

Honi Soit

SEMESTER TWO, 2016 • WEEK 10

FIRST PRINTED 1929

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Wesley college
concert

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our mums

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over the Senate
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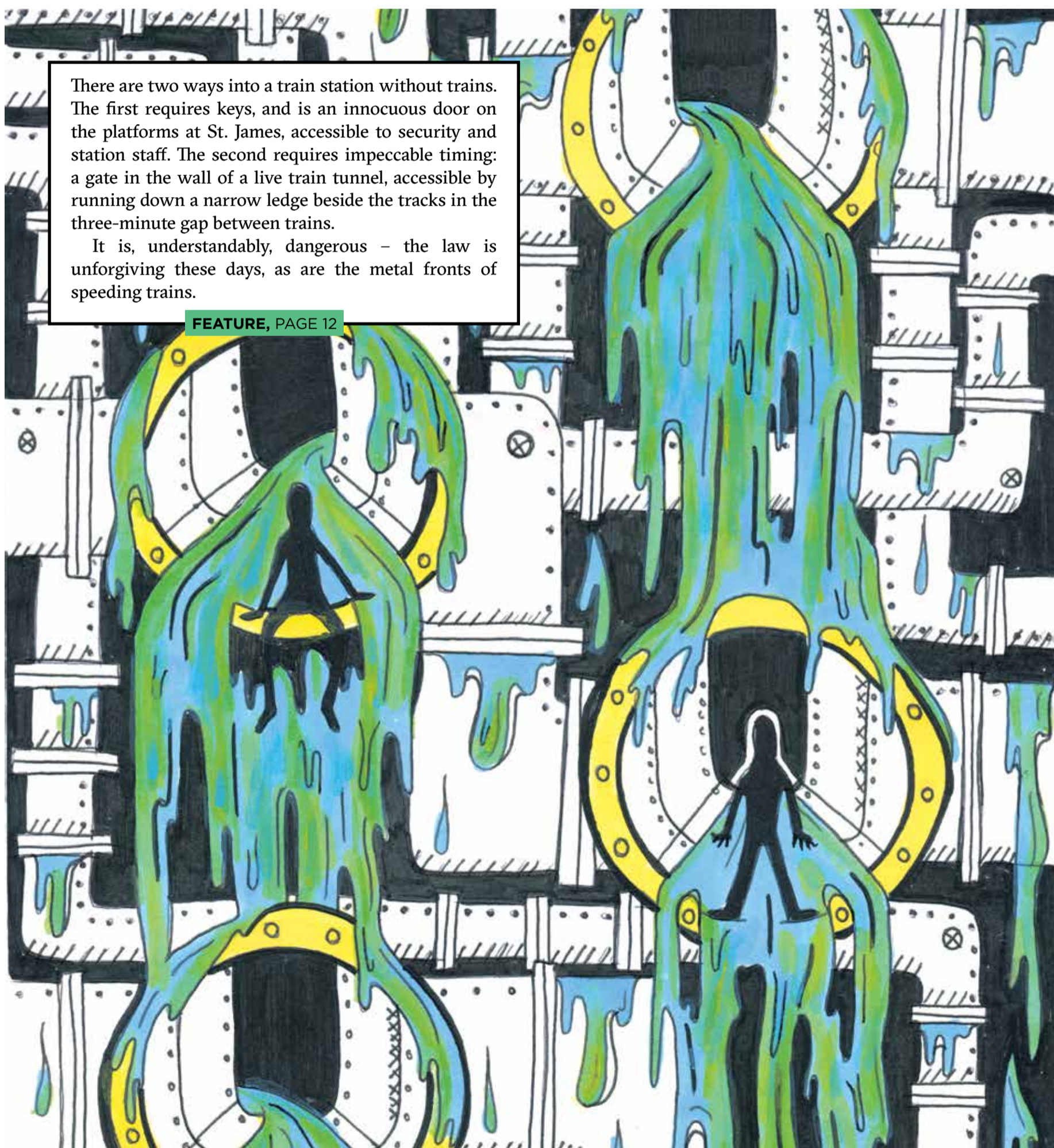
Exclusive:
writing we did
as children

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There are two ways into a train station without trains. The first requires keys, and is an innocuous door on the platforms at St. James, accessible to security and station staff. The second requires impeccable timing: a gate in the wall of a live train tunnel, accessible by running down a narrow ledge beside the tracks in the three-minute gap between trains.

It is, understandably, dangerous – the law is unforgiving these days, as are the metal fronts of speeding trains.

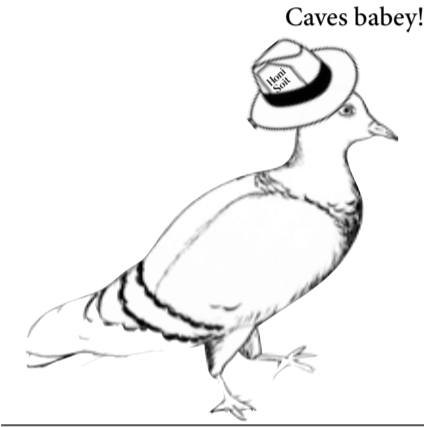
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CORRECTION

In our profiles of undergraduate Senate candidates, we reported George Bishop’s degree as Arts/Law. He studies Economics/Law

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The University of Sydney – where we write, publish and distribute *Honi Soit* – is on the sovereign land of these people.

As students and journalists, we recognise our complicity in the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land. In recognition of our privilege, we vow to

not only include, but to prioritise and centre the experiences of Indigenous people, and to be reflective when we fail to.

We recognise our duty to be a counterpoint to the racism that plagues the mainstream media, and to adequately represent the perspectives of Indigenous students at our University. We also wholeheartedly thank our Indigenous reporters for the continuing contribution of their labour to our learning.

EDITORIAL

Naaman Zhou

My mother was a student here in the mid-nineties, from the February four months before I was born to the June when I was three.

She was an Economics postgrad, a single mother, and eventually, a tutor and lecturer. She was a student with a child, who took me to class and sat in the back row, watched films in Fisher with a staff pass, borrowed children’s toys from the Education Building library.

My mother was here in that stretch of time that some of us now consider a golden period. Her first *Honi* was the *Honi* the Chaser edited. She was here the year that *Uni*, Simon Target’s increasingly cult-status ABC documentary, was filmed – though of course she was not on camera.

To her, university was a puzzle of unit outlines to be solved, a place of employment with a childcare centre, a meritocracy.

It was that postgraduate’s diet of toil and little fun (also

add in, you know, being a parent). It was commensurate with the level of campus involvement I have as a basement-dwelling editor, but without the byline.

This University is all things to all people, and there is no reason her trajectory was any less important than mine, or the SRC president’s or the director of the Arts Revue’s.

We talk in our office a lot about being a “paper of record”, and it gives me a really satisfying feeling to put this one, long overdue entry of a life on ‘record’ for whatever that is worth.

Just last week, my mother told me that as a student, *Honi* was probably the first English-language publication she regularly picked up and enjoyed.

Twenty-two years later I have the dumb luck to edit it.

Neither of us quite know what to make of that, though I am certain my pride in her should far outweigh hers in me.

LETTERS

Letters

The one bad letter on this stellar page

Dear Editors,

May I express my outrage at the way some of the University of Sydney academia has reacted to the award of an honorary doctorate to the former PM and a Sydney graduate John Howard. As a current student I naturally recognise the usual tactics employed by the University left.

Labelling Howard as a racist and a war criminal is as bizarre and absurd and the claim that the award of the doctorate will somehow render everyone else’s doctorates worthless. One may or may not agree with Howard’s policies but the way he is being treated by his once great alma mater is shameful. The point being made here is of course that if you do not adhere to the Left’s tragically distorted worldview you’re a racist.

Yet the Australia I know and love is far from racist. After all it welcomed me, an 18-year-old girl from Poland when I moved here on my own back in 2007. I cannot bear the Left labelling Australians as racist and bigots only because you ask new arrivals to learn English and respect your values and abide your laws. This is madness.

I have studied at the University of Sydney for a number of years now and sadly the tendency to reject any view not approved by the Left is rampant and getting worse. I find it truly terrifying how little respect the academics are showing to mainstream Australia.

As someone who grew up in a working-class family I understand the way welfare morally degrades people who otherwise would find fulfilment and purpose in their work. Only a belief in a transformative power of work will create a healthy society, one that values social mobility and above all refuses to accept that working class is to be kept in the cycle of government handouts inevitably leading to resentment and social degradation.

Yours faithfully,
Joanna Slomka

On campus comedy

Dear *Honi*,

Let’s talk revues. Some weeks ago I made the effort to see UNSW’s CSE (computer science) revue. It had a promising trailer that didn’t try to be too complicated and stuck with classic student life comedy. It had some 15 sponsors and good advertising. I had high hopes. I even made people trek over from USyd to see it with me.

UNSW CSE revue 2016 was so bad it lowered my threshold for bad shows. Wherever possible they resorted to puns or crude stereotypes in lieu of actual jokes and tried to be too clever when a simple, sharp punchline would have done the job. Think Usyd’s Engo Revue without any of the self-awareness.

The most egregious skit had a one-time character called Triggered Feminist played by a man in a pink wig. Now theoretically, it’s not impossible (but still hard) to make the triggered feminist stereotype funny. You could play everyone’s expectations that the skit would be crude and surprise everyone with a pro-feminist twist. Whatever, I’m not a comedian, but what you shouldn’t do is name drop the character and instantly move on to the next act and expect everyone to laugh because wow, she’s Triggered and she’s a Feminist. Haha.

It’s not like I’m a sensitive snowflake that can’t handle a little edge, but it hurt to think that they thought I would genuinely enjoy that kind of low blow act. It was alienating. If my own faculty’s revue society really thought this was what we wanted then I can’t honestly blame people for half the stereotypes that hover around CSE students.

By contrast, I’ve seen four or five USyd shows in the past few months and all of them were better. What CSE revue had was money, size and production value (see: hella sponsors), and my gut feeling is that at some point they got so big and ambitious they forgot what makes comedy funny: passion, interaction

and expectation.

The best shows at USyd were not the ones with the best sets or lighting or sound. The best ones, funnily enough, tended to have almost no production help because they had to make do without.

One of the best skits I ever saw was about supermarket boxes of pasta (which actually play a part in my life unlike Triggered Feminists”), and the next best was a dry meta-joke that turned great when the actors exploded and started throwing things around the stage. Neither were especially clever but both were unpredictable and played with genuine passion.

It’s hard to do good acts justice with such dry explanations but hopefully you can think of a favourite act to compare, and I bet it wouldn’t have worked if its actor wasn’t putting in 110%.

Anyway I went into this without a real aim so we’ll go with this. You have a lot of great shows right there on campus but they don’t seem to get many numbers. There are a lot of talented people not getting the attention they deserve. Go see some shows, it could always be worse.

Hamish Tym,
UNSW Computer Science III

On deer

Dear Editors,

In the late seventies, while I was enrolled as an undergraduate (first in Civil Engineering, later in Law and the Marx-based economics subjects that would go on to fuel the growth of an independent department of Political Economy) *Honi Soit* interceded in public debate with a voice as terrifying as it was awe-inspiring.

Few editorial voices were as clear – or quick – on Vietnam, no political writing as fearless (to a fault) and certainly, I recall, no commendation was worn with such pride by the then editors as the calls of the University Senate for the paper’s dissolution.

I can forgive the quiet retreat from public life your pages have made in recent years; all things mellow with age and, although our time demands the same fearless politics and foolhardy wit as any other, the current tenuity of the printed form may require a tactful restraint. But events of the week past – odd as they may be – demand that I reach out.

A deer was struck by a BMW in the streets of Woollahra and you breathed not one word. I

turned, with some assistance from a generous and capable grandchild, to your digital pages, where I so often find writings in advance of their printing, and found them lacking, filled most recently by Keating’s favoured punching bag, Howard.

You may resist controversy, but to resist the opportunities – comedic, metaphoric, analytical and from-whence-we-ask-did-this-young-stag-come alike – of this uniquely Sydney moment afforded was cruelty itself.

“Deer me,” I suppose. Editors, an opportunity presented itself to you. I suggest next time you grab it by the antlers.

Regards,
Matthew Harper
BA ‘69

Quiz answers from page 25

1. b) Miss World
2. Wodonga
3. Troy Grant
4. Maize flour (cornmeal)
5. Two (2005, 2012)
6. 2009
7. True
8. Ernie
9. Legally Blonde
10. Four (Indigenous, Wom*n’s, Queer and ACAR)

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HONI SOIRÉE



BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

u ll nvr gss wht hppnd t lw bll

SLYTHERIN TO THE SULS ELECTION

Honi has already reported that two tickets are primed to battle it out to run the Sydney University Law Society (SULS) in 2017.

However, a third ticket has now joined the fray. Rumours initially suggested the ticket was an act of protest against perceived nepotism and sycophancy in the process of compiling tickets. It turns out the ticket will be contesting the election as a serious contender.

They're called "Slytherin to SULS".

The ticket is headed by first year undergraduate Alexander Edye (President), Emma Frederikson (VP Education), Olivia Morris (VP Careers) and Bill Chan (VP Social Justice). They are joined by Jared Wilik (Secretary), Ronnie Taneja (Treasurer), Esha Kumar (Sponsorship), Matt Thrush and Ruben Robertson (Social), James Lin and Natalie Lao (Competitions), Millie Groenveld (Women's Officer), Yashraj Shukla (Sports) and Jessica Bi (Campus).

We expect that they will be channelling any perceived lack of experience into a message that the SULS executive should be accessible for those that haven't engaged with SULS before. They are extremely well represented among the first year cohort but may struggle to engage older sections of the law school.

In other news, the tickets all have names now. Kieran Hoyle's ticket is running on "GAME for SULS" (using light green), Rohan Barmanray's ticket is "SPARK for SULS" (yellow). Slytherin will be running on dark green.

THE PRESIDENT'S LEMONS

Ever the enviro-conscious pseudo-corporation, the USU maintains a small citrus grove on that balcony of the Holme Building overlooking Science Road. It's a ~holmely~ affair – half a dozen or so lemon and orange trees, their growth stunted by pots too small for them.

Their blossoms emanate a not unpleasant fragrance at this time of year.

The grove bears fruit annually. Passing it on the way to a recent Board meeting, *Honi* observed this year's fruit was afflicted – blemished, shrivelled and discoloured. By what or whom, we weren't immediately sure, but the ~budding~ young journalists we are, we set about finding out.

A diseased lemon was plucked and taken to Bunnings Rockdale for inspection. Judy from Gardening's reaction, "Whoa, I have no idea", didn't instil great hope for the orchard's salvation. She referred us to Dave in aisle 24, the champion of "insecticides and fungicides".

Dave doesn't work Thursdays, but his proxy, Leanne, began her line of inquiry with "Do you have a possum problem?" Ominous. We responded that we weren't aware of one, but it couldn't be ruled out.

An impromptu roundtable of Bunnings employees was then convened. Truth be told, Sophie had little to offer. Anthony, an off-duty staff member from Bunnings Alexandria, professed to have the answer: his was a diagnosis of aphids (explaining the small black dots), with the larger gouges caused by a "bigger critter". His fix? Pest oil and a bird netting.

Honi intends to pass the advice on to USU President Michael Rees, who, it's been said, can be found tending to the grove every day, at first light. Rees "categorically" denies this. "Those plants water themselves."

DEAR HONI ELECTION CANDIDATES

Please hush now on the Facebooks, all of you.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

Rappers pull out of Wes Stock due to college controversy

Elliott Brennan

A headline act has pulled out of upcoming Wesley College music festival "Wes Stock" after learning of the college's past controversies.

Sydney-based rap crew Flip the Script revealed to *Honi Soit* they would not be participating in the October 14 festival after questions from fans alerted them to the college's recent negative media attention.

The group said they didn't hold any ill will toward the event or students who attend the college, but in light of the fact that some of their female fans didn't feel comfortable attending, felt it best they didn't perform.

"A couple of our mates took us to task and said they weren't coming because it was at Wesley," member Joe Bourke, 20, said.

"This isn't to say I think it should be completely boycotted, but we couldn't go and perform at a gig where some of our

fans didn't even feel comfortable attending."

Wesley has been the subject of intense media and public scrutiny this year, after a Pulp media article revealed details of a "Rackweb" published by in a journal edited by students at the college in 2014 that gave female residents titles such as "Best Ass" and "Biggest Pornstar".

Despite overwhelming pressure, the college did not release the names of the editors of the journal.

Flip the Script's manager Liam Max Apter said the group were all aware of the "Rackweb" incident and others, but were under the impression more had been done to change the culture of the college.

"I spoke with a number of people linked to the issue and the overwhelming response I was given was negative, especially because Wesley didn't give up the names following the revelations," Apter said.

In a transcript obtained by

Honi, the event's booker said he "completely understood" the decision of the band, but described the scandals as a beat-up.

"For a bit of context they are a gross exaggeration fuelled by a student newspaper to sell more papers, however I respect your decision as it's often tricky to see past the lies of the media," the booker said.

The event's organisers did not reply to *Honi's* request for comment. Bourke said that response only affirmed the merit of the decision for him.

"The college needs to work out some kind of meaningful way to change what is clearly a damaged culture. Ground rules need to be made and it needs to be clear to the young men in attendance that there's no place in today's society for slut-shaming," he said.

The event page for Wes Stock still lists Flip the Script as performing. It is unclear whether a replacement has been found.

LIBERAL MEDIA

SULC war rages over Mon Droit

Imogen Harper

The outgoing executive of the Sydney University Liberal Club (SULC) has refused to hand over control of the newspaper *Mon Droit*, claiming it is an asset external to the club, despite receiving USU funding for its publication.

The 2015 executive (largely aligned with the "soft right" of the Liberal party) lost control over the society at the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) following sustained and well-documented factional fighting.

The Clubs and Societies program requires that all SULC assets be transferred to the current executive, and while the process of handing over all club property was delayed, *Mon Droit* was the only item to be claimed as "independent". The dispute now involves the remaining physical copies of *Mon Droit* and administrative access to the website and Facebook page.

The claim was first made publicly on the *Mon Droit* Facebook page in August, days after the SULC AGM. The post states the paper is "proudly independent of the Sydney University Liberal Club and that its editorial line is not determined by that organisation's executive" but rather that it is "the product

of the initiative and passion of the Liberal students".

The current managing editor of *Mon Droit*, Catherine Priestley, told *Honi* that "the paper has continued to receive and publish submissions in the usual fashion" and that "as far as we are aware there is nothing in SULC's constitution suggesting the Club or its Executive have any authority over the publication." She understands that "the paper's founders William Dawes and Grace O'Brien always expected the publication to rely on the creative efforts of individual Liberal students... it was never to be merely a Club newsletter."

The current administration unsurprisingly denies this. Current President Josh Crawford told *Honi* that "*Mon Droit* is the publication of the Sydney University Liberal Club... owned and operated by the Club since their inception." The current executive is aligned with a competing "left" faction which splintered from the soft right.

David Hogan, a current member of the executive, made the claim that "USU funding has been used on *Mon Droit* multiple times, hundreds of dollars worth."

Priestley told *Honi* that *Mon Droit* had "received funding for our occasional print issues from

a number of sources. Partial funding from the USU in the past has been secured through the acknowledgement of that contribution in the usual way within the publication."

The University of Sydney Union President, Michael Rees, did not give comment on the funding status of *Mon Droit*, although he did say the issue had been brought to their attention and that they would investigate who had ownership of the paper.

Priestley told *Honi* that "even if the Club's executive were not completely unrelated to the *Mon Droit* editorial team, we would be hesitant to rely on the current executive to ensure the paper remains accessible to all students" because of "the blatant exclusion of most Club members from events held by the Club after the recent AGM".

This development adds to the controversy of the SULC executive election earlier this year, surrounded by allegations of factional stacking and other misconduct. The sentiments of Priestley align with Dawes' outgoing comments at the AGM condemned the "toxic culture" created by the "wolf pack" within SULC, suggesting this "culture war" was the source of disagreement within SULC rather than ideology.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Uni commits to new sexual assault reporting system

The system, including better timelines, will be in place by early 2017

Subeta Vimalarajah

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Registrar) Tyrone Carlin has promised student representatives a new sexual assault reporting system by semester one of 2017.

An expert, who was not identified by name, has been employed to undertake a review of the current system.

The new system will include a timeline for complainants and will emphasise the confidentiality of the process to students.

The news was communicated during a September 22 meeting between SRC Women's Officer Anna Hush, Sexual Harassment Officer Olivia Borgese, Carlin and the Vice-Chancellor, Michael Spence.

"Reporting sexual harassment and/or assault is a traumatic event in itself. The current system is deeply flawed and needs to be overhauled to better support students," Borgese said. "This is a long overdue measure and will hopefully improve the sensitivity and transparency of this system," added Hush.

The meeting comes after an open letter was signed by 10 years of women's officers condemning the University's delay in responding to sexual assault and harassment on campus.

"We take the issues seriously and want to work with students and their representatives as we continue to improve," Spence said in a response letter.

Spence's letter identified

the University's Creating a Safer Community for All survey undertaken last year and the new "program of cultural reflection and change" being discussed with the residential colleges as evidence of their efforts.

It invited student representatives to speak with Spence and Carlin, resulting in the September 22 meeting.

At the meeting, student representatives were informed of various developments since their last meeting with University management, on June 24.

These include all staff members of the Student Affairs Unit undergoing training by Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia to aid them in responding

Update: Colleges Taskforce

In response to various articles alleging poor responses to sexual assault and harassment at USyd's residential colleges, the Vice Chancellor, Michael Spence, announced a taskforce to be led by former Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick. Since the taskforce was announced, news of developments has not been communicated to

student representatives. In the September 14 meeting of the Academic Board, Spence confirmed that two colleges are yet to sign on to the Broderick taskforce. Spence refused to identify the specific colleges to the meeting. Student representatives have been informed the taskforce will produce a report late next year, but until then details will be kept private.

to students who disclose experiences of sexual assault.

Student representatives have also been promised ongoing consultation through focus groups.

