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tens of thousands of USyd’s
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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The University of Sydney – where we write, publish and distribute *Honi Soit* – is on the sovereign land of these people. As students and journalists, we recognise our complicity in the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land. In recognition of our privilege, we vow to not only include, but to prioritise and centre the experiences of Indigenous people, and to be reflective when we fail to. We recognise our duty to be a counterpoint to the racism that plagues the mainstream media, and to adequately represent the perspectives of Indigenous students at our University. We also wholeheartedly thank our Indigenous reporters for the continuing contribution of their labour to our learning.

Editorial

The many aims of journalists — from breaking stories first, making sure our facts are straight, to finding a fresh angle on a story everyone else has already written — are in constant conflict.

I became acutely aware of this when one of my relatives died in ‘newsworthy’ circumstances last year, and I read every single article I could find about his death. I often used to talk about the “poor family and friends” of people whose deaths wound up in the media. Suddenly, as I read yet another account emphasising the most tragic elements of his to push an agenda, I was a part of that catchall term.

On top of the very basic aims of news-writing above, we often place the burden of changing the world and fighting injustice, particularly at a paper like *Honi*.

It’s a noble aim, but we shouldn’t forget the value of journalism that simply causes the least harm possible. It can be easy to forget this when a few seconds spent rewording something could be the difference between breaking a story or not, and where the most shocking or sensationalist take might get the most traction, but it remains as important as ever. The landscape of journalism may have changed, but our subjects — people — have not.

I hope this edition will help someone. I hope you’ll smile as you walk past the beautiful cover art. I hope you’ll learn something about the world from the profile of Wadah Khanfar, or something about how our uni works from the feature, or that something between these pages will make you laugh at the end of a rough day. **SR**

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Cover image by Eloise Myatt.
Honi Soit, Week 3 Edition, Semester 1 2017.

Fan mail

Je Suis Bill Leak

Dear *Honi*,

Years ago, appearing in an interview to discuss his book on George Orwell, the late Christopher Hitchens defined a radical as one who reserves ‘the right to think for himself.’ He praised Orwell, inter alia, for his commitment to discovering and exposing the truth, no matter how uncomfortable, or who found it offensive.

I wonder how Orwell would fare in our society today. The example of Bill Leak, the recently deceased Australian cartoonist, so casually smeared as ‘racist’ in your last edition, serves as a good indicator. Because Leak dared to draw freely and challenge people’s perceptions on all sorts of issues, he ruffled feathers. Like Orwell, Leak put principle before partisanship. Hence he lampooned vice and absurdity in all its manifestations - from Howard-era policy to the Safe Schools program.

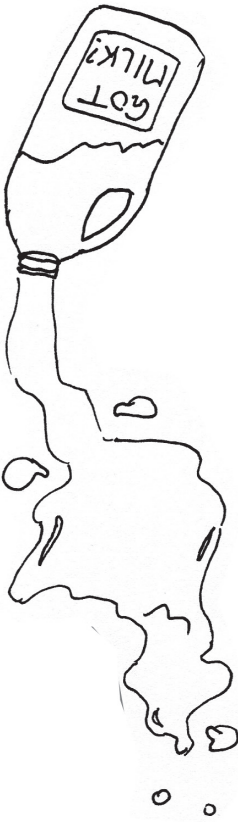
There were no sacred cows.

Unless the author of the piece who branded Leak as a racist cares to support his claim with argumentation, I suggest he retract his smear and wipe the spit off the tombstone of a great Australian.

Yours,
Jonathan Adams, M Teach (Sec.) II

Got mail?

Send your irreverent takes and reverent rants to editors@honisoit.com by 12pm each Friday for publication. Keep it under 300 words and include your name, degree, year, and favourite flavour of Little Fat Lamb (there is a correct answer).



Oops...

Here are some humble corrections from last week’s edition. Many thanks to those who bring errors to our attention.

Even the SBS has its VICES

SBS VICELAND is not foreign owned. The channel is owned by SBS, but primarily broadcasts American-made content.

Centralised enquiry system causing admin bottleneck

This article said Law would be the only faculty not officially centralised by May 1, based on comment from the University. The University has since clarified that Law will be centralised with a number of other faculties on March 27.

WWE: Whitewashed Entertainment

Goldstein should be Goldberg. Daniel Bryant should be Daniel Bryan.

Miscellaneous

Housing should be affordable. Music should be louder.

What’s on this week

According to your friend Jennifer who can’t do anything because she’s too busy doing home homework for her first year arts subjects.



Grease the Musical

When: 22nd-25th March, 7.30pm
Where: Seymour Center
Price: Access \$20 | Concession \$26 | Adult \$36

Oh hey. You should definitely go to this if you want. The uni’s musical society is putting on Grease. I heard they have an amazing cast of performers, and that they’ve been rehearsing this show for like four months. I’d love to go with you but I have to do my tutorial readings for this week- then on the weekend I’m doing next week’s readings and the week after’s. I’m actually trying to get all my readings done five weeks in advance. I’m really behind actually. So that’s why I won’t be able to make it, sorry. Uni is so stressful!

Theatresports

When: Weds 3-5pm (Jams) | Thurs 1-2pm (Shows)
Where: Holme Common Room (Jams) | Manning Bar (Shows)
Price: Free

I’ve heard such good things about this! It’s like, a weekly improv comedy show at Manning, with a jam on the day before to practice and learn the skills involved. Someone told me it’s really fun and inclusive and supportive and run by really talented people. It’s such a pity I won’t be able to go though, since I have a lecture on those days, then after that I go to the alternate lecture they do for people who can’t make the first. I always take notes twice, just in case I miss anything.

SUAnime Cosplay Workshop

When: Tues March 21st, 5-7pm
Where: Holme, Meeting Room 2
Price: Members Free | Non-members \$2
Non-access \$6

Hey, maybe you’d like this. It’s like, a workshop for people who want to make costumes of characters from anime. It’s mostly for working on smaller replica pieces for those costumes although the people running it say you can bring bigger pieces as well. I won’t be able to make it though, damn. I have to go and get advice from my professor during her visiting hours. I got this really challenging task from my tutor where I have to “submit my lecture notes from week one” and I have a bunch of questions about how to do it to their exact specifications.

Make Education Free Again Protest

When: Wednesday, 22nd March, 1pm-4pm
Where: Eastern Avenue
Price: Free (the price your education could be)

This looks looks really important! It’s a protest being held by the Student Representative Council’s Education Action Group to make tertiary education free again like it was in the ‘70s. From what I understand grassroots movements like these to stop education cuts are critical. That’s why I’m so bummed I won’t be able to make it. I have to start studying for final exams now or I won’t be able to maintain the HD standard that I set for myself. Uni is so stressful!! Haha.

SASS First Year Arts Camp

When: 24th-26th March
Where: Cataract Scout Park
Price: Access members \$158 | Non-Access \$162

Listen! What more do I have to say to you to get it through your thick skull: I’m fucking busy. Do you think I have time to go to this arts camp bullshit? You think I have three days to fraternise at a dirty, derelict scout camp? Instead I’m going get ahead by buying my books for next semester, and visiting the houses of my group assignment members so I can blackmail them into getting their section done on time. Understand? You’ve never seen power the likes of mine in this earthly realm. Do you comprehend me, mortal? I will crush you. I am the antichrist.

NTEU log of claims tackles cutbacks

NELL COHEN

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has drafted a log of claims for the University of Sydney addressing staff involvement in decision-making, workforce casualisation, and fair pay.

The document was presented to the University on Thursday, March 9, in anticipation of negotiations for the 2017 Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) with the university.

The EBA will determine University employment conditions for the next three years, and will be developed through negotiations between the University, the NTEU and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU).

The negotiations coincide with major restructuring of degrees and faculties, including the amalgamation of the Faculty of Education and Social Work, the Sydney College of the Arts, and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The NTEU hopes to tackle possible associated cutbacks by requesting “no forced redundancies”.

In the recent science faculty restructuring, the NTEU fought to reduce staff redundancies and salary cutbacks.

Kurt Iveson, the University of Sydney NTEU branch president, told *Honi*, “If such changes are implemented across the other Faculties, [the claim against forced redundancies] will be

particularly important.”

“In an institution this big, everyone should have a right to alternative work somewhere in the University if their current position is no longer required”.

The log of claims also focuses on improving support for casual staff, corresponding with the NTEU’s #IStand-WithCasuals campaign.

The campaign calls for inclusion of casual staff and denounces exploitation of labour, arguing that casual staff serve as backfill teaching and allow academics extra research time.

Iveson told *Honi*, “lots of face-to-face teaching — and not just tutorials — is done by casuals, many of whom have been teaching the same courses for years on insecure casual contracts,” and that many of these casuals are undergraduate and post-graduate students.

Iveson believes “students would no doubt be appalled” by how little casual tutors are paid for consultations and marking time, and that they perform a “vital service on precarious casual contracts”.

The NTEU is fighting for “improvements for casual staff on issues like unpaid work, conversion to more permanent employment, and ending discrimination in superannuation”.

Other points in the log of claims in-

clude a 15 per cent increase to staff salaries by 2020, and that staff receive a 17 per cent employer contribution to superannuation. The University currently pays 10.5 per cent.

It also states that if work is no longer required, this must be acknowledged by all affected employees, and that following retrenchment, the work must cease. This is to prevent the rehiring of staff to do the same work for a lower salary, or the retrenchment of staff in favour of electronic systems completing their work.

A University spokesperson told *Honi* the University is now awaiting a log of claims from the CPSU, after which it will consider both claims and assess university priorities before reaching a response.

They further emphasised a commitment “to seeing our staff continue to benefit from sector-leading conditions”.

So far the bargaining process appears less hostile than in 2013, when the EBA campaign involved bitter disputes over salary increases, contention between the NTEU and CPSU, and seven days of strikes.

The process lasted 18 months before the NTEU accepted the University’s EBA offer and cancelled a planned 72-hour strike.

Libraries introduce ‘book-a-desk’

ELIJAH ABRAHAM

The beginning of this year marks a period of great upheaval for the University’s libraries. Fisher, SciTech, Law, and The Quarter libraries have introduced a ‘book-a-desk’ system, which allows students to pre-book their desk spaces in certain study zones.

The University decided to introduce the system “based on student feedback that finding an available desk was difficult and stressful when other students left valuable items unattended to save desks”.

This humble reporter would suggest this sounds like they carried out a perfunctory glance of USyd Rants and worked from there.

The booking system operates online — one need only visit the library’s book-a-desk website on their own device or at one of the designated booking kiosks and congratulations! We now pronounce you person and desk.

A University spokesperson told *Honi*, “desk booking systems have been implemented successfully at university libraries in the UK and South Korea”. Could USyd become the first university to see the unsuccessful implementation of a desk booking system?

Currently, students can book a desk in one of the designated areas for four hours at a time and up to eight hours per day. The University said any further expansion of the system would be based on staff and student feedback.

Your loyal correspondent went undercover at a library* to see whether the system was effective. To my shock, many seats listed as available on the website were occupied! Is this what unsuccessful implementation looks like?

When asked whether there was any system in place to prevent students from taking booked seats or exceeding their allocated times — in the hope this kind of egregious violation would be grounds for legally-acceptable violent upheaval — the University said the system was self-managed.

“Clients are encouraged to speak with library staff if they have any issues with an occupied desk that they have booked.”

The desk booking system is effectively a quick and reliable method of securing a study space, especially during stressful times like exams. It is slightly weird that something as simple as finding desks to study at has become an automated process. Still, if this is what it takes to end the scourge of desks gripped by possessions yet left unattended for hours, then this reporter will submit humbly to our robot overlords.

*In the interest of our reporter’s safety, we cannot say which of the designated libraries he attended.

Anonymous marking delayed until 2018

NICK BONYHADY

The University of Sydney has delayed full implementation of anonymous marking until semester one, 2018.

Anna Hush and Subeta Vimalarajah, who led the Students’ Representative Council (SRC) campaign that convinced the University to agree to anonymise marking in 2016, said it “is proven to minimise unconscious bias in marking, producing fairer outcomes for female students and/or those from diverse cultural backgrounds.”

At the time, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education) Pip Pattison told *Honi* “some aspects may be in place by the Semester 2 examination period. We would certainly hope to have this in place by semester 1, 2017.”

That will not be the case.

Vimalarajah and Hush said they were disappointed at the delay, “particularly as none of these logistical problems were raised last year during the many committee and board meetings we attended” while lobbying for the change.

“We are also surprised as the university seemed very supportive of our proposal,” they said.

According to University Director of Education Strategy, Peter McCallum, USyd remains committed to anonymous marking but has delayed the policy to adapt processes and train staff.

“Changes to our assessment practices can take some time to imple-

ment across an institution the size of the University of Sydney and we are particularly keen to ensure that, as we roll out this policy, we avoid unintended consequences that might have an adverse impact on student learning,” McCallum said.

Specifically, McCallum said “in order to implement anonymous marking, a number of modifications need to be made to the Learning Management System, especially ... Turnitin”.

Turnitin, the software USyd uses to receive assignments and check them for plagiarism through Blackboard, has an anonymous marking mode designed for this purpose.

The mode has to be turned on both University-wide and for specific assignments though, so a modicum of additional administrative work is required to anonymise assignments.

Given the enormous number of courses that use Turnitin, McCallum stressed that even modest changes require testing before “institution-wide implementation to make sure they are robust.”

“In the case of examinations the anonymous marking provision will require that we reorganise seating and scheduling practices,” McCallum told *Honi*.

In late 2016, the relevant University policy was amended to state: “In examinations, tests or other assessments consisting of written elements, stu-

dents should be identified on scripts, essay books or answers sheets by Student Identification Number only. Names should not be used.”

Students are currently seated in alphabetical order for centrally administered exams, which would allow lecturers to circumvent anonymous marking by matching the position of a script paper in a stack with an alphabetised list of students.

If students were instead seated in order of their student identification number, that problem would not occur.

So how has the University delayed the policy, given their initial commitments?

