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S1W10 / FIRST PUBLISHED 1929

HONI SOIT

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

From the dizzyingly hedonistic Gold Rush that was the pre-Crash west to the liberal optimism of the Obama years, our generation has always been surrounded by the short-lived promise of a new and perfect world. Our orgiastic obsession with technology is just the latest such narrative of false hope.

To Elon Musk and his cabal of Silicon Valley snake-oil salesmen, the Internet, automation and artificial intelligence all have the potential to emancipate us from a life of stagnant wage slavery, and usher humanity into a future of boundless knowledge, freedom and creativity.

Our generation has enthusiastically swallowed this myth. With alarming passiveness, we've allowed technology to co-opt every facet of our day-to-day lives. We let Facebook tell us what to read and who to vote for. We barely raise a whimper as governments and corporations discover our deepest, basest desires. We watch while Fascists pollute our online spaces, taking advantage of the cacophonous confusion of the web age to gain a sense of political legitimacy. And as conventional politics falls apart, the economy uberizes, and we rush headlong into the fourth industrial revolution, the only thing left for us to cling on to are our lukewarm memes.

Ten years from now, when your unpaid internship has been given to a robot, don't say I didn't warn you. And don't go running to Silicon Valley for help, lest you get hit in the face by a Juicero. **KNR**

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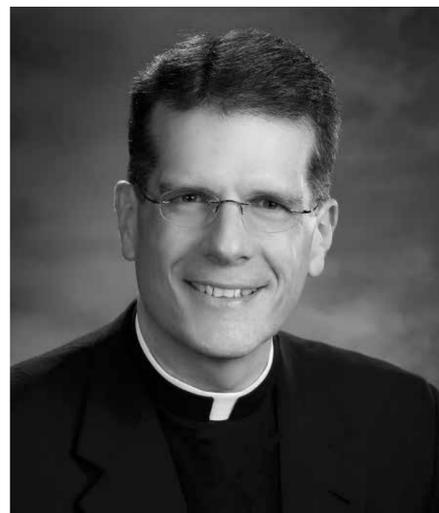
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What's on this week

According to your local pastor who really wants you to come to church



Fee increase protest

When: Wednesday, May 17, 12pm-2pm
 Where: Outside Fisher Library
 Price: Free (wish the same was true for education)

When Jesus stormed into the temple courts, interrupted the proceeding by overturning tables, yelling, and driving both people and animals out of the room using a whip, he was condemning the greed and corruption of hypocrites — because Jesus was a protester (John 2:13-25). Be like Jesus (and then tell me all about it when you come to the service on Sunday).

Hack Revue and election announcement

When: Wednesday, May 17, 8pm
 Where: Manning Bar
 Price: Dignity

As you would know from my teachings — well you would if you came more often, but I understand we lead busy lives — “God gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). How then do we respond to such an explicitly self-referential, indulgent performance as one specifically by and for student politics die-hards? Well we must respond with mercy, my son. So, go to this revue and the announcement of your USU board directors and “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

Fan mail

Budget woes

Dear Editors,

Like many, I am concerned with the fee increases for students, and the funding cuts to universities, in the budget. I am also dismayed governments rhetoric of saying that the “cost of the cuts will be partially paid for by students”. In reality, students will pay more, universities will receive less, and the increased revenue from student fees is doing the “heavy lifting” elsewhere in the budget.

Andrew Mathas

The real issue

Why the fuck is a piece of banana bread \$4.40 at Carlslaw Kitchen?

Anon

Angry reacts only

We are nothing if not adaptive to will of the digital revolution (last week's cover aside). Since it seems our readers prefer to let out their anger via a convenient Facebook comment, over an outdated email letter, we are going to start publishing the weekly highlights.

Journalism is boring

“Bizarre scenes”, so classic Honi. What is bizarre about protesting a bunch of far-right women haters in MAGA hats and shirts saying “feminism is cancer”. Your ‘objective’ reporting is mind-numbingly boring.

Eleanor Morely

Hard pill to swallow

What's bizarre is that at this University we're educated to engage in informed, constructive discourse that can negotiate both aspects of a topic before we draw conclusions, yet consistently find advocates on either end of the spectrum descend into lewd screaming matches.

Bianka Farmakis

Wrong, we are desperate here

Don't expect your letter to be published unless its a business student snowflake complaining that SA are against free speech because we disagreed with them.

April Holcombe

[Eds - but seriously we are starved for letters and will publish anything, see above, and from anyone. Help us]

Lol no

Are there any candidates who aren't linked to career politician organisations or professional activism or trying to bribe students?

Oliver Marras

Je suis Zhixian

Shocking to hear that such ridiculous situation happen to Zhixian as I've been helping her for the past few days for this election and saw all the hard work and dedication she puts into this USU election. The reason given by USU board for excluding her ... Just because she sent a small

amount red pocket money in a group chat on Wechat, which to everyone with a basic concept of how group chats on wechat work would know it's the payment for posting an advertisement in a group chat. As for the chalking content, if a cultural joke is not even acceptable then I would have to say please go do some research about it before coming to such ridiculous decision!

Shirley Duan

#Progressive

There's nothing more progressive than hating wealthy white men, and can I just say, I hate Tom Waterhouse. If elected to the USU Board, I will ban Tom Waterhouse from campus. In fact, I will ban all scions of horse racing and gambling dynasties. That's progressive.

We're with Waleed. Waleed Aly for USU

Zyzz forever

Don't worry brah [sic] MuzzSoc may not be USU official but were are official in the heart of Zyzz and we will always have the odd skitz [sic] time around campus <3 Also the idea that we should merge with MADSOC (proper dancers) when we are clearly flailing lunatics was just plain ludicrous m9s [sic].

USyd MuzzSoc

We have a podcast fan

> spending half an hour recording this > expecting people to care enough to listen to half an hour of talk about the union elections.

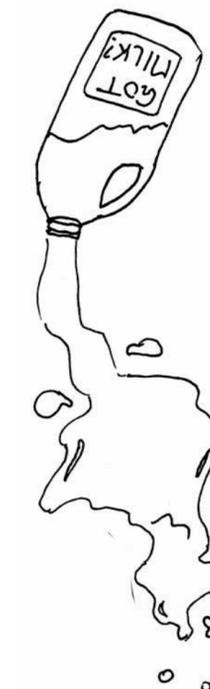
Kerrod Gream

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 if you were a kitchen utensil which one would you be and why.

Oops . . .

In publishing the Board Candidate quiz we said that Question 8, “As a not-for-profit organisation, what happens when the USU's annual revenue exceeds its costs and liabilities?” was excluded due to no candidate answering it correctly. It was in fact excluded as the answers were too broad and unable to be quantified fairly.



Science Cruise: The Hogwarts Express

When: Wednesday 10 March, 6pm
 Where: Customs House Library
 Price: Free

Despite the Pagan undertones and the whole Dumbledore batting for the other team thing, I like Harry Potter as much as the next pastor. Just as magic can be used to undermine the teachings of the Church, so too can science. So be free to go to this cruise, and drink merrily, but protect your heart from the vices, faithlessness, and temptation that science students may offer you. And don't have sex with anyone unless you marry them beforehand.

Queer Revue

When: May 18 - 20, 7.30pm
 Where: Seymour Centre
 Price: Access \$15 | Student \$18 | General \$20

Other pastors might avoid commenting on this one or comment in all the wrong ways but I am a new-age pastor and believe in a broad church open to all sexualities and beings (except fucking Protestants). So suffice to say, I'm happy to turn a blind eye to the whole “he who lies with a man” Leviticus thing and have the utmost confidence that this performance will be fabulous.

Interfaculty pub crawl

When: Friday, May 19, 4pm
 Where: Cadigal Lawns
 Price: Free

This looks like a jolly time! Bringing together all the different denominations of the Arts, Sciences, Business and more. Truly, this will be a magnanimous occasion. May you drink deeply of the blood of our Lord and use Saturday to recover so that you can come in bright and early on Sunday for mass – Don't tell anyone, but I hear this Sunday's service is going to be a ripper!

Professor elected to prestigious science society

ISABELLA BATTERSBY

On Monday, May 8, University of Sydney biology Professor Edward Holmes was elected as a Fellow of The Royal Society, a prestigious group of highly successful science, medicine and technology academics from the Commonwealth and United Kingdom.

Current Fellows of the society include Stephen Hawking and Tim Berners-Lee (inventor of the Internet), and Alan Turing, Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton were admitted in the past.

Holmes' election to the Society involved a peer-review process that focuses on electing those who have achieved excellence within the science field and have contributed to developing natural knowledge.

"I'm known for explaining how viruses evolve and working out exactly how they do what they do," Holmes told *Honi*.

He has uncovered the origin and evolution of influenza, HIV and dengue, as well as their molecular epidemiology, which means he discovered the environmental determinants behind the diseases.

Recently, he unveiled 1500 new viruses, including new families.

His research has also led to more accurate assessments of which viruses are more likely to come from within human populations, and understanding of the main mechanisms of virus evolution, species-to-species transmission and how viruses spread within new hosts.

Holmes is also a Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Academy of Science, and was awarded the Scientific Medal of the Zoological Society of London in 2003.

"It feels marvellous, really a great honour," he said about his admission to the society.

According to Holmes, it is not something you aspire to, but it is great to be recognised by peers within the academic field, as becoming a Fellow is more like, "a career award ... recognition of my 30 years dedicated to science."

Vice Chancellor Michael Spence congratulated Holmes on his fellowship in a statement and said, "This is an extremely high and rare accolade, one that Professor Holmes absolutely deserves following a career devoted to understanding human diseases for the benefit of humankind".

Holmes added, "[it] reflects the world-class medical science being performed at the University of Sydney."

Budget confirms cuts to universities

EDWARD FURST

Students' university fees will increase by 7.5 per cent and the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt repayment threshold will be reduced to \$42,000, the budget confirmed on Tuesday, May 9.

In a big-spending budget variously described as 'populist', 'pragmatic' and 'Labor lite', universities are among the few substantial losers. Meanwhile, schools, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and infrastructure projects make up the big-ticket spending items that represent an ideological backflip by the Coalition and appear to have snookered Labor in key policy areas.

As previously reported, the amount students contribute to university fees will increase by 1.82 per cent per year from 2018, reaching a total increase of 7.5 per cent by 2022. The increase in student contributions will be matched by a proportional decrease in government contributions, meaning on average students will pay 46 per cent of their total degree cost as opposed to 42 per cent currently. The fee increases will affect all students regardless of their study start date.

The income threshold at which graduates will be required to repay their debt will be reduced from the current \$55,000 per year to \$42,000. However, the rate of initial repayment will also be reduced from the current four per cent of income to one per cent. The rate of

repayment increases to a maximum 10 per cent for graduates earning over \$120,000.

Universities will also face a 2.5 per cent efficiency dividend (read: funding cut) over the next two years, that will see resources stretched. While most of the Group of 8 (Go8) universities, including the University of Sydney, have fairly healthy finances, the dividend's impact will be felt most keenly by poorer universities. In particular, the eight universities around Australia (all non-Go8 members) that reported funding deficits in 2015 will now face further financial stress. Charles Darwin University in the Northern Territory, for example, reported a \$26.2 million deficit in 2015 and will now face \$3 million in efficiency dividends over the next two years.

These reforms are still a far cry from the heavy-hitting 2014 budget that sought to cut university funding by 20 per cent, deregulate course fees, and introduce a rate of interest on student loans; measures now officially scrapped. It also marks a more cautious approach from the Turnbull government that consequently gives the legislation more chance of being passed in the senate.

Other changes to higher education include the end of Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) places at universities for New Zealand citizens and permanent residents from 2018 onwards. However, they will no

longer have to pay fees upfront — instead, they will have access to HELP loans and be able to defer payment. CSPs for domestic students will be extended to include sub-bachelor level degrees such as diplomas and associate degrees, and will also cover industry placement units that earn credit towards tertiary qualifications.

With regards to affordable housing, the budget provides little solace, as Sydney house prices continue their skyward trajectory. The proposed First Home Super Saver Scheme will see savers eligible to deposit up to \$30,000 of pre-tax income into their superannuation accounts and take advantage of the associated tax concessions as they save for a house deposit. But this provides modest assistance at best to cash-strapped millennials and is more like putting a hand-rail on a precipitously steep cliff face. Other measures to dampen foreign investment in the housing market are likewise expected to only marginally help.

Welfare payments remain largely unchanged as eligibility requirements and funding levels remain untouched.

The main proposal involves introducing random drug tests for welfare recipients that the government deems at risk of substance abuse, with payments withheld if drug use is detected. This will be applicable to people receiving Newstart and Youth Allowance payments and will begin as a trial next year.

Raising the bar

ERIN JORDAN

After just three months working at a bar, Emma* decided to quit her job. Despite a generous pay packet, Emma swore her nights of hearing constant lewd jokes about being "bent over" and demands for "sexual favours" and "dates" by both customers and her co-workers were over.

"It was actually a difficult decision, which may seem surprising to some given the circumstances," said Emma. "But ultimately the money and flexibility of the hours just didn't cut it for me anymore when I started to be harassed by my boss too."

In pubs and clubs around Australia, Emma's experience is not an isolated one. A 2017 survey conducted by trade union United Voice found that nine out of 10 female hospitality workers had experienced some form of sexual harassment while at work. These instances ranged from sexist comments, to bullying and sexual assault. While sexism is yet to be eradicated in society, there seems to be an industry-specific 'culture' that is responsible for such high incidences of harassment.

Jordana* started working at an RSL when she had just turned 18. She says she was "very innocent and ... took many months to adjust to the world of bar work".

Australian pubs have historically been sites of sexist abuse towards female workers, once called "barmaids".



9 out of 10 female hospitality workers have experienced some form of sexual harassment while at work. Source: United Voice

While the application of the gender-neutral term "bar attendant" has been implemented across the board, the possibility that reality does not reflect this change is rarely discussed.

Smiling, flirting, and playing to old stereotypes of women not liking beer feature as part of this new reality, according to Rebecca*, a full-time student and casual bartender. Financial incentives and job security are factors that influence her decision to continue taking part in this façade or "act", as she describes it.

"I know that when I'm in a cheerier mood and therefore come across as flirtier, I'll get tipped better, which ultimately works in my favour," said Rebecca.