Former Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick will coordinate these with assistance from Alex Shehadie, Broderick's colleague from the Human Rights Commission's Review into the Treatment of Women in the Australian

Defence Force.

Further plans were discussed about how to better educate students about issues of consent and sexual assault, with specific discussion about the merits of online education modules.

"Our meeting with University management was a good opportunity to promote the priorities of students that have arisen throughout the sexual assault campaign," Hush said of the meeting.

STUPID STUDENT POLITICS

WET, Brook and Stand Up dominate SRC election results

Mary Ward & Max Hall

WET for *Honi* will be your 2017 *Honi Soit* editors, sharing the SRC dungeons with newly-elected President, Isabella Brook (National Labor Students, Labor Left) and a huge number of Unity and mod Lib mates following the conclusion of semester two's SRC elections on September 22.

HONI SOIT EDITORS

The WET ticket consisted of *Honi Soit* reporters Nick Bonyhady, Jayce Carrano, Ann Ding, Tina Huang, Gillian Kayrooz, Justine Landis-Hanley, Aidan Molins, Siobhan Ryan, Michael Sun, and Maani Truu, as well as contributor Evie Woodforde.

Campaigning heavily on all 11 members having contributed to the paper, WET polled the second-highest primary of 1365.

After SIN came in third with 1126 votes and was excluded from the count, a strong preference flow to WET managed to push the ticket's vote count above TIME (who polled a primary vote of 1603 after seeming to do the inconceivable and mobilise the colleges as a stupol voting base), allowing them to jump into the top spot.

WET landed 296 votes ahead

of TIME, with a total of 2013.

Throughout all three days of polling, SIN were instructing their voters to have WET as their second pick.

TIME and WET also had a 2-0 deal, whereby TIME how-to-votes instructed voters to preference WET second in exchange for WET not having any formal preference deal with SIN. However, this was only in operation on Tuesday and Wednesday.

This gave WET the pick of the "2" votes from both of the other tickets, regardless of which was excluded.

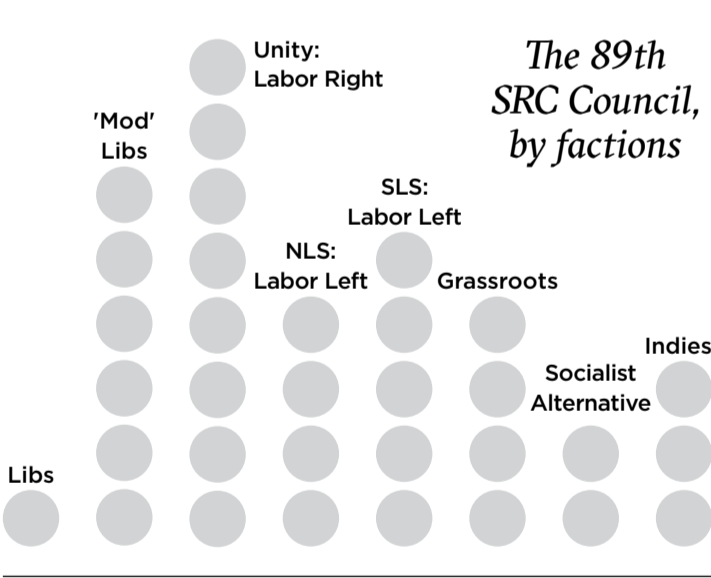
It was the first time three serious tickets had contested the editorship since 2011.

PRESIDENT

SRC General Executive Brook, who ran with the Stand Up campaign, edged out General-Secretary Georgia Mantle (Grassroots), who ran with the Power campaign, for the top job.

Brook received 2133 votes, beating Mantle's 1665. Brook beat Mantle at every booth except The Con and SCA, which both had (as is tradition) low voter turnouts.

The result was consistent with exit polling conducted by *Honi Soit* (and PULP, and Usyd Update) on the first two days of the three-day voting period.



SRC COUNCILLORS

After the results of the *Honi Soit* and presidential elections were announced on the night, the tally room returned the next morning (and for several mornings after that) to count and divvy up preferences between the 72 council tickets.

Faction-wise Student Unity (Labor Right) came out on top with eight seats. They are followed by the mod Lib Ignite group who managed six seats, making the Stand Up/Ignite coalition particularly strong. NLS (Labor Left), the third member of the Stand Up/Ignite group, also did respectably,

pulling in four seats, in addition to Brook as chair. If NLS maintain this alliance – last year they abandoned their election partners before executive positions were elected – this group will hold a majority of the thirty-three seat SRC next year.

On the other side of the house, the Power group ended up as follows: Grassroots will have four seats, SLS (Labor Left) will have five, Socialist Alternative (SALT) managed two and Power independent Katie Thorburn completes the group's 12 seats.

Not fitting neatly into either of the two groups at present is Liberal councillor Alex Fitton.

The 89th SRC Council, by factions

After the Ignite Libs rolled the establishment at the recent Sydney University Liberal Club executive election, Fitton demonstrated his opposition to the group by handing out how-to-votes which told Liberal voters to preference Mantle above the Ignite-backed Brook. Yes, the Liberal candidate was supporting a Grassroots president.

The surprise of the count was independent Patrick Ryan of Twins for Tickets: (It) Takes Two, who – after he and his twin brother William ran unsuccessfully on the same branding in 2014 – managed to poll the fifth overall highest vote. *Honi* suspects that the voters mobilised by TIME for *Honi* may have also held twin-related sympathies (Patrick, an alumni of John's, spoke at the College dinner after TIME during election week).

NUS DELEGATES

As for the National Union of Students, your seven delegates headed down to Melbourne in December will be: Isabella Brook (NLS), Dylan Williams (Unity), Eleanor Morley (SALT), Kerrod Gream (Ignite), Jackson Newell (Liberal), Kimberley Murphy (SALT) and Lorena White (Unity), elected in that order.

LITIGATION

Uni reportedly under-offers compo by \$275k

Pranay Jha

A claim for compensation following the cancellation of a degree pathway against the University of Sydney has increased to \$300,000 amidst allegations of systemic mistreatments by university management. The University has reportedly offered \$25,000 as out-of-court settlement.

Honi Soit has previously reported on a freedom of information dispute between Philipp Kreutzer and the University following the cancellation of a Medicine degree pathway program with Southern Cross University. Kreutzer’s daughter was enrolled in the program when it was axed, rendering her HECS debt redundant.

The claim for compensation covers economic and emotional loss suffered as a result of the cancellation.

The University previously denied that any detriment had been incurred.

Kreutzer has expectations that the University’s first settlement offer of \$25,000 will increase, given it is open for an undefined period.

The initial cancellation disrupted the lives of many students. Philipp Kreutzer, the father of a prospective student, claimed “No attempt has been made to contact students...no communication through the

university. They basically said it’s all over, go away.”

After a lengthy process of communications with the Ombudsman’s office, eventuating in no findings of misconduct on the University’s part, Kreutzer sought to review the findings of the initial investigator. Throughout the review process, Kreutzer claims that the University has failed to cooperate.

Given the limited resources of the Ombudsman, it appears unlikely that such a course of action will be explored. Subsequently Kreutzer claims “legal proceedings are very possible,” or alternatively, “Compensation that represents a reasonable acknowledgement to the extent they’ve damaged [my daughter].”

Kreutzer remains firm that the purpose of both the claim and his actions to date have been to hold the University management to account. Despite the University’s assertion that the Kreutzers were focussed on extracting money, it appears the initial discussion regarding compensation was prompted by Ombudsman comments.

After proceedings that have dragged on for close to two years, Kreutzer maintains “the purpose is to expose them and to get their attitude to change”.

The University did not provide comment by the time of publication.

DEMOCRACY

How the ticket gets made

Alan Zheng analyses the potential structure of future SULS races

After two years of uncontested elections, the Law School will go to the polls on October 17 and 18 to choose between three tickets vying to be the 2016-2017 SULS Executive.

Amidst all the pre-election turbulence of backroom gossip and organising \$750 worth of publicity material, the winds of electoral reform have filtered through the Law School over the best mechanism to elect the SULS executive comprised of 16 core positions. Additionally, five positions (including Queer, Equity and First Nations Officer) are appointed by the elected core executive.

The current system suffers from flaws, but not severely enough to justify radical reform towards the alternative of individual nominations which is crippled by undemocratic weaknesses.

The SULS Constitution requires a minimum of eight women-identifying students to be in the elected executive. The only position that must be filled by a female-identifying student is the Women’s Officer. This can be contrasted with the UNSW Law Society’s gender-representative Co-Presidents model.

The process of electing ‘tickets’ is often criticised for attracting student cliques and degrading democratic process to mere popularity contests rather than a battle over policy, vision and representation.

A recent SULS Call for Comment has sought public consultation on the issue. It suggests tickets are formed through meritocracy, based

on “frequently looking at who is involved with SULS” listing examples of participation in subcommittees, sport and volunteering. Looking at the composition of both tickets; it’s clear SULS values engagement in its activities with Subcommittees, Law Revue, Publications and Competitions experience rounding out the majority of both tickets. Yet, assertions of popularity misconstrue the system. Previous engagement with SULS, albeit limiting tickets to a smaller pool of the Law School, serve to guarantee a certain wealth of experience and commitment to SULS and ‘policy cohesion.” What is termed Popularity in SULS tickets is in reality, a powerful reflection of the cross section of the Law School.

Subservient to Law School democracy, the pressure on tickets to achieve the most ‘representative’ body of students is the greatest strength of the current system. This year seems to be emblematic of this focus on diversity, in terms of identity and degree progression. Even criticisms of tickets being ‘pro-establishment’, isolated to current SULS executives and subcommittee members, seems to have lessened this year. One ticket has no current executives.

The group oriented ticketing legitimise support for each individual nominee. Tickets guarantee equitable participation through affirmative action, removing deterrents on participation such as the onerous burden of individual campaigning and the omission of a group-oriented support environment. In

fact, 11 male and three female candidates were successful in the most recent UNSW Law Society election, where every position is individually elected.

The current system has its faults but adopting transparent mechanisms will address these without the radical shift towards individual elections.

To guarantee diversity – the essential foundation of democratic representation – ticket formation must substantially occur in plain view and not for the mere 31 people who clicked ‘going’ to the Facebook event of the SULS Election ‘Candidates Information Session’ (a majority of which were SULS executives and active participants in SULS programs).

A procedural shift is necessary to redress current procedural opacity. The first is the implementation of the Prospectus System (similar to the one in place at UNSW), one of six electoral models proposed in the Call for Comment, requiring presidential candidates to publish a prospectus, listing contact details, vision and experience, before reaching out to potential ticket members.

In addition, more media scrutiny of the process can only aid transparency (in an engaging medium) and help students be informed about the candidates without having to have personal connection with them.

But then again, perhaps I’m idealistic.

Voting for the SULS election is scheduled for October 17 and 18.



Mr. Howard. Photo: supplied

‘Doctor of War Crimes’

University staff and students clashed with riot police on Friday while protesting the decision to award ex-Prime Minister and USyd alumnus John Howard an honorary degree

Victoria Zerbst

Around 150 academics, students and university staff members joined to protest the University Senate’s decision to award former prime minister John Howard with an honorary doctorate at a graduation ceremony that took place on Friday September 30.

The protesters were met with approximately 30 riot police officers who blocked every entrance the Great Hall with in the University Quadrangle.

SUPRA disability officer, Gareth Charles, was taken into police custody but has since

been released without charge. His arrest sparked conflict with the protesters, as they attempted to obstruct the departure of the holding police van.

Riot police physically clashed with the protesters, pushing them to the ground as they moved in front of the van.

Charles yelled, “Police brutality!” as he was being arrested.

Both John Howard and former opposition leader, Brendan Nelson, attended the ceremony, which started late on account of Howard’s arrival. A student graduating at the ceremony told *Honi* that “the protesters were really loud from

outside” but that the protest did not affect the proceedings inside the hall.

The protest followed a petition endorsed by 112 academics that decried Howard as a racist and war criminal and condemned the university for awarding a recipient “not worthy of the university’s highest honour”.

In the petition Dr Nick Riemer, senior lecturer in english and linguistics, wrote, “To confer a doctorate on [Howard] is an insult to anyone opposed to war, racism and social exclusion, and committed to multiculturalism, peace and

social progress in Australia and in the world.”

Riemer led the protest. He was supported by many academics, including Professor Linda Connor, who challenged the hypocrisy of the University for awarding a doctorate to a candidate that does not live up to the university’s values.

She said, “If you think about inclusivity and what Howard did with the marriage law without consultation, and the Northern Territory intervention...where does that leave inclusivity?”

Professor Frank Stilwell, who teaches political economy,

ELECTORAL REGULATION

What would a Supreme Court challenge to the Senate election look like?

Kishor Napier-Raman examines the prospect of a lawsuit over the most controversial Senate election on record

The recent election for undergraduate Senate fellow was marred by allegations of misconduct against campaigners for the victor Colin Whitchurch and second-placed Francis Tamer. Although numerous complaints were raised with Returning Officer, David Pacey, no action was taken. A Supreme Court challenge to this decision remains a realistic possibility.

The Senate is the University’s supreme governing body, controlling finance and high-level education policy direction. Because voting for its one undergraduate ‘fellow’ is done online, campaigning is less visible, making electoral conduct far more difficult to scrutinise.

The two highest placing candidates exclusively relied on approaching students with laptops to receive votes. Neither publicly declared any policy stances, or launched Facebook pages.

Throughout the election, campaigners were seen filling in ballots for students and looking over their shoulders as they voted. Such actions appear inconsistent with the by-laws, and guidelines distributed to candidates.

The effectiveness of such a strategy is, however, undeniable. Whitchurch and Tamer amassed 2598 and 2366 votes respectively, more than three times the 737 received by third placed Alexi Polden. While this indicates that huge numbers of students voted for them, very few preferences flowed their way as each candidate was excluded from the count. The enormous disparity between first and second preferences suggests that the results do not reflect the actual preferences of the student body.

Unlike other student elections, the Senate race is governed by State legislation – the *University of Sydney By-Law 1999* (NSW). A candidate may therefore claim that the election was administered in breach of that statute, and that Pacey could not declare Whitchurch (and, consequently, Tamer) the victor. The only candidate with “standing” to challenge the decision is likely to be Polden.

The appeal would apply administrative law, the area of law which regulates government action. An affected party would seek “judicial review” of a decision made by a government authority (i.e. when exercising a power granted by legislation).

According to section 34(1) of the by-laws, “an election must be conducted by secret ballot”. As “secret ballot” is undefined, the court would focus on determining the term’s correct meaning, and whether Pacey’s conception was too lenient.

The court may decide that section 34(1) was breached, and therefore that the RO is incapable of declaring Whitchurch the victor.

A secondary line of attack could focus on section 16(1A), which requires that the RO “is to take all reasonable steps to ensure the fairness and integrity of the election process”. A challenger could argue that Pacey’s response to Whitchurch and Tamer’s actions failed to fulfil this requirement.

If the court were satisfied that Pacey incorrectly applied the By-Laws, it could impose a number of discretionary remedies. The court could quash or set aside Pacey’s original decision. Alternatively, it could make a declaration, as to the true meaning of the relevant by-laws, and whether Pacey failed to act consistently with them. Although a declaration is technically unenforceable, it is highly likely that it will be respected.

Finally, if the court felt that Pacey had not complied with 16(1A), it could order a remedy compelling him to perform actions to ensure fairness and integrity.

Importantly, the court can choose not to apply

VOTE DISTRIBUTION: 2016									
	Count 1	Count 2	Count 3	Count 4	Count 5	Count 6	Count 7	Count 8	Count 9
Colin Whitchurch	2250	2251	2255	2259	2264	2272	2362	2443	2598
Francis Tamer	2205	2207	2209	2212	2223	2231	2291	2366	
Alexi Polden	651	663	674	677	678	709	737		
George Bishop	595	597	599	605	615	622			
Caitlin Gauci	82	84	92	95	98				
Dimitry Palmer	54	55	59	61					
Andrew Sekhar	50	50	51						
Georg Tamm	47	48							
Finn Keogh	35								

these remedies, even if the candidate can identify how the law has been broken. The court may consider the inconvenience of re-running an election when framing their order.

Polden has not indicated to *Honi* whether he intends to challenge the election. Going to court is not a decision to be taken lightly. Even the cheapest solicitors and barristers charge several hundred dollars per hour. A senior barrister can charge thousands for each hour.

If a challenge is unsuccessful, the possibility of a costs order remains a significant issue. A costs order means the losing party may be ordered to pay the victor’s legal costs. Such an order, and its extent, is made at the court’s discretion. For example, costs may be reduced where the losing party has succeeded in winning some of the contentious issues at trial.

Bankrupting a student challenging the integrity of an election would undoubtedly be a PR catastrophe for the University, so they’re unlikely to pursue the money. However, it remains a real deterrent. For reference, see the USU Board’s decision to pursue legal costs from former Vice-President Tom Raue in 2014.

Although it is yet to materialise, the prospect of a legal challenge has haunted past senate elections. In 2014, Dalton Fogarty, employing similar tactics to Whitchurch and Tamer won twice as many votes as incumbent fellow Patrick Massarani. Massarani, and third-place getter Annabel Osborne repeatedly complained to the RO about Fogarty’s actions.

According to Osborne, the RO was “infuriatingly hands-off” in responding to these allegations.

While this year, the only formal voting information is the preference flow and final figures, in 2014, scrutineers for each candidate were able to see a print out of each individual vote, coded by reference to the candidate. Scrutineers could see streams of votes for individual candidates – in particular, for Fogarty. The pattern suggests votes were not accrued organically from students seeking to participate, but from campaigners moving through study spaces soliciting votes.

This points to a difficult hurdle for a challenger. The success of the challenge would hinge on the evidence available. Polden would likely need evidence that taints a sufficient proportion of the winning margin. Since the gap is nearly 2,000 votes, this is quite demanding. It would depend on the ability to receive evidence such as CCTV footage of study areas that were targeted, or affidavit evidence from affected students.

This would certainly compete with testimony that all campaigning was legitimate. In comment to *Honi*, Tamer previously said that he had “full faith in the integrity” of his campaigners, dismissing allegations, as “nothing more than attempted character assassination” against his campaigner.

Osborne and Massarani had begun organising a legal challenge in 2014. They had informal legal advice indicating theirs was a good case, and were in contact with Senior Counsel willing to represent them pro bono. Affidavit evidence, previously submitted to the Returning Officer, was collated. Ultimately, the prospect of a protracted legal battle with the University was enough for the challenge not to eventuate.

Returning Officers have, in the past, been far more proactive in enforcing the by-laws. In 2011, following widespread use of laptops, and allegations that Massarani, then on the other side of the regulations had hosted a barbecue to woo potential voters, the election was nullified. A fresh election was held, which Massarani lost. Following this, the then-returning officer Dr William Adams created the guidelines, which are distributed to candidates. These guidelines, clearly intended to curb laptop campaigning, instruct candidates and their campaigners not to harass, intimidate, coerce or induce students to vote, or assist them with logging in.

This history indicates a problematic inconsistency in the Senate’s application of the by-laws. It is unclear why some forms of inducement are condemned, whilst subtler, more pernicious methods of coercion are deemed acceptable. Moreover, the introduction of the guidelines following the 2011 election has caused other problems.

In the past two elections, the RO has responded to misconduct allegations by referring candidates to the guidelines. However, unlike the by-laws, they have no legal force. The power to disqualify candidates remains entirely at the RO’s discretion. The guidelines therefore provide the façade of regulation, without clarifying any ambiguity surrounding the application of the by-laws.

At the very least, a court challenge would provide some certainty over the exact meaning of the relevant provisions, paving the way for fairer, more transparent future elections. The threat of future litigation may also compel the University to draft clearer regulations. A challenge is an undeniable risk, but may well be necessary to clarify and protect the integrity of this and future elections.

Stupol is The Worst - can we fix it?

Subeta Vimalarajah examines the reforms to electoral regulations needed for safer and more democratic elections

“My back was injured to the point that I could no longer feel my arm ... One of those same male ... campaigners shoved me into a window,” said a female campaigner in a public Facebook status on the final day of voting for this year’s SRC elections.

With a three-way *Honi* Soit election, a properly contested presidential ballot, Labor factions split across brands and a deal with the Liberals, this year’s SRC elections were ripe with abuse, bullying and intimidation.

An entire *Honi* ticket was banned from campaigning for a period on the second voting day after a screenshot of an anti-Semitic comment sent by one of their members was reported to the Electoral Officer. Screenshots from one campaign Facebook group seen by *Honi* show members calling for a rival campaigner to be sent to a gulag, and a member of an *Honi* ticket was banned from a particular booth after an opposing ticket member ran into the electoral officer’s office crying and shaking, alleging he had repeatedly targeted her.

“It is physically and psychologically traumatising and so many people have just normalised the behaviour as “that’s just USyd elections for you,” unsuccessful presidential candidate Georgia Mantle said of this year’s election.

First years might put it down to 2016 being a particularly rabid year, but long-time hacks know this is the rule, not an exception. Every year the cycle repeats itself: campaigning begins with the bitter tension that ambition and moral righteousness produces, and ends with a free-for-all of name-calling, aggressive shoving and disillusioned voters. The behaviour is called out in Facebook statuses and in the pages of this newspaper every year, and student politicians nod knowingly and seemingly sincerely, but when push comes to shove any meaningful attempt to change the system is forcibly silenced.

Soon after the particularly vindictive SRC election of 2014, three students – Georgia Kriz, Cameron Caccamo, and Riki Scanlan – proposed a suite of changes to the SRC’s electoral regulations. Many were designed to combat the ongoing concerns that student politics was a SSAF funded Mean Girls. The new regulations would stop campaigners physically blocking the exclusion zone or campaigning in University of Sydney Union buildings, prohibit multiple campaigners descending on one voter, and would make the first week of the election campaign online.

Fewer average student voters increases the extent to which the elections become a popularity contest

These reforms targeted two key sources of aggression on the campaign trail. Firstly, the exclusion zone, notorious for being a five- or six-way battle of elbows. Campaigners attempt to shove each other out of the way as a bewildered voter either flees crying into the exclusion zone, as one did this year, or runs off to class and plots



another way to walk from Redfern next time. Secondly, “spoiling votes”, where the purpose of the campaigner’s involvement is to intimidate the voter into not voting and the campaigner, particularly if they are young or otherwise vulnerable, into not campaigning.

