïssem, Annabel Cameron, Jayce Carrano, Aaron Chen, Jennifer Chen, Phoebe Chen, Nina Dillon Britton, Ann Ding, Will Edwards, Daniel Ergas, Eden Faithfull, Andy Mason, Isobel McDonald, Oliver Moore, Daniel Reede, Millie Roberts, April Saleeba, Theodora von Arnim, Peter Walsh, Josh Koby Wooller, Andy Zephyr.

ARTISTS

Ferdous Bahar, Steph Barahona, Liz Dowsley, Matthew Fisher, Frankie Hossack, Amandine Le Bellec.

PROOFREADER

Caelin Kramer

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

Sam Langford

A few weeks ago, someone threw a newspaper out of a car and hit me in the face. I joked on twitter that it was an apt metaphor for this year as an editor.¹

I have never known things to go wrong as often and as unpredictably as they do at this paper. Perfection is always unattainable, but it's especially so when you're a bunch of underpaid students trying to run a weekly newspaper on top of your regular lives, which go on no matter what happens between the pages, no matter how many times you've seen Monday's sunrise on the trip home.

Someone once described *Honi* to me as a machine that feeds on the blood of relationships, or something to that effect. It demands time, energy and love, often at times when

these are hard to give. Sans melodrama, I think this is true of any creative work, especially the kind that's increasingly defunded, subject to 'efficiency' cuts and redundancies. I'm grateful to all the people who do this work, even in such uncertain times. I'm grateful to our writers and artists, who feed the *Honi* machine with beautiful words and pictures every week.

Mostly, I'm grateful to our readers, those we hear from and those we don't. Thank you for picking up this paper. This is our penultimate issue for the semester, and like all the others, it's a bit of a miracle, coming together early in the morning despite everything. We survived mishap to get here. We're not finished yet.

1. The metaphor applies both in the sense that editing *Honi* involves fielding unexpected problems on the regular, and also in the sense that we launch this paper into the world every week, hoping to impact readers (albeit less violently).

not like USyd needs a mainstream candidate representing mainstream students...

Regards,
Anthony Fletcher
JD I

Incredible that the international hacktivist network found the time to write in

Dear *Honi*,

I must admit that like most USyd students, I didn't give two hoots about the election that just passed, but as some of my friends did, I was bom-

barded with messages telling me to 'embrace' people, to 'count on' someone else and to 'shimmy' with another person entirely, which I find to be pretty boring actions, especially shimmying, which is a lame dance move.

But because I felt obligated to vote I did put in some research into some of the people running to try and find out a bit about them and I saw that most of them were rather useless. Many of the things that I saw them promise this year I've already seen promised year after year.

Grace Franki and Vanessa Song were especially boring, and 'better parties' and 'cheaper noms' (Grace's words, not mine) were their boring promises. I love a good party, and I love good food (like all of us) but I don't think that the candidates care too much about improving this, and I don't think that they will be able to at all, especially now that both of them have been elected.

As I've liked the USU FB

Regards,
Anonymous

Why we still need Affirmative Action (So1Eo1)

Dear *Honi*,

I was surprised to see Mary Ward's article 'Does the USU still need an affirmative action policy?' take an (albeit equivocal) stance against wom*n AA for the USU elections. While it is an important issue to reconsider, it was surprising to me that a newspaper with such a long and proud history of radicalism completely missed the point.

The writer contended that the need for an AA policy has passed because wom*n are adequately represented on the USU Board. Yet that ignored the fact that the AA policy is instrumental in a wom*n's decision to run for Board. Research has consistently shown that wom*n underrate themselves and are less likely to consider themselves for a position. People who are in the place to consider running successfully for Board must have sufficient social and political capital (whether it be by faction, friends or C&S societies) - which can be hard to gain as a wom*n. Wom*n also disproportionately bear the brunt of misogynistic and gender-based abuse on the campaign trail (see Nat Buckett's excellent article on this point).

None of this was mentioned in the article. While it may be that wom*n are represented on the USU Board, the article critically missed the role of the AA policy in helping to achieve that. Crucially, the article did not identify any mechanism that would help facilitate wom*n representation in the absence of AA.

Finally, the writer mentioned the existence of other AA measures for queer or ethno-cultural or engineering students. Yet, those measures can always co-exist with a wom*n's AA. The USU is in the position to identify that certain groups of students need the benefit of AA - and the existence of queer/ethnocultural oppression should not detract from the need for a wom*n's AA.

Penina Su
Law V

Why we still need Affirmative Action (So1Eo2)

Dear *Honi*,

In last week's edition Mary Ward's article 'Does the USU still need an affirmative action policy?' made the argument that the success of wom*n on board demonstrates the futility of AA policies. I would argue that it is more accurate to say that it demonstrates their success. AA is not just about the instances where it alters election results (though it has, and will continue to do so in an important way), it is also about the message it sends. AA says that the USU values wom*n, that it wants them on board.

We know that wom*n are less likely to put their hand up for advancement, ask for a raise, or apply for a job they aren't sure they'll get. Men haven't been socialised to second guess themselves in that way. AA provisions can give wom*n the confidence to nominate themselves when they otherwise wouldn't. Even if AA doesn't impact who gets elected out of the candidates, it may be the reason they're on the ballot in the first place.

Beyond these considerations, there is no harm to an AA policy in years it isn't implemented. If everything is as fine for wom*n as Ward argues, then it does nothing. Maintaining it operates as a safeguard to ensure we don't let representation dip.

The achievement of wom*n on the USU board is incredible and should be celebrated, but sexism is still a problem on campus, and one that necessitates maintaining AA as a back up. To prove that you only need to look at the stream of (somewhat entertaining) vitriolic replies I received when I commented on the article on Facebook with this point.

But hey, it had been months since someone called me a misandrist blinded by my own agenda, and I was getting worried my credentials had slipped.

Steph White
Law V

Hypocriticism

Regarding the Catholic Society talk on man/woman complementarity that took place two weeks ago,

I would like to address the allegations of the broader progressive community that the talk was: "bigoted", "offensive" and "hurtful to the LGBTI community." As an eyewitness to the protest which occurred outside the talk, I have to disagree with this characterisation for one key reason: The only ones preaching hatred at the talk were the progressive protestors themselves.

Let us first consider the vicious invective that was employed by most of the progressive speakers to describe the Sydney University Catholic Society and the students listening to the talk:

1. "To all the Catholic students sitting inside that tent, you can all go and get fucked."
2. "Fuck the Catholic Society and fuck the people who let this talk go ahead."
3. "Get these bigoted fucks off campus."

And let us next consider the actions of the protestors:

1. Unplugging the Catholic Society's speakers in an effort to render James Parker inaudible
2. Positioning themselves in such a way that any student who wished to enter the tent and listen to or question James Parker had to run a gauntlet.

Everyone has a right to protest. Everyone has the right to be angry. And everybody has the right to make their views known. However, this is a right which extends to every student on campus and this means extending it to religious students as well. Screaming outside a tent of Catholic students does nothing to engender the sort of open and inclusive campus that progressives claim they support.

Hitting up the Catholic Society's event page with post after post of hateful comments does nothing to encourage the open and free exchange of ideas which progressives claim they support. And labelling every adherent of an entire faith tradition as intolerant homophobes is the exactly the sort of bullying and divisive behaviour which progressives claim they

An Apology

The editors of *Honi Soit* would like to apologise to former SRC President Kyol Blakeney, whose full name appeared in the Week 9 article "(sex,) drugs and stupor". We acknowledge that Mr Blakeney should have been contacted before his name was used in the article. We did not intend to suggest or imply that Kyol supports, facilitates, or engages in illicit drug use.

want to see eradicated on this campus.

I concede that many LGBTI students have been on difficult journeys. I concede that many LGBTI students have had negative experiences with the church and with religion. And I concede that every student has the right to feel safe, welcome and secure on this campus. However, a tertiary education should be about engaging with ideas that challenge your own, no matter how controversial those ideas are. James Parker's suggestion that men and women are made for each other may have offended you and it may have even hurt you. But when the only students being told to "get the fuck of campus" the other week were Catholic and when the only students being told to "shut the fuck up" the other week were Catholic, THAT is a violation of every student's right to feel safe on campus and is in fact, pure hypocrisy coming from a movement which prides itself on inclusivity and a toleration of diverse viewpoints.

So let's go back to debating actual ideas rather than the identities of the speakers who present them. Let's start talking to each other once again.

Sincerely,

Spyridon Augoustinos
Arts/Law IV



WHAT TO LISTEN TO WHEN...

you realise you've hit the minimum attendance requirement for your 8am class.

The Lazy Song
Bruno Mars (2010)

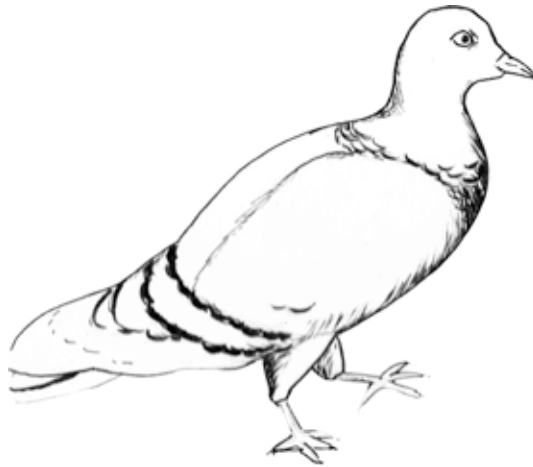
Dog Days are Over
Florence and the Machine (2009)

I Don't Wanna be Learned
The Ramones (1976)

Take a Break
Hamilton Broadway Cast (2015)

The Best Days
Nikki Webster (2001)

Another Brick in the Wall (Part II)
Pink Floyd (1979)



Letters

He's a chip off the old left block

Dear *Honi*,

I commend you on your attempt to provide an intelligible account of the current USU candidate's policy for the upcoming election. While your impartiality in this endeavour reflected a likeness of Mark Latham on 'The Verdict', I can only imagine how difficult this process was noting the lack of ACTUAL policy from the majority of candidates. How sad it is when the politics of our fine institution reflects the politics of our nation; a popularity

competition based on personality rather than actual policy.

In future, rather than an attempt to embarrass candidates through publishing the results of a biased quiz may I suggest an actual Q and A on policy? The candidate profiles attempted this but the approach was as cherry-picked as the current Premier's use of statistics when discussing lockout laws. As a result I am unable to really discern between the candidates except by which colour they like and can't quite understand the difference between each of those in the 'left block'. I suppose the assumption is that USyd only votes left, just as *Honi* only writes left, so why not just spread the love amongst those on that side of the ticket? It's

Do you hate us? Do you rate us? Do you want to date us?
So far we've only received letters in the first category, but you never know.

Send your life story to editors@honisoit.com by Friday 5pm.
Keep it to maximum 500 words. A short life story.

NEWS



BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

A Bahamas Righted Nerd Stirs

WET AND WILD AND FUCKED UP

On May 18 St Andrew's College held their annual Bachelors and Spinsters' Ball (B&S), where eastern suburbs city kids spend the night partying like they're in the country. Sources allege the B&S featured hay, R M Williams and a wet t-shirt competition. But don't judge guys, *Honi Soit* Facebook comments tell us the colleges don't have a problem with sexual objectification and cultural misogyny.

BULLSHIT

Remember *BULL* magazine, the USU's monthly, hardcopy advertorial rag of yesterday? No, neither do we. But we did have access to its Twitter account until one shitpost too many last week led the USU to delete it. During election day, we tweeted: "The ghost of *BULL* magazine endorses democracy. Go vote at #usudecides. Long live print media." A day later, the account was gone. Fuckers.

WE'LL KEMISS YOU

Megan Kemmis, the Executive Officer to Academic Board, announced her resignation last week after working at USyd for 14 years. During this time, Megan has been instrumental in giving a voice to students across University committees and boards. In the last meeting of Academic Board she was met with a standing ovation, and representatives from SUPRA gave her a letter of thanks. "Endlessly helpful,

approachable and candid with our student representatives; providing a deep and thorough insider's knowledge of the University and its many institutions," they wrote. We'll miss you Megan. The students of Macquarie University are lucky to have you.

USU VOTING BY THE NUMBERS

Esther Shim is the fifth person in five years to get on Board after a failed *Honi* run the semester before. She follows in the footsteps of Hannah Morris ('12), Tara Waniganayaka ('13), Ed McMahon ('14) and Shannen Potter ('15). Both managers of last year's *Honi* tickets (Grace Franki for SCOOP, Vanessa Song for STRIP) were elected.

Four of the top five performers in our *Honi* candidates quiz were elected. Only Koko Kong (who didn't attempt the quiz, but was elected first) and Cam Hawkins (3rd in quiz, 8th in election) bucked the trend.

For the first time since 2012 an NLS candidate didn't get up (they chose not to run one in 2012, and this year Sam Kwon finished in 7th).

Much has been made of Grace's canny, potentially election-winning preference deal, but spare a thought for James Gibson, whose deal failed as much as Grace's worked. James (the next closest candidate to Grace) struck a preference deal with his Labor stablemates Vanessa Song and Sam Kwon. Yet when Sam was eliminated, more of his votes flowed to independent Esther Shim than to poor James, who ended up losing by only 11 votes. Ouch.

SUPRA ELECTIONS

Postgrad elected to SUPRA council with no votes

Subeta Vimalarajah

One councillor has been elected by affirmative action with no votes, and others elected with a quota of just nine in the official announcement of the 2016 SUPRA council following elections earlier this month.

The total number of votes cast in the election was 194, in comparison to 258 votes last year.

Executive positions will be elected by the new council, which this year is composed of broad left activists who ran on two tickets – Postgraduate Action and Lush – Labor students and various unaligned independents.

Lush and Postgrad Action were branded as progressive tickets, with both comprising various members and ex-members of the Grassroots faction. It is unclear at this stage whether the two tickets have decided to preference each other in executive elections, as negotiations are ongoing.

Thomas Greenwell, the rumoured prospective can-

didate for President, received the highest number of primary votes, which flowed to help elect other candidates on his ticket.

The final composition of the council is six members from Postgraduate Action, five from Lush, five from Labor factions and five independents, making a coalition of Postgraduate Action and Lush, with a handful of independents, sufficient to secure a majority in the upcoming executive elections.

Three council members needed to be from satellite campuses, resulting in the defacto election of Alexandra Nixon, who was the only female inter-campus candidate to run.

The gender breakdown of the order of election indicates the last six candidates were all women, elected by affirmative action. SUPRA took 11 per cent of available SSAF last year, amounting to \$1.2 million.

Students elected to the SUPRA executive are amongst the highest paid student representatives on campus, with the President taking home \$47,742 per year.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

Sexist Wesley College student journal protested

Nina Dillon Britton

Protestors stood in silence at Wesley College on May 16, lit by candles and with mouths sealed by tape, to protest sexual harassment and assault on campus and in colleges.

Police officers and college security attempted to block protestors' passage past the gates on the college grounds, but protestors peacefully pushed past to stand outside the college's main doors, which were locked. "The police were pretty tolerant," said Anna Hush, SRC Women's Officer, who led the action.

The student protest included demands for Wesley College to release the names of the editors of the 2014 *Wesley Journal* – which college master Lisa Sutherland has refused to do – and mandatory sexual harassment education for all college students at the University.

Disgruntled and curious college students were asked to move on from the gates by administration staff. At one-point male college students called to the silent protestors: "Speak up!"

Hush gave a short speech announcing the goals of the protestors, as other protestors held a silent vigil before chanting "No more slut shaming, no more victim blaming!" as they left the college grounds.

The protests have occurred a week after a *Pulp* investigation revealed the 2014 *Wesley Journal* published a "Rackweb" of all intercollegiate "hookups", and named specific female students as "Biggest Pornstar" or "Best Ass". "You so often hear about these things as scandals, but they're not really scandals, they're just things that go on that are slowly being revealed," said Olivia Borgese, an SRC Sexual Harassment Officer.

Since the protest, the University has made further moves to address the problems. "The Chancellor and I have invited some of the independent colleges affiliated with the University to work with us and with former sex discrimination commissioner Elizabeth Broderick AO on how to respond to concerns that have been raised about their culture," the Vice-Chancellor, Michael Spence, told *Honi*.

GOVERNMENT STUPIDITY

Specialist eating disorder support service funding cut

Eden Faithfull

University students and mental health professionals have voiced concerns after news the Butterfly Foundation, Australia's only dedicated eating disorder support service, is set to lose funding next year under a federal government shake-up of mental health services.

With only 12 months of certain funding being promised, the Butterfly Foundation is "sounding the mayday alarm" for over 700,000 people across Australia who will be left with no dedicated national service to support them.

Andy Zephyr, a Sydney University student who has struggled with eating disorders since adolescence, said the service had supported them during some of their most difficult times.

"I had the ability to contact them whenever I needed to, and the benefit of their hotline was that I was provided with complete anonymity. I could stay on the line for however long I wanted while I ate, and

felt comfortable knowing there was someone on the other end of the line who was there for me," they said.

Elizabeth Stanton, a counsellor for Sydney University's Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS), agreed the reduction of funding would have devastating consequences for student mental health.

"The treatment of eating disorders involves such a specialist knowledge and understanding. The highest standards of care are really non-negotiable when it comes to individuals physical and mental health."

The projected cuts are slated against existing public health service austerity. There are currently only 37 adult hospital beds designated for sufferers of eating disorders in state capitals across the country, with no specialist services in regional areas whatsoever.

In a statement released to media, the Butterfly Foundation said the nation's health system was failing people with eating disorders "at every point",

from missed, incorrect and incomplete diagnoses to lack of treatment opportunities in hospitals.

Ben Veness, a mental health advocate, stressed the importance of raising awareness of the very real risks associated with eating disorders on university campuses.

"Given that eating disorders are one of the main causes of morbidity among young Australian women overall, there is no reason to think it is any less of a problem on our university campuses."

Phillip Brien, a former student of Sydney University and who suffered from an eating disorder, said the Foundation's defunding will disadvantage poorer students.

