

Honi Soit

SEMESTER TWO, 2016 • WEEK 3

FIRST PRINTED 1929



THE WILKINSON AXIS

Thousands of students walk past it everyday.
One student dared to ask what it was

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USyd is
watching
you type

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Think-piece-meal

We used an internet bot to hammer
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on sexual
violence

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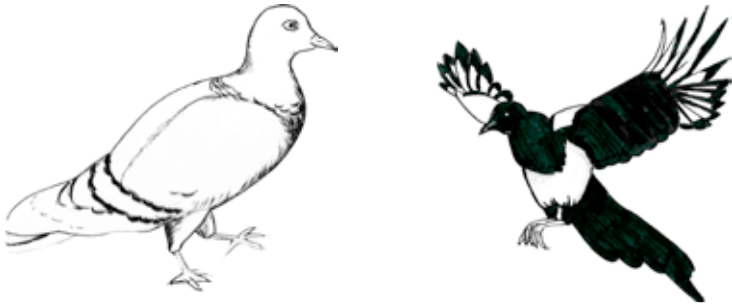
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Thousands of students walk past it everyday.
Tim Lee stares down the Wilkinson Axis.

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Letters

Please, God, think of the Juris Doctors

Dear *Honi*,

As someone who has very recently been through the rigmarole of applying and getting into a JD, I thought I should clarify a few of the things stated in the article "HELP yourself" in week two's edition. The article seems to argue that the Law School is setting out to exploit postgraduate students looking to make more money out of

menu of the eligible postgraduate courses that offer CSP places organised by department, of which Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Engineering, Law and Medicine are listed but no mention is made of Architecture, any field of Science, Vet, or Education etc, etc. Whilst the JD unlike other postgraduate courses is three years, rather than one or two and so will max out the FEE-HELP scheme before you complete your studies (especially if you have your undergraduate fees on it), it, by comparison is one of the few courses that actually offers (albeit limited) CSPs. Additionally, and this is a little bit of a moot point, but the Law School is actually very very clear on the likelihood of maxing out your FEE-HELP limit, at every open day/information night I went to it was specifically addressed and spelt out for all in attendance.

The fact of the matter is that, Sydney Law School is actually quite generous when it comes to CSP. Melbourne Uni for instance only makes them available for students who have achieved a 99.9 or equivalent in their ATAR and then commenced and completed an undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne. At ANU the requirements are similarly as difficult to achieve, their website states that all JD students are accepted as Domestic Tuition Fee students, and in the week prior to the beginning of semester, "students are ranked by academic merit" stating later that in order to be competitive for a CSP students "need to achieve at least a Distinction average in all previous tertiary study" as per their website. UTS just straight up doesn't offer CSP

to the JD course at all. UNSW doesn't have any specific hoops that you have to jump through, but I don't know anyone who was offered a CSP at UNSW, I certainly wasn't offered one. I have a CSP at Sydney, and as per their website, I had an ATAR in the 90s and a Distinction average in my undergrad course, which seems difficult except for when you stop and compare it to everywhere else that is of a comparable international ranking and reputation.

Ultimately, this isn't the "law school's trap", it's the brave new world of postgraduate study.



Grace Lovell-Davis
JD I

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Tom Joyner

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A DEDICATION

To my parents, Cathy and Graham

AN APOLOGY

Poor Cecilija Rubenis! Cecilija featured in our SCA special edition (Semester 2, Week 1). We spelt her name incorrectly multiple times and apologised for this last week. Unfortunately our apology was correcting to one of the incorrect names we'd used the week before. Oxford Art Factory did the same thing to her once. Cecilija now feels like the "printer deities" are messing with her and it's partially our fault. Cecilija Rubenis (not Roberts, not Reubenis), forgive us.

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

Tom Joyner

University administrators are shedding their academic gowns and offices full of dusty volumes for sharp suits and boardrooms. The tertiary education sector is fast adjusting to the demands of a global market and to do so, widening the gap between how it treats domestic students and international students. Even though international students pay more to study at Sydney, time and time again we've been shown the service stops at the checkout. The University needs to invest more in dedicated support for international students if it wants to be a "world-class" institution.

The lion's share of the Student Services and Amenities Fee collected by the University is spent on Sydney University Sport and Fitness, an opaque organisation that pays the scholarships of elite athletes, providing them with dedicated academic advisors and physical training. But how much is spent on supporting the thousands of international students on whose full fees the University's coffers rely, and who already are disadvantaged when it comes to

affordable housing, public transport concessions, legal support, and labour rights in NSW?

International students face unique and invariably misunderstood pressures that do not fit the traditional student narrative: language barriers, racial vilification, cultural differences, structural discrimination, mental health issues, isolation from friends and family, and financial difficulties. They make up a significant proportion of the student body on campus and the University's revenue, and yet they have only a handful of elected representatives between the SRC, USU and SUPRA.

There are many avenues of support the University should consider funding. For example, a dedicated mental health and counselling service with multilingual practitioners for international students. University administrators need to make clear they understand the challenges of international students, and see them as any other student, not just a line item on a balance sheet.

UNI FUCKUPS

International student scholarships cancelled without explanation

Tom Joyner

International students enrolled in a partner program with a Chinese university have been left short-changed after the University of Sydney cancelled their scholarships worth thousands of dollars without warning or explanation.

Dozens of Chinese students from Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) studying in Sydney as part of a dual-degree program say payments for scholarships worth 10 per cent of their tuition costs had not been made in as long as two years, with some never receiving any at all.

Repeated attempts by students to contact the University for answers were ignored or palmed off to other departments.

The "2+2 Engineering and Information Technology Program" offers students from HIT the opportunity to spend two years studying engineering at Sydney University to graduate with a degree from both institutions.

The scholarships are offered to students by Sydney University and are worth up to \$8,000 in reduced fees over four semesters.

"I asked last year and [a student services officer] told me, 'Yes it will be paid in maybe August or September'. Then I asked her this year and she also gave me the same answer," said one student who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisal.

"I just don't know why they

kick us like a ball from here to there. They just need to tell us the reason, maybe our average score. We respect that. We just need some reason to let us know what happened."

Students claim the payment of the scholarship was entirely erratic, with some receiving it for one semester and some for two before the payments ceased. Others said they had never received any payments at all.

There was also no documentation to demonstrate the scholarship existed beyond a confirmation email from then head of student recruitment and admissions, Lesley Vanderkwaast.

The email, seen by *Honi*, says the only criteria for the scholarship was a 65 point credit average to receive payments each semester. However the vast majority of the 33 affected students *Honi* spoke with had maintained an average of 75 or above.

"I am emailing you to advise that you are eligible for the 10% tuition fee scholarship under the 2 + 2 arrangement with your university and the Faculty of Engineering & IT. Well done on your current GPA with your recent studies," the email reads.

Honi understands Vanderkwaast no longer works in the recruitment and admissions office.

A University spokesperson said the Engineering and IT Faculty had only recently been approached by a "handful of students" and their con-

cerns were being investigated. The program itself is now under review, according to the spokesperson.

Electrical engineering student Emmi Zhao said the last scholarship payment she received was in August 2014, and hadn't heard back from the University since. Accordingly, she said, many students felt betrayed by the University.

"Some of them feel angry because not a lot of them are presently in a fantastic financial situation. \$4,000 can be at least four months rent, food and textbooks. It's a big issue," she said. "No one got any information. We keep asking but no one answers."

Zhao said she and other Chinese students in her situation felt powerless to do anything because they were unsure of their legal rights. "For us international students, to find a lawyer is a little bit complex. We aren't even familiar with the specific process of finding one."

Council of International Students Australia president, Nina Khairina, said not enough international students were fully aware of their legal rights when it came to university finances, including scholarships and fees.

"If students are having issues with their scholarship payments, they can pursue it with the New South Wales Ombudsman if they want to lodge a complaint," she said. "Not many students are aware of this, unfortunately."

In Other News

ANU student newspaper *Woroni* chose a rather controversial topic for their weekly comment stimulus this week, asking its reporters to reflect on whether "multiculturalism [has] failed and become incompatible with liberal democracy". A post in the paper's Facebook reporter group on Thursday August 4 justified the topic with reference to the rise of One Nation and a "substantial portion" of votes lost by major parties in the recent federal election going to "anti-immigration parties". We will find out just how well *Woroni* gave racists a creative license to be racist when responses are published this week.

If there's one truth universally acknowledged it's that everyone on campus has a gripe. Whether it be bad muffins, boring classes or a terrible article among these very pages, we all have stuff to unload. Why not unload on us? Instead of wasting time like your normally do, hammer out a maximum 500 word letter to us and we just might publish it.

editors@honisoit.com

1984

Uni trials creepy anti-plagiarism software

Cadmus tracks students' location and keystrokes while they write assessments

Siobhan Ryan

The University is considering trialling anti-plagiarism software that tracks students as they complete their assessments, verifying their identities using multi-factor authentication and keystroke analytics.

The software, dubbed "Cadmus", is set to be trialled this semester in PSYC3020: Applications of Psychological Science.

According to a University spokesperson, the trial is part of the University's commitment to "exploring means to further protect the integrity of assessment and therefore the integrity of University of Sydney degrees".

If it goes ahead, "An evaluation will be made on its educational merit before a large trial is considered."

Cadmus was developed by University of Melbourne alumni Herk Kailis and Robbie Russo, and has already been trialled there.

Cadmus requires students to complete their assessments in an online word-processing application, which has a number of anti-plagiarism features. These include a copy-paste restriction, which links students to University anti-plagiarism resources when a student tries to paste a large amount of text.

University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) President Tyson Holloway-Clarke described the University of Melbourne's trials as "ongoing, with a number of problems unresolved".

He attended a meeting with members of University of Melbourne management and the developers of the software, which he said was limited to a discussion of technological improvements to the program, rather than debating whether or not it should continue to be rolled out.

UMSU representatives were not given full access to an independent review of the software

commissioned by their university, but from a small excerpt they were allowed to view, "It was clear that users were unhappy with the usability of the program and were generally unsatisfied with the user interfaces, connectivity issues and confusing nature of the program," Holloway-Clarke said.

Kailis told *Honi* the software is open to feedback, operating with a "user-centric design approach".

"We have multiple direct channels to students, and take every piece of feedback, and use that to inform new features and improvements," he said.

He noted two features – students being able to copy in text from their notes to a 'scratch-pad', and being able to work offline after signing in – that were both implemented following user feedback.

Students have raised concerns about how data collected from the program will be used, and whether universities will be notified of how long students spend writing their assessments, and how close to submission deadlines they begin writing.

"Data will not be given back to universities to inform or prejudice marking," Kailis said.

"In line with University policy, if the University suspects academic dishonesty, only then will data be requested from Cadmus to aid in a formal investigation," a USyd spokesperson confirmed.

Kailis and Russo developed the software after Fairfax Media uncovered large "essay mills" from which students could purchase pre-written essays.

"The case for Cadmus being the vaccination to the essay-buying scourge is, in my opinion, not functionally strong enough, ... [as Cadmus] necessitates further university control of student life and academic approach," Holloway-Clarke said.

NEWS

BUREAUCRATIC WINS

Sydney Student portal to allow preferred names

Eden Faithfull

Sydney University students will soon be able to use their preferred names in the University's online administration portal, Sydney Student.

Until now, students have been unable to determine their first name in the University's information systems, something that has proven a particular obstacle for transgender and international students.

Dr Rebecca Johinke, Arts Faculty Sub Dean of student affairs, has worked with members of University administration to employ the change in the Sydney Student portal.

"With so many students now transitioning, it is absolutely their right to be called the name that they want to be called," she said. "It's a basic human right now."

As far back as 2014, students have been voicing grievances that the University was failing to represent them.

"We didn't face any opposition in administering this change to the system, but we were slowed down, as always, by our not very good computer system, which has started gradually catching up," said Dr Johinke.

In addition to transgender students, the change was introduced for international students who prefer to go by Anglicised names, and those who are unwilling to submit their full legal name online.

A University spokesperson said preferred names had also

been made a feature of Blackboard in order to align with the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

"The University of Sydney recognises many of our students prefer to use first names that might not be their legal first names. The University of Sydney will continue to explore possibilities where students' preferred names can be utilised."

Students who have legally changed their name are still faced with their old, 'dead' name

"We have the ability to submit titles such as 'Honourable Justice' and 'Reverend Canon', but not 'them/they' pronouns"

through their university correspondence and email address, which is supplied to Microsoft Office upon enrolment and is, as of now, not subject to change.

"We are at a critical point. Sydney University has proven that in regards to using preferred names, it cannot communicate with students that it claims it is trying to help," said student Andrea Zephyr, who has been involved in the Rainbow Campus campaign.

Zephyr said there were barriers for transgender students wanting to change their 'dead' names as they appeared on official University enrolments.

"Navigating the bureaucracy is so difficult, and would mean that someone like myself would need considerable time to raise the necessary funds to change

their name," she said.

Georgia Mantle, SRC General Secretary and member of the University's Equity, Diversity and Culture Working Group, said there still remained problems with the way Sydney Student recorded gender pronouns.

"Considering we have the ability to submit titles such as 'Honourable Justice' and 'Reverend Canon', but not 'them/they' pronouns, it is ridiculous," she said.

Petition calls for sanitary bins in all bathrooms

Erin Jordan

A petition with 140 signatures is calling on the University to place a sanitary bin in every male toilet on campus.

The petition was started by SRC Queer Officer Evan Jones, and is now being added as a demand of the Rainbow Campus Campaign, a list of criteria the University must fulfil before the USU's Resistance Club will consider it "rainbow".

Jones identifies sanitary bins in all bathrooms as an "extremely achievable target" and a necessary change.

"It's a shame considering the university has over 1 billion dollar turnover year, yet can't provide basic services for trans students," Jones said.

Since starting a testosterone treatment two years ago, Jones has been unable to dispose of his sanitary products in male toilets on campus, those he "is most comfortable" using.

The University did not respond directly to Jones' demand, but "encourages campaign representatives to work with them [the Ally Network] to promote their goals to the wider University community".

The Ally Network launched in 2015. It is a University initiative "to support the inclusion of LGBTIQ members of our community", a spokesperson said.

The issue will be raised with both the Ally Network and the Rainbow Campaign next month at their monthly meeting.

"Once we are able to modify gender on the student portal, we will be able to take the next step and sort out personal pronouns."

Liv Oliver-Hopkins, a PhD student and member of the Queer Action Collective (QuAC), legally changed her name for personal reasons, but has come up against resistance from the University.

"I explained the situation to USyd, but they said unless I could provide my marriage certificate or a change of name certificate there was nothing they could do," said Oliver-Hopkins. "It's very frustrating."

Changes to the Sydney Student portal, including new gender and pronoun selections, will be considered by the next meeting of Academic Board on August 17.

LGBTQIA

Activists pressure Uni to publically support marriage equality

Activists are holding a 'Rainbow Wedding' to pressure the University's position

Justine Landis-Hanley

Activists from the Rainbow Campus Campaign will stage a "Big Rainbow Wedding" for five queer couples on campus next week, in an attempt to persuade the University of Sydney to formally declare support for marriage equality.

Rainbow Campus organiser Oliver Moore said the University has refused to sign the Australian Marriage Equality pledge, one of the campaign's six steps towards a more LGBT-QIA-friendly campus. The

The University dodged *Honi's* question seeking its position on marriage equality, instead responding that it is "an equal opportunity employer and educator... [and] launched the Ally Network to support the inclusion of LGBTIQ members of our community."

Moore said these efforts were "not enough for supporting LGBTIQ students and staff. We would really love to see the University get behind its queer staff and students."

The "Big Rainbow Wedding" will see five couples offered free make-up and photography before they are wedded by Reverend Karl Hand of Metropolitan Community. The ceremony

will be attended by over 100 guests, and will be followed by a fully-catered reception in the Refectory on August 16.

"We have asked all the couples to write their own vows talking about how marriage equality is important to them, and those we have seen are heartbreakingly beautiful. It is such a tragedy they cannot do this for real," Moore said.

Rainbow Campus activists delivered wedding invitations directly to the SRC, USU and University administration. The University has confirmed that Ally Network Chair Mark Smith will be in attendance, but did not specify whether other administrative staff includ-

ing Vice Chancellor Michael Spence will join the growing guest list.

Moore said the University were "brushing off" the wedding "in the same way that the University has brushed off accepting marriage equality".