When alcohol is in the mix, this playful act could easily become dan-

gerous, according to Rebecca. When things go wrong after a couple of pints, female bar attendants are in many cases left with little training or support to deal with the abuse.

Jordana learnt this one Tuesday evening when she was left tending the bar alone. "I decided to pick up some empty glasses on a table where a group of tradies were sitting. As I bent down to pick them up a few made some derogatory comments but one tradie decided to stand up from his seat, press his erect penis into my leg and whisper in my ear how 'my tight pants were turning him on'."

New and afraid of causing a fuss, Jordana never reported the incident to her manager.

On reflection, Jordana believes alerting the security guards who help monitor the bar's more unruly patrons, rather than management, is the only effective way to deal with these kinds of assaults.

She wasn't alone in expressing this. According to the United Voice survey, 48 per cent of female employees found their employers didn't take their workplace harassment seriously.

When faced with the difficult decision to report the case of sexual harassment to upper management, Emma decided to do so, but no one listened.

"The manager just joked with me, and called me a 'princess', he acted like

I had made-up the problem. I started to almost believe him," she said.

In these cases, the responsibility for a safe environment for all bar attendants seems to fall squarely on women's ability to know if who they are serving will take their friendliness as a sign of warranted sexual advancement or whether they are ordinary patrons not looking for trouble.

Rebecca said that she wishes her male co-workers would sometimes help to alleviate this burden.

"I feel like if I complain, my friend who I work with he's like 'just deal with it,' she said.

Often male co-workers like to be rostered on with women because they are likely to be tipped more, Rebecca explains. When this is the understanding, it seems unlikely that male co-workers would step up to interfere.

When raising the bar across the board, management should be on the receiving end of criticism. The implementation of training programs for bar attendants on how to deal with these situations would create a system of support that would make sexual assault less common. Awareness and harsher protocols might help us bid good-bye to outdated sexist attitudes. I'll drink to that!

*NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

USyd grad vying to be next Bondi Vet

CAMERON GOOLEY

University of Sydney graduate James Crowley is one of many veterinarians across Australia vying to become the new host of popular television show *Bondi Vet*.

Channel 10 is searching for a replacement for current host Dr Chris Brown as the show enters its 10th season.

Applications have flooded in from around the country, with colleagues, friends and clients nominating their favourite vets.

Crowley, a graduate of the class of 2012 and current staff member of the University of Sydney Emergency Vet Clinic, believes his five years of professional media experience and easygoing nature set him apart from his competitors.

Crowley told *Honi*, "I have the right balance between technical expertise, veterinary knowledge, and personality that is important for being a good veterinarian in the media".

"I think I'll be able to give a good representation of the vet industry and the world behind the doors of the vet clinic."

Crowley has experience in print and online media, and has himself appeared on the *Today* show and Nova FM radio.

An Allambie Vet Facebook campaign following former patient Oscar the Fat Cat's weight loss jour-



Image courtesy of James Crowley

ney gained traction in the mainstream media, prompting his friends to nominate him for the position.

Since then, numerous satisfied clients have testified to Crowley's aptitude for the role on the *Bondi Vet* website.

Brown left the show after nine years to focus on his career in the vet clinic and further opportunities on the

small screen.

He is also a co-host of *I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here* and a travel reporter on *The Living Room*.

When *Honi* asked how he compares to Brown, Crowley joked, "In the looks department I've got blonde hair, but I'm not as tall and my jawline isn't as strong".

Election regulations culturally insensitive

KIDA LIN

On Monday, the University of Sydney Union (USU) Electoral Arbiter announced that Zhixian Wang, an international student from China running to be a Board Director, who had been excluded from the election for breaching electoral rules, would be reinstated.

Two complaints were filed against Wang, and both were initially ruled to be sufficient for her exclusion. The Returning Officer found Wang had breached USU Regulation 8.10.1 (I) regarding bribery in her use of "Red Packets" to send money to a group of international students on WeChat. He also ruled that one of her chalkings, which contained Chinese phrases "办证" and "迷药", violated Regulation 8.10.1(p)(ii) for being "misleading or deceptive, or likely to be misleading or deceptive".

In their successful challenge to both determinations, Wang and her campaign argued that the amount of money sent in the Wechat group, equivalent to \$2 AUD, is too minimal to constitute bribery. They believed it to only be a small advertisement fee — similar to what people pay to boost their posts on Facebook. They also contended the phrases graffitied are common in China and people with some knowledge of the context are unlikely to be misled.

The current USU Regulations ban any forms of bribery, direct or indirect. Bribery is defined as the use

of "money, employment, position or material resources" in exchange for "preferential treatment or to induce a voter to vote or to refrain from voting or to vote in a particular way". The Electoral Arbiter's decision indicates that such a small amount of money involved in this case would not constitute "indirect bribery" for "preferential treatment".

With regard to the chalking, most debates focus on the meanings of "办证" and "迷药". The literal translations of "办证" and "迷药" are "forging IDs", and "drugs that create hallucinations" respectively. In China, where these phrases are often painted in public spaces accompanied by a phone number, they usually allude to a means to obtain fake IDs and date rape drugs. If "misleading or deceptive" is interpreted to mean that students believe are likely to believe that they can obtain these illegal items from a USU candidate in Sydney, the decision to reverse the Returning Officer's decision makes sense. It could be expected that most people with some knowledge of Chinese language and culture will consider the chalking an attention-grabbing campaign tactic.

The fact that the phrases were in Chinese also demonstrates clear intent to only target those familiar with the language and broader contextual meaning. Moreover, the Re-

turning Officer's claim that "there is nothing to suggest that the imputations were conveyed in jest" always seemed untenable. Candidates should not be expected to explicitly state where they are making a joke. If they were, one would expect the memes, which have been clogging Facebook newsfeeds over the last week to come with a disclaimer. Furthermore, a series of "666666" were painted next to the phrases, which to some extent indicates the satirical nature of the chalking.

Irrespective of whether the original decision to exclude Wang was justified, this incident shows the inadequacy of existing mechanism to cope with disputes. Firstly, many regulations do not account for the use of online platforms. Messaging Apps like WeChat, popular among Chinese international students, have become the prime campaigning channels for many candidates. This calls for more nuanced regulations to prevent unfair campaign practices. The "Red Packet" function on Wechat, for instance, allows users to conduct online transactions. Importantly, people can exchange the virtual money they receive for actual currency and they can send red packets to both groups (as occurred in this case) and individuals.

In addition, more culturally sensitive rules need to be made to prevent inappropriate campaigning tactics. The

chalking of "办证" and "迷药" is problematic even if it did not merit a termination of Wang's candidature. First, the connotations of these phrases normalise appalling and illegal behaviours such as sexual assaults. Appropriating these phrases undermines efforts to fight against gender violence on campus. Second, it exposes some students to messages that might potentially harm them. What's worse, the fact that they appear in public spaces means people are less prepared to deal with them. Finally, such messages contribute to a misunderstanding of foreign cultures and the stigmatisation of international students. Framing some negative elements as an essential part of Chinese culture, as many of Wang's defenders have done, could perpetuate racial misconceptions and distortions. The Returning Officer's original decision could therefore be understood not as a retrospective punishment, but as a deterrent that aims to send a message to other candidates.

With more and more international students becoming involved in student politics, similar cases are only more likely to arise in the future. Ultimately, this incident emphasises the need for reform of the current regulations and greater cultural sensitivity in order to better accommodate this change.

DISCLAIMER: KIDA LIN IS CAMPAIGNING FOR LILIANA TAI.

Academic Board restructure following faculty mergers

JOHN-PATRICK ASIMAKIS

This semester has marked the beginning of the University of Sydney's transition to a reduced number of faculties, as part of a broader restructure.

Several faculty mergers and demotions will see the total number of faculties down from 16 to just six by the start of next year, following a decision made by the University Senate in December 2015.

The reduction in faculties will likely involve a significant alteration to the membership of the Academic Board, the body responsible for maintaining and promoting standards of research, teaching and learning.

The Board also oversees the development and regular review of academic policies and procedures.

In March, the Board voted down a proposal to reduce the length of academic semesters to 12 weeks.

At present, the Board's extensive membership includes the deans of all faculties as well as one elected student from each faculty.

However, following a University Senate resolution that entered into force on 15 December last year, the provisions that specify the Board's composition "are suspended."

The resolution does, however, stipulate that current Academic Board members will keep their positions for the rest of the current term, which ends on 8 January 2018.

It is unclear what the Board's

makeup will be after January.

A university spokesperson told *Honi* that documents to "define the composition of the Academic Board" following the transitional period were "still in draft form and are likely to be considered for approval at the [Board's] next meeting."

In addition to the impacts on the Board's makeup, the restructure poses questions for the experiences of students and academics at a University with larger, more integrated faculties.

What was until last year the Faculty of Education and Social Work has been demoted to form the sixth school within the University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, equal, for example, to the School of Literature, Art and Media.

USyd student, Selin Ağacayak, who is in her third year of secondary education, believes education and social work form an area of study distinct from that of the arts and social sciences, but acknowledges that "together they work well" and that they do "inform each other."

"Although I think [the faculties] should be kept separate, I don't have any pressing issues with [the merger]," Ağacayak said.

Ağacayak's experiences corroborate the University's insistence that "the changes should have little impact on course delivery" and "day-to-day interaction with the University."

The University spokesperson clarified that the changes "will not affect courses or units of study, or the way in which they are taught," adding that "there is no impact to classes, teachers or student administration as a result of the new structure."

While the spokesperson conceded "the process of integration [of education and social work] is just commencing," she emphasised that "[a]cademic staff will continue the delivery of all aspects of the education and social work curriculum within the new faculty" and that there would be "significant consultation with staff on all aspects of the integration of administrative processes."

Although the transition will not affect teaching, transitional provisions will render void all resolutions of faculties which are being subsumed within other faculties, unless they are "ratified or amended by the receiving faculty" before 8 January next year.

As a result, pending the ratification by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the former Faculty of Education and Social Work's resolutions mandating 90 per cent attendance at timetabled lectures, seminars and tutorials will cease to have effect and will be replaced by the minimum 80 per cent attendance expectation which binds Arts students.

Reduced mandatory attendance

requirements might, for instance, be significant in education and social work courses handling sensitive issues like child protection, which should require near-total attendance from students.

Similar issues may arise as the university attempts to strike a balance between overarching faculty rules and course-specific considerations.

This year's transition to a reduced number of faculties also involves a considerable enlargement of the Faculty of Science, which has now subsumed the former Faculty of Veterinary Science and the former Faculty of Agriculture and Environment.

The restructure also envisages a substantial amalgamation of the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing and Midwifery.

A University spokesperson confirmed that "preparatory work to implement the new Faculty ... is underway and the implementation date will be agreed in the next few months."

Although the "current structure [of the existing faculties] remains until a date to be advised," the spokesperson also confirmed that the new faculty, which will be called the Faculty of Medicine and Health, "will not be established before Semester 1 2018."

SUSF President campaigned on free gym membership for college kids

LIAM DONOHOE

Last Tuesday, *Honi* reported that James Flynn had been elected as the new Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF) President, receiving over eight times the votes of his nearest rival.

Since then, sources have disclosed that Flynn, a Liberal staffer for MP Anthony Roberts, offered college students free gym memberships if elected.

An anonymous source said Flynn, "basically promised free gym membership to all college kids" during a speech Flynn delivered at St Paul's formal dinner, one that was subsequently endorsed by the college's senior student. It is unclear whether Flynn intends to offer free gym memberships to non-college members of the University community.

In addition to the speech, screenshots from the St Paul's internal Facebook group for 'freshers' (first years), show a senior Paul's student relaying that Flynn "cares about us" and that "it would be genuinely bad for us if he doesn't get up."

The student suggests that his competitor, former SUSF vice-president David Jordan, is "not a fan of colleges" before reiterating Flynn's commitment to free gym memberships for college students.

A-frames promoting Flynn's campaign were spotted around St Paul's College, while campaign flyers were slid under doors at Paul's and widely circulated at Women's College.

The targeted campaign and subsequent college turnout will likely play into longstanding perceptions that SUSF and the colleges have a rather cosy relationship.

All college students are given a \$60 annual membership of SUSF.

It has been alleged that this scheme helps SUSF stack their elections by guaranteeing a large cohort of voters who are, generally, sympathetic to the SUSF agenda.

It's clear that Flynn targeted the college vote at a time when the vast majority of students were unaware that an election was even taking place.

It seems that the promised gym memberships, worth at least \$400 a year per student, would be an extension on the existing automatic annual membership that college students receive.

If the scheme applies to Paul's alone, roughly 197 students will receive the memberships, costing in excess of \$78,000.

If the scheme applies to all college students, then at least 1,554 students will receive memberships at a cost of \$621,000.

Either way, the promise seems an expensive one to deliver on, representing a significant share of SUSF's \$4.3 million SSAF allocation.

No doubt many will question whether it is an effective or fair use of student money.

Flynn told *Honi* he is "going to explore policies that help all students flourish, this includes college kids" as part of broader efforts to improve "the health and wellbeing of our University community."

Amid recent bribery allegations in the Union Board elections, there are concerns that Flynn's actions constitute a breach of regulations.

Subsection 28(1) of SUSF's 'Voting Procedures at Annual Election' unambiguously defines bribery as any act that involves "promising to give material resources to induce a voter."

To be sure, the promise may not differ from any other kind of campaign promise that pledges to improve "material resources" to induce a voter.

Flynn called the suggestion that his actions amount to bribery a "ridiculous claim".

He also made a similar point to this, arguing that the scheme was a "policy promise in the same way members of the SRC or USU make policy promises in their elections".

He added, "no complaints were made to the Returning Office in regards to any part of the election", which is true at the time of writing.

A bloody good time

JUSTINE LANDIS-HANLEY / When menstruation is considered a cause for celebration

I got my first period, ironically, during my high school Sex-Ed exam.

By age 15, I had written-off any hope that I would ever start menstruating. I was built on angular lines, physically; flat-chested, always; and wore my sexual inexperience plainly, the same way I wore my uniform. I craved a sign that I wasn't broken according to bodily convention.