"The removal of funding from the Butterfly Foundation results in the abolition of a support network for those who are not blessed with the resources and guidance I had. For these people, the defunding of the Butterfly Foundation likely means they will never overcome their disorders."

USU BOARD ELECTIONS

Five women elected to USU

A historic result for the 2016 USU Board Director election

The USU has seen the highest number of women ever elected to its student board, with all five of the winners in last Wednesday's USU Board Director election identifying as women.

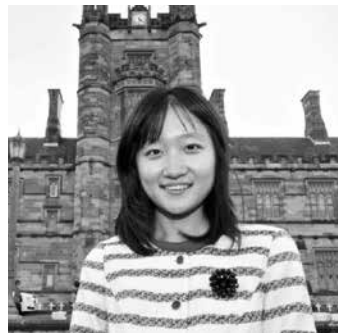
International student Koko Kong received the highest number of votes with 1451 ballots lodged in her favour. She will become the first international student elected to the Board since Ruchir Punjabi in 2007.

She was elected alongside independent Esther Shim (who had a primary vote of 678), Vanessa Song of Student Unity (456), Courtney Thompson of Grassroots (587), and independent Grace Franki (382).

Of the five, Franki benefited most from preference deals. Her arrangement with Kong and Cameron Hawkins saw Franki receive a significant boost after Kong exceeded quota in the first count while Hawkins was excluded after only receiving 153 primary votes.

Missing out on a spot on Board were Sydney Labor Students' James Gibson (484), National Labor Students' Sam Kwon (427), independent Cam Hawkins and Liberal Dom Bondar (93).

Kong ran as a single-issue candidate under the branding "Can do, Koko". Her policies, which are solely for the



The new directors. Clockwise from top left: Koko Kong, Esther Shim, Vanessa Song, Courtney Thompson and Grace Franki. Photos: Facebook

advancement of international students on campus, include reserving an International Student Officer position on the Board, as well as initiatives to educate international students about their rights in the workplace and how to be more involved in the USU's C&S program.

Kong was identified as the favourite by *Honi* in our pre-poll exit poll released on Monday, however the real surprise of the night was Thomp-

son, who polled 7th on Monday but managed to come in 4th, potentially after her faction managed to pull in some of their big names from elections past to campaign on election day.

The dominance of female candidates is a far cry from last year when the Affirmative Action policy was triggered after the ballot box failed to ensure three of the six candidates elected were women-identifying, pushing Unity candidate Georg Tamm out of

sixth place and replacing him with SLS's Shannen Potter.

The results of the USU Board Director election were announced at Manning Bar on Wednesday night, after candidates had campaigned on the Camperdown-Darlington campus since 7:30am for the election's main voting day.

Pre-poll voting had previously been held at Manning and International Students Lounge, as well as at satellite campuses, from Thursday to Tuesday.

CAMPUS SAFETY

One in four students have been sexually harassed, survey results show

Subeta Vimalarajah

A report of the University's sexual harassment survey results was released to students in a University-wide e-mail from the Vice-Chancellor last week, following months of student lobbying efforts to have the information made public.

The report revealed one in four students have experienced some form of sexual harassment or assault during their time at University, with a majority of students indicating they would benefit from additional information about where and how to seek help on campus to report an unwanted sexual experience.

The report was released following lobbying from student representatives and media coverage about the University's failure to respond to reported incidents of sexual harassment, assault and a culture of

misbehaviour at Wesley and St Andrews Colleges.

The survey was completed by close to 2,000 students in September last year, with questions formulated in consultation with a student working group established in late 2014.

Question content extended beyond sexual assault and harassment to student perceptions of the University more generally. Only 62 per cent of LGBTIQ students surveyed agreed they felt safe on campus.

"Two postdoctoral research students undertook months of intensive qualitative and quantitative analysis to produce the final report," a University spokesperson told *Honi*. The raw results of the survey have not been released.

The University has developed five recommendations as a result of their data analysis, including the need for clearer communication mechanisms, a

review of existing Campus security and a separate statement on acceptable campus behaviour, distinct from the existing Student Code of Conduct.

SRC Women's Officer Anna Hush, who has been a leader in the fight for University action on this issue, saw the release as bittersweet.

"The data in the report is quite scant, particularly around students' perceptions of institutional responses to reports of sexual assault and harassment. The sample size is quite small and there definitely needs to be more investigation," she said.

Hush was part of a student working group designed to oversee the project and assist in implementing any recommendations from the survey.

Students have had difficulty arranging to meet with the University this year. It appears the remainder of the project is to take place independently of the

working group.

"The Safer Community For All survey report put forward five recommendations, which were endorsed by the University's Senior Executive Group. The University has already initiated work on some of these recommendations and will pursue areas of development over the next six months," a University spokesperson said.

University of Sydney Women's Collective have co-organised a screening of *The Hunting Ground* documentary – an in-depth exploration of sexual assault on United States college campuses – with an accompanying panel discussion to take place on May 26. Michael Spence has been confirmed as a panelist.

For more info and tickets go to "The Hunting Ground documentary screening" event created by the University of Sydney Women's Collective Facebook page.

NEWS

ACADEMIC BOARD

Equity changes recommended by working group

Subeta Vimalarajah

An equity and diversity working group has made recommendations to senior University administrators, including the introduction of pronoun rounds in tutorials, all gender accessible toilets and acknowledgments of country in the front of all University leaders.

The informal working group which reports to the Academic Board is chaired by Dr Jenny Saleeba from the Faculty of Science and consists of three other members: Associate Professor Rae Cooper from the Business School, Alistair Cowie, Director of Sales, Marketing and Infrastructure of the USU, and SRC General Secretary, Georgia Mantle.

In the May 16 meeting of the Board, Dr Saleeba informed members of various recommendations from the first official meeting of the group. The proposals outlined include acknowledgments of country at the beginning of all meetings and more gender inclusive University environments.

Dr. Saleeba expressed the value of pronoun rounds in small tutorials, as well as allowing students to indicate their preferred names to lecturers and tutors in the first lesson, to avoid accidental use of 'dead' names – names given based on the birth sex of a student that are no longer used.

Increased access to parent's rooms to support students with children was suggested, as well as mandatory consent and sexual assault training on respectful behaviours and the legal consequences to perpetrators. The Vice-Chancellor, Michael Spence, has directly been forwarded these suggestions, with a view to potentially extending these procedures to staff.

"They also fit well with elements of our strategic plan, as well as our legislated obligations with respect to diversity, equity, wellbeing and safety," said the chair of the Academic Board, Anthony Masters.

The suggestions will be filtered to various parts of the University, such as the Senate, and Campus Infrastructure Services (CIS), whilst the Board will take carriage of some issues, meaning they will be implemented by various bodies across the University.

"It is always the case at the end of the day that the University just ignores the suggestions and no changes are made, that is the same with every committee or group," Mantle said.

"But I do think the members of the group are very passionate and hard working so we will do all we can to make sure these things are followed through," she added.

How do USyd colleges make and spend their money?

Daniel Ergas takes a look into the books of Sydney University’s sandstone institutions

Colleges’ misdeeds are increasingly well known. But you would be forgiven for not knowing one of their best-kept secrets: colleges don’t pay a cent of rent. And as a result, they’re big business. How big? Their revenues from students in 2014 total over \$30 million. To put that in perspective: the University of Sydney collects \$201.9 million each year from all 25,000 of its domestic undergraduate students in fees. In other words, the University only banks from undergraduates about seven times what the colleges do each year, even though they take on close to 17 times the students (and are offering, you know, an education).

This is not information the colleges provided voluntarily. Recent regulations from the national charities’ watchdog required that colleges publicly release their audited 2014 financial reports late last year. While a small number of colleges have, in the past, compiled a short summary of their finances for their alumni’s annual report, this is the first time the public has had access to the full, unedited documents from the vast majority of colleges. A notable exception, St Andrew’s College, continues to ignore the charities’ watchdog’s deadline to submit their financial reports, and so cannot be analysed for this piece.

Housekeeping cost per resident of St John’s College	\$1,085
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Earnings

Investments and foundations’ long-term building and scholarship funds

With all six of the University of Sydney colleges established close to a century ago, their alumni pools run unsurprisingly deep. Collectively, their investment and foundation funds total over \$36 million. It appears these donations come from a small number of wealthy, generous benefactors. Of funds raised in 2015 by St Paul’s, \$93,000 came from just seven major donors. The College also owns a fine art collection valued at over \$1.25 million. A St Andrew’s report from 2014 indicates the \$244,855 raised for the year came from only 122 donors.

University contributions

As Vice-Chancellor Spence has made it clear to the media in the wake of reporting by Aparna Balakumar and Justine Landis-Hanley, colleges are, in many ways, independent of the University. They are on their own land, which they effectively own; with their own, private admissions standards and governing councils, often set by statute.

But their financial reports make it clear that the colleges’ relationship with the University is more complex and reciprocal than it first appears. While it is difficult to judge the full extent of the University’s commercial relationship with the colleges due to limited public access to their books, over the 2013 - 2014 period, St Paul’s was the recipient of a collective \$2.12 million ‘contribution’ for their Graduate House from the University of Sydney. At least part of the colleges’ significant marketing expenses (totaling over \$400, 000 from the only two colleges with a specific ‘marketing’ line-item) go to the University for participation in Open Day and university recruitment functions.

Student fees

Despite their sizeable foundation and investment funds, all six University of Sydney residential colleges feature in the top ten most expensive colleges in Australia when it comes to student fees. To calculate this, *Honi* took the total revenue colleges collect from students, and divided it by their total number of students for that year, in order to take into account grants and bursaries.

The average yearly fee paid by a University of Sydney college student (approximately \$22, 000) could pay for rent in a room in a four-bedroom apartment in Auburn for almost three whole years.

Dr Amanda Bell, the Principal of Women’s College, and the only college to respond to *Honi*’s request for comment, noted the colleges’ fees were, comparative to the area, reasonable. In a statement, Bell wrote “if a student was living off campus [at] a market rent of \$350 per week, they would be spending a similar amount annually.”

This seemed to be a strange comparison. Colleges own the land and are registered as non-profits, so to be judged relatively to rent-seeking landlords seems generous. Even so, the average rent in Newtown in a four-bedroom sharehouse (the closest equivalent to the 200-bedroom share-house that is college) is closer to \$260 per week.

Cost of catering per student

St Paul’s College	\$9,169
Women’s College	\$6,520
Sancta Sophia College	\$5,370
St John’s College	\$5,209
Wesley College	\$5,052
St Andrew’s College	N/A

Expenses

Catering

Every residential college at the University of Sydney provides full-service catering, collectively spending over \$7.2 million in 2014 – an average cost of approximately \$6,100 per student that year.

The catering at each college varies, though each features ‘formal dinner’. Formal dinner is an involved event: students are required to wear academic dress (at least a black graduation gown with a collared shirt) for a three to four course meal served by waiters in black tie.

This occasion is either weekly (as at Women’s or Sancta Sophia), bi-weekly (at Wesley and St John’s) or every weekday (St Paul’s).

Compared to similarly sized colleges across Australia, Sydney’s colleges are unmatched in their food-spend. Australia-wide, St Paul’s College leads the pack with approximately \$9,000 spent each year per student on their catering budget.

Even when compared with all the colleges in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart that *Honi* could access reliable financial reports for, the University of Sydney colleges dominated the top quarter of colleges’ catering budgets

(claiming four out of the six spots); and USyd was also the only university able to claim the unique mantle that each of its colleges spent at least \$1,700 above the average food spend per student (which was approximately \$3,200).

Staff fees

University of Sydney colleges are sprawling institutions, collectively employing at least 75 full-time, 60 part-time, and 171 casual staff (a ratio of six students to every one staff member) at a cost of over \$6.7 million in 2014. Their salaries are almost a third of the total costs associated with colleges.

University of Sydney colleges boast of their capacity to provide unique academic support to their students through external tutorials run exclusively for colleges (their commitment is such that the word ‘academic’ appears 25 times in St John’s 2,700-word prospectus). Colleges regularly use the cost of these tutorials to justify their staffing expenditures.

When comparing how much of each resident’s fee goes toward staff salaries, all but Wesley College spent over the median sum, which was approximately \$4,700 per student nationwide. St Andrew’s reached the top quartile of its employee spending (over \$7,000 per student per year attending to staff fees).

Strange, miscellaneous costs

While the two categories above explain 62 per cent of students’ fees (32 per cent for catering, 30 per cent for staff), this leaves another 38 per cent unaccounted for. This is tied up in the colleges’ sizeable surpluses, and occasional opaque line items.

The colleges’ collective surplus in 2014 was \$6.4 million: a staggering 28 per cent of total students’ fees. In other words: of the fees paid by students in 2014 more than a quarter simply went into the colleges’ coffers, not to be spent that year.

Over the 2013-2014 period, Sancta Sophia spent \$246,432 in ‘marketing’ and \$107,628 in ‘other student support costs’; Women’s College spent \$156,693 in ‘advertising’, \$195,841 in ‘consultancy fees’, \$46,664 on ‘printing, postage and stationery’, \$72,903 in ‘telephone’ expenses and \$75,558 for ‘IT and web page support’; Wesley College spent over \$125,000 under the ‘administration’ line-item in 2014 – although it’s not clear what this might mean – and another \$104,545 in ‘student services’. St John’s College’s report is perhaps most egregious in its ambiguity. It separates its total expenses into only two categories:

St Paul’s College total foundation and investment funds	\$19.5m
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‘employee expenses’ (\$1.5 million) and ‘all other expenses’ (a startling \$4.3 million), with no further explanation provided.

The financial reports themselves are complex: they can be both curiously abstruse and tediously mundane. They are incomplete and equivocal. But what they do reveal is that the University of Sydney colleges do not only hold immense social power, but also access to significant financial capital, entirely independent of the University.

Doomsday preppers: paranoid nutjobs or eco-visionaries?

Andy Mason on the lessons we can find in an underground bunker

Recently, in order to avoid doing any actual study about environmental issues, I’ve been binge watching National Geographic’s Doomsday Preppers. It follows US families who’ve devoted themselves to preparing for any number of doomsday scenarios – everything from natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes to a nuclear attack or economic collapse. Many have invested tens of thousands of dollars or more in any number of elaborate schemes to protect their family from catastrophe – underground bunkers, home-made tanks, surveillance systems, booby-traps, you name it. Of course, most are also obsessed with stockpiling as many guns and as much ammunition as possible so they can defend themselves and their families from the hostile masses should society go belly-up.

It’s easy to dismiss the “preppers” as paranoid nutjobs, and I suspect this spectacle is the primary appeal of the show. Preppers seem like the ultimate proof of the absurd individualism of American culture – so convinced that the government is either incompetent or out to get them, and so distrustful of everyone else in their communities, that they have become obsessed with total self-re-

liance. Most of the protagonists are suburban white men, and I’m sure you could write essays for gender studies about prepping as performative masculinity, a macho façade which hides a deep sense of insecurity.

However, there is more beneath the surface. Many preppers are interested not only in defence, but in ensuring they can provide for themselves after the collapse. This has led many of them to ingenious DIY green designs in their attempt to ensure self-sufficiency. There are lots of examples of excellent home gardens built along organic/permaculture principles, rainwater collection or water purification systems and home-made renewable energy setups. One guy has even built an apparatus like a giant magnifying glass using the screen from an old television, which enables him to cook and even melt steel using only sunlight.

One of the most interesting examples I found was in season 3 episode 3, where Arizona family man Chad demonstrates both sides of the prepper universe. Chad is convinced that the US government is eventually going to wage nuclear war on its citizens, so he is building a bunker in his backyard and giving his young daughters firearms

training. However, Chad has also developed an aquaponics garden which easily produces enough food for his family. Aquaponics is a combination of fish farming and vegetable gardening, where the water (containing nutrient-rich fish crap) is pumped through the garden beds and then waste plant material is fed to the fish, forming a closed system that requires no other inputs and allows fish and vegetables to be grown very quickly and efficiently. The only waste produced is algae, which, in a further stroke of genius, Chad is able to convert into a natural fuel called biodiesel, enabling his family to be self-sufficient not only in food but in fuel as well.

As an environmentalist, I wonder if there isn’t something to be learned from people like Chad. Ultimately the environmental movement must be focussed on broad social change, not just celebrating people who’ve cut themselves off from society, but the preppers have many important lessons to share about how to do more with less. They show us that other ways of doing things are possible – maybe if we can convince them that Bush didn’t do 9/11, we can get somewhere.

Flip it and reverse it

Alexandros Tsathas gets the lowdown on the USU’s proposed constitutional changes

The University of Sydney Union (USU) wants to make some changes to its governing document. One could be forgiven for thinking the poor sod tasked with drafting these changes did so in an empty Courtyard Café, to Missy Elliot’s 2002 banger *Work It*.

The song’s hook, “Is it worth it? I put my thing down, flip it and reverse it”, is a startlingly accurate summary of what’s proposed: mostly benign rearrangements and rewordings. Those few changes that do have meaningful implications, whether by design or coincidence, collectively exude a very early-2000s hip-hop vibe. Let’s blow the lid on these wack verses.

Official tequila endorsement

The first proposed constitutional change is to Article 4 and concerns “The Patrón”. Your correspondent was quick to congratulate Honorary Treasurer Ed McMahon on mandating a single brand of high-end tequila for the USU. McMahan gently clarified the diacritic and explained the proposal is intended to redefine the role of Patron of the USU. Presently, it’s a default, ceremonial title held by the Chancellor. The Board want to be able to appoint somebody with a closer ideological bent to the USU (names like Geoffrey Robertson and Michael Kirby are being bandied around). The move is gestural, and intended to communicate the USU’s independence from the University.

Yung moolah baby

Board Directors get paid (\$4,416 a year, plus meal allowance), and have been since the year 2000. The constitution hasn’t been updated accordingly, and so dem hustlin’ Directors have arguably bin linin’ they pockets wit unconstitutional dollaz.

