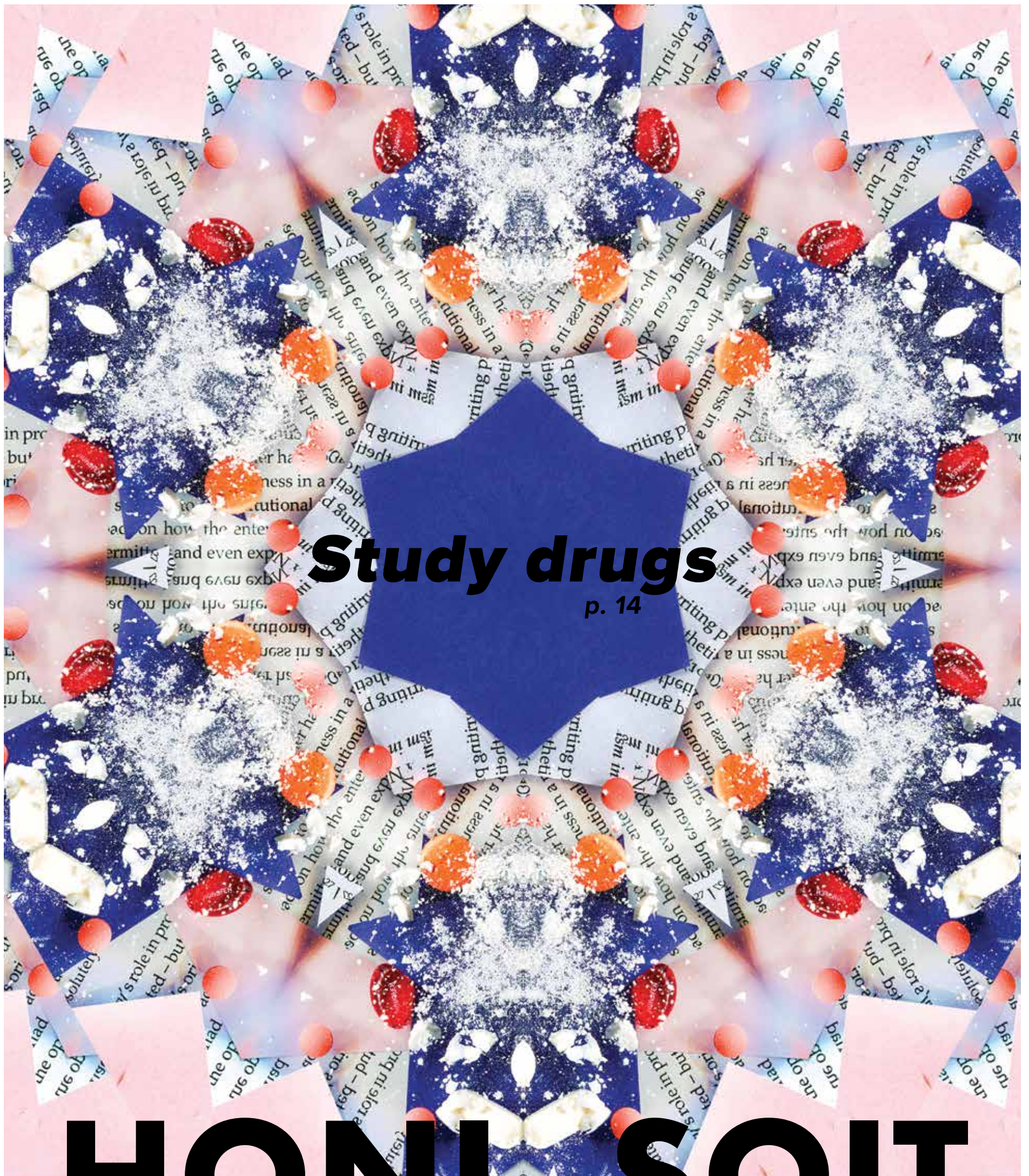


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HONI SOIT

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

I once asked my teacher to justify why we should study Australian history. Her answer was that if we did not study it, no one would. In the same spirit, this editorial is about *Honi Soit*.