"The University of Sydney is one of the few in the country to have a thriving gender studies department, and have the opportunity to make a real impact in supporting marriage equality Australia if they chose to do so."

If you would like to attend the nuptials search for "Our Rainbow Wedding" on Facebook. RSVPs are polite and necessary.

NEWS

Liberals rig Wollongong Uni referendum on National Union of Students

Max Hall

Liberal members of the Wollongong University Student Association (WUSA) have been accused of rigging a referendum that resolved 24-3 for the campus student organisation to leave the National Union of Students last Wednesday.

Only WUSA members were entitled to vote in the referendum, and, while membership is technically available to all students, WUSA allowed only a short window for new members to sign up prior to the vote.

"A more rigged process could hardly have been imagined," Cam Petrie, NUS' national general secretary, said in a Facebook comment.

Peter Munford, the NUS Small and Regional Officer from Wollongong Uni, characterised the referendum as having "all to do with corrupt young Liberals hell bent on destroying student democracy".

NUS national office-bearers including Petrie, Munford, national president Sinead Colee and national welfare officer Robby Magyar, flew to Wollongong with a dozen other campaigners in "Yes to NUS" t-shirts, to contest the ballot.

Unable to vote or enfranchise additional Wollongong University students, the NUS office-bearers collected signatures in support of ongoing membership of the national organisation.

Students have until August 10 to appeal the outcome of the referendum.



BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

good sports. bad sports. sports.

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THESE HONI TICKETS HAVE NAMES SO WRITING ABOUT THEM ISN'T SO CLUNKY, TBH

It's one week out from nominations closing and *Honi* believes none of the three tickets looking to contest the editorship of this paper in September have reached 10 members (the maximum allowed on the ballot).

To recap, here are the teams we know of so far.

Ticket A: Aparna Balakumar, Swetha Das, Nina Dillon Britton, Will Edwards, Daniel Ergas, Eden Faithfull, Kevin Lee, Jemima Wilson. (Managers: Adam Ursino, Noah Vaz.)

Ticket B: Nick Bonyhady, Justine Landis-Hanley, Aidan Molins, Siobhan Ryan, Michael Sun, Evie Woodforde, Ann Ding, Tina Huang, Gillian Kayrooz

Ticket C: John Patrick Asimakis, Josh Koby Wooller

Honi can now report Ticket B has added *Honi* reporter and artist Ann Ding, *Honi* reporter Tina Huang and SCA student – and *Honi* artist – Gillian Kayrooz. Huang will – like Balakumar on Ticket A – be on exchange during this semester's campaign, so it seems likely Ticket B will run on 11.

After *Honi* reported rumours in last week's *BD&M* that Ticket C was coupling up with Dom Bondar's campaign for SULC presidency, John Patrick Asimakis has confirmed to us that no member of his ticket had joined SULC for this reason. This week in rumours about the most mysterious horse in this race, there are stories floating around that first-year USU Board directors Esther Shim and Grace Franki are both involved in Asimakis' campaign, however we can report this is not the case.

Shim, who ran to edit *Honi* on the

unsuccessful STRIP for *Honi* last year, will be supporting Ticket A (but, as she stressed "not in a management role"), and Franki, who managed the current team of *Honi* editors as SCOOP for *Honi*, told us she had been approached by "multiple tickets" but has opted to give advice to "everyone who has asked for it" instead of aligning with one ticket at present.

AT LEAST THE FACULTY REVUES HAVE NAMES NOW

Revue titles are out and campus creative and critics are flocking to Facebook events to be judgmental. Fortunately for us, this often stirs sweet controversies, this time kicking off with the 2016 Law Revue, *Royal Commission: Impossible*.

In the show event, the UNSW Law Revue society shared the poster of their 1983 revue entitled "Commission Impossible". The caption read "#tbt UNSW Law Revue 1983?" followed by a pass-agg love heart emoji. A law revue cast member replied with the sassy comeback, "We're sorry we hadn't heard of a revue that nobody saw". Both post and comment received around 200 likes each.

Fellow cast member and assistant director, Kieran Hoyle, told *Honi*, "I didn't mind the post. It was pretty funny and good publicity for the show."

This is not the first time Law Revue has shared a title with another revue, the 2014's "House of Clerks" was also the title of the 2014 University of Auckland Law revue.

SPORT

The Sydney University Women's Rugby team are now the 2016 Premiers after defeating Parramatta 25-24 in the finals. The Sydney University Men's Rugby team are not the 2016 Premiers after Norths

defeated them 28-15. Over 11,000 spectators watched the USyd men lose their sport. Less than 1000 people watched the USyd women win. Thank you for reading our sports news 2016.

NON-ACCESS FOOD OUTLET TAKEN OVER BY OTHER SCAB OUTLET

Love the tiny bit of frightened pee that comes out when grabbing a coffee (read: being screamed at) at Ralph's but can't be bothered walking all the way to Bosch? Never fear: Ralph's has taken over campus' other non-ACCESS outlet, Boardwalk café on the Redfern side of Gadigal.

Boardwalk, also known by its pre-2015 moniker, 'Mint', has been operated by the team from Ralph's since Monday last week. *Honi's* reporter was simply too fucking scared to speak to anyone who works at Ralph's lest they just shout about there being an ATM on the back wall and embarrass us in front of half the Waratahs reserve grade. However, we have ascertained through multiple trips to both outlets and a couple of covert words with a woman who used to work at Mint that Ralph's plan on retaining both locations, and most of the Mint staff have stuck around at Mint/Boardwalk.

The menu at the outlet is now a mix of both cafes - Boardwalk burgers remain, but the pastas and impenetrably cling-wrapped biscuits and pastries of Ralph's are also on offer.

However, we have buried the lede: the real story here is that the new outlet has retained Boardwalk's EFTPOS machines, meaning the Ralph's staff will need to find something other than, "Have your money ready!" to bellow into our weeping faces.

STUPID POLITICS

NLS & Unity sign SRC deal with Libs

Max Hall

Campus factions Student Unity (Labor Right) and National Labor Students (NLS, Labor Left) have signed a deal with "moderate Liberals" to form a coalition for the upcoming Students' Representative Council elections.

The deal, detailed in a series of leaked screenshots from Student Unity's private Facebook group, sees a formal alliance between Labor and Liberal factions for the first time since a power-sharing agreement between NLS, Unity and Liberals collapsed a week before the 2015 allocation of SRC executive positions.

"We have chosen our coalition and signed a deal for the election," Michael Elliott, Student Universi-

ty's campus convenor, posted in the group shortly after news of a Grassroots and Sydney Labor Students alliance became public. "We will be working with NLS and the Esther Shim aligned 'independents' – more accurately the Moderate Liberals.

"I know I previously ruled this out but circumstances have changed dramatically."

When shown the screenshots, Elliott confirmed their authenticity but insisted "no formal deal is in place". "Had SLS not decided to work with Grassroots, then we wouldn't be in this position," he said, arguing that the moderate Liberals "have shown less willingness to work actively against the National Union of Students than SLS and Grassroots".

Despite Elliott's confirmation,

current SRC president Chloe Smith, the most prominent NLS member on campus, denied negotiating or signing the deal. She insisted that NLS has a blanket rule against dealing with Liberals, despite the faction having done so as recently as last year.

The leaked screenshots indicate substantial paranoia about the possibility of the deal being discovered. "I must stress that nobody outside this group can know the breakdown of positions, or that we are working with the mods," Elliott wrote.

"If anybody gets under your skin or tries to speak to you (especially honi [sic]), please say nothing and let me know immediately. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT LEAKING THIS INFORMATION YOU WILL BE DISCIPLINED

HEAVILY"

This likely reflects the fear that discovery of the deal would lead to a backlash akin to the 2015 furor that saw NLS step away from a similar partnership to form a coalition with Grassroots and the Socialist Alternative.

Terming the deal with NLS and Liberals a "powerhouse coalition," Unity member Dylan Williams, currently Welfare Officer of the SRC, followed Elliott's announcement with one of the more insidious lessons of campus politics: "If any friends ask who they will be campaigning for when you ask – tell them that it's all for you!"

In the event of an NLS/Unity/Liberal victory, the deal would hand Unity the SRC general secretary position, one of two education officers, a general executive,

welfare officer and at least eight minor positions.

It is unclear which positions Liberal students have been promised.

The Labor/Liberal coalition will face off against an alliance of Grassroots, SLS and the Socialist Alternative who are supporting current SRC General Secretary Georgia Mantle for president. Williams appears to term these groups "IRRELEVANT FACTIONS" in a rousing organisational post to the Unity group.

Moderate Liberals were previously rumoured to be supporting the presidential ambitions of Sydney Arts Students Society president, Ed McCann.

Shim did not respond to requests for comment before our print deadline.

NEWS

SYDNEY COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

More than 130 students take on Sydney University for alleged breach of consumer law

The Vice-Chancellor has given assurances SCA students' grievances will be taken seriously, but the SRC legal team is not ruling out pursuing the University in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Tom Joyner

The number of Sydney College of the Arts students pursuing the University of Sydney over proposed changes to the Bachelor of Visual Arts degree has grown to more than 130, according to the solicitor managing the case.

The claims, managed by the SRC's free legal service, allege the University misled already enrolled students who were unaware access to the Rozelle campus and its unique facilities, such as its ceramic kilns and an etching press, was not guaranteed beyond 2020.

A letter sent by McLoughlin to Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence on August 2, seen by *Honi Soit*, claims the University breached its legal responsibilities to students. Under sections 18 and 21 of the Australian Consumer Law, customers have legal rights protecting them from misleading business practices.

McLoughlin said he received a

response from the Vice-Chancellor with the assurance that the students' grievances would be taken seriously, however he did not rule out pursuing the University in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

"If this matter goes to NCAT then there are procedures to legally require production of documents and to personally subpoena witnesses from senior management of Sydney University for cross-examination," said McLoughlin. "To not mince words, I think it would be a marketing and public relations disaster for the University to go into litigation one by one with 130 students."

McLoughlin said the number of student consumer claims against the University was growing steadily and had the potential to reach into the hundreds as the campaign gathered steam.

The University's June 21 announcement of the closure of SCA and its Rozelle campus in favour of merging the school

with UNSW to create a 'centre for excellence' faced significant opposition from students, staff, alumni, major University donors and the arts community, as well as state and federal MPs.

A sustained campaign saw the Vice-Chancellor backtrack on those plans late last month. In an email to students, he instead said the art school would be moved to the University's Camperdown campus and merged with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the Bachelor of Visual Arts discontinued from 2017.

While there is no clear blueprint for how the school will integrate into the Camperdown campus, University Provost Stephen Garton told a gathering of SCA staff on June 29 the school would become "smaller" and "more streamlined" should the plans with UNSW not go ahead. He also foreshadowed with some certainty job losses among SCA staff. "Staffing levels are unsustainable and have

to reduce under any scenario," he told the gathering.

Sources close to management suggest the University is not taking any chances in its damage control efforts in the wake of student backlash. *Honi* understands self-proclaimed spin doctor Sue Cato, who is engaged ad hoc by the University as external consultant, has advised the Vice-Chancellor on his PR strategy following the fallout from the SCA announcement.

Representatives of the student-led 'Let SCA Stay' campaign have vowed to continuing fighting the changes. SRC Education Officer Dylan Griffiths said a protest was planned for the University's August 27 Open Day.

"We need to lay the foundations for another strong year to make sure that students very much have what they signed up for. Also [we are] sending a very loud message to management that SCA is to stay where it is," said Griffiths.

Independent legal advice sought by *Honi* suggested there were grounds to lodge consumer claims based on misleading representations by universities, particularly with tertiary institutions seen increasingly as businesses.

Pending a full inquiry into the future of the art school, SCA management will tender a list of demands to the University, according to a source close to the school's administration.

These demands include a new mixed-media Bachelor of Visual Communications degree, combined degree programs with other faculties, dedicated marketing, recruitment and technical staff, twice annual 10-day exhibition periods for students, and building refurbishments at the Rozelle campus for the purpose of student accommodation.

A University spokesperson declined to comment on matters potentially before the tribunal.

Comic: Matthew Fisher



ANALYSIS

MEDIA TAKEDOWNS

Follow the science, not the clickbait

Nick Berg has a winning smile and it's because of science

The Associated Press recently published an article called "Medical benefits of dental floss unproven". A similar one from the *New York Times* followed: "Feeling Guilty About Not Flossing? Maybe There's No Need." The BBC continued the trend with "Should you floss or not? Study says benefits unproven". *Vox* chimed in with a characteristic "The AP asked the government for proof that flossing works. The answer: '_(_)/'". News.com.au rounded out the set with "Flossing is a complete waste of time: investigation".

In a world where climate-change-deniers, anti-vaxxers, and young-earth-creationists serve as elected representatives, clearly overwhelming scientific evidence is insufficient when the message is inconvenient.

This is not assisted by scientific journalism being, on the most part, bad (see *Huffington Post's* "A Glass Of Red Wine Is Equivalent To An Hour At The Gym").

The reason for bad science reporting is economic: newspapers want readers, and more people click on "wine = gym" than anything printed in *Nature*. I hope you are skeptical of the gym wine equality. If not, ask what the consequences would be if you swapped wine with the gym?

These stories are an incredibly dangerous form of bad science. They're not an argument against flossing, but against doing so badly. They're not an argument against flossing, but an argument against doing it poorly.

If you read the articles you might notice that the studies cited are in fact studies of studies. You

would be right in concluding that there is relatively little evidence for the benefit of flossing in particular. But is that really the message you take away from these headlines? I, personally, read them as "Hey! Person who is statistically likely to be relatively undisciplined in oral hygiene! Relax :) Your dentist is talking crap. Click here to have your laziness validated!" You may feel broadly the same. The real problem in the data, by way of insufficient and poorly controlled studies, is very different to the cognitive dissonance these articles inspire. Here is a quick

These stories are an incredibly dangerous form of bad science. They're not an argument against flossing, but against doing so badly.

refresher on tooth decay. You are mostly bacteria (though not 10:1). Some of those bacteria live in your mouth, where you also put food and grind the food into small pieces. Lots of food either contains sugar, or can be converted to sugar. If this food stays in your mouth, the bacteria digest it and produce acid. This breaks your teeth. This hurts. So you don't want food and bacteria to stay on your teeth.

I am not a dentist but teeth + acid = bad times for you. Don't soak your mouth in acid. Don't

HOW MUCH
OF YOU
IS MADE
UP OF
BACTERIA

60%

RISK
REDUCED
BY
FLOSSING
ACCORDING
TO
SCIENCE

40%

leave sugar or starch in your mouth for bacteria to eat. Rinsing with clean (fluoridated) water is great. Brushing your teeth helps some more. And when there are bits of food in between your teeth, you probably need something more than water and the toothbrush. Vice-President of the American Academy of Periodontology, Wayne Aldredge, uses floss. One of the authors of anti-floss papers, Fridus Van Der Weijden, uses toothpicks. So you don't have to floss, but you do have to clean your mouth out. Properly.

Professor Joerg Eberhard, speaking with *Honi*, says "interdental cleaning is even more important than using a toothbrush".

But back to the story that broke. Here are some quotes from the studies that were cited: "Flossing plus tooth brushing showed a statistically significant benefit compared to tooth brushing [alone] in reducing gingivitis".

"Professional flossing performed on school days for 1.7 years on predominantly primary teeth in children was associated with a 40 per cent caries risk reduction."

"The dental professional should determine, on an individual patient basis, whether high-quality flossing is an achievable goal."

"There is some evidence from twelve studies that flossing in addition to tooth brushing reduces gingivitis compared to tooth brushing alone."

In short, those clickbait headlines should actually read "Flossing Works But You're A Bit Shit At It". With a lede like that, the article is probably not going to get many readers, but that's science.

The minimum bared

Alexandros Tsathas takes a closer look at EFTPOS minimums on campus

Both the pains in the neck and *amis de pain* who frequent Taste Baguette must have been delighted to learn upon returning from their break that their favourite outlet has done away with its \$10 EFTPOS minimum. The same intriguing development led your curious correspondent to consider why a card minimum remains in place at other outlets on campus, and whether it is justified.

We begin with a recap of high school commerce, or at least what I imagine to be the type of ground covered there.