Images: Supplied

There’s surely some middle ground that can respect the autonomy of voters and ensure the integrity of student safety

These reforms were on the agenda of both the 2015 June 3 and July 15 SRC Council meetings, the two meetings prior to the deadline beyond which electoral regulations could no longer take effect for the year’s elections. Neither meeting took place; both were inquorate, largely due to the failure of any Labor factions to attend.

In response to allegations his faction was preventing the regulations from passing, Student Unity (Labor Right) member Michael Elliott raised two contentions in a USyd Update interview with Eden Faithfull.

The first was how the moving of the regulations was communicated. “We were not told anything about the process they went through to make these regulations,” he said. It seems entirely counterintuitive to the very nature of the SRC Council – purportedly the forum in which any undergraduate student can voice concerns to their representatives by just turning up – that factions should have to be specifically informed and lobbied before reforms are proposed. If Elliott and his faction had questions about the process, they would have had ample opportunity to discuss them, had they attended either of the meetings.

The second was more substantive and is the most persuasive argument each time this debate resurfaces. “[We] find these new regulations to be quite undemocratic...What we’re seeing is a

restriction on the ways campaigners can communicate their ideas with voters,” he said.

The legitimate mandate of student politicians rests on a high voter turnout. Voter turnout, even under a system where students are coerced away from their meat boxes in Wentworth to vote, or pleaded with on their walk home, may only be about 15 per cent, and that’s a good year. Fewer “average student” voters increases the extent to which the elections become a popularity contest. When the proportion of votes needed to claim a seat on council starts to look more like what it is for SUPRA (where, I kid you not, 0 votes got someone elected this year), campaigners can get away with messaging their Facebook friends list for a “favour” and need never actually articulate their policy platform.

Notwithstanding the issue of poor voter turnout, policies that only allow one campaigner to talk to a student shut out a contest of ideas and give that campaigner free reign to mischaracterise their opposition. That said, “undemocratic” is not a discrete state. There’s surely some middle ground that can respect the autonomy of voters and ensure the integrity of student safety during elections, but we’re clearly not there.

Even if the regulations struck that balance, their proper enforcement is questionable. Consistently, no one applies for the electoral officer’s role except Paulene Graham, who has occupied the position for many years despite frequent misgivings about her rulings. Graham is flooded with reports of regulations breaches from all campaigns. Not only does this mean her rulings take a number of hours – significant in the context of two heated election days – but they are ad hoc and arbitrary.

The regulations, as they currently stand, clearly prohibit “physical or verbal intimidation (particularly abuse of a racist, sexist or homophobic nature or non-consensual physical contact of candidates [and] campaigners” and “potential voters”. These protections are sufficiently vague that even a trained legal mind might struggle to enforce them consistently. Paulene is not that, and it shows.

One racist message sent from a campaigner to another in a private Facebook message to a friend led to a whole campaign being suspended for half an hour on an election day. Numerous complaints of physical and verbal intimidation by another campaigner, which mark a trend over a number of campaigns, only led to a strongly worded

The cultural cost of international study

Financial pressures have an oversized impact on the degree choices of international students, Yifan Kong argues

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE FIRST YEAR FEES:

38k

FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

10k

FOR A DOMESTIC STUDENT

I’m caught in the eternal confrontation between idealism and utilitarianism

parents. Chinese high school graduates share the anxiety. How can you keep your passion for studying visual arts or degree safe and sound when the panic of having spent \$200,000 only to end up with no job to pay it all back? As far as I’m concerned, the relative expense of overseas education is closely related to utilitarianism among Chinese international students. When we are questioning why Chinese students are eternally stressed out by exams and are indifferent towards things that could not add value into their resumes, we should definitely push the back to where everything begins.

You choose accounting out of an ambiguous guilt felt for exploiting family income. Then you choose business related extra-curricular activities over being involved in the Arts revue. Then you overload your degree to pay your fees back earlier rather than having a taste of Sydney University’s notorious and famous student politics. And then you struggle to get a CPA certificate and finally land a well-paid job.

I’m not illustrating a clichéd path. I’m just demonstrating that all those steps happen as direct consequences of the first.

It is midnight now and I’m afraid of getting sentimental. I feel again I’m caught in the eternal confrontation between idealism and utilitarianism. This topic is so widely debated in literature and art, and it’s manifested itself again in the twenty first century dilemma of degree selection, all triggered by the disparity in tuition fees.

Culture is always obtained without immediate payback.



e-mail threatening exclusion.

There’s limited scope to reform the regulations themselves to be more black and white, because verbal intimidation and offence is, by its nature, variable, and needs to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Suppose the answer was multiple electoral officers: even if anyone other than Paulene wanted to do this job, where would the fumbling SRC find the money to employ them?

The true explanation lies not in the microcosm the SRC’s elections represent, but in a broader puzzle of which they’re a piece

Supposing the regulations could be reformed and the electoral officer could enforce them consistently and in a timely manner, there’s one factor that will never be accounted for: student politicians. Be it for good or bad, to wake up early every morning and blister your feet by walking kilometres worth of Gadigal back to back, and to suffer the torrent of abuse that comes from disinterested students, student politicians need a visceral want to win to be in the game at all. It is that brute motivation that turns Jane Foss Russell into a scene from Lord of the Flies when the campaigning comes to a close every year.

The true explanation lies not in the microcosm the SRC’s elections represent, but in a broader puzzle of which they’re a piece. Many of these campaigners will move on to contest seats as members of the Greens, Labor, and Liberals, etc. Whether they take their cues from their elders, or whether this is the battleground where our Actual Politicians learnt their tricks, we would be naïve to think a safer and sweeter campaign is a simple matter of SRC regulations and enforcement.



PROFILE

Lessons from our mums

Three writers tell you how much they love their mothers

Finding a home in Australia

Pranay Jha

Mum and I sit on the edge of my parents' bed, holding plain white cups of chai in our palms. As a child, my sister and I would jump mischievously on the mattress, or lie on it listening to funny stories Mum would tell us. As I sit to interview her, however, it's a little different – it feels formal, which I think makes us both slightly nervous.

As she begins to reflect on her time in India, Mum feel more at ease. She tells me of a comfortable life, with a strong sense of home and a promising future. I've always found it warming to hear my mother describe India, knowing that it was a far simpler life than what was to come. I wonder, then, why my mother chose to leave the security of that life, to move onto a completely different one.

"Daddy realised that there were many job opportunities" she tells me. "It seemed like a glamorous place to live. I had seen Nescafé adds with the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House," she laughs.

Yet, mum soon realised that life was never going to be what she had imagined. She recalls the initial sense of "loneliness and dejection...I had come to a country which wasn't mine." With tears in her eyes, she tells me of the humiliation of being patronised in the workplace. She recounts customers refusing to be served by an Indian woman and bosses designating her degrading tasks.

Amidst tribulations of racism and unemployment, I ask mum how she managed to raise a family in Australia. "I always thought I'd raise my kids in India...Nanaji (grandfather) had passed away, my mother and sister weren't here. The idea of raising a family with no support...it didn't feel good". Mum breaks down, and I struggle to hold my own tears back. She continues, "After Ammu (grandmother) passed away, I felt I had completely lost my home."

In the face of this adversity, my mum was able to find a job and rise within the Australian Tax Office, sacrificing any relaxation to spend time with her children. As she tells me of her determination to "work twice as hard as my white counterparts", I begin to understand why she's always pushed my sister and I to study hard. Yet the greatest lesson I learn from her struggles with racism and loneliness is when she calmly says, "I am not angry. This country reminds me of how I could succeed, it was where I began to grow". I truly realise now that I owe all I have to my mother – she has given me everything.

Feeling invisible

Natalie Buckett

My mum isn't usually the one being interviewed. When I was nervous about transitioning to high school, she would help me practice making new friends by pretending to be one, 'Susan'. She would quiz me on my homework, hand me cups of tea as I ranted about my high school love life. Even now, when I call home for a chat, we debrief about my life and my problems.

I feel guilty that it took a structured sit down interview to centre her experiences as the talking point.

My mum and I have always enjoyed a *Gilmore Girls* level of closeness. It was particularly hard when I was the last to leave home,



I've always found it warming to hear my mother describe India, knowing that it was a far simpler life than what was to come.

Art: Eloise Myatt

five years after my brother and sister. Interviewing mum, I recalled something she used to say to me, "sometimes I feel invisible." What did she mean?

"There is a definite time in your life, I can't pinpoint it exactly, where there's a shift and you become aware that you could just disappear from where you are and no one would realise it." She hesitated to give examples, maybe worried they were frivolous, "it's just a big adjustment in so many ways," she said of my leaving home. "When I trip now in the supermarket I don't have someone to laugh with, or help me up."

But she wants me to emphasise how lucky she has been throughout her life. At university, she studied to be microbiologist, then 27 years later, she studied law long-distance. A few years later she became a local government councillor, then a mediator, and now she is Mayor.

For the majority of her adult life though, she's been a stay-at-home mum. She was often confused by the "societal thing where people ascertain your value often through your children or your situation", feeling pressure to prove her work at home was equivalent to women "doing it all". Mum is careful to remind me that her particular experience was coloured by being "financially fortunate" enough to stay at home when she needed to, and pursue education later in life.

I have memories of my mum and I completing our homework at the kitchen table together – her Torts assignments written alongside my school certificate practice exams. Sometimes it was hard, she recalls, trying to pursue an education that would allow my dad to slowly retire from his job as a builder, whilst also caring for three chil-

dren. Education changed so much from her first degree to her second, and she laughs remembering how she sculled her first ever V and a packet of frogs beofre an exam, becoming "a jittery mess" dropping her pens and paper in front of her younger peers.

After my siblings and I left, I feel like mum took on the community as part of her family. I wonder if sometimes the reason she feels invisible, is because she never stops working to put others in the spotlight, fighting for their interests and their needs.

It's an important subversion, placing my mum in the interview chair. I hope it reminded her that she shines too brightly to ever be considered invisible.

Looking back

Justine Landis-Hanley

Confronted with the task of synthesising an interview with my mother in 300 words or less about her teen life is difficult under the best of circumstances; the fact that she passed away two years ago makes this process a little trickier.

I turned to my usual suppository of wisdom: my Polish Grandmother, Toni.

"Krysia was a bit of a rebel, she wanted to belong to this and belong to that."

I had no idea what that meant. Toni apologised, explaining that Krysia didn't always tell her about what she was working on at the time - "you know, teenagers."

Mum's sister Nina was able to offer greater insight: "Krysia was very involved in the Victorian Secondary Students' Union. I recall going with her to Melbourne University's Union building for a meeting of secondary students every Friday night. They saw the inequality between private and public schools – the haves and the have-nots. There were government schools in poor areas that were incredibly poor, and Krysia was trying to address these social inequality issues when she herself was at high school."

"They would utilise old printing machines at the university – writing articles and reeling off these newspapers. I remember her going around and distributing them at each school, at various marches. Krysia never missed an anti-Vietnam war march.

It was heavy days politically – the Vietnam War, the Social Revolution, the Cold War period. Krysia, like other secondary school students, wished for a place to find her voice and this was where she could do it.

She herself tried to take action wherever she could. When she was at high school, she made a short black and white film about inequality in education. She studied Filmmaking at Flinders University and made another with a dramatised metaphor for the lack of safety in the workplace. I started in it as a moustached male worker."

Looking back at the women my mother became, I can see traces of her younger self. She never lost an interest in education or media, making a career out of the latter. She started the Australian Schools Director to give all schools an equal opportunity to tell their stories. She ran for politics on the premise of giving a voice to those who didn't have one. I still remember her lobbying for girls to be able to wear pants at my single-sex primary school.

I think Toni says it best though:

"She got there. She was a very forceful person and very determined. Lots of kids at school go one way and you follow them. But she went a different way. She ended up very well".

OPINION

The choice in pro-choice

Anonymous wants to open up the conversation about abortion

The pro-choice movement is about just that, choice. However, living in a country where most states are yet to fully legalise abortion, and where people with uterus continue to be questioned, shamed and vilified for their reproductive choices, a pro-choice struggle is often conflated with a pro-abortion one. Importantly though, there are many choices that people can make when faced with an unplanned pregnancy.

It is a shame then, that we are forced to fight so hard for one (very important) option, that there is little time to discuss others: have and raise the baby, have the baby and give it up for adoption, have the baby and co-raise it with a family member. All options have the potential to be viable and should be considered by the accidental incubator if they are at a loss. Just because you are pro-choice doesn't mean you have to choose to terminate the pregnancy. Just because a person may have cultural, religious, socio-economic or personal barriers to abortion, doesn't mean they shouldn't be able to exercise choice.

When I was 16, I was diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome and told that it would be impossible to have a baby without some sort of hormone intervention. An unplanned pregnancy was the furthest thing from my mind. I never planned on having kids then, nor did I when I was 22. It seemed like a blessing.

I found out I was pregnant a few weeks after I arrived in Germany* to embark on a 6 month exchange. I went to the doctor complaining of stomach pains. He gave me a pregnancy test, which I assured him I didn't need, but took it dutifully anyway. It came back positive.

I spent a lot of the next day just sitting in my room. I always knew I would have an abortion if I needed to, So when the doctor asked me what I wanted to do it felt like I was on autopilot. I don't remember saying "I would like to book a termina-

tion appointment", but I must have.

You have to wait 5 days between the health clinic receiving your referral for the termination and it actually taking place. Still only in the early stages of exchange, I hadn't met a lot of people I could come to with this. I got drunk every night to try and numb my body even though it already felt dead. I didn't ask myself questions, I didn't let myself entertain any other option.

The day approached painfully slow. I took the 2 hour train ride to Berlin at 8am by myself, arriving 90 minutes early because I've always erred on the side of 'too cautious'. I filled out various forms and paid \$800. I wanted to scream – but I also didn't want to spend anymore time there. I forced my way through the consultation, convincing the counsellor I was ready. In hindsight, I probably wasn't.

The procedure itself was fine. I've had many procedures and inspections of my vagina through the years, and this felt no different. The doctor didn't speak English and never asked me if I felt okay. I wish he did.

It was over in 20 minutes. I was given some heavy-duty sanitary pads and some medication to slow the bleeding, before being ushered out and told I was free to go. I kind of wanted to stay. I don't know why. The thought of leaving terrified me.

It's only now I look back and realise how much more difficult it could have been. What if I couldn't afford that huge sum of money, \$800? What if I hadn't been a white, Australian girl on exchange – would I have been treated differently be the clinic? What if I had no safety net to return to at all, not even when I returned home?

Autopilot kicked in again once I left the clinic. It wasn't until I shut and locked the door behind me at 2pm, that I felt it all of it. For some dark and twisted reason, I thought having an abortion as a feminist would be liberating. You read about women owning their bodies and saying "Hell



Art: Michael Lotsaris

yeah! I had an abortion, my body is my body and this was my choice!", that when your body and mind reject the choice you've made, you feel like a bad feminist.

It's still the first thing I think about when I wake up and the last thing I think about when I go to sleep. I don't know why I feel guilty, or sad – it's certainly not because I think having an abortion was wrong. Whenever I see a baby, or change my blood-soaked pad, I feel a pang in my chest. Whenever my brain goes quiet for a second, my inner monologue kicks up with "Oh no! No peace for you! Remember that thing?"

In the end, I always would have ended up terminating this pregnancy. But I wish I'd known about other options. It's so much more productive for us to have an open conversation about unplanned pregnancy – to acknowledge that you can choose to have a child, or choose not to have an abortion, and still be pro-choice.

Don't fear the plebiscite

Imogen Grant offers a different perspective on the vote on marriage equality

When Tony Abbott floated the plebiscite on marriage equality, it was clear that a popular vote was intended to stall progress on reform. But now the campaign for equality is in a different place. Labor and the Greens' decision to vote down a plebiscite will most likely remove any chance of marriage equality being legislated in this term of parliament.

A common argument against the plebiscite is that minority rights should not be subject to a popular vote, in part, because a plebiscite is more demeaning than a parliamentary vote. This sentiment is part of a broader trend of increasing hostility towards participatory democracy in wake of the rise of Pauline Hanson, Donald Trump, and Brexit. This anti-democratic idea has been embraced by some "progressives" who believe the population are uneducated and bigoted and, therefore, oppose a popular vote because it would involve...the population.

Let's remember that this entire debate is only necessary because the Liberal and Labor parties, back in 2004, amended the Marriage Act so as to exclude same-sex couples. These same parliamentarians have stalled on legislating marriage equality ever since. To put it another way, with polling showing majority support for marriage equality, the barrier to equal marriage is not ordinary Australians, but politicians who embedded homophobia into law. Considering the public have been con-

sistently more progressive than the political class on this issue, the assumption that a purely parliamentary discussion is somehow less demeaning is particularly odd.

One of the more serious points against a public vote concern potential negative mental health effects on queer youth. This argument often draws negative stories from the campaign trail during the Irish referendum. What this argument conceals is the fact that no suicides have been linked to the debate, and that there has been a massive increase in people coming out since the referendum passed.

If a plebiscite were to be on the agenda, of course the 'No' camp would run a vicious campaign. But homophobic ideologies have never refrained from their bigotry. In fact, rather than legitimising bigotry, the plebiscite would delegitimise it. Since we are poised to win the vote, a 'Yes' campaign would function as a large-scale anti-homophobia movement that simultaneously marginalises bigots and provides the queer movement a backdrop to propel into broader social movements, strengthening its organisational capacity in the progress.

This is people power. A plebiscite promotes a grassroots campaign where Yes supporters have to take to the streets and mobilise against homophobia and transphobia at a local level – in our houses, workplaces, and friendship groups – agitating for change everywhere.

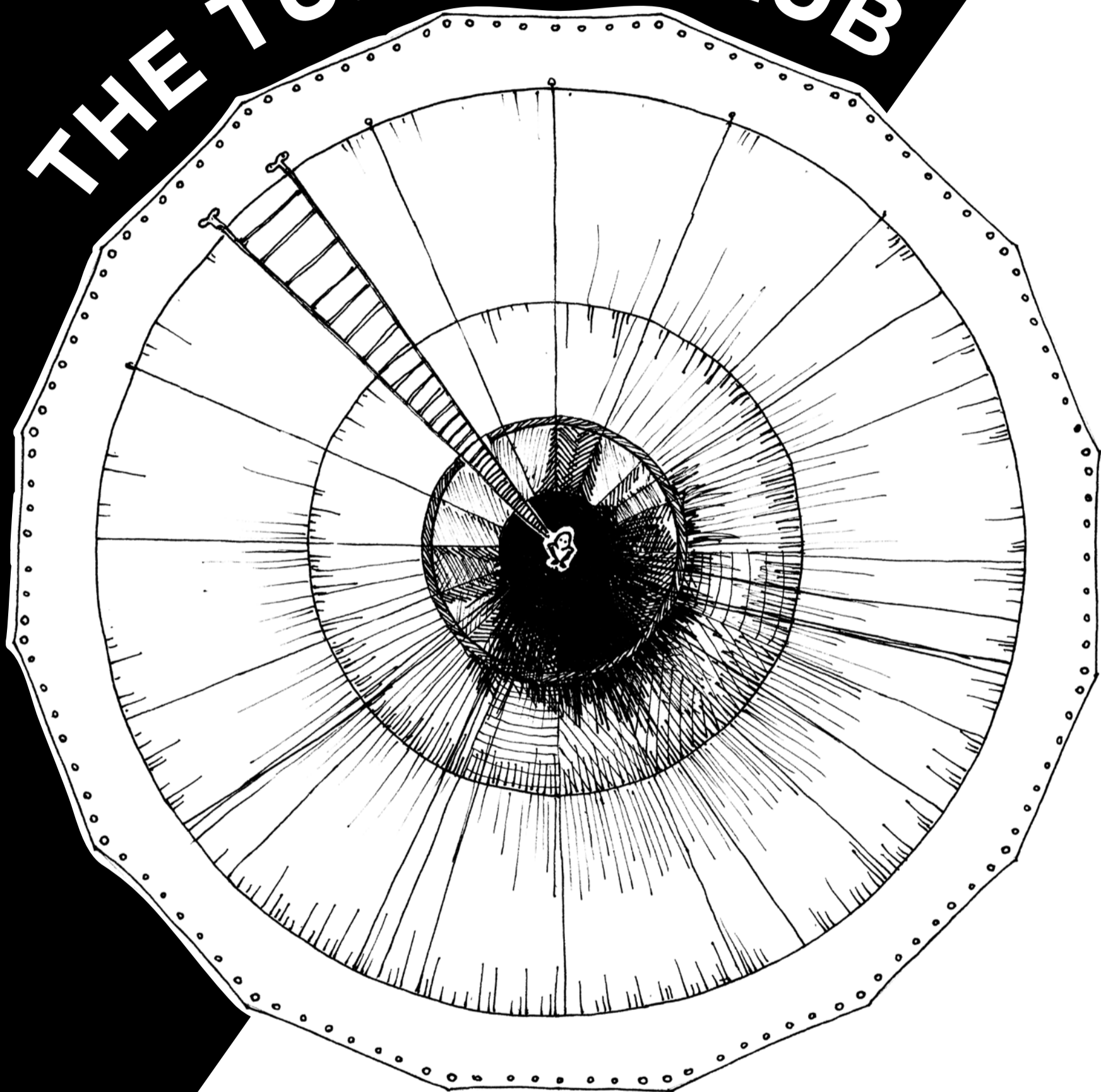
A purely parliamentary vote would not challenge the views of homophobic ideologues to the same extent. Reform won via a popular vote would show bigots, who claim to be "the silent majority," that they are, in fact, on the extreme fringes of society. It would reveal that marriage equality is not some niche idea imposed on Australia by the Twitterati and inner-city elites, but rather, a principle supported by the majority of the nation.