Around this time of year, tickets of ten people start forming to contest elections in September to edit the paper. They are running to be punching bags. *Honi* is always too left for the right and too right for the left. The editorship qualifies you uniquely well for a job in a dying industry: print journalism. It pays less and demands more hours than any comparable job on campus. For all that, editors are not martyrs — *Honi* is a decent line on a CV, has some cachet, and provides an avenue to do good. For some people, that bargain will sound immediately appealing. They likely have no shortage of people to talk to about *Honi*. For others, these points may help you decide if you want to edit:

- Run only when you understand that *Honi* will never be yours; you are merely a caretaker.
- Run only when you are willing to sacrifice your vision of the paper to the grind of a 28 page publication and the needs of your nine co-editors.
- Run only when you know the distinction between stupor friends and real friends, and have more people in the latter category than the former. It is not a Venn diagram.
- Run only when you understand that the '*Honi* clique' is just a byword for the people who care enough about the paper to make it happen.
- Run for *Honi*. It's great.

Good luck.

TO VERA, WITH LOVE. NB

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Who made this edition happen?

Editor-in-Chief: Nick Bonyhady

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Natassia Chrysanthos	Siobhan Ryan
Ann Ding	Michael Sun
Justine Landis-Hanley	Maani Truu
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Artists

Robin Eames, Matthew Fisher, Risako Katsumata, and Ludmilla Nunell.

Cover image by Nick Bonyhady.
Honi Soit, Week 12 Edition, Semester 1, 2017.

Fan mail

Wow react

It's great to see that the University of Sydney uses the Great Hall as a venue for hire, with the lavish Crichton wedding reportedly spending \$20,000 alone just to have the toilets cleaned spick and span in readiness for guests. Rewind to last week when the experience was altogether quite different. Joining the long queue to use the toilets, a woman slammed one shut before locking the door and declaring it was for staff only, we would need to wait. Presenting my ticket for entry to the Great Hall, I was told I was too late, all seats were taken and so I missed seeing my daughter being presented with her double degree. During the graduation ceremony attendees were invited for lunch. As I tried to enter I was asked where is your wrist band. I was told I should have purchased a premium package. Can't we even have water or a cup of tea I asked. Unfortunately no was the reply. Thank you Sydney University!

Petra O'Neill

Grateful react

I have not yet used the angry react button on Facebook but I would in response to the Bondi vet replacement story being on the same page as cuts to universities. How could they possibly be equal stories. How can we care about vets when education is being turned into a corporation.

And since environmentalism starts with you maybe everything does: so, how can I become a honi editor to try and put order in this shit?

Ellie



Sad react

Just want to rant that Facebook just removed the thankful react and I'm really sad about it.

Robert Tannous
First Year Science.

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 confess the longest period you've ever left a desk unattended at Fisher for.

Oops . . .

In last week's edition of *Honi*, we printed an apology and correction of Week 10's SRC reports which stated that the Sexual Harassment and International Students' Officers were due to submit reports. This was incorrect; the Officers who were due to submit reports were the Interfaith and Inter-campus Officers. *Honi* would like to extend an apology to those Officers who were wrongly named as not having submitted reports.

Angry f reacts only

We are nothing if not adaptive to will of the digital revolution. 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.

Where have we heard this before ... ?

This article is false. There are no factions in the liberals.

Kerrod Gream

Where have we heard this before...?

More great coverage, give misogyny a chance won't you

April Holcombe

Where have we—

I am tired of seeing chalk saying hope has risen, by the EU. piss off with your manipulation, I am a pagan and for me hope never fell, it never will. Can I draw pentagrams on the footpath, as this is my faith? I doubt it, so if u cannot provide emirical evidence it is not fact but belief only.

Adam Leigh Anderson

You're welcome!

Thanks, something to read on the train

Timothy Everingham

Best of the Web

Thought the best online content from *Honi* was in our comments sections? Think again. Here's some stories you may have missed over the week.



Hengjie Sun, Liliana Tai, Jacob Masina, Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz, Adam Torres and Zhixian Wang were elected to be USU Board Directors for the next two years on Wednesday, May 17. Voter turnout was the lowest in at least eight years, possibly as a result of the campaigning period being shortened.



University of Sydney students joined students across the country in a National Day of Action (NDA) to protest against the Federal Budget's proposed cuts to university funding. The Sydney protest attracted around 200 students.