When a cardholder purchases something from Taste, money is transferred from their bank account (let's say Commonwealth) to Taste's bank account (they roll with Westpac). Although Commonwealth and Westpac manage the two accounts, a third party, the payment processing system (usually eftpos, VISA or Mastercard), actually moves the money electronically between the banks. The processing systems do their jobs in the milliseconds between entering one's PIN and when the words "transaction approved" appear on the terminal. They check that you have enough money in your account, makes sure your card isn't dodgy, approve the transaction and log it, so the banks can settle between themselves at the end of each day.

There are costs associated with this process. Firstly, eftpos (the company, which is different to EFTPOS – a technical term for "paying by card"), VISA and Mastercard charge a fee for the processing service they provide. eftpos charges a flat rate of 3c per transaction; VISA and Mastercard, usually 0.5% of the value of the transaction. For each card terminal, banks also charge installa-

tion, maintenance and "access" fees to merchants. Depending on a stack of variables including but not limited to: the type of card, country of origin of the card and the number of transactions a merchant processes each month, additional charges are added to the transaction, and these are all borne by the merchant. Because of all these variables, it's impossible to pin the banks down on the typical cost of a single card transaction. The yardstick for small businesses is 25c per transaction. Generally speaking, the greater a merchant's turnover, the better the deal they can negotiate.

So why impose a card minimum? According to Angelo, the manager of Parma Cucina+Bar (which imposes a \$10 minimum), "when we're selling a cup of coffee for \$3, even less with ACCESS, our margins are already low, so it's tough for us to make a buck if we take another hit with the card fee." He says raising prices to absorb card costs would make him uncompetitive. "But above \$10, we can afford it."

Daniel Panebianco, the manager of Ralph's Café, mounts an almost identical argument for card minimums; he also cites a slower speed of service. The \$2.80 fee for withdrawal from the in-house ATM probably has something to do with it too.

Whilst it is unlawful for a merchant to pass on a "card surcharge" greater than its real cost, imposing a minimum amount on card transactions is perfectly legal. The Commonwealth Bank is the only of the big four that explicitly prohibits card minimums in its merchant agreement, but doesn't enforce this condition strictly. In the event of a breach, according to the bank, they "will respond

Art: Victoria Zerbst



by contacting the merchant and educating them on their obligations under the terms and conditions".

But there is cost to cash, just as there is a cost to each card transaction. That cost comes in the form of handling and input errors, time spent counting it, Armaguard, and the fees that banks charge merchants for physically depositing it. Speaking to Warwick Ponder, Executive Manager of Corporate Affairs at eftpos, it seems that economies of scale – how much cash a business handles – has a strong influence on whether it makes fiscal sense for a merchant to impose a card minimum. The more cash they handle, the higher the cost of its handling, and the closer it approaches that of just absorbing card transaction fees (which actually decrease as a merchant's volume of transactions increases).

Whether or not a merchant chooses to adopt an EFTPOS minimum is a delicate decision that must take into account a range of factors, including typical transaction amount, the number of transactions they process each month, and the deal they can negotiate with their bank.

Why did Taste Baguette do away with its minimum? Mitch, who was the manager on duty, said it was "management's decision".

Understandable, considering its complexity.



‘The most empowering thing I ever did was politicise my own assault’

Nina Dillon Britton and Nina Funnell talk sexual violence, the media and why USyd is still failing survivors



CONTENT WARNING: THIS ARTICLE DISCUSSES SEXUAL ASSAULT/SEXUAL VIOLENCE

I’m torn. I don’t want to start this piece writing about Nina Funnell’s assault. She has written about her attack in detail, in her own words, in her own pieces. Reducing her to it plays into the way in which we reduce all survivors of gendered violence to their experience of trauma.

At the same time though, I can’t not mention it. It’s key to understanding Funnell. Not because assault is an innate part of a survivor’s identity, but because this experience informs her unflinching advocacy for survivors of sexual assault. It speaks to her steely strength, which isn’t worn on her sleeve, but concealed behind a remarkable charm.

“In my very first counselling session with a sexual assault counsellor following the assault, she started by saying ‘now you know you’re not to blame don’t you?’ I was shocked and somewhat appalled that she even suggested it.”

“The counsellor smiled and explained that the overwhelming majority of women who enter her office blame themselves for what’s happened to them.”

“I scoffed and said ‘well that’s not my problem. My problem’s going to be anger management. I just want to kill the fucker who did this to me.’”

Nina tells me, “The very nature of sexual assault is that it robs a person of power and control. While I was not raped, I was strangled, bashed, and indecently assaulted, and speaking out about that was pivotal in regaining a sense of ownership over what happened that night.”

“The most empowering thing I ever did was politicise my own assault.”

Nina Funnell is one of Australia’s most outspoken advocates for survivors of sexual assault. She’s been involved with grassroots movements like Reclaim the Night, The Pillow Talk Project, End Rape on Campus and Slut Walk, which aim to deconstruct victim blaming attitudes that entrap women as complicit in their own assault. Her work is deeply respected, and she has been trusted with a place on the Premier’s Council in Preventing Violence Against Women and the board of the NSW Rape Crisis Centre.

Photo: Supplied

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

When I ask her why she’s continued this work for so long she tells me: “I honestly don’t know. I care, I guess. I care that this is happening. I care that I see the same issues replay over and over. I’ve spoken to students all around Australia and it’s the same story. It feels like groundhog day.”

Going public with her story has made Funnell the subject of backlash. “One guy wrote ‘what a conceited bitch for thinking she’s even worthy of being raped. The guy just probably wanted to give her a good bashing in which case job well done.’ Another guy wrote that he wanted to ‘hate fuck’ me. Another guy wrote that I probably ‘made the whole thing up’, including male DNA and the police reports.”

“I see the same issues replay over and over. I’ve spoken to students all around Australia and it’s the same story. It feels like groundhog day.”

But Funnell stands by her decision.

“I received an outpouring of support. A lot of people reached out because they wanted to share their own stories too. I think it empowers other survivors to come forward and own their own experiences. It’s ‘permission giving’ in a way.”

Funnell’s activism continued after she became a Media and Communications tutor at USyd. Survivors would come to her to disclose their own experiences of sexual assault and harassment.

“To my knowledge not one of those cases [reported to me personally] resulted in any kind of disciplinary action from the University and I doubt that any of those reported rapes would even be reflected in formal figures kept by the University.”

“I felt so angry that this was happening, and so sickened by both the actions of the perpetrators and the inaction of the university. Most of all though, I felt desperately sad. Sad that this was happening, sad that members of the administration were either denying it or minimising it and sad that I could not do more to help.”

Funnell says that disclosures of assault to staff aren’t necessarily recorded and that unless the victim files a formal report the disclosure won’t be reflected in the University’s figures.

Looked at from a tutor’s perspective, they also receive no training or counselling in dealing with student disclosures.

Given her experiences as a tutor, Funnell’s view of the institutional response to sexual assault is justifiably cynical. All the university has to and does do, Funnell tells me, is wait for the victim to graduate, or, in many cases, drop-out.

“The university then doesn’t have to deal with the problem and can wash their hands of it.”

Despite a growing awareness of the threat endemic sexual assault poses to university stu-

INITIATIVES NINA HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN:

Reclaim the Night: An annual international event that campaigns against violence against women, usually through the form of a rally.

The Pillow Talk Project: An organisation that aims to change the conversation for young people by providing them with accurate information that promotes sexual wellbeing and ethical behaviour.

End Rape on Campus: A survivor advocacy organisation that establishes support networks, mentors student activists and helps with filing complaints so that best practices for preventing sexual violence are in place and enforced in universities.

Slut Walk: A global movement of protest marches calling for an end to rape culture, sparked by rallies in Toronto in 2011 when a police officer suggested “women should avoid dressing like sluts” to prevent sexual assault.

“As someone who now works in the media, it’s incredible to watch what the next generation are doing. We weren’t half as savvy in my era.”

dents, particularly in light of the University’s recently published report on sexual assault and continuing college scandals, Funnell says the pace of change is slow.

“There is real resistance. A few years ago RPA sexual assault service offered to provide sessions with the colleges on consent and sexual assault. To my knowledge, not one of them took up the offer.”

Perhaps then, it is naïve for me to ask her if she believes there’s been change made since her time at the University.

“No. Well, not from the University,” she answers bluntly.

“What I think has changed are two things: the students and social media. As someone who now works in the media, it’s incredible to watch what the next generation are doing. We weren’t half that savvy in my era.”



Thousands of students walk past it every day. Tim Lee stares down an architectural mystery

Art by Ann Ding

It’s widely accepted that we have a fairly beautiful campus. The Charles Perkins Centre and the Law Building are new, glassy and impressive; Anderson Stuart is grand and old; and the mid-century polish of the Chemistry Building and Fisher Library, although not everyone’s cup of tea, still have a whiff of Mad-Men chic.

But in the rogue’s gallery of campus buildings, it’s the Quad that gets the glory. The most beautiful building in Camperdown, however, has one angle that makes it even better.

Come up out of Victoria Park and look over the perfectly aligned path, and you can see the Quad’s central tower. From the iron gates on City Road to the clock on top, it’s a 500 metre, uninterrupted view, with everything all-lined up, like a

straight-rule twice the size of the Titanic. I mean, the flagpole is slightly to one side, but that symmetrical view (or axis), is pretty much perfect.

This didn’t happen without effort. For many years the straight boulevard disappeared, and was only restored to its current glory through close coordination between local council and university. The final piece of the vista, those steps halfway up, were only finished in 2002.

But it’s just a facsimile, the sidekick of a more ancient, less obvious axis over by Manning Road. The Wilkinson Axis is an architectural phenomenon-stroke-masterplan dreamt up and created by the University’s first professor of architecture. It’s a line carved through the west half of our campus.

If you stand at the top of the Refectory (next to the Holme Building), you could, at any point from 1925 onwards, see in an unbroken line to the Physics Building: Mediterranean-inspired, heritage-listed, full of cathode ray tubes.

And as the University of Sydney built up, well-meaning, idealistic architects wanting to play a part in this dead man's blueprint, have done their best to obey it. That's the reason why the Education and Old Teacher's College split like the Red Sea.

The top half of the Wilkinson Axis is a bit muddled these days. Trees block it in front of the Refectory and, between the Woolley and Holme buildings, it's become a road that veers off at the wrong angle. But what the top half lacks the bottom half makes up for. The 1991-built Education Building not only obeys the axis, but beautifully mirrors the Physics Building behind.

I remember standing on the little lawn outside the Education Building in my first year and taking in their perfect alignment. The bridge between Education and Old Teachers has the same slant as the careful Ionic portico of Physics. It's a perfect, rare symmetry, like a picture frame made out of multi-storey buildings.

To get that view, architects in the 1990s had to co-ordinate their plans with buildings built nearly 70 years earlier. The Education Building might not make anyone's list of loveliest buildings on campus, but its architects clearly tried extremely hard to get the building to harmonise with the eclectic platter of those around it. It would have been much easier to just join the two parts of the building together. But they broke the mold, split it in two like a clam and opened up a neglected line of sight on campus, displaying the beautiful Physics Building like it hung in a gallery.

There's an objectively nice sense of order when buildings line up symmetrically. Canberra does it brilliantly along the Parliamentary Triangle. It's grand, it's formal, it says to the world 'we're serious and know what we're doing'.

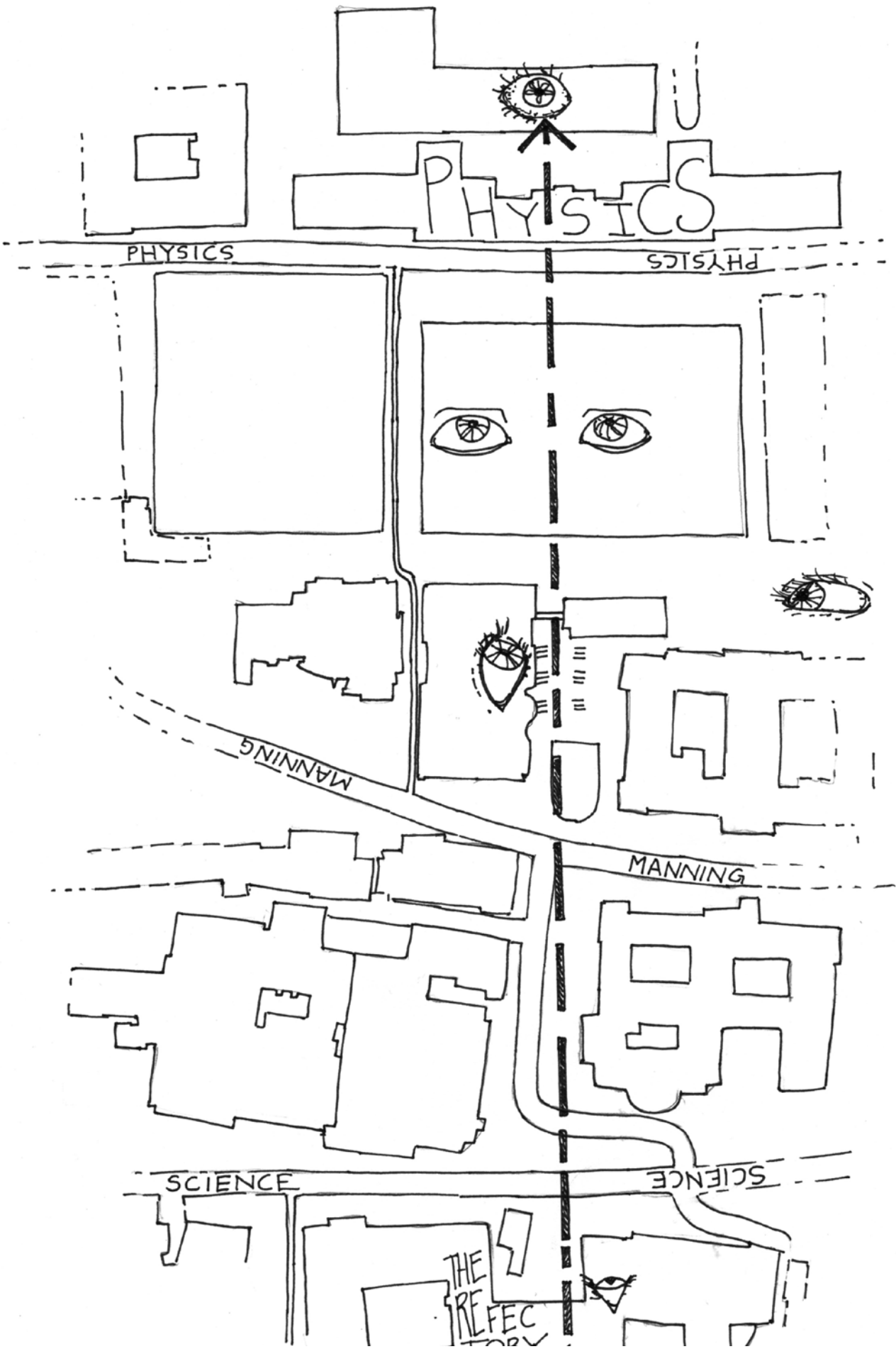
So when they announced the new Nanotechnology Hub behind the Physics Building, I kept a careful eye on it. The scaffolding went up. I fretted. I found flythroughs and architect's impressions, but they were hard to interpret. This building landed squat across the axis, so I was interested to see how the architects would deal with it. Would there be something dead centre - a safe-pair of hands to keep the axis connected? Or two towers, like they have on the Physics Building, to force a kind of symmetry? I watched and waited.

As the scaffolding came down, it was clear something was wrong. The towers were there - two raised pillars on either side of the Physics portico. But they sat wrong. You could see the error from the Education lawn, poking up behind Physics, a sneaky off-centring detail like putting an epaulet on the Mona Lisa.

The towers stood a noticeable half-step too far to the left, in a gut-wrenching wrecking of symmetry. Like a perfect billiards shot painstakingly lined up over 100 years, spinning off at the last step. I needed to look at photos of Canberra just to calm down.

I reasoned that it wasn't so bad. The towers looked like they were shifted to the left, but if you added a little bit to one tower they would even out again. You could just stick a bit of glass and plywood on it and symmetry would return. A few weeks later they made a different addition. A telescope dome, directly on their off-centre palace, like an unremovable hubcap that proved how wrong they'd got it. No amount of plywood and glass could fix that.