Of course, a popular vote requires parliamentary ratification to amend the Marriage Act. Accordingly, people point out the supposed futility of a non-binding popular vote. But Brexit was also a non-binding vote. In reality, it is unthinkable that Turnbull would turn his back on a successful Yes vote, as to do so, would result in the party's destruction both internally and at the ballot box.

I am critical of plebiscite as a delay tactic, but Labor simultaneously not binding on their own bill and voting down a plebiscite so as to delay marriage equality until 2019, at best, is even more opportunistic, and shows that this is debate is mainly about politicking and less about equality.

We know that, if marriage equality won a popular vote in Ireland, it will almost certainly win in Australia. With this in mind, the greater harm will be in not having marriage equality rather than in a plebiscite. It's rare that the Left have the opportunity to fight for a cause that is morally just and almost certain to win – don't let it pass us by.

THE TUNNEL CLUB



The abandoned tunnels underneath St James station are home to a lake with an eel in it, occasional hackers and precisely no trains. There's a lot going on.

Words by **Sam Langford**.
Art by **Ann Ding** and **Gillian Kayrooz**.

It was early 2013 or 2014, and Lucas* was in Sydney to see his friend Dick*. Dick was, by all accounts, a bit of a loose unit – the kind of guy who could talk his way out of anything, and often needed to. He had a knack for hearing about interesting places to “visit” (a polite word for “trespass”). He wasn’t much worried about the law.

Dick had a new place in mind. A secret underground railway platform running alongside St. James Station, as though a parallel universe had been constructed hastily, without time to add the trains or the people.

He’d heard about it online, where legends abounded. The tunnel supposedly terminated in a lake, where an albino eel occasionally appeared like a cretaceous apparition. The walls bore the name of dead soldiers beside satanic graffiti and the calling cards of secret societies. A strange angular bell, if struck, was rumoured to create a sound no internet forum user could adequately describe.

There are two ways into a train station without trains. The first requires keys, and is an innocuous door on the platforms at St. James, accessible to security and station staff. The second requires impeccable timing: a gate in the wall of a live train tunnel, accessible by running down a narrow ledge beside the tracks in the three-minute gap between trains. It is, understandably, dangerous – the law is unforgiving these days, as are the metal fronts of speeding trains.

“We should go tonight,” said Dick. So they did.

Rewind to January 1986, where in the lazy expanse of teenage summer, three young Melbourneans started calling themselves the Cave Clan. Their definition of ‘cave’ was loose: mines, tunnels and stormwater drains all qualified. The mission was a project of amateur speleology¹ – a jaunt into the unknown spaces of Melbourne’s artificial underground.

Trespass and graffiti have long been bedfellows, and this project was no exception – the Cave Clan tagged the walls of the tunnels they found, inviting any underground passers-by to join. In 1990, they set up a P.O. box, and started adding the address to the stickers they put up in tunnels. A year later, after a visit to some drains in Sydney, they received a letter.

“I’ve written to you with a certain amount of scepticism,” it read, “but what the hell, it’s only 43c. Yeah, send me some info on the Cave Clan.” The letter was signed “Predator”; the alias of the then-19-year-old who would become the founding member of the Cave Clan’s Sydney branch.

The Cave Clan now has branches in every Australian state, in varying degrees of health. As their website says of Western Australia: “the main problem with Perth is that it is quite sandy which means that much of the water simply soaks into the ground”. In other words: fewer drains.

The spread of the internet has made the Clan slightly easier to contact, but they remain a secretive and (literally) underground society². Aspiring members can get in touch via email to arrange a meetup, but it takes a lengthy (sometimes six month) initiation period to become an official member. The initiation involves a number of guided “expos” to various underground spaces, where members are assessed on their ability to uphold the values and ethos of the Clan.

Among other things, this means being respectful of other members, refraining from damaging or writing graffiti on historic or undisturbed sites, and not revealing the locations of drain entries to the general public (lest less careful explorers die, trash the joint or attract higher security). The Clan emphasise that they’re there to appreciate, not to destroy. In Predator’s words, “We like the varying architecture. We like the solitude. We like the timelessness of a century-old tunnel, the darkness yawning before us, saying ‘Come, you know not what I hide within me’”.

The tunnel supposedly terminated in a lake, where an albino eel occasionally appeared like a cretaceous apparition.



Above: Sydney’s Nessie, Eddie the eel. Photo: John Oakes, Australian Railway Historical Society

Right: The secret platforms at St. James. Photo: John Oakes, Australian Railway Historical Society



* Names have been changed for obvious reasons. *Honi* does not endorse or encourage trespass or similar behaviour.

1. The study or exploration of caves

2. While the Melbourne branch is relatively open, and has even invited student publications along to their events, Sydney’s has the strictest media ban of the bunch, and wouldn’t speak to me for this story.

FEATURE

In the case of the St. James tunnels, the more apt question is what hasn't been hidden within them. The tunnels were built in the early 1920s in a kind of open abdominal surgery on Hyde Park; all the earth and innards scooped out and dumped elsewhere while concrete tunnels were constructed in the pit. In a remarkable and never-to-be-repeated moment of NSW government foresight³, four tunnels rather than the strictly necessary two were built while the ground was open, in anticipation of the construction of additional railway lines in the future.

For a battery of reasons (the Depression, planning disagreements), those lines never eventuated, leaving the stubs of unused tunnels attached to St. James. Thus began a long and bizarre history of the tunnels' use for anything but their intended purpose.

A number of sources allege that from 1933-1934, one end of the tunnel housed an experimental mushroom farm, though this is difficult to confirm. In any case, World War Two put an end to any fungicultural dabbling, and saw the tunnels converted into an air raid shelter at one end, and connected to an operations bunker at the other where members of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force⁴ tracked suspicious air traffic and other important wartime data in six-hour shifts calculated to minimise contact with the poor air quality in the tunnel.

In Redfern, in an unassuming two-story office, the Australian Railway Historical Society (ARHS) keeps reams of files on this history. Upstairs is the bookshop, filled with intensely specialised tomes; passion projects run amok. Downstairs is a kind of office-cum-internet-café wallpapered with old train tickets and historic maps, where rail enthusiasts congregate to research and reminisce.⁵ The sign above the counter is done up like the old wooden station signs, black wooden lettering against white.

John Oakes, a former high school teacher and current ARHS member, has written a book on Sydney's forgotten railways. From the 1990s until around 2005, he helped run tours of the St. James tunnels, once a month on a weekend. The major appeal for him was the atmosphere, unlike anywhere else. "The tree roots coming down from Hyde Park made it rather eerie. And the old graf-

fiti from the war, where soldiers would write their name, rank and serial number on the wall, and in some cases ask for letters – but only from girls."

John is familiar with the Cave Clan graffiti too – it spurred him to look the Clan up online. He admires their photos – "they've got some terrific shots of the tunnels" – but believes they must be cautious. "They're probably being watched," he laughed. "They're probably on ASIO's list of suspects. Perhaps they've got spies in their midst, finding out what they're up to."

The tunnel tours ceased shortly after the railway bombings in London and Madrid in 2004-2005, as Sydney tightened security in response. The bizarre history of the tunnels flowed on, though. In 2007, mid-drought, NSW Premier Morris Lemma announced a plan to use the underground lake in a flooded end of the tunnel to store and recycle stormwater during the water crisis.

A year later, he announced further plans to incorporate the tunnels into the North West Metro rail project. Gladys Berejiklian, then an opposition minister, misunderstood that the two plans referred to the two separate tunnels at each end of the station, and blasted the Premier in the media. "It takes a certain level of incompetence to double-book an underground rail tunnel, but that is exactly what Morris Lemma has done", she told reporters at the

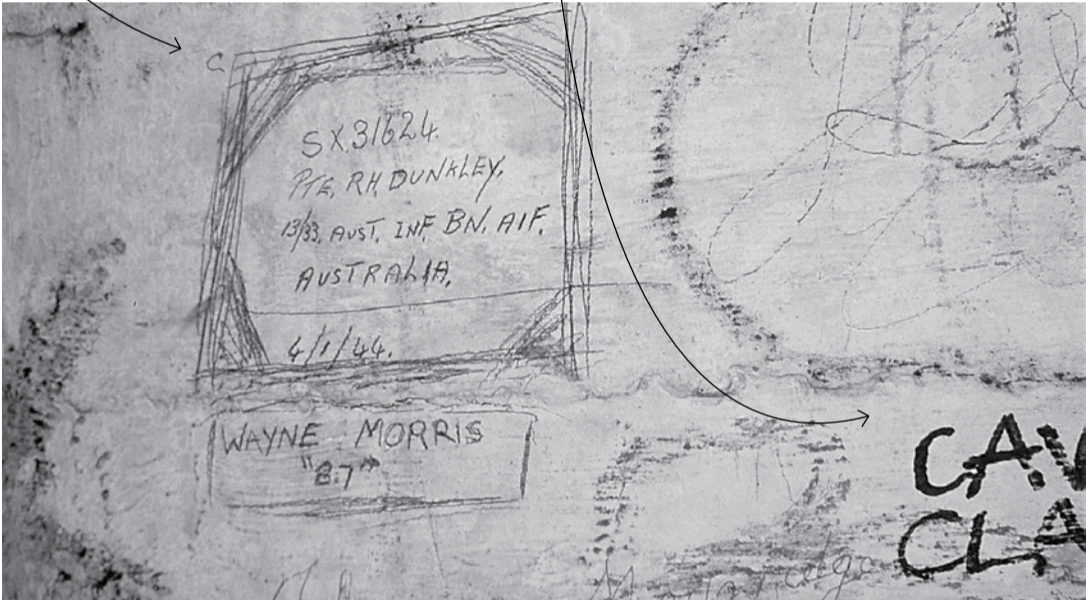
time, questioning whether the Premier expected his metro trains would run underwater.

Neither government plan came to fruition, though Lemma's water crisis scheme did inspire art. 2011 indie horror film *The Tunnel* was filmed in the eponymous tunnel, and centred on a group of journalists investigating why the government mysteriously abandoned the plan. Perhaps the most interesting thing about *The Tunnel* is that it's available for free online – the filmmakers released the film on bittorent, appealing to viewers to purchase individual frames to cover filming costs.

The film did well enough for a sequel to be announced in 2012. The title, *The Tunnel: Dead End*, says it all.

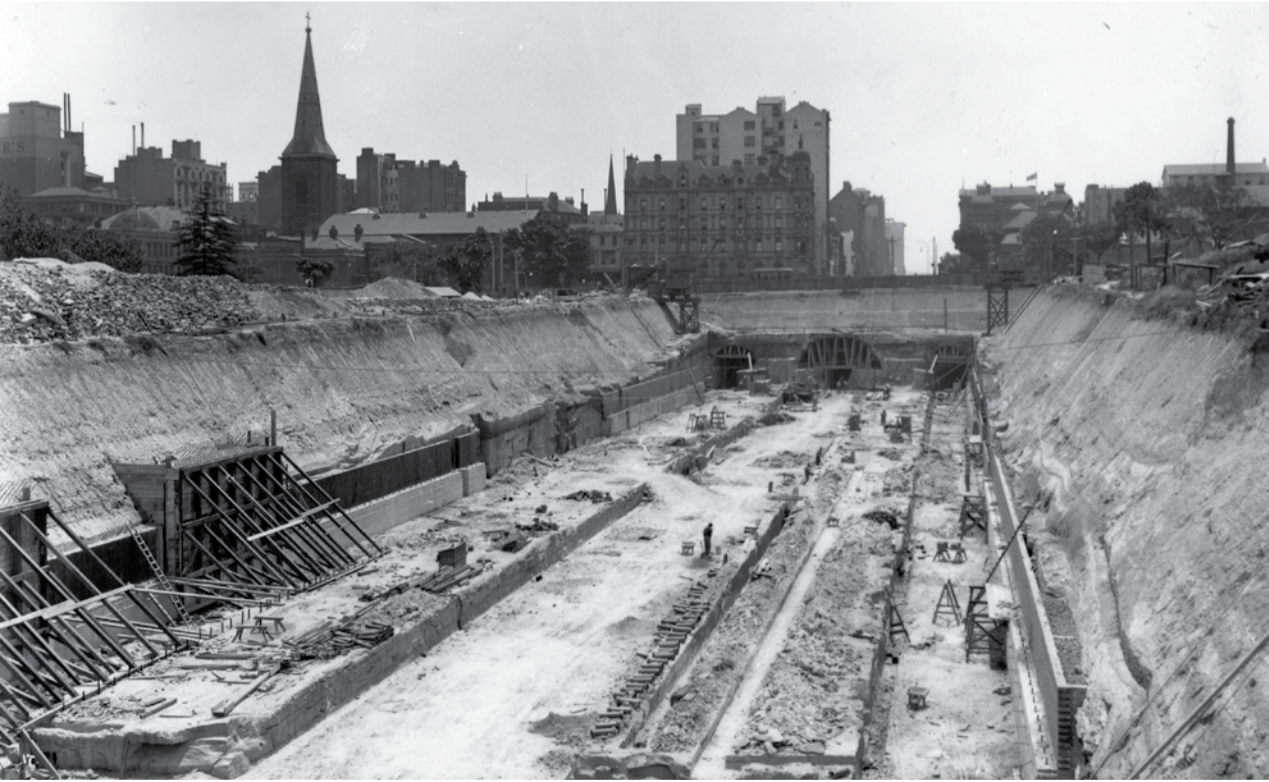
In the late 90s, against a sonic tapestry of dial up internet's beeps and gurgles, the Sydney chapter of a hacker collective called 2600 began to gain prominence. The group met fortnightly, drawing 30-40 people whose idea of a good Friday night was discussing developments in computer security.

Members of 2600 spent a fair amount of time on IRC (Internet Relay Chat). So did members of the Cave Clan, a number of whom had a background in IT. According to KJ, a member of 2600 at the time, the two groups connected and started



Photos: Australian Railway Historical Society

There are warning signs. An increase in noise as small tributaries fill and empty into the main canal, a rush of cool air from upstream. His advice: run to the nearest downstream manhole shaft and climb higher



3. Thanks to John Bradfield, also known for his role as Chief Engineer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

4. The WAAAF is incredible, by the way – the product of months of lobbying by talented women (trained pilots and engineers among them) who wanted to serve in the war effort.

5. One point of reminiscence, when I visit, is actually this paper. The office is full of USyd alumni, who remember *Honi Soit* with varying degrees of fondness. They're surprised to find us looking into tunnels these days – they remembered the paper as a "cheeky" rag preoccupied with socialism and printing knockoffs of the *Daily Tele* and *SMH*. One notable memory was of a cover story featuring a photomanipulation of the Sydney Harbour Bridge collapsing into the ocean. The guys I spoke to were cagey about whether they were among those fooled.

FEATURE



“The nice thing about round manholes is you cannot drop them down the shaft and kill someone”

in a sewer, it'll generally have small fragments of white paper floating along in the stream. This is toilet paper. Along with this you will also notice there are turds rolling along in the stream... if you are in a sewer, you want to leave."

The most sobering part of the manifesto is the part on flash flooding. The Cave Clan's cardinal rule is "when it rains, no drains", and Predator's pretty serious about adhering to it. "The last thing you want is to inflict the responsibility of rescue upon some poor SES member or fireman who really doesn't need to risk his life getting you out. To jeopardise the lives of such people is selfish and stupid"

The odds of survival are pretty slim if caught in a drain in the rain. According to Predator, though, an alert explorer usually has "between two and four minutes to get out, up a shaft or on a high ledge before the system is primed...a few minutes which, when used appropriately, can make all the difference to the length of the rest of your life."

There are warning signs. An increase in noise as small tributaries fill and empty into the main canal, a rush of cool air from upstream. His advice: run to the nearest downstream manhole shaft and climb higher than the "bathtub ring" of crap stuck to the wall, the most recent high-water mark. "You may be up there a long time before the raging torrent desists. It will be loud and frightening, but breathe calmly, conserve your airspace."

There is no indication as to the survival rates associated with this technique.

Dick and Lucas' plan was nowhere near as meticulous: it came together in a day. The pair called two girls they were friends with at the time, and arranged supplies (a bottle of wine and their phones – no one thought to bring a torch). There was no need to prepare for floods; they circumvented the threat of trains by leaving after the last one had departed. They took a different route to KJ, slipping off the end of the platform at St. James and onto a ledge, presumably for maintenance workers, which ran along the edge of the tunnel.

It was around midnight, maybe later, when they slipped through a gate in the wall of the tunnel. There was an eerie ambience to the place - two complete train platforms, never used, with gravel instead of tracks on the ground. By the residual light from the tracks they had just left, the group could see the tunnel stretch into the dark. "Like a classic horror movie," Lucas laughs, "you're like 'don't go down there'. And then you just start walking down it."

They lit their way with phone torches. Lucas remembers the walk as about ten minutes, longer even. Eventually, the tunnel abuts a wall or cliff, with a "sketchy" metal ladder running up it. You ascend perhaps five metres, and then pick your way across rocky ground until you hit a sandbank, and start to see reflections in the black. Raise your phone, and you can see Lake St. James.

"It just runs off into the darkness and around the corner of the tunnel," says Lucas. "There's a bit of rubbish in it, and on the side there's a tiny gap in the wall where you can see trains go past. You're parallel to the actual tracks, so there's just flickers of light and noise. There are people on that train who have no idea you're right there."

going out for beers.

Beers soon escalated to urbex (urban exploration). "Being pretty risk averse, we'd generally take it relatively easy," KJ says. The Cave Clan took them on expos to what they considered more beginner-friendly locations – Malabar Bunkers, a drain nicknamed "Fortress" in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, and, as KJ puts it, "Blowjob 2000, aka BJ2K...or as you know them, one end of the St. James rail tunnels."

They generally took the following route into the tunnels: jump a fence near the Domain, then wait for a train to pass, hiding so they couldn't be seen from the guard's carriage "As soon as the guard's door had gone past, you got up and ran down the tunnel after it, making sure that you didn't go so fast that the guard would see you as the train turned the bend. When you ran down the tunnel it was always pretty nerve wracking, as it's a single train tunnel only, and there was nowhere that you could go if another train came through unexpectedly."

Eventually there would be an archway in the wall of the tunnel – get through this, and you were in the abandoned section. The name BJ2K came from a bar above that archway. "When a train was coming, you would jump up and hold onto the bar, and then when the train came past, only a meter or so from your dangling body, the cushion of air it was pushing would blow you backwards," KJ says. "It was pretty wild".

Over the years, as urbex became more mainstream, the hackers' relationship with the Cave Clan began to break down. This may have been to protect locations – Cave Clan has always distanced itself from those who trash or draw attention to sites. Then in 2008, two people drowned in a flash flood at Fortress. They weren't Clan members, but the incident generated a lot of negative media attention. The deputy state coroner Hugh Dillon recommended that the police investigate the Cave Clan's "shadowy characters".

After that, says KJ, the Cave Clan went underground.

The tabloid press, in their annual scare stories on kids up to no good in drains, routinely ignore people like Predator. The Cave Clan has long tried to resist being typecast as little more than vandals and kids with a death wish; Predator, the Sydney branch founder, was an especial case study in complexity. "Amongst other things," says an obituary on the Indymedia.org forums, "[he] was also a dumpster diver, anarcho syndicalist, molecular biologist, squatter, and well known good guy."

Predator was a member of the CAT collective, also known as cat@lyst – a late-90s group of hackers and IT geeks trying to build a collectively owned and censorship-averse internet service provider. Their website proudly proclaimed their aim: "low tech grass roots net access for real people. Pedestrians, public transport and pushbikes on the information super hypeway [sic]". In a 2003 blog post, Predator expressed prescient disgust for the direction the 'net was taking. "[It's] a corporately controlled wasteland these days... tolls at all the interesting offramps. "

Predator was a prolific writer. He wrote for the *University of Sydney Union Recorder*, the precursor to today's *Pulp* and yesteryear's *BULL* magazine. On his blog, a collection of .txt files uploaded to a bare-bones homepage, he wrote on everything from molecular genetics to police corruption to



6. Which is now online at <http://sewerfresh.com/approach-to-draining>, and is well worth the read.

THE HISTORY OF HIGH SCHOOL MEME PAGES

Elijah Abraham & Victoria Zerbst scrolled back to 2012 to find your shit memes

I made my Reddam House Memes page in May 2012 after spending three days in an internet coma learning everything I could about the etymology of memes from knowyourmeme.com.

I wasn't an anarchist or troll, I was a total nerd and teacher's pet. I was motivated by a sense of school pride. I wanted my school to be a part of something cool happening on the internet. I also wanted to create the best memes: agile and intelligent memes that played with form and displayed a strong sense of finesse and understanding. I saw a gap in the market and I made the memes happen.

Looking back now, a lot of my memes were sexist, racist and/or poorly constructed. While some of them punched up at the privilege of my school, others objectified teachers or and punched down at international students. And no one really said anything. This was after I culled a lot of the really bad memes after a meeting with my school principal. I am pretty sure I organised that meeting to make sure what I was doing was allowed.

I also didn't trust anyone else to run the page after I left. After a while, as the hype died out in June, I told people it was me and I moved on to complete my HSC major works. I deleted the page by the end of 2012.

In 2012 a number of students were suspended from Southport High School in the Gold Coast after posting "offensive content" on the Southport High Memes Facebook page. That same year, a ring of principals in Adelaide were forced to shut down some Facebook meme pages after complaints that the content was disrespectful to their schools.

Similarly, our cousins over in NZ saw some high

community in Sydney. We were desperate to see who was behind each other page as we begin a deep Facebook stalk of Sydney HSMPs.

In Sydney, HSMPs were also grounded in early meme culture. Image macros were the hugely pre-



dominant format, complete with the unmistakable capitalised 'Impact' font and a memegenerator.com stamp. Beloved characters 'Boromir', 'Unhelpful Highschool Teacher', 'Success Kid' and many more were also a mainstay of these pages.

The real strength of these pages, though, was their cultural specificity. Utilising the meme template to joke and convey ideas about a highly specific environment is an incredible exercise in communication.

The admin of Sydney Grammar School Memes, Andrew Rickert, claims to have created one of the first Sydney HSMPs – having made his page in early 2012. He was inspired by the Sydney University meme page, which is classic Sydney Grammar, to be honest.