While the University’s Assessments Policy mandates anonymous marking, it also lets the University decide when anonymous marking will come into effect to help staff prepare for the logistical changes.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Registrar) Tyrone Carlin has determined the new scheme will only commence in semester one, 2018.

On that date, all centrally managed exams (the terrifying sort that take place at the end of semester around campus) will be anonymously marked.

The University hopes to have smaller assessments marked anonymously before then.

“The Business School has been using de-identified marking for a

few years and ... Architecture, Design and Planning have made good progress towards implementation this year,” McCallum told *Honi*.

In spite of its marking policy, the Business School has still been accused of unfair grading policies, to the detriment of international students.

Hush and Vimalarajah said there are alternative courses of action the University could take to minimise biased marking.

“The best solution [to bias] is smaller classes, diverse assessments, more contact hours and better working conditions for academics,” they said.

“If [academics] are not marking hundreds of exam papers in a sitting, the influence of unconscious bias is minimised.”

“Under our current conditions, anonymous marking would be strengthened by a strong appeals process, cultural competency programs and double marking procedures.”

The University has instructed other faculties to “implement anonymous marking sooner wherever they are in a position to do so”, though it remains unclear what progress has been made.

Anonymous marking is coming, just not yet.

Victoria Park gets a makeover

JAYCE CARRANO

The University of Sydney’s favourite backyard began a facelift in January this year.

The significant renovations include a new perimeter path, new seats, table tennis tables, a netball court, and more lighting for safety and major events.

Construction crews are currently dredging the lake, transforming the body of water into an ugly mudflat.

“It’s a total mess,” said Barbara, a USyd student who had braved the dire sight to sit overlooking it.

Despite the current ugliness, USyd students will eventually be spoilt by a new entrance to the park directly from Barff Road behind the Law

School. Increased accessibility between pre-drinks in Victoria Park and the rest of the Uni makes Barff Road’s name particularly appropriate.

In addition, the plan seeks to improve the water quality of Lake Northam — the true name of the lake in Victoria Park (renamed in 1965 after a long-serving councillor for the City of Sydney). To do so, the council is refilling the lake with clean water, planting more wetland flora, and installing new traps and filters to recapture pollution and bottles thrown by wayward youth.

The refurbishment is part of the City of Sydney’s infrastructure pro-

gram, headed by Mayor Clover Moore. The majority of construction will be done by early next year while the new entrance to USyd will be completed in mid-2018.

The draining of the lake has at least ended the incessant arguments as to its depth — less than a metre for those who were wondering. One might ask where the famed eels have gone in the meantime.

We can only hope that — like the families on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition — our slimy friends will return in 2018 to find their humble abode in better condition than ever.



Victoria Park in a state of undress.



University backpedals on consent module rejection

JUSTINE LANDIS-HANLEY

University of Sydney management are trialling an online consent module for students, despite a spokesperson telling *Honi* that the University had rejected the idea two weeks ago.

Last year, the Students’ Representative Council Wom*n’s Officers demanded the University set up an online module about sexual assault and harassment to be completed by all students semesterly.

A spokesperson for the University told *Honi* that “in reviewing the expert evidence and seeking advice from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) ... it has become clear that this is not the most appropriate mechanism for achieving a well-informed student body on the issues.”

However, the University’s Safer Communities Working Group — a committee including members of the student body and University management — is currently trialling a program called ‘Consent Matters’ developed by Epigeum, a UK-based company.

A spokesperson for the University said that while “the University’s position remains unchanged”, the proposal is being reviewed in light of the ‘Consent Matters’ trial.

The ‘Consent Matters’ module was developed in consultation with the UK National Union of Students’ Women’s Officer and the University of Newcastle. Epigeum markets the program as

“ideal for universities who want to articulate a zero tolerance approach to sexual violence and harassment.” Their marketing seems to have worked: the module was deployed at residential colleges at the University of Newcastle and the Australian National University (ANU) last week.

Wom*n’s Officer Imogen Grant, who took part in the trial, said the module is flawed and shows that “the University is not following its own standards of best academic practice when selecting a primary prevention module”.

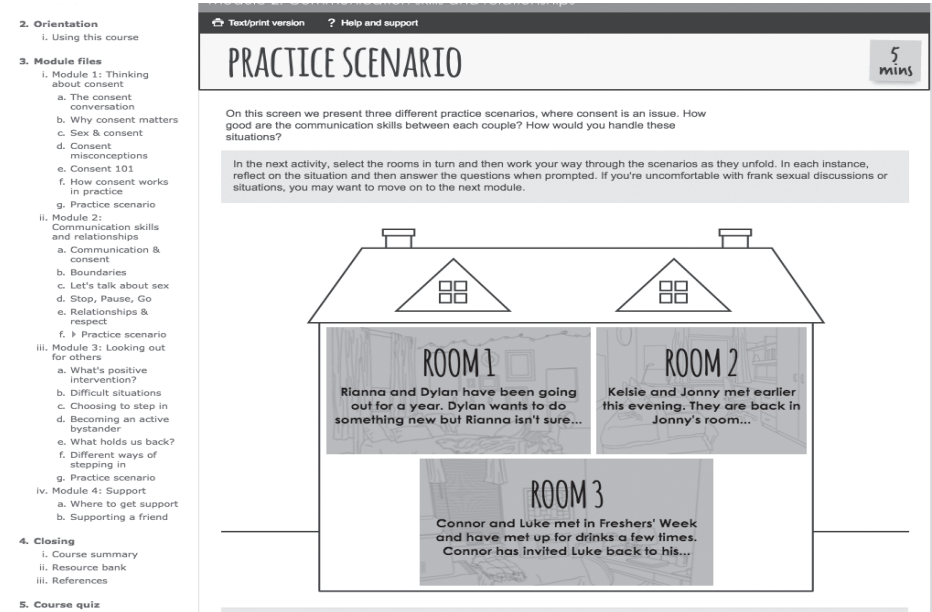
“A student does not have to select a single answer, let alone the correct answer, to be able to proceed to the next section,” Grant told *Honi*.

“This means that many students will rush through the module without exposing themselves to any of the content, resulting in exacerbating the very attitudes we are trying to alter in the student body.”

“In addition to this, information on what is affirmative consent and how to articulate boundaries during a one-night stand was concealed in the ‘key terms’ and ‘useful advice’ icons in the margins, and not integrated into the main content of the module.”

Honi also trialled the module. ‘Consent Matters’ has four sub-modules from ‘Thinking about Consent’, to ‘Communication skills and relationships’.

As Grant noted, students can click



A sample from the consent module

‘next’ in the trial on every page and scenario without having to answer questions. There is a brief activity at the end of each module that can be easily completed without much prior engagement.

At the end, students answer 10 multiple-choice questions, choosing from less than three possible answers. In short: we achieved 100 per cent on the quiz without having read any of the material.

Honi contacted ANU students to identify differences between the trial module and the final model that has been approved for use at their University.

In the final version of the ANU model, there is only one set of questions at the end. Students still retain their ability to skip questions, but doing so will count against their mark.

“The University should seek the assistance of international leaders in sexual violence prevention education, such as Professor Moira Carmody,” Grant said.

“The University must grasp the issue of sexual assault with the seriousness it has always deserved so as to start the cultural shift to making violence in all its forms unacceptable.”

The cost of a healthy smile

CAMERON GOOLEY

Medicare is often cited as a prime example of a public health care system, but it is far from universal. Of all the services Medicare fails to cover, dental is the most surprising. Basic dental is essential to maintain oral health.

Without subsidisation, a simple check-up and clean can set back an adult over \$300. Fillings range from \$150–250, a crown \$1500–3000, and an extraction upwards of \$4000. The most minor procedures can put patients in serious debt.

These costs can have a severe impact on tertiary students. Whereas children are entitled to yearly dental check-ups under Medicare, most university students receive no concession. When combined with an inability to work full time while studying, the high cost of preventative dental care can leave thousands of Australian students suffering.

“It had struck me as odd that Medicare should subsidise health treatment for all parts of the body except the mouth.”

Of all recent health ministers, Tony Abbott made perhaps one the best critiques of Medicare’s lack of dental coverage. Putting aside his generally chequered record, Abbott raises a good

point. Dental work is often viewed as an aesthetic choice or self-inflicted blight, and therefore less deserving of taxpayer funded subsidisation.

In 2011, when national attention once again turned to the lack of Medicare subsidised dental, Senior research fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies Jeremy Sammut told the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

“Personal responsibility and lifestyle choices play a crucial role in determining health outcomes ... If you want better teeth, you should drink less cola. If you want to be able to see the dentist, you should spend less on cola and other things.”

Yet an overwhelming amount of scholarship links genetics to oral health, and you would be hard pressed to find a dentist who would not concede that some patients simply have a predisposition towards cavities, plaque build-up, and general decay. Sammut’s attitude also overlooks the impact that greater health problems — diabetes, cancer, and malnutrition — can have on patients’ teeth.

Poor dental health carries significant social stigma — for example, people with bad teeth are likely to be ridiculed and miss job opportunities.

Some cavities and fissures can lead to permanent nerve damage and blood poisoning.

Luckily for some students, they may qualify for limited free dental work. To qualify for bulk billed cleaning, fillings, and some major procedures, students need to approach a community dental clinic with a low income health care card. These cards are only given to some students on Austudy and Abstudy; a student’s income needs to be less than \$4296 over an eight-week period to qualify.

There are a number of community dental clinics in Sydney; the two closest to the University of Sydney being the Pitt Street Dental Hospital and the Marrickville Community Dental Health Centre.

Even with this concession, wait times are long. A staff member from Dental Health Services told *Honi* that although extremely urgent cases can be taken care of in a few days, the waiting times for non-urgent treatment are “quite a few months”.

Wait times were on a case-by-case basis, but for issues that don’t require emergency attention the wait time was likely to be significant due to severe understaffing.

University Senate commences first confidential external fellow selection process

ANDREW BELL

The University has begun a confidential appointment process for new external Senate fellows, discarding for the first time the open election process previously used for alumni candidates. The new process will select five fellows, who will hold significant voting power over the policy direction of the entire University.

The process seems to be designed to ensure the incoming fellows have sufficient corporate and financial experience to meet new statutory experience requirements.

The Senate is the peak governing body of the University and oversees its policy direction at the broadest level. It appoints the Vice Chancellor, reviews management performance and monitors academic activities.

This process takes its lead from amendments to the *University of Sydney Act 1989* (the legislation that governs the University). In 2016, then Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli issued an order giving effect to a Senate resolution from 2015 that restructured and resized the Senate.

The new Senate structure includes “5 Senate Appointed Members” in addition to other elected, ministerially appointed and “official” members (the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Chair of the Academic Board).

Out of all of those members,

according to the recent amendments, “at least 2 must have financial expertise (as demonstrated by relevant qualifications and by experience in financial management at a senior level in the public or private sector)” and at least one must have “commercial expertise”, defined in similar terms. However, the Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson (as the current non-executive director of AGL Energy and previous Chair of QBE Insurance Group) would already have expertise in both categories.

When asked why this format is being used for applications, a University spokesperson said, “Senate is seeking the widest possible pool of candidates in order to achieve the right mix of skills and attributes on Senate to guide the University.” They further cited the commercial and financial criteria.

The departure is a clear nod to more efficient, corporate board-style management over participatory democracy. In 2013, a group heavy in media personalities was elected by a ballot of approximately 12,000 alumni (from 280,000 worldwide).

Current member Andrew West has been one of the more oppositional members over the course of 2016, speaking against the proposed changes to the Sydney College of the Arts and the restructuring of the Senate itself.

While it is likely the new process will ensure fellows have management experience, it indicates a shift away from the shared alumni-driven vision of the University’s direction. Since they can no longer vote for external fellows, alumni who want to influence policy will largely be restricted to individual lobbying or tying policy to donations.

In the past, student fellow elections have been marred with controversy — one had to be re-held, and the last two have seen accusations of breaches of privacy as campaigners solicit votes from students with laptops in hand. However, while the administrative burden of the postal alumni ballot is large, it tends to run more smoothly and fairly than the electronic student ballot.

When asked what kind of criteria would be used in selecting each new fellow, *Honi* was directed to the “Senate Fellows Role Statement” which essentially lists favourable personality traits alongside corporate directors’ duties. The key attributes are “Commitment”, “Relationship Management”, “Networking”, “Interpersonal”, “Integrity” and “Contributes to Diversity”.

Political diversity is not listed as an attribute, so it is unclear whether it will be taken into account in the application process. In 2016, a Senate spokesperson indicated that political characteristics were not taken into ac-

count when selecting a candidate to fill a casual vacancy for the position of Postgraduate fellow.

Since this is the first time this process has been undertaken, there is no available data or information on diversity or skills of the appointed fellows. However, the fact that the role is unremunerated does restrict the cross-section of possible applicants. As the University has written, being a Senate fellow “requires a significant donation of time and energy to the University.” Applicants must have an extremely stable income to realistically commit to the position.

The University has declined to disclose the number of applicants or their identities, saying, “The successful applicants will be announced once appointments are finalised in August.” It is unclear why the vetting process is so extensive that it requires more than six months.

In the absence of unsuccessful candidates identifying themselves, it will be very difficult to determine the kind of applicant the Senate is seeking.

The appointed fellows’ terms will begin on December 1.

The next opportunity to join the Senate as an external fellow will open in 2019.

An objective partisan

Wadah Khanfar, former Director General of global news network Al Jazeera, on the Middle East and journalism / ZOE STOJANOVIC-HILL



Image: Arabian Business News.

Wadah Khanfar is unapologetic. “Do you think Arab media outlets should have a democratising agenda?” I ask. “As a matter of fact, yes I do.”