The proposed amendment rectifies this anomaly, and goes further. It calls for a specialist committee to advise on the remuneration of Directors. The current method of determination is arbitrary and problematically asks Directors to vote on their own pay. The specialist committee will consider the USU’s balance sheet, roles’ demands and the equivalent award wage. The argument goes, paying Directors more (the likely resolution of the committee) will enable them to spend more time in their roles, and to do a better job. Fair pay for one’s work is a notion this publication wholly endorses, but pity the (occasional) SRC office-bearer putting in comparable hours for zero compensation.

Getting too old for this

USyd just witnessed the annual USU Board elections. Unbeknownst to most, it’s not just students who are eligible to run for Board. Paid staff of the University, USU, SRC, SUPRA and SUSF, as well as USU life members, can throw their hat into the ring.

The proposed changes ensure that only students, University staff and life members can run for Board. This doesn’t change much, as students only ever really nominate for Board anyway. It’s interesting that the USU has decided to retain the eligibility of life members for Board nomination. Considered in conjunction with the proposed reinstatement of life membership, it is not unreasonable to ask whether this purportedly student-run, student-led organisation is at risk of slipping student control. Outgoing Director Kate Bullen is a lone critic.

Club ban lifted

In a move spearheaded by outgoing USU Presi-

dent Alisha Aitken-Radburn, who’s big on alumni ties, the USU is bringing back life membership. Life membership existed until 2006, when it was canned ahead of VSU and imminent financial uncertainty. Back then, it was granted to those who held an ACCESS card for five years.

This time around, the USU have taken care not to enshrine in their constitution what actual benefits life membership will confer. A free lifetime ACCESS card? An annoying subscription to a new *USU Alumni Magazine*? Who knows. By keeping things open-ended, the USU can switch lanes if any particular approach heads ‘dirty south’.

Just quietly, unless life membership confers real benefits and discounts, ain’t nobody wasting time with it.

Duckin’ the Popo

Board Director-turned-badass Tom Raue tested many processes when he leaked confidential emails and breached his fiduciary duties in the process. Amongst the many points of contention surrounding the saga was that the Senate was able to rush through a reappointment of their (anti-Raue) representative to the Board after her term had recently expired. The proposed constitutional change attempts to ensure the Senate invites and considers Board recommendations for this position in the future. In short, it’s a relatively impotent way to make the Board more student-friendly. Impotent, because the Senate can receive the recommendations...and smack ‘em down like they ain’t nuthin’.

The above proposed constitutional changes (and others) will be put to vote at the USU’s Annual General Meeting on May 31, and then the Senate.

‘Music wasn’t something I did, but something I was’

Nina Dillon Britton and the Sydney Symphony’s first female double bassist, Jan Gracie Mulcahy, talk trauma, poverty and the magic of clothes driers

Sitting here, probably too close to my editor’s deadline for comfort, I’m trying to find a way to actually capture who Jan Mulcahy is. I could tell you she’s a musical prodigy, an author and poet, the first female bassist for the most prestigious Australian orchestra – the Sydney Symphony – and I could tell you the list of traumatic events that shaped her early life. That her first husband Eamon died in a car crash that she survived on the way back from their Melbourne honeymoon, that her grandmother was sexually abusive, that she grew up in Sydney’s west through wartime poverty.

All of that is true, and it is important.

But none of it speaks to the fact that Mulcahy is not just a survivor or a successful musician – though both are commendable – but also an individual who has bluntly faced the traumas of her life and moved past it.

To understand Mulcahy, her childhood in the neglected backwaters of Macquarie Fields and Cabramatta and the poverty of WWII are crucial; in this context, women were solely relegated to domesticity.

“I met a lot of women that were livid about it, there were so many women who were squashed,” she tells me. “At school I was reading stories about Madame Curie and Eileen Joyce, and I thought, that’s what I want. I want to be a musician.”

“I felt driven to have not just a career, but a calling. It was more than a career.”

“This was all before the women’s movement. But I wasn’t going to be a housewife. That’s why I left school. I was sent to Liverpool Girl’s Home Science School where all those girls were being channelled into home duties and it was making my skin crawl!”

At the age of 15 she left school to join the Conservatorium of Music (“the Con”) and, though beginning as a pianist, quickly found a love of the double bass, an instrument typically played by male musicians.

Here, Mulcahy was forced to straddle two worlds: one, the elite, insulated, highly-educated culture of the Con, and the other, her impoverished homelife in Western Sydney.

“You’d wear your diamond earrings and your mink coat and then we’d go home on the train and get out at Cabramatta and we’d be back to dodging puddles in our high-heeled sandals.”

When she talks about how she and her mother would return from her performances in the city, the contrast is stark. “We were both dressed in evening dresses, because you used to do that when you went to Sydney Town Hall. You’d wear your diamond earrings and your mink coat and then we’d go home on the train and get out at Cabramatta and we’d be back to dodging puddles in our high-heeled sandals.

“There’s a lot in me I recognise as being dual. There’s the part of me that’s highly educated in music, poetry, literature, psychology, to an extent philosophy. And then there’s the other down-to-earth part of me that has a couple of dogs that sleep on my bed, that I live in a farm house that’s pretty scrappy. But it all lives rather happily inside of me: this wild Aussie kid and this educated person.”

Beyond school, pursuing music professionally became no easier.

“When I first announced to my mother and my North Shore girlfriends that I was going to put the kids into pre-school, [my daughter] was only two years and 10 months, they were horrified, absolutely horrified. But I didn’t take any notice of it, I just said well that’s what I’m doing and blow you.

“I learnt a tremendous lot from the women in the orchestra however. They said “You haven’t got a clothes drier? You’re still ironing your husband’s shirts? Good heavens! Get yourself a drier! You’re still doing the housework? Get cleaners to come in and do it for you!

“And I did all of that, and it was marvellous. I used to have the cleaner coming in every fortnight,” she laughs.

Mulcahy’s professional achievements, impressive enough as they stand, are remarkable in a context where low expectations for women, coupled with structural barriers to pursuing careers, suffocated women’s ambition. Driven by her own dream, the support of her peers – Mulcahy particularly emphasises the support of male colleagues – and having seen women like her mother denied the opportunity to achieve their own, Mulcahy asserted herself as an extremely talented bassist.

But what strikes me about Mulcahy is her reflections on traumatic events. When I want to write about her expressed “self development” it feels, at least for a cynic like me, as if it doesn’t capture the significance of what she has done.

“I went right into the process,” she says of the beginnings of her memoir, *Running in Stilettoes with a Double Bass*. “I was on a trip back from Melbourne. That was the first time I had the opportunity to visit the place I lost [her first husband] Eamon. At that stage I was with Barry Mulcahy,” she tells me. “I left him at home to look after the pets,” she chuckles.

“On the way back I just thought ‘I’ve got to do it. I’ve got to do it this time. I’ve got to go back to Jugiong Hill and complete with Eamon.’ It was cathartic,” she pauses, thinking, then laughs. “...And I think I was really quite off my head for the whole of that evening!”

“The whole of that evening, I drove through to Canberra to a motel, and I just wrote and wrote this poem and cried over it. I just let it all out and just talked to Eamon like he was sitting there with me, telling him of all my pain and anguish, and telling him about all the dreams we’d had to share, but never came about.”

“It took a long time to realise that I could find love again after Eamon, but you can recover and learn to love another.”

Her writing also helped her work through the alleged childhood sexual and emotional abuse she, like her own mother, received at the hands of her grandmother. Abuse so intense that, at the age of 10, she escaped from her grandmother’s home to return home. Now, she speaks frankly about it.

“The business with my grandmother, I had suppressed so deeply, I never mentioned it to my parents when I went home. I totally put it right



Photo:
Supplied

“I wanted to show everyone who’s suffered trauma that you can overcome it. You can really become the person you were meant to be”

down to the bottom drawer of my consciousness. That only surfaced after I started my degree in psychology where we were doing family therapy and the teacher pointed out to me that, ‘You didn’t have two parents, you had three.’”

“And the light came on that I had had a lot of abuse from my grandmother. A lot of it was psychological. I was often locked out of the house, and that was the pits. That was the even worse than the sexual abuse quite frankly,” she chuckles.

“I have forgiven my grandmother. And I can see now that she was probably also sexually abused in her childhood.”

This resolution, more than anything speaks to the woman Mulcahy is today. In regards to her book, it wasn’t only a cathartic process for herself.

“I wanted to show everyone who’s suffered trauma that you can overcome it. You can really become the person you were meant to be, not some awful caricature of what society wants you to be.”

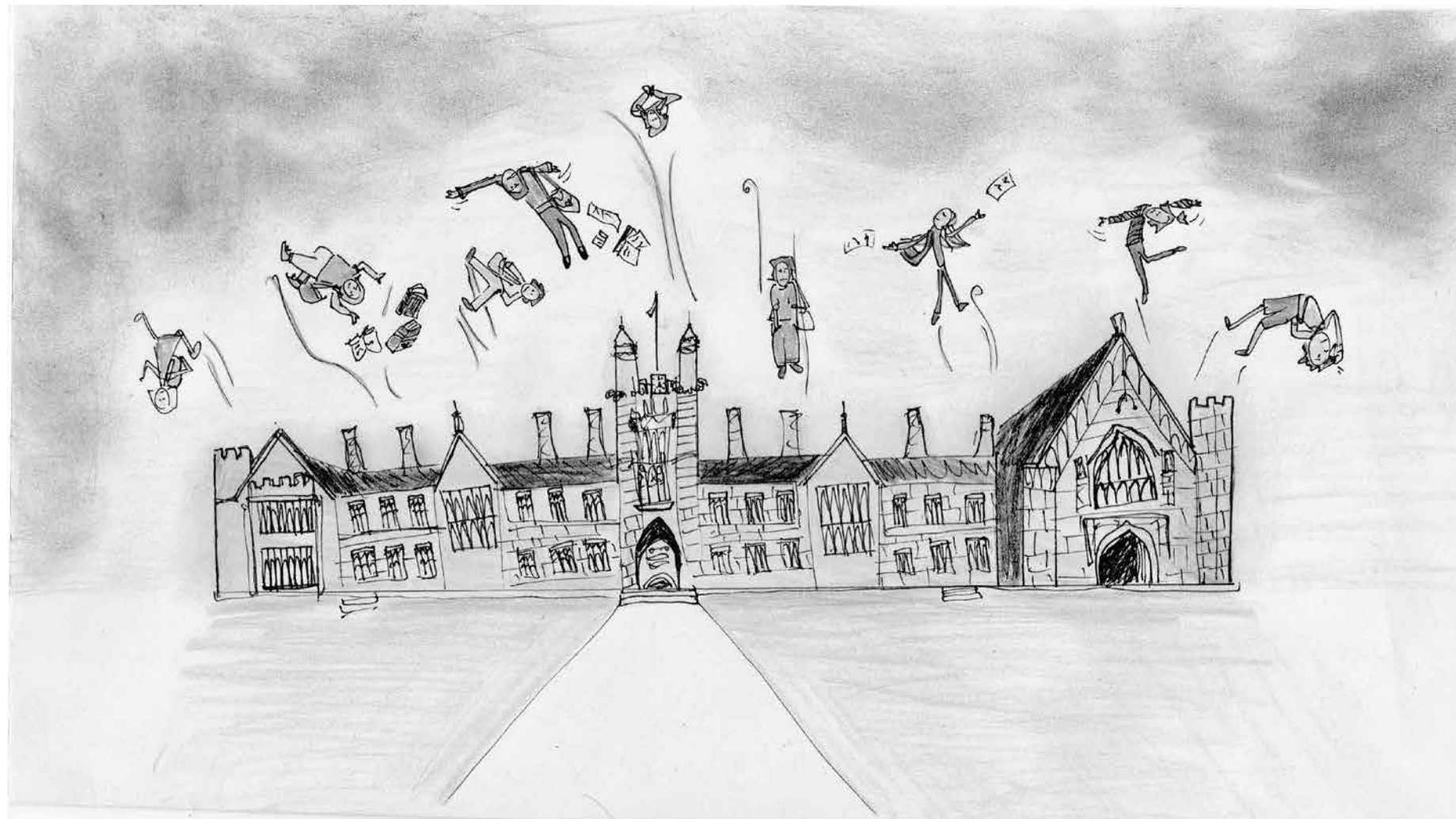
Jan Gracie Mulcahy’s book, *Running With Stilettoes with a Double Bass*, is available through Boolarong Press.

Staying in, dropping out

Why the wrong students are dropping out for the wrong reasons.

Words by **Andrew Bell** and **Joanita Wibowo**

Art by **Steph Barahona** and **Ferdous Bahar**





Many of us think about it, fantasise about it, tell USyd rants we are going to do it, but how many of us actually follow through? Hundreds of students have dropped out of University in these last ten weeks of this semester. For many of those students, fresh out of school, crashing out of university was an unthinkable prospect after surviving the stress of the HSC.

Over a quarter (26.4 per cent) of undergraduate students across Australia will drop out of tertiary study. This is slightly less for Group of Eight Universities (19.3 per cent), which are generally more affluent and have more established student support programs.

Understandably, the drop-out rate is concentrated around certain demographics. Mature-aged students contribute doubly to the attrition rate (40 per cent) when compared with those under the age of 20 (19.7 per cent). 53.3 per cent of Indigenous students, and 31.1 percent of low-SES students will drop out, mostly in their first two years of study. If you fit more than one category, the risk of failing to finish multiplies - 45.1 per cent of mature-aged students from low-SES backgrounds do not complete their study.

Charlie O’Grady completed two and a half years at Sydney University before indefinitely deferring his degree. He completed two years of Media and Communications (MECO) before transferring to an Arts degree, before dropping out completely.

He cites an absence of intellectual stimulation and direction in the degree path as the basis for a

decision to leave.

“I dropped from MECO to Arts because I realised I didn’t want to be a news journalist and that’s all USyd MECO was preparing me to do.”

In many respects, Charlie’s experience of dropping out is atypical. He performed well academically, engaged in University social life and was involved with extracurricular activities, particularly the Sydney University Dramatic Society (SUDS).

However, performing well on traditional metrics did not translate to a University experience worth completing.

“The best way I can describe it is that all the way through my two and a half years, I felt very unchallenged and very stupid. I feel like I’ve learnt everything that was available in the course, but I was not getting the marks that I should be getting. What’s wrong with me?”

The constant pressure to self-improve took its toll and intersected with mental health issues which poisoned parts of the university experience.

“I went to a private school where marks are very important; if it’s not 95 you’ve failed and I took that mentality into Uni,” he said. “I felt like I was suffering a lot with social issues. I had friends by proximity - people that I didn’t like yet would spend time with because they were constantly around.”

Charlie had minimal contact with University support services before making the decision to defer.

“I didn’t really know where to look for any of that - I saw CAPS, which was helpful. They encouraged me not to take time off from University. I never felt like I had any kind of access to subject coordinators or degree coordinators...I didn’t know who those people were or how to

contact them - I felt lost in general.”

“I have a number of friends who either express concern in a really awkward ‘I’m just looking out for your well-being’ kind of way or ‘Now is the best time for you at Uni’ or ‘You’re supposed to be at uni now, you’re not going to be able to get a job’.”

Despite the advice, Charlie doesn’t feel disadvantaged when searching for employment. “Finding a job is difficult. One of my closest friends finished honours at the end of last year [and] we had the exact same experience applying for the same jobs,” he said.

Similarly, he hasn’t felt stigma about not having a degree from anyone that actually matters - those who will appraise his work in independent theatre. “I’ve definitely never felt, with the people that I collaborate with, any type of shame about not having a degree.”

Layla* spent two and a half years doing a double degree in design and education at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) before she decided to drop out.

“After the first semester, I took a six months leave because I wasn’t sure whether I liked what I was doing,” said Layla. When she got back from her break, she dropped one of her degrees. However, she still felt like she was standing on shaky ground. “I still hated what I was doing. I would make every excuse I could possibly do to not go to uni,” she said.

Ironically, the most efficient process Layla went through with the student services was when



she wanted to discontinue her course. “I went in [the student services] in semester 2, 2012, asked for the form, filled it out; they took it, and within the week I got a letter in the mail saying ‘you are officially no longer enrolled in UNSW’.”

Nobody sat down to try and assist her to assess whether she was making a sound decision. “I just thought it was bizarre that that was the easiest thing I ever did, and that nobody sat down and said ‘okay, do you wanna speak about these options, do you know that this is a very big decision to make?’”

In fact, a major reason for Layla to drop out was the poor student support, which was “in absolutely no way helpful”. Interminable bureaucracy and mental health support which made little ground characterised her time at UNSW.

Layla said her parents were “very supportive of me leaving” UNSW despite the effect on her HECS debt.

“They said, ‘look, your health is more important than being in an environment which is making you like this. I was crying everyday, I wasn’t really enjoying it, and I was obviously very stressed and anxious about it. I think at the end of the day my mental health was more important than how much I have in my HECS.’”

Despite dropping out, Layla said her time at UNSW wasn’t entirely useless. One of her courses opened up a lot of alternative careers in fine arts, and she was still keeping in touch with many of her friends there. “It wasn’t an entirely wasted experience,” said Layla, “it was just very stressful and mentally draining on me.”

Layla subsequently decided to go to the University of Sydney to pursue an Arts degree, and found it to be a good change of scenery from the mentally draining environment that characterised her earlier years at university.

Layla argues that no academic decisions should carry a stigma. “If you go to uni and you hate your first semester, you hate your first year, then you want to swap degrees or you want to take six-months’ leave, there’s absolutely no shame in doing that.”

Jess Cerro began a full-time Arts degree in Linguistics, French, Philosophy and German in 2014. She completed a semester and a half of university, before dropping out to work on music full time.

Jess is better known by her stage name Montaigne. As Montaigne, she has gone from strength to strength in the music industry. Her first single was one of the most highly played songs on Triple J, she announced her first headline tour in 2014 and has found great success in collaborating with fellow Australian band Hilltop Hoods.

Yet despite her promising music career, Jess’ decision to drop out was still met with opposition, especially from family members who found security and direction in completing a degree. Jess’

grandparents were highly involved in academia, regularly advise her to return to university.