I started to avoid walking near the grass in front of the Education Building - the horror



There's an objectively nice sense of order when buildings line up symmetrically. Canberra does it brilliantly along the Parliamentary Triangle.

of that misaligned axis was too much to bear. I was mystified that there wasn't a general outcry, that the Nanoscience Building - still incomplete - wasn't being picketed by angry protesters. On several occasions I would corner an unsuspecting colleague, explain to them the problem, then drag them down to the lawn in front of the Education Building to point out the misalignment. Invariably they agreed with me that there was a problem (they also invariably had fear in their eyes).

How could this have happened? Is it really possible that the designers of the Nanoscience Building got it wrong in the year 2015, after the Greeks had been getting buildings to line up for 2,500 years?

The architects clearly knew about the Wilkinson Axis (why else have two towers with a dome exactly in-between?), but shifted the whole thing slightly too far to the left. Did the building have to be slightly askew because of some unexplained foundational issue? I was angry but prepared to accept a reasonable answer.

I needed more information. I requested the plans of the Nanoscience Building from Campus Infrastructure Services, and looked at them carefully. Here, the rear of the Physics Building had been drawn up next to the Nanoscience Building, so I could check exactly how they were aligned. The main issue, of course, was the roof.

In 1926, the NSW Institute of Architects spooked and made USyd appoint a second-in-command to bring him back to earth. Alfred Hook took over construction and practical courses, Wilkinson was relegated to teaching design and history, which you'd assume he'd enjoyed.

On paper, there was no issue. No matter how I sliced it, the Nanoscience Building lined up with the Physics Building perfectly.

Leslie Wilkinson was, by all accounts, a weird

guy. A prodigy, he won medals for architecture while still in school. At just 19, he toured Europe on the Royal Academy of Arts' dime. He wrote his USyd job application on the kind of calligraphed, colour-inked parchment monks made for old bibles and wore a top hat to his interview.

Initially, given a post in the science department, Wilkinson campaigned for the founding of the Faculty of Architecture, and got it in 1920. They made him the Dean.

His inaugural course was saturated with idealism and a focus on the intellectual and abstract, rather than bricks and mortar. Philosophy, design theory and architectural history were all compulsory.

Whatever happened though, they couldn't touch the Axis, formed as soon as Wilkinson plonked the Physics Building down in 1925. In

many ways, it's the ultimate legacy of this big-picture thinker who thought architecture was art. A crazy-beautiful vision of symmetry and uninterrupted sight, dreamt up in 1920 and still in place as 100 years of buildings popped up.

But now someone has fucked it up. I decided that the plans could only help me so much. I had to get boots on the ground. I stood on the Education Building bridge, I climbed to the upper floor of the Holme Refectory, I walked through the Physics Building again and again. I visited the third floor of the Nanoscience Building to look back at the axis from the other direction.

Nothing made sense. Objects that lined up when looking from one direction seemed to be out of whack when looked at from the other side. Was it possible the back of the Physics Building was somehow misaligned with its own front? But not even that seemed to be the answer.

I had four suspects: Nanoscience, Physics, Education and the Refectory. They couldn't all be innocent. In the rain, I wearily pulled down the brim of my fedora and sucked moodily on a cigarette. Had the trail gone cold? Where could I go for answers? I asked friends to walk along the axis so I could get the opinion. I bought binoculars.

The truth didn't come in a single eureka moment. It settled over me slowly, as the horror of the situation was made clear. Vader was my father, the call was coming from inside the house, it was Planet Earth the whole time.

I had framed the wrong perpetrator. Like in an Agatha Christie novel, the real villain had pretended to be the innocent party from the start, only revealing its true nature in the last act. It's clearest when standing behind the Physics Building, looking through the glass doors of the lobby and over the field. Line it up perfectly, and the Education Building is very clearly offset to the right. The Education building was wrong the whole time.

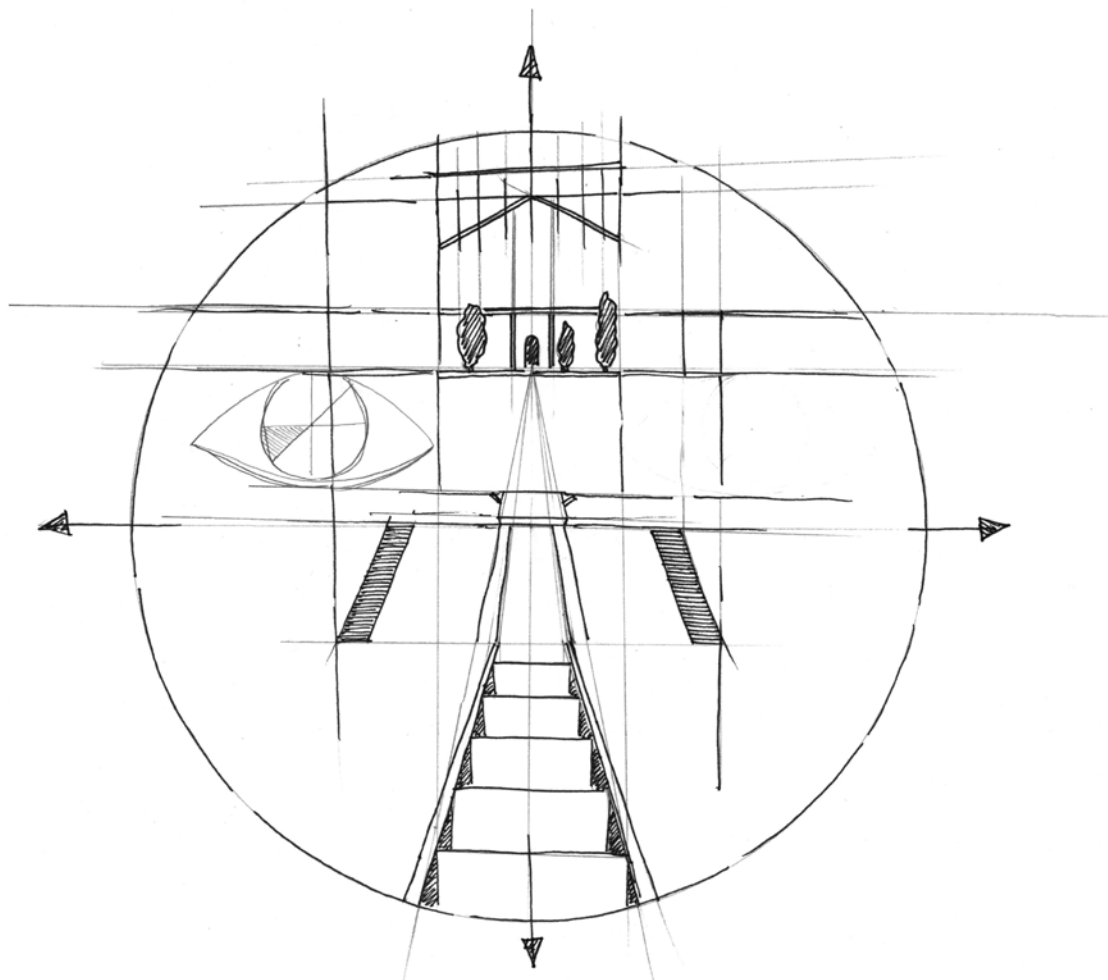
I should have seen it from the start. If you look from the Education lawn, turn towards Physics and line the bridge perfectly, you realise that it's not pointed at the Physics Building head on, but actually comes in slightly to the left.

The eaves of Physics' central roof look a little different on each side. It's very subtle, but it's clear. The Education bridge is definitely pointed at the Physics Building, just not from the right angle.

But it gets worse. I realised that even when you cut out Education, Physics doesn't line up with the Refectory. From the Refectory roof, Physics looks very slightly shifted to the right. Physics, Education, Refectory: none of them are in line with each other. Although the Nanoscience Building looks wrong, it is actually the only innocent party. It lines up perfectly with the Physics Building directly in front of it, and we can't really expect more from it than that.

There are so many obvious questions to be asked. Why was the Education Building built slightly offset? Why are the Refectory and the Physics Building not aligned with one another? And above all, was the Wilkinson Axis always just a dream, a subtle illusion shattered by a telescope dome? Can it really be true that there is no Wilkinson Axis, and there never was?

This was the end of my story of obsession, a dark period of straight-edges and binoculars. With the Wilkinson Axis really nothing more than four buildings in a wonky line, I learned that not everything can be perfect. The Champs Elysees in Paris- surely one of the longest and most famous symmetrical axes in any city in the world- has misaligned buildings at both ends. Perhaps the lesson is that I need to have a lie down - though the flagpole on the Quad, I'm pretty sure, is slightly to one side.



What is the Wilkinson Axis?

A significant architectural feature of the campus' design, you can see part of the **Wilkinson Axis** for yourself by stand at the top of the stairs between the **Education Building** and the **Old Teacher's College** facing towards the **Square** (the grass playing field at the bottom) and looking for the point where the the footbridge aligns with the of the **Physics Building** opposite. It was a consideration of the architects: "On each boundary, relationships with adjoining buildings and urban spaces had to be resolved. To the south it had to complete the **Square** and respond to the long low form of Wilkinson's 1924 **Physics Building**."



Photo: University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture blog, 'Design in Brickwork'

A comedy hornucopia

Jayce Carrano is going to toot his horn for these comedians

If you're after the top brass in local comedy, look no further. *Small Trumpet*, Sydney University's very own weekly comedy night, was launched last Wednesday and we're in for a treat.

Despite Poseidon's efforts, Hermann's filled out to see stand up, songs and sketches. The line-up was bursting with comedic talent such as ABC-approved Stu Daulman and Triple-J certified Gen Fricker as well as homegrown Sydney Uni spuds like Sarah Gaul, Freudian Nip and The Reuben Ward Experience.

Stu Daulman was a successful MC, setting the ball rolling with a snappy, self-deprecating style. He occasionally dropped into an is-it-creepy-is-it-charming step-dad laugh that wasn't really a hit but would wrench the audience aside with pure self-awareness ("Yeah, I quit my job for this shit").

Fiona Cox delivered a sharp deconstruction of the idiosyncrasies of "smart-casual" events with a dry wit reminiscent of Rita Rudner. Meanwhile, Eric Hutton deconstructed our fastest-sperm-pride and earned some of the biggest laughs of the night.

Ange Lavoipierre picked apart the nitty gritty details of moon cups and birth with down-to-earth honesty while Jamie Timony was about as

far from earth as it gets with an intentionally awkward stage presence and a poem about chopping off his feet.

Opening up act two, Sarah Gaul was "interrupted" by Patrick Morrow and Aidan Molins, who delivered a smorgasbord of one liners they'd cooked up with the perfect ratio of three parts laughs and two parts groan. Recovering quickly from being sidelined, Gaul's musical piece ("Are bikes people or cars?") had the audience in hysterics and afforded her a huge round of applause to match her beaming stage presence.

Cameron James was one of the most professional comics there, despite drawing blood when he accidentally bludgeoned himself with the microphone. His smooth transitions and well-practiced rendition of traumatising paintball experiences had him ducking and groaning across the stage.

Freudian Nip carried the torch for sketch enthusiasts, running across the line with uncanny impressions of their own mums that had one half of the audience thanking their lucky stars they left home and the other half decrying the housing bubble that's keeping them in parental purgatory.

Meanwhile, Gearard McGeown lamented

Small Trumpet is a weekly comedy symposium that alternates between standup, sketch, improv and news-related comedy. It's on 7pm every Wednesday at Hermanns.

the weekly paycheque that reminds him he's an "unskilled labourer" and set up a string of belly laughs before fizzling gracefully. Gen Fricker's piece took the opposite trajectory – starting slow

All the excitement of reality television and none of the OH&S concerns as a man ate razorblades

with acne tribulations before turning it up a notch with her outstanding song: 'You've Ruined Me for White Guys'. The show ended with The Reuben Ward Experience which had all the excitement of reality television and none of the OH&S concerns as a man ate razorblades and we loved every moment of it. The launch was a success and ground control says all systems are go.

A great show from (almost) every angle

Nabila Chemaisssem reviews MUSE's The Hatpin

Sydney University Musical Society's (MUSE) latest offering, directed by Hayden Tonazzi, did justice to its rendition of Peter Rutherford's *The Hatpin*. As a musical based on the nineteenth century life of Amber Murray, the performance navigated the damning impact of misogyny on a woman who was forced to give her illegitimate child up for adoption to a family she later discovered were baby farmers.

Insofar as the acting, writing, and the band go, the show was brilliant. It opened with a sombre musical score which evoked a world slowly waking up. The choreography was amazing. The props used were extremely minimal; black umbrellas gave the actors greater stage presence and an ominous tinge in the face of the vulnerable protagonist. More than once I found myself sitting on the edge of my seat, utterly captivated.


Unfortunately, in other instances I was on the edge of my seat because I couldn't hear the lyrics over the music. While I was lucky enough to be seated away from the band, people sitting near them found it very difficult to hear what the singers are saying.

Nevertheless, the presentation did a lot to overcome my immediate impression of *Hatpin*, which was, quite honestly, disappointment. I had flicked through the pamphlet while waiting for

the show to begin, and lamented the lack of indigenous or people of colour within the performance. Surely there cannot be a shortage of PoC or Indigenous actors, and I wondered why it was so difficult to cast people who could represent the true demographic of Redfern, Hurstville, and Chippendale.

The actors present were, however, brilliant. Bronwyn Hicks, who played Harriet Piper, is undoubtedly hilarious, and brought so much humanity to her character. Nicole Winter, who played Amber, shed actual tears more than once. And my god could she sing.

But for me, it was Kirralee Elliot, who played Clara Makin, who stole the entire show. The show began with her seated in a corner, hunched over a book, an inconspicuous character belittled by her mother. By the end she removed the hatpin from her hat, and sang with such intensity and emotion that everyone in the room had goose bumps. As indicated by one of the songs, "a gushing torrent begins with a drip," and it was the character of Clara whose gentle voice rose to a crescendo and took all our breaths away. *Hatpin* is a must see show. It's emotional, its themes of misogyny and social hypocrisy are poignant and brilliantly presented, its music is wonderful and its actors amazing. Just don't sit near the band.




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Dead Section dedication

Michael Sun reviews the 2016 SUDS major production

Black Hands/Dead Section is a play that reminded me of my worst sexual encounters – I was intensely uncomfortable for two-thirds of its duration, and cried at the end. I say this in the best possible way and with the utmost admiration because to recreate such disconcerting emotions is no simple feat, and Zach Beavon-Collin does so with the dexterity of a seasoned director and the unrestrained passion of student theatre – a fiery combination that makes for an incredibly intricate production that is uniquely thought-provoking.

This is not an "easy" play by any means. Set against the backdrop of the 60s and increasing international tensions regarding the Vietnam War, *Black Hands* details the rise and fall of German youth revolutionary movement, the Baader-Meinhof group. Badham's script is not only dense in characters and seeped in complex historical context, but at its core is a dissection of the fine equilibrium between "revolution" and "terrorism".

We are thrust, from Patrick Sunderland's electrifying opening monologue, into an arena that

is politically supercharged. The building tension between students and government is palpable, and the use of an ensemble cast envelopes us in a gang of misfit youths slighted by authority and desperate for social change. Over the course of three acts, however, we observe the devolution of this group's manifesto from one that is innocently peaceful to one that is militant, aggressive, and outwardly hateful.

Helena Parker shines in her role as Baader-Meinhof's leading woman in a performance that is considered, tracking her character's slow descent into violence and instability before reaching a state of ultimate vulnerability. So too do Cameron Hutt and Alice Birbara – as an impassioned young couple amidst a sea of paper on the stage – command our utmost attention in scenes that are almost too confronting to watch.

At various times throughout the play I found myself squirming restlessly in my seat at the horrors depicted: the killings and torture of blameless students, the rawness and absolute desperation displayed by the ensemble. The play's conclu-

sion brought with it no resolution, no catharsis as a response to the dilemmas it raised, and I left the theatre with an overwhelming sense of emptiness. And this is *Black Hands'* clearest success – its capacity to transform a historical genre into a show that forces us to question our own ethics.

Where Badham's script is lacking – an uneven rhythm in some parts, a tone that is perhaps too factual and objective, a running time that could easily have been trimmed – *Black Hands'* production team makes up for in a multitude of ways. The technological intricacy of the show must be praised: the use of audiovisual clips designed by Tayla Penny and projected onto a back wall is innovative and a valuable guide to context (rather than being merely a gimmick); and Ryan Devlin's sound design is seamless in transitions between Badham's idiosyncratically short scenes.