Khanfar, speaking emphatically yet eloquently, emanates confidence. It’s just before sundown, the sky is the same stormy shade as his suit, and we have settled into the shadows of an unlit room. Khanfar is the President of the Al Sharq Forum, an independent think tank for policy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and former Director General of the Qatari-funded news organisation Al Jazeera. The Palestinian journalist and political analyst is at the University of Sydney to present a public lecture for Sydney Ideas, USyd’s in-house equivalent of The Festival of Dangerous Ideas. His self-assurance is warranted: few individuals are better placed to speculate on the future of the MENA region.

The MENA region is in a state of flux. Some see bloodshed and write off the tumult as senseless chaos, but Khanfar views the turbulence as a symptom of necessary transition. In an article published last month by Chatham House, he identifies this historical juncture as an “interregnum” — the twilight zone between the collapse of an old order and the rise of something new. Khanfar embraces the end of what he believes is an illegitimate and ineffectual state system. This system was imposed on the region from above by Western colonial powers, characterised by arbitrary borders that ignored the relationship between territory and identity, comprised of authoritarian states that failed to care for the nations they claimed to represent, and undermined by geopolitical power projection. Beyond the debris, Khanfar envisions a regional order founded on “the ideals of its people: democratic stability.”

The media, he tells me, has a moral responsibility to spearhead the charge towards democracy.

“The struggle for democracy in the Middle East is a struggle for life. Without it we will continue the cycle of death. And [the media] cannot be actually reluctant in embracing or acting on that.”

Khanfar claims to know what the Arab people want — I repeat: “democratic stability” — but skeptics scoff, pointing to the connection between Al Jazeera’s agenda and that of their Qatari funders. Al Jazeera’s inconsistent coverage of the 2011 Arab uprisings raised questions, namely: was Khanfar

standing in Tahrir Square with the Egyptian people or with the House of Thani — the powerful Wahhabis supporting the Muslim Brotherhood? What did Al Jazeera’s acute attack on Muammar Gaddafi have to do with Qatar supplying Libyan rebels with weapons, equipment and cash? Did Al Jazeera neglect Bahrain’s uprising because Qatar supported the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council’s mission to quell dissent, in order to ease Sunni-Shiite tensions and thus undercut Iran’s attempt to consolidate power in the Gulf?

In September 2011, after serving Al Jazeera for eight years, Khanfar abruptly stepped down from his post after Wikileaks published a 2005 cable revealing a cosy relationship between the ‘by Arabs, for Arabs’ network and the US. Criticism centred on his decision to delete grisly images of wounded Iraqis to please US officials. Doha strengthened the perception that Al Jazeera was a vehicle for diplomatic maneuvering by replacing Khanfar with one of their own, Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani of the royal family.

When I ask about the allegation I am met with a blunt reply: “It is not true, actually.”

He insists that he shut down all disgruntled government officials, regardless of nationality, with the same line: “If we are going against the professional standards of journalism, you have a point ... but if you would like to use us as a propaganda tool to prevent us from broadcasting the truth as we see it on the ground, sorry we cannot do it regardless of the cost.”

He cites the 2001 US bombing of Al Jazeera’s Kabul office and the 2003 US bombing of the Baghdad office, in which cameraman Tareq Ayoub was killed, as evidence that “our relationship with the Americans has actually never been a relationship of closeness and love at all!” Indeed, the Bush administration was furious with Al Jazeera for ostensibly empowering terrorists by broadcasting videos of Osama bin Laden. Then again, geopolitics is not a matter of love.

Khanfar acknowledges that balanced reporting is particularly tricky — and vital — in war-torn regions because journalists are often embroiled in the crises they are covering.

In other words, it’s hard not to shout when shit

gets personal.

I appreciate Khanfar’s frankness when he says, “I am Palestinian myself and I know that [the Israeli-Palestinian conflict] is a matter of occupation.”

“I do understand that human beings are not machines, they’re not robots ... you love to defend your cause if you feel this is a cause of justice,” he continues. But “the opinion that you support and the opinion that they support should be equally presented to the public and the public should be the judge.”

Khanfar is avowedly liberal — he spends much of his Sydney Ideas speech lauding liberalism and referring to the universality of human rights. But for Khanfar, liberalism is secondary to democracy. Liberalism is a maybe; democracy is a must.

He is determined to debunk the false dichotomy between Islam and democracy, a fiction largely dreamt up in the minds of Westerners who mistakenly conflate Islamism — the ideology that takes Islam as a basis for statehood — with Salafi jihadism. Similarly, authoritarian Arab regimes have drawn on the discourse of terrorism to vilify Islamist movements, quashing opposition before it evolves into an existential threat. The July 2013 coup in Egypt, in which General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi deposed Mohamed Morsi, the first democratically-elected president in Egypt’s history and member of the Muslim Brotherhood, was a blow for Khanfar. In a November 2011 article for *The Guardian* Khanfar cited Turkey’s Justice and Development (AKP) Party as a “source of inspiration” for Islamists and indicated that Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood and Tunisia’s Ennahda Party were potentially democratising forces. Now he is less optimistic, stating, “political Islam at this time is going through a major crisis” and mumbling about the post-coup fragmentation of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Khanfar would like to see Islamist parties modelled on Europe’s Christian democratic parties, “getting to the point where they are accepting that they are part of the scene and they cannot shape everything on their own.”

He describes both democracy and political Islam in the MENA region as unfinished projects. According to Khanfar, this revolution is slow, ugly, gruelling and possible.

The case for a low SES officer

MAANI TRUU / The one group not represented on the Student Representative Council

The Students' Representative Council (SRC) exists — at least according to its website — “to defend and advance the interests of USyd students”. In this vein, they offer a number of services, from the very important (free legal service, caseworkers, second-hand textbooks) to the less so (publishing your favourite weekly student newspaper) all under the guise of improving your life at University.

But the SRC has also realised — and rightfully so — that while all students are deserving of advocacy on their behalf, there are students on campus who face additional disadvantage and thus warrant a specialist representative fighting for their wellbeing. And so the SRC has dedicated student-elected positions, such as Wom*n's (WoCo) Officer, Indigenous Officer, International Student Officer, Ethnocultural Officer and Queer Officer, to meet this need. In addition to their position on council, these officers usually head up a 'collective': an autonomous group funded by the SRC where people from that demographic can meet, discuss ideas, and organise activism.

It would be difficult to dispute that these are all great initiatives. It doesn't take long to recall examples of successful collective action on campus, like former WoCo Officer Subeta Vimalarajah heading up

the nationwide campaign to end the tampon tax, or the Queer Action Collective leading a protest against a gay-conversion therapy advocate speaking on campus. But looking at the success of these collectives in promoting the voices of oppressed groups, the lack of representation for one particular student demographic is striking: low SES students, or students from low socioeconomic status backgrounds, or “poor” students.

At an institution like the University of Sydney, overwhelmingly populated by students from affluent backgrounds, it is no great leap of the imagination to consider the structural barriers faced by those of who came here without this privilege.

One Law tutor once told our class to quit our jobs because there is “no way that you will be able to work and still pass this course”. At the time she said that I was working three days in a cafe to afford rent. And I did pass ... just.

In every sandstone brick and Latin phrase we see that this University was not designed for “poor” people. And yet, here we are.

Despite low SES students being one of the largest and most severely disadvantaged groups on campus — make no mistake that members of other marginalised groups are disproportionately represented here,

too — we face an additional inequity: there is no student officer to fight for our rights, nor a collective to bring together those who are struggling. The insularity of disadvantage is most effectively combatted by the opportunity to meet others from a similar background, to know that there are people facing, overcoming, and often falling down over, similar hurdles. Without this, I felt entirely isolated in my experience of University.

What we as students do have, though, are four SRC Welfare Officers. But here we come back to the SRC's motto of being “for all students”. Under this policy, the welfare officers are concerned with the financial well being of each and every student by virtue of the fact that all students, even wealthy ones, can find it difficult to study full time. Last year they hosted three events: one aimed at garnering signatures to fight the Government's proposed PaTH Program, and two 'Free Krispy Krems' days.

While the aims of these officers may overlap with some of the needs of low SES students, the challenges faced by this sub-group are worlds apart from those of the ‘average’ student. The SRC's failure to recognise the difference means equity is not achieved and a sense of community cannot exist. We need more than free donuts to get us through University.

Just a whole lot of waffle?

JOCELIN CHAN / The real history of Time Out's ‘freaky new ... dessert obsession’

It's not the first time that Western media have portrayed non-European foods tastelessly, but it's never hit this close to home for me. Last week, footage by BuzzFeed and Time Out of so-called “bubbly waffles” appeared on my Facebook feed. I was taken aback by these gaudy abominations, laden with ice cream and sweets — but even more disturbed by the videos' portrayal of their origins.

Egg waffles (Cantonese: 雞蛋仔, gai daan jai) are a popular Hong Kong street snack named for their little egg-shaped puffs. A good egg waffle is crispy on the outside, and soft and chewy in the middle of each “egg”. They are usually served plain to adhere to this gustatory ideal; toppings make it soggy.

For me, this snack is a metonym of personal and cultural identity: a distinctive feature of Hong Kong, where I spent my childhood. These self-branded

“progressive” institutions' blatant lack of research about, and dialogue with, the waffles' cultural owners was a blow.

The videos depict the dessert-laden waffles as a newfangled white discovery. Time Out exoticises them as a “freaky new ... dessert obsession”, failing to even mention their heritage. BuzzFeed makes more effort, stating, “They're originally from Hong Kong, where they're eaten plain.” However, BuzzFeed quickly glosses over this statement, paying more attention to the toppings, which they describe as a London innovation.

The notion that dessert egg waffles are new, or were invented in London is inaccurate. Toppings have been in Hong Kong for at least a decade, and the London store they were promoting, Bubblewrap Waffle, has been there for five years. And the fact

that BuzzFeed and Time Out show only the “fusion-ised” variety of egg waffle undervalues the simple and uniquely cultural pleasures of the original.

The videos couldn't get the name right either - the misnomer “bubbly waffles” raised Hongkonger eyebrows. It's like saying “chai tea” (tea tea) or calling Uluru “Ayers Rock” — it disregards the original word's meaning. Although there's no standard English name for egg waffles, most people agree that the word “egg” should feature somewhere because the Cantonese literally means “little chicken egg”. Even Bubblewrap's website calls them “egg waffles”.

Both videos are obsessed with showing clips of Caucasian customers biting into the egg waffles too. Not only do they fail to engage with any Hongkonger perspectives, six out of seven clips depict the incorrect way to eat egg waffles — you're meant to tear each “egg” off by hand. Where is the relish in stuffing the whole thing into your gob?

But the failure of these videos to respect Hong Kong culture has a flow-on effect on its viewers. Most Hongkongers' concerns were met by largely-white dismissal. One comment, “lol at white people thinking they yet again found something magical that existed all along in HK,” is met with a racial slur: “we don't live in Hong Kong do we ling ling you fucking twat”. One Hongkonger's pride for the plain sort is met by a derisive, “[The video's] look better...and we have health and hygiene certificates,” buying into a racist assumption that Asian vendors are necessarily dirty.

Another comment, “the UK gave HK modern infrastructure and HK gives the UK egg waffles. Fair trade,” ignores the implications of British colonisation, just months before the twentieth anniversary of Hong Kong's decolonisation. The British Consulate-General in Hong Kong similarly envisions a relationship of mutuality between the two states; this ideal is laughable given the UK's failure to defend its former colony's rapidly crumbling political autonomy.

And it's this sort of reaction that worries me the most about cultural appropriation. We're not unwilling to share the joys of the egg waffle. But if the media cannot model healthy cultural exchange in a video about food, how much respect can we, as cultural owners, expect from their audience? As it happens — not a lot.

Returning to Turkey

SELIN AGACAYAK / Reflections on witnessing the Turkish coup

You never forget the first time you see a refugee. The eyes. Her eyes. She sat on a curb in the back streets of Istanbul. Far from her homeland of Syria, there in person and not through a Facebook feed. She cradled her child with one hand, and reached outwards towards nothing with the other. I still remember her hands; weathered and alien, they spoke for themselves. Despite the fact I couldn't stop looking, she was invisible. My cousins pushed me onwards to the famous bazaars and markets.

The variety of the markets is astonishing. Spices collected from each corner of the world, the scent of Turkish coffee ready to serve. Mosaic lanterns — a mixture of tradition and modern design — hung above us. A confronting question hung there too. It's hardest to avoid the question in Taksim Square, the site of a bombing only weeks before.

I had imagined brushing shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of others, a place where the bodies

of tourists and locals could intertwine. Now it was almost empty. It's not easy to forget a terrorist attack. And when you walk over the exact spot where the attack occurred, each step you take becomes a cautious one.

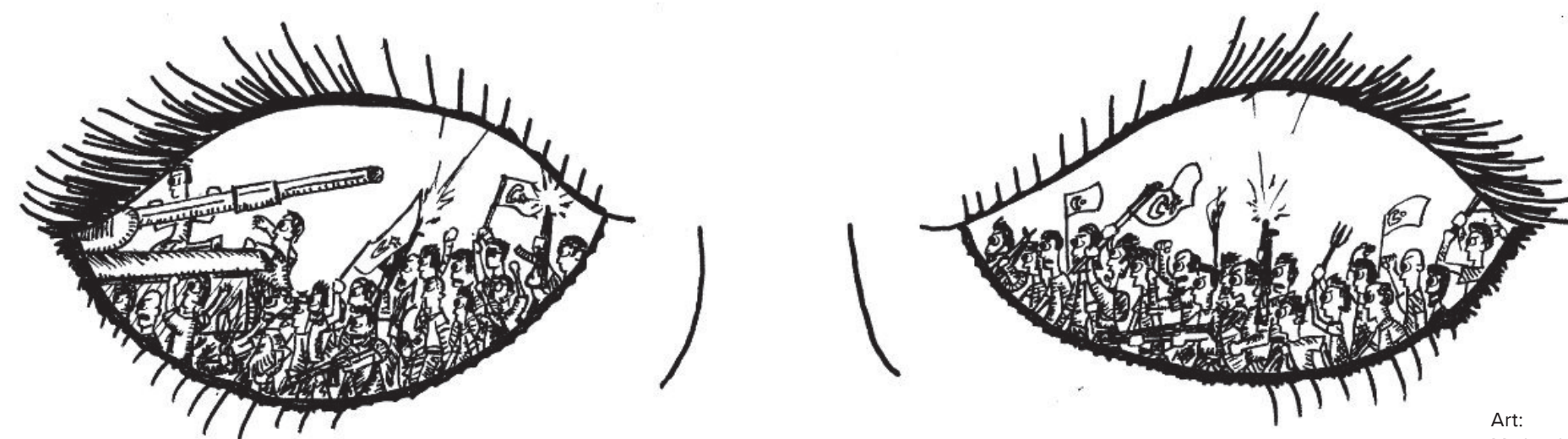
Our bus was winding its way through the beautiful foothills of Amasra back towards Istanbul when we heard something had happened at the Bosphorous bridge — the bridge that connects Europe and Asia in the capital. By then, we were already programmed to assume it was a terrorist attack. We sigh and watch on. The woman beside me causes a scene, leaving the bus, crying that there was no way she was going to Istanbul. It was a military coup. We realised then that history was being written. At the bus terminal, we witness lines of people cancelling tickets to Istanbul and Ankara. We go to join them.