What's on this week

According to your mildly disappointed father



SUDS: The Normal Heart
When: Wednesday May 31 to Saturday June 10 7.30pm
Where: The Cellar Theatre
Price: SUDS \$3 | Access \$5 | Concession \$7 | Adult \$10

Hey kiddo, one of the blokes at work has a son in this performance. Dale Glover, he actually went to your primary school. He's always had a cracking talent for acting. Do you remember when he was Oliver in your year six performance of Oliver! Who did you play again? Anyway, the play follows a doctor in New York in the 1980s at the start of the AIDS epidemic. I know you didn't end up doing quite well enough on the medicine entry exams but I don't think you need much medical knowledge to enjoy the show.

Jew Revue: Fake News, Fake Jews
When: Wednesday May 31, Thursday June 1, Saturday June 3 7.30pm
Where: Seymour Centre
Price: Access \$15 | Student \$18 | Adult \$20

You know I've never tried to push our family's faith onto you because I know you're an intelligent person who can make up their own mind. But with your grandma being so ill now, you could maybe try to get a little bit more in touch with our culture, just for her sake. This show's supposed to be fantastic too! Lots of budding talent, even if you ignore the wishes of your grandma and the rest of the family, it's definitely worth going to see just for its own sake.

Birthing Kit Packing Day
When: Thursday June 1, 1pm-3pm
Where: Isabel Fidler Room, Manning Fisher Library
Price: Free

When your brother was born, it was the most beautiful moment of my life. Every family and mother should be able to give birth in safe and sanitary conditions. You can spend a couple of hours of your time and give that opportunity to dozens of mothers living in disadvantaged conditions around the world. I know you usually work on Thursdays, but your job at Hungry Jack's is hardly the most important thing in the universe. I mean, will they even notice if you don't show up.

United States Studies Society Trivia and Soul Food Extravaganza
When: Friday June 2, 5pm
Where: Miss Peaches, Newtown
Price: Members Free | Access \$5 | Non-Access \$10

Do you remember Daniel and Kelly's daughter, Natalie? She was a couple of years below you. Really strong swimmer. Well anyway, she got offered a spot at Harvard for next year. Pretty incredible stuff. Just goes to show what hard work can do. You should go visit her sometime, she can probably show you around campus. In the meantime, you might as well go along to the US Studies Society's event. They're doing trivia. You might learn something.

Video Killed the Radio Star: Presented by MecoSoc / Honi / SURG
When: Monday June 5
Where: Hermann's Bar
Price: Free

I know you're nearly finished with your degree but it's still not too late to transfer to Commerce. Your mother and I would be happy to pay for some of your rent for a while so you could focus on catching up. But I guess if you're determined to stick with arts and media, you might as well go along to this event. It's a panel looking at how video and radio are changing with a bunch of people who are succeeding in the industry. Rubbing shoulders with the right people can't hurt you.

Sun nearly gets done

JUSTINE LANDIS-HANLEY

As hacks gathered at the University of Sydney Union (USU) Board election party, the election's Returning Officer (RO) met with an anonymous complainant at Manning House who handed over a copy of Hengjie Sun's how-to-votes.

What followed was a series of events fit for the plot of a House of Cards episode: allegations of campaign overspending, a 28-page report, and a trip to Glebe Officeworks.

You see, the RO had received emails as the vote count was being finalised, complaining that candidates had used expensive looking campaigning material, and demanding that their receipts be "examined".

Moments after Sun took to the stage as a provisionally elected USU Board Director with the highest number of votes, he was called downstairs. The RO had a problem with his flyers. They were nice. Too nice. Full colour. Double-sided. Thick paper. Custom size. They walked all over his rivals'.

Upon questioning, Sun admitted he had ordered his flyers from a company

he used to work for. For those not familiar with the USU Election Candidates Handbook, this a contravention of a regulation on page 9 requiring all candidates to get their printing done at Officeworks, of which Sun claimed he wasn't aware.

Over the next 24 hours, as detailed over five pages of the report, our indefatigable RO took a trip to Officeworks, where the nice woman behind the counter was able to ascertain the specs of Sun's how-to-votes. Turns out the size couldn't be produced in-store — they would have to be hand-cut by staff, on 200gsm paper, with a matte finish. The kind of quality you'd want your USU Board Director to pursue.

After several unsuccessful attempts to upload Sun's design files to the Officeworks computers and some visits to docupub.com, the RO found that, had Sun printed his how-to-votes at the USU's retailer of choice, they would actually have cost \$52.20 more than what he spent.