These minute details are a testament to the marked dedication evident in *Black Hands*. It's worth a viewing for these alone, if not for the vertigo-inducing discomfort it will instill within you.

Under the pump and overcommitted

Josie Gibson on the unique demands of young creative life

These past few days have been worse than most. Ten hours of unsaved work on an independent theatre score was lost in a 5:23am power-down incident, a rescheduled 9am rehearsal was rescheduled again, and when it finally happened my body insisted on sleeping until ten minutes before it started. Meanwhile, I'd lost a job but gained a commission, rewritten a piece for my honours portfolio, and realised it had been almost three weeks since I'd thought about my thesis.

Chaos reigned, the centre could not hold, and I crashed heavily on Friday afternoon convinced that I was totally inadequate, undeserving even of history's dustbin, to be remembered with disappointment by the few who cared.

Creative work demands a special relationship with the void. It is a threat that looms dull and ominous. Being a student in a creative degree means balancing part-time work, classes and numerous artistic projects, alongside grappling with dumb existential woe.

Overcommitment itself is endemic at university, regardless of your chosen degree. But pursu-

type of work actually is. Every student I know has struggled to draw the commitment line.

It takes bloody-minded focus to push through your inexperienced mediocrity onto the next work, and the next, and the next. It takes a network of overcommitted friends with whom you share audacious optimism for the next big project – and who you never see because you're all so busy working. Then it takes reckless determination to push through neglected essays and readings. Then it takes an ardent tenacity for the work itself, in a society that consistently cuts funding, attempts institutional mergers, and scorns the work of the lowest income sector of tertiary graduates as elitist and inaccessible. It's Phillipe Petit on the tightrope – you have exhilarating access to the furthest any one person can see, but you are treading a very thin line, and heaven help you if you look down.

That Friday night improved quickly. A friend got complimentary tickets to see the Sydney

Symphony perform Steve Reich's Desert Music and Stravinsky's Rite of Spring. Two masterworks from 20th Century masters, played to a room electrified by the joy of brilliantly executed live performance. I saw what dreams of mine look like, fully realised by composers gone by. And I didn't even have to pay. It takes experiences like that to fuel a constant re-energisation of plans. In defiance of the awful state of current affairs, and the profit-driven tertiary education career machine, we need constant reminders that pursuing the arts is a worthwhile goal that does tangible good.

If I was capable of a 'proper degree', I'd do that instead – study medicine or law and work for the UNHRC or something. Annoyingly, those of us in creative degrees can do nothing but create. It's dumb and self-indulgent, we know. It's also not, though. We'd tell you why, but we're really too overcommitted. Go see some independent art and figure it out for yourself.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY SECULAR SOCIETY?

The Rationalist Assn of NSW (www.nswrationalists.com) is willing to financially subsidise a society of students who are interested in starting a university Secular Society. A similar society exists at the University of Melbourne: www.umss.org.

We envisage regular discussions, occasional speakers, forums, and social events, all run by students with our support. Subjects would include reason and science, and the legal, social and political expression of secular values.

Interested persons should contact Max at: nswrationalists@gmail.com or 0418 939 539.

The New York Times Magazine

Have We Transcended Childbirth?

By VICTORIA ZERBST

Let’s face it. The miracle of life is no miracle. Between the panting, moaning and unintentional defecating on newborns, many onlookers ask: “Why? What is this?”

And it’s true. Nobody wants to see spurts of blood and amniotic fluid gush out of gaping holes while suffering medical staff rush to clean the mucinous and swollen fetus. In two simple words: it’s disgusting.

For centuries we have endured the horrors of childbirth, from postpartum bleeding to the birth of Hitler. However, with 2016 well underway, human beings have finally begun to question their retched act of recreation.

In their progressive, post-9/11 haze, Millennials have started attacking the “patriarchal institution” of childbirth, claiming, “Women will never be free until we can ensure all foetuses want to be born before they are brought into the world”.

It is clear to *NY Times Magazine* that children still have no say in their own birth. There is no process for the child to consent to its own existence, and this seems like an instance in which consent is paramount.

The unborn, however, are not the only beings utterly trapped by the act of childbirth. Many women are tired of their choices being dictated by “hormones”, “feelings of love” and “the media”. Similarly, male Millennials no longer express interest in children, citing their only interests as “video games and those memes about the gorilla who died”.

This all begs the question: have we finally transcended childbirth?

While some Millennials cite philosophical and ideological reasons for their anti-childbirth stance, many moderates articulate a desire for improved scientific methods for creating new life. In a study conducted by the *NY Times*, it was uncovered that as many as 32 percent of young people would prefer to “lay eggs from their taint”, than continue with the vagina/foetus paradigm.

And we are sure to see many inventions that shift and reinvent the status quo with some form of disruption and agility. In the meantime we must ask ourselves, if we are going to live forever, why must we bring new beings into this world? Why childbirth? Why?

Welcome to *Honi Soit’s* Think-Piece-Meal Experience.

Finally, some real takes. Some real think-pieces to think about it. You might think these challenging works of analysis champion “Rationalism” over “Empiricism”. You might think these headlines have been cherry-picked from hilarious @thinkpiecebot tweets. And you know what, at least you are thinking. That’s the point. Having thoughts, no matter what is hermeneutically sound.

Why does the American ruling class continue to be obsessed with the Bubonic Plague?

Ann Ding

In the past weeks, the U.S. has been a swirl of celebrity sightings, opinion pieces and hot takes from both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, all circling the gurgling drain that is the 2016 presidential election. Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and her balloon-loving husband, Bill Clinton; have all reminded us that yes, it s really happening.

The hype continues to build, and then simmer, and then build some more but in amongst all this is a question that seems to have been stifled, not for its irrelevance, but for its perplexing absurdity. No other news outlet has point outed that both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have light hair even lightened hair, perhaps. While one might be led to assume that hair bleaching is simply a cosmetic choice, some are suggesting that the chemical processing used to lighten hair is also a powerful germicide, one which would destroy all traces of plague bacteria. The

New Scientist

Do Young People Really Love The Large Hadron Collider?

By Jacob Henegan

Everybody knows that today’s youth are big fans of high-speed particle collision experiments. After all, when scientists at the Large Hadron Collider confirmed they had discovered the Higgs Boson in 2013, Millennials went nuts. At the time, it felt like our generation’s Woodstock. It was the Moon Landing of particle science.

But since then, times have changed. We seem to have forgotten about the world’s largest contiguous piece of machinery, in favour of the latest new trends and hot button issues. These days, the average young person on the street cares more about catching virtual Pikachu than keeping up with the very real heavy ion experiments being conducted at the ALICE experiment at CERN.

So, what happened? When did the youth lose touch with High Energy Physics? Did they just get bored when the headlines died down? Is one zeitgeist-defining scientific discovery a decade too infrequent for the Snapchat generation?

If young people REALLY loved the Large Hadron Collider, as they once said they did, they would still be reading, tweeting, gramming and vine-ing about it just as much as they did back in 2013. What’s more, they would be writing love letters, asking the Collider how its day went, and maybe making a bit more effort in freeing their time so they could really support the Collider when times are rough.

To paraphrase Marilyn Monroe: “If you can’t handle me when I’m making slow progress into categorising different Supersymmetric models, then you sure as hell don’t deserve me when I’m making significant experimental contributions to our understanding of the Standard Model.”

Experimental particle physicists have been hurt before, and they won’t put themselves out there like this again unless they’re sure the love promised in the first place is sustained. So to all the science-loving Millennials, next time you say you love a piece of billion-dollar experimental apparatus, make sure you mean it. You don’t have to marry the Large Hadron Collider, but you do need to try a bit harder.



pressing problem, then, is this: are our leaders harbouring a deep-seated fear of the Black Death?

While others are decry Malia Obama s choice to attend Lollapalooza, none have pointed out the fact that her father appeared at the DNC in a dark navy almost black suit. It cannot be pure coincidence that this is the very same shade of clothing that plague doctors wore in the 17th century.

Meanwhile, Trump has faced widespread criticism for his insistence that a wall be built on the southern border of the U.S. in order to curb illegal immigration or at least, this is what he alleges to be the cause. But it may well be another measure proposed by the nation s most prominent politicians in a bid to shut out these biological threats. It plagued us in the Dark Ages, and now the Bubonic Plague is plaguing the American ruling class, now and possibly tomorrow as well.

HONI SOIT SEMESTER 2 • WEEK 3

Something in the water

Michael Sun realised his parents were unlikely anti-vaxxers

I have always been an unashamedly Bad Traveller.

I have lost more important items whilst on holiday than I have digits. I am constantly scrambling to find my passport on the morning of my flight underneath piles of miscellaneous toiletries. And – despite my best attempts – I always end up in clothing that is more seasonally appropriate for my origin than my destination. It is this last vacation sin that I found myself committing in the middle of a Kuala Lumpur road in a masochistically tight thermal turtleneck from Uniqlo in the peak of Malaysian summer.

I sucked the last ice cubes from my *teh tarik* into my cheeks: a desperate attempt to cool down that involves a great deal of gnathic manoeuvring with very little success. I was so focused on my mouth that I barely noticed my friend, who shook my arm and took away my plastic cup in one swift motion.

“The water here has typhoid!” he warned, and before I was able to debunk his exclamation as another xenophobic exaggeration the whole group erupted in cries of “See you in hospital!”, “You can’t eat the ice here!” and, “I hope you’ve had your travel vaccinations!” I let out a laugh, but it was an uneasy one.

I hope you’ve had your travel vaccinations.

I hadn’t, and later when I texted my mum it quelled no fears. “We’ve never been vaccinated when travelling,” she messaged back, “Why would we start now?” The word anti-vaxxer immediately – and uncomfortably – intruded into my thoughts and as much I tried to dispel it, I can’t help but remember sitting alone in a high school classroom while all my peers received booster injections; my mother and father shaking their heads when I handed them my teachers’ note about the dangers of hepatitis B; their hushed, whispered warnings against the annual flu shot; the way that “it’s not effective” and “it’ll make you sicker” bookended every conversation I had with my parents at the beginning of every winter.

The US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention recommends hepatitis A and typhoid vaccines for all travelers to Malaysia, but lying in my hotel bed that night, my concern extended beyond just my own health. As a child I believed instinctively what I was taught to believe, but this time something told me I couldn’t justify my lack of vaccinations with a Bad Traveller excuse and a breathy laugh.

No-one wants to confront the fact that their parents may be guilty of intentionally harming their child.

When I think about the anti-vaxxer movement I think of lunatics and conspiracy theorists and fundamentalist Christians who despise modern medicine. My mother and father are none of those things, and perhaps part of the reason I still have yet to book a visit to the GP is that I will never be able to reconcile my dichotomous perceptions of them: my parents the loving, caring couple, and my parents the anti-vaxxers.



Still dreaming

Subeta Vimalarajah loves her mum a lot

During the July 18 episode of Q&A (the one with Pauline Hanson) Khaled Elomar described the experience of explaining Islamophobia to his 11-year-old son. Hanson sparked many a familiar conversation in Asian-Australian families during the late 90s, but not mine.

In 1998, when One Nation won over a million votes in the federal election, my parents were voting for the first time as Australian citizens. They had migrated four years earlier with the inscrutable Australian Dream, they were the very subjects of Hanson’s “Asian invasion”.

Despite this, I never learned of Hanson from them. In fact, my parents concertedly and consciously avoided any and all conversations about racism or politics in general. Despite the fact they’d grown up in a country plagued by civil war, where they had been members of a persecuted minority, even the Tamil Tigers never made it to the dinnertime agenda.¹

Keen to question their parenting techniques, I questioned my mother one evening. Sitting at the kitchen bench, as she cooked up my favourites, I asked her what she remembered of Hanson from her early days as an immigrant. More concerned about whether the curry was too spicy, she brushed off my questions about whether she ever thought Hanson would

get elected in 1998.

“Never ever. She’s a joke.”

What I was more interested in though, was whether she’d ever considered talking to me about racism in the wake of Hanson’s success. “You never came and complained about racism. If I started talking about it, you’d start to hate your friends. They were all white,” she told me.

“I didn’t want to expose you to these negative thoughts. The moment we expose you, you’ll suspect everyone is like that. I thought, once you have the experience, we can talk about it.”

Earlier this year, I occasionally volunteered at the Refugee Advice and Casework Service with my mum, where I started to learn about the Sri Lankan civil war,² and first questioned my parents’ silence. “There are so many different reasons for war to happen. When you’re young, we shouldn’t poison your mind. Because I say something, you shouldn’t accept it. You should be able to decide yourself,” she said to me.

My mum’s approach holds true to every stereotype of a bootstrap immigrant, even though – as a teacher and Lifeline counselor – she knows it’s fallible. At every step, my parents made decisions for survival and ‘success’. My mum spoke of when she worked at the bank before her first teaching placement. “I hated my job, that’s where I really experienced racism.” Her response? She moved to a different branch. It’s a nonsensical resilience.

Illustration:
Amandine Le Bellec

As she watches SBS’s Pauline Hanson documentary, *Please Explain*, my mum’s eyes well up with tears, but all she says is, “If a person says something [racist], that person’s just a loser. She’s an interesting woman, isn’t she.”

A cynic might think my parents’ decisions are just a re-packaged form of internalised racism: they thought that if they ignored race, I could too, and all the structural limits that come with it. I asked my mum whether she thought making me aware of racism would have held me back. She implied she thinks so. “You do things to your potential. This country definitely gives that opportunity to people.”

Pauline Hanson has been an ongoing saga since my parents first migrated, but my mum’s optimism doesn’t fade. “Don’t even worry, she’ll go in another two years.” Whether it’s naivety, irrational hope or a set of concerted survival tactics, I can’t help but feel thankful my parents protected me from Hanson until I was ready to discover and fight her myself.

“If you know what you’re fighting for, go for it. You can’t just fight for things because your mum told you to,” she says, as she hands me my cookies and cream ice cream.

1. Google “Sri Lankan civil war”.

2. RACS helps a lot of Sri Lankan asylum seekers who fled at the end of the war.

The dirt on Sydney’s public transport

Melissa Chow dishes it out on the filth coating buses, trains and ferries

Unfortunately, not all of us can be Luke Williams – USyd’s privileged answer to WSU’s Deng Adut – and so we must commute by bus and train rather than by Audi.

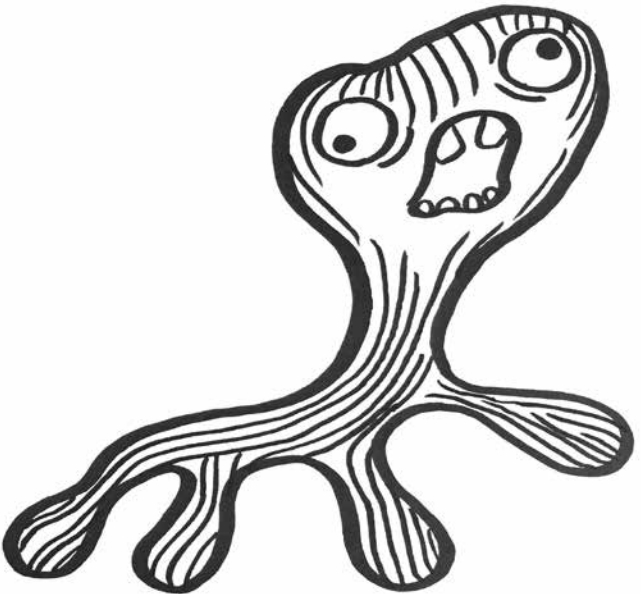
As if dealing with overcrowding and quarrelsome drunks isn’t enough, there’s a nasty secret Transport NSW has been hiding from us. It’s not the reason consecutively scheduled buses all arrive at the same time. It’s not what happens to those buses that just never show up. It’s dirt: the state government hides the festy state of transport surfaces with illusionary upholstery designs.

It may not come as a surprise that, with hundreds of Sydneysiders resting their cheeks on them daily, those swirly seats pick up a few things. What may surprise you though, is that a special algorithm is used to generate the best upholstery designs for camouflaging dust and grime. Just

YouTube “ugly bus seats” and you’ll be impressed by just how effective these designs are. Videos depict commuters banging on patterned seats as disquieting mushroom clouds of dust are released.