But when I held up the contents of my underwear alongside Kaz Cooke's *Girl Stuff*, I concluded that this was it: I was parting the red sea, birthing a blood diamond, surfing the crimson wave. I swallowed my swelling sense of sudden self-worth as a new, unanticipated challenge dawned: telling my mum.

I leant against the bathroom doorway while she clipped her toenails.

"I think I got my period today," I tossed the words aside, as if they didn't matter to me.

"Really?!" She looked up, eyes wide. I grimaced. "I mean..." her voice deeper, "...oh really?" She snipped another nail.

Mum inspected the stain, as I had, and came to the same conclusion.

"Welcome to womanhood, darling!" she exclaimed, spinning around, arms wide open, to pull me into a hug. I squirmed against it.

"Right, sorry," her voice deepened again. She put one hand on her hip and exaggeratedly waggled a finger at me with the other: "No more unprotected sex for you!" I rolled my eyes.

"Now, do you know how to put on a pad?"

And that was it. According to some gendered conception of biology, I had entered a new phase in my life, gifted with the purpose of procreation. For all of the school-camp chat and Hollywood hype, my blossoming into so called 'womanhood' was commemorated with nothing more than an awkward embrace and a receipt for \$9.50 worth of StayFresh.

Sex-Ed class had done little to normalise my monthly bleeding. When the pharmacist handed over the packet of pads, carefully wrapped up in a paper bag with the edges cellophane-taped, I couldn't help but feel the need to tuck the package under my arm and avert my gaze. Every month, I put off the text to Mum asking for more 'supplies' until I had scraped my schoolbag for a misplaced liner. Once a month, I fumbled with the pink, flowered wrapper in the toilets between class, terrified that the tear of plastic would alert the surrounding stalls to the change within me. I quickly realised that even if they could tell, my school friends were either too embarrassed or uninterested themselves to say anything.

It's both comforting and concerning to learn that other menstruators traded white underwear for anxiety on the cusp of adolescence: a study conducted by the International Women's Health Coalition and menstrual health app Clue found that people who menstruate are embarrassed by their periods. Shocker.

But it seems attitudes towards a girl's first menstrual cycle have evolved. The internet went wild with praise when Buzzfeed reported a Florida mum threw her daughter a surprise "period party" featuring pizza and a chocolate cake with 'Congrats on your Period' written in red and white frosting. *The Period Story*, a monthly sanitary product delivery service, actually launched their brand with a fully catered menstrual themed party.

HeloFlo's marketing took the opposite approach, creating a viral Youtube video around the idea of a 'First Moon' party. A young girl tries to fake her period while her cunning mother punishes her by throwing her an 'embarrassing' celebration. Her family and friends show up, her Dad jumps out of the cake dressed in a skin-tight red bodysuit, and guests are treated to a 'vag-ician' and games like 'pin the pad on the period'.

In many cultures though, celebrations for a person's first menstrual cycle are not simply tradition: they're ritual.

Harsha Sonseka, a 21-year-old student of Sinhalese heritage, experienced a week-long Sri Lankan ritual and celebration when she first got her period at age 11.

"When you get your period, you are confined to an area where you don't see any men - including your brothers or your father," she tells me.

"Your parents go to your birth location at your birth time with someone who reads your horoscope. They [tell] you the time [to] have your shower, and the colour you wear afterwards."

When Soneska first menstruated, she wasn't allowed to leave her room until having her 'shower'. At the sacred hour, her mother washed her in what she remembers now as "some leaves and water", before she was dressed in a gown her family had chosen; in her case, light blue, her favourite colour. She bowed to her parents and touched their feet, and they gifted her a gold necklace and bangles because "in our culture, when you become a woman, gold is very important". Soneska then fed her parents a version of sticky rice - Dad and Mum first, then her siblings in order from oldest to youngest.

"And then you have your party," she says matter-of-factly.

Soneska's parents invited around fifty family and friends to their house for a dinner party.

But, as another friend tells me, many families rent out great halls and invite hundreds of people: "it pays for itself, though," my friend laughs, "given the amount of money and gifts the guests bring."

Dr Shanti Raman, who undertook research into the intercultural identity of Tamils living in Australia as part of a PhD, says that the menstrual ceremony is equally celebrated in South India and amongst Sri Lankan Tamils.

"I grew up in South India as a fairly urban person with no particular knowledge or involvement with this sort of ceremony. One time, when I was about eight, we were visiting our ancestors' village and were invited to a young girl's ceremony... we never imagine someone would have a ceremony to celebrate menarche. This girl, who must have been twelve or something, was just crying her heart out the night before. And in the

'I think culture is all about change, and cultural practices change and morph according to context. You can look at it as a celebration of reproductive power and sexuality'



Artwork: Robin Eames

next days they were having a huge ceremony for her with flowers, all dressed up in a Sari."

Raman said that, as a young woman in India at the time, she thought this was "absolutely barbaric".

"It was an announcement of her readiness to be married, if you look at it in a very pragmatic way." For many Jewish girls, your first period doesn't call for a party, but often a trip to the local Mikveh - a bath used for the purpose of ritual immersion in Judaism. USyd student, Noa Zulman, visited a Mikvah with her school as a way of familiarising the girls with the place they would visit at the start of each monthly cycle.

"You are not allowed to have sex during your period," Zulman explains.

"At the end of your period, you can't have sex for five days either. You go to a Mikveh and fully submerge yourself three times and say a prayer."

Menstruating women are not allowed to touch religious documents, like the Torah, or go to Temple. Raman and Soneska speak of similar restrictions in South Asian practices.

"Period blood is seen as impure, sort of, and you need to cleanse yourself before you can engage in sexual intercourse again."

"Not to mention," Zulman adds, "it means you are only having sex for two weeks every month, during the point in your cycle that you are most fertile. Judaism doesn't encourage the use of contraception, and wants people to go forth and procreate, so these practices align with the religious conception of sexual purpose."

It can be easy to write-off these traditions as examples of patriarchal domination and ingrained sexism.

But Raman argues the significance of the menarche ritual depends on the paradigm through which one considers them. "If you look at it from an anthropological perspective, it is almost certain the backdrop is coming from Ancient fertility rituals of some sort. When I talked to my children about this, they thought it was terrible and gendered - that it was a way of getting a girl ready for marriage!"

"I think culture is all about change, and cultural practices change and morph according to context. You can look at it as a celebration of reproductive power and sexuality. These are celebratory rituals and they do actually mark particular biological transitions and that is important to acknowledge. Why shouldn't we celebrate the first period? Why should we think of it as a terrible thing? [Getting your period] is a life of pain and misery, but why not celebrate it?" she laughs.

The practice of South Asian menstrual rituals takes on a new significance for migrant families living in Australia: they are a way for maintaining cultural continuity and generational strength. "You can see that [through these practices] we are here and we are still Tamils or whatever, and we are still proud of being who we are and we are distinct", Raman says.

Notably, both Raman and Soneska say the girls they know have enjoyed their celebrations.

"Personally I think it is kind of cool, not to mention you receive gifts and gold. In our culture, you feel as though people stop seeing you as a little kid, and give you a bit more responsibility. I feel that it is kind of an important time to celebrate - you are 'becoming a woman' as everyone says," Soneska muses.

"Who has it worse during puberty: boys or girls?"

I penned an answer to the final question of my Sex-Ed exam as I bled in my shorts for the first time.

It's impossible to determine here whether menstrual celebrations are a source of female empowerment or female oppression. But I wonder whether I would have answered differently had I felt my period was worth celebrating. **HS**

Coptic church under siege

MICHAEL YOUSSEF / Fighting the good fight to protect St. Mary's

St. Mary's Coptic Church in Sydenham has a long and storied history. Originally built in 1884, the site was acquired by Egyptian immigrants in 1968, making it the first Coptic Orthodox Church outside of Egypt.

However, the Church is now under severe threat. Citing 'safety concerns' and the high cost of refurbishment, the local council plans to demolish the building. Since last year's local council mergers, the unelected Inner West Council led by administrator Richard Pearson has showcased little intent to preserve the Church, despite multiple requests from the local community and non-government organisations.

For over 10 years now, Coptic Orthodox Christians have been fighting to protect their church from demolition. The community has raised \$2 million for a proposed refurbishment of the site, which would see a community centre, a chapel for visitors and an Egyptian Pharaonic and Coptic museum. Despite this offer, the council declined under the grounds that the development would cost \$5 million and thus exceed the amount donated. More recently, a successful court injunction halted the demolition

scheduled to proceed on 8th May.

Despite the National Trust's description of the church as being "rare and nationally significant" the council has demonstrated a profoundly stubborn inability to see any value in this historical building. By claiming that refurbishment costs are too high, the council has refused to take advice from two prominent building companies who said that the redevelopment would only amount to \$2 million. In an effort to ameliorate the community, Council has instead offered to create a memorial using the Church's bricks as pavement. Given the incredible significance of the Church to Sydney's Coptic community, this solution is both unacceptable and disrespectful.

On 2nd May, a suspicious fire ravaged parts of the Church. While it remains under investigation, many locals recall similar blazes before the council demolished two local heritage listed headmaster stations.

In response to the fire, Pearson claimed the building was now too dangerous and should be demolished immediately. A request for an independent building inspection by the Egyptian community from

the local and NSW government has been rejected. This unfortunate state of affairs is deeply troubling. It is a travesty that such a historical building is to be demolished for seemingly petty reasons.

The Coptic community's loss is a developer's dream. Changes to the regular flight path from Kingsford Smith Airport will see planes fly away from the church, subsequently increasing the value of the large piece of land. In response, Australian Coptic Heritage and Community Services (ACHCS) has commenced legal action against the council.

This controversy comes after the bombing of two churches that killed 50 people on Palm Sunday in Egypt, where Coptic Christians have been victim to longstanding terror. The repression faced by Christians across the Middle East makes the government's reluctance to protect their culture and heritage in Australia all the more tragic. But the 100 000 strong Coptic community is ready to fight. It is imperative that all political, cultural and religious leaders take a stand and do the right thing.

The faraway land between left and right

JACK JACOBS / The future of centrist politics

Reverent strings marched Emmanuel Macron to the lectern at the Louvre on Monday, 7 May. He had just claimed historic victory against the far-right populist Marine Le Pen. Ode to Joy, the unofficial rallying cry of the European Union, was the song to mark that ascendancy, suggesting that he was one to usher in a new age: a politician for our times, who claims to be from that faraway land beyond left and right.

This, at least, is the myth that Macron has been cultivating since the start of his campaign. He is seen as the harbinger of a new political class: independent, young at just 39, intellectual, and pragmatic. Macron has pitched himself as a different kind of centrist, and the media has agreed: empathetic to social issues with a faith in a free, globalised market. His task now is of equally mythic proportions: to prove that this myth can become a reality.

Centrism has been shaped by stability-seeking moderates around the globe, who are now placing a burden of hope and conviction on the shoulders of this lone Frenchman. Who can blame them? While Macron's task is a difficult one, the outcome of his Presidency, if successful, might just suggest that centrism is the right vehicle for the long road ahead.

And it is a long road, riddled with quagmires and bandits who threaten at every turn. It is too early to assert that Macron's win marks a shift in the global political narrative. What it instead proves is that a single political trend cannot accurately be drawn across international elections. Instead, we must look to divisions. What's emerging across the globe right now is a tension between two forces: the populist right and the 'sensible centre'. The battle between Marine Le Pen and Macron was the tension between these two forces made incarnate.

Where is the left? It seems that it's no longer holding up as a feasible alternative. Oddly, its working class base has shifted to the right, citing nationalism and a desire to be heard. While the last 12 months have seen the emergence of dark isolationism in Trump and Brexit, they also produced victories for European Union integration, with Alexander van der Bellen in Austria and liberal Mark Rutte in the Netherlands. Too often we forget that both forces are at play in an equal contest. It just so happens that the populist right has held sway in

larger countries like the US and UK, where there the emanating media is louder.



Art: Jocelin Chan

Macron has won out, marking a supposed victory for centrism. Except it's not quite a victory: a large part of Macron's win came down to the failures of others who sought the Presidency from estab-

lishment parties on the Right and Left, in François Fillon and Benoît Hamon. More importantly, protest votes against Le Pen were a significant factor and few French citizens actually voted for Macron's centrist policies. His 66.1% outcome is therefore not a mandate for centrism but rather a reaction against the populist right. There is no doubt that circumstance favoured Macron, but perhaps it did so for a reason.

In his victory speech, Macron did not shy away from the reality of his task. He is the leader of a newly created party, with no friends in the assembly yet. His ability to act with conviction will rely on the results of the June legislative election. The pivotal moment in his victory speech was his reaction to the crowd's booing of Le Pen and her supporters. Macron seized the opportunity to recast his election as a bridge-building moment. He calmed the crowds: "No, don't boo. They expressed anger today. Dismay. And sometimes conviction. I respect them."

This is what sets Macron apart. He acknowledges that the right must be heard, that its rising popularity with the working classes stems from alienation, not necessarily ignorance or fear. To bridge the divide, it is up to centrist leaders like Macron to exercise a politics of genuine dialogue: "I will do everything ... to make sure there is no reason at all to vote for extremes". This was a telling moment for what could possibly come out of leader-driven dialogue from the sensible centre. Macron's place as an independent at the head of En Marche! gives him a unique opportunity to recast the practice of politics; to forge bridges, rather than divisions, from his own policy platform. Such an advantage is what makes the task more achievable for him than it was for Turnbull at home in Australia, where a capable centrist has been bound by established party identities.

Perhaps Macron realises that his leadership will only succeed if he remains on the ground. Not above the stars, but with the people on the dusty road. For that is the advantage of centrism, and for once, even if by accident, centrism has a mandate. Macron must engage the two forces in dialogue. Easier said than done, but for just a few seconds, why not cue the Ode to Joy?

Don't be silly, wrap your willy ... seriously

NINA DILLON-BRITTON / With sexual health information more accessible than ever, why is condom use declining?

In 2015, Australian GPs reported a troubling spike in rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Diagnoses of HIV, chlamydia and even syphilis saw an unprecedented increase.

Over the past few decades, contraception use increased slowly. It seemed the effects of HIV awareness campaigns, Healthy Harold and more open conversations about sex were finally paying off.

What healthcare professionals hadn't bet on then — with increasing awareness of STIs and increasing awareness around contraceptive options — was that condoms would suddenly become uncool. Yet in 2014, the annual Kirby Surveillance Reports, which monitor Australian sexual health trends, found that declining condom use was leading to the increases in STI rates.