Soon HSMPs were popping up all over the place. Fort Street Memes started pretty noob, with the memegenerator.net image stamp in the corner of early images. The St Aloysius Memes were mediocre. Manly Selective Campus took submissions from students and published their names along with the meme, unless the student wanted to be anonymous. Loreto Normanhurst Memes were pretty excellent, averaging 100-200 likes per post, which is possibly the highest like average of any Sydney HSMP. The page died back in 2012 but still keeps its 1,100 page likes out in the open. PLC Memes Official tended to avoid the preset image macros, instead opting for layering text over images using paint/ps/some online image editor. Some pages even tricked punters into believing their page was the school's official page, with people even submitting resumes to the page.

school meme action in 2012, with the principal of John Paul College describing meme pages as "hate crimes" and the girls of Rotorua Girls High creating a new meme page just as an old one was being shut down, as reported by the *Rotorua Daily*.

High School Meme pages peaked at around the same time as broader meme culture had begun its ascent from the internet underground into the mainstream.

The rise was not peculiar to Australia or New Zealand. A simple Facebook search revealed to us that meme pages that exist for high schools right across the world. In 2012, in the US, a site, hsmemes.com (the link no longer works) used to rank US High School meme pages. Apparently it was based on quantity of posts, but we don't have a second source on that.

The two of us bonded over our nostalgic love for high school meme pages (HSMP from now on) and we decided to scroll through all the internet relics of the past to make sense of the high school meme

swearing and the inappropriate content and Jay agreed he would make sure no teachers were being called out.

Jay told us he was really proud of his school. "I liked that school and I wanted to help it." He also started an official Facebook page for Castle Hill High the same time he started the meme page. "I started off pretending to be the school but then I realised this could be really useful, people kept inboxing the page asking when school comes back after the holidays and stuff like that."

He soon made the deputy principal an admin of the official page, and maintains that meme pages can be really positive if you have control. "If the school knows what is going on, it can't be bad. You have to be careful with privacy and also make sure you don't defame anyone."

Jay asked us to let any current Castle Hill High students know that if they wanted to take over and make good stuff, they should message the page.

A huge number of the pages were run by Year 12 students, meaning that when the students were done with high school, the pages left with them. Many admins considered passing on the pages to students in years below. Manly Selective memes have been passed down, and current admins were very quick to respond to our messages. Another admin we spoke to, Nathan, is a current high school student who administrates BCC Clarendon Memes after the creator graduated.

This page has taken a dynamic approach to ensuring longevity. "We sort of try to evolve the page with the times," he told us. Passing down ownership and utilising newer meme trends has been crucial in this regard.



However, continuing with memes isn't the only way these pages have been kept alive. Rickert has resurrected SGS memes a total of three times. Twice to post staff announcements – including the passing away of a respected figure and the departure from the school of another.

He also resurrected the page when Malcolm Turnbull – a notable alumnus of his school – became Prime Minister. For all of these events, Rickert tells us the page's reach went surprisingly far.

Rickert tells us another Sydney Grammar page propped up this year and on inspection, the memes are actually quite dank. It's one of the only active and thriving pages posting at the moment and we recommend you check it out.

The death of the HSMP is important. It validates the idea that these pages were just like the memes that were posted on them – an element of culture, passed on through imitation, which died just as quickly as it was born.

There are a few other HSMP that persevere today, adapting to new trends and still managing to remain relevant. Some rebrand as confessions pages, others post ads for tutoring services or promote charity pages or non-profit organisations now the memes are over. The high school meme pages of 2012 were part of a trend – the feeling of which is likely to never be recaptured.

Udderday Night Live

Elijah Abraham reviews the 2016 Vet Revue

The Veterinary Revue is a strange beast of a performance that takes place as part of the annual Camden Weekender. The weekender, for the uninitiated, is an event where a couple hundred vet students, staff and friends flock to a field at Sydney University's Camden campus to get themselves inebriated and take part in a series of wild games. At the end of the day on Saturday night everyone gathers around excitedly to sit on bales of hay in front of an outdoor stage in anticipation for the main event, Vet Revue.

The revue, Udderday Night Live, was a brilliant hodgepodge of music parodies; jokes about lube and anal juice; and unbelievably good puns – see: the heartbreaking poem "10 Things I Hate About Ewe". In that sense, it isn't all that different from Vet Revues past, but that isn't a problem. To me, it seems the show's success lies in its familiarity.

A lot of the show was rooted in the vet school environment with references to teachers and veterinary concepts. These were things that definitely could've been lost on the non-vets in the audience, and in a couple of sketches, they were. But for the most part, the show remained highly accessible without sacrificing its hilarious specificity.

A fantastic recurring sketch which hypothesised about the goings-on of a notoriously hard to reach placement office – "quick everyone! The floor is lava!" – is a testament to this. Another

sketch, "The Bachelo-Vette" cleverly poked fun at gender imbalance in the degree.

While the show boasted many strong elements the choreography was a highlight. The Grease Megamix – with songs renamed Yeast Lightning and You're the Vet That I Want – despite being a generally overdone performance piece, was great, primarily because the choreography was a treat to watch.

Technical failures were the show's biggest shortcoming. The projector going dead halfway through a video skit and mics giving out questionable levels of audio throughout the show did not make for a wholly enjoyable performance.

But perfection and high production value is not what I think Vet Revue is. From what I can tell, the Revue is inseparable from the weekender itself – it's part of a multifaceted, fully immersive experience.

Vet Revue is going from knowing no one to having people tell you about the time they got pig ejaculate on their face as you stand in line for a sausage. Vet Revue is cheering after every sketch just because it's great to be there. Vet Revue is watching the show on a hay bale next to a giant Great Dane. Vet Revue is stories about weird placements and rotating pig erections. Vet Revue is the drunk guy on the floor who held my legs and kept telling me how nice my jeans were.

The show ends in trademark veterinary school fashion, with an incredibly hot strip session. Girls in labcoats and lingerie and boys in

tear away pants tear up the stage and make the crowd go wild to the tunes of 'Drunk in Love' and Ginuwine's 'Pony'. Again, the choreography is excellent and the energy of every single person on and off stage encapsulates exactly just what Vet Revue is about.

I made the unfortunate mistake of coming primarily for the revue, missing some of the day's earlier activities including lube wrestling and not preparing a tent in order to sleep over – a mistake I don't plan on repeating next time.

I highly recommend you make some time to experience the whole Camden Weekender – bring a tent, meet new friends and enjoy Vet Revue. There are very few revues I know where you get the chance to sit next to a Great Dane.

“Critics! Who’d make a living out of killing other people’s dreams?”

Jess Zlotnick reviews the latest MUSE show to hit the Seymour Centre Stage

Let me start by saying that I feel a little tentative writing this review – the quote above comes from the first fifteen minutes of the Musical Theatre Ensemble's (MUSE) Spring Slot, *Curtains*. With that attitude towards critics in mind, let's proceed.

Curtains follows a murder mystery that occurs on the set of a Wild West musical adaptation of Robin Hood.

The cast and crew are the suspects in an investigation lead by a plucky detective.

The cast's comic timing was impeccable. A script that might have fallen flat in other hands hit all the right punches, with the performers delivering comedy and truth with equal strengths.

The casting was absolutely spot on. From the lead characters to the ensemble, every actor played their role fabulously, filling out a character-heavy show with gusto and individuality. Naming individuals involved seems a tad unfair; this was a strong ensemble show full of talented and committed individuals.

Each and every one of them committed to the world and made the show a beautiful and bustling spectacle.

That being said, mention must be made of Aidan Kane, who, without a solo music number, managed to steal the show as Christopher Belling. Similarly, Lisa-Marie Long, Carmen Bernstein, held the show to its comedic standard, delivering punch after punch in glorious sarcastic deadpan.

Jack Dawson and Amy Humphreys' duet "A

Tough Act to Follow" was also absolutely stunning. In their synchronised movements and impeccable timing, the two seemed of one mind, delivering the most professional and flawless dance number of the night.

I'll even go so far as to make an ill-advised comparison to Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire (even though I know very little about dance duos). There was such delight and ease in their partnership, it was a joy to witness.

The show toed the line between fiction and reality, with musical numbers going between the show-within-the-show and the show itself.

The strongest songs came from the show-within-a-show itself; numbers that allowed the performers to come alive with characterisation. In particular, Charlotte Snedden and Dave Collins as Georgia Hendricks and Aaron Fox hit the reality of their characters perfectly, their relationship made viscerally real in their heart-warming solos and duets.

It is unfortunate that we allow problematic elements of scripts to keep going ahead.

While Jordan Delaney delivered the number beautifully, "Kansasland" was an unfortunate low point of the show, purely for its troubling depictions of stereotypes of Native Americans. There are understandable issues with rights when putting on a musical, however I believe the production could have taken steps to treat the portrayal as problematic within the world of the show.

A gift of choosing such a meta-fictional show is that you can make a comment about what is

happening on stage in the way the characters treat it, and thereby comment on these issues in the theatre world in which we live.

Fortunately this was the only sour note in a pitch perfect show.

I hope to make a better impression on the cast and crew than the reviewer character, and hope they know what an absolute pleasure seeing this show was.

Bravo to all those involved.

Art by Victoria Zerbst. Is it art, though? Yes.



PERSPECTIVE

Fuck the modelling industry

Jenna Owen was an actor/model, and not the other way around

From ages 15 to 19, I am a model. I am scouted by two well-meaning jewellery designers, who tell me I have wonderful cheekbones and a very interesting white streak in my hair. They say Lagerfeld would adore me, and, because I do not know who that is, they say I am very authentic.

But I am the very opposite of authentic. At 15 years old, I am the target market of General Pants and I am thrilled by that prestige, thank you very much. The outfit I am wearing when signing with Chadwick Model Management Sydney is entirely maroon because maroon is very fashionable in 2010. I am so young that I am still embarrassed to be seen with my mother in public. I am so young that I beg my mum to let me go to *Panic! At the Disco* at Acer Arena. She says yes, provided a responsible adult picks me up. I am so young, that I never investigate the word ‘feminist’. If you had asked me what I thought about feminism then, in the peak of my boisterous insecurity, I would have said something like, ‘I get along better with boys’ and then ordered a traveller’s pie from the canteen.

I was a model before I was a feminist. Now, I believe in heaps of stuff – Media Watch, medjool dates, big dogs with nice faces – but I don’t believe you can be both a model and a feminist.

To be clear, when I talk about the modelling/feminism cancellation phenomena, I am talking about the industry - the high fashion industry and some of the tiers below it. I am not talking about the hundreds of amazing zines for women that are circulating now. They are not about fulfilling the paedophilic, pre-pubescent fantasies of men. They are made by women, for women.

Modelling is not something I usually talk about because it is the most shameful thing I have ever done. I have expressed that exact sentiment to people who have called me a backdoor bragger. I promise you, I have a whole back veranda where I like to soak in the glory of my achievements. I will raise a glass to literally everything but I will not raise it to the modelling industry. Being sent away by a Paddington Boutique for “having a large waist and bad legs” is not a cute and cheeky

brag. Missing Year 10 Geography and catching the train to Woolloomooloo to be told I’m “only strong in the face” isn’t a brag. It’s a shame.

I am now 21, surfing the third wave and life’s a beach. I love choice and I love being left alone for my choices. The harder thing to reconcile, right now, at the very height of my ‘nouveau’ feminist euphoria, is the impact of my choices.

I have come to terms with these impacts over the last few months. I have only recently formed this idea about choices, or more specifically, choices about appearance. Here it is.

Often, the choices you make about your appearance are about you and do not actively harm anyone, except maybe the egos of sad-n-angry right-wing guys who watch really dark porn. Then, there are choices that you can make about your appearance that impact other people – other women if I’m specific. An example of the latter is participation in the modelling industry. Another is spending your time editing models, male and female, to fit a fucked-up mould, one made by rich and invisible people well outside it. Again, these people probably watch really dark porn.

If you are a model in the industry, you are either actively harming yourself (“You’re only strong in the face”) or you are very good at stifling your compassion for the women next to you in castings, who are starving themselves but definitely not admitting that, thinking-about-smoking-because-that-definitely-helps, hoping for a job soon because 19 is too old to make it, but staying strong because Lagerfeld would adore them – ‘I’m very authentic’.

Very admirable, ‘naturally thin girl’, that you have never personally experienced degradation in the industry. You are lying, and worse, you are shutting your eyes and blocking your ears because you are booking jobs at the moment. It is convenient, at this point, to ignore the abuse around you. Modelling is actually a really great guy once you get to know him. Wake up. You can’t be a feminist if you don’t have empathy for the other women sitting right next to you. You can’t be a feminist when you hand over your images to a male photographer, who wears all black with white shoes, and

Art: Brigitte Samaha



who never bothers to learn your name but wastes no time in asking you to suck in as you lean against the chair, to raise your chin because at the moment it looks like you have more than one and lets take five while you get your shit together because lord knows that two chins don’t sell Lee Jeans. Being a model forces you to mould yourself into a little white ethereal box, hand over your body, completely disregard your mind (you will not be talking, you will just be wearing this underwear made from metal), and then wait for this image of yourself to blast into the world, not immediately, but in six weeks’ time, when the editing finally fixes your not-so-strong mid section. Young girls see this shit. All women see this shit. It hurts them and you don’t give a fuck and I would know.

As it happens, thanks to an eating disorder of two years, I have been on both sides of the fence. I can tell you that the whole ‘some girls are naturally thin’ and ‘the industry won’t book girls who are unwell’ might hold up in a court case where the fashion industry has a lawyer paid in coke and gold bricks, but it doesn’t really hold up with any experience of reality.

Some of the Victoria Secret models came out recently and said ‘skimpy lingerie’ didn’t mean they weren’t feminists. I would say, that’s got literally nothing to do with it. It has ZERO relevance. What is relevant is, that if you are in the modelling world, your priority is not giving a fuck about the daily degradation of women. You tell yourself that you don’t feel manipulated, or otherwise exploited. You are so young or so rich and you are not a feminist. Not yet. I actually like wearing a bra, but watch me burn the images of me in magazines where you can see me bearing slightest resemblance to myself. It took me a while but now I’m here.

REVELRY IN REVIEW

Plebiscite-free pizzazz

Connor Wherrett attended Glitter Gala

While still deciding whether to attend this year’s Glitter Gala I asked a trusted friend what the event actually was. When she described it as “gay formal” my ticket purchase was swiftly completed.

I can comfortably say that the event completely matched that description.

The Glitter Gala is a formal ball hosted by the University of Sydney Union in partnership with SHADES. The evening exists both as a celebration and a collectivisation: a chance for those inside the queer community to celebrate the steps we have taken, as well as coming together to make the next steps easier.

Upon entry, guests were greeted with two of my favourite things: a range of fabulous people from a range of gender and sexual identities, and alcohol.

Just as we all began to wrestle with how much more fabulous everyone’s recycled Mardi Gras outfits were than ours, the doors swung open to reveal a gorgeously decorated sit-down dinner scene. What was lacking in quantity of attendees was made up for by quality, as each table sat down and started revelling in each other’s wonderful company.

Apart from me wishing I had marked myself as a vegetarian to receive the gnocchi, the food was delicious and excellently paired with the atmosphere. This atmosphere was then lifted by the speeches given by some of the University’s sharpest tools in the (queer) shed. Particular mention must be given to Andrea Zephyr, who managed to fiercely advocate despite deleting her speech, and Marcus Wong, whose words shone as bright as xyr dress.

Once the meals were finished, the incredible crowd hit the dance floor and were absolutely not afraid to reveal their best. The group then continued to the SHADES-hosted after-party at The Bank, which provided more potential Snapchat story material.

I’ll save you from the terrible concluding puns of a “gay old time”, but the event really was a triumph in what it set out to achieve. My only possible criticism is the fact that Ariana Grande’s superb hit *Into You* wasn’t played at all throughout the evening.

Honiscopes

Failed election campaigns from 44BC to present. Art by Zita Walker



Aries

Tom Raue 2013 (by breach of fiduciary duty) - USU Vice President



Taurus

Gough Whitlam 1975 (by dismissal) - Prime Minister of Australia



Gemini

Arnold Vinick 2006 - President of the United States (West Wing version)



Cancer

The guy that wasn’t Justin Trudeau 2015 - Prime Minister of Canada



Leo

Julius Caesar 44BC (by assassination) - Dictator perpetuo, Rome



Virgo

Kevin Rudd 2016 - UN Secretary General nomination



Scorpio

Natalie Buckett 2007 - Kurrajong Public School, School Captain



Libra

Anthony Albanese 2013 - Leader of the Labor Party



Capricorn

Shannon Noll 2003 - Australian Idol

Farc peace deal 2016 - Columbian referendum



Sagittarius

Sam Frost 2014 - The Bachelor Australia, Season Two



Aquarius

Trump 2016 - President of the United States

SOCIALS

REVELRY IN REVIEW

A black tie function with no clerkship offer at the end

Adam Ursino attended Glitter Gala... but also Law Ball, which is what this review is about

After an unexpectedly long night at Glitter Gala, I rocked up at Law Ball on Saturday ready to fall asleep. My sleep cycle has worsened, but Law Ball was well worth it.

Four Points by the Sheraton is a stunning venue. Its vibe was aptly compared to the feeling of walking into an expensive store with the knowledge that everything is unaffordable. Darling Harbour’s fireworks provided a picturesque backdrop as the 700+ guests ploughed into meals that sounded much more impressive on the menu (it’s amazing how well a PR team can sell “chicken and potatoes”) but satisfied nevertheless.

The guests were seduced into one of the three spaces Law Ball spanned across by the smooth tones of a jazz band. This, in coalition with the sea of expensively-dressed students and the constant provision of wine set the tone for the night.

As the night progressed, though, the music regressed. The DJ playlist consisted of somewhat lacklustre R&B, punctuated with occasional pop hits that failed to enthuse.

I wondered whether the poor music choices explained why I was approached and asked, in something of a stage whisper – no doubt an attempt to be heard over the pounding music but maintain some subtlety – whether I was selling, or knew anybody who was selling, cocaine or MDMA.

Regardless of the music choices, people seemed to make do. Special mention must go to the group playing limbo using a tie, ushering each other underneath it to the tune of 2010s pop.

There were only a few attempts to embrace the “Film Noir” theme; the most notable was the seldom-used Snapchat geofilter. (I can, of course, conclusively confirm that it was seldom used, because amongst my near encyclopedic list of Snapchat law school friends, the geofilter featured in stories a measly two times).

Ultimately, Law Ball struggled to transition between Nondescript Fancy Event and Raging Dance Party, but the after party helped bridge this gap. Cargo Lounge had a sticky floor to rival Bar Century (RIP) and its playlist was an exponential improvement on Law Ball’s.

Law Ball, for all its missteps, was a solidly enjoyable night. It was both glamorous and groovy, but perhaps the most valuable moments were those that money can’t buy, like the rare opportunity to see law students outside of the library.

CONTENT WARNING: sexual assault and PTSD

A different kind of battleground

Caitlin McMenamin discusses post traumatic stress following sexual assault

When you’re diagnosed with a mental illness, one of the first suggestions that you’re given is to open up to your friends and family. “It’s important they know, so that they can help you heal,” the doctor said to fourteen-year-old me, sitting shocked in an unfamiliar practice in Gordon.

A few months prior, the male lead of the school musical had declared his attraction to me. I was charmed - the lead wanted to go out with me. Next thing I know, he’s in my bright pink bedroom shoving his tongue down my throat, forcing his hand down my shorts, and forcing my hand down his. He went further every date. None of my friends had been with a boy before. I didn’t know much about sex yet, and although it felt off, I couldn’t pinpoint why.

Then one day it was his birthday. “Please, it’s my 16thth...don’t I deserve a special birthday gift? Don’t you love me at all?” He begged. What followed is seared into my brain, sewn in with needles, and will be there forever.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is one of the most prevalent anxiety disorders, affecting 8.3%

If this post brings up any issues for you, or if you just feel like you need to speak to someone, please call the NSW Rape Crisis Centre on 1800 RESPECT (1800 424 017).

of women and 4.6% of men. Sexual assault is one of the leading causes of PTSD in Australia. Why, then, as I’ve tried to take the doctor’s advice and open up over the years, have I been repeatedly met with a confused “Isn’t PTSD what soldiers get?”

When I say that I suffer from PTSD, I have to validate my claim, which feels humiliating and demeaning. I have to try to explain that what I went through was so awful it affects me in the same way a soldier is affected by wartime atrocities. It’s almost as if my experience needs to reach a certain standard of terrible to be legitimate.

This exercise recalls the images in my head that I am constantly trying to avoid. I have to bite my tongue and try to convey that life after assault is a different kind of battleground; that every day I’m on edge, looking over my shoulder, vacillating between fight and flight. The difficulty of this exercise quickly caused me to stop telling anyone. Perhaps people are so hesitant to accept the fact that PTSD is linked to sexual assault because there is still a simplistic conception of sexual assault in the first place.

Earlier this year I was sexually assaulted again, once more by someone I trusted. Thankfully, I’m older now and I have a better support network around me. I quickly confided in my close friends and told them what happened. I was disappointed when the flashbacks started; I thought I’d be fine this time because I’m in a totally different period of my life, and I was doing everything I didn’t do when I was 14. But PTSD is something very difficult to control. Talking is one of the only things that helps me – so the conversation needs to change.

Instead of “Isn’t PTSD what soldiers get?” I need to hear “I’m always here if you need someone to talk to, or just to listen. I can’t understand, but I’ll try my best.” I need compassion and respect. I shouldn’t need to justify why I get nightmares, why the simple things make me anxious sometimes, and why some days I’m ready to take on the world and others I just want to cry. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is something I and many others will have to deal with for the rest of our lives. We should be able to talk about it.