“You must stay in the terminal,” we're told. “The gendarmerie are blocking the roads.” We sat, sip-

ping Turkish tea and answering phone calls into the early hours of the morning. Some children slept on their father's laps, others lay on newspaper as their mothers waited anxiously. The television glare reflected off drained eyes.

The moment we could, we sped home. I remember the summer air blowing through my hair as we rushed down empty streets. When we returned to my cousin's house, safe and undamaged, we heard the beginnings of pro-regime protests. They held those red flags like they were extensions of their skin. On the other side of my room, there was a picture of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Turkey's first president. We fell asleep to the sounds of chanting.

It's said that news makes us feel the world is closing in around us, but we aren't the ones that are trapped. I woke, and later left. Nothing changed for those who remained.



Art:
Michael
Lotsaris

Three Christians walk into a cafe

SAMUEL CHU / Valentine's Day was weeks ago, but love is still in the air

It's Valentine's Day 2016, and I'm scarfing down a bacon and egg roll al fresco at a cafe in the Hills District, Sydney's bible belt. Around me, loved-up couples chat away. I am not at a cafe for romance, sadly, but out of obligation — the cafe is the chosen location for the first of many Sunday morning Bible studies.

Whilst at the cafe, I converse with the other members of my group: Brian, a university lecturer, and Allan, a final-year medical student. Each of us shares similar backgrounds: we're all of Asian descent and we all went to the same high school.

Their ostensibly milquetoast personalities are reflected in their orders. Brian purchases two pieces of sticky jam toast wrapped in white paper. Allan goes for a flat white. We innocuously exchange pleasantries about our weeks until Allan lets slip that he is struggling to buy a house.

And with that comment, Brian is let loose. “Have you seen the housing market? So many people with big mortgages... all being screwed over by the banks and Whore Street!”

His anger was not exclusive to Valentine's Day. Throughout the year, either with prompting or of his own volition, Brian would frequently express his disapproval of a wide range of institutions, from the mainstream media, to government-produced statistics, to US House Speaker Paul Ryan. My muted desires for “nuances” were overpowered by Allan's resistance of Brian's “crazy” rants, believing them to be a distraction from Bible reading.

Brian and Allan's antagonism was stoked further

once the federal election approached. By mid-May, Brian was participating in an Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) letterboxing effort. The group distributed leaflets that read “same sex marriage: there's more to it than you think”.

At one pre-election Bible study, Allan questioned Brian about the effectiveness of defending traditional marriage by working with a “tarnished” and “divisive” organisation. Brian praised the ACL, recommending that Christians “need to be more politically active”. Allan was not thrilled by Brian's response, believing that the ACL needed to focus on “Jesus-centred” activism (read: #LetThemStay and variants) rather than the thorny debate on same-sex marriage.

Brian's ensuing cries demanded we be “willing to actually do something” to oppose same-sex marriage. His request fell on deaf ears.

Our group weren't the only set of ‘deaf ears’ at church. According to Brian, our reverend was “torn” when Brian pushed him to politicise his teachings with doomsday-conservative principles.

Our schism worsened post-election. Whilst snaking through a dusty alleyway on the path to church, Brian denigrated Vietnamese migrants, whom he termed “welfare bludgers”. According to Brian, this precedent justified prohibiting refugees on Manus Island and Nauru from entering Australia.

I interrupted Brian, citing Vietnamese family friends at my old church at Cabramatta — an attempt to put a face to the people he was attacking.

The adjacent traffic lights changed colour to green and Brian duly hit back.

“You haven't let me finish. And I always let you finish when you speak ... All I want is legal immigration.”

Allan was the calming voice, asking Brian to be more sensitive about “divisive issues”. As we neared the church complex, our fellow Chinese-language congregants' hubbub was a suitable backdrop for quiet reflection on my part in the conversation.

Who came out best when we had these sorts of arguments? Who was winning our weekly ‘battle of ideas’?

With his inflammatory rhetoric, Brian certainly didn't convince me of his beliefs' righteousness. In my anger, I didn't win either.

Valentine's Day for 2017 was a few weeks ago, but love is still in the air; Brian and Allan have each found partners in the past year. Their marriage plans have taken precedence but the political conversations have not been extinguished.

Just before we open our Bibles to Matthew 11, Brian remarks that our group discussions have “made us stronger” through moderating our anger and learning to listen to each other.

I am inclined to agree.

Matthew 11:15 reads: “Whoever has ears, let him hear”. In that passage, Jesus asks His audience to listen to the evidence for Him being their Messiah. Jesus' desire for people to listen to all evidence and respond accordingly is still applicable today.

Six feet under — why WSU buried tens of thousands of USyd’s books

SAM LANGFORD / Universities care a lot less about books than you’d think

In January, Fisher Library was deservedly roasted for shredding a not insignificant number of books. The question on everyone’s lips was intuitive: why not donate them instead?

Perhaps, I submit, because of what happened last time. This is a story about that time. It’s a lot like that birthday when your aunt gifted you a hat resembling a fluorescent bedazzled loofah ft. chin strap, and you — panicked and disgusted — feigned reverence before stuffing it between the couch cushions after dessert. This situation is basically the same, except the loofah is 10,000 perfectly good library books, and the couch cushions are a hastily dug pit next to a cricket pitch at Western Sydney University.

The year was 1995. Western Sydney University (at this point still known as the University of Western Sydney) had just received a donation of around 40,000 books from USyd’s Fisher Library. WSU sorely needed this donation. By all accounts, its nascent library wasn’t cutting it, and students were trekking eastward in search of knowledge. If you’ve ever caught public transport from Western Sydney to the CBD, you can appreciate why people were at best apathetic and at worst apoplectic about having to do it regularly.

So: book shortage meets book donation — what could possibly go wrong? Enter, in the words of a university spokesperson, “some idiot”. WSU lacked the funds to catalogue and store all the books, and so deemed 10,000 books surplus to requirements. An unnamed member (or members) of staff considered the usual options (storage, pulping, stacking books in the library foyer and making the hordes of bookish young nerds duke

it out over the thickest tomes) and decided, in the name of “cost-effectiveness”, on mass burial.

Incredibly, five years passed with no-one the wiser — quite literally, given that the library continued to be a sack of shit. Given the sheer mass of 10,000 books and the presumably large size of the hole, it’s difficult to fathom how it remained secret at all, let alone for so long. It calls to mind images of librarians in earthmovers in the dead of night, cardigans billowing as they hasten to cover their tracks before the morning joggers materialise. Whether this is how it happened is anyone’s guess: staff members move on, institutions change, paper trails decay over time. Much like buried books.

Our faith in resurrection was stronger in 2001, though. After the news broke — first in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 2000 and again in the *Daily*



Art: Matthew Fisher

Backstage at Backstage in Biscuit Land

JULIA GREGORATTO / One company is single handedly making Sydney’s theatre scene a lot more inclusive

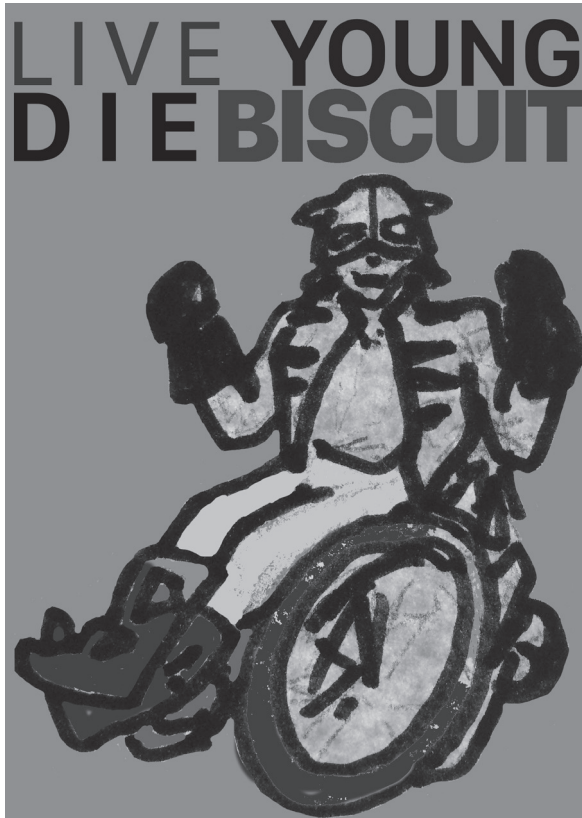
Although one in five Australians has a disability, theatrical spaces are notoriously inaccessible for people with disabilities. Spaces that are allegedly wheelchair accessible still have small steps between parts of the theatre, performances are rarely inclusive of people who are deaf or blind, and making sound or moving excessively is almost always frowned upon by other patrons. Not only is this locking out a huge chunk of the population, it’s sending a message to people with disabilities that going through the extra effort to be inclusive isn’t worth the revenue we would bring into theatres. How, then, are we supposed to access the arts?

Backstage in Biscuit Land, featuring Jess Thom, who has Tourette Syndrome, and Jess Mabel Jones, is a wonderful piece of theatre that is not only educational, but funny, emotional, and most importantly, accessible. It was wonderful walking into the theatre — the space was colourful and inviting, there were spaces allocated for people who required Auslan translation, and there were no restrictions on noise and movement. This meant audience members with disabilities weren’t shamed for their behaviours. Throughout the show, audience members with Tourette’s were unafraid to tic along with Thom as she dynamically shaped her performance around what they were saying and doing, and invited those audience members to be part of the experience. Thom and Jones were a seamless duo on stage — their performance educated the audience on Tourette’s and its ups and downs, and they were by turns warm, funny, heart-breaking and uplifting.

After the show, Thom spoke on how important

it was to create a theatrical space where everyone felt welcomed, and an audience member broke down in tears when speaking on how much it meant to him to see someone like him on stage.

Touretteshero, a project and blog co-founded



Art: Robin Eames

Telegraph in 2001— incensed students planned to march to the cricket pitch with shovels to disinter the books in protest. I was unable to confirm whether this actually happened, but a paper conservationist I called got real quiet when I mentioned “five years”, and said the books would have begun to decay in about a week. As WSU sheepishly confirmed in 2001: “they are not in great shape”.

And that, more or less, was the end of that. A small furore lost to time in patchy newspaper records, displaced by bigger news. The story shifted to WSU’s underfunding and staff unrest in face of impending restructure, and the whole book debacle became just a symptom of a larger problem.

USyd, when I contacted them, were pretty firm that this incident has had no impact on their current collection and donation policies. 22 years later, they no longer maintain the records of the donation, and while a few librarians told me they recalled the event, it seems most of those directly involved have moved on.

I tried to clarify the proportion of books that were shredded and saved respectively in the recent Fisher cull. I was told that of the approximately 70,000 books removed from USyd library collections over the past three years, “between 25-90 percent were offered for donation or giveaway depending on the nature of the specific project at the time”.

What does linger, then, is a similar sense of secrecy, and a baffling lack of data. 25 to 90 per cent. That’s a lot of information buried.

by Thom, and Back to Back Theatre, a theatre company for disabled actors, does a wonderful job of making accessible theatre, as well as creating spaces where actors with disabilities can flourish. Presenting their performers as more than just ‘disabled actors’, Back to Back’s Lady Eats Apple reflects on creation mythology, death and the afterlife, euthanasia, social dynamics, sex, and intimacy. Instead of being rigid about how the show should be performed, Lady Eats Apple allows their performers’ differences to shape and improve upon a scene; one of the actors has difficulty with remembering her lines, so her scene partner has them embroidered on his jacket. Watching the performers help and feed off each other is a joy to experience, and provides an ideal model for how disability should be approached by theatres.

Backstage in Biscuit Land and Lady Eats Apple are both refreshing and wonderful examples of how differences can be integrated in a performance to create more interesting and diverse theatre. Not only do we need to make viewing theatre more accessible for audience members, we need to create more spaces for people with disabilities to perform. We as producers, performers and consumers of theatre have a responsibility to accurately represent our society on stage. It’s hard to be what you can’t see, and creators like Back to Back Theatre and Touretteshero are paving the way for a more accessible and more exciting theatre experience for everyone.

Rhyme and Crime: The controversial role of criminality in music.

HAL FOWKES / Why is the mainstream addicted to art sourced from society’s fringes?

In the late 1960s, California’s Gold Star Studios invited a young man to record his first album. A friend of founding Beach Boys member, Dennis Wilson, he had becomes inspired to record something himself. In 1970, Awareness Records released the album LIE to moderate success. Today, one of those copies currently sits at the foot of my bed in a vinyl box. Meanwhile, its composer, Charles Manson, is serving a life sentence for multiple homicide.