Historically, physical or 'barrier' protection has primarily been for the purpose of contraception. Jamie* says she uses condoms largely because she "can't take hormonal contraceptives because of contraindications". Conversely, Rithika says that she consistently uses physical protection because she feels "uncomfortable thinking about more invasive forms of contraceptive," and she "can't be fucked taking the pill".

Perhaps, then, the drop can be attributed to the fact that more comprehensive awareness of sexual and reproductive health has also led to awareness of alternative forms of contraceptives. Though the pill isn't new, its use is often at least partially accompanied by physical protection given the tendency of users to forget to take it. Awareness of alternative and more effective forms of contraception that only need to be taken every few years — like injections, Implanon and IUDs — has meant more people have been able to use hormonal contraceptives without worry, or the need to supplement with condoms.

Harry*, for example, says that his condom use changed quickly when his girlfriend began to use the contraceptive implant rather than the pill. "I guess I really wouldn't know first hand, but I know

she was often unsure if she had taken the pill for that day and when it was effective," he says. "It meant that we still had to use condoms pretty often."

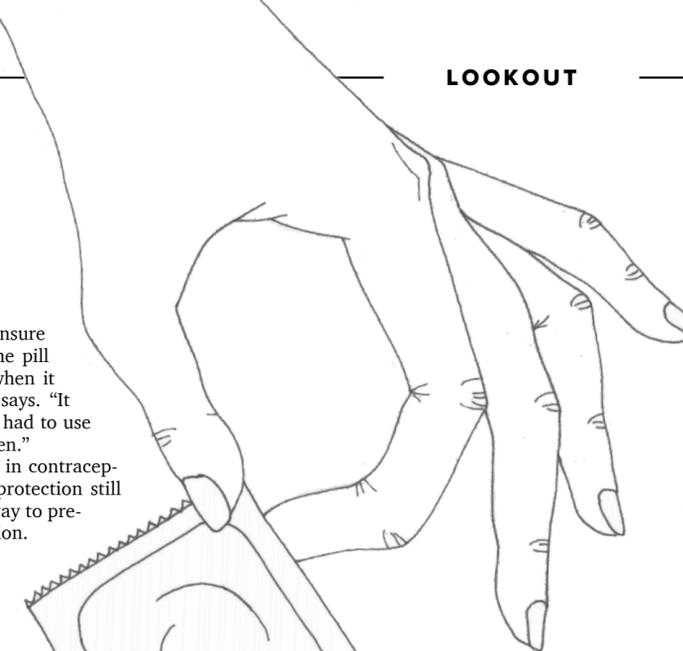
Despite changes in contraceptive use, physical protection still remains the only way to prevent STI transmission.

What has stood out is that condom use in the queer community is much more common than elsewhere. It seems that historic pushes for awareness of the importance of physical protection, as well as the memory of the AIDS epidemic, have had long lasting impacts.

Adrian says that his use of condoms is largely influenced by high school sex education, but also because of the spectre of AIDS.

"I think using protection feels a lot more relevant to me because I'm gay and the AIDS epidemic has such a horrible impact of the queer community — particularly men who have sex with men," says Adrian. In not using protection, "I'm kind of letting down the activists who worked so hard to make treatment available during the height of the AIDS epidemic when the government didn't care about people with AIDS". Importantly, HIV transmission is still a real possibility. When asked why he always uses condoms, Sam* who also identifies as gay tells me, "because AIDS looks pretty bad".

It seems, though, that a person's culture is among the most important factors determining whether



someone will use a condoms or not. According to Rahul*, condoms are seen as unnecessary by his straight male friends. "People don't think getting HIV is likely, and if a girl is using birth control, then they don't think they have anything to worry about," he says. A number of heterosexual people *Honi* talked to agreed that condoms "just seem uncool".

In the queer community, condom use also cannot be taken for granted. The advent of PrEP — a new drug that greatly reduces the risk of contracting HIV — has led to some health experts worrying that it may lead to a decrease in rates of condom use.

The work of sexual education campaigns and activists has led to robust awareness of STIs and the importance of protection. The worry, then, is that cultures that dismiss the importance of sexual protection threaten the relatively low rates of STI transmission at the moment. If condoms don't make a come back, syphilis will.

*NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.
ART BY RISAKO KATSUMATA.

Earth day starts with us

JENNIFER HORTON / Government inaction means the ball is back in our court

"Hey Environment. It's not you, it's us."

The message on the home page of the Sydney Environmental Institute is meant to sound like a cliché break up text. Are things really this bad, USyd? Are we in the middle of a messy break up with the environment, after all the time and effort that's been put in? As in any break up, you ask yourself the question — am I going to regret the decision I've made?

A few weeks ago, on April 22nd, I walked into a meeting to find a friend holding a plant. "It's Earth Day", he informed me. I've written three papers on environmentalism this semester but Earth Day, a worldwide event created to promote environmental protection, almost managed to slip past me unnoticed.

Rachel Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, is typically credited as precipitating the scientific environmental movement. When Earth Day launched in the United States on 22 April 1970, the movement had most certainly reached the mainstream — 20 million people flooded the grounds of two thousand American universities to rally for reform. Republicans and Democrats united to pass legislation creating the Environmental Protection Agency.

Two years later, the movement arrived in Australia with anti-litter campaigns and protests against damming projects. Included in the protests was the United Tasmania Group, which is now recognised

as the world's first green party. Numerous strikes by building unions in the name of the environment, so-called 'Green bans', brought the word 'green' into the social lexicon.

By the 1980s, the environmental movement in Australia had reached a peak. High air pollution levels and major land erosion fuelled activism in the name of a clean future. The counterculture that had nurtured the movement was diminishing, but public support of conservation became more and more popular, as initiatives like mass tree-planting and Clean Up Australia Day took hold. In 1983, the Hawke government blocked the contentious plan to dam the Franklin River in Tasmania in a display that showed the power of green campaigning. Environmentally friendly messages became stylish in pop culture, embraced by bands like Midnight Oil and U2.

In 1990, Australia celebrated its first Earth Day, along with 140 other countries and 200 million people. Bob Hawke declared the 1990s Australia's 'Decade of Landcare', and the steady restoration of the ozone layer after the ban on CFCs brought new optimism about the power of international environmental cooperation.

Keating's leadership slowed that momentum. As treasurer, Keating had criticised the idea of Aus-

tralia undertaking carbon reduction policies with adverse economic affects, unless similar actions were taken by the vast majority of other greenhouse gas producing countries.

The responsibility to act seems to have returned to where it began — with individuals and communities.

USyd students have numerous avenues to engage with climate research: the Science Faculty offers a major in Environmental Studies, the Department of Government and International Relations provide several units in environmental politics, and multiple university clubs promote environmental issues alongside the Students' Representative Council Environmental Collective. Last year, USyd hosted the third annual National Environment Meeting, an event for activists across Australia to gather and discuss key issues of the environmental movement. This year, the March for Science on Earth Day saw 10,000 people demonstrate across Australia.

The average university student is more concerned with finishing late assignments. Unfortunately, the penalties for late action on the environment are far worse. Our governments are shirking responsibility and whether we choose to do something about it is up to us.

Review: *The Red Pill* and chill

BIANCA FARMAKIS / Can the fractured debate around the controversial film be redeemed?

Unsurprisingly, it's intimidating to stand before a room full of Men's Rights Activists (MRAs) and proclaim you're a feminist. On Tuesday, May 11, in Carslaw Lecture Theatre 175, I found myself in this position.

I attended the screening of controversial documentary *The Red Pill* intending to analyse the film and attempt to understand a different perspective from my own. In the end, the debate, discussion and discourse that emerged from the three-hour medicinal ordeal of swallowing *The Red Pill* was more interesting than the film itself.

From first observation, there seems to be a real issue with accessing 'free speech' rights at The University of Sydney if you piss off the Socialist Alternative. As with any film premiere, prior to the screening, there was electrifying entertainment to satisfy the crowds with MRAs, 'social justice warriors' (SJWs) and every other po-

larised member of the plebeian political spectrum alike chastising one another with chants and choreographed brawls. Through the looking glass of an iPhone, my political voyeuristic heart beat ferociously.

Despite agreeing that it may be problematic to screen the film and incite the wrong kind of reaction, it struck me as odd to hear protesters label conveners as "fascists" and "racists" while attempting to circumvent their access to free action. It also struck me as repulsive that a "feminism is cancer" shirt could see the light of day.

Twenty minutes into 'Red Pill and Chill', it was clear that it was only the marketing and propaganda surrounding this film that has made it worth seeing. I'm no Roger Ebert, but the film's director, Cassie Jaye, is certainly no Tarantino either. The film depicts a poorly constructed interplay between the confused, 'ex-feminist' filmmaker battling her internal demons and a

series of (mostly white) men expressing their feelings, ranging from the rational to irrational. The most entertaining and informative aspect of the film was the audience's response.

In my subjective opinion, it is an objective fact that women have been traditionally disadvantaged and degraded across all paradigms throughout history, and feminism exists to address these inequalities. Similarly to those who speak in the film, however, select members of the audience appeared unaware of the basic definition of feminism: to achieve the social, political and economic equality of the sexes.

When the f-word (feminist, that is) was mentioned, hooting and hissing permeated across the room. I dried out like the Sahara Desert hearing the utterance of "daddy" from the mouths of several young men when Donald Trump appeared on the screen — not to mention when Barack Obama was

referred to as a "creature", and laughter filled the room at the mere suggestion of men needing feminism. These kind of immature attitudes, coupled with the aggressive, forever-screaming protesters, stifled any chance for either side to form constructive, effective arguments on the topic.

These attitudes aside, as Jaye announces she's learned to "no longer call myself a feminist," and the credits rolled, despite the fact the film enlightened me on very little, the discussion that ensued taught me one interesting lesson.

Shaking, and nervous, I stood before a room of MRAs and argued that I could rationalise the confusing journey the narrator followed, yet found the film's exploration of gender equality concepts were not enough to rule feminism invalid. Apart from one audible gasp after I called myself a feminist, the crowd stared back; not piercingly, nor scathingly, but interested. There was a pause, and as I found the right words to articulate the benefits of feminism and how it addresses many of the men's rights issues brought up by the film, the silence of the crowd was as jarring as it was receptive.

It brought me back to this point on understanding the basic principles of feminism: to achieve equality between the sexes. While this film is not well-made, it opened, at least to its audience at USyd, what seems a necessary dialogue to have. A pressing need for gender discourse to stray away from descending into a battle of the sexes.

If you're willing to dry swallow a red pill and open your mind to a perspective that questions your own, your adversaries and opponents may do the same for you.

RoboPoC: sugar, spice and everything rice

ERIC GONZALES / RoboPoC captures all the ethnic pride I wish my younger self had possessed

For too long, much of my humour has revolved around self-deprecation: caricaturing my ethnic eccentricities and transforming my foreignness into something more palatable. It's taken me longer to realise that my white friends never did this — never pre-emptively ridiculed themselves, even comically, because they'd never had to experience the same kind of otherness.

By interrogating and inverting racial stereotypes, the diverse *RoboPoC* cast, led by directors Ann Ding and Shon Ho, have delivered a revue that embodies the boldness, insight and self-awareness my younger self lacked.

Superb acting, astute comedic timing, and the guts to throw some

punches produced genuinely hilarious moments: Dr. Phil (played by Sophia Chung in a crudely applied bald cap) interviewing archetypal Australian xenophobes brought on frenzied laughter; Natali Caro was Pauline Hanson incarnate, mimicking her anachronistic inflections in a very swampy and very ethnic rendition of Rob Cantor's ode to 'actual cannibal' Shia LaBeouf; and Elijah Abraham shone in the second act as a werewolf howling faux pas under a full moon and a radicalised adolescent who discovers that rice is the fabled theory of everything.

But *RoboPoC* also undeniably excelled in its apolitical goofiness, best encapsulated in its unabashed physi-

cal comedy. An imagined prologue to 'Snakes on a Plane' conveyed mostly through interpretive dance stole a few chuckles because of its sheer ridiculousness. And Mandy Chen's versatility was equally impressive, from subtle scowls as a glowering pupil to a defeated, wailing (or climaxing, I wasn't sure which) Godzilla.

I won't deny that the crinkles of opening night were still visible — there was a flubbed line here and there, and the opening dance number was out of sync in places. A few skits admittedly fizzled, the humour of some superficially relying on the audience's knowledge of viral missteps, like Kendall Jenner's tacky Pepsi

ad, without contributing an original punchline. However, I could count *RoboPoC*'s shortcomings on one hand.

Beyond amusing performances, *RoboPoC* refreshingly shows people of colour transcending the stereotypical identities prescribed to them and turning back the critical lens to wider society. In retrospect, my self-deprecating humour — about my school lunches, my skin colour, my migrant parents hell-bent on my success — reflected how different I knew I was from everyone else. Maybe back then, it was internalised shame.

But now *RoboPoC* reminds me of where my allegiances ultimately lie: "give me rice or give me death".

2017's Sydney Uni Revue betrays a great cast

MADDY GANDHI and ALEX BATEMAN / A strong showing of talent suffered from otherwise tame direction

It's fair to say that last night at the Seymour Centre trumped our regular Milo (and whisky) night-in. We shared laughs and enjoyed the banter, but were overall more impressed by the talent onstage than the sketches themselves in this year's Sydney Uni Revue.

The show, which re-works the cream of the crop from 2016's Identity and Faculty revue seasons, showcased a plethora of talent but felt unrealised. Despite being propelled by the cast's energy and offering fresh takes on last year's sketches, the quality was incon-

sistent and occasionally relied on generic comedic clichés.

Like a solid Saturday night, the pre-gaming were awkward, the end was messy, but boy was the middle tight. The strength of the show lay in its performances with most bite, such as one delivered by Alex Gillezeau as a raving Priest and in a spicy sidewalk salsa between Lauren Gale and Shannon Sweeney. However, both the opening number — a musical ode to the alt-right — and the closing song in celebration of robot sex, missed the mark.