Superwhoman

Noa Zulman sheds light on Sydney University’s unsung sporting heroes



Tucked away from sight, in a small seminar room rented by the University a young woman addresses a captive audience of academics. A thrice Paralympic medallist, Sarah Stewart is one of the world’s best wheelchair basketballers. But it is not Sarah’s achievements that strike one as extraordinary in the seminar room. It’s the rows of half-empty seats. Disability Inclusion Week – a festival held from September 5-9, and touted as fostering inclusion and respect of people with disabilities on campus – once again fails to attract attention. Amid *Honi* and SRC elections, issues of accessibility and stigma go unaddressed; a talented woman, largely unrecognised.

Last week, 4342 athletes from 159 countries paraded through Maracanã Stadium in Rio for the Closing Ceremony of the Summer Paralympics.

Six of those athletes were from Sydney Uni. The Paralympics have always served as a sort of sideshow to their able-bodied counterpart. Despite being the premier international sporting tournament for athletes with disabilities, the Games struggle with issues of under-attendance, fiscal mismanagement and poor publicity. By mid-August of this year, the IPC had reported-

ly only reached 12% of its target 3.3 million ticket sales. Combined with ruthless media scrutiny over Russian doping scandals and poor infrastructure, the Rio Paralympics faced a crisis of credibility.

When compared to Rio, Australia’s reputation is nothing short of stellar. The Australian Paralympic Committee benefits from widespread corporate and governmental endorsement, allowing them to send 177 athletes to Rio. Competing in everything from archery to wheelchair rugby, Australian para-athletes consistently break world records; an achievement reflected in the 81 medals won by our country in the Games this year.

Sydney University has closer ties to success in Rio than one may think. Of the 177 athletes to represent Australia at the Paralympics, six were USyd students, two of whom, Prue Watt and Angela Ballard, are Sydney University Sport and Fitness Elite Athlete Program Alumni. Yet, aside from a few articles published through the University’s oft-ignored official marketing material, the achievements of these exceptional athletes has gone vastly unacknowledged.

This erasure of Paralympic effort is endorsed on a macro scale, with the coverage of the Sum-

mer Paralympics broadcast only through Channel 7 in Australia. When examined against mass commercial endorsement of the Olympics, one could argue that media corporations driven by profit and high viewership have little incentive to promote the Paralympics.

In her interview with the University, Sarah Stewart points to societal conceptions of disability as a barrier to better media representation. “I think some of it is just a general shift in attitudes of inclusiveness.... Thinking about the Olympics and the Paralympics together as ‘the Games’... about those achievements together.”

It is certainly true that social understandings of disability in the twenty first century are sorely lacking in nuance. Yet in a generation obsessed with inspiration porn, it would be ignorant of me to dismiss the deep-seated structural disadvantages that athletes with disabilities face as simply products of bad “diversity discourse.” From the financial burden of physiotherapy and prosthetics to complex medical requirements and adjustments, often it is only the most privileged of disabled people that can afford to enter the sporting arena in the first instance.

When I chatted to Rae Anderson, a nineteen year old Paralympic javelin thrower and first year Arts student at USyd, she expressed the ever-present fear for athletes with disabilities. “There’s no money in it,” she explained when I questioned why she had chosen to go to university when she was such a talented sportsperson. “You have to have an income to be able to train and live.”

Indeed, it appears that many choose to opt out of the sporting arena in order to pursue tertiary education or secure employment in a job environment hostile toward people with physical disabilities. For those who do choose to straddle university and elite para-athletics, the books are often forced to take a backseat. When I asked Rae which subjects she was taking this semester, her admittance to dropping three units of study in order to cope with her cerebral palsy rang eerily close to home. “It’s so annoying... I fatigue so much,” she bemoaned over Facebook Messenger, causing me to smile at the familiarity of the sentiment. In order to truly succeed on a Paralympic level, it seems that sport must trump school.

Sarah Stewart is the exception to that rule. Stewart graduated from UNSW with a double degree in English and Philosophy with Cognitive Science, and went on to represent Australia in wheelchair basketball at three consecutive Paralympic Games. Enjoying resounding sporting success, she has since undertaken a PhD in philosophy and remains a passionate advocate for veganism. Sarah’s stubborn refusal to acquiesce to the norm is practically unheard of.

On a Wednesday afternoon, amidst the noise and heat of Hermann’s, a panel of *Honi* editor hopefuls entertain a crowd of rambunctious students with banter and snide snubs of each other. I stand at the back of the bar, listening sceptically as each ticket asserts their ability to “revitalise” the paper. “Right now,” one student claims, “We have a team of boys playing cricket in Sri Lanka, but no one hears about that because *Honi* doesn’t report on it!” The rest of the room erupts in peals of laughter, but I stand rooted to the spot, cheeks blushing red, eyes welling with tears.

I am reminded of Sarah, seated before a half-empty room, the medals hanging heavy around her neck. “Disability doesn’t discriminate, it just turns up,” Sarah offers to the panel as a final insight.

As a hater of all things that require physical exertion, I am somewhat agnostic to the value of sports reporting in *Honi*. But of one thing, I am fairly certain.

If our disabilities don’t discriminate in whom they target, then neither should our media.

Wheelchair basketballer Sarah Stewart

Hard and pink

Samuel Chu takes a closer look at cricketers’ balls

The Australian summer has a number of fine traditions: *that* D-grade celebrity circlejerk also known as “Carols in the Domain”, fighting over cheap perfumes in Myer and Channel Nine’s inevitable “summer of cricket”.

This summer, South Africa will be Australia’s opponent for the first three test matches, one of which will be a ‘day-night’ match held at Adelaide Oval, necessitating the use of a pink-coloured ball for better visibility in twilight hours.

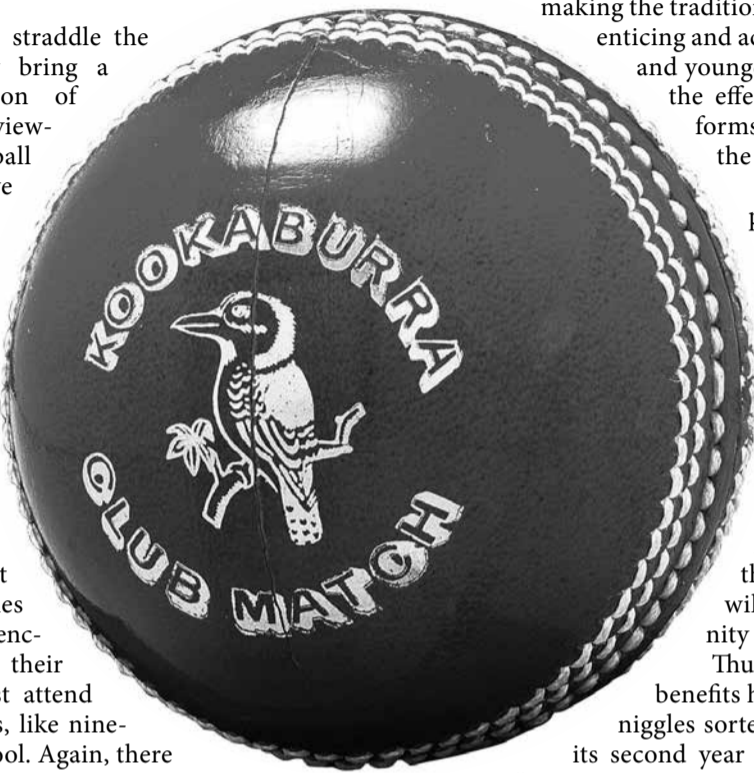
The ‘day-night’ fixture is an anomaly; traditionally Test cricket matches have been played over two innings and five days, with each day’s play lasting from mid-morning until late afternoon. A red-coloured ball was always used, for seemingly no other reason than tradition.

For some close to the game, ‘day-night’ fixtures are sacrilege – their pink balls even more so. South Africa’s captain, AB De Villiers, believes so. He is sceptical of the new ball’s longevity, as well as its visibility under floodlights (despite it being pink to address this very issue). As a very keen viewer of test cricket, and a (very) casual player of the sport, I reckon AB De Villiers should reconsider his position on day-night matches and his pink ball apprehensions. To put it simply, the financial, broadcasting and sporting benefits of ‘day-night’ games outweigh

the minutiae of quasi-issues that have arisen around pink balls.

Test matches that straddle the day-night boundary bring a significant proportion of play into primetime viewing hours. Pink-ball matches thus have much greater viewer-ship potential (and financial potential) than red-ball test cricket.

These benefits also extend to live audiences at grounds, as evidenced by the full house at the inaugural day-night match at Adelaide Oval last year. Day-night games better cater to audiences that, in amongst their love of cricket, must attend to life’s inevitabilities, like nine-to-five work and school. Again, there are financial benefits to having bigger live audiences. Scheduling changes and subsequent



increases in audience have the added effect of making the traditionally staid sport of cricket enticing and accessible to casual viewers and younger generations, emulating the effects of the newer shorter forms of the game, which did the trick for me.

De Villiers’ game-play concerns should be allayed – the pink ball has been thoroughly tested in the Sheffield Shield, and initial complaints in this lower tier have dwindled, suggesting all that was needed was time for adjustment. With two practice day-night matches scheduled for the South Africans, they will have a similar opportunity to adapt.

Thus, with the pink ball’s benefits highlighted, and its minor niggles sorted, I’m excited to observe its second year of use in the Australian “summer of cricket”. Bring on our South African opponents, I say!

Line markings

Edward Furst on footy preferences across Australia

A couple of years ago, I moved from Tasmania to Sydney to begin uni, and, unsurprisingly, there were some noticeable differences between the two places. Sydney is a lot hotter, larger, and its people are generally less-friendly. But while these differences may have been expected, I observed another difference between the Apple Isle and Harbour City that was less explicable: the dominant code of football.

In Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and West Australia, the dominant code is Australian Football League, whilst in New South Wales and Queensland the most popular form of football is rugby, mostly rugby league.

It turns out this divide is a recognised phenomenon called the ‘Barassi Line’

With both the AFL and NRL finals played over the long weekend past, it seemed an appropriate time to investigate why Australia’s football distribution is so. After all, soccer’s popularity is fairly uniform across the country, and cricket is generally recognised as the Australian summer sport. So why is the country divided when it comes to football?

It turns out this divide is a recognised phe-

nomenon called the “Barassi Line”, a term coined by Ian Turner at the 1978 Ron Barassi Memorial lecture. It originated in the 1850s with the establishment of AFL, then called Melbourne Rules, and subsequently Victorian Rules. The game proved popular in its home state and was hesitantly taken on across the country. Inter-colonial rivalries, however, lead to resistance to its uptake in NSW. The Sydney press aided its rebuke – “had it been dubbed Scandinavian rules, well and good; but *Victorian* – perish the thought!” wrote one newspaper. Attempts at inter-colonial games resulted in representative teams from NSW and Victoria playing a number of matches of Victorian Rules in the early 1880s, but humiliating defeats on behalf of the NSW team only energised the Sydney press’ rejection of the game.

Meanwhile, organised rugby union began life in Sydney, with three clubs: University of Sydney (1863), Sydney (1865), and Wallaroo (1870). In this early period, the sport was predominantly played by those from society’s upper echelons, and embraced by private schools and the University. The success of a number of inter-colonial contests between QLD and NSW in 1882 led to the establishment of the Central Queensland Rugby Union in 1886 and the spread of the game in the northern state.

As union’s popularity grew, aided by a number of international matches against Great Britain, its appeal broadened among the population. Union’s ultimate inability to meet the needs of the working class, however, led to the

creation of the NSW Rugby Football League in 1907, codifying the split between union and league. Both forms of rugby seem to be tied to their deep geographical roots.

Despite the historical basis for each code’s distinct development, the divide today, based on game attendance, television ratings, and participation, has persisted. A study of AFL and NRL TV ratings during the period 2007-2011 shows NSW and QLD account for 93 per cent of NRL viewers, while VIC, SA, WA, TAS account for 81 per cent of AFL viewers. The division becomes more severe when narrowed down to NSW and VIC, and further, just Sydney and Melbourne.

Both codes have recognised the importance of expanding beyond the Barassi Line to grow, and have been actively doing so since the 1990s, resulting in new top tier clubs in non-Barassi areas, extending broadcasting rights, and a focus on promoting the sport at a grassroots level in non-Barassi areas. Progress has been made, with 2012 being the first year both the AFL and NRL premierships were won by teams from the other side. This year’s finals both feature teams from across the divide.

Despite this expansion, it is clear that both codes have a long way to go before either can truly claim to be an “all-Australian” sport. The Barassi Line points to entrenched loyalties, and a Western Bulldogs banner displayed at their preliminary clash with the AFL’s newest team, Greater Western Sydney Giants, two weeks ago, sums up persistent attitudes: “our club was born in blood and boots, not in AFL focus groups”.

OLD SCHOOL

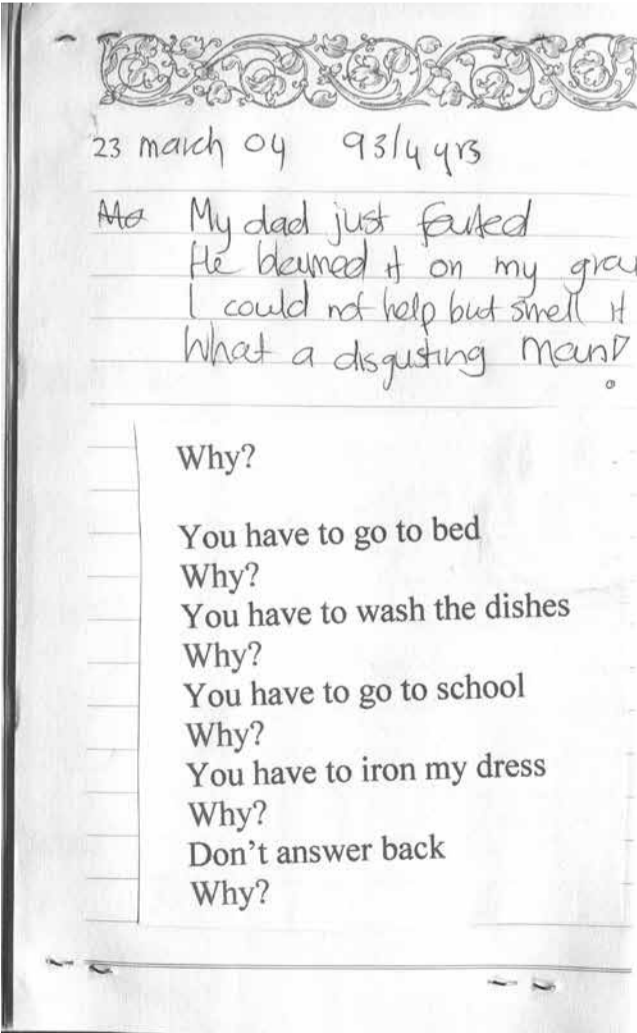
We trawled through old scrapbooks and family archives to find these gems of pre-pubescent writing from another era



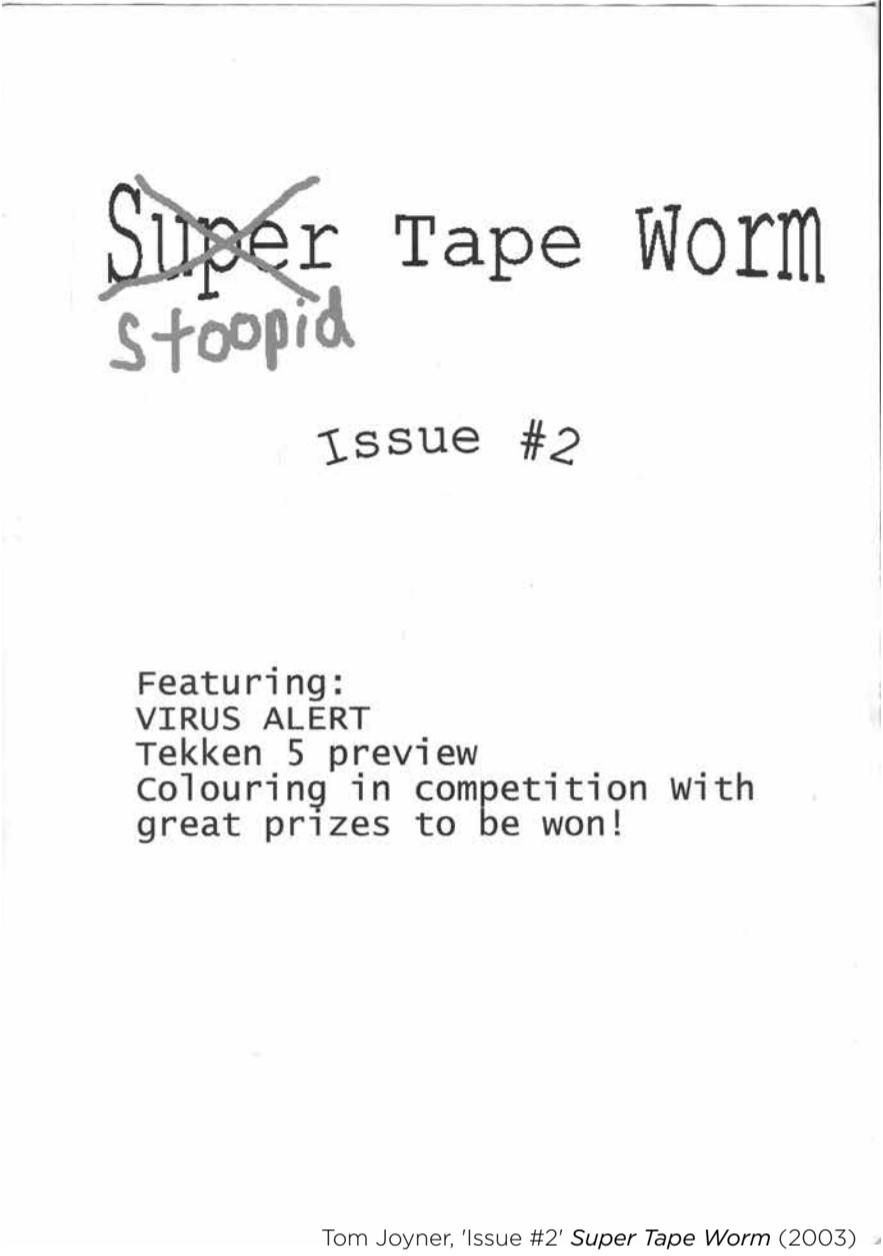
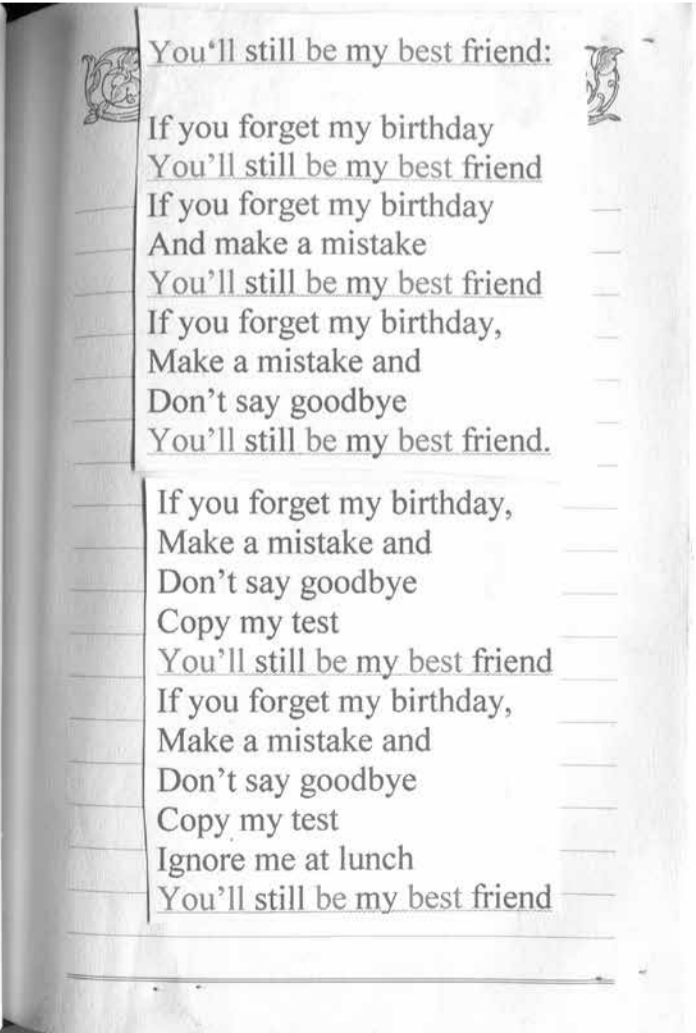
Victoria Zerbst, 'This is Me' (2003)

Many parents will keep examples of their kid's writing as they grow up. Kids write all sorts of bizarre things, from bad school assignments to incoherent diary entries and rambling birthday cards. As bad as they are, they're often a good catalogue of a child's growth, however stunted it may have been. Our parents play many roles – carers, financiers, mentors, coaches, magistrates, and most importantly, archivists. Sometimes it's easy to forget in most cases the