The criminal is one of the most intriguing characters in popular culture. A mysterious figure that acts at odds with accepted morals, they attract the attention of psychologists, sociologists and the general public as we attempt to pick apart what seems to be an incredibly unusual mind. Therefore, it is no surprise that many musicians have built their appeal and persona on criminality, whether exaggerated or not. Through intense and expressive lyrical content, musicians explore the dark recesses of criminal life in an accessible mode for their listeners, sometimes extending far beyond superficial appeal.

Themes of criminality run deep within the roots of blues music. Blues, with its beginnings in the late 19th century, took inspiration from the chain gang songs of yore, whose slow beat accompanied the rhythm of pick axes, shovels and sledgehammers. These songs would mostly express the sorrows of prisoners, many of whom were likely to die behind bars. Music was a mode of escapism and deep spiritual contemplation, taking the place of the expressive gospel songs they enjoyed back home.

Blues music bleeds violent hardship. Tales of drug fuelled violent sprees and street shootings depicted a harsh reality for the lower class Black American. Stagger Lee, an African American man convicted of shooting a white man, became a common folk hero in blues music. His ultra-violence and bravado symbolised uncompromising rebellion against white supremacy and became an archetype of the strong, street smart and sly black man, a persona that has carried over into mainstream music, particularly in hip hop.

After its beginnings in the early ‘70s, hip hop came to an interesting crossroads with the release of Ice-T’s *Six in the Mornin’* in 1987. Previous pioneers had long used the genre to express their discontent with



Art: Rebekah Wright

the treatment of African Americans in the U.S., but it was Ice-T who first delved into the true gritty reality of the black urbanite. Exploring issues of violence, drugs and police brutality, this iconic EP kickstarted gangsta rap, a subgenre whose practitioners include Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G, where criminality was front and centre. Modern day Stagger Lees, both Biggie and Tupac were killed in drive-by shootings allegedly related to their gang affiliation.

What is key to remember about most of these songs is that they do not generally advocate the criminal lifestyle. While rappers like X-Raided fully embraced their criminality and brutality for their

Review: Chimerica

ELIJAH FINK and **ANN DING** / Cinematic, grand, but unenlightening

WHAT: Sydney Theatre Company’s *Chimerica*
WHEN: February 28 – April 1
WHERE: Roslyn Packer Theatre

The Sydney Theatre Company’s current production of Lucy Kirkwood’s *Chimerica* is cinematic, grand to the point of overstimulation, spectacular but unenlightening. The play revolves around photojournalist Joe Schofield, played by Mark Leonard Winter, who is, in this fictive universe, one of the handful of photographers who manages to capture a picture of the universally-recognised Tank Man from the Tiananmen Square massacre. He becomes fixated on finding the individual in the photograph, and this drives the so-called progression of the play.

Chimerica concerns itself with the inerness of an image deprived of any particular context, and this anxiety permeates the play itself at every level. The play, like the protagonist, is so distracted by image — its own in particular — as to totally miss everything that matters: plot, narrative, characters. Play and playwright seem to believe that the mere

desire to be world-historical is sufficient to achieve world-historicity.

The plot is eye-rollingly convenient in its neat circularity; the dialogue is slick and predictable; multiple scenes run on the logic of a soap opera but are apparently neither low-brow nor ironic. The characters, while played with skill and flair by the cast, are one dimensional and caricatured, particularly Schofield, whose creator has made no effort to render him likeable. Perhaps this is Kip Williams’ misreading: unfortunately, each character’s cartoonish exaggerations make them grating instead of memorable, and their trajectories are tragic in the worst way.

Furthermore, the political reality discussed in the play scarcely extends beyond the most unadventurous takes of the New York Times’ most regular columnists. There is no deeper truth revealed. The play’s name suggests aspirations to high-minded political synthesis; despite this posturing as thoughtful commentary, every political idea expressed is either very basic or fantastical. The play serves as pure distraction.

Kirkwood claims the play took six years to com-

own brand of entertainment, more often the genre acted as a window into the realities of African American oppression in the United States, and gave individuals an art-form that was as accurate as it was empowering and rebellious.

However, for some artists, music is a medium for indulging their twisted views of morality and selling their ideas, no matter how hateful.

The aforementioned album, LIE: The Love and Terror Cult, was an insight into the mind of Charles Manson and his twisted race war ideology. While it sold poorly upon its release, it is considered a decent album, even garnering positive reviews from Rolling Stone and Mojo. Putting aside the LSD-fuelled delusions and tragic history, LIE is almost a decent listen, remaining highly sought after on vinyl. But Manson’s serial killer status and legacy added a whole new dimension to his music and has inspired others to set their own hate-filled message to music.

Arguably, the most prominent successor to Manson’s neo-Nazi music is the National Socialist Black Metal genre. Born out of the anti-establishment and predominantly anti-religious (but not necessarily racist) black metal scene, bands such as Burzum, Rommel and Sturmfuhrer created a new voice for the neo-Nazi. Burzum’s Varg Vikernes, the most notorious figure in the metal genre, was himself convicted of murder and arson of multiple Christian churches. Yet while he subscribes to his own form of white supremacist nationalism, Vikernes went on record saying he “hates no one”, a curious contradiction. Just as with Manson, his villainous status drove the sales of his music, which he still records after his release.

There is something inherently fascinating about the outsider. A musician who has been convicted for truly vile deeds may deter some listeners, but for many others, they trigger a morbid curiosity. The listener becomes somewhat privy to the lifestyle and mental state of the criminal, whether it be a hard life of drugs and police brutality or a hate-filled anthem for ethnic cleansing. Crime songs, like love songs, have become a long-standing tradition in music, and will undoubtedly continue to entice and fascinate us for years to come.

plete; given this, it would not be unreasonable to expect the play to offer more political insight. The narrative trades off truisms about China being oppressively controlling and the U.S. being feverishly egotistical and corrupt. In fact, the play seems almost totally empty of message or moral.

Nonetheless, Chimerica must be praised for its flawless finish. The lighting and effects, as well as the music, are often viscerally affecting and provoke emotional reactions through their intensity. The transitions are busy, clever, and highly entertaining, glittered and smoothed to visual perfection, if nothing else.

Sometimes one goes to see a play and leaves unable to really recount anything that happened in the intervening three or so. Sometimes one views a work of art and is unable to glean anything from it beyond its assertion that the world is profoundly complicated. Chimerica was one of those times. While the show is glitzy and flashy and impressive, the narrative is deeply frustrating, imbued at once with both endless motion and infuriating vacuity.

ART: GILLIAN KAYROOZ



Gillian Kayrooz is an emerging artist and filmmaker from Sydney, Australia. She studies at the Sydney College of the Arts.

GILLIAN: I focus on video/film and its potential to create surreal stories through intangible images, visuals, sounds and performances. My filmic work involves an array of transgressive characters and persona's within spaces that hold no notable structures of time. Developing my abstract perspective and focus on sub-

ban youth living. Whilst my performance and illustrative/design pieces comment more so on an interplay between identity, culture, wellbeing and consumerism in contemporary society. I have a constant desire to create work that draws you in with a level of relevance, before it hits you with a wave of 'wtf is going on'.

POETRY: PERRI ROACH

eulogy to a pill bug

i didn't notice you
until i turned on the taps
& water thundered

into the tub. you were
not meant to be a sailor.
your ball-jointed limbs

flailed in their sockets;
thorax an armadillo
hull. for a moment,

a viking longship--
then the waves drew you under.
i was that big thing

who drowned you, left you
belly up like some little
ophelia. i

scooped you up & held
you in my palm, tucked you
into avalon

in my wastepaper
basket. i had my bath
& washed the dirt out

from underneath my fingernails.

juice

love came in
like a fresh
set of teeth

white darts
punctuating
the gums

one morning
i woke up
with a mouth

ful of your
name, i almost
mistook it

for orange juice,
all squishy
& sweet

at breakfast
i write love
letters to you

& eat oranges
like a wild dog
eviscerating

a rabbit, so
i'm sorry
if this poem

is puckered
by juice stains
& pulp

love & other illicit synthetic substances

your sweatshirt limbs
inside out on the floor & my

deflated torso
gilled as a mushroom cap.

you snore, stir slightly
when I flick on the lights

then settle.
this placebo moon

doesn't dredge
tides, nor you from sleep

fossiled in cotton sheets
like some prehistoric fish

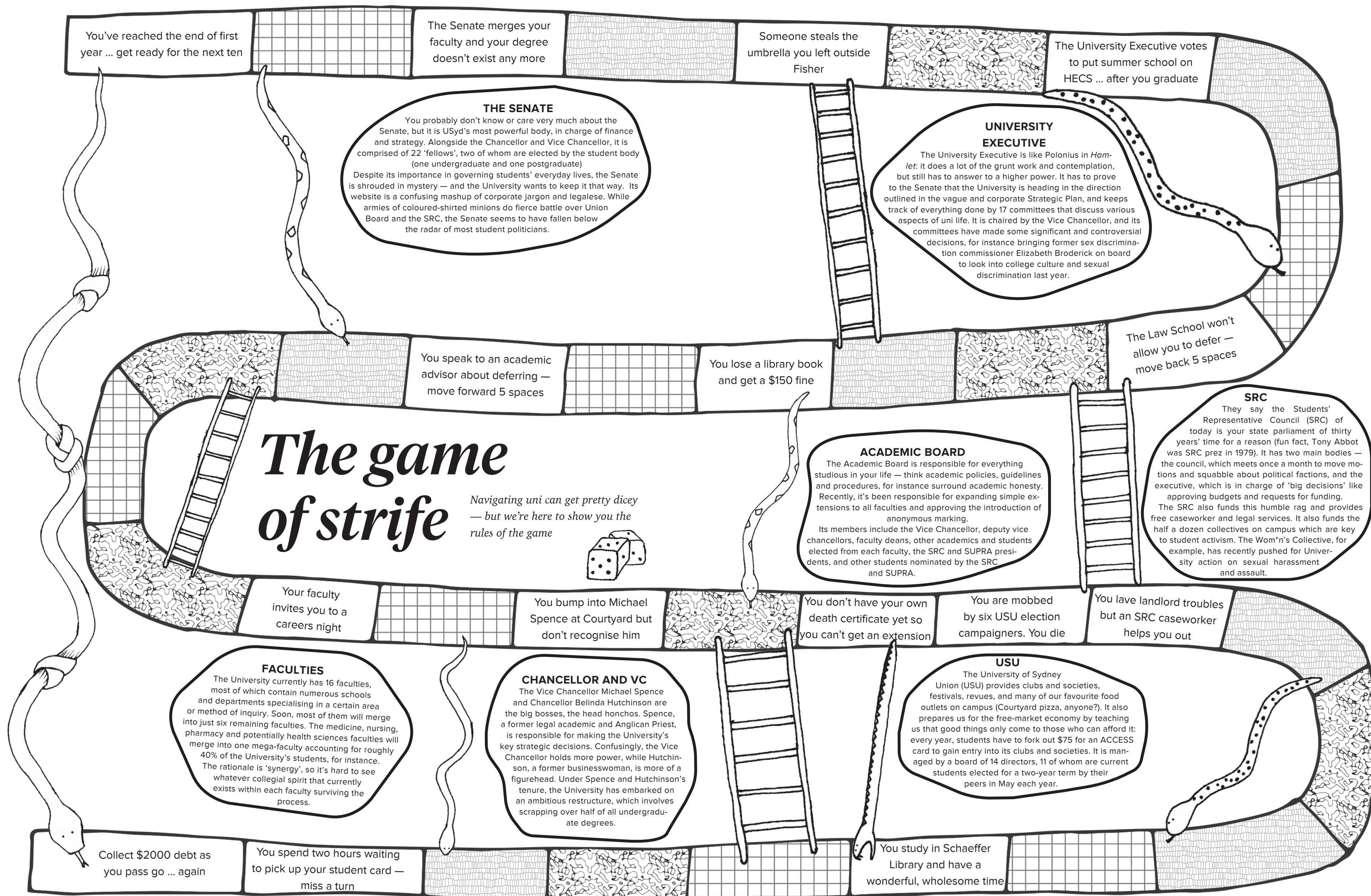
& so I tuck you in &
kiss your forehead, suckle

mount franklin
plastic water bottle teat

like prosthetic breast,
mattress springs teething

at my spine, a cold dawn
breaching over the horizon.





Confessions of a digital dummy

ANNAGH CIELAK / Oblivious millennials are the perfect captive audience for telecom giants

The word 'millennial' is burdened with connotations. The generation that came of age in the early 21st Century has become synonymous with the 'digital native' whose world is defined by the technology within it.

But whether or not young people have an intuitive understanding of technology — just because it has always been a part of our lives — is not always as certain as it seems.

In reality, most millennials don't know any more about how the Internet works than the bare minimum needed to keep their Facebook streams, Twitter feeds, and Instagram grids running. Even though we are the heaviest users of the Internet, millennials are surprisingly unaware of the intricacies of the technology we depend so heavily on.

I am one of the many millennials without a clue. This realisation dawned on me when my roommates and I found out we were moving into a new home without working Internet. As true 'digital natives', surely

we had the skills and knowledge to fix it ourselves.

How wrong we were.

After Googling 'how to install Wi-Fi' to no avail, it was time to call in the 'experts'.

Finally, after hours on the phone with Telstra, they send not one, but

'But whether or not young people have an intuitive understanding of technology — just because it has always been a part of our lives — is not always as certain as it seems'

two separate technicians who haven't been briefed on our issue and can't help. These experts were either just as clueless as the rest of us, or they weren't in the fixing mood that day.

This service isn't unique to Telstra. Every telecom company we speak to has poorly trained staff, horrendous wait times and little coordination between departments. Customer complaints about telecommunications

companies have risen by 33.3 per cent over the last quarter alone, suggesting that my experience is a common one.

Despite this trend, there isn't much evidence that telecom companies are concerned. Millennials are the perfect captive audience for these industry giants because we can't function

language not only alienates consumers, but it creates a situation in which telecom companies can charge up to \$299 for simple services that they portray as complicated, like the activation and installation of a Wi-Fi modem.