The USU Election Handbook caps spending on printing at \$700. Sun's

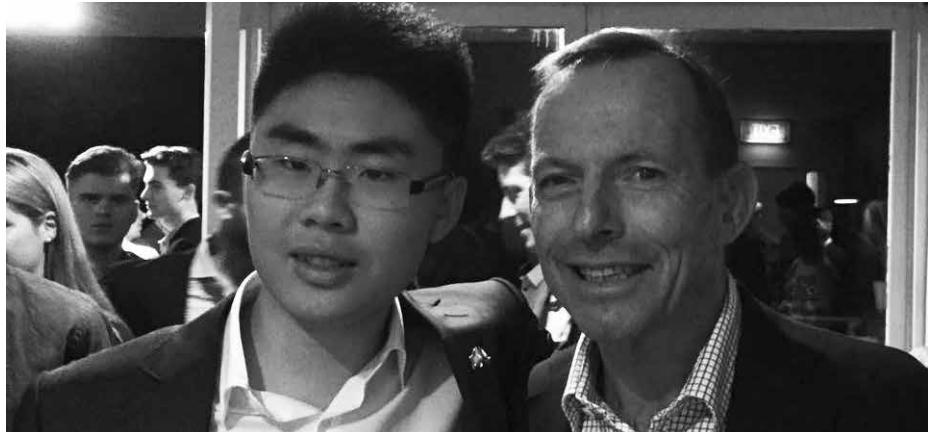


Image: Facebook

printing, which came to \$643.81, would have come in at \$696.01 if ordered from Officeworks online, or \$712.51 if ordered in store.

And so the real conundrum emerged: Sun's printing privileges had in fact cost him less money, but had it also cost him his election win?

As the RO admitted, "In making that valuation, I am conscious of the fact that I am engaging in a counterfactual exercise somewhat divorced

from reality."

But Sun's victory survived to see another day. His misdemeanour was deemed one of ignorance, not intent; he could have kept his order within the spending cap had he ordered from Officeworks, and he probably would have, had he known to go to our printing friends across the way.

The RO did leave Sun with a final piece of advice: "You should pay closer attention to detail".

Frankly courting votes

NICK BONYHADY

Courtney Thompson looks likely to be the next University of Sydney Union (USU) President, after she and rival candidate Grace Franki spent the last week securing votes for their respective tickets.

Each June, after a new crop of board directors has been elected, the continuing directors contest an election for the USU's executive positions: president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

In addition to the votes of left-leaning student directors typically sought by presidential hopefuls, both Franki and Thompson have had discussions with Liberal-aligned incoming Directors Jacob Masina and Hengie Sun, along with adult Senate-appointed Directors Jill White and Danielle Bullen. These moves are a big departure from traditions established to keep the union independent.

The Liberals have historically posed an existential threat to student unions. In 2005, the Howard Liberal gov-

ernment introduced voluntary student unionism, which crippled the USU's membership numbers and finances. At times, the University has been little better. In 2011, it attempted to take control of the Union's buildings — Manning, Wentworth and Holme — through which the USU derives a large share of its revenue and provides space for student activities.

Board directors have a fiduciary duty to act in the Union's best interests, but that has not always ameliorated perceived conflicts of interest. During the 2011 dispute, then-Senate appointed Director Barry Catchlove was seen to act predominantly in the University's interests, suffered poor relationships with his student colleagues and resigned only months into his term. While praising most Senate-appointed directors' contributions to the USU, outgoing board President Michael Rees did not seek the votes of Senate-appointed directors for his election in 2016 on the basis

that "[Senate-appointed directors] are not students and the USU is a student organisation". The USU's relationship with the University has improved dramatically over the last two years, but the Liberal party remains antagonistic towards unionism of all kinds.

Franki said that while she had enjoyed meeting with all board directors and looked forward to working with them, "I intend to be elected as President by a student majority, and not off the back of a Liberal block."