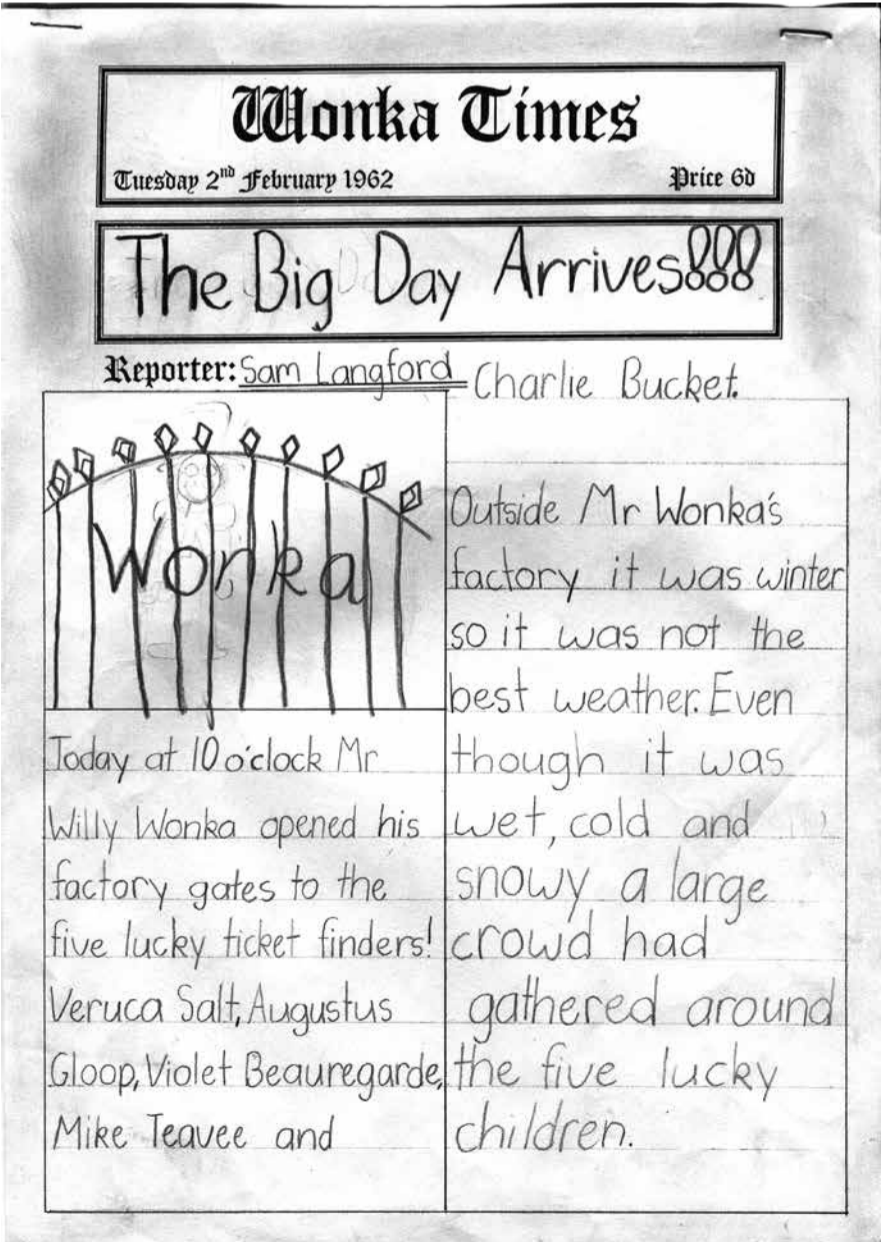
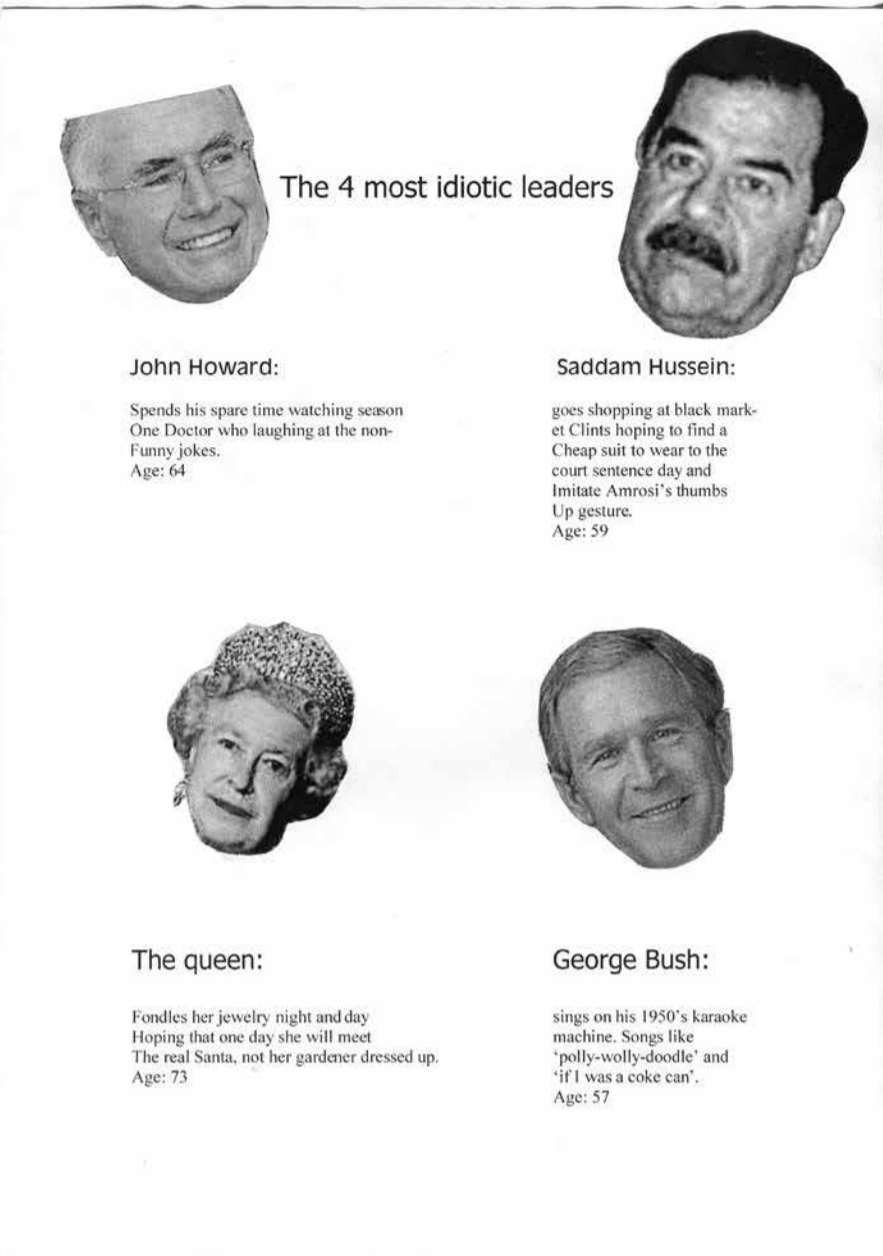
work and love they devote to us. Here we present the nascent writing of three editors of *Honi Soit*, whose interests in the written word were, for better or worse, first tenderly developed through bad handwriting and nonsense sentences. There's Victoria Zerbst's childhood diary (poetry included); pages from a magazine, *Super Tape Worm*, Tom Joyner wrote and sold to classmates in Year 6 with his childhood best friend; and Sam Langford's first ever news report for the dubiously named *Wonka Times*. Enjoy!



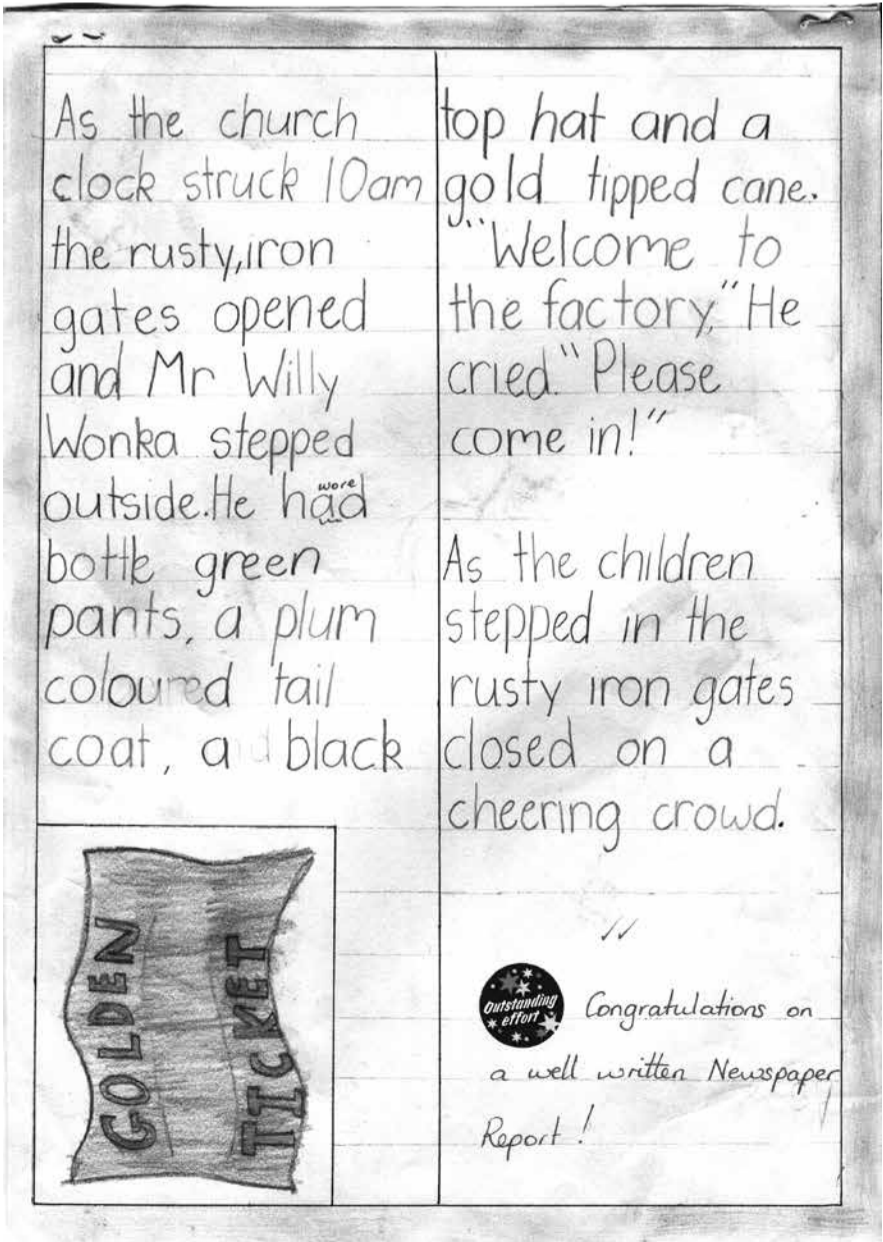
Victoria Zerbst, 'Disgusting Man' (2004)



Tom Joyner, 'Issue #2' *Super Tape Worm* (2003)



Sam Langford, 'The Big Day Arrives!!!', *Wonka Times*, (2002)





If you're starting to stress about exam time you should know that you are not the only one. Rather than worrying yourself sick there are a few things you can do to make it easier.

Organise your space and time

Check out the Learning Centre's "Resources". There are heaps of modules and information sheets on stuff that will help you with exam time.

Look after your health

Take the time to eat well, exercise and have time out for yourself. Remember to drink plenty

of water to keep you hydrated. You'll think more clearly if you are well. If you need to see a doctor or counsellor now is a great time to do it. Even though it will take time to get there, and it might feel a bit awkward talk about you, it will be most helpful in the long term.

Don't cheat

It may be quite tempting to use a fake or altered doctor's certificate or someone else's essay or bring notes into an exam. If the University catches you, and there's every chance that they will, they will penalise you. This may be as severe as suspending

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



Hi Abe,

My brother is addicted to his phone. He calls all of his friends all the time and just talks about nothing. When he's not calling he's sending text messages, playing those games with friends, and checking his facebook. When he's not on his phone, he literally stays up all night playing computer games. Last month he got a monstrous phone bill and now can't pay it. How can I help him?

Hung Up

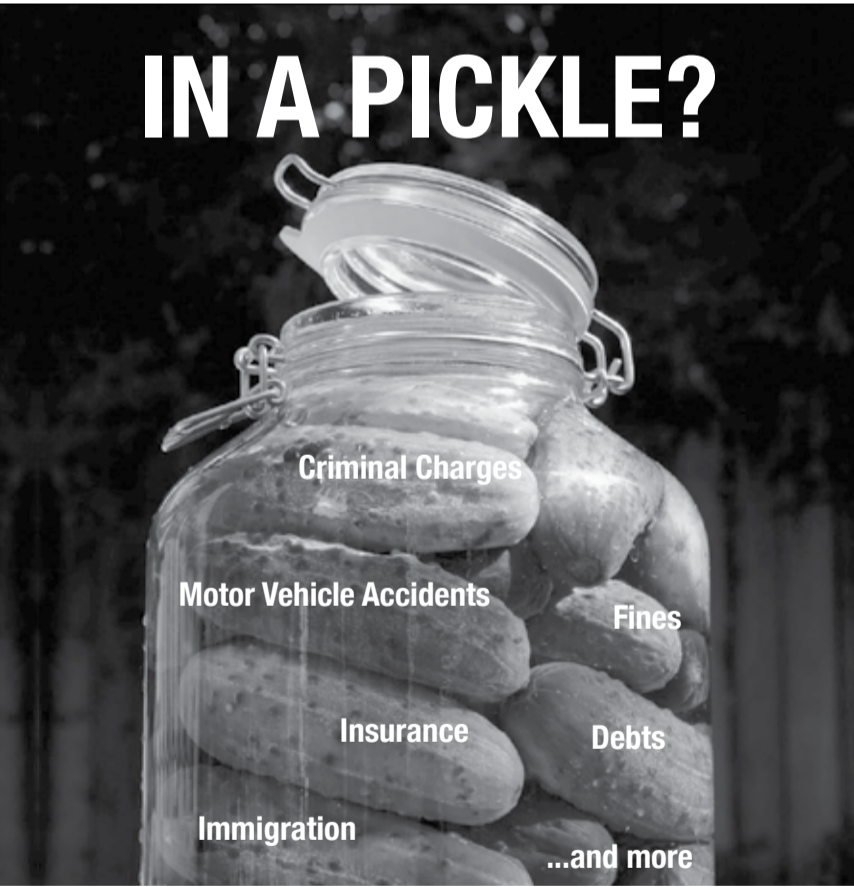
Dear Hung Up,

This is a growing problem with phones being capable of doing more and more. He could make an appointment with a financial counselor to see if he can reduce or manage his debt. It is best to deal with that sooner rather than later. At the same time he could go on a plan that best suits his use. For example, find a plan with free calls and texts that has a reasonable data allowance. Ideally get a plan that you can check on throughout the billing cycle. Perhaps pre-paying is also a good way to make sure that it's affordable. Finally with all of that in place it is probably a good idea to deal with the addiction of these actions. He could ask his GP for a referral to a counselor. There are some that will bulk bill through a mental health plan sparing him out of pocket expenses for this.

Abe

Abe is the SRC's welfare dog. This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything. This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as the state of the world. Send your questions to help@src.usyd.edu.au

This is a growing problem with phones being capable of doing more and more.



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

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

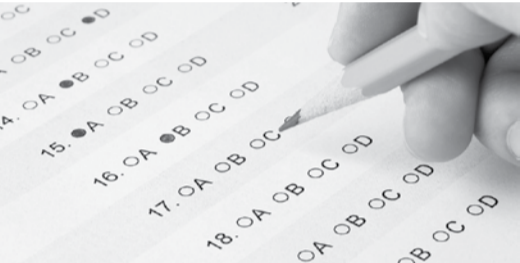
法律諮詢
法律アドバイス
We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation
This service is provided to you by the Student Representative Council, University of Sydney

If you are really not ready to do your exams or hand in your final assessments talk to your subject co-ordinator.

you from the university for a semester or two. Plan ahead instead. If you are really not ready to do your exams or hand in your final assessments talk to your subject co-ordinator. At the very worst you can fail the subject and do it again in another semester. This is still a better scenario than being suspending from uni.

Check your schedule

Check your exam timetable carefully. Ask a friend to double-check it with you. The same applies to deadlines for take home exams. If you miss an exam, because you got the dates wrong, it is very difficult remedy. Usually it means that you will fail that exam. If this does happen to you, talk to your subject co-ordinator as soon as you can.



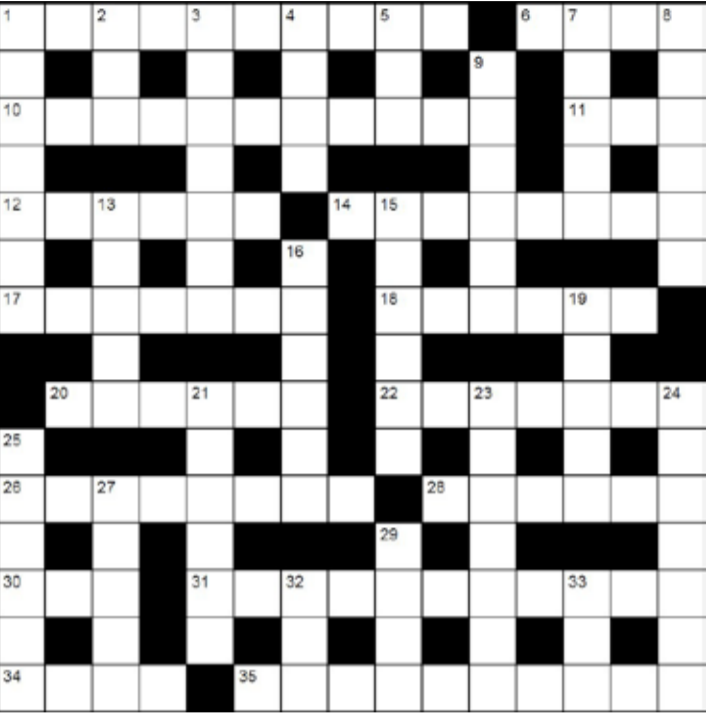
Ask for help

If you need help, ask. If you don't know who to ask, start with the SRC Caseworkers. We may not know what the answers are, but we are happy to help you find someone who does.

SRC caseworkers can assist you further with academic issues. Contact: 9660 5222 or email help@src.usyd.edu.au

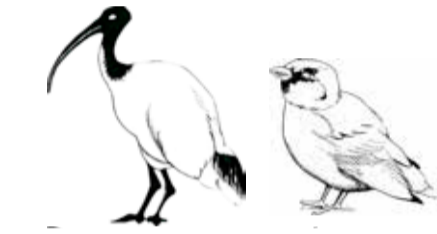
Cryptic

Quick by Atrus



ACROSS

- 1. Other sides punch around fighting WoW class (3,7)
- 6. Can couple trade his heart for hers first? (4)
- 10. Disclosed range chance rather regularly (4,3,4)
- 11. Cooler, disoriented star's location? (3)
- 12. Improve more obscure back cover? (6)
- 14. Tree-chipper mostly eating away? (8)
- 17. 24-down ice receding near centre (4-3)
- 18. Once, irritating kid spun around solver (6)
- 20. Mark on split 14-across (6)
- 22. A tinier ground sloth (7)
- 26. Russian candy (not whole-grain) coated poorly (8)
- 28. Hide gross face away in knots (6)
- 30. Rift off?! (3)
- 31. Bovine, hog, donkey, ram, birds? (11)
- 34. Creep's letter with three points? (4)
- 35. Eggy, revolting medication found in moral hospital removed (10)

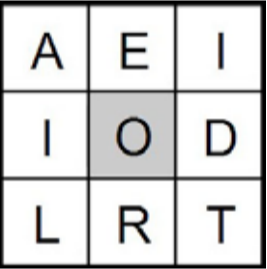


DOWN

- 1. Smelling bleak contents of cruciverbalist's aid (7)
- 2. Deliver line! (3)
- 3. Those diminishing a cricketer's mid-off? (7)
- 4. Vein bled out after transfusion? (4)
- 5. Fifth addition to one-hundred-and-second table extension (1,1,1)
- 7. Approximately name director Welles? (5)
- 8. Deny any wrongdoing perhaps (6)
- 9. A blinking train delay in a flat way? (6)
- 13. Breakfast food today has character (5)
- 15. A loose relative (6)
- 16. Head of Google Plus greeting pacifist (6)
- 19. Remove reference to wildebeest lassoed at roundup (5)
- 21. Manly faced unsheathed dagger (6)
- 23. Bug reversed call before sending out (7)
- 24. Unfathomable, raising girl after ignoring first child (7)
- 25. Canberra home received retro ad advice (3,3)
- 27. Pirate caught by ship navigator (5)
- 29. Spooner's fresh Thai doughnuts (4)
- 32. Sunrise at sea: timeless (3)
- 33. Company closing insincerely? (3)

Target

Find words of 5 letters or more



- Falling down the stairs: 14
- Not exceeding your data cap: 29
- Finishing abandoned schooners: 41
- Sydney Swans losing the grand final: 57

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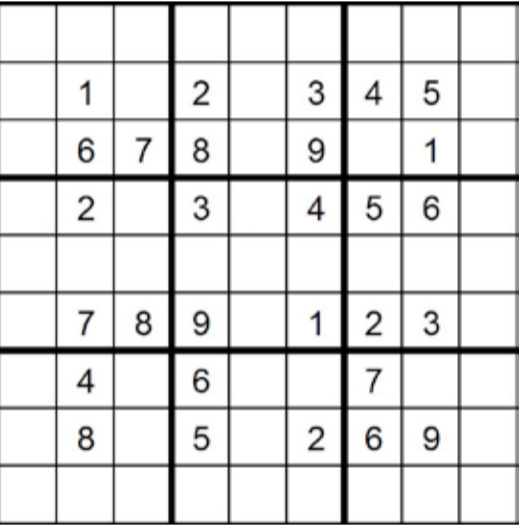
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Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by Atrus



ACROSS

- 1. UH, AN AMAZON? (6,4)
- 6. (See 12-across)
- 10. DANG FORMALS! (3,8)
- 11,34. MALL HAX (3,4)
- 12,6. LAW-BLENDER (6,4)
- 14,18. EVICT RAZOR BITS (8,6)
- 17,22. BE ACTUAL KITTEN (7,7)
- 18. (See 14-across)
- 20. (See 30-across)
- 22. (See 17-across)
- 26. WRY DRAMA (4,4)
- 28,31. AMATEURISH JAVA LAB (6,11)
- 30,20. ENTRY MOJO (3,6)
- 31. (See 28-across)
- 34. (See 11-across)
- 35,24-down. STALE ANTHRAX SODAS (10,7)

DOWN

- 1. Descriptor for liquids that promise to leave no permanent marks (2-5)
- 2. Limb; equip (3)
- 3. 10.5mm-diameter battery (3,4)
- 4. Goes in the opposite direction to one zigging (4)
- 5. Australian detergent brand (3)
- 7. Bugs's hunter nemesis (5)
- 8. Shinx's final evolution (6)
- 9. Scoop writer? (6)
- 13. Likewise (5)
- 15. Old Japanese coin, whose name is hidden in "Fritzi Burger" (6)
- 16. Fear (6)
- 19. Colander (5)
- 21. Mary's biblical epithet, "Nova Eva" (3,3)
- 23. Society's athletic chari-

ty event – or codename for a WWII supply operation (4,3)

24. (See 35-across)

25. Word meaning and sounding like "smudge" (6)

27. Indian bandana (5)

29. Flow (4)

32. Symbol used for chemical amount (3)

33. Container; grate (3)

Note: All across clues are 9-downs. Instead of definitions, their clues are anagrams.