Both felt out of place and disjointed from the production's overall rhythm. The tone of 'millennial angst' set by the promotional material did little to unite the sketches in the way last year's revue used the theme of 'primary school' to underscore the show. The discordant nature of the opening and closing numbers, however, is in no way due to MVP Sasha Meaney who spearheads both numbers and many-a-sketch with vigour and captivating stage presence.

At particular points, each member of the cast was able to grip the audience

through charisma and character work. The cast's camaraderie translated well into their performance and revitalised well-known sketches from last year's revue seasons. A huge shoutout is deserved to Darby Judd for elevating every sketch he featured in and regenerating them for a fresh audience.

To read the full version of this revue review, head to the culture section of our website.



Image: The Red Pill Movie

Eurovision: a cause for unity

MAXIM ADAMS / The patriotism and politics of Eurovision

I'll be honest: I've never been the biggest Eurovision fan (it would steal the SBS slot usually reserved for Mythbusters). But as a young Ukrainian, with all eyes currently fixed on Kyiv, I've been inevitably drawn into the excitement. This week, the University's Eurovision Forum heard from former host Julia Zemiro and Associate Professor Anika Gauja, as they discussed the song contest's meaning to both themselves and the international community.

The competition emerged at an interesting time in European history: as Gauja explained, it was conceived as a way of bringing a splintered continent together after the ravages of World War Two. It's unlikely that the founders knew what a glittery, multicoloured phenomenon Eurovision would become, but the communal spirit they envisioned doesn't seem to have waned. Speaking to a packed theatre, the audience warmly laughed and applauded in-jokes about spangly outfits, off-key choruses, and England's general incompetence.

Clearly, Eurovision has evolved into more than a simple competition: it has history and subcultures all of its own. Gauja went on to talk about its hugely intricate set of rules, pushed at every opportunity by countries who've invested millions of dollars into their entries. Perhaps it's strange that the politics of a song and dance contest could carry such weight, but the strength of a country's entry in many ways reflects the strength of its culture. From my experience in Australia's Ukrainian community, the symbols and rhythms of the folk songs link the diaspora to their ancestors, connecting us with a long verbal tradition. Indeed, Ruslana's victory in 2004 is still fresh in the Ukrainian psyche. As the Eurovision producer mentioned in 2016, "it's a battlefield where you can allow yourself to be a patriot".

However, with national pride at stake in Eurovision, it's easy to see how it becomes infused with power plays and politics. Both Gauja and Zemiro touched on the spread of tacti-

cal voting according to political blocs, or the lasting power of the Eurovision performance as a platform for political protests, such as the threatened boycott of the competition in 2009 by the Dutch due to Russia's homophobic policies. This is especially relevant for Ukraine's victory last year and resultant hosting. For citizens, it's a defiant exclamation of Ukraine's success in the face of Russian hostility, as well as a symbolic move towards greater independence and legitimacy in the eyes of the international community. The controversies have also continued, with Russian artist Yulia Samoilova being banned from entering Ukraine due to apparent violation of travel laws in 2016.

The speakers expressed their fears that people can lose sight of what matters: that political forces distract us from the artists' efforts and passion, and that commercialisation and omnipresent social media hinder honesty and boldness when performing. As a Eurovision outsider, it's difficult to comment, but it does strike me that

I've heard much about over-the-top sets and highly-strung emotions — indeed, Julia Zemiro likened the atmosphere to that of a "news room" before a deadline — and yet very little about the apparent encroachment of soulless media. More often than not, fears about the destructive effects of technology on art fail to materialise, and creative people find new ways to subvert forms and connect genuinely with people. And that's the key: passion and creativity are difficult, if not impossible, to fully stifle.

It seems to me that Eurovision succeeds when, as Zemiro put it, artists "sing a song that they like"; when it's music competition first, political battleground second. Certainly, it's a line that isn't always easy to define. But while the forces of Twitter and global politics may be at play, the auditorium packed with fans enjoying in-jokes and the genuine pride of each country's communities show that the enthusiasm hasn't left. As it did fifty years ago, Eurovision still unites Europe. And, apparently, Australia.

Dicks in space

ANG COLLINS / Sexual difference theory in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 has been received vaguely positively by audiences and sort of middlingly by critics. Chris Pratt, everyone's fave dopey meat puppet, is back alongside his crew of alien chums. The soundtrack's still great and the film still guides us through pretty enjoyable antics and Groot-isms.

But something happened to me partway through my viewing of *GotG2* — my heart started fluttering, I could no longer concentrate on the gags, or the fact that I'm strangely attracted to Bradley Cooper in raccoon form.

Basically, I think *GotG2* provides a theory of sexual difference and outlines a cosmology of meaning itself. I think.

Maybe it's because I've been reading a bit of Zizek lately (sue me!), but suddenly the Hollywood superhero-space genre seemed like the perfect vehicle for an analysis of the philosophy of sexual difference, an analysis that serves as a companion theory to second wave feminism, using Lacanian psychoanalysis as a base for discussion (sue me again, why don't ya!).

Here's the breakdown. Also, spoilers. I hate myself for saying that — I feel like a Redditor.

The universe has always been considered a maternal thing. The word "matter" comes from the Latin "mater" (mother, mum). Matter — everything, the universe — has no form, but is

rather scattered, infinitely fertile.

GotG2 endows Star-Lord (Pratt) with a father. He is a god named Ego (played by a somehow-resurrected Kurt Russell) and boy does he have plans for the universe. Ego's a virile, cool-guy dad whose human form is a facade he inhabits because his actual body is a weird celestial brain. He also literally rides around in a sperm spaceship.

Ego is the epitome of the Freudian male ego, which historically is conceived of as creating meaning and form from matter, from feminised potential. No wonder semen and semiotics have the same etymological root — the creation of meaning, of sound ideas out of scattered phenomena, mimics the phallic act of creating life.

Ego's desire mimics the desire of the Freudian ego, which is to create endless meaning — he wants to "sow his seeds" across the universe by impregnating as many female bodies as possible, creating an army of demigods. Yuck.

The film really succeeds in pulling out the philosophical threads of this narrative, ultimately condemning Ego as a self-obsessed super villain who scatters his toxic masculinity mimetically throughout the universe — the worst kind of manspreading.

The metaphor of the toxic male form manifests itself beautifully across the

film's cinematic elements: from the soundtrack (Looking Glass's nautical love song Brandi plays a key role) to minuscule narrative details (Ego implanted a cancerous tumour in Star-Lord's mother's brain, surely the worst kind of mimetic creation there is). There's also an interesting stepfather figure in the mix — Yondu whose name we could also analyse. 'Yonic' symbols are those that represent the vulva or vagina, suggesting that the ultimate father is a 'feminised' one.

In the *Guardians'* destruction of Ego/the male ego, the historic phallic conception of meaning is also condemned. The film doesn't really answer what a feminist conception of meaning looks like, but what is apparent at the end of the film is that a force that is queer and multiple — i.e. the *Guardians of the Galaxy* — protects the universe damn nicely.



Art: Matthew Fisher

This is a sweeping theory, of course, but one that convinced me the movie was a worthwhile sequel to the joy of the first. If you don't watch it for the psychoanalysis, you should watch it for Sylvester Stallone's wooden acting chops and some truly terrible CGI sequences toward the end of the film. As for me, I'll be on Reddit.

let me google that for you

POETRY BY KURT DILWEG
ART BY GRACE FRANKI



cloud is everything

Poetry by Kurt Dilweg

About 173,000,000 results (0.52 seconds)

when I was talking to people inside Google
one of the things is like cloud cloud cloud
cloud is everything, it's our future
everything we're going to be buying will be cloud-related
is that Google's next new business?
they've been trying lots of things
look – Fibre, they've had some stumbles
Nest is clearly a stumble
the cars: we'll see everything at Google X
who the fuck knows essentially
you're just not going to make it
with your Loon balloons, your wacky moonshots
it's not going to be the thing that pays
but it is very entertaining

we just want to help you

Poetry by Kurt Dilweg

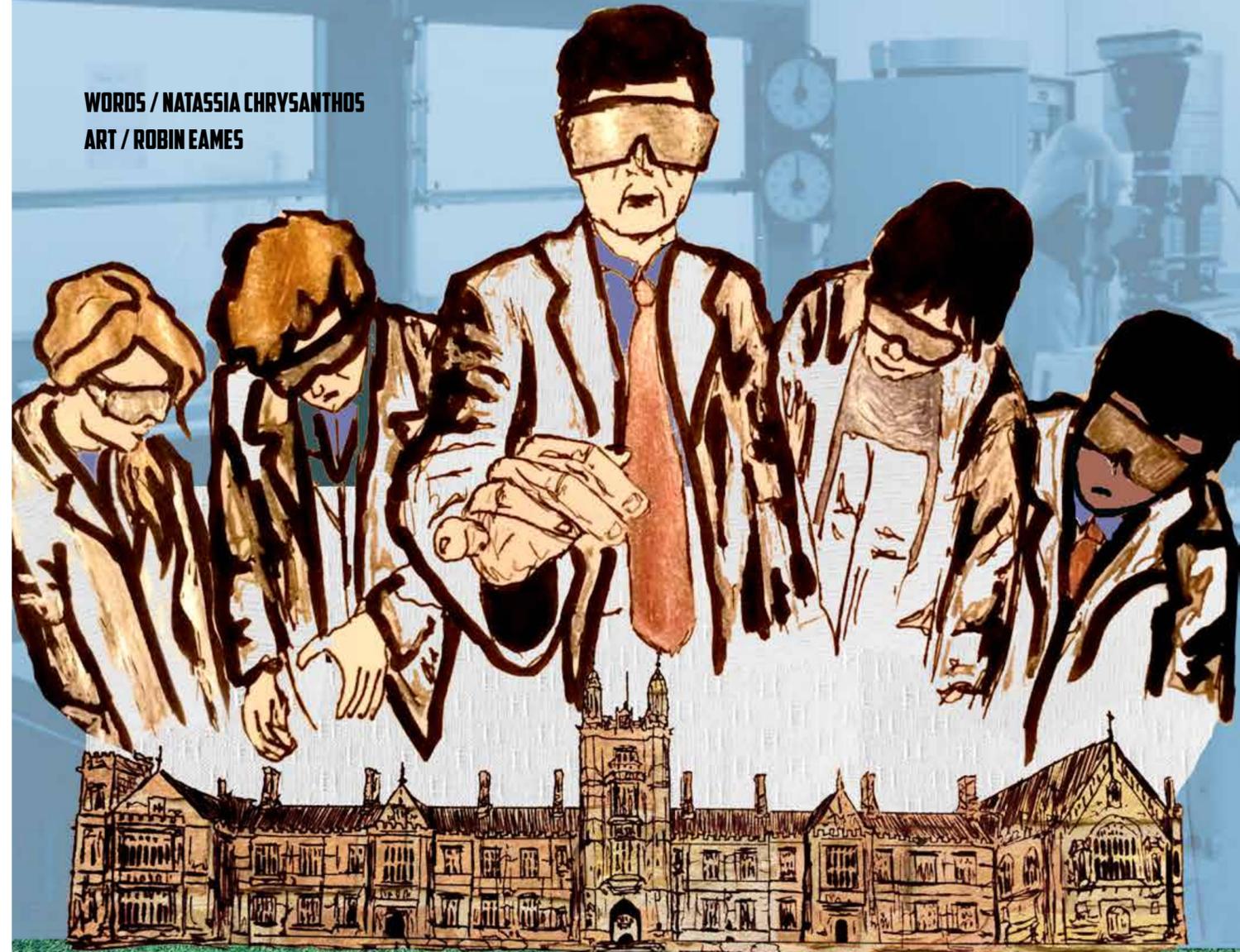
About 173,000,000 results (0.52 seconds)

how many people are comfortable with Google's brains?
scouring their workforces – people are nervous
I was talking to someone at Google
and one of them was like
I don't know what else to say
it was an astonishing display of honesty
and I was like - you're right!
people don't like Google snooping around their home
I don't mind Jeff Bezos spying on me
(he just wants to sell me toilet paper)
but I really mind Google spying on me
because they're better at spying
we just want to help you
that's what they said at the end of Space Odyssey
I'm here to help you
that's a Twilight Zone reference
... ..
(they want to eat you)



THE LIVING LABORATORY

WORDS / NATASSIA CHRYSANTHOS
ART / ROBIN EAMES



The idea of a “living laboratory” conjures images of lab rats and test tubes; an ethically compromised zoo, perhaps, or a dystopian Dexter-esque scientific experiment. But a university campus?
Yet this was precisely the term used by Ian Callahan, the Chief Operating Officer of Curtin University, to describe his campus’ transition to new technology earlier this month. “We are effectively creating a living laboratory that is an open invitation to our own researchers and scientists from other universities to use our campus to discover and innovate with data-driven research,” he said. That this data is de-

derived from students and staff — making us, in many senses, the lab rats — was not mentioned.
Callahan’s statement reflects the way Australian universities are increasingly using surveillance technologies like sensors, wi-fi, CCTV, face-matching platforms and learning analytics to become “smart campuses”. As facilities increasingly move online, technology rapidly evolves, and the availability of data escalates, personal information and markers of student behaviour are all ripe for the taking.
Privacy is the obvious concern, and the extent to which students have meaningfully consented to

what’s happening is dubious. Common justifications like “safety and security” and “enhancing the student experience” reflect the genuine goals behind many programs. But on the other hand, they operate as rhetorical cover to mask the real danger of collecting, for example, incredibly sensitive biometric data that can be used to track you.
Also embedded within these technologies are more insidious implications for how power is exercised. Humans moderate their behaviour and conform to expectations when they know they’re being watched, and the university campus is no exception.

Callahan's remarks were made in the context of Curtin University's use of 'Internet of Things' (IoT) technology: a suite of new technologies will be installed on the campus so data can be gathered and combined from multiple facilities. Video analytics, sensory tracking and live face matching, for example, will allow Curtin to generate information about "the lifecycle of the student, the day to day reality of a staff member, the activity pattern of a lecture theatre," and so on, according to a statement.

Both Deakin University and the University of Melbourne are similarly using their wi-fi networks to develop maps of students' locations in real-time. In August 2016, Melbourne's Head of Services Paul Duldig told the *ABC*: "We're not breaching [students'] privacy because we don't know who they are ... At this stage we're not [tracking individuals] so we don't think it would be required to notify people."