“I only told my parents about the deferral after the day I did it. I was nineteen - they were subsequently extremely pissed off but I had decided that it was what I want to do. I had a music career and I was far more interested in doing that. My mind was not on linguistics,” Jess said.

Notably, Jess doesn’t see a regrettable cost in paying for a partially completed degree.

“I think it’s a good thing that I went to uni for the time that I did. Socially, it was amazing. I went to an all-girls Catholic school, and going to university provided me with an environment of people willing to meet new people.

There aren’t many women in the music industry. I make friends with women easily, and there are definitely women in USYD.

If I go back I’ll go to UTS and do a degree in graphic design. USYd was for me culturally but not academically. It’s about identifying your strengths and putting together the puzzle pieces - for some that’s being at uni, and for others it’s being at a different uni.”

The university has an obligation to provide equitable services which correct for these often intersecting blocks of disadvantage. But that is not to say that University policy should simply be to minimise the attrition rate. Students who decide they want to work in an industry which doesn’t require tertiary qualifications, who would benefit from a TAFE education, or who fundamentally do not enjoy the concept of university, would all be better off avoiding the institution and further HECS debt.

Yet for both students who drop out and students who remain, existing pressures tend to dorce decision-making rather than encouraging consideration of what’s best in any individual case. For those that are first-in-family, low SES or Indigenous, the decision to drop out is often curated by systems of privilege and a government that fails to provide an adequate welfare state.

For those that are not, a powerful social pressure to have a degree is the dominant force - whether it originates in the form of a hyper-presurised HSC program, extravagant university open days, or constant parental pressure, we conflate success with tertiary qualification.

The University has a clear financial incentive to create high student retention.

Honi spoke to Ana Munro, the manager of Student Transition and Retention at the University of Sydney. She denied that the University takes into account financial interest in offering places and constructing student retention policy.

According to Munro, the University gears its policy entirely towards prevention rather than retention after a student attempts to drop out of university.

“There are some students who enrol and then disengage...they stop looking at their university email accounts, maybe go and get a job...and then find out that because they didn’t un-enrol, they are actually financially liable, and if they’ve enrolled for the whole year, that could be for the whole year.”

This would mean that the University applies financial liability to students who haven’t turned up to any final exams for the previous semester.

Munro told *Honi* that the University does not take probability of dropping out as a distinct metric in deciding whether to cap enrolment at a particular stage.

“The University makes offers to as many students as we can, and to as many students who qualify for [access schemes],” she said.

One of the problems in framing policy responses is that students are making the decision quickly, generally in first year and before they’ve had time to acclimatise to the new way of life at university.

“The first year units of study are the ones we call the stumbling blocks - the ones that introduce a different type of thinking, or different types of skills.”

Where a quiz or two would be virtually meaningless to a third year student, it causes some first years to change the entire direction of their life.

The University essentially monitors cohorts to identify students who are at risk of dropping out. They will compare cohort data from sources like the frequency with which they log onto blackboard, with quiz results or non-attendance to ascertain which students are struggling.

“The [University] strategy is essentially proactive - rather than waiting for students to fail at the end of the year...it’s putting the onus back on the University to ensure that students are comprehending what is being taught,” Munro said.

Thinking about dropping out of uni forces you to question the role of higher education, in your life and in society. What do you want to get out of those long nights pumping out mediocre essays? Why do you bother trekking out to cumbo to learn about how muscles work? Why do we commit to a cycle of assessment that makes us unhappy?

For some students, especially those from low SES background, dropping out is less of a choice and more of a pragmatic decision. This should not be the case in any well-governed country. For other students, universities are not offering them what they want. While it is within universities’ interests to provide the best student services and maintain student retention, the option to discontinue study shouldn’t be taboo.



*Name has been changed to protect anonymity

When friends break up

It's not me, it's you, writes
Nabila Chemaïsem

Losing a friend can be just as bad as breaking up with a significant other. We go through very similar things physically. Our stomachs hurt, and so we clutch things to our chest to make the ache go away. We lose our appetites, we worry, we wring our hands and stare at ceilings and think way too much about what we could have said or done to prevent the loss. We wonder how bad a person we must have been for them to so suddenly cut us out of their lives without a reason. Any reasons they may have given us often look like code, and are even harder to decipher.

One second, we think the person we've spent years talking with, laughing with, planning big events with, is there, and the next second they're gone and you're left to pick up the pieces. We bare our souls to the people we're close to because we don't go into friendships thinking they're going to end. Relationships? Maybe. Friendships? Nah. So it's a huge emotional letdown to lose someone who was held so dear.

Art: Matthew Fisher



Learning how to care

April Saleeba wants you to balance self-care with care for others

Germaine* describes her years of being in a relationship with a man suffering from Borderline Personality Disorder as “a constant state of anxiety, of hyper vigilance, of a complete lack of self-esteem”. The conviction with which her former partner presented his abusive, erratic, and dangerous behaviour caused her to become convinced that she was the one who was deficient. Despite this, the thought of leaving a relationship was terrifying because it meant failure. “In my mind, once you were a partner with someone, that was forever. Whatever bad things there were, you just had to work through it... I didn't want my children to grow up in a broken family.”

If you know at least four people between the ages of 16 and 24, which is likely if you are a university student, then chances are you know someone who currently has a mental health disorder. Chances are that this person is a close friend, partner or parent.

As students who inevitably find themselves in these relationships, it makes sense to equip ourselves with the resources to deal with them. The University's Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has accordingly developed the Sidekicks course. This is a one-hour-a-day training program over a five-week period offered by Counselling and Psychological Services to any student wishing to enrol in it. It aims to provide information to people interested in becoming a better carer of those around them. The course itself does a good job of explaining how to respond empathetically and encourage treatment acceptance in others. This is applied to situations such as helping a drunk friend, dealing with a difficult housemate, and even helping someone with suicidal thoughts.

While the course covers how to help others, the focus was consistently on the one receiving the help. While that is the purpose of the course, it's also reflective of a broader trend in courses such as these: the prioritisation of the 'helpee' at the expense of the 'helper'. For people like Germaine, who attempt to help at the expense of their own health, courses like Sidekicks reinforce the idea that you should do all you can to care for someone who needs it, and to not do so is morally wrong.

Similarly, Sarah found herself in a situation where the pressure to take care of her partner

caused her to take a lot longer to realise that the relationship was abusive. She described how she increasingly found herself trapped “in a situation where my partner's needs greatly outweighed my own... I was made to feel that as I wasn't in as dire a situation as [my partner], I owed them”. Sarah's decision to leave came with the realisation that their relationship went beyond mutual dependence. “We're all dependent on someone or something at some time or another, and that can be a loving thing, and a way of supporting and helping one another. It's when that dependence constricts our personal autonomy that it becomes suffocating and we are manipulated, controlled, or duped into thinking that we must put someone else before ourselves, that we owe others more than we can give. I eventually realised that I couldn't care for others unless I had that agency and felt heard.”

We are so quick to tell people to leave relationships when people are physically abusive, as we should be, but less quick to tell them to leave a partner in need. We are so encouraged to devote ourselves wholly, to carry the weight of another when they require it. And the Sidekicks course shows us effective ways to do so, intended for situations when the relationship is healthy. But sometimes that pressure is unhealthy, and damaging, and should not be yours to bear the weight of. That is something the Sidekicks course, and indeed all other courses of its nature, should be careful not to underplay.

Ultimately, Germaine also made the choice to cut ties. “I just couldn't take it anymore... so I decided to invent my own way forward and not take from existing examples.” When she went to a GP she says she was “gobsmacked that someone actually cared about me. It helped me to realise that people actually do care and there are services available”.

The CAPS Sidekicks course is an excellent starting point for information on learning how to cope with these relationships, and comes recommended. Beyond that, there are resources you can access or refer to others who may need them. USyd's Counselling and Psychological Service (CAPS) offers individual counselling sessions and other resources on their website. The University Health Service is also available as a free resource. A GP can give an assessment and provide a mental health care plan.

*Names in this article have been changed.

There is no right or wrong way of doing this.

This is perhaps the biggest shock that comes with going to university. A lot of the friends we interacted with for six hours a day, five days a week in school – what I like to term ‘fishbowl friends’ – suddenly drift away. You call and text but it feels forced, and so you either let go, or sit down and try to hash out what the problem is in order to salvage the once close friendship.

If reconciliation fails, talking it out helps to at least alleviate some of the pain by getting all of the cards out on the table. “That's what a friendship break-up is: it's a falling out that's a bit more formalised”, says Curtis Chan, a third year Science/Arts student. But just as relationship break-ups differ depending on the situation, so too do friendship-breakups. There is no right or wrong way of doing them.

“I don't think I've ever had an official friendship break-up, but I do think that there were situations where it would have been useful”, says Felicia Addison, a fourth year Science/Arts student.

Sometimes rifts between people are over simple misunderstandings. They may still be a good person at heart, but until you can sit down and talk about it, that rift persists. If worse comes to worst, then being able to at least, as Felicia says, “close that book, fully understanding why we're not friends anymore”, will save everyone a lot of time.

My advice is to not settle for an “I'm fine, nothing's wrong”. Don't settle for awkward hellos. You wouldn't be in a relationship like that, so why would you in a friendship?

This year I lost a friend who was so close she was going to be a bridesmaid at my wedding. And though she will never read this, this is for her, and for all of you reading who have lost close friends that were special to you.

Resources for 24-hour assistance:
Mental Health Access Line: 1800 011 511
Camperdown Community Mental Health Team: 9515 9000
Lifeline: 131 114

Hotline bling: the murky world of for-profit call centres

Daniel Reede will hang up if you call during dinner

“Good evening Ma'am. My name is Sam and I'm phoning from MonDial on behalf of Greenpeace, I hope you don't mind me calling you at home, it gives me an opportunity to speak directly to one of our most vital supporters, was now a convenient time for you?” My friend recites an introduction he's been forced to memorise for a call-centre job he resents.

“You feel like a dickhead, but if you want to keep your job you don't have a choice, you're probably going to get fired anyway,” he says.

There are an abundance of for-profit call centres around Sydney and they almost exclusively employ young people. A shocking number of my friends either work or have worked for call-centres, and I stress the past tense because their employment has most often terminated within the month due to what's described as “near impossible donation quotas”.

Companies like MonDial, 2evolve and Public Outreach market themselves as workplaces dedicated to making a difference. “Change the world like its your job!” proclaims Public Outreach in their YouTube recruitment video. It is easy to be lulled into tolerance by their exterior; the image of the mobile phone Robin Hood saving the disenfranchised one phone call at a time is certainly a romantic one, but incompatible with the reality.

But the National Unions of Workers notes that for-profit telemarketing companies can legally keep more than 60 per cent of the money they raise using charities' namesakes, unbeknownst to well meaning donors.

Beyond the issue of allocation of funds, the emotional coercion encouraged by call centres creates a problematic workplace environment built on sales competition and manipulation of the vulnerable. It's no coincidence call centres employ a striking number of young men with Australian accents and private school backgrounds.

Confidence, bravado, and verbal wit are traits that correlate to success in the industry. Those without the thick skin for verbal manipulation rarely reach satisfactory enlistment rates and are promptly let go. Those who excel, I'm told, relish in the pride of their high numbers and flows of cash.

“You hear people at work boast everyday about getting an easy elderly person on the line or

breaking a really tough sell,” my friend tells me. “It's a bit sickening to see people thrive in such a competitive atmosphere, people are constantly trying to prove themselves as the best salesmen, it's like being manipulative is a competition.”

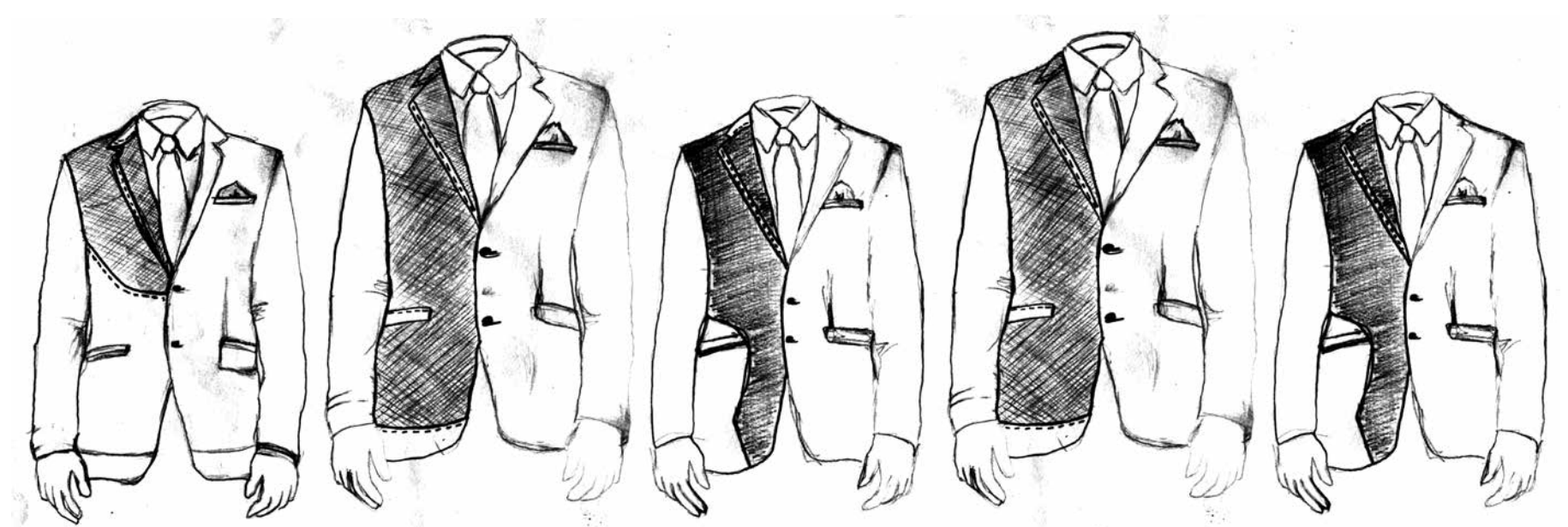
Blame, however, does not lie predominantly on the individual employed. The prospect of unemployment is held over the heads of workers like a guillotine waiting to drop; you're either coercive enough to meet the unrealistic expectations, or you get the sack. One friend who's been with a call centre for more than three months tells me that his employer recently put him “under probation”; a reminder of the looming boot when after months of “some of the best numbers there”, his donations took a slight dip. What results is a workplace which encourages young people to be

“You feel like a dickhead, but if you want to keep your job you don't have a choice, you're probably going to get fired anyway.”

manipulative and threatens them with unemployment should their conscience intervene.

Despite the guise of charity, for-profit call centres are private companies driven by profit. They chew up and spit out young people with a disregard for human decency akin to the emotional manipulation they demand. Therein lies the disgusting irony: to profit by using an appeal to ethics whilst neglecting the obvious ethical defects of your own workplaces.

When you're inevitably called by a charity telemarketer, and if you are moved by the causes preached, hang up the phone and donate to the charity directly.



Suit yourself

Jen Chen doesn't like the cut of your shitty Lowes suit

Suit prices vary considerably between brands, regardless of sex. In wallet-friendly brands such as yd. and Ben Sherman, a typical suit will cost between \$100 and \$500. Shoppers may have noticed a few extra trailing zeroes on some price tags: Hugo Boss suits sell for over a grand and a suit by Ermenegildo Zegna will cost up to \$6,000. Perhaps too many zeroes for your liking, but there is at least one legitimate reason prices differ so profoundly between suits: construction. Suits are either canvassed, fused, or somewhere in between.

Canvassed suits use horsehair, camelhair or wool to create a rigid 'interlining' that holds the suit in shape. With time, this conforms to the wearer's body shape. The outer wool 'shell' is then stitched onto the canvas. A fully canvassed suit has a nice natural drape, won't sag and gives a clean and mouldable fit.

A fused suit has no canvas, instead using a comparably limp and usually synthetic interlining. This is glued to the outer wool shell. While this adequately keeps a suit jacket's shape, it creates an unnatural stiffness. Fused interlining may become unstuck during dry-cleaning or over time, and “bubbling” may appear with time around the chest and lapels

Half-canvassed suit jackets have a canvas interlining running only through the chest and lapels. Below this, the jacket is fused. These are cheaper than fully-canvassed suits and the canvassing across the chest means a reasonable amount of conformity is maintained over time.