Quiz

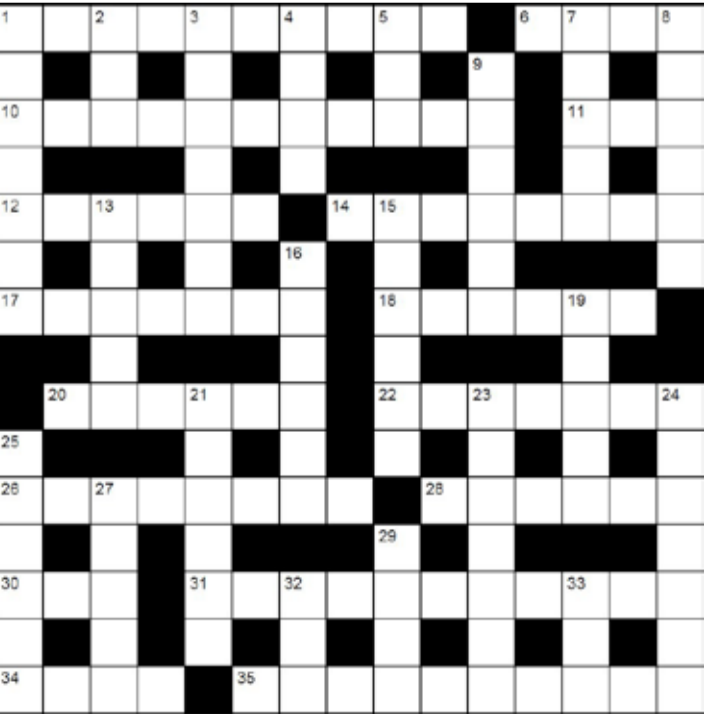
Quiz by Mary Ward

- 1. Which of the following beauty pageants is Donald Trump not a former owner of? a) Miss USA b) Miss World c) Miss Universe d) Miss Teen USA
- 2. Which side of the Albury-Wodonga settlement is in Victoria?
- 3. Who is the current NSW Deputy Premier?
- 4. What grain forms the basis of polenta?
- 5. How premierships have the Sydney Swans won (as Sydney, not South Melbourne)?
- 6. In what year did the last season of Australian Idol air?
- 7. True or false: Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston were married.
- 8. Who has the rounder head: Bert or Ernie?
- 9. What was the name of MUSE's semester one major production?
- 10. How many autonomous editions of *Honi Soit* are printed each year?

Answers on page 3.

Quick

Cryptic by Atrus



SRC REPORTS

President

Chloe Smith

Universities are built to be places of critical thought, social reform, and advancement through education. Many have a proud history of challenging social and historical norms, encouraging students and academics to not simply accept things as they are, but to agitate and work towards what we want an ideal society to look like. We have seen this in many of the revolutionary social movements that evolved out of universities and changed societies forever, including the Freedom Rides for Aboriginal justice, the Vietnam War moratorium, and broader movements for feminism and LGBTQI rights at Sydney Uni over the last century.

Unfortunately, such struggles are often accompanied by a backlash, as we have seen in more recent times: incidents of Islamophobia, racist graffiti, religious intolerance, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia on campus are well-documented in these pages and elsewhere. Just a few weeks ago, threats were made against the SRC and individual students by members of an extremist group on social media, simply for providing a forum for discussing topics like religion, capitalism, and American imperialism.

These cases are obviously at odds with the values the university claims to espouse and be founded on, that it is the right of every person, regardless of their origins, to be educated to make a positive contribution to the progression of society. For many students, especially those not personally targeted by such incidents, they might seem like extreme outliers amongst a broader landscape of diversity and acceptance, committed by an angry few. But these acts do not occur in a vacuum.

Consider what we have seen over recent months regarding institutional responses to sexual harassment and assault on campus and in our colleges: a reticence to acknowledge the extent of the problem and take immediate, meaningful action to stamp it out, with a focus on preserving reputations rather than protecting victims. Consider the university’s refusal to publicly endorse marriage equality, or their unwillingness to act on ensuring that trans and intersex students can have the same rights as the rest of us, to be addressed by the name and pronouns they identify with.

We all must take individual responsibility for how we choose to engage with others. But we are also products of the world we live in. We’ve seen it in our parliament: when the people leading us express intolerance, overtly or not, or refuse to call out bigotry for what it is, it is a message that this behaviour is normal and tolerable. Students and staff need to start taking serious steps to ensure that the same effect is not repeated at our universities. We are building the next generation of leaders here, and we want them to lead us forwards, not back.

Indigenous Officer

Georgia Mantle

In the past few weeks we have seen Black America sportsmen take stand against racism by taking a knee during the national anthem. Just last week an article published by Paul Gorrie titled ‘Why I Won’t Be Standing for the National Anthem at The Grand Final’ was published on Junkee which explored the feelings of angst and discomfort around the national anthem for Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians have contributed so much to Australia’s sporting culture yet instead of praise we are often faced with racism and abuse. We only need to reflect on what was happening this time last year when Adam Goodes was continually boo’d while playing.

Often the act of breaking the status quo or stepping out of line is shamed. I myself have been in a pub once and was heckled when I didn’t stand

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*

for the anthem. But there should be nothing to be ashamed of when steeping out of line meanings stand up for people’s rights. It was not so long ago that saying Indigenous people had the right to raise their own children, to be counted as citizens and be treated with basic human dignity was breaking the status quo.

This report will be published after the two grand finals this weekend but I know I won’t be standing for the anthem and I hope that people reading this consider the implications of standing for an anthem that represents subjugation, oppression and ongoing colonization.

I would also like the let people know about a forum that is happening on campus on the 10th of October. A forum will be hosted by Students Support Aboriginal Communities addressing the ongoing incarceration and torture of Indigenous kids in gaol. Full event details are here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1172279532835321/>

Queer Officers

Evan Jones & Marcus Wong

Although it has been just a couple of weeks since our last report, we have several events to report back on. In keeping with our record of strong activism this year, we have been keeping up with ongoing campaigns and activities.

We attended a rally for Safe Schools a couple of weeks ago, which, despite the small turnout due to inclement weather conditions, was highly spirited. The Safe Schools program is so important to ensure that schools are made into a safe environment, and it is the queer/LGBTQIA+ youth who are often the most vulnerable to queerphobic bullying and harassment. It is also important that we don’t understate the impact that this has on our community at large, as so many of us struggle with our identities, which leads to disproportion-

ate rates of mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.

Several of our members attended a rally against John Howard as he received an honorary doctorate from the University. It was under his Prime Ministership that the 2004 amendment to the Marriage Act was passed that specifically stated that marriage is between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others. ...

When riot police come onto campus marginalised students tend to experience the worst of their actions. Physical and verbal intimidation perpetuates societal attitudes towards our communities. This engrains in our minds we do not have a voice and are unworthy of justice. #copsoffcampus

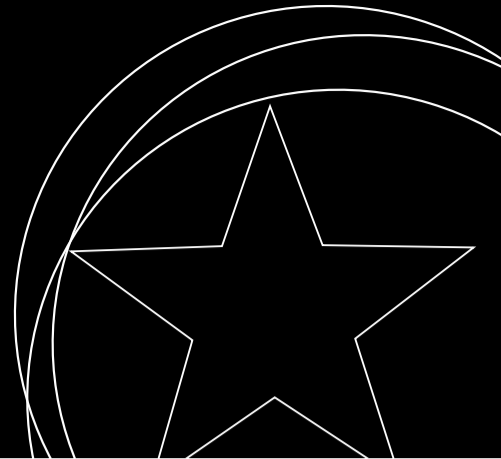
In response to an article that recently came to our attention last week, we have also begun undertaking work on a campaign to combat queerphobia against academic staff at the university. This will be something to watch out for over the next few months and progress has been pleasing so far.

Last week our edition of Queer Honi ‘came out’ (sorry, I had to). It is a marvellous piece of work and a massive thank you is in order to Oliver Moore who put so much work into creating it. Thank you to everyone on the editing team, and thank you to all who contributed.

We have also started a book club on the initiative of one our members, (shout-out to Connor Parisssis). This will be an exciting venture and a good way of getting people to engage with a number of topics in a fun environment.

As our term comes to an end, we are also beginning to look for successors and we are excited to see our work be continued over the coming years.

ELECTIONS 2016
Electoral Officer’s Report
Students’ Representative Council,
University of Sydney



I declare the following persons elected:

PRESIDENT: Isabella Brook

HONI SOIT: WET for HONI

NUS DELEGATES: 7 in order of election:

- Isabella Brook
- Dylan Williams
- Eleanor Morley
- Kerrod Gream
- Jackson Newell
- Kimberley Murphy
- Lorena White

STUDENTS’ REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL:

33 to be elected.
Those elected are listed below by the ticket order on the ballot paper.

- B Liam Donohoe**
- C James Cooper**
- D Brendan Ma
- E Thandlwe Bethune
- H Georgia Mantle**
- H Ella Bickley**
- J Edward McCann
- K Samuel Chu**
- K Amelia Chan
- L Alex Fitton**
- M Adam Boidin**
- M Jake Williams
- Q Caitlin McMenamin

STUDENTS’ REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CONT’D):

- R Isabella Pytka
- S Dominic McDonald
- T Aiden Magro
- V Irene Oh**
- X Parvathi Subramaniam
- Y Connor Wherrett
- AB Vinil Kumar
- AC Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz**
- AC Angus Berg
- AE Marcus Colman
- AG Timothy Berney-Gibson
- AH Andrea Zephyr
- AI Sophia Chung
- AO Kimberley Murphy
- AP Zeyu Shu
- AQ Isabella Brook**
- AV Lachlan Ward
- AX Katie Thorburn**
- BE Patrick Ryan**
- BN Ricardo Wu

Those names marked with an ** were elected with a full quota.

Paulene Graham.

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



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p: 02 9660 4756 | w: src.usyd.edu.au/src-books

The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY SUPRA

SUPRA update: what have we been up to?

Lily Matchett, SUPRA Vice-President



The semester has been jam-packed with activities and activism pursued by postgraduates. Perhaps the most amazing feat in recent Sydney University history is happening right now, as an unwavering, not-to-be-messed-with non-violent direct action goes on at Callan Park campus, led by Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) postgraduates and undergraduates alike in an ongoing occupation of the student centre.

SCA Campaign
SUPRA's two SCA-campus councilors have played a leading role in the organizing and planning of the SCA campaign, which demands ceramics, glass and jewelry studios stay at Callan park, and firmly refuses the proposed 60% cut to staff and Fine Arts merger with Camperdown campus. A number of SUPRA councilors and postgraduate students have been allies in the occupation, actions and campaigning process for let SCA stay, contributing materials, resources and solidarity to the fight.

Stop sexual assault on campus campaign
SUPRA councilors have been at the forefront of the campaign to stop campus sexual assault that has recently received a great deal of media attention on the ABC, Channel 7 and in The Guardian. Members of the Postgraduate and undergraduate Women's Collective and allies staged an action at Sydney University Open Day, taking over the parent information lecture with ten mattresses painted with ten demands of university management to ensure real student safety and support on campus, rather than the same old horror stories.

An open letter was sent to the Vice Chancellor Dr Michael Spence and was published by The Guardian outlining the decades of university inaction on issues of campus rape and sexual assault against students (disproportionately affecting women and international students).



The letter outlined the student demands for improved management reporting systems, education, staff training, specialised counsellors and resources be devoted to the issue of rape and assault on campus. Though the majority of demands were rejected by the Vice Chancellor, some of the demands are being acted on to some degree with student consultation, which would likely never have come about if it weren't for the sustained effort of radical feminist activists, including SUPRA councilors.

Women of South Asia Summit
SUPRA Women's Officer Mariam Mohamed played a leading role in pulling together this years amazing Women of South Asia

Summit at Sydney University, inviting women activists, politicians, journalists and academics to speak to and inspire students. The summit is primarily organized by the South Asia Study Group, an initiative at University of Sydney that brings the research community together to analyse and publish issues related to South Asia. SUPRA councilors are also currently assisting materially and organisationally to the upcoming Indian Summit, beginning on campus on October 7th. Follow the "About South Asia Study Group - University of Sydney" Facebook page to find out more, or check out the SUPRA Facebook page ("Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association – SUPRA") for updates.



A word from the President

Tom Greenwell gives us a tour of the University bureaucracy

Well, what have I been up to? It's a nebulous job, the Presidency. It's funny to think of most of my time being sunken into University meetings with higher-ups. I'd say it's definitely more than a third of my time, but that's why they pay me; meetings meeting meetings, it just comes with the responsibility of being a student rep... You have to sit in a room with a bunch of suits pretending to listen while playing with Excel graphs – not really. Most of my time is spent talking at every agenda point just to be contrarian and not let things go through unchallenged. The privileges of office.

What have I been up to? Recently, a revised student discipline rule came through Academic Standards and Policy and then Academic Board. I was told by our esteemed Registra that 'the colleges are separate legal entities,' even if I thought they should submit to University authority so perpetrators can be brought into line (although they don't take it kindly if you mention that you'd prefer if perpetrators faced good ol' fashioned Spanish Revolutionary Justice, '36 style).

The same policy also had all its binary language deleted. I'd have liked to have not been the straight-white-male advocating for neutral language in policy, but, alas, I was the only student in that meeting. But now, small victories, there is no longer binary language in the new Senate Rule. Let's see if we can't crack the others, ey?

Finally, last week started the advocacy process for standardising submission times across the University. It's stupid to have text-matching software for all written assignments, but then totally random submission times that have no discernible rhythm. So I reckon I'll have a crack at making the University bend on that one, too, and have all submission times set for 11:59pm the day of. Hopefully I'll have something more to tell next time around.

SUPRA is proud to support the India Summit, an initiative under the aegis of South Asia Study Group. The Summit will host Mr. Sitaram Yechury, Member of Indian Parliament and General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) for the conference. Be sure to catch this to get acquainted with India in the 21st century.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



SASG
university of sydney



INDIA
SUMMIT



When

7 October 2016
9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Where

Lecture Theatre N395
John Woolley Building
University of Sydney

More information

Kiriti Mortha
kmor3293@uni.sydney.edu.au

Zushan Hashmi

Zhas6238@uni.sydney.edu.au



Summary

With the 21st century having been branded as 'India's Century' it is time to evaluate this claim and direct intellectual discourse in a manner that benefits administrators and policy makers. The specific objective of the India Summit is to – Extend the discourse on India amongst academics and policymakers in Australia, while enabling students to gain greater insights into the South Asian nation, and to enable researchers, community members, and politicians, to share their views and thoughts with the wider community. In pursuance of this goal, the Summit will host experts to evaluate the following themes -

1. India's Foreign Policy

2. India's Domestic Strength

The struggle of queer international students

Anonymous

The international student community brings diversity and an opportunity for international and multicultural dialogue. Yet queer international students are one of the most oppressed groups in the university; they not only have to deal with the many challenges that come with studying in a foreign land but also the prejudice they face due to their queer identity.

International students make up 33% of the university population, and that number will increase in the future. However, when it comes to student unions and university events international students are not represented in a similar way. They are treated as a cash cow by the university, and with disdain by the government, which doesn't give them the same benefits as domestic students.

Queer international students come from countries where being queer is punishable by death. In these countries being queer is not even discussed. These queer students live a life of persecution, so you would think that when they come to Australia, where they can be who they are, they would be free. That is not the case because the burden of studying abroad in one of the most expensive universities in Australia puts so much pressures on students that they can't really express themselves.

Things will only get worse for queer international students, as they will for domestic queer student, if the plebiscite on marriage equality goes through. The plebiscite will open up the discussion on marriage equality, but more importantly it will open the discussion on queer identity, and if it is okay to be queer.

Some queer international students, especially those who come from countries where homosexuality is a crime, choose to study in Australia because homosexuality is acceptable here. These students move away from people that don't acknowledge their diverse gender and sexuality and come to a place where they can be themselves without being judged or abused. With this plebiscite, they will be judged because of who they are. These queer students will once again feel unsafe because of their identity.

Even queer international students who are coming from countries where marriage equality is a reality will suffer because of the plebiscite. These students are coming from a place where they have equal rights to a place where their relationship is less than a straight relationship.

International students already face lots of issues; the closing of Sydney College of Arts, cuts to administrative services, and lack of travel concession affect international students more, because they are further from home than domestic students. Add to this the struggles some queer student face because of their homophobic background, and homophobia they will have to endure due to this plebiscite, and you will further isolate the gay international student community. It will affect their mental health and hence their academic performance.

This is the time when we need to reach out to the international queer community and support them. This is the time when we say no to homophobia, transphobia, and sexism. We send a clear message to queer international students that there is nothing wrong with being queer.



You’ll Never Guess What the #1 Website in North Korea Is

Oliver Moore has the upmost respect for the Supreme Leader and also anyone else with nuclear missiles

After a shock hole in North Korea’s cybersecurity emerged last week, the world has been reeling with the discovery that the nation only has 28 websites!

Can you imagine?! The hole was quickly patched, stopping the outside world from stickybeaking around, but some surprising statistics have emerged about web usage inside the DPRK.

Most of the 28 websites were fairly benign, with many dedicated to various government agencies and programs.

However, a surprise contender took out the number one spot as the “most visited” website in the DPRK, racking up more than two hundred times the number of visits as number two (a website profiling the Supreme Leader, Kim Jong Un himself): Pornhub.

The pornography website, founded in 2007, is the largest on the web, and accrues close to 30 million unique views every month, including several hundred from inside the DPRK.

The DPRK refused to comment.

The Cursor Is Officially Endorsing Brad And Jen For The Presedential Election. Please, Brad and Jen, Get Back Together Now.



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Michael Spence hasn’t even assumed his final form

Elijah Abraham also wants his tenure extended by two years

Sydney University’s Vice Chancellor Michael Spence has today revealed that he hasn’t even assumed his final form yet. The news, announced at a press conference, has sent shockwaves throughout the staff and student body.

“This is something I’ve been wanting to announce for a while and I’m glad it’s finally out,” Spence told *The Cursor*.

“If the students thought my current form was powerful, they haven’t seen anything yet.”

On account of Spence having yet to assume his final form, the University has extended their contract with him for two years, from 2018-2020.

In a statement on the matter, they wrote “this extension should give [Spence] ample time to put together the preparations needed to assume his final form.”

The announcement has drawn polarising reactions from students. Sally Nguyen, an Arts student, was disappointed by the news.

“We’ve just been waiting so long for this, so to be told it won’t be happening for a while is quite disappointing” she said. “I’m graduating next year. What if I never get a chance to see this?”

A staff member, who asked to remain anonymous, branded the announcement “another project delay due to extremely poor planning by University management yet again.”

Despite these comments, Spence remains optimistic and with solid resolve.

“Truthfully, I am not sure if the University is ready for my final form. However, the ritual is near complete. The second New Moon is rising. Asclepius screams from the celestial heavens for his release. I will not fail. I cannot fail.”

Students Rejoice as Biannual Swarm of Bloodsucking Cockroaches Recedes

Oliver Moore hates democracy



Students and staff alike emerged from underground bunkers this week as the hoard of bloodsucking cockroaches that have choked campus for the last fortnight finally receded.

This biannual event has plagued the university for decades, causing total chaos and bringing the university and its business to a grinding halt.

The cockroaches routinely interrupt lectures, attack anyone who ventures into the open, and cover campus in their excrement.

The Cursor understands that this strange ritual is usually undertaken in an effort to secure future employment in larger, more noticeable swarms, which are capable of bringing a state or even the entire country to a standstill for weeks at a time.

“There’s nothing we can do but hide underground,” said a terrified student, “it’s impossible to escape them, even if you’re in a big crowd or say you go to UTS.”

The next swarm is predicted to take place in May, 2017.



John F. Kennedy was live.
November, 1963 · 📍
Dallas, Texas

513 Views

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Are you ok mate??
Like · Reply · 2 ·

Bill Shorten Teams Up With Crazy Frog For Awesome Cause Not Photo Opportunity

Labor Party releases photos of Bill Shorten’s new friend. Crazy Frog has been announced as Shorten’s ambassador of likeabilty and will continue to appear in photos until Shorten is popular agan.




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Howard Cum Laude

The University’s “2016–20 Strategic Plan” names four core USyd values. Here’s how John Howard stacks up:

Courage & Creativity <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Began policy of turning back refugee boats– Introduced WorkChoices to crush the Union movement– Refused to take meaningful action on climate change	Respect & Integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Refused to apologise to the Stolen Generations– Claimed no genocide of Indigenous peoples has ever taken place in Australia– Resisted granting Native Title
Inclusion & Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Amended marriage to be a “union of a man and a woman”– Introduced the Pacific Solution and offshore processing– Lead the Northern Territory Intervention	Openness & Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Lied about weapons of mass destruction to justify Iraq War– Lied that children were thrown overboard by refugees– Introduced Voluntary Student Unionism

sydney.edu.au/strategy



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Trending

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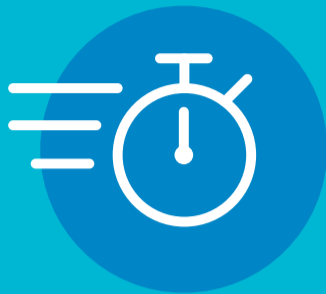
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Get free help with your tax return from a Tax Help volunteer

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- › Do you earn around \$50,000 or less?

Available to all USyd students through the Students' Representative Council (SRC) & Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA).

To book an appointment go to: srcusyd.net.au/src-help/tax-help

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