But these capabilities immediately evoke the problem of 'function creep': the potential to gradually extend the use of a technology beyond the purpose for which it was initially intended. In response to the University of Melbourne's plans, Dr Adam Henschke from ANU's National Security College said: "Once you start getting this information you can go, 'oh, this information is quite useful for a bunch of other things, let's use it for these further purposes'. Then you get into even deeper concerns about informed consent and misuse of personal information."

Fast-forward seven months: Australian tech website *iTnews.com.au* reported that the University of Melbourne was considering a plan to manipulate students' movements based on their location by tampering with their wi-fi access in certain areas of campus.

At the Cloud and DC Edge Summit in March 2017, of which there is no public record, Melbourne University's data centre and facility services manager Will Belcher said: "Deans of some faculties are not happy that their libraries are being filled with all sorts of students who aren't necessarily in their faculty... They want to try and use the data from the wireless access points and controllers — we track [wi-fi usage] against each student's login name — to determine what faculty they're in."

The students who belong to the faculty could get superior wi-fi coverage, "so as to gently dissuade the [other] students and steer them back to their own libraries."

Placing the ethics of unpleasant design and the sinister prospect of covertly controlling students' movements aside, this contradicts the University's earlier claims that privacy concerns were moot because wi-fi information was anonymised. More importantly, it demonstrates how 'function creep' is already a problem.

When *Honi* contacted the University of Melbourne for comment on the matter, Director of Technology Management Daniel Buttigieg said Belcher's quotes

The University of Melbourne was considering a plan to manipulate students' movements based on their location by tampering with their wi-fi access in certain areas of campus

had been taken out of context in the report. "The University is not actively looking into that," Buttigieg said. "But obviously the abilities are there if somebody wanted to go and do that."

Wi-fi and sensory tracking are just some of the ways universities monitor students' movements in physical space. Increasingly sophisticated CCTV networks around campus also ensure you are constantly being watched.

"There are cameras everywhere," says Kurt Iveson, an associate professor of urban geography at the University of Sydney. "There are cameras on the top of [buildings], there are cameras in the lifts going down to car parks, into buildings, and the extent of data that is just being captured as part of [this] surveillance network is really ballooning out".

An indication of the network's extent is the burgeoning amount of space required to store all of its footage. While it did not divulge information in detail, the University of Sydney confirmed that it now contracts out its data storage facilities to a third party supplier off campus. At the University of Melbourne, *iTnews* reported that there were plans to convert as many as 150 communications rooms into micro data storage centres, in order to accommodate the escalating collection of higher resolution CCTV.

Buttigieg told *Honi*: "The current resolution we have is high definition which is quite good. It's just the expansion of CCTV and having more cameras in more areas [requires the extra space]."

Which begs the question: why is further expansion of video surveillance on campus a necessity?

Honi asked a University of Sydney spokesperson to provide evidence or statistics that point to the usefulness of CCTV as a preventative security measure. In response, they said: "University CCTV footage has been used to identify offenders on campus ... [and return] stolen property ... There is also a qualitative benefit of having CCTV in that it increases the feeling of safety and security, however it is not a stand-alone tool and therefore cannot be measured as such."

"[But] how is burglary prevented?" asks Diarmuid Maguire, a senior lecturer in the USyd Department of Government and International Relations. "Has burglary stopped because of all of this? In terms of personal safety, I don't see how that is prevented at all."

Meanwhile, higher resolution technology offers an enhanced opportunity to use CCTV footage for other purposes, such as facial tracking. "I have heard of other universities doing it for a number of different purposes," Buttigieg said. "Some of them use it to count the number of people going in and out of a library for example, so they can track usage patterns. We aren't actively doing

that at the moment, but obviously the technology is there to be used in the future."

Curtin University is looking to the "significant role" facial recognition can play for campus safety and convenience, citing, for instance, its potential to displace keys in the foreseeable future.

Swinburne University integrates analytics programs with its CCTV cameras, allowing the technology to automatically detect unusual behaviour and recognise number plates, and might add facial-matching and heat maps to its capabilities. In an *iTnews* report, Swinburne's IT security specialist Chris Goetze said: "There are persons of interest who we would like to know if they're on site or not. That's where facial recognition would be handy."

At present, Swinburne's camera-matching Snap Surveillance platform still allows people to be tracked in real-time. "If you want to follow 'person of interest A' across the campus, this tool comes into its own then because you find your suspect on the camera, and it shows you nearby cameras they might walk towards," Goetze said.

Trying to capture and bust crime after the fact is just one use of the University's blanket surveillance machinery. "The other way that digital technology gets used in the landscape is to actually sort different population groups into their appropriate spaces on a campus. There are more and more spaces on campus that are kind of 'behind locked doors', [which means] it's getting increasingly difficult for us to access the workplace," said Iveson.

"The question also becomes: who's writing the code that determines who has access and who does not? And how open is that process to accountability towards the University community or those who are affected by it?"

Curtin University is looking to the 'significant role' facial recognition can play

Video surveillance has also historically operated as a tool of control, which relates to the age-old warning that people's behaviour fundamentally changes when they know they're being watched. "The recording of lectures in and of itself makes you very careful about what it is that you say and what it is that you don't say," Maguire said. "You're very conscious that there's a third element in the room."

"Now you're being recorded visually. Why should the lecture theatre be monitored? It's to keep an eye on me as an instructor, to keep an eye on the business I'm doing, and to keep an eye on you as the client."

The implications of surveillance for protest and civil resistance in this context are particularly stark. "When the police are on campus they always turn up with cameras and go right up to you and film everybody that's there," Maguire said. "You know you're being filmed, and that automatically reduces the amount of people that are willing to take part in protest."

According to Iveson: "The classic example of the function creep is when protesters are walking through the city, [surveillance] cameras are on them and police have the right to request the City of Sydney hand over their [CCTV] footage because 'we're worried about some incident'. Suddenly they've got a record of everybody's attendance."

"When marches are happening through campus, I don't know how those cameras are working. I wouldn't have a clue whether there are data sharing arrangements with the police that extend to 'we're trying to identify a ratbag activist that we want to stop.' So that's the stuff you just worry about."

"It's sort of next level when you read all the paranoid surveillance studies about [how], when you apply CCTV, you can integrate it with facial recognition and literally red flag individuals and be tracking their movements all over campus. It's not inconceivable with the tech that that could happen."



Surveillance and data collection on campus extends beyond the physical realm: Universities around the world are also adopting increasingly sophisticated analytics within the teaching and learning space, accounting for another way in which your data and online behaviour is monitored.

Elearning gathers information that includes your access to online materials and its correlation with your marks, how many minutes are spent listening to lectures, and results from previous subjects, which are made available to teaching staff accordingly. Unit co-ordinators can generate reports on students' collective age, fee status, languages spoken at home, whether they're first in their family, and so on.

While the University maintains that all of this information is useful for teaching purposes, some members of staff remain unconvinced.

We, the instructor, all of a sudden find ourselves put in a position of too much potential power

"I don't believe it's the role of the instructor to access blackboard and get a hold of all this. That's between you and the faculty," Maguire said. Students already face pressure to cater to their tutors and professors, and with access to this data, "we, the instructor, all of a sudden find ourselves put in a position of too much potential power in relationship to the students. This is an additional power I [now] have over you. Why should I know about the fact you've failed other classes, for example?"

"As much as we try to keep our marking unbiased, there is no question that knowing how students accessed optional resources and the time they spend studying would subconsciously affect marking," another member of teaching staff told *Honi*. "I can't see how I could know these details about a student's course engagement and honestly assign them an objective mark — it seems not only unethical, but unrealistic to think otherwise."

The University's recently established Data Analytics Research Group is investigating how this data can be analysed for both research and operational purposes. By the end of this year, it aims to have started cultivating an "educational data bank," according to Co-chair Dr Kathryn Bartimote-Aufflick. This data bank will start connecting different data sets of student information that people have not had access to before.

The University insists that it will be working closely with its privacy commissioner to address concerns that will inevitably arise; however, questions of retention and students' meaningful consent remain poignant.

"Often there's a seven year record keeping number that goes with ethics approval," Bartimote-Aufflick told *Honi*. "But in terms of longitudinal analyses and a historical database that could be potentially useful, I think it would be worth keeping them longer."

Whether students have meaningfully consented to the use and storage of their data for a prolonged amount of time is up in the air. While all students scroll down and click 'agree' to on terms and conditions about their enrolment, presumably few read the fine print and consider its implications. Moreso, many would expect their information's relevance to lapse with their enrolment.

"[With] some of this data, I don't think explicit consent is always required," Bartimote-Aufflick said.

One way of mitigating concerns with consent is to make these programs strictly opt-in, however, this looks unlikely to be the case. "I think we would set this up as an opt-out basis," Bartimote-Aufflick said. "As soon as you take away broad scale data that

reflects who was in the environment, what was going on, and all the interactions, the insights are diminished... If you have 10,000 students and only 500 opt in, you don't get a clear picture of what's going on."



The biggest risk of digitising anything is potential disclosure, according to web security expert Troy Hunt.

"You start to have a huge amount of deeply sensitive personal information that describes people's behaviours, and possibly genetic biometric data," Hunt told *Honi*. "What would it mean to lose all of that, or to have all of that made public?"

"[Universities] are subjected to hacks non-stop all day, every day," Hunt said. "Anything that is publically accessible is, particularly universities where you've got a whole bunch of people that are quite smart and have easy access."

"The most important question is how often [breaches and hacks] are successful. If you just do a Google search, you'll see stuff all over the place. It's certainly happened in Australia in the past as well. Certainly these attempts are happening all the time. There's a certain amount of incidents we hear about, and a lot we don't. Frankly, there's a lot that the Universities themselves would never even learn about, or never even realise."

USyd itself is no stranger to security debacles. In February 2015, thousands of students were informed by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences that their personal information may have been accessed by an unknown party and in the hands of hackers. A 16-year-old hacker, who goes by the alias Abdilo, claimed responsibility for the information security breach, in which the data of 5,000 students was left insecure. At the time, Abdilo told *Honi* he had little trouble accessing the information, and rated the university's database security as a "0" out of 10.

The risk we have as soon as we digitise anything is the risk of disclosure. What would it mean to have all of that made public?

In March last year, the University again contacted select students after a laptop containing unencrypted confidential personal information from the University's Disability Assist Database was "lost in transit." A University ICT staff member left the laptop on a bus, potentially compromising the disability diagnosis, names and contact addresses of nearly 7,000 current and former students.

As an increasing amount of data is aggregated and stored, what risk are we willing to take with sensitive personal and biometric information?



Despite the swathe of security and privacy concerns that come along with surveillance and collection of data, the reaction of many students is generally indifferent. "It'll be interesting to see if there is broad scale concern," Bartimote-Aufflick said of the University's Data Analytics research. "In some ways I suspect there might not be." HS



Art: Justine Landis-Hanley

"Your generation has more or less accepted this," Maguire said. "My generation was sort of like, 'we're not used to this,' and when we see it cropping up we go, 'this is bad'. But your generation has been brought up in a situation in which this has always happened. [You have] also been brought up under terrorism, so you're used to [the instruments of surveillance] that have become very ramped up in Western society."

In a context where students give their data to an array of corporations every day in exchange for convenience, this trajectory on University campuses aligns with the status quo.

"The University is the norm, rather than the exception," Maguire said. Universities are no longer 'ivory towers', separate from the rest of the community. "[They] are behaving just like any other corporation that exists. Education is the fourth largest business in this economy, writ and large. That's the fact."

And so students' frequent response is one of reluctant compromise: "I've come to expect it as a reasonable exchange. While I'm not always comfortable with the level of surveillance, I reluctantly accept it as a necessary evil for my education," said UTS student Jack Bresnahan.

But these measures still strike us as eerie and perhaps unsettlingly familiar. It's not by coincidence that omnipresent and omniscient surveillance is linked with the horror of dystopian fiction; 1984 is imprinted in society's collective imagination as a notorious warning sign for a reason. The capacity of technology to render subjects docile and obedient is a power that is thoroughly theorised.

A Foucauldian analysis holds that power in modern society is found in disciplinary techniques, such as surveillance, which are applied to individuals at a local level. Thus to see how power operates we should not necessarily cast our eyes to regulated central power, nor even towards power's intent. Rather, techniques of control implemented in local and institutional forms are paramount.

The increasing propensity of universities to monitor their students and staff's every move, and the normalisation of this activity, bolsters their ability to manipulate behaviour. Considering the evidence of function creep that already exists, the living laboratory in which we are test-subjects could be more sinister than it's made out to be. HS

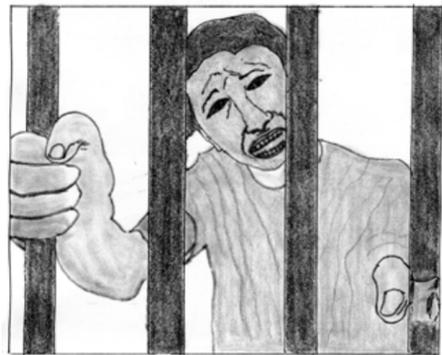
Refugee Art Project

ALUMNI AND CURRENT POST- Grad USYD students initiate and volunteer in refugee outreach project

SAAFDER AHMED - PHD Islamic Studies, interviewed by Eila Vinwnn

Refugee Art Project is a not-for-profit community art organisation that holds art workshops for asylum seekers and refugees, both within the Villawood detention centre and in our studio in north Parramatta. The aim of our org is to amplify the voices of refugees, through their art, and show their work to the wider community in order to educate the public and challenge the misconceptions that surround the refugee issue in this country.

I started the organisation with some friends, Bilquis Ghani and Omid Tofghian, in late 2010. I had just finished my PhD at Usyd in Islamic Studies and was looking for something active to do. After four and half years of pretty intense PhD-ing, I was itching to get out into the real world.



Despair - by Mohammed

The project began very informally. I was visiting the Villawood detention centre for the first time but wondered if I might be able to contribute something. Given that I've also studied art, I asked if anyone wanted to draw with us. We brought lots of sketch books and pencils, and soon established an art group within the centre. We sought to create a safe space where people felt free to express themselves to their own comfort. The work that flowed from that was very powerful.