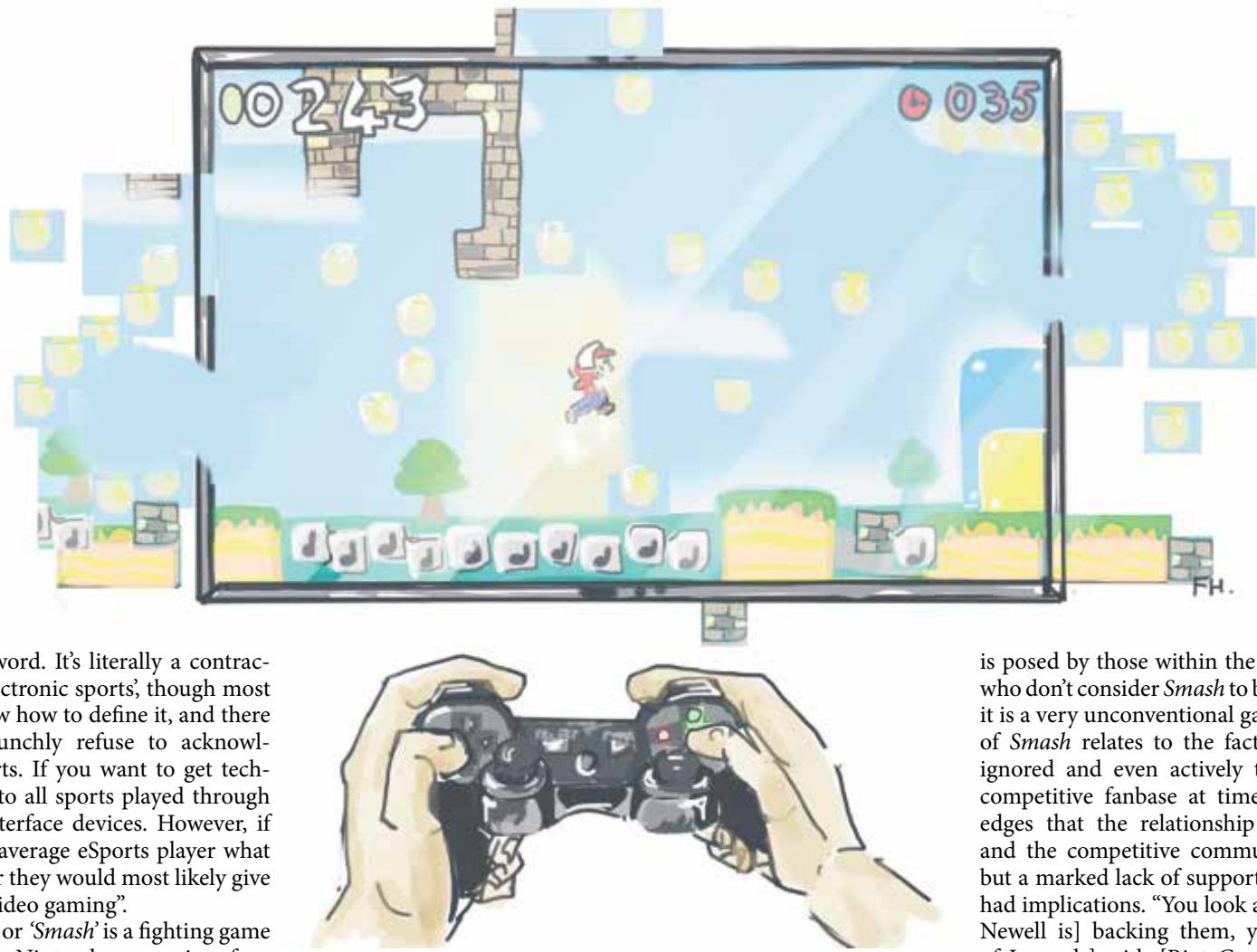
How to take care of a suit

1. Do not wear the same suit for more than two days in a row (not for looks' sake, but for the sake of a suit's delicate fabrics)
2. Once worn, allow the suit to rest for two days before wearing it again
3. Always hang your suit on a wooden hanger
4. Store in breathable canvas bag
5. Always dry-clean your suit jacket and trousers together.

Art: Liz Dowsley

eSports: wat dis?

eLijah aBraham oN cOmpetitive gAMing



Art by:
Frankie
Hossack

'eSports' is a weird word. It's literally a contraction of the words 'electronic sports', though most people wouldn't know how to define it, and there are others who staunchly refuse to acknowledge eSports as sports. If you want to get technical, eSports refers to all sports played through electronic human interface devices. However, if you were to ask the average eSports player what eSports is, the answer they would most likely give you is "competitive video gaming".

Super Smash Bros. or '*Smash*' is a fighting game series, published by Nintendo, spanning four entries over 15 years. *Super Smash Bros. Melee*, the second instalment in the Smash series was released for the Nintendo Gamecube in 2003. It was a very popular game, which garnered a remarkable competitive following over the years, built a community and rose through the ranks to become a bona fide eSports, which continues to enjoy popularity today.

Despite its popularity and success, competitive *Melee* has been a grassroots endeavour for much of its lifetime. Even today, the competitive scenes for *Melee* and other *Smash* titles are built and maintained entirely by groups of dedicated players. Chris Phibbs is a tournament organiser for the Sydney Smash scene and has been involved with the Australian Smash community for a little over two years. The very first Smash tournament he attended took place in an old church building in Wollongong almost three years ago. "There was at least 20 or so people there," he says. "Pretty small by today's standards, but by those standards that was a pretty good turnout." Sydney's scene has grown heavily in the past two years: "Back then it was very informal. Not as organised as you see today."

Phibbs began organising tournaments when he started a Smash society at UNSW. Later, when the Sydney scene started growing, the only TO (Tournament Organiser) in the area had to take on a much larger load of work. "He couldn't really run it all himself, so I just put my hand up", Phibbs tells me. In *Smash* communities around the world, this is the case – players taking on different roles within the community to ensure its continued existence. These roles include organising tournaments, setting up streams, commentary and statistics. Across most eSports, these supporting roles are becoming prevalent and much more vital. Previously, there were concerns

that the people filling them were not being reimbursed properly. That has been changing slowly, however Phibbs believes this is an area where Smash is "probably lagging behind a bit".

So is playing eSports a viable career option?

This is not even a question for players at what is currently the peak of professional competitive video gaming. Only a couple of years ago, the prospect of earning a six-figure salary playing video games would be considered laughable. Today, it is a reality for a rapidly increasing number of people. According to the website 'eSports Earnings', in 2014, 54 people earned over \$100,000 through eSports. In 2015, that number almost doubled to 104. Phibbs explains that in addition to tournament earnings, professional eSports players get a lot of mileage out of sponsorships, which cover transport costs among other things.

While these players don't have to worry about financial troubles, there is the gnawing concern of both physical and mental health issues for eSports players. Hand injuries are frequent, and in some cases debilitating. In addition, the pressure to compete, along with the very high stakes atmosphere, can be very daunting, even for the most experienced of players. However, Phibbs explains that now that eSports is taking off, competitions are able to provide players with support services such as physiotherapists and sports psychiatrists. These support services, he believes, are essential going forward: "If people are gonna be playing for a long time, like you've gotta take care of yourself. Just like with anything in life."

Currently a petition with over 60,000 votes is being circulated in the U.S. to recognise eSports players as legitimate athletes. Another challenge

is posed by those within the eSports community who don't consider *Smash* to be an eSports, because it is a very unconventional game. This perception of *Smash* relates to the fact that Nintendo has ignored and even actively tried to alienate its competitive fanbase at times. Phibbs acknowledges that the relationship between Nintendo and the competitive community has improved, but a marked lack of support from Nintendo has had implications. "You look at DOTA, and [Gabe Newell is] backing them, you look at [League of Legends] with [Riot Gaming] and stuff, you know, you can't really compare to that if you don't have the big organisations that made the game in the first place."

This does not deter Phibbs, however, or the thousands of people who flock to play and watch this game, and every other game in the ever-increasing eSports pantheon. "People do, like, crazy things for the game. That's what you've always got to remember. From an outsider's perspective, you'll be like 'Aw man, all these TO's are giving up their time and effort and stuff' ... but it's literally, we do it, because we love doing what we do. For me, it doesn't feel like a job. I would go to tournaments anyway. The fact that I'm helping run them, it's just another way for me to have fun really."

While eSports is primarily a form of entertainment, it is developing a huge participative following. Events like the Dota 2 International, which pulled in 4.5 million viewers, are proof of that. I asked Phibbs if he believed *Smash* was heading on the same trajectory. "I'm not sure if we've reached Dota levels ... But that being said, it seems like it's growing. Every time it keeps growing, it's kind of unbelievable. But they seem to be getting there. It seems to be featured at bigger and better events every year. So I mean, the sky's the limit I guess. I just think it'll take time, it'll depend on whether people still wanna play the game, that's the real test."

This is something that is true of all eSports. But considering the huge amount of time, work and money people put towards these games and their competitive communities, it would be a huge shame if they were to die out simply because people didn't want to play the games anymore. That being said, in the last decade, many of these games haven't been merely surviving, they've been growing larger and larger. And I think that speaks for itself.

The myth about women in sport

Theodora Von Arnim
asks why women's sport
is still stuck in the '50s



Art by:
Amandine Le
Bellec

"Unbelievably stupid and ridiculous" was the response from Sam Newman, sexist stalwart of Channel Nine's *The Footy Show*, to the floated prospect of a national women's AFL competition in 2011. Fast forward five years to the recent announcement of a national women's league beginning in 2017, and it appears that thankfully no one paid too much attention to Newman's sexist commentary.

It is an incredibly exciting time to be involved in women's AFL, with the national league representing a significant step forward for the sport as a whole. Yet as with most incursions into male dominated arenas, the rise of women's AFL has not been without controversy.

The classic sexist trolls have come out to play in response to these recent developments. A *Herald Sun* letter writer shared a witty suggestion that the league should be called "the Dulux Cup as it will be like watching paint dry". Graham Cornes writes in *The Advertiser* that women playing football just doesn't "look right", and suggests they get more flattering uniforms to improve his viewing pleasure. The opposition is genuinely mind-boggling. For many indignant men it appears to be deeply confronting to imagine a woman playing football, let alone being good at it. We've made progress as a society in terms of treating women as people (letting them leave the house, and even have jobs), but the blokey arena of sport remains resistant to involving women in anything other than a cheerleading capacity.

The commonly floated idea that men are inherently better athletes and produce more interesting sport is just not true. The average woman may not be physically able to sprint as fast as a man, but the ability of women to exert their total physical capacity ought to be admired. Even more importantly, sports aren't interesting or good because of the brute physical force of the athletes; it's the skills of the players, the cohesiveness of a well-trained team, and the top-notch competition

between players of similar physical capacity that makes the game interesting.

It is deeply offensive to see people bigoted enough to dismiss a sport they would otherwise love, because they can't bear the thought of having to acknowledge the talents of female athletes. It's also pretty bizarre, given that those complaining about women playing AFL would probably be completely humiliated if they had to try their luck against a women's team.

The bad news for men wanting to keep women off the field is that it's too late. Many major teams run women's academies, and have been incredibly supportive of developing female talent. Unfortunately some clubs, including the Sydney Swans, have been unwilling or unable to bid for the rights to a team in the fledgling national competition. But this won't deter the continued development of women and the further expansion of the national talent pool. On a more local level, Sydney AFL women's leagues support considerable levels of female participation.

Last Saturday was the Sydney University AFL Ladies Day, an event designed to celebrate and

encourage women's involvement in the sport. The day involved markets, raffles and gourmet food whilst the various rounds of the men's division played on the No. 1 oval. The culmination of the day's activities was the Women's Premiership match which saw the Sydney University Bombers bringing home a commanding 47-point win over Macquarie University. The women who play AFL are genuinely inspiring athletes, some of whom have represented Australia on the international stage in other sports. Several of the Sydney Uni Bombers also play for the Sydney Swans' women's team. And the enthusiastic crowd at Ladies Day certainly didn't seem bored.

Football may not seem like an important frontier of feminism. But we should question why a national activity involving hundreds of thousands of people has an almost exclusively male face. The fundamentally sexist roots of opposition to women's sports have no place in the 21st century and must not be tolerated. Many have predicted that a national women's league would be a complete failure. It will be satisfying to see them proved wrong.

Midnight Oil

Josh Koby Wooler's bed is burning

I've always been a huge fan of Midnight Oil and so have my parents, who heard them play at university in the 80's. More than any other band, Midnight Oil always had a clear political message.

A charismatic, wildly-flailing Peter Garrett exuded idealism and genuine passion. And he gave us a new way of dancing. Last week, Midnight Oil announced they would be re-forming to tour, and on Monday, Peter Garrett "was back" with a new single, *Tall Trees*.

The question I was left asking was: how could a band, whose entire existence was predicated on a political message, even hope to re-form given their lead singer had a stint in federal politics?

Peter Garrett quit Midnight Oil to focus on a political career in 2002. He joined the Labor Party in 2004, and was swept into office. Garrett, who previously described the US-Australian alliance as "a setback for your country" in the song *US Forces*, was now its proponent.

In 2007, Garrett became the Environmental Min-

ister in Kevin Rudd's new government. His immediate decisions included approving the expansion of a uranium mine in South Australia and the dredging of Port Phillip Bay. These garnered widespread praise from the uranium industry.

Midnight Oil's 1990 hit *Blue Sky Mine* described a worker labouring for a mining company to feed his family, whilst worriedly asking "who's going to save me?" from mining's health effects. He criticised the prioritising of financial reward over environmental sustainability: "nothing is as precious, as a hole in the ground." Garrett seemed to forget these lyrics the minute he assumed office.

Garrett and Midnight Oil's iconic song *Beds are Burning*, which declares that "the time has come" to recognise Indigenous land rights, was undermined by his 2012 effort to take away Centrelink benefits from Indigenous parents that were not sending their children to school. This move was heavily criticised by Indigenous

activists and Amnesty International, who said "it did not respect the rights of those affected". Perhaps unsurprisingly, following the 2013 leadership spill, Garrett decided he'd had enough, and resigned from politics into relative obscurity. Until last week.

The return of Garrett and Midnight Oil marks the strange reappearance of a man whose commitment to idealism and authenticity has been called into question. His single *Tall Trees* has no blatant ideological message. He still tells us he's "moved by daily passions", but it's difficult to take him seriously.

I feel sorry for Peter Garrett. He's someone who's been corrupted by the political process: if you don't toe a particular party line, you become a liability. Surely Garrett must have known he would have to compromise his beliefs before entering politics. And perhaps this knowledge makes the reasons for his entrance seem a little less noble.

Portrait of the narcissist as a young person

Phoebe Chen has a painting of herself in her attic that ages while she stays the same

Older generations love to stockpile ammunition for intergenerational warfare. Their inventory spans everything from millennial entitlement to the desecration of language, but their slander of choice is narcissism. Something about the confluence of screen and self spawns baby boomer/Gen X vitriol like nothing else. But think about my mother. Last month, she went on a week-long cruise to Tasmania and returned with a 40 x 60cm canvas bearing a professional portrait of herself, face swathed in cinematic light, skin back to 1999.¹ It's framed to mount the wall of her bedroom.²

My chief sentiment was amusement, then alarm. People generally do not like to think of their mothers as the type of people who pay good money to hang photos of themselves in their own bedrooms. “Everybody does this in China!” she said, and she’s not wrong. I once saw a photo of a friend taking a selfie on a phone ensconced in a plastic case featuring a photo of herself taking a selfie.

Might we come to see the obsession with physical self-image not only as an intergenerational phenomenon, but an intercultural one too? Narcissism, as we know it, is a distinctly Western personality construct – built on a tradition of individualism, with deep demarcations between self and other. Viewed through a largely collectivist Chinese perspective, the idea is intrinsically odd. Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) was introduced by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980, but has no Chinese correlative to this day. My cultural diagnosis is anecdotal, but a number of psychologists have probed the situation. Using modified versions of Western NPD scales, research has identified the highest instances of narcissism in heavily modernised cities, implying Westernisation as the culprit. But simply blaming the importation of individualism clarifies very little.

“In most cultures, there is a kind of collective narcissism that esteems the desirability of a prototypical look.”

In most cultures, there is a kind of collective narcissism that esteems the desirability of a prototypical look. Of course, rigid beauty conventions are a plague around the world, but in China, they operate with seemingly less aesthetic diversity. There, the ubiquity of the very pale, very slim and very cute reigns as the cultural paragon. Such is the collectivism that countless standardised beauty “tests” – mostly based on pseudoscientific ratios – have gone viral on Chinese social media over the past few years. The nose-to-face ratio finger trap test? The is-your-waist-wider-than-a-sheet-of-A4-paper test? Feel free to Google these and lament that your cartilage does not align perfectly with the tip of your chin, you disproportionate underling!

The fact is, visual representation of the self occupies a considerably different role in Chinese history. The excoriating Western legacy we’ve built around vanity is nowhere to be found. In the West, pictorial culture has a nice history of self-portraiture. Rembrandt’s glowy, quizzical selfies spanned 40 years of his career.³ Velázquez painted himself into Las Meninas, probably tired of sketching inbred royals and their dogs.⁴

In traditional Chinese art, there are barely any self-portraits to begin with. Portraits, in general,

were made for the veneration of the sitter’s social role. Stylistic differences also clue us in – traditional Chinese art is less strictly mimetic than its Western counterpart, preferring brushstrokes laid bare to the detailed trompe l’oeil of Baroque masters.⁵ The image of the self is never subjected to intense corporeal scrutiny. Almost all the Qing Emperor portraits I’ve seen have skin with the textural intrigue of an egg.

While the majority of NPD cases occur post-one child policy in 1979, it’s not difficult for nostalgic pre-’79ers to get swept up in it all. In China, there is a dearth of deep-rooted cultural bulwarks against narcissism. You won’t find the self-flagellating religiosity of Dante, where pride is the first, and worst, sin in Purgatory. There are no intellectual heavy-weights like Voltaire publicly denouncing the false pleasures of vanity. The absence of a longstanding moral objection to physical self-obsession makes it considerably easier for me to set a picture of myself as my screensaver and escape judgement.

We balk at narcissism, but only because our society has attached such negative moral weight to it. I speak to relatives and family friends of my mother’s generation – they’re baffled by how easily I equate pride in appearance with self-obsession and self-adulation. The corollary we take for granted just isn’t there.

There is an inclination to believe that all cultures tend towards one historical timeline, but if there’s anything to take from these intercultural excursions, it’s that they often deal with disparate issues at the same time, and the same issues at dif-

ferent times. My mother and I try to bridge both our temporal and cultural gaps, but I still don’t know what to make of the canvas in her room. I do know that she looks hot as hell.

1. Disclaimer: My mother is also the most selfless person I know. Does anything for her friends, literally left a country and an established life for her kid, etc.
2. She also bought four individual, matte-finish A4 portraits of herself, but I (unintentionally) spilt tea on these last week. Possibly a metaphor?
3. My personal favourites are: jocular Rembrandt (c.1628), yung Rembrandt (c.1629), wtf is happening!? Rembrandt (c.1630 – this one’s an etching).
4. Occupies a spot in the weirdly-intrusive-portrait hall of fame, alongside van Eyck’s Arnolfini Portrait. Painted under the rule of Philip IV in 1656, it depicts the Infanta Margaret Theresa with her posse in the Royal Alcazar of Madrid, ft. maids of honour, a bodyguard, two dwarves (?), some guy hovering in a distant doorway, and a very silky-looking dog.
5. Literally translated to “trick of the eye”. Resurrected Christ so real it feel like he’s in your dining hall.