Obviously telecom companies have a monopoly on the actual infrastructure that gives us the Internet and the plans that allow us to use the service. But activation and repairs are all provided at added costs. My particular issue was quoted at \$800.

For my housemates and I, that price just wasn't an option. With nothing left to lose, we tried to do it ourselves — again.

Within 30 minutes we were online.

What two qualified technicians and numerous Telstra call centre staff had tried to charge us \$800 for, we had fixed in 30 minutes.

Whether this result was pure luck, Telstra's mistake, our combined determination to save money, or all of the above, it definitely provided a reality check for this digital dummy.

Tenancy - Your Right to Quiet Enjoyment

Tenants have a right to 'quiet enjoyment' of the residence they are renting.

If you are a tenant on a lease (a 'Residential Tenancy Agreement') then you are 'entitled to quiet enjoyment of the residential premises without interruption by the landlord.' This means when you rent the house or apartment your landlord should not interfere with your 'reasonable peace, comfort or privacy'. You pay the rent as agreed, you get possession of the house or apartment for the period of the lease, and they leave you alone, other than for specified reasons. This means the landlord should not drop in unannounced, should give notice of visits and should seek your consent to come into the house or apartment.

A landlord or landlord's agent must also 'take all reasonable steps to ensure that the landlord's other neighbouring tenants do not interfere with

the reasonable peace, comfort or privacy of the tenant in using the residential premises' (NSW Residential Tenancies Act 2010). For example, if there are noise problems in your block of apartments you can ask them to action through the block's Body Corporate.

What 'reasonable peace, comfort or privacy' means may vary depending on the circumstances. There are a set of rules about them seeking consent and providing notice for them to come into your place. If they come to inspect the premises they can only do that 4 times in any 12 month period and need to give 7 days notice each time. For necessary but non-urgent repairs they need to give 2 days notice. To show the premises to prospective buyers they can only do this 2 times in a week and must give 14 days notice



If you are a tenant on a lease (a 'Residential Tenancy Agreement') then you are 'entitled to quiet enjoyment of the residential premises without interruption by the landlord.'

for the first showing, or as agreed, and must give 48 hours notice each time after that.

There are a couple of reasons they can enter without consent or notice. For example, the landlord (or sometimes a tradesperson working for them) can enter your residence without consent or notice; in an emergency, to do urgent repairs, or if they have an Order from the NSW Civil and

Administrative Tribunal (NCAT). Even in these cases there are some limits on entry without consent.

If your privacy and 'quiet enjoyment' is constantly disrupted with you can apply to the NCAT to obtain an order for the landlord to stop, or even for you to change the locks or break the lease without penalty. Seek advice from an SRC caseworker.

The science behind your hangovers

JENNIFER HORTON / Does mixing drinks make you drunker?

It's the Saturday morning after a big night out in the city. The light streaming through the window is way too bright, your eyeballs feel heavy, you've got a splitting headache. The thought of both food and alcohol makes you die a little inside. Suffering through the bitter consequences of binge drinking, you say to yourself: "Surely there must be some way to drink and avoid a hangover..."

Experienced drinkers often offer the same advice: "Beer before liquor, never been sicker. Liquor before beer, you're in the clear ... Never mix the grape and the grain ..." "Beer before whiskey, always risky. Whiskey before beer, never fear!"

So, who do we believe?

First, let's dismiss the biggest myth of all. A hangover is not simply the result of dehydration. The only symptom of a hangover associated with dehydration is your eye-gouging headache. That all too familiar nausea on the other hand is caused by inflammation of the stomach lining and overproduction of gastric acids due to alcohol consumption.

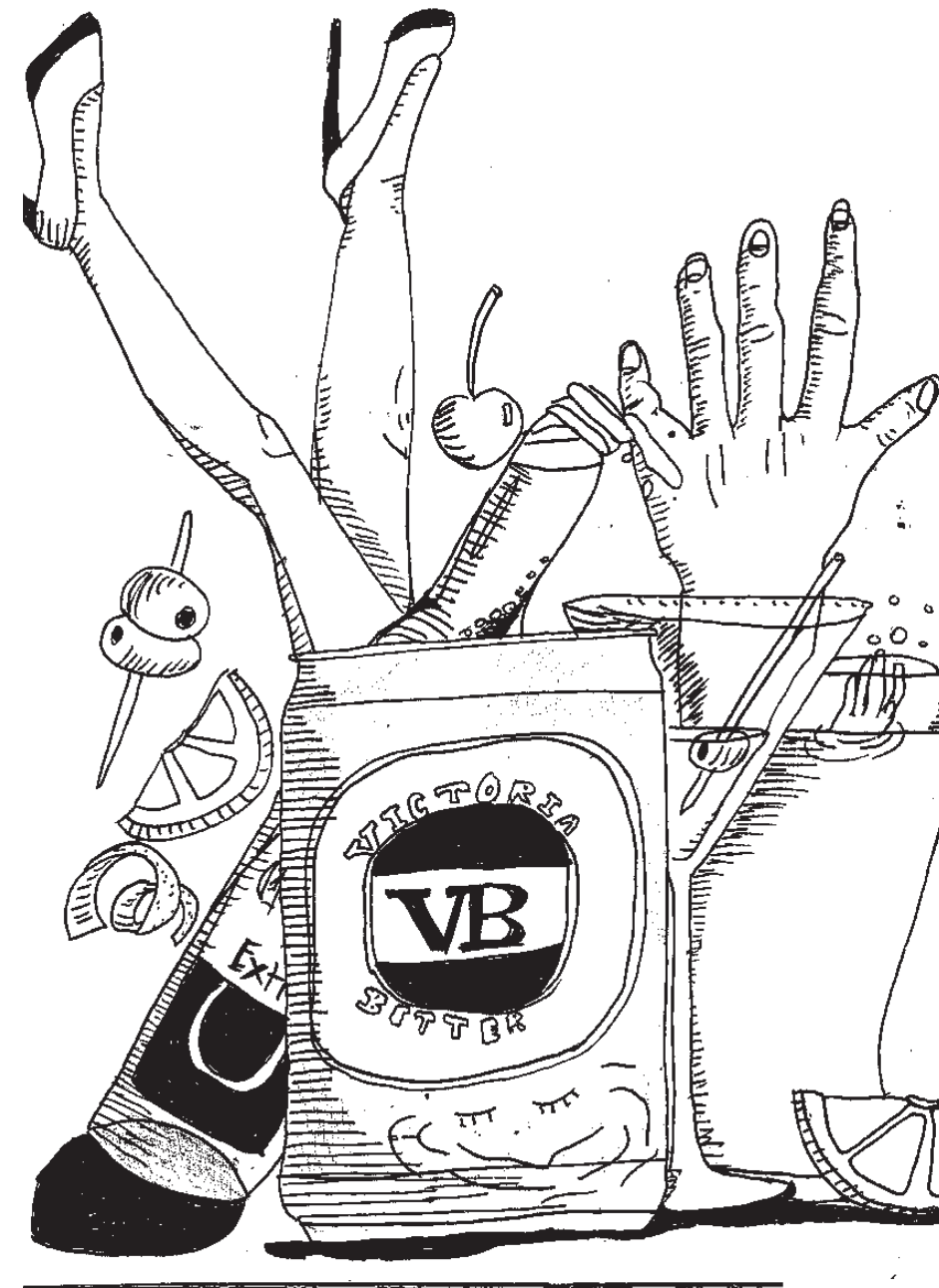
A hangover may also be, in part, an immune system response. One study found elevated levels of cytokines, a molecule secreted by immune cells, in people with hangovers, suggesting that the symptoms arise as part of an inflammatory response to excessive consumption of alcohol. Some studies have also found that cytokines could disrupt memory formation in the brain — that explains all the snapchats you don't remember sending as well.

Everyone knows the more alcohol you drink, the more severe the hangover. But how does that explain those nights when you don't drink that much but still wake up in the ninth circle of hell? This can be blamed on "congeners". These are by-products of fermentation. They're produced in varying amounts depending on the type of alcohol.

Red wines and dark liquors like bourbon, whiskey, and tequila, produce much higher concentrations of these toxins than white wine and clear liquors like rum, vodka, and gin. So a night spent on Jack Daniels and Woodstock is going to give you a worse hangover than a few fruity Cruisers and Smirnoff Ice.

So, does it really matter if you mix drinks? The answer is no. While many people will swear mixing drinks leads to trouble, there's no hard evidence to suggest that this is the case. Perhaps those who mix drinks are more likely to end up drinking something with a higher congener concentration, simply by having a wider range of drinks. Another possibility is that, if you start with spirits followed up with beer, your judgement may be impaired earlier on, causing you to drink much more heavily.

Next time someone warns you against mixing drinks, screw it — chances are you're getting hungover either way.



Art:
Aiden Magro

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



The Ask Abe column allows you to ask whatever question you might have that affects you as a student, gaining the best advice that a very worldly mutt* can give.

Abe,

What is the deal with being sick? Do I need to tell my lecturers / tutors if I can't come to a class?

Sick Not Tired

Dear Sick Not Tired,

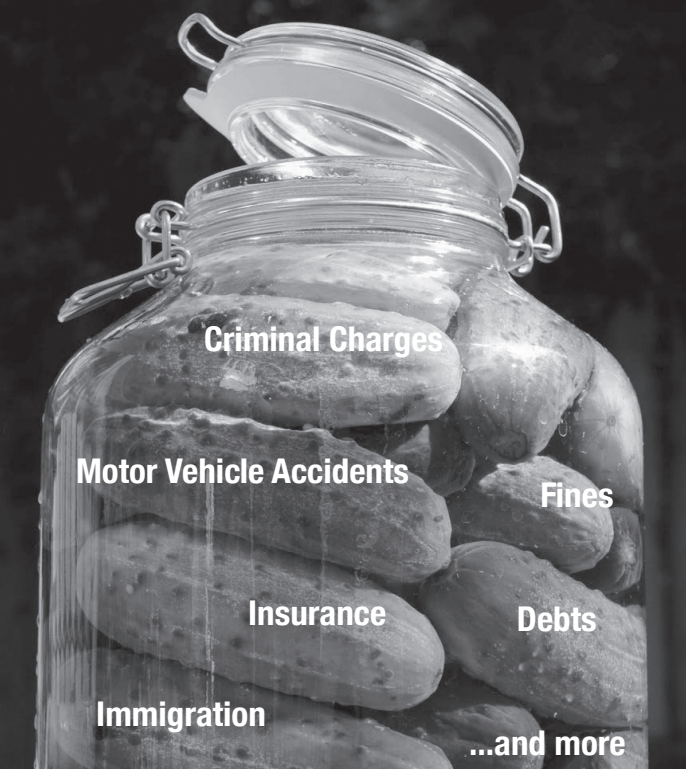
Most subjects have a rule where if you miss 20% or more of your classes you might be given an Absent Fail grade. That is regardless of what your marks are for any assessments. If you are going to miss a class it is advisable to get a Professional Practitioner's Certificate (the University's format for a doctor's certificate) from your doctor. It is advisable to see a doctor on the day you are unwell. If your doctor is unavailable consider getting an after

hours home visit doctor. Check online for details. It is good manners to email your tutor to explain that you will not be in class. You could take that opportunity to ask what you missed out on, and how you can catch up.

If you are sick for an assessment you should apply for **Special Consideration**. You now only have 3 working days after the due date to apply online. Do it as early as you can. Late applications may not be considered, so get it in on time (unless extreme circumstances prevent that). Please note that if you are given a supplementary assessment, and you are too sick still (or again) for that, you should apply for Special Consideration again. If your application for Special Consideration is rejected may be able to appeal. Talk to an SRC Caseworker about this.

Abe

IN A PICKLE?



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



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

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法律アドバイス

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under Professional
Representative Council,
Standard Legislation.

We have a solicitor
who speaks Cantonese,
Mandarin & Japanese

This service is provided
to you by the Students'
Representative Council,
University of Sydney

President's Report

ISABELLA BROOK

The SRC at Sydney University has a long and proud history of student activism. In the 1970's tens of thousands of students joined demonstrations against the Vietnam War. In 1975 political economy students, including Anthony Albanese, scaled the university clock tower in support of an autonomous political economy department. And just last year students occupied the administration Building of the Sydney College of the Arts for 65 days to protest the closure of the Callan Park campus. What this strong

history of activism has shown us is that protest has the power to make change.

This Wednesday March 22, your SRC will be protesting with students across the state and the country in a National Day of Action. This NDA, called by your National Union of Students has a demand to Make Education Free Again. However the protest on Wednesday is about so much more – it is about standing up and fighting back against the attacks faced by students.

In 2017 alone, we have seen a large

number of attacks on student welfare. Attacks such as the Centrelink debt scandal, the proposed changes to Newstart payments and the recently announced cuts to penalty rates.

We're also facing these attacks on a campus level with proposed faculty mergers, changes to curriculums and even a proposed change in semester dates that could have serious effects on student learning.

These attacks on a federal and local level are why we're protesting - to not only demand a free and fair education

but also to demand no more cuts to education, no cuts to Centrelink and no camps cuts! In the face of these growing and continuing attacks, we as students have so much to fight for. We have the power to have our voice heard and to make change.

So join us at the New Law Lawns on Wednesday March 22 at 1pm to hear from some great speakers about the future of education and to fight for your future. I'll see you there!

Disabilities & Carers' Officers' Report

NOA ZULMAN, MOLLIE GALVIN and HANNAH MAKRAGELIDIS

The Disabilities and Carers Collective has been off to a strong and positive start in 2017. Prior to the beginning of the semester, we trialled a new method of holding collective meetings. We set up a Google Hangout, as a more accessible and flexible means for getting students with varying levels of mobility together. Save for a few technical difficulties in setting up video chat, it was a successful venture with eight people signing on to the chat! We had some important discussions around the direction of the Collective and some of the creative activist en-

deavours our members would like to undertake this year.