Conversely, Thompson said she was "open to receiving the vote of any Board Director whose vision for the USU" aligned with that of her executive ticket — a far cry from her initial election campaign, when she said that her decisions would be guided by the far left political collective Grassroots. Thompson's newfound belief in a broad church is well timed. Honi

understands that Thompson's ties to Esther Shim and Koko Kong — respectively running for vice president and

treasurer with her — have delivered the support of Masina and Sun. That gives Thompson a leading position. With Zhixian Wang, Thompson has six votes to Franki's three — Vanessa Song, Liliana Tai and Franki herself. It is unclear who incoming board director Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz will be voting for — Song is a member of the same Labor right political faction Gulbransen-Diaz, but she told Honi during her candidate interview that she "really admire[s] Courtney Thompson". However, she also indicated that she was not very familiar with Franki. Similarly, student director and member of Labor left faction NLS Adam Torres, and the two Senate-appointed directors are swing voters. While it is not impossible for Franki to win, Thompson is in the driver's seat.

Courtney Thompson briefly managed the campaign of the current editors of Honi Soit. Editor Maani Truu has conflicted off USU executive election coverage.

Hermes, Verge Awards combined in collaboration

MAANI TRUU

A number of previously independent University of Sydney Union (USU) programs, including the Verge Awards, *Hermes Literary Journal*, Band Competition and DJ Competition, will this year be combined into a new USU Creative Awards.

Hermes, which has been published since 1886 and is Australia's oldest literary Journal, will now function as the printed catalogue for the Awards.

The 2017 USU Creative Programs Guidelines states that "all eligible entries submitted via The USU Creative Awards will be reviewed and considered for publishing in *Hermes* ..." and that "shortlisted works and Award winners will be automatically published."

Student editors will still be appointed to oversee the catalogue and will have access to all submitted works. In a departure from tradition,

the catalogue will not be themed.

USU President Michael Rees says that the changes will increase student participation and access to *Hermes*.

"We believe the changes are not a re-purposing, but a chance to further enhance *Hermes*' reputation and bring it to more people," he said.

According to Rees, in 2016 there was a 40 per cent overlap between *Hermes* submissions and Verge

Awards entries.

"Taking this on board, we have streamlined the entry and submission process so that students can now put forward works for consideration for *Hermes* and the USU Creative Awards on one form," he said.

Submissions for the USU Creative Awards close on the 30 January for written works and the 7 August for art and music.

Beyond Sorry Day

ANDY MASON

Several hundred people gathered at Victoria Park on Friday night to commemorate the Stolen Generations and oppose the ongoing removal of Aboriginal children from their families.

Despite Kevin Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008, the rate of removal of Aboriginal children has continued to increase, with a 400 per cent increase over a decade. More than 16,000 Aboriginal children are in out-of-home care on any given night, 7,000 of them in NSW.

Participants at the rally, including local Aboriginal community members and elders who were removed as children in the mid-20th century, along with two dozen students from Sydney University, listened to speeches at Victoria Park before marching to Platform 1 at Central Station. This was the site where many Aboriginal children were split up from their siblings as they were sent to different institutions.

Friday's march was organised by the Sydney branch of Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR), a network of Aboriginal women around the country who began protesting the continued removal of Aboriginal kids in 2014. Since that time, they have succeeded in pressuring a number of regional Family and Community Services offices to adopt their Guiding Principles, which stress the need for Aboriginal children to be placed in their wider kinship networks rather than state institutions or non-Aboriginal foster care if they are unable to live with their parents.

Laura Lyons, who addressed the rally on behalf of Sydney GMAR, has been successful in winning back custody of her children with the support of GMAR and other activists. She spoke of the joy of having her family reunited, but also of the abuse and neglect her children suffered in foster care, saying "I'm still trying to fix that trauma and heal them."



Image: APP

The event was held in collaboration with the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation and Coota Girls Corporation, who represent the elders that were removed to the Kinchela Boys home and Cootamundra Girls Home decades ago. The Kinchela Boys have succeeded in purchasing the site of the institution, near Kempsey on the NSW mid north coast, which caused so much pain for their community, and have transformed it into a centre for healing and a base for support services for victims of the Stolen Generations and their families.

Uncle Michael Welsh spoke on behalf of the Kinchela boys, stressing that "it's a very difficult thing for me

to go back to that Platform 1," but that he feels he "has to tell [his] story" to challenge the ongoing removal of Aboriginal kids. For Uncle Lester Maher, also sent to Kinchela Boys home, "We never knew what it was like to have a mother's love; we never knew what it was like to have a family." He argues that the Federal Government must pay compensation to the victims of this policy, saying "they need to be made accountable for what they did to us."