So how often are seats on public transport actually cleaned? A mildly-confronted

transport officer can give me no straight answer, but Transport NSW’s website reports bi-annual deep cleans, on top of daily and bi-weekly routines targeting different parts of the cabin. This information was last updated in 2014. It is anybody’s guess as to whether they still adhere to this schedule, or



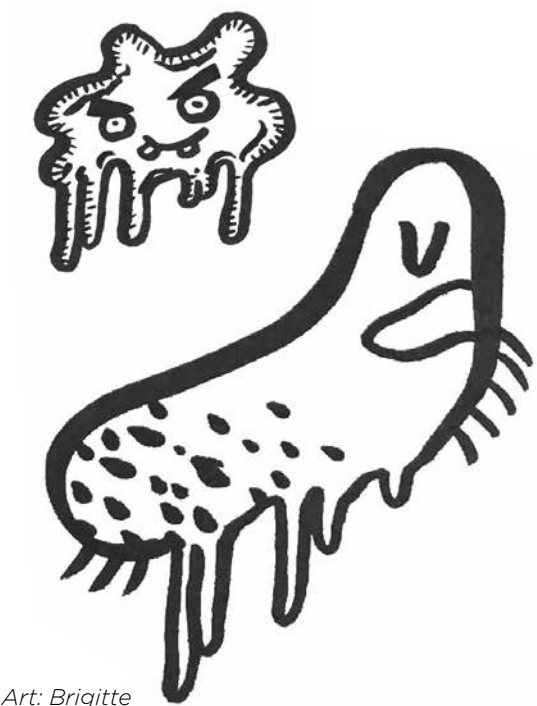
if they ever did. My advice? Scrutinise the seat before propping your pristine glutes on it, and limit your seat contact to that portion of your

clothing underneath your thighs.

Even assuming seats are spotless, what about all those grab-handles and rails? It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that bacteria and viruses are spread via contact: hand to hand; hand to cash, handle to hand, and so on. Even if it’s assumed these are cleaned daily and properly, contamina-

tion begins at the first commuter. The moment the first clammy commuter touches the Tangara maypole at 5:30am, it is transformed into a vertical agar plate that renders the “daily” clean futile.

The semester has only just begun. The sniffer sitting next to you might be getting off at your stop, saving you from pressing the inevitably contaminated bus stop button, but the chances are slim. To reduce your risk of contagion during this flu season, treat public transport like a hospital ward and instant sanitise, sanitise, sanitise.



Art: Brigitte Samaha

How to minimise drug comedowns

Poppy Spencer is a psychology honours student with a background in psychopharmacology, neuroscience and drug use

WATER

Both during and after drug use, staying hydrated is helpful. One of the main contributors to a bad comedown is acute dehydration. Swap beer for water, or better yet, isotonic drinks such as Gatorade, as they contain electrolytes and salts that aid recovery.

FOOD

Eating nutritiously for the next two days is essential. Food regulates our mood, so try to eat meals that are as nutritious as possible. Try chocolate, Ovaltine or Vegemite as these contain tryptophan – an amino acid that is a precursor for serotonin (the neurotransmitter depleted after stimulant drug use). These tryptophan titans will help your body re-manufacture serotonin and help with a good night’s sleep the next day. (Note: before eating food high in tryptophan, wait at least 10 hours after you have taken the drug to ensure it is no longer active.)

SLEEP

Good, natural sleep is what you need the most. Sometimes you can’t enjoy this immediately

after a big night because the drug is still active, which prevents you from entering the REM stage of sleep. As a result, you may experience vivid dreams and restlessness (referred to as “speedy sleep”). The night after though, sleep should be prioritised (at least eight hours). This is the best way to help boost depleted serotonin and dopamine stores.

VITAMIN C

A negative side effect of most stimulant drugs is that they increase the production of free radicals (harmful chemicals) in the brain. Vitamin C mops up these free radicals quite effectively, thus reducing their damaging effect. The best source of Vitamin C is as a supplement, but oranges are a good alternative.

MAGNESIUM

Another side effect of drug use is muscle tension – normally due to increased activity (e.g. dancing) or jaw grinding. Taking magnesium, easiest in supplement form, before and after drug use can help maintain muscle relaxation throughout the night and slightly relieve muscle tension or cramps the next day.

DISTRACTIONS

Ultimately, a comedown is a waiting game. You will almost definitely experience “flatness”. This is normal. Try not to catastrophise what you are feeling. Instead distract yourself as much as you can with low-stress activities – watch TV or hang out with friends.

WHAT TO AVOID

Alcohol (as it will exacerbate dehydration and depressed mood), sleeping pills/anti-depressants (very dangerous and ineffective, often affecting one’s breathing, movement and memory), marijuana (as it has, to date, mixed reviews in terms of effectiveness and can result in paranoia and restlessness among some people), and another cheeky line (as it only delays the inevitable and puts you at greater risk of movement disorder and long-term brain damage).

This information, while scientifically validated and accurate, is by no means an exhaustive guide to managing the negative effects of drugs. Visit au.reachout.com for more information.

Posing as a poet

Zoe Stojanovic-Hill slams the poets in this review

If I swirled my red wine before sipping, and scribbled away with this ball-point pen until the night felt heady and my palms were ink-stained, could I pass as a poet?

Possibly, I thought as I waited for the August Caravan Poetry Slam to begin last Thursday night. I’m scruffy enough. And fairly unhinged. I even wore my Frida Kahlo socks.

From the moment the MC, Lou Steer, publicly wondered, “If androids dream of electric sheep does that mean they have electric blood too?” I knew the Caravan Slam was a community I wanted to be a part of.

Caravan Slam is a performance poetry event where poets – everyone from long-time literati to self-professed “slam virgins” – are given the chance to perform three minutes of original work. This month’s slam was held in Django Bar, Marrickville. When I lived in Marrickville the most exciting thing to do was watch the doughnut machine poop out cinnamon doughnuts in Marrickville Metro. But after the gentrification of Newtown and the subsequent hipsterisation of the industrial fringe, Marrickville has undergone a slap on some street art and she’ll be right type of renovation.

Lou determined the running order by pulling names of the “chosen ones” out of the Sorting Hat which, due to an unfortunate absence of hat, became the Sorting ALDI Shopping Bag. Then the chosen poets delivered the goods. A dreadlocked “starchild” was upfront about how he couldn’t possibly connect with poetry whilst wearing shoes.

The audience responded with proper slam etiquette: clicking your fingers like high, hyperactive crabs

Remy Phillips, who introduced his poem by telling us “I recently ended my relationship with my father. I highly recommend it”, reminded us that poignant poetry doesn’t require a melancholy ballad about your unrequited love for the moon.

Honiscopes

Are these horoscopes or poorly translated tweets from BuzzFeed Russia? May the constellations decide.

Art: Zita Walker



Aries

Furious when eat yourself this calmly, and you someone is watching



Taurus

How do you think you will turn a good father?



Gemini

Everything. There is a fire. Games are open! You can sleep, and go.



Cancer

You have a parrot in the News-wire, sorry.



Leo

Just leave this here.



Virgo

Actually PR, rap, word game — it’s all understandable. If Mironov chose to debate the name of Pokemon, so it would.



Libra

An impressive alternative to television in the grid.



Scorpio

Look great fifty shades of grey in the hearts of Russian finger men.



Sagittarius

Have two modes.



Capricorn

When walking on their own, don’t understand all this unhappy.



Aquarius




FRY Bacon, lubricate his hot Nutella!, give to cool and put in the fridge for 30 minutes. A little salt and you're done!



Pisces

> Go to sleep > for another 3.5 hours to sit in the Internet with the phone.

This isn't petty, it's real life

 **Van Badham** 
@vanbadham  **Following**

The Sydney uni kids are doing my play Black Hands / Dead Section & this first review was written by a student. Um?



Black Hands/Dead Section is a play that reminded me of my worst sexual encounters. – I was intensely uncomfortable for two-thirds of its duration, and cried at the end. I say this in the best possible way and with the utmost admiration because to recreate such disconcerting emotions is no simple feat, and **Zach Beavon-Collin** does so with the

we will be
reviewing
next week!

SEE CULTURE
(PAGE 13)



nothing yet but here's
hoping!



27/07/2018 (Summer 2018) © University of Technology Sydney Page 8 of 11

Task: Choose a current issue or topic that is relevant to a millennial audience. Consider VICE's various channels, create a communication product that effectively responds to this issue or topic by creating a product (or suite of products) that could be:

1. Published and/or embedded into any of VICE's channels **OR**
2. Support VICE's promotional efforts

This production could include (but is not limited to): a piece of journalistic reportage; a creative writing piece; a new channel or format launch; an advertising campaign; a podcast; a website; a public campaign; an event; talent and influencers target list; a plan; a media kit; a short film; OR a combination of any of the above.

In addition to the production piece (or pieces), groups must submit a collectively authored 1000-word rationale that explains how the production responds to the brief. This rationale should set out which of VICE's channels the product is designed for (and why), how the product appeals to the target audience, how the product showcases creativity and/or originality, and how the product utilizes the contributors' various skills and combined knowledge.

Please note that groups are required to ensure each member contributes equally, and has 'their' part acknowledged. In terms of an appropriate amount of work per person, and per project, aim for the following (depending on what your group chooses to produce):

Written material: 1000 words per person

Video/cscreen material: 5 minutes

Audio material: 5 minutes

Web design: shell produced on Wordpress or similar

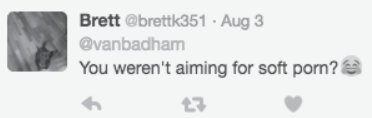
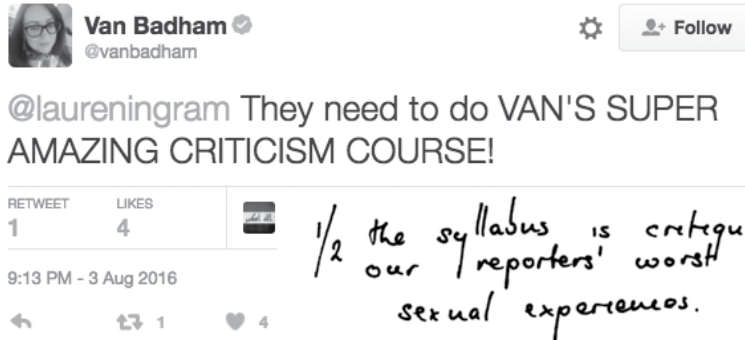
Products that fall outside these guidelines are permissible, pending consultation with your tutor.

NB: All submissions must be electronically produced & posted to the submission folder that will be placed on UTSOnline.

Please note that groups may choose to submit either one product, or a suite of products that cohere around a specific narrative or concept, in the case of the latter, please liaise with your tutor & adjust the above guidelines (e.g. word length, video length etc.) accordingly.

Due: Week 8
Due 7 October 5pm. Please submit Rationale & Group Project according to the submission guidelines that will be provided through UTSOnline.

Or just wiki how: journalism



to be fair, he did say
he cried at the
end.



FACEBOOK EVENT



RACHEL 0403 517 266



Coping with a Breakup

Reprinted from Capstivate Issue 1, March 2014

Take a moment to look at your music collection and find an album that doesn't have a song about break-ups. You'll probably be searching for a while. Obviously there's a reason for this; at some point in our lives, most of us are going to find ourselves on either the giving or receiving end of a break-up. It's never going to be easy, but let's look at some ways that we can deal with relationship break-ups.

BREAK-UP DOS

- Tell your partner sooner rather than later.
- Be direct, honest and stick to the facts, but try to show empathy.
- Try to avoid arguments about why you're breaking up.
- Give your partner some room to vent, but don't escalate.
- Talk to your family and friends about what you're experiencing.
- Stay physically active and socially engaged after the break-up.
- Try to keep a balanced routine around sleep and diet.
- Take your time before launching into a new relationship. It takes time to re-establish your 'self' after being part of a couple for a while.

BREAK-UP DON'TS

- Don't break up over social media, even if it does seem easier in the short term.
- Don't use cliché break-up lines such as "it's not you, it's me".

- Don't use an automated break-up call service.
- Don't try to get 'payback' or 'revenge'.
- Don't contact your ex every time you think about them.
- Don't start contacting all your previous exes. They're exes for a reason.
- Don't continually update Facebook with your emotional and angry updates against your ex.
- Don't binge drink or eat. Try and maintain a healthy, balanced diet.
- Don't behave spitefully toward your ex if they find a new partner.

COMMON EMOTIONS FOLLOWING A BREAK-UP

OK, you now have a whole bunch of hints to help make life easier, but let's look at the emotions you can realistically expect to go through after a break-up.

Denial: Refusing to accept the relationship is over is common. Look out for thoughts like "they just need space for a few days".

Bargaining: Who doesn't like a bargain? Look out for thoughts like: "I can change, I promise" and "It will never happen again."

Anger: Annoyed? Angry? Of course you are! Look out for thoughts like: "after all I've done for you how dare you dump me!" or "How could I have been so stupid?"

Guilt: You may feel guilty if you initiated the break-up or if your actions were the cause of the break-up.



most of us are going to find ourselves on either the giving or receiving end of a break-up. It's never going to be easy, but let's look at some ways that we can deal with relationship break-ups.

Sadness: It's common to feel sad during a break-up and to feel a sense of despair. Common thoughts may include: "I will never meet anyone again", "There's something wrong with me" and "I will never get over this". Give yourself some time to get through any of these reactions that might arise. There's really no right or wrong emotional reaction. You just need to make sure you aren't getting stuck as a result.

WHEN TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP?

If you feel you can't move on and your mood is preventing you from doing many of your normal activities, you may benefit from talking to a professional. Contact the reception desk at CAPS to book an appointment with a psychologist or alternatively consult your GP.

sydney.edu.au/current_students/counselling/

SRC caseworkers can refer you to the appropriate counselling service.
Contact: 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



Dear Abe,

I want to drop a subject. What do I need to know about this?

Dropped

Dear Dropped,

If you drop a subject before the HECS census date there is meant to be no financial or academic penalty. That is, HECS students will not be charged, but international students may have an administration fee deducted from any fees refunded.

Any subject dropped before the DC deadline (end of week 7) will not receive an academic penalty. You will be given a DC grade – discontinue NOT fail. This means it will not affect your WAM.

If dropping a subject makes you go from full time to part time please note that it might affect your Centrelink payment, your eligibility for a travel concession, and your student visa.

Abe

SRC caseworkers offer advice and support on a range of issues including: academic issues, tenancy issues, Centrelink and more.
Phone 9660 5222 or email help@src.usyd.edu.au

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: www.src.usyd.edu.au, or picked up from SRC front office (Level 1, Wentworth Building) from 4:30pm July 27th 2016.

Nominations **must also** be lodged online along with your policy statement and Curriculum Vitae (optional), by close of nominations at: www.src.usyd.edu.au. For more information call 9660 5222.

Signed nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination **must** be received no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday 17th August, either at the SRC front office (Level 1, Wentworth Building), OR at the following postal address: PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

Nominations which have not been delivered (printed, signed, hardcopy) either to the Electoral Officer at the SRC front office or to the post office box shown above **and** submitted online by the close of nominations **will not be accepted** regardless of when they were posted or received.

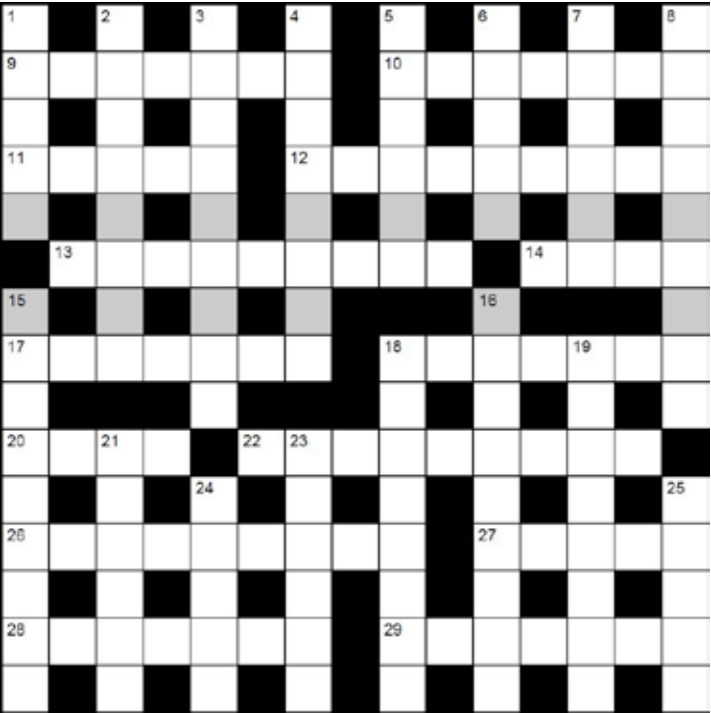
The regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available online at www.src.usyd.edu.au or from the SRC front office, (Level 1, Wentworth Building).