Identity Revues

Aaron Chen reviews the 2016 Autonomous Collective Against Racism revue

The 2016 ACAR Revue, *The Presidential Race* is a bold-statement from the Autonomous Collective Against Racism, pushing the boundaries of both comedy and racial politics. This particular revue arises from the longstanding tradition of University of Sydney revues, which are often criticised for being dominated by white men. This show is not only a platform to showcase the talent of non-white performers, but to challenge the institution of Revues. Though political satire forms a loose throughline for the show, some of the shows strongest moments were observations on the quirky or mundane. Early on in the show, Angela Prendergast’s character struggles to distinguish between babies and baked goods. This sketch was a crowd favourite.

The show opened with an ensemble number parodying Miley Cyrus’ “Party in the U.S.A.” that displayed the vocal strengths of Bridget Harilaou and great physical embodiments of Clinton, Sanders and Trump. The political satire in the show was often quite direct and could’ve benefit-

ed from a subtler approach. However, the cast’s charm and the commitment to character made these sketches highly enjoyable. Brigitte Samaha’s portrayal of a persistent Malcolm Turnbull, who reappears throughout the show, was a joy to watch. Later on, Ann Ding as Mike Baird was equal parts silly and biting and earned a well-deserved applause break.

The most memorable moments came from deeply personal scenes, as the cast joked about the struggles of second-generation immigrant children. The show tapped into the audience’s psyche, as the cast lampooned the creepiness of ASIO, the not-so-subtle discrimination at airports, and overbearing parents. Jestika Chand shone, providing a real onstage presence as she took on various parental roles and sung alongside Ann Ding about their technological qualms. Adam Ursino and Richard Wu played off one another incredibly well, as they explored issues of the fetishization of Asian women. The contrast of energy between

these two was great to watch. Later on, as Adam comes out to his ethnic parents, the audience is presented with a fun playful take on this situation.

Many members of the cast were inexperienced and new to sketch comedy going into the show. This meant that some sketches were unclear and jokes occasionally did not land. It would have been good to see the show push more boundaries with form and explore new ways to take their sketches. However, the cast’s talent and their enjoyment of performing greatly outweighed these minor mistakes. This was a show made up of great acting and writing, tight choreography and well-directed AVs. The final product was a sketch show that demonstrated the ACAR Revue’s ability to present important social and political satire but also solidified their position in the tradition of revues. The ACAR Revue proved that it was the perfect show to launch the season. It is sure to continue growing as a powerful comedy vehicle. Cool.

Mille Roberts also reviews this revue, entitled *The Presidential Race*

The Autonomous Collective Against Racism deliver their second annual revue on a high note. As one of the four identity revues offered in the 2016 season, *The Presidential Race* is devised, directed and performed solely by USyd people of colour.

The opening night started on a point of conflict, with a minor disagreement over where the Acknowledgement of Country was allowed to take place in the foyer. Director Radha Wahyuidayat was initially rebuffed by theatre management but, with encouragement from the audience, respects to traditional Gadigal owners were eventually communicated as planned, establishing a mood of solidarity and empowerment that was continued in the revue itself.

As the name suggests, a good portion of the production takes a crack at the candidates of America’s upcoming election, as well as some of our own home-grown politicians. But don’t be

fooled, *The Presidential Race* is riddled with accessible references to pop culture, contemporary news stories and memes. It feels like no one escapes the Collective’s wide-ranging digs that variously target reverse racism, pet insurance, baked goods and Cher – played phenomenally by Ann Ding.

In a stellar showcase of singing, dancing, acting and instrumental talent, the standout of the revue is Jestika Chand, who by the end of the night had managed to send the audience into fits of laughter just by entering the stage. Other notable performances include Sophia Chung’s rendition of “Hey There Delilah,” Swetha Das’ Sarah Palin impression, Bridget Harilaou’s guitar riffs and a racial fetish skit carried out by Adam Ursino and Richard Wu.

The show is humble, yet doesn’t pretend to be otherwise. Lyrics were forgotten, wrong exits were taken, notes were missed and props were

viciously knocked off. Despite this, the actors pushed through and for the most part maintained composure; their own failures to keep a straight face added extra comic relief. *The Presidential Race* is clearly an amateur production, but is all the better for it.

While some of the gags are hit and miss, and the production could be cut shorter, the revue was nevertheless the perfect balance of wit, light-heartedness and provocation. Considering that one of the actors was unable to perform at the last minute, the rest of the crew banded together to present a coherent and unmissable show.

The Presidential Race is a colourful yet darkly humoured satire. It tickles your funny bones, makes you cringe, provokes thought and commands full attention over the two hour running time. They’ve won my vote.

All the world’s a stage and all our lecturers are merely playas

Isobel McDonald reviews the shit out of her law lecture.

Monday’s performance was the 10th in a series of very ambitious works staged by the award-winning production team at the Sydney Law School. While the troupe has made a solid name for itself over the past few hundred years, this performance saw a welcome new emphasis on cast diversity, moving away from the notable white (sorry, noticeably white) leading men of previous decades.

Perhaps constrained by the unfailingly dull subject matter, the matinee session of “Criminal Procedural Law in NSW” required more engagement than the attendees were willing to provide. A highly conceptual work, the performance required stamina and conviction in the audience, not just in the sense that many would

have preferred an actual criminal conviction to remaining in that theatre any longer. The costuming was, I think, one of the standout components of the piece. An all black ensemble was a clever visual representing of the deep depression the audience would be only too familiar with, and reflected the darkness of feelings of youth imprisonment and detainment. Overall, it was unfortunate that the textual theme of search warrants provided no practical understanding of how to search for a way out of future performances. Rating – Probably a 5 out of 10 stars.

While the performance offered interesting themes, its unnecessary length undermined the capacity for the audience to engage with it. Hot tip, have a lawyer on call to bail you out.

Editor’s Note:

ACAR Revue is the first revue of the USU’s Identity Revue season. The Jew, Wom*n’s and Queer revues will be playing for the next three weeks at the Seymour Centre. Check them out.

Coming next semester...

Sociology of Religion

“A triumph! A complete gem of a lecture series.” – Hamish Tym



Writing and Rhetoric: Argumentation

“Ferociously surprising. An absolute must-see this year.” – The Guardian



Torts and Contracts II – (Stream A)

“The Coolest Rom-Com of the year” – Honi Soit



Mouths for hire: We talk good

Peter Walsh won’t stop calling himself Y.T.

Financially supported trips to Worlds Debating are hard to come by especially at a debating Mecca like the University of Sydney. So if you just missed out and have a jones to talk competitively, your options are limited. You have to be a University Student and you have to be Formally Sponsored. This is a story about that.¹ Last October, a pair of desperate oldsters looking for a free holiday – Greece being an appropriately cheap and foreign gateway drug for the rest of Europe – enrolled in a 10 Day *Dip. of MGMT (Advanced)* at the University of [REDACTED], Malaysia Campus².

David³ and Keen⁴ are their names. Prodigious speakers at the high school level, the pair were first-reserves in their respective years at the state level, meeting formally at university after going hammer-and-tongs in tutorials for *Geopol* and *America and the World*, before finally discovering some common ground during *Introduction to Macro*. It was David who came up with the idea of bypassing Sydney University’s rigorous trial process by looking overseas and, after a brief Google, the pair settled on the aforementioned U of [R].

The University was intrigued by the sponsorship possibilities. Prior to this, U of [R] advertised almost exclusively in print and on late night television, on stations that only play at anodyne hotels⁵. You can imagine how it looked. Course standards and employment rates roll on banners past clouds and blue skies (disclaimers running too small/fast along the bottom of the screen to be legible).

A particularly threatening Skype date settled the terms of the deal. Their patron, Provost of U of [R], appeared on the screen, a mess of veins and tight skin on a muscle-girded frame, wearing a singlet on which the University’s crest and motto (Latin for “intelligence through hard work” but misconstrued by Google Translate between Malaysian, English, and Latin to read “Strong Dog”) was displayed. He spoke unambiguously: make the finals⁶ and everything’s kis-

met; anything less and we’re far from copacetic. The audio on the call throttled in and out, reinforcing the threat by suddenly exploding from silence into the sound of dropped weights and grunts in the background. The pair would later realise the Provost’s office was dressed only for the conical gaze of a webcam and was actually located in a room full of exercise equipment on nausea-coloured linoleum floor.⁷

A cousin in Sydney brokered the flights for cheap through a backroom travel agent that mostly dealt in freight.⁸ Their itinerary charted a snakelike path across South East Asia, sharing a plane with sombre looking couriers and packages buckled like crash test dummies. So long was their travel, so stopover-wrought, that they – highly unusually, the person on the phone noted – registered for the tournament via Skype at 32,000 feet, in such clear breach of the ‘No Phones Rule’ that David felt compelled to double down on rebel-

lion while undercutting anxiety and break the No Smoking In Bathrooms rule too. On arrival in Greece, they raced – luggage and all – to their first round, against the same USyd debaters they had avoided by not trialling. No other option, though. Their flights home had a pointed stopover in Singapore, and the threat represented by a pair of burly Malaysian fitness instructors at the arrival gate was sobering.

Competition began with complications. They bombed the first round through a combination of jetlag and petulant refusal to withdraw from the Middle East.⁹ In a conference call after the debate, the Provost introduced his Dean of Self-Improvement, who, to look at, had self-improved right out of the criminal justice system and into the tertiary sector. “Get it together, guys,” he warned, in a pop-psychology-by-way-of-solitary-confinement kind of way. But they didn’t. The next round was miffed when a “this is all your fault”-“no it’s *yours*” kind of argument erupted at the topic table, and led them to mistakenly prep affirmative when they were neg. Attempts to obscure this fact, by substituting “not” “anti-” and “un-” before as many words as they could were similarly futile. They approached the debates that followed through vacant eyes with thousand-palm card stares, speaking in dull warbles and bombing out every time.

The silent rounds were still to come, but the delegate math was pure Hillary. There weren’t enough points left for them to advance, so instead they returned to the hotel, and complained up a partial refund;¹⁰ re-directed their flights, absconded in the night.

one-off fee and honorary doctorate.

8. Y.T. can’t name him here, but if you contact Y.T. directly Y.T. will hook you up.

9. Like any co-curricular, debating strategy evolves over time, and the arguments that pass at tournaments generally align with the broader political zeitgeist. University debaters 2016, so politically conscious and broadly left wing, have very little in common with prodigious high school debaters 2010, who resemble young Christopher Hitchenses for their freedom fetishism and predilection for boots on the ground.

10. And realised later that it was the first successful argument they had proffered all tourney.

1. Full disclosure: Yours Truly has never attended one of these tournaments and ended an uninspiring debating career with an elimination loss to Tangara in the Catholic Schools Debating Association competition circa-2008. As a coach, Y.T. is 2-1, with his financial future dependent on how the 7s match up in ISDA next week.

2. Don’t be fooled, the ‘university’ is online only, no bricks or mortar, but nonetheless shares something with our campus in terms of being run by very bad dudes.

3. Pseudonym.

4. Pseudonym, Dickensian (the man is a pleasure to be with).

5. Without realising, David—who thought he found the University and enacted the plan of his own steam—had the idea implanted subconsciously when he, stoned out of his mind, sat couch potato at home base during Australs, 2013.

6. Wearing U of [R] apparel, obviously.

7. The university maintained a large merchandise line and, as the majority of teaching took place via video (esp. for the popular Dip. Phys Ed (Physiotherapy) stream), the staff including Provost staked out a bare corner of an Anytime Fitness in South Singapore to festoon a University crest and surreptitiously film demonstration videos or threatening Skype messages. The proprietor of the gym was unenthused but settled for a

Honiscopes

Are these horoscopes or @dril tweets? Either way log off.

Art: Zita Walker



Leo

did i just piss myself? no. these are mood jeans that change color when i am sick of putting up with jokers such as your self



Gemini

if your grave doesnt say "rest in peace" on it you are automatically drafted nto the skeleton war



Libra

i feel a good balance of nice energy & rude energy cioming through the monitor at me, and i think i will stay online for about 3 more hours.



Sagittarius

i wish i had my baby teeth back. those were the good 90s teeth



Pisces

i get dozens of compliments about my perfect ears every day. it's llike Shut the fuck up. Im trying to eat a bagel in my car and you do this



Aries

its the weekend baby. you know what that means. its time to drink precisely one beer and call 911



Virgo

another day volunteering at the betsy ross museum. everyone keeps asking me if they can fuck the flag. buddy, they wont even let me fuck it



Aquarius

well i was going to climb mount everest but this yelp review says theres a nude man at the summit swinging chains around and yelling "fuck u



Capricorn

the thing i accidentally posted earlier about putting my used condoms in the dishwasher was a virus. my subsequent meltdown was also a virus



Scorpio

ill never rinse my farm fresh vegetables. its the responsibility of the greengrocer to rinse my God damn food and if i get poisoned so be it



Taurus

i am now pregnant with my own shadow form and i am looking forward to feeling it move around in my belly as it explores mme. this it real



The crab one

"This Whole Thing Smacks Of Gender," i holler as i over-turn my uncle's barbeque grill and turn the 4th of July into the 4th of Shit

REVELRY IN REVIEW

USU election after-party

A snarky listicle your editors wrote while everyone else was dancing

The USU Election came to a dramatic conclusion on Wednesday night, with a healthy mix of objective talent and good preference deals seeing five women elected to the Board. However, perhaps the greatest surprise of the night was the DJ, who appeared to have confused the event with a 2009 school formal. This is essentially just a list of terrible songs and the future leaders of this university/country who drunkenly danced to them. Sue us if you want but, remember, truth is a complete defence xoxo

1. ‘Get Low’ by Lil Jon & the East Side Boys

“Hi, have you voted today? I am running as a progressive candidate. I think the sexual assault statistics from this campus are abhor- ALL THESE BITCHES CRAWL!” Well, this seems consistent. Thank goodness the next song was *Crazy In Love*,

so our candidates could all prove that they are legit, Beyonce-level feminists.

2. The ableist version of ‘Let’s Get Retarded’ by the Black Eyed Peas

Remember when you were nine and you started singing this song with the “r” word around your house and your mum pulled that funny face and physically took your iPod Mini out of your hands to connect it to iTunes and download the still banging (but less offensive) version of the same song, *Let’s Get it Started?* Let it be known that your student politicians had no problems dancing up a storm to a version of a song even commercial radio thought needed a lyric adjustment.

3. ‘Crank Dat Soulja Boy’ by Soulja Boy

Yes, let us superman all of the hoes.

Honi’s very scientific ranking of candidate campaigns by dancefloor participation*

1. Esther Shim (Shimmy on Board)
2. Courtney Thompson (Count on Courtney)
3. Sam Kwon (Give a Damn, Vote Sam)
4. Grace Franki (Embrace Grace)
5. Vanessa Song (V for Vanessa)
6. James Gibson (No More Games, Just Vote James)
7. Cameron Hawkins (Captain Hawkins)
8. Koko Kong (Can Do Koko)
9. Dom Bondar (Is Dom. Is Good.)

*Based on:
- Number of legs on dancefloor
- How into it they were
- How quickly they fled when the problematic song came on

What is the deal with share housing?

Taken from Factsheet 15 of the Tenants' Union NSW



People in share housing are generally covered by the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 and Regulation. People in share housing usually have their own bedroom and share the rest of the premises. Your rights and obligations will depend on your legal status. You may be:

- a co-tenant
- a head-tenant
- a sub-tenant, or
- a boarder or lodger

Co-tenants, head-tenants and sub-tenants have rights and obligations under the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010*. Boarders and lodgers do not.

Co-tenant

Your name and the names of other tenant/s are on the tenancy agreement for the premises. You share rights and obligations with the other co-tenant/s.

Head-tenant

You are a tenant (your name is on the tenancy agreement for the premises), you live at the premises and sub-let part of the premises to another person under a separate written agreement. That person is a sub-tenant. You are a landlord in relation to the sub-tenant.

Sub-tenant

You are sharing with a tenant (their name is on the tenancy agreement for the premises) who has sub-let part of the premises to you under a separate written agreement. That person is a head-tenant. You have the rights and obligations of a tenant in relation to the head-tenant – they are your landlord.

Boarder or lodger

You are a boarder or lodger if you rent part of the premises from:

- a tenant who also lives there, or
- the owner of the premises, who also lives there and they keep control over the whole premises (including the part you rent). They are your landlord.

None of the above

If none of the above applies to you, contact an SRC caseworker to discuss your situation.

CHANGING OCCUPANTS - TRANSFER OR SUB-LETTING

A tenant may transfer their tenancy under the tenancy agreement, or sub-let part of the premises, to another person with the landlord's written consent. If at least one original tenant on the tenancy agreement remains, the landlord must not unreasonably withhold consent.

If the landlord withholds consent, you can apply to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for an order that allows the transfer or sub-letting. NCAT will decide if the landlord's withholding consent is unreasonable.

Rent receipts

Whatever your tenancy status, you should get a receipt when you pay rent – unless you pay into a bank account.

Bond money

If the tenants on the bond lodgement form change, fill in a 'Change of Shared Tenancy Arrangement' form (from NSW Fair Trading – NSWFT). If for some reason you cannot get the form filled in get a receipt from whoever you paid the bond to. If you can, get a statutory declaration from the person who has moved out, stating that they got their bond back. This may help you claim back your bond if the tenancy agreement ends while you live at the premises.

Bond claim by former co-tenant

On request, the remaining tenant/s must pay back a former co-tenant's bond – less any rent owed or other reasonable costs – within 14 days of the request.

If the former co-tenant's liabilities exceed the amount of bond they paid, or they were excluded from the premises by a final apprehended violence order, the above does not apply.

If a former co-tenant disagrees about how the bond is paid out to them, they can apply to NCAT to have the matter resolved. They must apply within 6 months after the bond is paid out.

Sub-tenant

The head-tenant must deposit your bond money with NSWFT. They must also give you a receipt – unless details of the payment are recorded in your tenancy agreement.