Other speakers included Kirra Voller, sister of Dylan Voller whose mistreatment by guards at the Don Dale juvenile detention facility in the Northern Territory caused public outrage last year which has led to a na-

tional inquiry into Aboriginal kids in juvenile detention.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the release of the *Bringing Them Home* report, which brought the widespread trauma inflicted on Aboriginal families as a result of the policy into national public attention and later sparked Rudd's Apology. The report documented the trauma and abuse experienced by victims of the Stolen Generations as a result of removal from their families. However, the Report's recommendations have by and large not been implemented, and the rate of removal of Aboriginal children has continued to increase in the subsequent decade.

Queer officer purges Unity members

ANN DING

Students have criticised Queer Officer Connor Parissis for removing a number of Queer Action Collective (QuAC) members from the collective's Facebook group.

The people who were removed from the group are all members of Student Unity, the Labor right faction.

Parissis told Honi the removals, which occurred "two or three nights ago", were "in response to Unity [voting] against Safe Schools and against binding on marriage equality, as well as ... in support of detention [of asylum seekers]".

At the recent Young Labor conference, Student Unity voted to 'note' a motion supporting compulsory Safe Schools; they neither supported nor rejected the motion, but took issue with its wording.

While Parissis noted that issues like

mandatory detention are "not inherently queer", he also said, "these views are not welcome within an action collective whose purpose is to fight against these kinds of oppressions".

Parissis also told Honi, "a removal from an online space doesn't equate to a ban on members" and their removal was "a polite way of limiting their contributions".

Fellow Queer Officer William Edwards told Honi he "did not remove or authorise to be removed anyone from QuAC, nor was I informed of any removals until after the fact. My co-officer acted independently and without my knowledge."

In a public Facebook post, one of the students who had been removed from the group called the removals "disgusting" and wrote, "people have been banned in a space designed for

queer students simply due to the fact that they have different opinions on queer students".

The post also said, "those who are queer or questioning, but do not necessarily fall into the ideology of the far left, will know that they are not welcome simply for their beliefs".

Some students have raised concerns about whether the queer-identifying students removed from the QuAC Facebook group will be able to access the Queerspace, an autonomous space for queer students located in the Holme Building, while QuAC meetings are being held.

However, USU Board Director and Queer Portfolio holder Courtney Thompson clarified that they would be able to, saying, "QuAC doesn't have the power to say who can or cannot access the Queerspace as it's a USU provided

space ... All queer students are welcome in the Queerspace at all times."

Parissis told Honi that, according to the QuAC constitution, "members can be removed if they pose a threat or do not align with the motives of the queer collective"; the constitution, however, contains no such clause.

The QuAC constitution, which was voted in at today's QuAC meeting, states, "Queer people from varying backgrounds and political stances are welcomed in the space, however harmful views that directly oppose that of queers, people of certain religions, people of colour, and women will not be welcome".

The constitution also states that the Queer Officers hold the right to remove members from the Facebook group only when a grievance has been lodged against them.

Young Labor pains

KISHOR NAPIER-RAMAN / Young Labor moves to the right at state-wide conference

Last week’s NSW Young Labor (NSWYL) Conference saw a string of victories for the dominant right wing faction of the party, Centre Unity.

Attempts by the left faction to democratise the organisation’s electoral rules were thwarted, along with motions on refugees, Safe Schools and legalising abortion.

Currently, NSWYL operates under a labyrinthine indirect system, where all decisions — from the composition of the Executive to policy motions — are voted on by ‘delegates’, rather than individual members. Half of these delegates are sent by local Young Labor Associations (YLAs), while the other half represent affiliated unions.

This means that the majority of young Labor members who are not part of a YLA get no say in the composition of the executive, or of positions taken by the organisation.

While all other state organisations have moved towards a more openly democratic process, with a direct election for president, NSW still clings onto the indirect voting system, which was introduced by corrupt former factional heavyweight Joe Tripodi in the 1990s.

This system has given Unity de facto control of NSWYL. Since more unions are affiliated with the right, the left faces an insurmountable structural disadvantage at every state conference.

However, for the last few years the left have

been pushing to abolish what they see as a gerry-mandered electoral process, and replace it with one where Young Labor members get to vote directly for the president.

This year, left leader and current University of Sydney Union SecretaryShannen Potter sent individual Young Labor members an unauthorised ballot paper with a letter explaining their proposal to introduce a direct voting system. The ballot had no binding effect, and operated purely as an expression of interest.