For the first time in the Collective's history, we had a stall at O-Week which was a wonderful opportunity for Mollie, Hannah and I to meet many new faces and inform people about the important work that the SRC does and the crucial role the Collective plays in providing a social network and activist opportunities for students with disabilities and their carers. Despite the temperamental weather, O-Week was a great success and we signed up over thirty new members to our collective!

Last week Friday, we held our first social event of the year- a picnic on the lawns of Hermann's. It was very successful, with over ten new members in attendance, and it was great to get to know such a wide variety of new students in a relaxed and informal environment. We enjoyed some delicious pizza and drinks, ending the first week of semester with gusto.

As Disabilities Officers this year, Mollie, Hannah and I aim to take a three-tiered approach to the Collective- with social inclusion, advocacy and activism as the core pillars of our

engagement. Over the coming semester, we hope to host more collective meetings- both online and in person- and social events. Moreover, we have begun to establish a more positive relationship and communication with Disability Services and have begun a formal partnership with Carers Australia.

Overall, 2017 is shaping up to be a fantastic and active year for the Disabilities and Carers Collective!

Ethno Cultural (ACAR) Officers' Report

SOPHIA CHUNG, MADDY WARD and RADHA WAHYUWIDAYAT

ACAR had a great O-Week! We exhausted all of our shirts, hand-designed by collective members, and had a 200% increase in sign ups since last year. We also put SRC money to good use on a bar tab and pizza for new collective members at Ethno-Cultural Drinks. Aren't you glad we're putting your student money to good

use! Additionally, only one white person attempted to join the collective, which in our opinion is a monumental step on the journey to post-racialism. We also gave out a number of preliminary surveys on curriculum whiteness, and now plans are underway to launch specialized surveys in various departments by the end of semester

one. ACAR revue has officially gone rogue and become PoC revue (this is so that we can drain the funds of two student unions) Auditions are running until the end of this week so get in fast! It's a fun way to get involved, meet new people and incite the revolution. Speaking of revolution, our autonomous edition of Honi Soit will

be released in Week 11 of this semester - this means that we will have an entire paper dedicated to the voices of PoC. We're opening pitches until the end of week 4 so you have plenty of time to cook up some groovy ideas in those beautiful ethnic noggins.

Queer Officers' Report

ANDREA ZEPHYR, WILLIAM EDWARDS and CONNOR PARISSIS

Upcoming events (LGBTI only):
Next Meeting: 3pm Monday, 20th of March
Queer Honi Meeting: 2pm Wednesday, 22nd of March

Upcoming events (for everyone):
Rainbow Campus Meeting: 4pm Monday, 27th of March.
Trans Day of Visibility: Friday, 31st of March (Stay tuned for our events!)
Pride Week: Week 6, 10th - 14th of April.

The Queer Action Collective began growing at Mardi Gras! We had involvement in the No Pride In Detention float, as well as the University of Sydney float for both floats second year in the parade! Since O'Week, we've had an incredible amount of sign-ups and interest in getting involved. Our O'Week stall and events were fantastic. Thanks to all who came by for a chat and a drink. The Queer Space is active for semester 1. Please come by level 2 of the Holme Building if you identify as LGBTQIA+.

The Rainbow Campus campaign is

kicking goals already. We'll be specifically helping the inclusion of transgender students inside classrooms at our week 4 workshop. Transgender Day of Visibility is coming up on the 31st of March. The collective will educating and creating awareness around non-binary, trans feminine and transgender experiences. As a community, we'll be running a few events and a party at the LGBTI-friendly STUCCO Housing Co-op near uni. Pride Week is approaching in week 6, and we've already begun organising a number of events. But we need your ideas

and help to pull it off! Our collective, SHADES, Queer Revue, the SRC, SUPRA, the Ally Network, and the USU will collaborate on making the campus rainbow, literally! Get in touch if you'd like to run an event!

Get in touch:
Facebook: USyd Queer
Twitter: @USydQueer
Email: queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au
Phone: 0435818615
Connor, Will and Andrea.


Note: These pages are given over to the office bearers of the Students' Representative Council. The reports below are not edited by the editors of *Honi Soit*.

DID YOU KNOW?

Withdrawing from a subject before 31st March SEM 1
avoids a FAIL on your transcript & HECS* August SEM 2

**International students should seek advice about their fees from the International Office or the SRC.*

Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you.
Phone for an appointment. The service is FREE, independent and confidential.
We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01), University of Sydney
(02) 9660 5222 | help@src.usyd.edu.au | src.usyd.edu.au | facebook.com/src/help
If it is not possible for you to come to our office, a caseworker can meet you on a satellite campus, or speak to you on the telephone or Skype.



Education Officers' Report

APRIL HOLCOMBE and JENNA SCHRODER

The education officers did not submit a report this week.

Intercampus Officers' Report

AMELIA CHAN, THANDIWE BETHUNE and PARVATHI SUBRAMANIAM

The intercampus officers did not submit a report this week.

BUY BOOKS CHEAP

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* Conditions apply, see details in store



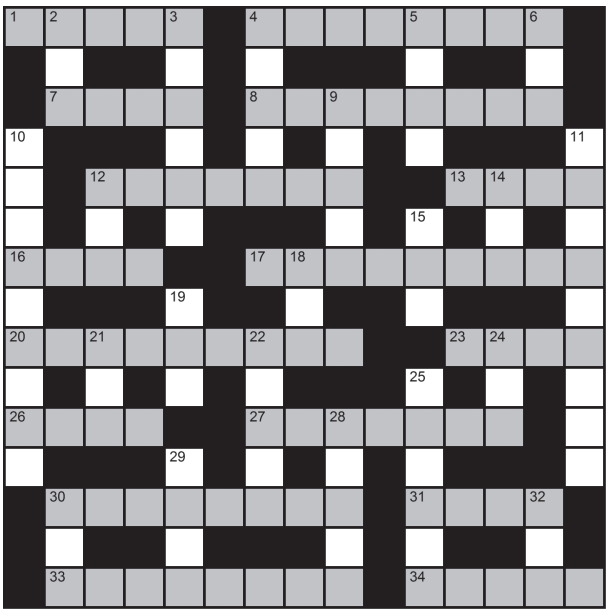
Level 4, Wentworth Building,
University of Sydney
(Next to the International Lounge)

p: 02 9660 4756

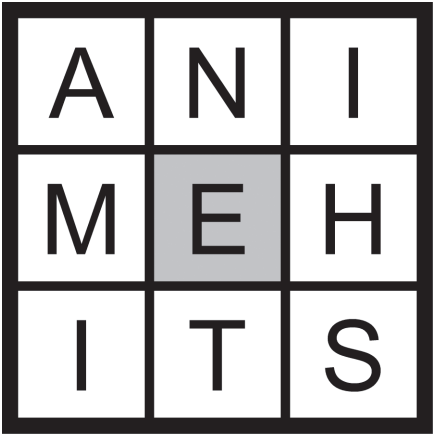
w: src.usyd.edu.au/src-books

Down

- 1 Monetary gain (5)
- 2 Natural cavities in a bone (5)
- 4 One with selfish intentions might have one of these to grind (3)
- 5 A very long time (3)
- 7 A noticeable delay between action and reaction (3)
- 8 What one does to dough when making bread (5)
- 9 A small island (4)
- 12 What a bride or groom might say (1,2)
- 14 Terminate at an early stage (5)
- 15 Architect who was responsible for rebuilding after the Great Fire of London (4)
- 17 Shooting someone right in front of you would be done at point-blank this (5)
- 18 Locations of buildings (5)
- 20 To make a long arduous journey (4)
- 22 Plans in detail (4)
- 23 A diminutive version of the name Cecilia (5)
- 24 La Vie en rose singer's given name (5)
- 27 Wins a race easily (5)
- 28 A nobleman (4)
- 30 Type of leaf on the Canadian flag (5)
- 31 What one should wait for a concrete slab to do before walking on it (3)
- 33 What one's muscles might feel after strenuous exercise (4)
- 34 A venomous snake (5)
- 35 Follows the orders of someone else (5)
- 37 To equal a bet in poker (3)
- 39 Dashes that are half the width of an M (3)
- 40 What one might do to a friend in an online photo (3)



Target



Target Rules:
Minimum 6 letters per word. 5 words: ok, 10 words: good, 15, very good, 20 words: excellent. Solution in next week's *Honi*.

Across

- 1 One who speaks untruths (4)
- 3 Someone deserving criticism may be described as fair this (4)
- 6 A deviant might be considered a this colour sheep (5)
- 10 This animal might have one's tongue if one is silent (3)
- 11 Earthenware mugs for beer (6)
- 13 One without an invitation might be a this-crasher (4)
- 16 Removed by scrubbing (6)
- 19 One who holds a position of power over others (8)
- 21 A good turn might deserve this (7)
- 22 Jealousy might be described as a green-eyed this (7)
- 25 What the E in 753 BCE stands for (3)
- 26 Violent in a destructive manner (7)
- 29 Type of deformation that is permanent (7)
- 30 What one remembers (8)
- 32 Hitchcock film famous for its shower scene (6)
- 36 The grade associated with not having to repeat a subject (4)
- 38 What one might pen to a friend (6)
- 41 An obsessed person might have one of these in their bonnet (3)
- 42 Microsoft's spreadsheet software (5)
- 43 Narrative describing the history of a family (4)

Cryptic crossword, quick crossword, target and sudoku by EN.

A note from our puzzler: Join SUAnime on Friday 24th March for a screening of Ghost in the Shell (animated) in the International Student Lounge at 4:30 p.m

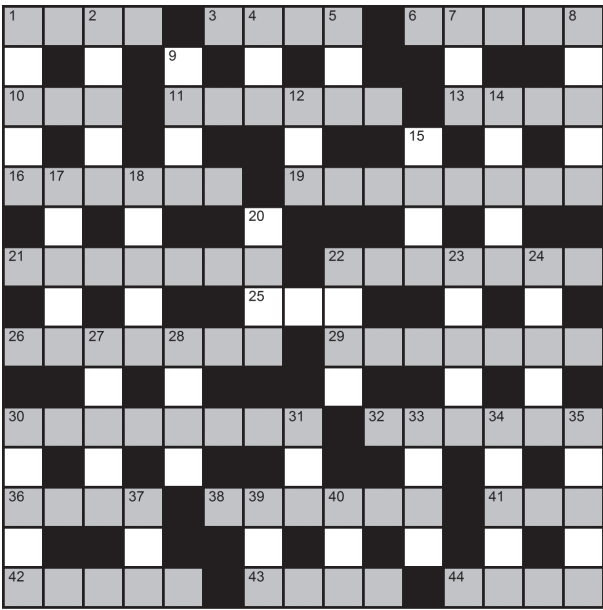
Cryptic

Across

- 1 In bad case, can be fluid (5)
- 4 Protocol or full features are vivid in America (8)
- 7 Devour wild animal (4)
- 8 Issue from detailed, cold, marginally dour evaluation (8)
- 12 Ideal reverend's coat poked repeatedly (7)
- 13 Extremely beneficial use for down (4)
- 16 Just on library walls (4)
- 17 Eyed stray badger in the recent past (9)
- 20 Nobler lie formed uprising (9)
- 23 Alternative to one's essentially beyond pure (4)
- 26 Dub in Vietnamese (4)
- 27 Two speakers drank kir over spice (7)
- 30 Fiery dirt pies processed (8)
- 31 A street from here (4)
- 33 A pain or a torturous mental disorder (8)
- 34 Operator's mature, not heartless (5)

Solution from Week 2: REALIGNED, aliened, aligned, aligner, darling, dealing, delaine, engrail, grained, larding, leading, leering, lineage, reading, realign, redline, reeling, reigned, re-lined, dragline, lingered, regained, agiler, daring, dearie, denial, denier, derail, dingle, earing, edgier, engird, gained, gainer, genial, gilder, girdle, glider, lading, larine, lieder, lierne, ligand, lineage, linear, linger, nailed, railed, rained, redial, regain, reined, relied, reline, ringed.

Quick

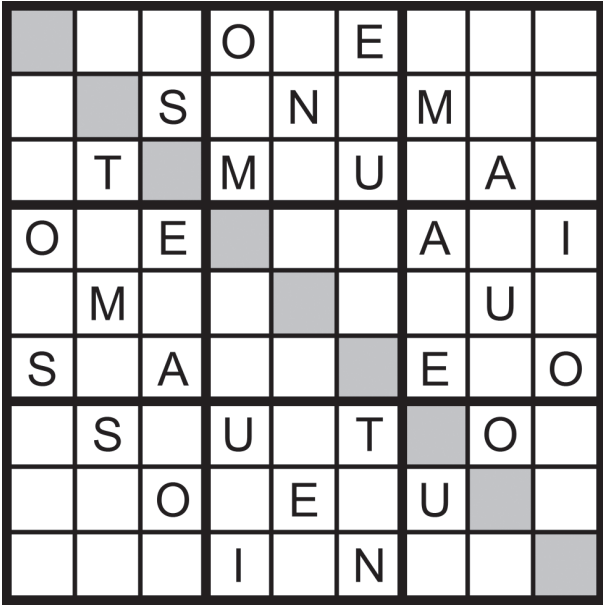


44 Seven of these are in a week (4)

Down

- 2 See western base (3)
- 3Mangle to remove track record? (6)
- 4 Auditor's money stash (5)
- 5 Pine to be dominated? (4)
- 6 Learns oddly to network (3)
- 9 Stroke is cut oddly (5)
- 10 Terribly hot, barren, awful (9)
- 11 Desiccate extremely and heat dry, maybe! (9)
- 12 Friend is almost dull (3)
- 14 Left note for boy (3)
- 15 Moisture about to arrive, reportedly (3)
- 18 Ecstasy and crack for self (3)
- 19 Layer's not even pulpy (3)
- 21 Almost crash into bottom (3)
- 22 Contribution in position (5)
- 24 Smashed avo, egg (3)
- 25 Insect within silicic adamite (6)
- 28 Stages return of support work (5)
- 29 Lava surroundings concerning region (4)
- 30 Fool odd scamps (3)
- 32 Every engineer has cash (3)

Sudoku



REALLY LONG MANY WORDS

Last year Adam Chalmers did his philosophy honours thesis on decision theory.