Boarder or lodger

Encourage the landlord to deposit your bond money with NSWFT (they are not required to). In any case, get a receipt for any bond money you pay.

OTHER OCCUPANTS WANT YOU TO LEAVE

Co-tenant

A co-tenant can apply to NCAT for a termination order to end the tenancy of another co-tenant. The tribunal will consider the 'special circumstances' of the case and decide whether to make the order.

Sub-tenant

The head-tenant must give you a 90-day termination notice during a periodic agreement, or a 30-day termination notice at any time before the end of a fixed-term agreement. *See Factsheet 10: Landlord ends agreement.*

Boarder or lodger

The landlord should give you 'reasonable' notice to vacate the premises (e.g. if you pay rent weekly, they should give you at least 7 days notice).

YOU WANT TO LEAVE

See Factsheet 09: You want to leave for how to give a termination notice.

Co-tenant

If all co-tenants are leaving, they must jointly give the landlord a 21-day termination notice during a periodic agreement, or a 14-day termination notice before the end of a fixed-term agreement.

If one co-tenant is leaving, they can end their own tenancy under a periodic agreement by giving a 21-day termination notice to the landlord and each other co-tenant. Once they vacate the premises by the date in the notice, they are no longer a tenant under the agreement.

Sub-tenant

You must give the head-tenant a 21-day termination notice under a periodic agreement,

or a 14-day termination notice before the end of a fixed-term agreement.

Boarder or lodger

You should give the landlord 'reasonable' notice (e.g. if you pay rent weekly, give them at least 7 days notice). Put your notice in writing and keep a copy.

PAYING BILLS

If you have a contract with a phone, power, TV or internet service or supplier, you must ensure the bills are paid.

If someone does not pay their share of the bills – except for electricity bills – you can take action in a Local Court to get the money back. See the chamber registrar at a Local Court, or contact a Community Legal Centre for advice.

RESOLVING DISPUTES

Co-tenant

Except as mentioned above, NCAT cannot deal with disputes between co-tenants. Try mediation through a Community Justice Centre.

Sub-tenant

You can apply to NCAT to resolve certain kinds of disputes with your head-tenant. Contact your local TAAS for advice.

Boarder or lodger

Contact your local TAAS for advice about resolving a dispute with your landlord.

The SRC offers advice on tenancy issues and a range of academic and welfare issues: 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

International Student

VISA PATHWAYS

The career centre will host speakers to discuss visa options available to international students after completion of a degree in Australia.

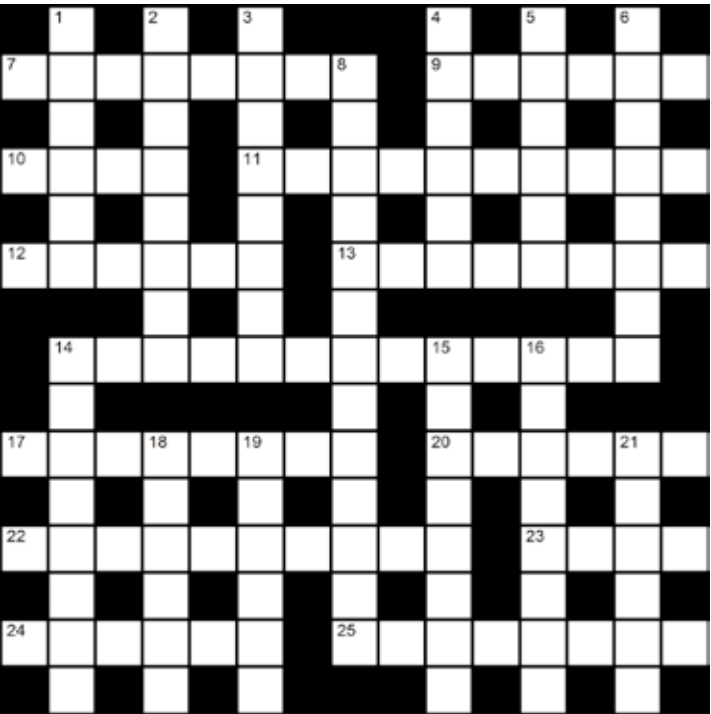
The Career Centre will host speakers from: Immigration Law: Professor, Pro. Mary Crock (Usyd), and The Sydney Uni Post Graduate Association (SUPRA).

This is an open invitation workshop, so please feel free to pass on the details.

Merewether Lecture Theatre 2
Rm 136
24 May 2016 12:45pm – 2:15pm

Cryptic

Crosswords by EN



ACROSS

- 7 Zest (8)
9 Yesterday, endlessly or almost, for example (6)
10 Xinjiang resident, perhaps (6)
11 Where Neptune might be? (8)
12 Versing (8)
13 Uncommonness or lack (6)
15 Toast description generally; free (13)
17 Seal using tin-lead alloy (6)
19 Really poisonous toadstool (5,3)
21 Quite appreciative (8)
23 Pearler (6)
24 Opaque, glassy substance (6)
25 Name commonly used for Lathyrus odoratus (5,3)

DOWN

- 1 Make neat (4,2)
2 Luxuriated (10)
3 Keeping its velocity, in mechanics (8)
4 Just frank (6)
5 Insist (4)
6 Highly passionately (8)
8 Given by stress/strain (5'1,7)
14 Feelings of embarrassment (10)
15 Evening dress, trousers or suit, for example (8)
16 Disorder reduced (8)
18 Competition which is based on tickets (6)
20 Bulla, perhaps (6)
22 Appellation (4)

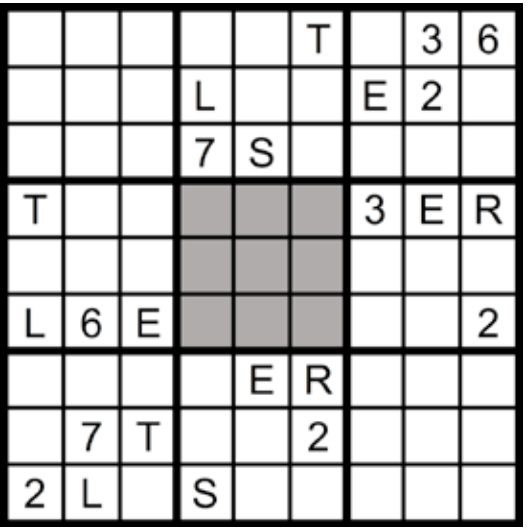
Target



- Punch to the gut: 20
Bandaid floating in the pool: 43
Melted Zooper-Doooper: 55
Freshly washed sheets: 64
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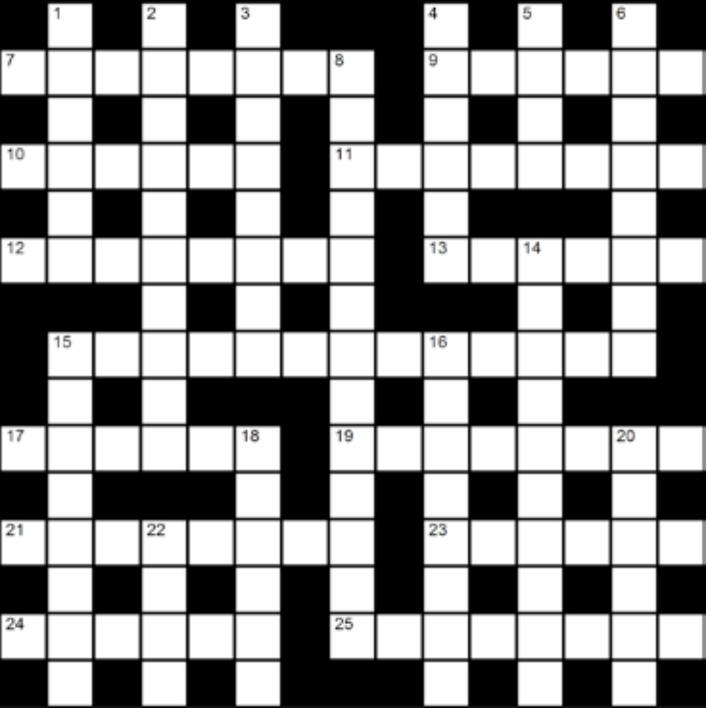
Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by EN



Week 10 quiz solutions: 1 Ireland, 2 D) Green, 3 Brad Arthur, 4 Schweppes, 5 Minsk, 6 Nigeria, 7 Law School Annex, Charles Perkins Centre, 8 Bankstown and Illawarra, 9 2014, 10 Joe Hockey

Quick



Quiz

- 1 Which two suburbs starting with "A" are located within the federal electorate of Grayndler?
2 Which Hadid sister attended Sydney Fashion Week last week?
3 True or False: the speaking voice of Jasmine in Disney's Aladdin (1995) is a woman of colour?
4 What colour is the "I" in the Google logo?
5 Which sporting team played its inaugural season first: Greater Western Sydney Giants or Gold Coast Titans?
6 What does ADSL stand for?
7 Which season of Game of Thrones is currently on the air?
8 Anthony Kiedis is the frontman of which Los Angeles rock band?
9 How many productions are involved in the USU's Identity Revue season?
10 At what time does Fisher Library open on a Sunday?



Love crosswords? Look out for our **jumbo puzzles** page in next week's edition of *Honi Soit*.

SRC REPORTS

The SRC is responsible for the content of these pages.

President

Chloe Smith

We're almost at the end of Semester One: another one down and another six months passed in the life of the university. As things heat up with final assessments and exams, your SRC is continuing to represent and advocate for students interests, as we've done all year. As this year's team reaches the six-month mark of our terms, it's worth reflecting on what the SRC has already done so far.

Back in December we were able to secure the continuation of Simple Extensions after the university moved to scrap them entirely. Although this came with a reduction from five to two days, we also ensured that it was expanded to cover all faculties as opposed to just Arts. We worked hard to ensure that students and staff were properly notified and informed of the changes and that students wouldn't be disadvantaged by the new system.

We also ran a fantastic O-Week which saw us talk to a huge number of new and returning students about the advocacy and services we provide, and the work we do on campus running campaigns and lobbying for improvements.

Some of this work has included things like being on the safety on campus working group, ensuring that the university genuinely looks at ways to improve its reporting and safety procedures and educates students and staff about sexual assault and harassment. We've also advocated for better academic dishonesty protocols, pushed for action on Islamophobia on campus, and ensured that students will continue to have a voice on faculty boards and on some of the highest decision-making bodies student representatives sit on. Of course, individual departments and collectives have also done amazing work around a variety of issues this year, too many to mention but all important to the experience of students on campus.

None of this work is possible without the hard work of student representatives, the support of the SRC's staff, and the participation of students. Despite the challenges of running a student union in today's Australia, with the loss of compulsory student unionism, massive cuts to funding, and obstacles to student engagement, your SRC has continued to make a difference and serve you as we've done for the past 88 years. We're very much looking forward to continuing that work in Semester Two.

If you want to get involved and find out more, visit our

website or drop by our offices. Remember – it's your SRC.

Wom*n's Officer

Anna Hush

The past week has seen the issue of sexual harassment and assault on university campuses take the spotlight in mainstream media. To see an issue usually shrouded in secrecy and silence make the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald is very exciting, and a great step towards removing the stigma around sexual assault and empowering survivors to come forward and tell their stories.

Last Monday, in the midst of a media frenzy, the Vice Chancellor sent out an email to all students with the results of the Safer Communities survey. While the report emphasised that "it is encouraging to see this figure [the rate of incidents of harassment and assault on campus] is much lower than occurrences in the general public", the report also contained some very alarming statistics. One quarter of students surveyed had experienced an incident of harassment or assault during their studies, with LGBTIAQ+ students particularly at risk. Of the students that reported their experience of assault, 41% felt that the University's formal procedures did not help them at all. This is a cause for great concern, and should act as a call to action for the University to rethink completely its approach to sexual harassment and assault.

There is a vital need for a specific mechanism for students to formally report sexual harassment and assault. While the report recommends that the University 'clarify and simplify' these mechanisms, in reality the opposite is needed: the evidence shows that streamlining these services does not work. Complaints about sexual assault are of a completely different nature to complaints about academic misconduct, and a generic online form is not an adequate mechanism for students to report these experiences.

We need trained specialists on hand to support students through processes that are often alienating and traumatic. We need a confidential reporting mechanism, that doesn't suggest that students resolve the matter informally with the perpetrator, as the current complaints process does. More than anything, we need the University to listen to students and survivors throughout this process so we can create a system that students feel safe engaging in. If you have feedback or suggestions for the ways in which reporting processes could be improved, please email usyd womens collective@gmail.com - I would love to hear stu-

dents' perspectives on this.

Education Officers

Dylan Griffiths and Liam Carrigan

On May 11th, students from across NSW gathered as part of the National Day of Action in protest against 2 billion in funding cuts to higher education announced by the liberals in the federal budget. The march included shocking displays of police violence and brutality that has become the norm in NSW and on our campus, with the police forcibly ejecting activists protesting Simon Birmingham from Fisher Library and heavy police presence at the recent protests against Wesley University.

Again we see an austerity budget that if enacted will destroy any semblance of equality and fairness in Australia. Again Higher Education is under attack. Again we must take to the streets to defeat it.

As students we hold incredible power. As an activist I have been inspired by our wins fighting cuts, standing in solidarity with staff on picket lines and amassing in our thousands to beat back deregulation again and again. We will never stop fighting and will be back time and time again.

This budget screams evasion, delays and shelving the most horrific of attacks until the election is passed. However, the two billion in proposed cuts will destroy a sector starved of funding so badly that a suite of corporate restructures across the country is now the norm. Here in NSW we have the Usyd restructure, which will see faculties slashed, jobs cut and degrees destroyed in the pursuit of a neoliberal university. At UTS we have seen the implementation of balanced semesters, which has slashed course content and eroded staff conditions in order to maximize efficiency. UNSW has proposed a strategic plan that includes trimesters and a shift to online learning. Management wants to partner with corporations, industries and multinational donors, which will leave us with a hollow, corporate education system. The realities call for more funding, not less.

Students reject this budget. We reject the deregulation of flagship courses, which like the implementation of HECS will see a slow march towards the dreaded 100k degrees over the coming years. We reject our financial contribution to our degrees being raised from 40 percent to 50 percent, because fuck shackling us with more debt for the rest of our living lives. Scrap that – they'll probably decide to collect that sweet HECS dollar from our cold dead hands. Education is a

social good – why the fuck does the ruling class think we should pay? The money is there. This budget has included a 25% tax break to big business, 32 billion in defense spending and 1.2 billion to maintain the offshore processing centers that murder refugees.

If you're interested in getting involved in the fight against the budget and the liberals join the EAG at 2pm Tuesdays or contact the Education officers to be added to our organizing group on Facebook.

Queer Officers

Marcus Wong and Evan Jones

The past few weeks have been extremely busy and exciting for the Queer Action Collective. We've been present at a number of actions such as the National Day of Action protesting the cuts by the federal government to our education that will disproportionately affect queer students, the Nakba Rally in solidarity with Palestine and against the pink-washing of Israel, the occupation of Wesley College by Wom*n's Collective, recognising that queerphobia and misogyny are not separate issues, and an action of support for Safe Schools to amplify the voices of high school students who stand to lose the most from the gutting of the Safe Schools Program. We also went along to listen to the panel that was run by The Ally Network in celebration of International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) on the 17th of May, as well as their screening of *Gayby Baby* that evening.

The highlight of the month for many was our protest against the Sydney University Catholic Society's event at Life Week entitled 'Men + Women = Made for each other?' Their guest speaker was a known advocate of conversion of queer people through therapy and spoke out against queer lifestyles. The event also relied on heavily essentialist conceptualisations of gender, which erases the identities of transgender students who already face a great deal of discrimination, leading to significantly higher levels of violence and mental health problems such as anxiety and depression. The protest was well-attended and gained considerable attention and support from people along Eastern Avenue on the day, as well as people from other collectives and we'd like to thank all who attended.

This month we also met with University management to begin discussion with them about the Rainbow Campus campaign that was officially launched at Pride Week last month. Although a slow, bureaucratic response from them, we are optimistic that we

will be able to get through all of our demands and turn the University of Sydney into a Rainbow Campus.

We have a lot coming up in the next few weeks. On the 26th of May we will be joining a protest against Cory Bernardi from the Liberal Party and Joe de Bruyn of the ALP who have played significant roles in furthering attacks on queer people. We are also preparing for the pre-election marriage equality rally on the 25th of June and we invite all to come along to both protests and show your support for queer students on campus. We are also pleased to announce that we have begun work on a publication to educate people on transgender issues to be released later in the year. Work to send delegates to Queer Collaborations in July is also underway and promises to be a very exciting week for some of our members.

For more information or if you have any queries get in contact with the Queer Officers at queer.officers@usyd.src.edu.au

International Students'

Hannah Elten, Alexander Shu, Jasmine Yu and Anqi Zhao

At the end of April, the first International Council to the USU took successfully place. One of the most prominent issues discussed was the possibility of more workshops around campus regarding fair work and labour rights for international students. Clubs and Society Executives should check their mailboxes for the invitation to the next International Council.

Furthermore, the Overseas Departments of SUPRA and the SRC held a very successful joint lunch event in Week 9, demonstrating the good cooperation between the two organizations. We also would like to draw attention to the Visa workshop held by SUPRA on May 24 in Merewether Lecture Theatre 2 at 12:45 pm.

The disappearance and subsequent murder of UTS international student graduate Mengmei Leng has raised concerns for the safety of international students in Sydney. We want to encourage all students who experience any concerns to their safety to report these concerns to the police or other trusted authorities.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Yifan Kong for being the first international student getting elected to the position of USU Board Director since 2007 – with an overwhelming number of votes.