In response, members of the right reported Potter to the party’s non-factional internal dispute body, in an attempt to get her kicked out of the ALP. Although this is unlikely to eventuate, a member of the left told *Honi* that the move was “symptomatic of a push against democracy” by Unity.

The left also moved a motion for the conference to be live-streamed. A member of the Left told *Honi* that the current lack of accountability allows the organisation to present itself as progressive whilst supporting policies “so abominable that if any young person saw them on the live stream they wouldn’t want to be a member of this organisation”

Indeed, the battle over procedural reform is indicative of wider ideological rifts within NSWYL.

Members of the Left feel Unity’s entrenched control over the organisation has allowed right-wing ideas to gather momentum, in part due to the resurgent influ-

ence of socially conservative unions such as the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees’ Association.

Control of the organisation represents an invaluable opportunity to shape the agenda pursued by the next generation of apparatchiks, and to lobby the party at a national level.

Several decisions made at this year’s conference reflect an institutionalisation of socially conservative positions within the NSWYL.

The conference voted to ‘note’ — or functionally reject a motion — in support of extending Safe Schools. According to posts on Facebook, Unity rejected the motion because it was badly worded.

However, a member of the Left told *Honi* that if wording was the main problem, Unity could have proposed an amendment, which they did not do.

Despite pressure from the Left, the conference voted to maintain the party’s position in support of offshore processing for refugees, even rejecting a motion calling for mandatory reporting of child abuse in detention centres.

A motion calling for NSWYL to bind in favour of legalising abortion, and to pressure the NSW party room to do the same also failed.

Despite being a youth wing, NSWYLs position on Safe Schools is arguably further to the right than the party’s national platform.

Honi reached out to several members of Unity for comment, and received no response.

For the love of ideas, deal fairly

MADELEINE GANDHI / Will copyright protect Australian creators in the digital age?

Last week, Wikipedia sent Australians a message. Banners appeared urging viewers to sign a petition for the government to adopt the US model of fair use, which would relax Australia’s copyright laws. A Productivity Commission report released in December last year also urged Australia to move to fair use. However, publishers say the change would threaten sustainable and diverse Australian content. Creators worry their material would be used freely without credit or compensation. On the surface, an open market of information and lower costs for universities may seem like a good idea. But if universities and ‘big tech’ are paying less for content, what does this mean for creators?

Australia currently operates under a system of copyright exceptions called ‘fair dealing’. It asks users two questions: Firstly, are you using copyright material for a specific public-interest purpose, like research, criticism, satire or news? If so, is the use fair? If the use of the material satisfies both of these questions, it is not considered intellectual property theft. Under the US system of ‘fair use’, the first question is eliminated, meaning the material can be used fairly for any purpose. This makes it much easier to defend copyright infringements. Instead of leaving the decision to parliament, US courts interpret ‘fair use’ according to defined fairness criteria.

In Australia, attacks on fair dealing have saturated media coverage and been amplified by powerful allies like Fairfax, Universities Australia and ‘big tech’ like Google and Wikipedia.

“Frankly, at the moment, the law is an ass ... You physically cannot get permission for everything that you might want to do with copyright material,” says University of Sydney Law Professor Kimberlee Weatherall. Weatherall sits on the board of the Australian Digital Alliance, whose members include Google and over 20 universities. Online lobbyists like the ‘Fair Copyright’ campaign, which is funded by the Digital Alliance, ardently condemn fair dealing and ‘bust myths’ about fair use. But the debate has been unbalanced.

Unsurprisingly, both sides are guilty of distorting the facts. Wikipedia claims that if it was “hosted in Australia, it would be breaking the law”. They may need new copyright advisors. Uploading content to Wikipedia does not remotely breach Australia’s copyright laws, says Libby Baulch, Policy Director of Copyright Agency, a copyright collection body. Wikipedia operates under guidelines for ‘encyclopaedic content,’ whereby contributors license the online publication of their work. This is why Wikipedia, and all of its content, is available to Australians.

Concerns over fair use are valid. In the US, fair use has been used as a loophole to infringe the copyright of authors and photographers. At a New York arts festival in 2015, artist Richard Prince reproduced other people’s Instagram posts without their permission on canvases that reportedly sold for up to US\$90,000. How did he bypass copyright law? He edited out the caption and commented on the Instagrams first.