Our art workshops in the community are held every Saturday afternoon, in our studio at 9 Albert St North Parramatta. Our organisation is run solely by volunteers and supported by one-off donations, our own fundraising efforts, and donated art materials. Anyone of a refugee background is welcome to come along and join in if they are keen. Our exhibitions and publications are made in close collaboration with all of our participants. Basically it's about centring the diverse voices and perspectives of the asylum seekers and refugees who come to this country - activating art in the struggle for human dignity.

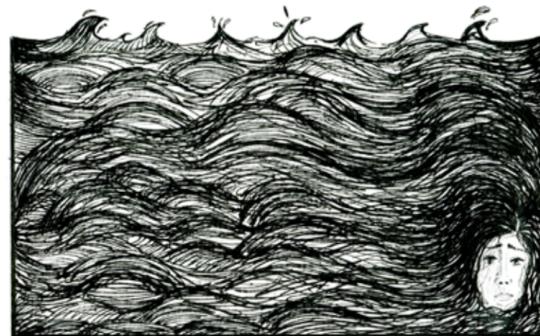
SCA Post-Grad student, Susie Egg, volunteers at the programme each Saturday and helped with a recent Picnic Day to welcome members of the local community into the centre to see what is happening there. Many amazing food stalls were available as well as other wares by people who have undergone the gauntlet of detention.

Music, art and food showed the richness that others bring.

therefugeartproject.com



The Phone Call - by - name withheld



THE OCEAN IS MY PASSPORT

The Ocean is my Passport by Mona Moradveisi

Students head to Canberra to protest fee hikes

EILA VINWYNN - SUPRA



Students Protest outside Parliament House on Tuesday with ANU students and union members.

Photo: Liam Kestevan

Student groups nation-wide registered their opposition to the government's proposals to increase student fees and lower the HECS threshold at an action in Canberra on Budget day.

The \$2.8 billion in cuts would see fees increase by a maximum of \$3600 for a four-year course with students paying for 46% of the cost of their degree on average - up from 42%. The cuts propose a lowering fo the HECS threshold - down from \$55, 874 to \$42,000.

The action, on Tuesday May 9, at 130 pm was initiated by Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) Education Action Group, and endorsed by SUPRA, the National Union of Students and the University of Sydney Student Representative Council (SRC). Rachel Evans, SUPRA Education Officer said "The

government wants to further impoverish young people and shift the cost of education onto working people. When over 600 filthy rich companies pay no tax, and the government just reduced the parity company tax rate, they're insulting our intelligence. We will fight this all the way".

Lil Matchett, co-President of SUPRA notes "These fee hikes will lock more people out of accessible tertiary education. We defeated fee deregulation in 2014, lets defeat this latest round of attacks on students and win free education! We need to also protest the fact New Zealanders and permanent residents will now have to pay up-front!"

Students joined in with various unions including the Maritime Union of Australia, the Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union and the National Tertiary Education Union who were holding their

own protests outside Parliament. The unions all supported the students in their fight, citing the attacks as classist, retrograde and repressive and vowing to stand behind students in the fight. Vanamali Hermans from the Australian National University, said 'the National Union of Students would be holding talks and protests at 730pm this evening in response the budget announcements. Under the proposed changes, permanent residents as well as all New Zealanders will have to pay their fees up front.

The Sydney contingent of the widely organised "National Day of Action" is organised for Wednesday May 17th outside Fisher Library from 12noon. Join Us in the Fight for free education.

Tent Embassy message

"I can treaty with you, and you and you. But not with the Government. If I treaty with you, you have responsibilites to care for this land". These were the words of elder Chris Tomlins from Alice Springs, staying at the Aboriginal Tent Emassy in Canberra to make a stand against inclusion in the Australian Constition. "Being incorporated into the Constitution would signal an end to us as Tribal People" he said. "You are citizens" he said "because you came on ships - you have Citizen-ship" he joked. But he was deadly serious about getting the word out about the NO vote, and is in parley with ministers to have a moratorium of one year before the vote, so that voters can be informed of what is truly at stake. He also asked "If you fella's can vote us IN to your constitution, can you vote yourselves OUT?". I valid point, I thought.

CHRIS SAYS - VOTE NO TO THE ABSORPTION OF ABORIGINALS INTO AN ILLEGAL CONSTITUTION.



Photo: Liam Kestevan

President's Report

ISABELLA BROOK

!! PROTEST !! 12PM !! 17 MAY !! FISHER LIBRARY !!

Last week the government announced the 2017 federal budget and it's pretty grim for young people. Instead of investing in our future the government has decided to wage a war on young people and students. Some of the discourse around the budget can get a bit convoluted, so here's a quick low down on what the budget means for you.

Housing Affordability: The government has refused to acknowledge the fact that many young Australian's

will be locked out of the housing market. But there's good news. You can now use your superannuation to put a deposit on a house!!! That's right, instead of addressing unaffordable housing prices and reforming negative gearing the liberals are now letting you use your retirement savings to buy a house.

Penalty Rates: The Government is still committed to cutting the weekend rates for some of Australia's lowest paid workers and young people, instead of keeping money in the pockets of those who need it most.

The Environment: The Government is doing absolutely nothing to address climate change or prioritise renewable energy. The 2017 Budget didn't mention climate change once.

Centrelink: People receiving Centrelink will now have to under go drug and alcohol testing. There will also be several changes to how students access Youth Allowance. Keep in mind that Youth Allowance rates still don't match current living costs and have not risen since the 90's.

Tax: Instead of targeting over 300 companies who didn't pay a single

cent in tax the government will be giving multination corporations a \$50bn tax cut.

University: Higher Education will now be less accessible with your university fees set to increase and funding to universities being cut. You'll also have to repay your HECS debt sooner.

It's clear from this budget that this government does not care about young people. It's time to get mad, it's time to have your voice heard and it's time to fight for your future. Come join us outside Fisher Library at 12pm on the 17th of May to fight back against the budget.

Social Justice Officer's Report

KIM MURPHY

I have had a busy semester one as social justice officer. There have been many campaigns that I have been part of helping to organise or helping to build.

I have made sure the social justice office has been supporting NUS' Make Education Free Again campaign, and I've been doing a lot of work to promote this campaign, as it is obviously the priority campaign for any activist in the SRC. The MEFA campaign cuts to the heart of the key issues for university students, and the protest on Wed May 17 against Birmingham's cuts to education funding and increase

in uni fees will be an important step in the fight for student rights. So I built and attended the March 22nd action, and have been building for and will be speaking at the May 17th protest at Usyd outside Fisher.

Another campaign I have been heavily involved in is the new Fascist Free Usyd campaign, which I personally helped to initiate. This has involved a counter-propaganda campaign, to counter the alt right posters and stickers on campus. I also organised and chaired a protest on May 11th to counter a far right film screening, 'the red

pill', a pro-men's rights documentary. The protest was a success, we were able to make a left wing, anti-sexist message heard to oppose the hideous reactionary cavalcade of men's rights activists and young Liberal bigots.

Also in my capacity as social justice officer I have been building the Al-Nakba rally to support Palestine, the Pride march in June for LGBTI rights, I promoted and attended a pro-abortion rights rally against the far right, I promoted and attended the Palm Sunday rally for refugees, and earlier in the year I built for and attended

the marches against Trump, which included the women's march in Sydney. I also recently went to May Day to stand up for the rights of the working class and against the Liberal government's attacks on workers, students and the poor.

I encourage people to like the Make Education Free Again and Fascist Free Usyd Facebook pages if they haven't already, and of course to like the Sydney Uni Social Justice Department Facebook page.

Wom*n's Officers' Report

IMOGEN GRANT and KATIE THORBURN did not submit a report this week

General Secretary's Report

DANIEL ERGAS and ISABELLA PYTKA did not submit a report this week

Disabilities & Carers' Report

HANNAH MAKRAGELIDIS and NOA ZULMAN did not submit a report this week

Vice Presidents' Report

JAMES GIBSON and IMAN FARRAR did not submit a report this week

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

The SRC is responsible for the content of this page.

Renting: What if something is broken?



You might need to have repairs done to your home when you are renting as a student. Sometimes this is because we have broken something, or because something breaks or goes wrong with the apartment or house. If you are a tenant, there are rules in NSW on what is your responsibility fix, and what your landlord is obligated to fix.

If your home is covered by a lease agreement your landlord must provide you with a home that is reasonably clean, fit for you to live in, and in reasonable repair. You should be given a Condition Report when you start your lease showing what damage already exists. It is a good idea to take photos of any damage

to the property when you move in. Email these photos to the landlord, so that you cannot be blamed for them when you move out. Similarly just before you move out take photos of things like the walls, the floors, cupboards, oven, etc, and email them to the landlord. This will also ensure that a fair Condition Report will be given when you move out. These photos will save you money by protecting your bond.

You have a responsibility to keep the home clean and in good repair. That means that if something breaks you need to tell the landlord. For example, if the hot water system breaks the landlord will need to have it fixed. If you break a window you

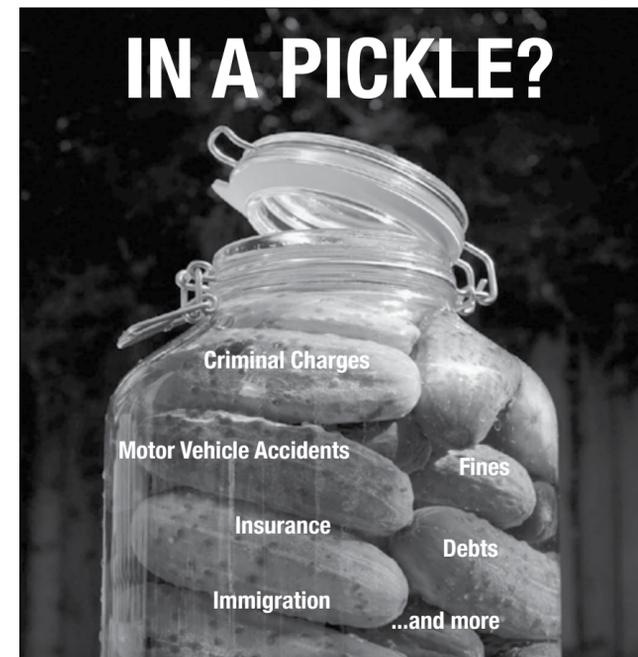
will need to pay to have it fixed. Generally speaking you will need to use an appropriately qualified person to make the repair. If you "fix it" yourself and you consequently damage the property in some way, you will be liable for that cost.

Some repairs are considered urgent. This includes gas electricity and water supply; hot water, cooking and heating; anything that makes the home unsafe (locks, fire hazards, etc); and any damage from a natural disaster (e.g. storm damage).

When asking your landlord to make repairs it is a good idea to do so in writing. An email will timestamp your requests. This is handy if the

landlord disputes the repair. If a landlord refuses to make an urgent repair you can organise to have that done yourself provided you spend less than \$1,000. Of course you'll need to keep receipts. Bear in mind that you might need to chase the landlord for that money through the NSW Consumer and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

In some situations you can ask for a reduction in rent due to a repair. To discuss your specific situation talked to an SRC caseworker. Email your situation to help@src.usyd.edu.au or phone 9660 5222 to make an appointment.



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SRC

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.

Dear Abe,

I'm having problems with my housemates and I think my landlord is going to make us pay for a few things that got broken. We're all on the lease but it wasn't my fault. What should I do?

Need Space

Dear Need Space,

In a rented share house, your legal status depends on a number of possibilities. If you are named on the residential tenancy agreement (your lease) along with one or more others, then you are a co-tenant. Your rights are equal and several, so you could be held liable for the actions of your housemates. However, you are also covered under the Residential Tenancies Act, which means you have basic occupancy rights and can access affordable, independent dispute resolution.

Try to resolve your problems informally first. Sometimes if some things issues caused by specific people, you and your housemates can come to an agreement of how things should be paid for. Remember that you are not required to pay for urgent repairs like hot water or anything that makes the house unsafe. You also shouldn't have to pay for 'reasonable wear and tear' to the property. However, things like walls, floors, cupboards, etc. are your responsibility to keep clean and in good repair.

If your disagreement can't be worked out informally, or you need advice about how to handle your dispute, speak to your local Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service or an SRC Caseworker to find out what to do.

Abe

The Camperdown Public Chatterbox

They framed me!

A-frames have become an unlikely source of controversy in the USU elections for the second year in a row. If you don't know what an a-frame is go read a better section of this paper, they're the flimsy, painted signs that are put out by campaigners each election season for the purpose of falling over at the slightest whiff of a breeze and being trodden on.

However, despite their tendency for self-sabotage, it's considered high treason* to deliberately fell someone's A-frame. Yet a video on Jacob Masina's campaign page (set to Chumbawamba's song 'Tubthumping', aka 'I get knocked down') shows a number of students doing exactly that to his.

Last year, *Honi* reported similar damage being inflicted on then-candidates Grace Franki's and Esther Shim's A-frames. Shim also penned an open letter to the culprits in *Honi*, saying "stop damaging my property; it's disrespectful and a waste of both of my time and resources...I'm running out of cable ties."

However, it seems this brave act of political defiance has lived to see another election.

Also on the A-frame front, *Honi* can reveal that a ruling by the Returning Officer (RO) stipulating A-frames "must be supervised by a responsible person at all times" (lest they, you know, shit in the pool) has been readily enforced. A number of campaigns have had their A-frames confiscated because they have not been providing adequate supervision, and have had to retrieve them from the RO.

Honi reported last year that this new requirement was introduced following the vandalism

of Franki's and Shim's A-frames — it seems to be working swimmingly...

*Actually just a bit rude tbh.

How many people are running again?

On Tuesday last week, independent candidate Zhixian Wang was excluded from the election (you can read all about this on page 5). But on Monday at 12am, she was allowed to begin campaigning again, following a decision by the Electoral Arbiter overruling her exclusion.

Wang's brief exclusion likely made a few other candidates a bit more relaxed. It reduced the number of people vying for six spots from 10 to nine, and the number of women from six to five — three of whom are guaranteed to be elected due to affirmative action. Her re-entering the race at such a late stage of the game — particularly with preference deals likely finalised and how-to-votes printed — will definitely throw off a few fellow candidates. However, she's also missed three and a half days of campaigning — which is quite a significant proportion of the eight-day race.

See more about how this all pans out in our live blog (as if you weren't reading already).