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*

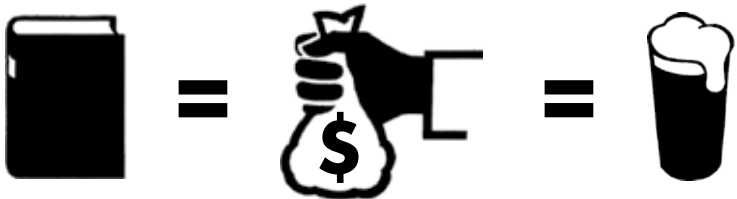
Notice of Council Meeting

88th Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

DATE: 1st June
TIME: 6pm - 8pm
LOCATION: Professorial Board Room (Quadrangle)



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
p: 02 9660 5222 | w: src.usyd.edu.au



CASH

...FOR YOUR TEXTBOOKS!

USE THAT CASH HOWEVER YOU LIKE,
BUY OTHER TEXTBOOKS CHEAP FROM US,
OR GO BUY WHATEVER YOU WANT.



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

DO YOU NEED A SHORT EXTENSION?



You can ask your course co-ordinator for two days extension on a non examination task, eg. a take home assignment. This is an informal arrangement, and does not stop you from applying for Special Consideration (still within 3 days of original due date). For more details check out the quote below from the University's Coursework Policy:

66A Simple Extensions

- (1) A unit of study co-ordinator, who is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so, may permit a student to submit a non-examination task up to two working days after the due date with no penalty.
- (2) Such permission is an informal arrangement between the unit of study co-ordinator and the student which does not:
 - (a) affect the student's entitlement to apply for special consideration under this policy;
 - (b) alter any *time limits* or other requirements relating to applications for special consideration; or
 - (c) constitute an academic decision for the purposes of the University of Sydney (Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006 (as amended).

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

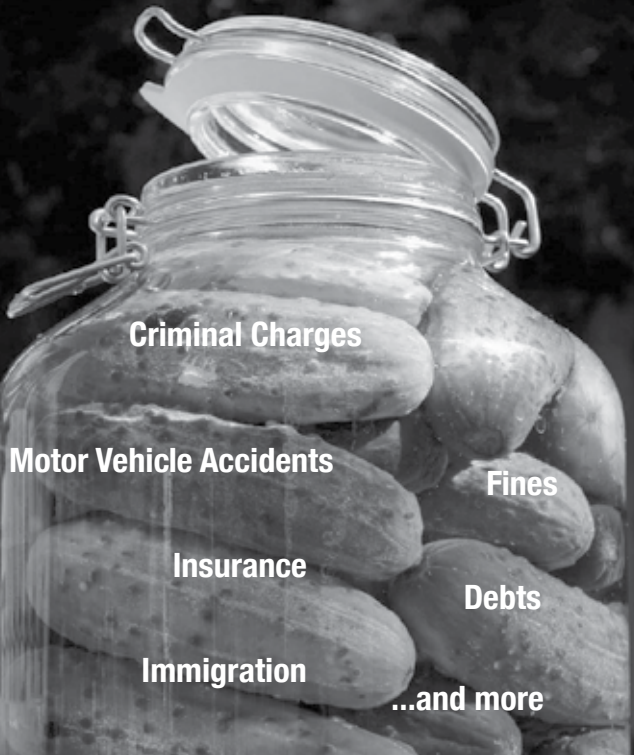
The service is FREE, independent and confidential.
Phone for an appointment: (02) 9660 5222

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

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



IN A PICKLE?

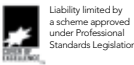


If You Have a Legal Problem,
We Can Help for FREE!



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



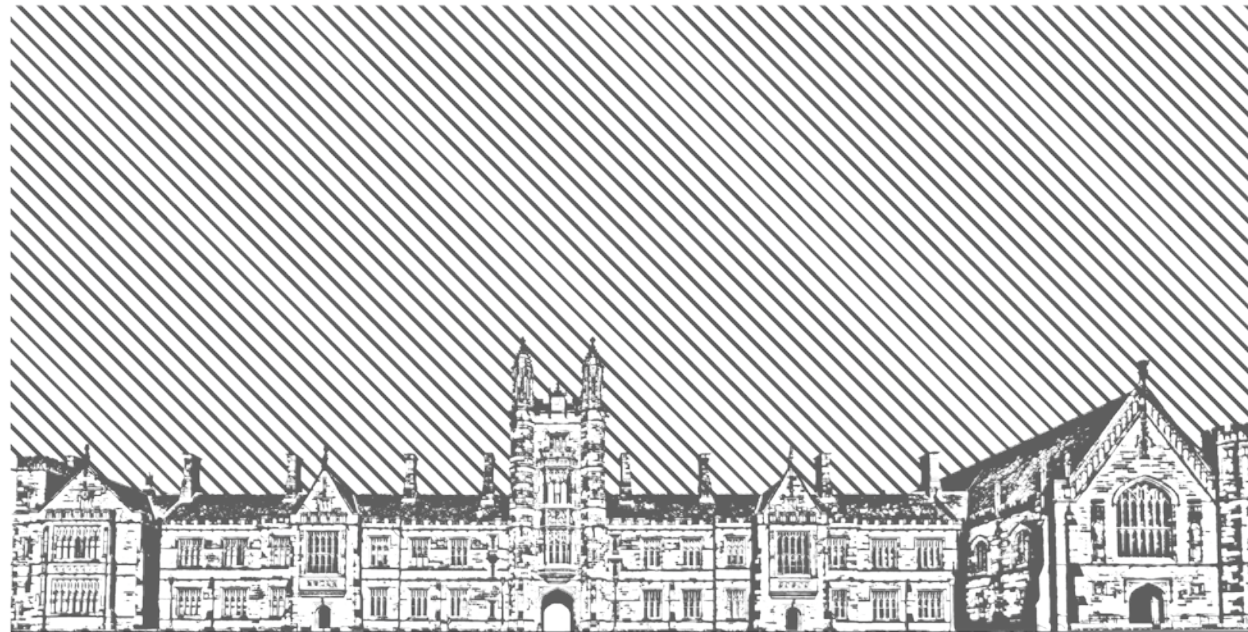
We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese



The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY 

IN THE FOOTBRIDGE THEATRE
31ST MAY 5:30PM



SUPRA ANNUAL 2016 GENERAL MEETING

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given for the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association. All postgraduate students are invited to attend, 5:30pm Tuesday 31st of May at the Footbridge Lecture Theatre. Please arrive at 5:30pm to sign in for a 6pm start.



The Business of the General Meeting shall

include:

- An Annual Report of the Association by the President
- The Treasurer shall present the Financial Statement of the previous year and the accounts of the Association, having been audited in accordance with Article 08.03:1
- The Returning Officer shall present a report on the General Election
- The Council shall appoint an Auditor for the following year
- The Secretary shall present the minutes of the previous General Meeting.

The business of the General Meeting may

include:

- Constitutional Amendments that have been duly submitted
- Elections of Equity Officers
- Supplementary Election
- The removal of Councillors
- The officer(s) in charge of the Policy Portfolio shall present the SUPRA Policy Manual with recommendations of changes or updates from the Council
- A call for Any Other Business not listed.

The deadline to propose Constitutional Amendments has now passed.

Please note, relevant documents for the 2016 AGM will be available on our website for you to read in advance. They will go live on the 24th of May 2016: www.supra.usyd.edu.au

We hope to see you there!

SUOGS broaches an important topic




By **Melanie Stevenson**, SUPRA Council

Last Wednesday, the Sydney University Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society (SUOGS) hosted a seminar on abortion that was attended by over 100 keen medical students. The speakers included Professor John Hyett, Dr Deborah Bateson and Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC. We heard about the processes involved in performing both surgical and medical abortions and the differences in procedures around the globe. It was shocking to hear of women in South America (where abortion is illegal, but buying any drug over the counter is legal) using teratogenic medicine to cause a miscarriage. We also learnt how to best counsel patients who are in an extremely vulnerable position and present to them all the options in a non-judgemental fashion. Conscientious objection was brought up and the speakers made

We heard about the processes involved in performing both surgical and medical abortions and the differences in procedures around the globe

clear that a doctor needs to refer to another practitioner for unbiased healthcare advice. It was also interesting to hear about the current political climate, given that Dr Faruqi has a bill on the table to decriminalise abortion in NSW. Quite fittingly, the day before a bill had been introduced to

Queensland parliament on the same issue. The night finished with a Q&A where we discussed abortion tourism and also the ramifications of performing abortions on healthcare professionals. Professor Hyett discussed what the impact on his life would be like should he be persecuted. Furthermore, the mental drain on healthcare professionals was discussed, but the speakers made sure to mention how grateful they are that they can make a difference in the lives of very vulnerable patients. All in all, it was a thought provoking night and hopefully these students now feel more confident in their clinical practice and how to approach a delicate subject. Many thanks to SUPRA for generous sponsorship of the catering and room hire.



9th May 2016

Professor Tyrone Carlin
Quadrangle Building (A14)
The University of Sydney
NSW 2006
Australia

Delivered by email to: tyrone.carlin@sydney.edu.au
CC: g.robinson@sydney.edu.au

Dear Professor Carlin,

We write to you concerning student safety on this campus. We were dismayed to discover several evenings ago a considerable gap in student safety, as a result of a lack of appropriate infrastructure on the part of the University.

We are sure you are familiar with The Quarter, a twenty-four hour study space for students. As it stands, there is no adequate lighting to ensure student safety as they leave this study space after hours, with unsafe lighting conditions beginning as early as 6pm. Several of the main thoroughfares that students would take to exit are either poorly lit, or not lit at all.

Whilst touring the main student thoroughfares, our delegate was also disconcerted to learn one of the buildings in the School of Physics was lit up clear as day. Physics road, and The Quarter as well, do not share the same adequate lighting.




We are deeply alarmed to discover this, as it seems that the University has prioritised the safety of costly laser apparatuses over the health, safety and well-being of its priceless student population.

As a starting point, we seek advice on what, if any, reviews have already occurred on night-time safety relating to evening study spaces. If no such review has happened as yet, we call for it to occur and for action to take place as a matter of urgency.

It is our view, and the combined view of our organisations, that this inadequacy should be addressed immediately and unconditionally. Student safety is far too important for this matter to be tied up in expenditure reports and tedious bureaucracy.

We look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

SUPRA President	USU President	SRC President
		
Christian Jones	Alisha Aitken-Radburn	Chloe Smith

** This initiative was primarily instigated by SUPRA Vice President Thomas Greenwell*

Doctors
HATE him:
How Dorian
Gray beat
aging with
this one
simple trick

A Tale of
Two Cities
by
Charles Dickens

*You won't believe
what number
two is!*

Anne of
Green
Gables:
Where is
she now?

Black
Beauty
by
Anna Sewell

*We took a
picture of this
horse before and
after telling her
she was beautiful.*

Literary clickbait but
@Emma Balfour,
@Annabel Cameron and
@ Ann Ding

Dear Dark Dolly Doctor Sealed Section, Show Me Inventive Ways to Jerk It

Oliver Moore knows what Cleo and Cosmo won't tell you.

The Honeypot

This orgasming-ensuring tradition comes all the way from the ancient Egyptians. It is rumoured that Cleopatra herself has used this incredible technique for her pleasure, so if that's not an endorsement, I don't know what is! To begin, fill a jar with bees. We recommend Australian native bees, which don't sting, but whatever you have available should work just fine.

Then, squat over the unlidded jar, such as to ensure that the only place a bee can go is inside you. From there, just wait – you'll know it when it happens!

Burning the Candle at Both Ends

For our next technique, take a long, cylindrical candle. Lying flat on your back, insert the non-wicked end inside you. Then, light the wick. When the flame enters you, manually stimulate your clitoris, if you have one, or another erogenous zone. The payoff is amazing!

More Like GREATfruit, Amirite?

This one really requires a penis, so, if you're not lucky enough to have one, use a dildo or other pseudo-phallus of your own choosing. Next, take one large grapefruit and cut a hole in the rind approximately the size of a twenty-cent piece.

Then stick your dick in it. Just fuck it. Go right at it. Come on, you know you want to.

Bean-Flicking

Our next technique is for those of you who really want to do something freaky! To begin, take at least a cup of a bean of your choice. They can be cooked or uncooked, or a mixture of the two to mix it up a little. [Eds note: For safety reasons, we strongly discourage the use of lentils in this activity.]

Then, from a sitting position, one at a time, flick these beans towards your genitals. In order to speed things up, you might like to ask a partner to help you out.

Have you tried any of these scintillating techniques? If you have, please send *The Cursor* a sext on 0450044068.

New Meme Enters Third Week Of Everyone Pretending To Know Why It's Funny

Naaman Zhou does not get it

The recent emergence of a particularly inscrutable meme has left internet shitposters scrambling to mask their fundamental bewilderment over its core premise, as its popularity shows no signs of abating.

Dat Boi, a shareable image of a green frog on a unicycle, has been described by analysts as the meme with "the least logical backing" of the early 2016 quarter. The slowly travelling toad has left meme-curators wondering how to survive such a lean, off-peak meme season.

When asked, third year Agriculture student Morris Spont described the meme as "pretty fresh" but insisted it was something he was familiar with and definitely understood from first principles.

Dat Boi told *The Cursor* he was baffled by his own virality.

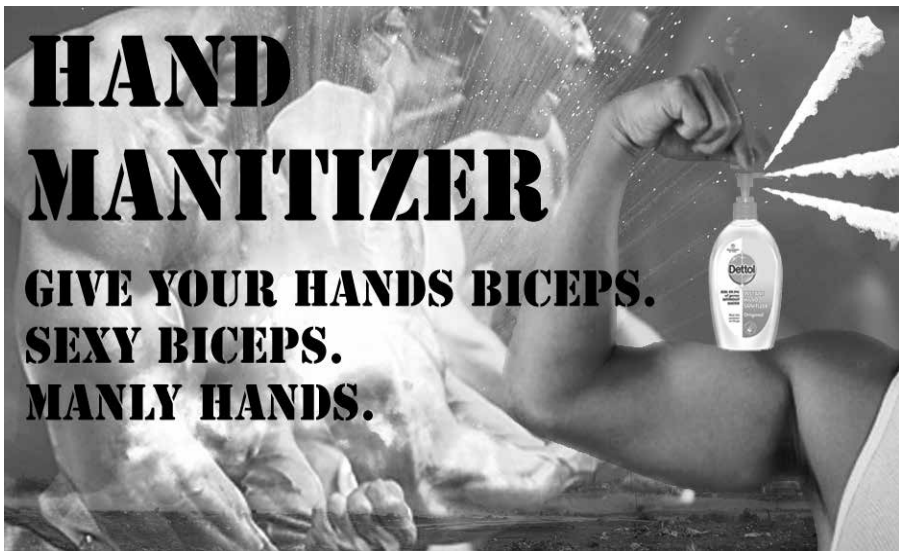
"I'm sick of being stopped when upon my company unicycle," he said. Mr Boi claims to use the vehicle to head in and out of the city, where he works as an actuarial assistant.

"Is there something funny about my choice of automobile?" asked the poorly rendered three-dimensional frog. "After the divorce and the forced redundancy, one wheel is pretty much all I can afford. I'm not proud."

Dat Boi is also recovering from the recent death of his teenage son in a lilypad accident, so "hasn't really been laughing at a lot of jokes at the moment".

Undergraduate Computer Science student, Hamish Tym, has been unimpressed with the frog's antics. "Honestly even for memes this one doesn't make much sense."

"Usually there's a grain of context or something behind them, but this just exists because people wanted a meme."



The
Catcher in
the Rye
by
JD Salinger

*Wow! This angry
teen learns a val-
uable lesson about
catching rye.*

What this
man did
to a local
Mockingbird
is
disgusting!

Moby Dick
by
Herman Melville

*Everyone called
her a whale, but
one man called
Ahab saw her true
beauty...*

Racists Cry Out Against Shallow Labels

Jayce Carrano runs his daughter's P & F Association

Yesterday, racists across Sydney held their largest gathering since the Sutherland Shire's last community meeting.

The event's organiser, Sam White, who changed his last name by deed poll, is considered a pillar of this often demonised community.

When accidental eye contact was established, he said, "Many so-called Australians think that we can be defined by a few words that we say."

"Yes, we think boat people should be sent back. Yes, we think Australia should stay white. I am a racist and have been for as long as I remember. But how does that give anyone the right to reduce my entire existence to that six letter word?"

Whiteman continued without prompting. "I have a family and I run my daughter's P & F and I'm a huge fan of James Bond. Racists are just as human as anyone yet we're treated like second-class citizens. It's simply outrageous and unacceptable and we won't stand by and let it continue."

The rally ended at 7pm when attendees left to watch *A Current Affair*.

#BREAKING Sheep Fleeced In Layoffs

Oliver Moore owns more than the average number of cardigans.

Climate change has rammed the wool industry hard this year, with more than 20% of sheep now out of work following a devastating trough in market demand for knitwear.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), temperatures this year have remained at unprecedentedly high levels, with warm sunny days extending to the end of May, leading to a jumper surplus.

Fashion retailers are hesitant to order new woollen styles as Sydneysiders continue to endure sunburn and beachside parking fines well into May.

This has led to layoffs by all major wool manufacturers which has left thousands of able-fleeced sheep out of work.

The state of affairs has been called "absolutely outrageous" by the Agricultural Beasts Union, who condemned the manufacturers for not doing more to protect their workers.

Many of these workers have been producers for generations.

Baaa!



🖱 Trending

Subversive: This amateur theatre company does Shakespeare without swapping character genders

Simple extensions to be replaced by intelligent extensions

Local Man 'Doing Great' If His Ex Asks

This Inspiring Freak Show Only Hires LGBT Performers

Arts federal funding cuts hits circus hard; bearded lady replaced with ordinary cis lady

BREAKING: student comedy group decides two circus headlines "not excessive"

Local girl: Bobby pin on ground "probably belongs to me"

Bros before hos: how incest changed my life

+ More Burlesque Accountants



TWO WOLVES ON BROADWAY AT 7.
FOOD AND DRINKS ARE ON US.

Drink responsibly
Get the facts
DRINK WISE
ORG.AU
IS YOUR DRINKING
HARMING YOURSELF
OR OTHERS?
* Restricted to ages 18+