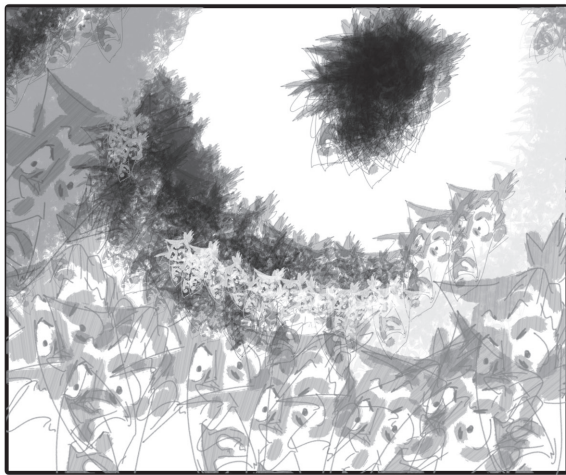
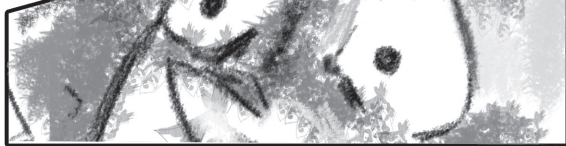
Humans are bad at knowing what to do. My field looks at this problem: "say you want a thing, and there's many ways you could try to get it. Which way to try?" My field answer this question with number-thinking.

For a long time we had a best idea. For each way, have one number for how easy it is, and a second number the chance it will give you the thing you want. Add them together many times and you get a final number for each way. The way with the biggest final number is the best way to get what you want.

But someone found a problem with this idea. This is strange but people take it seriously. What if someone pretends to be God and asks you to give her lots of hundreds of money or else she will send you to hell? You might say, "no thank you, I don't believe you are God and want to give you my money." But the God-pretender could say "I understand why you don't believe me. But even if there's only a tiny chance I'm God and will send you to hell, hell goes for so long it doesn't matter how much money I ask, you should still want to give me some to avoid it."

If you use the numbers from the best idea, you pay the God-pretender. My work shows you shouldn't do that, because she can come back and keep asking you for more money, or to do bad things.

This shows we need a new best idea which adds numbers a little bit different so we don't all go around doing whatever any God-pretender says. Humans know not to do this because we don't always do what numbers tell us to. But computers do listen to numbers, and we use computers to pick ways more. My study suggests a different way. It has its own problems but at least our computers won't give all our money to people who pretend to be God.



Honi Doctor

Getting regular sexual health checks is the most important thing you can do as a sexually active person.

How regularly should I be getting tested?

If you're sexually active, you should be going at least every three to six months. Ideally, you should get tested after having unprotected sex with a new partner, or if you suspect they might have an STI. Some people, such as sex workers, gay men, injectable drug users, and young people are also classified as "high risk", but don't presume you're at lower risk just because you're not in one of these categories.

What should I get tested for?

If you've used a body part susceptible to contracting STIs, get it tested. This means a full blood work (HIV, syphilis, hepatitis, herpes), a urine sample, pelvic exam and oral/anal swabs (chlamydia, gonorrhoea and any other potential STI's). It's vital that you don't hold back information: be frank about the kind of sex you're having, the number of sexual partners you've had, how often you use protection, and your injectable drug status. All of these things help your doctor test give you the care you need. If you desperately don't want to discuss your sex life with your GP, go to a sexual health clinic — they let you be as anonymous as you'd like.

Is it uncomfortable?

Put it this way, it's nowhere as bad as having pus seeping out of your genitals while you're calling every one night stand you've ever had and telling them you might have given them an STI.

Be brave. After all, it's 10 sub-par minutes of your life to allow you to keep having the wild sex you love 24/7. **JG**

PS. Send your sex queries to honisexdoctor@gmail.com
PPS *Honi Doctor* is a newspaper column, not a real doctor

The Camperdown Public Chatterbox

NUS VIDEO TAKEDOWN



Some hack is trying to take a recording of their hackery off the internet. In 2015, *Honi* recorded a bunch of gronks at the National Union of Students National Conference in a mass physical altercation. The stoush occurred after the far-left Socialist Alternative group tried to prevent Unity (Labor right) from leaving the room, after a squabble about a motion on Palestine.

After remaining untroubled on Youtube for over a year, our video has now been the subject of a 'privacy complaint'. Ironically, the frame that supposedly contains the privacy violation, two seconds into the video, only shows a person's back. Hardly identifiable and in any case, not in breach of the policy. Perhaps Unity no longer want to be identified as 'representative swill' — the Keating quote on the back of their shirts — though that seems unlikely. It's more plausible that someone is trying to protect their future

career in politics/advocacy/constructing offshore gulags from any blowback.

Youtube will adjudicate the complaint based on their privacy policy. Stay tuned.

AUTOMATIC DISAPPEARING MACHINE

The ATM outside the Holme building is gone. Coincidentally, Jack Whitney, who listed "more ATMs on campus" as among his policies, recently resigned from the board of the University of Sydney Union, which removed the ATM. We're not arguing that Whitney was forced off board on account of his pro-ATM agitation, we're just saying...

USU President Michael Rees told *Honi* the ATM was removed following a number of attempted robberies. No word on whether Sam Kwon, who replaced Whitney on board (and, tellingly, did not list "more ATMs on campus" as one of his policies) was involved in those. It's similarly unclear whether the USU will opt for another Commonwealth ATM or one from another provider. An ATM that charges fees for all users would be a tempting prospect for the USU, but bad for students.

BORED OF BOARD

Board rumours continue to bubble away. History seems to be repeating itself. As with last year, when James Gibson came out of nowhere as the Sydney Labor Students (Labor left) candidate for union board, we hear that the faction is approach



ing non-members to encourage them to run.

All students with twenty friends willing to campaign are encouraged to contact Isabella Pytko or James Gibson to find out more about the position, unless you have less than 150 likes on your DP, in which case, sorry. **HS**

Justin Bieber’s realisation
He’s finally worked out what you mean **P6»**



Australian exchange student in England excited to explore culture almost identical to their own

Jayce Molins
Foreign Local Correspondent

22-year-old Liz Beecher is one of several lucky University of Sydney students immersing themselves in “western European culture” this semester.

“I’m having such a good time getting out of my comfort zone.” Beecher has spent two months exploring the “crazy” sights and sounds of Central London.

“I’m just so keen to have experiences I could never have back in Sydney. I mean, I just had some fish and chips the other day. Amazing. Just last night I had a meat pie. And then I caught the ‘tube’ home, which is the cool name the Londoners have for their train line. It’s amazing.”

“Their language is just totally different too. I can barely understand half the things they’re saying.” Despite the language barriers, Beecher has managed to make friends with one local.

Josh Thompson, a 20-year-old at the London School of Economics, met Beecher at the Australian bar where she has spent every night for the past three weeks.

“Yeah, Liz is pretty cool,” says Thompson. “She won’t stop going on about how weird



cricket is though.”

Beecher hopes to see a cricket match before she returns home in May.

“Oh and you should see the TV shows they have here! There’s this thing called *QI* and something else called *Sherlock*,” Beecher said. “To be honest, I’ve mainly been watching Neighbours though because I’m so homesick. The culture shock is real.”

Beecher has also managed to form strong friendships with six other Australians from the same Sydney private school circle as her.

“Oh, my god yeah! So Maddie and Sabine actually went to exactly the same high school



as me but were belowies [in the year below]. And then Sam and Blake both dated girls in my softball team. It’s been really cool to meet people I just wouldn’t have run into otherwise.”

Beecher is optimistic that she will maintain her unlikely friendships when she flies back to Sydney.

“I was originally thinking of doing exchange somewhere like Warsaw or Singapore, because those are really cultural places. And then I was like, maybe those might be like, not cultural enough. Meanwhile London is so multi-cultural that it’s, you know, *cultural*. Apparently, Indian food is great here.”

Patrick McIrishman
Opinion: On St. Patrick’s Day and every day, my culture is not a costume **P12»**



Does hating the aliens that are invading our planet make me xenophobic?



Jim Huddlestone asks whether he is racist for hating all of the aliens occupying Earth when only some of them were responsible for the death of his wife and daughter. Continued on page 13 »

As a feminist, my decision to throw women into active volcanoes is automatically feminist

Ann Ding
Cultural Editor

I am a feminist. Sure, some people say that feminism is no longer needed in 2017, but everyday, all around the world, people are still battling for gender equality at every level. Women of all walks of life are shamed for their life choices, the way they dress, talk, eat, work, even think. Even other women, who proclaim themselves to be model feminists, participate in this culture of shaming and policing!

I am here to say that I will no longer put up with this. I am a woman who is in control of her life, and my choices are as valid as those of anyone else.

If I decide to put on makeup in the morning because it makes me feel beautiful and

powerful, then that is my right as a feminist. If I decide to buy and wear expensive heels because they empower me, and I have the material means and the confidence to do so, then I should be allowed to do so without judgment. And if I want to throw women that I don’t like into hot, sputtering, active volcanoes then I should not be shouted down for it!

Some among you may say that it is my duty as a feminist to support all women. But what about my duty to myself as a feminist to do what I feel is right and good for me? Surely the advancement of my individual plight is a symbol of the advancement of womankind? Surely — in a world that tells me no at every turn — I should be defiant, and throw those annoying ladies into fiery craters of bubbling magma? I mean, a lot of them don’t even Identify as feminists so is it really a loss?



Facebook celebrates queer visibility week by putting everyone’s sexual orientation next to their names

Aidan Molins
Media Correspondent

The Silicon Valley tech giant Facebook has, in a landmark new initiative, finally decided to celebrate the visibility of LGBTI people by displaying the sexual orientation of everyone on their platform right next to their name.

The move comes after many years of the company being condemned by many in the community for not fully accommodating the needs of queer identifying people on Facebook.

Marty Phelder, a prominent Sydney queer activist noted “It feels like finally, Facebook is doing the right thing by the queer community, by making our identities visible to everyone in the world who uses Facebook.”

Many of the site’s users are excited to have their sexual orientation open for the world to see.

“The update only happened this morning so some of the effects haven’t even fully happened yet. I mean, I can’t wait for everyone, my boss, my parents, my tennis partner — everyone — to find out I’m gay” said Leslie Sharpe, another user excited about the update.

“It feels like, forever, Facebook has been a cruel and toxic place for me to exist in. Hopefully, now that everyone can see that I’m bisexual, things will really start to change.”

The innovative update to Facebook’s platform has two major components. Firstly, for users that publicly display their sexual orientation in the “about me” section of their profile, Facebook takes that information and displays it next to their name.



However, for users that have not included their sexual preferences in their profile, the company has engineered a backend program which utilizes machine learning to trawl through the user’s private messenger conversations to effectively determine what their orientation is and use that information for the service.

Michael Lombardi, another user of the social media site, said “with this update, Facebook has made everything super easy. I didn’t even tell it I was pansexual and their tech figured it out. Great!”

USyd introduces extensions for students who ‘just don’t feel like doing it right now’

Mary Ward
Education Reporter

The University of Sydney has announced it will be extending its academic special consideration policy to cover students who “just don’t feel like” submitting their assignments on time.

In a move prompted by the university’s review into academic extensions, the new scheme will see students able to extend their assignment deadlines by proving a lack of desire to complete their work by the due date.

The university’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Philippa Pattison told The Garter Press the change to procedure was prompted by student demand.

“We found there were a number of students who were looking for an extension on their assignments, but were unable to find a listed category that covered their particular needs,” she said.

“Students who didn’t have a disability, or faced the death of a loved one, or an unexpected illness were being left behind under the old system. Some students simply just cannot be arsed to produce 1,500 words by Week 4, and we need to be mindful of the particular needs of this group.”

Fifth-year Arts student Jack Long – who told The Garter Press he was “considering Honours next year” – said he was really grateful the university had decided to redress this issue, which he said severely impacted his studies in the 2016 academic year.

“Prior to that I would just, like, email my tutor saying my cat died, or something. But the new centralised simple extension did not allow for that.

“These changes mean I won’t have to pretend to be something I’m not.”

Schappelle Corby: Australia’s Ned Kelly?

Belinda Anderson-Hunt
‘Historian’

It seems these days that every country has its own Ned Kelly. China, America, Sweden and Turkey all tout their own Ned Kelly in triumphant glory while Australia trails behind, battling to keep up.

Given its long history of supporting the underdog and hating the oppressive establishment, it’s almost laughable that Australia doesn’t yet have a Ned Kelly of its own. To be blunt, Australia was in the perfect position and should have been the very first nation to have its own Ned Kelly. Still, Australia has struggled to find a comparative figure. Until now.

In 2005 a young bush ranger type with naivete and gusto entered the public eye and experts have been waving their hands in excitement as the similarities become clearer and clearer. They were both born. They both did crime, and they both paid ... with their lives. Some more than others.

Schapelle Corby, an Australian holiday-maker, was sentenced to 20 years in prison when she tried to fight the system and go for a boogie board in Bali. A harsh punishment laid down by a harsh world. A larrikin caught up in the cruelty of a tyrannical system. Just like Ned Kelly.

With the comparisons clear, it looks like Schappelle Corby will be leading Australia into a brand new age as the Ned Kelly we never had, but always needed.



— NO MORE — ATTACKS ON EDUCATION

NO CENTRELINK CUTS

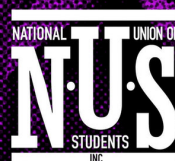
NO CAMPUS CUTS

MAKE
EDUCATION
FREE
AGAIN

NATIONAL STUDENT PROTESTS
WED 22 MARCH

TIME & LOCATION

1PM SYDNEY UNI
NEW LAW LAWNS (EASTERN AVE)



ORGANISED BY THE
NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS
AUTHORISED BY
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