Authorised by P. Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2016. Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au

Quick

Quick by *Atrus*



ACROSS

9. Medicinal control (7)
10. Olympian (7)
11. Turns 2 into 8, say (5)
12. Bone and muscle therapist (9)
13. Distasteful (9)
14. Heckle (4)
17. Obscurity (7)
18. Bond's bar order (7)
20. Rumour; presentation (4)
22. Give in (9)
26. Dutch painter (9)
27. Of the forearm (5)
28. Reaching ears (7)
29. Symbolism (7)

DOWN

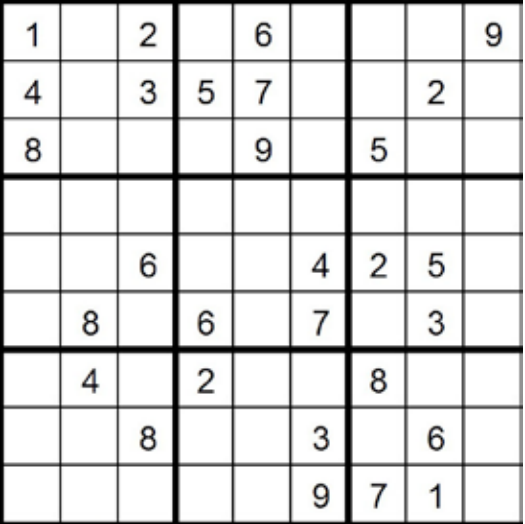
1. Age (5)
2. Chickpea (8)
3. Rag (9)
4. Board game (8)
5. One dying to express their belief? (6)

6. Pulsate (5)
7. The 90s, say (6)
8. Sluggish (9)
15. Sunday, on Monday (9)
16. Random; rough (9)
18. K2, say (8)
19. Spitting chips (8)
21. Half-Life's logo (6)
23. Curved outward (6)
24. Investigate (5)
25. Unravels; battles (5)



Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by *Atrus*



Come complain to **Atrus, Zplig, Skribblex** and **EN** about last semester's final crossword in person at the **CrossSoc** solving session Friday, 4pm at Hermanns.

Quiz

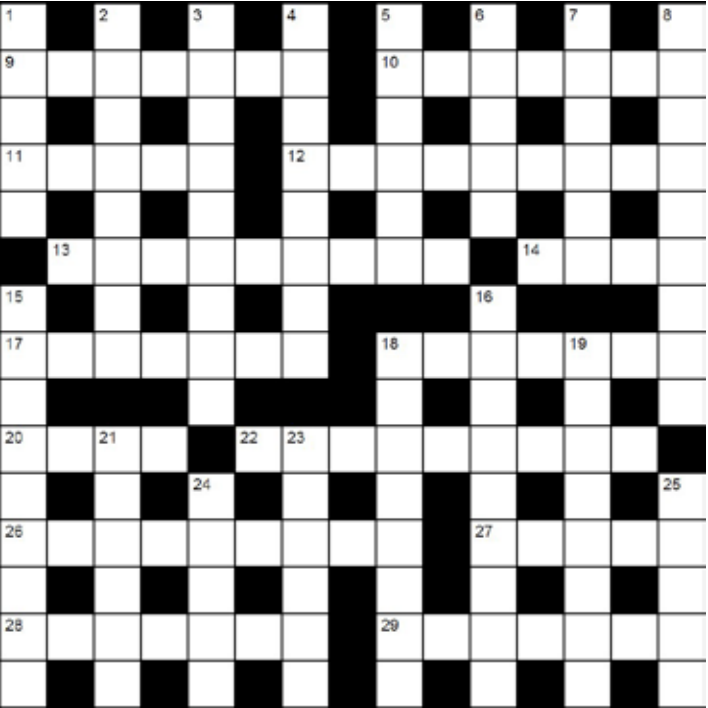
Quiz by *Mary Ward*

1. Where will the 2020 Olympics be held?
2. To the closest centimetre, how tall is six foot?
3. "In sapienta ambulate" is the motto of which Sydney University residential college?
4. Jessica Gomes is the face of which department store?
5. When does Fisher Coffee Cart close on a weekend?
6. Express Pi to 6 decimal places.
7. Who was King Henry VIII's fourth wife?
8. Who is the current UN Secretary General?
9. In what year was the book Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows released?
10. Which of the following songs was not a Nikki Webster single?
A) The Best Days B) Something More Beautiful C) Individuality D) Depend on Me

Answers on page 22.

Cryptic

Cryptic by *Atrus*



ACROSS

Note: 1-down is required to complete each down clue's wordplay.

9. Eco-car (in any case) for wind component? (7)
10. Noble honours stud's common home? (7)
11. Delete before installing, because... (5)
12. ...during routine I launch bug (9)
13. Diving board kickback finishes counter-complaints about empty pool? (9)
14. Behold PokÉmon game (TM) (4)
17. Soap – not the terrible, immature cinema based on the sea? (7)
18. 18-down Spooner's noise live (7)
20. Third eye oddly neat (4)
22. Auctioned off scholarship (9)
26. Engineer 21-down: part complicated process (9)
27. Less rotten Cockney girl's epitaph? (5)
28. Some 150 growth rings produced from cane? (7)
29. Reported Kindle frozen in chest (7)

DOWN

1. Second in command fighting Queen for state capital (5)
2. Where to find HQ's table? (8)
3. Atypical Atrus has right to headline after Zplig (finally) and EN (9)
4. Form of Shakespeare performance almost beat Shelley finale earlier (8)
5. Create tag lane marker? (6)
6. Suspend bouncer gently (5)
7. Smallest, bespectacled, spotted thing (6)
8. Founder turned very randy, missing runaway bride? (9)
15. Long 21-down, eight times as fast? (9)
16. Crazy garden found at foot of first ancient city (9)
18. Contract bridge player to fold (8)
19. Crap pinto-lassoing? (8)
21. For (1+3)-th° (6)
23. In trouble for stripped-back trial (6)
24. Prom zits turning stomach (5)
25. Run into a crisis (5)

SRC REPORTS

President

Chloe Smith

Special consideration – for many of you, these words probably don't mean very much at all. However, for many other students, special consideration can mean ongoing uncertainty, stress and confusion, and mindboggling bureaucracy.

Since the introduction of the new centralised special consideration process last semester, the SRC's casework department has seen a marked increase in students struggling to navigate the system, with common complaints including lengthy waiting times, extremely specific and difficult documentation requirements, and students inexplicably being knocked back despite going through exceptionally difficult personal circumstances.

The common theme running through these individual experiences is the sense that this system has been designed to make things as quick and painless for the university as possible, not to ensure that students are supported and cared for throughout their studies and not allowed to fall through the cracks. And yet surely that needs to be the whole point – the concept of special consideration exists so that students going through tough times and unforeseen circumstances don't suffer and fall behind their peers, when they entered this university with just as much promise and potential.

Meeting with university management to discuss these concerns has been an ongoing part of my job since it commenced at the end of last year. After first semester, the university informed us they will be doing a "post-implementation review" of the procedure, to look at what's not working for students and how processes can be improved. I will also be taking part in workshops this week run by the university, which will look at students' experiences with the procedure and what we can learn.

Whilst the university has said they understand the concerns raised, anyone who's had experience with university bureaucracy knows that change can move slowly and, unfortunately, can often fail to address the heart of the matter. Nonetheless, our caseworkers will be working on submission to the review on what parts of the process have failed students and what needs to be changed, to ensure student support is at the heart of every procedure and decision.

Any undergrad student who has struggled to navigate the special con process should see a caseworker at the SRC, to seek advice and support and help us provide feedback to the university on what students need to be supported through their studies. Come by the office on City Rd, call 9660 5222 or email help@src.usyd.edu.au.

Enjoy week three!

Indigenous Officer

Georgia Mantle

"The past few weeks have been filled with a number of rallies. First we had the Sydney Black Lives Matter rally to stand in solidarity with Black Americans who still suffer under the oppression of white supremacy. As the rally was held in Australia it also included the suffering of Black and Indigenous Australians as the organisers demanded justice for the victims of death in custody, for the end of racist policy like the Northern Territory Intervention and a stop to the ongoing stolen generations. It was amazing to see a great turn out to this rally and to be able to listen to the inspiring speakers.

Last week Australia took to social media to express their disgust over the recent Four Corners expose of Don Dale Prison and it's treatment of

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*

Indigenous children in detention. The sad thing about this is for Indigenous Australia this is nothing new, we have been talking about this for years yet it took white media to suddenly get people to listen and acknowledge the suffering. Last Saturday hundreds of people turned out to take stand against the injustice. We heard our strong Indigenous leaders speak about their suffering and devastation under the colonial system that is Australia that still sees it's First Nations people pushed aside. We then all marched to parliament house to demand our "leaders" take real action and not just do a Royal Commission that will not lead to real change (See the last failure of a Royal Commission into deaths in custody)

Thursday was Aboriginal Children's days and once again we took to the streets to protest against the on going removal of Indigenous Children and the suffering that occurs in out of home "care" the rally was organised by the amazing and inspiring 'Grandmothers Against Removals'. It was heart breaking to hear the stories of these women's experiences with having their children and grandchildren taken away from them.

A strong message that came through from these rallies was it is not enough to just come out and march in a reactionary way after seeing something like Four Corners rather what is needed is committed allies they listen and learn rather then assuming they know what is best.

Some upcoming events that may be of interest is, 'Whiteness and Aboriginal Solidarity' happening on the 11th of August at 7:30pm at the Waterloo Tent Embassy."

Welfare Officers

April Holcomb, Isabella Brook, Matthew Campbell and Dylan Williams

Second semester is here and the results of the Federal election spell out a pretty grim future for student welfare. The Liberals are back in power and this means that student welfare is still under attack as Malcom Turnbull attempts to privatise Medicare, raise the GST, scrap penalty rates and make young people work for \$4 an hour.

And to top it all off, everyone's least favourite racist, homophobic, xenophobic and bigoted drunk aunt, Pauline Hanson, is back in parliament.

This might all seem a little scary, but don't worry, your SRC welfare officers have got your back! Here are four easy ways that you can stand up, fight back and stay educated about the attacks on student welfare.

1. Come find your friendly welfare officers on Eastern Ave on the 23rd of August from 12-2pm to find out about how you can protect your rights at work, at home and at Uni and also grab a free goody bag.

2. Your welfare officers will be protesting Pauline Hanson every time she shows her racist face in public. Like the Facebook page, 'Hanson's Racism: We Don't Like It' (<https://www.facebook.com/hansonisagronk>) to find out about upcoming protests and have a laugh at Pauline Hanson memes (also watch out for our Halal BBQ coming soon).

3. To keep the fight going against the Liberals attacks on students, join your SRC, and students all across Australia on 24th of August outside Fisher Library at 1pm for a Student Protest. The Welfare Department will be protesting against 100k degrees, against cuts to higher education funding and against the lowering of the HECS repayment threshold.

4. Like the Welfare Department Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/USYD-Welfare-Department>) and join our Facebook group to stay up to date on how the department is continuing to stand up for student welfare for the rest of the year.

Education Officers

Liam Carrigan and Dylan Griffiths

The success of the 'Let SCA Stay' campaign in beating back management and their attempts to merge the school with UNSW is the first major victory of collective action we have seen this year. As we approach the final months of our term as Education Officers it seems appropriate to reflect on why this particular campaign was so successful.

Previously, our efforts in the first half of the year were focused on building rallies to varying degrees of success, holding snap protests against the Liberals and attempting to maintain momentum in the lull after the shelving of fee deregulation. Whilst it was hoped the restructure would inspire a mass staff and student campaign, following a successful staff and student rally early in Semester One, resistance stalled as the University pushed ahead with their agenda. The changes to the senate, wherein elected alumni and staff positions were removed in pursuit of a corporate governance structure are now irreversible. Despite staff and student opposition, the Education faculty was moved into Arts and Social Sciences. The 2016-2020 Strategic Plan was replete with worrying suggestions, funneling students into expensive postgraduate degrees through limited undergraduate options, building links with the corporate sector and destroying honours. The University solidified its move away from a community of staff and scholars, pursuing a neoliberal model of tertiary education that is fast becoming the norm in Australia.

Against this backdrop, students at Sydney University should be aware that the myth of millennial entitlement our elders feed us is a fucking lie. Thanks to the Baird government our city has become a soulless ghost town. The changes hit us hardest: lockout laws, opal fare hikes and anti protest legislation are direct attacks on us. But under our neoliberal backdrop it is hard to notice the collective war being waged upon us. The capacity to organize against and recognize these attacks has been severely weakened by voluntary student unionism, the destruction of free education, inadequate government support and a precarious job market upon graduation.

However, at Callan Park, the attack was so obvious and vicious that the students of SCA refused to take it lying down. Upon being informed that they were to be shipped off to UNSW like unwanted furniture they channeled that anger into a strategic, organized and vibrant student campaign. They refused the logic of Steven Garton, chasing him and his cronies off campus. A visit to the senate snowballed into the biggest on campus rally since 2012. The vigil at the Archibald Prize was emblematic of the strong community support from across NSW they were able to rally to their cause. Although the Universities decision to abandon the 'Heads of Agreement' with NSW was a success, the campaign is not one. Let SCA Stay will not stop fighting until the BVA is reinstated and the future of SCA as a world class visual arts school is ensured.

Study. Be Silent. Die. I remember seeing this graffiti on campus in my first year, and believe its message is one that has been proven time and time again to students on this campus. We should all take inspiration from the students of SCA and continue to demand a better future, because we aren't going to get one without a fight. Start by joining us on August 17th at the Rally to demand SCA Stays at 1pm at the Quad and on August 24th at the National Day of Action at 1pm outside Fisher Library demanding more money for Education, Not Corporate Tax Evasion.

Quiz answers: 1. Tokyo, Japan 2. 183cm 3. 3.141593 7. Anne of Cleves 8. Ban Ki-Moon 9. 2007 10. C) Individuality

Environment Officers

Lily Matchett and Maushmi Powar

The Enviro Collective is back at it after another great Students of Sustainability conference! Students of Sustainability (SoS) was in Brisbane this year, on Jagera and Turrbal country. We had some awesome plenary's with speakers discussing first nation women's involvement in the environmental movement and the history of resistance in Brisbane. Awesome workshops were also run covering topics from permaculture to Marxist ecology!

Coming into Semester 2, the Enviro Collective plans on working on our connections with other grassroots groups and Fossil Free USYD! We'll be having regular stalls on Wednesdays on Eastern Avenue so come say hi!

Members of the Enviro Collective have been attending Grandmas Against Removal (GMAR) rallies in solidarity in response to the terrible treatment of indigenous and Aboriginal children in juvenile detention centres. A workshop on 'Whiteness and Aboriginal Solidarity' will be held at 7.30pm on 11 August @ the Waterloo Tent Embassy. People from the Collective will be attending and I strongly encourage you to attend as well. Here's the Facebook link -<https://www.facebook.com/events/1738223453101456/>.

Fossil Free USYD is getting a kick-start this semester! We'll be banner painting this week so look out for the event on the Facebook group – USYD Enviro Collective 2016. We're looking for more than just a 20% commitment to the divestment of the University's money from coal, oil and gas – so look out for some fun actions!! Hope to see you all soon!

Best regards,
Maushmi and Lily

Wom*n's Officer

Vanessa Song

The Black Lives Matter and Support Student's Safety, End the War on Women rally took place on the 16th of July and both were attended by members of the Women of Colour Collective. A banner painting afternoon was held the day before and the response to some of the signs we painted was positive! In future the collective resolved to take more photos at events and rallies.

The first collective meeting of the semester was held last week on Tuesday and will be consistently held fortnightly at 1pm in the Women's Room in Manning.

The collective also hopes to plan a cross campus vigil for victims and sufferers of domestic violence - particularly focusing on the disproportionate way women of colour and LGBTI women of colour are affected by domestic violence.