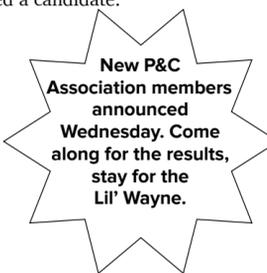
A revue by any other name

Over recent years, the USU's revue schedule has expanded quickly to fill out a full identity revues season. This week, a brand new revue for a woefully underrepresented group will debut: Hack Revue. Some fresh young faces like Cameron Caccamo, Michael Rees, Mary Ward, and Victoria Zerbst are involved. To everyone's surprise, it is an Actual Real Thing going down on Wednesday night

at 8 at Manning shortly before the Board election results are announced. Much like the Engo Revue that was pulled together by a few revue personalities two years ago, it also has the potential to be Actual Real Funny. It's free, too.

The power behind the throne

One of the quirks of the USU Board is that the executive (president, honorary secretary, etc.) is elected by the incoming board — that is, with five or six new members — rather than the full outgoing board. As a result, people who have worked with the candidates for a year have no say in what roles they will go on to occupy. The system encourages current Board members to run likeminded candidates, so as to increase their own chances of ascending to the executive. This year, Grace Franki is backing Lilianna Tai; Esther Shim is back to her Liberal roots, supporting Jacob Masina; James Gibson is on the hustings for Caitlin McMenamin; and Vanessa Song is shilling for Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz. Of the first year directors, only Yifan Kong and Courtney Thompson have not formally endorsed a candidate.



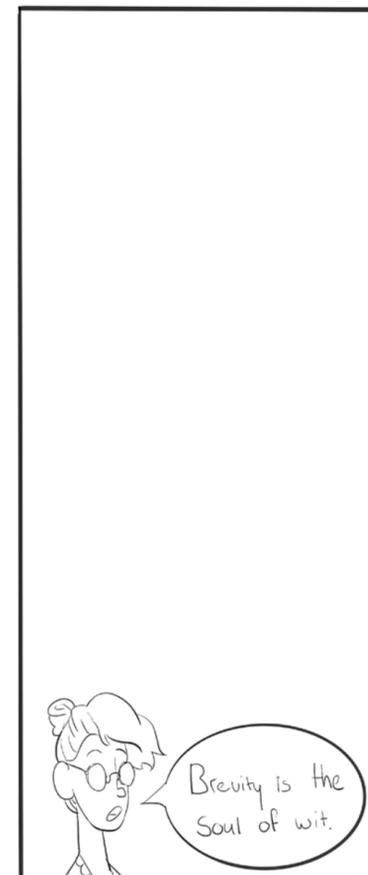
REALLY LONG MANY WORDS

Oliver Moore is writing their PhD on contemporary American queer political poetry.

People without political power write short nice word book. American people who love other people the same respond to violence and bad thing about that and write short nice word. Since the bad bank thing, people realise that the government not care about them. This means that people lose hope in politics to protect them from bad thing, including not have money and be treat bad. Many writers write short nice word book about this as a way to do political work without power or political will.

Some writers write short nice word book in response to violence like big gun shoot. One big gun shoot kill many people who love other people the same and is bad. Many people blue about loss. Other people blue about small violence less clear. Small violence against people who love other people the same not on television, can only find on line if you know where to look.

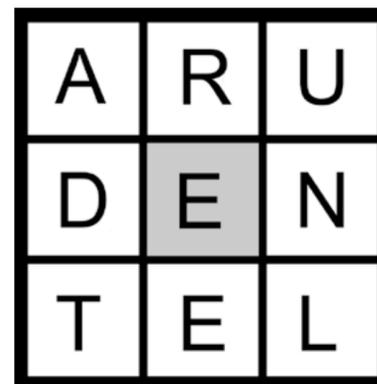
Because people who love other people the same hard to find sometimes, they find each other on line where you can be not know and be safe. On line is where the short nice word book is. Thus, political power through short nice word for people who love each other the same can be find on line.



What to sing when you have lost the Board election.

1. I'm a loser
The Beatles
2. Torn
Natalie Imbruglia
3. My Way
Frank Sinatra
4. Hurt
Johnny Cash
5. Hurt
Nine Inch Nails
6. I don't care
Fall Out Boy
7. In the end
Linkin Park
8. Don't dream it's over
Crowded House

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*.

Crossword

Across:

1. Tire filler
4. Smoking device
8. Egg on
12. Chem., e.g.
13. Operator
14. Mall event
15. Pull apart
17. She, in Valencia
18. Char
19. More wan
20. Telegraph symbols (2 wds.)
24. Printing measures
25. Vicinity
26. Off the moon
28. Go to bed
31. Tempt
34. Orally
36. Responsibilities
37. Pres. Coolidge
39. Square dance figure
42. Rocker _____ Cooper
44. Beget
45. Ark skipper
46. Rose Bowl city
50. Poker opener
51. Eons
52. Pound sign
53. Ogle
54. "Wish you _____ here"
55. Traitor

Down Con't:

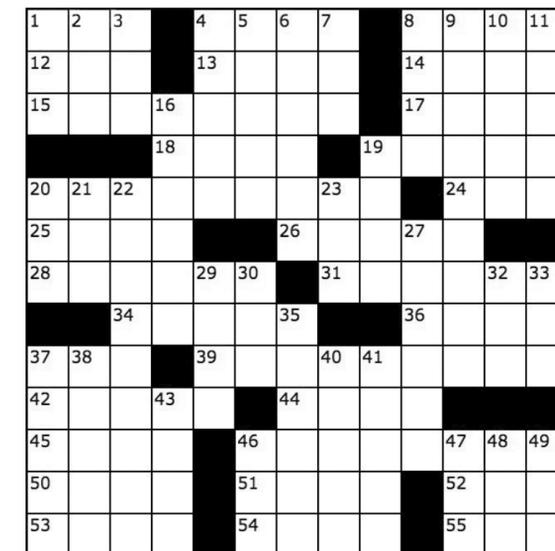
4. Thick soup
5. Singer _____ Hayes
6. Gasoline, in England
7. Burns "before"
8. On the ocean
9. Classical dancer
10. Actress _____ Barkin
11. Pulls apart
16. Assault

19. Sean _____

20. Spoil
21. Lode load
22. Strike back
23. Expected
27. Made Amends
29. Lasso
30. Belgium's cont
32. Cow chow
33. Compass pt.

35. Medicinal amount

37. Suez or Erie
38. Unaccompanied
40. Penny pincher
41. Obliterate
43. Moonstruck actress
46. Fido's foot
47. Corn piece
48. Shooter's group
49. Fore's opposite



Down:

1. Mule's father
2. Frozen Water
3. Tear

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Fidget spinners ineffective

New toy keeps kids focused, but can't distract me from the inevitability of death P9»



Esports event turns violent

Hooligans turn convention center to bloody hellscape after Cloud9 loses to TSM P4»



Crazy: this innovator has plans for a car that will completely disrupt the automotive market



Aidan Molins
Technology reporter

Wow. While the huge auto giants in Detroit churn out the same old boring car designs year after year, this young innovator is planning the release of a wildly innovative automotive innovation that will make you rethink the way you conceive of personal transport.

It's a model Jamie Devins calls: 'the Vroom Vroom'. At the core of its design is its power generating mechanism. For about a century, automakers have only offered cars powered by one fuel: petroleum. But now, Devins' new engine plans to disrupt their market: his engine runs on carrots.

"You put in the carrot in this hole, this one," Devins explains, "and that goes into the car and it goes 'woah!' and then that makes the car go vroom vroom."

It's a simple yet elegant design that really shows how backwards and stagnant the Detroit car industry has been in recent years.

Another way the car blows its stone age competitors out of the water is with its software system. Most cars today have a primitive operating system which runs programs like maps and music. However, the Vroom Vroom is a huge step forward from this. Its operating system is more than a technological flourish: it not only fully autonomously regulates the entire car's functioning, it also provides the user with rich, seamless conversation.

"Yeah, yeah, I made him a friendly car."

His name is Larry and he tells you jokes whenever you're in the car."

Devins, only 7 years of age, first started on the project after his teacher asked his class what kind of vehicle they'd like to use in the future, and he hasn't stopped working on it project since. As a magnanimous face of the company, Devins heralds himself as the visionary behind the design, even putting himself in the driver's seat of the Vroom Vroom's concept design.

Other groundbreaking features of the car include a fully functional roof mounted laser beam, an ice-block holder, a puppy, and a helicopter on the top, "so the car can go 'brrrshhh' and fly away if it wants".

With all these innovative features, it's strange the Vroom Vroom only has only reached \$300 million in its first round of venture capital funding.

Critics of the industry revolutionising car have argued that it is just a concept — that it only currently exists as an idea that has no feasible means of being produced, and that it's a poor investment strategy to heavily invest in products that have no viable path to mass production.

In a statement to the press, Devins declines that the Vroom Vroom has hit back at his critics.

"Nuh-uh. I'm gonna get lots and lots and lots of money and I'm gonna build a big big factory and there's gonna be a million-bajillion cars."

Student achieves tantric orgasm while closing internet tabs after completing assignment

Jayce Carrano
Education Editor



USyd student Jonathan Fryer simultaneously climaxed and reached enlightenment last night after finishing his 2000-word essay for Government and International Relations which was due at midnight.

"I feel like the thirteen hours I spent on that assignment yesterday were this feverish, frantic, Redbull-fueled foreplay, leading to a final release" Fryer said.

As Fryer began to close the 52 internet tabs he had opened, he also began to experience the strongest orgasm of his life.

"It just kept going and going, every tab of E-Readings I closed felt even better than the last," Fryer said. When he started closing the randomly selected Google Scholar articles he had used to fluff up his bibliography, the "rolling hills of pleasure" only became more frequent.

"I can still feel it. I'm shaking," Fryer was adamant his trembling had nothing to do with the nine No-Doz he took within six hours.

"I think I probably orgasmed for longer than it will take my tutor to give me a low pass but, honestly, after that experience, I don't even care anymore."

According to Fryer, the experience was almost spiritual in nature.

"I climaxed so hard I transcended our physical realm," he added, "I had an inner journey and reached a lot of deep truths. I'm not going to procrastinate so much on these assessments anymore."

When asked whether his newfound wisdom would motivate him to get an early start on his next essay, due in five days, Fryer's response was upfront.

"Geez, I said I had a spiritual awakening, not that I could perform miracles."

Quiz: How pro-Assad are you?

Ann Ding
Political Editor



How many 'sounds x but okay' Facebook groups are you part of?

- a. How many what?
- b. Just the 'sounds fake but okay' one
- c. Three or four
- d. My entire news feed is stuff from those groups (that and political compass memes)

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

- a. My prohibitively large dick
- b. I am pretty comfortable with myself
- c. I am also pretty comfortable with myself
- d. My embarrassingly small dick

A real socialist:

- a. goes to the National Day of Action on May 17
- b. campaigns for universal basic income
- c. punches Nazis
- d. supports dictators

How often do you find yourself inexplicably jacking off to snuff porn?

- a. This has never happened to me
- b. Just once, but it was years ago
- c. Around once a month
- d. Twice in the last 24 hours

How much 'theory' have you read?

- a. What kind of theory do you mean?
- b. I don't have much time to read theory
- c. I read Wiki pages and a ton of tweets
- d. When I shut my eyes all I see is theory

How good was Stalin?

- a. Are you kidding me?
- b. Pretty sure he was not good
- c. So good
- d. SO GOOD

How good was Mao?

- a. That's actually not funny
- b. Did some good things but is ultimately bad
- c. So good
- d. SO GOOD

Would you pull the lever in the trolley problem?

- a. The what, sorry?
- b. Of course I would!
- c. Not if my mum was on the other track
- d. Of course I wouldn't!

Mostly 'a': Not pro-Assad at all. Nice one! You're a broadly left-leaning person and you know a bad regime when you see one.
Mostly 'b': Probably not pro-Assad. Nice one! You've avoided the all-too-common trap of being an active supporter of a dictatorship.
Mostly 'c': Still not an Assadist. Nice one! Stick to the Jacobin articles and the ironic endorsement of Maoism and you'll be sweet.
Mostly 'd': Sounds like you're an Assadist. Boo! Bad job! You chose the wrong side!

Review: BBC Cribs welcomes us

Hal Fowkes
Entertainment Reporter

BBC Cribs, the long-anticipated collaboration between MTV Cribs and BBC's Grand Designs, premiered on BBC2 last Saturday to mixed reviews. Host Kevin McCloud (or McCloud Nine, as he is now known) aims to bring together both overly intellectual parents and their too-cool-for-school teens in the beautiful family bonding experience that is afternoon television.

The show, much like Grand Designs, follows the building of a multimillion-dollar house for a yuppie couple whose dream is to live in a house somewhat resembling the Teletubbies residence — but with a few MTV tweaks.

Instead of his signature droned narration, McCloud delivers a steady stream of slangy catchphrases. It's hard to tell what audience McCloud is targeting with interjections like "Bro, these thatched roofs are bitchin'!" or "You'd be a straight up fool to not stan hard for this modernist design, fam." While his narration communicates enough architect-

tural knowledge to be somewhat relevant to the house being built, McCloud's attempts to insert witty, trendy dialogue creates confusion as to whether he is talking about a house or a one night stand.

The show also seems to take some further creative inspiration from another MTV staple, Pimp My Ride. In attempts to make a state-of-the-art house in the middle of nowhere even more useless, McCloud and the "BBC Boyz" install a ridiculous number of luxury items, including a SodaStream pool, gold-plated windows and a doorbell that plays DMX's "X Gon Give It To Ya".

It's hard to tell whether BBC Cribs will continue into further seasons. McCloud has expressed his enthusiasm, saying it was a great way to connect to his children (who are presumably mad that he spends his life with families looking to upgrade their residence). Whilst he has the know how to maintain some integrity, younger viewers will undoubtedly be wondering, "Who the fuck is this British dude and why is he dry humping that fountain?"



Kevin McCloud AKA McCloud Nine in the first episode of BBC Cribs.

Astrophysicists share unedited pictures of the cosmos to combat unrealistic beauty standards



Scientists have been signal boosting images of the universe which haven't been edited (right) to combat the trend of cosmic images which have been heavily colorised and photoshopped (left). Full story: P8»

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