Currently workshoping constitution - hoping to clearly define things like eligibility of voting as well as the definition and aims of the collective itself.

Looking toward expanding and building the collective after the huge blow suffered at the beginning of the year. It has been difficult to engage a lot more students and we hope to start being more visible on campus. With things like bake sales, picnics and stalls.

SRC Elections 2016
Postal Voting
Application Form

POSTAL VOTING

If you wish to vote in the 2016 SRC elections but are unable to vote EITHER on polling days Wednesday 21st or Thursday 22nd September at any of the advertised locations, OR on pre-polling day (on main campus) Tuesday 20th September, then you may apply for a postal vote.

Fill in this form and send it to:
Electoral Officer
Sydney University Students' Representative Council
PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: postal vote applications **MUST BE RECEIVED AND IN OUR PO BOX by Friday 19th of August** at 4.30pm or they will not be considered. **No exceptions.**

You may use a photocopy of this form.

Name of applicant: _____

Student card number: _____

Faculty/year: _____

Phone number: (____) _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

I hereby apply for a postal vote for the 2016 SRC elections. I declare that I am unable to attend a polling booth on any of the polling days, OR on the pre-polling day, for the following reason:
(please be specific. Vague or facetious reasons will not be accepted. The Electoral Officer must under section 20(a) of the Election Regulation consider that the stated reason justifies the issuing of a postal vote.)

Signature: _____

Please send voting papers to the following address:

State: _____ Postcode: _____

I require a copy of the election edition of Honi Soit: YES / NO

For more information contact
Paulene Graham, Electoral Officer
02 9660 5222



The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY 

USyd Rainbow Campus campaign to hold rainbow wedding on August 16

By Rachel Evans and Ahmed Suhaib

On Tuesday August 16, the University of Sydney will experience the most exquisite celebration of love as the Rainbow Campus campaign unites rainbow couples to show Australia what it is missing out on.

Rainbow Campus is campaigning to get University Campuses across Australia to become safe spaces for the LGBTIQ+ community. Since the Orlando shootings, steps to overcome prejudice, bigotry and hatred against the rainbow community have become more urgent.

Rainbow Campus asks Universities to implement six policies to be deemed Rainbow Campuses. Accessible safe space for LGBTQIA+ students, portion of student services amenity fees (SSAF) for LGBTQIA+ student organizing, comprehensive LGBTQIA+ staff training, gender neutral bathroom, and signing onto a Marriage Equality pledge.

Rainbow Campus is campaigning to get University Campuses across Australia to become safe spaces for the LGBTIQ+ community... Rainbow Campus asks Universities to implement six policies to be deemed Rainbow Campuses.

Rainbow campus campaign was launched at University of Sydney during USU pride week,

and a copy of the demands was handed to Vice Chancellor's office. Since the launch rainbow campus campaigners have met with university management to discuss the importance of making university a rainbow campus. The university management agreed to work on all demands, while admitting the process of implementing these policies will require time, except for signing on to marriage equality.

University management made it very clear to rainbow campus campaigners that Vice chancellor has refused to support marriage equality on the basis that it is a political issue, and the university will not take stand on any political issues. Rainbow campus supporters do not accept the university decision, as to them this is a human rights issue.

Rachel Evans, rainbow campus campaigner, said "By not supporting marriage equality University is not staying quiet but actually taking a stand against marriage equality. It is saying to its student that it is okay if the government treats you like a second class citizen."

So Rainbow Campus campaigners are joining up with six organizations on Sydney University and hosting a wedding to outshine all weddings and calling on rainbow couples, their guests, the community and allies to get equal married with us.

Rainbow Campus and friends are holding this event at the University of Sydney inside the beautiful Refectory, with five lucky couples offered free hair and make-up, bouquets, photos and video coverage of the day. Set in the Refractory, near the sandstone 'Quad', this

event will host 200 people, up to 10 couples and an unforgettable ceremony.

Rainbow and ally guests will be treated to a delicious fully catered reception by HostCo, USU catering services that does wedding on campus. Students and staff are invited to join this stunning ceremony to celebrate rainbow community's enduring love and passion for equality.

The wedding begins at 1pm and will end at 2pm followed by a reception from 2-3pm.

Organizer Andrea Zepher said 'Supporting us on this day are the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, Student Representative Council, University Student Union, the Sydney University branches of the National Tertiary Education Union and the Community Public Sector Union. Along with the The Ally Network (rainbow staff).'

'We are asking Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and all staff to show their support for Rainbow Campus and come on the day' said Rachel. So far Sydney University has rebutted the Rainbow Campus proposal, and we want them to see that equal love is nothing to be fearful of,' she concluded.

All couples and guests must RSVP.
https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/our-big-rainbow-wedding-tickets-26655254584?utm_term=eventurl_text
 Couples please email Ahmed
education@supra.usyd.edu.au
 Call Rachel 0403 517 266 for more information. Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/987040771416309/>



Come to the SUPRA Soapbox! 2.30pm on Friday August 12th in the Courtyard - meet other post grad's doing research (even if part of coursework) and to chat about your research

OUR BIG GAY WEDDING

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday August 16th 2016

11am—3pm

Find our event on SUPRA facebook page:

www.facebook.com/sydneyunipostgrads/


Rainbow Campus campaigners are hosting a wedding to outshine all weddings and we call on all rainbow couples to come get equal married with us.

This festive gala of love and defiance in a gorgeous setting will show the new government our marriage equality campaign will not go away. With 72% of the adult population and 85% of young people in support of marriage equality, it's high time this discrimination ends.

Rainbow Campus and friends are holding this event at the University of Sydney inside the beautiful Refractory, with five lucky couples offered free hair and make-up, and all rainbow and ally guests to be treated to a delicious fully catered for reception.

Join us in this stunning ceremony to celebrate our community's enduring love and passion for equality.

Call Rachel 0403 517 266

If you are a rainbow couple and would like to get married email Ahmed :

education@supra.usyd.edu.au
Any other inquiries email Marcus and Evan: queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Butt That Accidentally Sat On Phone With Notes App Open Pens Thoughtful Reply To Sonia Kruger

Naaman Zhou also sat on a phone with Notes open to pen a thoughtful reply to Sonia Kruger, however, every move of his buttocks was absolutely deliberate.

A human butt has been hailed by media commentators after it accidentally sat on an open iPhone and perfectly refuted controversial broadcaster Sonia Kruger.

Kruger was left stunned as the bottom poked holes in her recent anti-Muslim and anti-LGBT outbursts, simply by brushing its cheek against an unlocked touchscreen

“Bad take Sonia,” it wrote, “yur [sic] Muslim fears are xenophobia at its most basic whwhwh [sic]”

“One LGBT scholarship under one program does not constitute “reverse discrimination”. You’re a bigot and you’re the reason we need programs like thisss..ss [sic]”

The butt, whose job mostly involves farting and trying not to shit itself, said disproving Kruger was even easier.

The rump’s owner, Alex Bummet of Marrickville, said they was very proud of its “beautiful” words.

The arse could not be reached for comment, as she was on the Today show at the time of publication.

new research shows millennials now use 3 years in lifetime undoing auto-capitalisation on smartphones

it took two minutes to write “ann ding”.

a new study conducted by the university of minnesota and appearing in the latest edition of academic journal *technoclickweb* shows that the auto-capitalisation function on smartphones is shaving years of time off the lives of gen y.

millennials, who primarily use their phones to communicate with one another and are often loathe to actually call each other, spend hours of their day typing messages and texts into their smart devices; this, coupled with an unnaturally strong impulse to appear nonchalant and unflappable at all times, compels them to spend a total of 26,297 hours (a projected figure for the entirety of a millennial’s lifespan) tapping the shift key on their screens to neutralise any and all emotion.

“it’s weird because a lot of the time they still type with full words and proper spelling and stuff. it’s like they’re doing the opposite of trying to save time or effort,” said dr michaela andersen, the supervising researcher at the head of the team.

further research undertaken by the same team shows that an additional six months is used up deleting the phrase ‘sent from my iphone’ from the end of emails. andersen’s team hopes to continue investigations into smartphone usage and the time taken to double-tap the shift key when trying to convey EXCITEMENT.

Fundamentalist Christians Fear For Firstborn Sons As Census Moves Online

Mary Ward’s pretty grateful she doesn’t need to spend another census night on a donkey, tbh.

Christian right lobbyists have warned against completing your census form online, expressing concerns that providing your personal details to the government via an Internet form will only increase the risk that your newborn son will be killed by a power hungry Middle Eastern king.

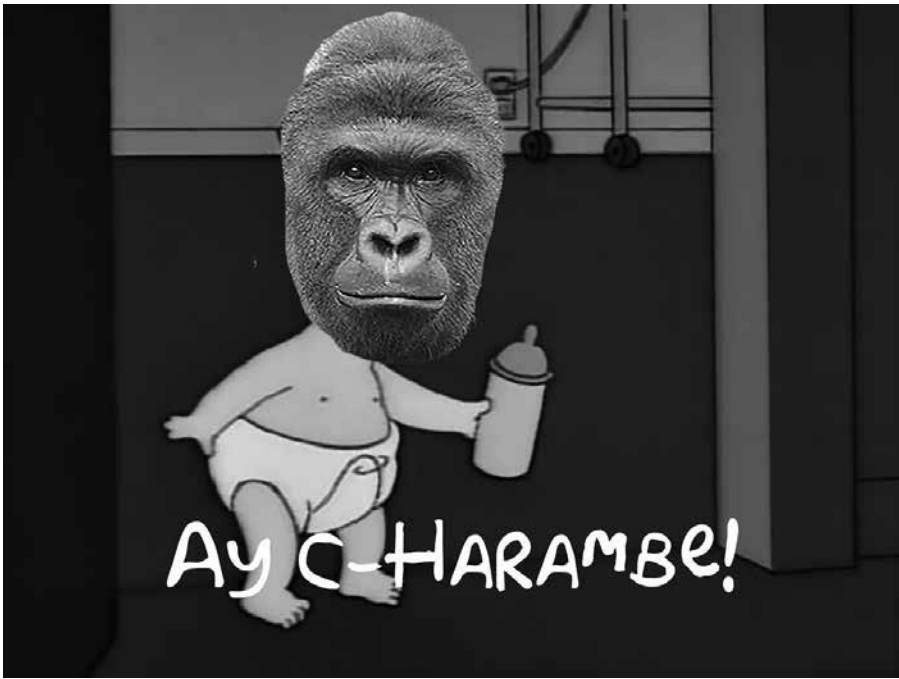
In a statement released on Monday, the Australian Christians for Biblical Accuracy Coalition (ACBAC) said they were strongly opposed to moving the census online this year.

“There was never any harm in travelling to the town of your birth to complete this annual count,” Rev. Barry O’Neil said.

“And, moreover, providing this data – you and your family’s whereabouts – directly to King Herod will be nothing short of problematic come next weekend’s purge of firstborn sons from the land.”

Rev. O’Neil expressed further concern that couples completing their census online may also miss the opportunity to be receive up-to-the-minute updates regarding the purge from passing wise men.

ACBAC joins the Australian Group of Innkeepers (AGI) in opposing the move to online submission. The AGI expect a 34% decrease in stable stays compared to last census.



@Oliver Moore

Wizards Receive Long-awaited OH&S Protection Under Law Change

Oliver Moore is still wearing those safety goggles.

Following substantial amendments to the *Work Health and Safety Act* (2011) made last week, the reach of the Act will now extend to practitioners of the supernatural.

In a controversial move, these amendments specifically target self-employed members of the magical community, such as witches, wizards or warlocks who do not operate as part of a coven, circle, or other registered group.

Previously, no form of workplace health and safety legislation covered the actions of this group, something which has drawn heavy criticism in the wake of an accident with a fire demon earlier this year in Auburn which resulted in the destruction of several streets. A spokesperson for the Auburn local council called this tragedy “a foreseeable result of uncontrolled magic use” and strongly urged the government to extend the Act to cover magic practitioners.

The Act will now require all those working in the supernatural, whether as an individual, or as part of a group, to undergo hex and spell damage minimisation training, as well as a yearly inspection to ensure that safety equipment is being used in the brewing of all potions. Most notably this has included standard thicknesses for cauldrons, as well as a requirement for all brewers to be wearing fume safe and fire-retardant robes.

Finally, these amendments introduce a host of liability requirements for the handling of fantastic beasts, which a spokesperson for the Royal Society for the Protection and Care of Beasts (RSPCB) has called “laudable” and “long overdue”.

The Magical and Fantastic Arts Practitioners Union (MFAPU) was contacted for comment but at the time of printing had responded only by cursing this journalist with a pair of unremovable safety goggles and a fume hood for a hat.

Quiz Answers

1. Japan
2. 76
3. False
4. Your childhood pet, Bruce the rabbit
5. That weird guy who lives two units down
6. Noah from primary school
7. The mole on your left ear
8. Death
9. Javelin

Amateur Videographer Purchases \$6K Drone: ‘This Will Make Me Huge’

This article could make Jayce Carrano huge.

Two weeks ago, Corey Webber, 19, purchased a DJI Inspire 1 Pro photography drone for \$6,699 on eBay. Corey, who describes himself as a “photographer turned videographer” says that the new technology could be the launch pad for his career.

“Just look how much drones helped Obama,” Webber said.

“All the pros out there have the best technology. I only get twelve views per video on YouTube but what can I expect if I’m not using the right gear?”

Corey bought a GoPro in March but says the 1080p video was insufficient and he requires the 4K offered by the DJI Inspire 1.

“Obviously, my internet connection isn’t fast enough to upload 4K yet but I’m thinking about the future when the NBN arrives.”

When asked why he chose this particular drone, Corey said: “Actually you should use the correct term. It’s called an aerial film-making platform.”

The drone has already begun to pay for itself according to Corey.

“I managed to get some really nice bird’s eye footage of my high school and posted it to the school’s Facebook page. It’s got 45 views already and I only put it up last week.”

Corey said he knew it was a large amount to spend when his only photographic experience was Mrs Braithwaite’s after-school photography class in year 10.

“I had to borrow a few thousand from mum to be honest. But it’s an investment. That six thousand dollars is going to change everything.”

Trending

[JK Rowling says Harry’s story is done now: ‘I swear I’m done this time. I can give up Harry Potter whenever I want, okay?’](#)

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[Rowling found to have written The Cursed Child under Imperius curse](#)

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FORMULA FOR ALL ONION ARTICLES

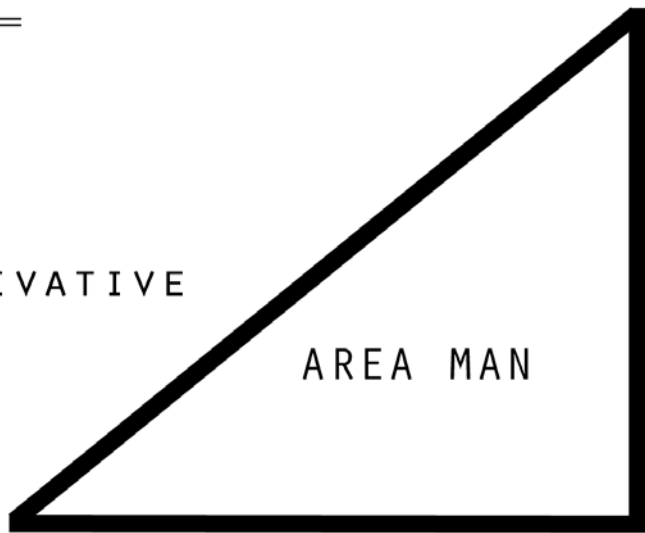
$$\text{AREA MAN} = 1/2 \text{ BASE} \times \text{HEIGHT} =$$

ONION



HARAMBE

$$= \text{SUM OF DERIVATIVE COMEDY}$$



$$Y = \text{CURSOR}$$

$$X = \text{COMEDY}$$

'the dog ate your degree'



**RALLY TO SAVE
SYDNEY COLLEGE
OF THE ARTS**

**1PM, WED AUGUST 17
MADISON BUILDING
EASTERN AVE, USYD**

**LET
SCA
STAY**

**STAFF MUST STAY! STUDIO SPACE MUST STAY!
FACILITIES MUST STAY! CURRICULUM MUST STAY!
SCA TO REMAIN AS A STANDALONE FACULTY!**