Another case is Google Books. The Authors Guild sued Google in 2013, alleging their mass digitisation of books infringed their copyright and they should be paid fair compensation. Their case was denied; the courts found that Google had met the legal requirements for fair use. These cases are evidence that courts can “lose their way” at the expense of creators, says Baulch.

The fair dealing campaign paints a somber image for

Australian artists’ future under fair use. The Copyright Agency published an open letter against fair use from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists such as Jessica Mauboy and Bruce Pascoe in February. They said the Productivity Commission’s recommendation to adopt fair use “will harm the ability... to tell Indigenous stories and make a living”.

If fair use does permit creative work to be transformed without compensation, the consequences could be dire. The average annual income for an author is \$13,000, according to research by David Throsby at Macquarie University. Authors rely on income from their statutory license, which is paid by Copyright Agency. Logic suggests that fewer restrictions means less money for Copyright Agency, thus less money for creators. Weatherall denies this would be the case. Yes, fair use would lower Copyright Agency’s income, but she “would be exceedingly surprised if that flowed on and actual artists got less money”. Instead, it comes down to trusting the courts to interpret fair use fairly. Given the US’s track record, Copyright Agency would prefer to trust parliament.

But could fair use bring Australia’s tech sector into the 21st century? Adding open-ended copyright exceptions could allow ‘big tech’ companies to emerge in Australia, says Weatherall. Creators, especially visual artists, “have a lot to gain from having a vibrant tech sector right here”.

“The strongest creative industries are in the US and they operate under fair use,” points out Weatherall. “The biggest argument against the idea that publishing or creative activity will suddenly collapse in Australia if we get fair use is the United States. Or South Korea. Or Israel. Or Singapore.”

One blip on this sunny world portrait is Canada. After Canadian courts and parliament developed a ‘fair use interpretation of fair dealing’, schools and universities ended their licensing agreements with Access Copyright. They argued that their use of material fell under ‘fair use’ and refused to pay. This meant “less money going to Canadian authors, less money going to publishers,” and reduced employment and investment in Canadian content, which contributed to the withdrawal of Oxford University Press, according to Baulch and a Canadian PwC study.

Weatherall disagrees. “It’s not possible to say copyright change, then collapse of publishing. It just isn’t.” It is true that other factors underpinned the breakdown — internal reports from Oxford University Press do not cite copyright as a reason for closure and instead point to corporate restructuring. However, Canada’s case is difficult to ignore, and it is hard to believe our education sector would respond differently.

Fair use would be a big win for universities. A free market of information allows greater freedom and “more new and innovative uses of material,” says Weatherall. At the moment, universities pay around \$33 per student annually for copyright material, less than the price of a textbook. This cost is not passed on to students. The worry is that universities would follow the precedent in Canada and stop paying altogether; schools have already requested a 30 per cent ‘fair use discount’ on licensing fees. Whether universities need fair use is up for debate — Baulch says their statutory license is “very broad” but Weatherall flatly disagrees. She says legal requirements to authorise every piece of content restrict online education. “There are, fundamentally, a lot of things we can’t do.”

This is true across all sectors – writers, artists and academics all need to constantly seek permission for copyright material. This “limits innovation, it limits creativity, it limits access to

culture ... it can’t be the case that every time you might want to do something new you have to go to parliament,” says Weatherall. By the time the Copyright Act is amended, “five years later, any company that might have wanted to do something creative has given up and gone to the states.” However to Baulch, this does not ring true.

“There’s absolutely no evidence that the current copyright regime has been an impediment to innovation in Australia ... there’s a lot of rhetoric about it, but really no evidence,” she says. “Universities and schools are arguing for fair use because they want to reduce the compensation they pay,” just like “big tech companies will use a ‘fair use’ exception ... to avoid or reduce licence fees”. Minor infringements, like posting a meme or using a picture of a Vegemite jar, are “trivial [things] with zero consequences.” In general, infringements have much lower consequences than in the US as Australia does not have statutory damages.

Fair use undoubtedly has its merits. At the end of the day, fair dealing is a prescriptive system. “Technologies change ... but all we can do (under Fair Dealing) is list the things we know about now,” says Weatherall. Her solution — fair use purposes that are “open-ended” — have the “flexibility to deal with unanticipated uses”. Copyright Agency are still adamant that the current system is workable. They rightly point out that statutory licenses for education have coped with the introduction of LMS, electronic whiteboards and online learning, despite being established in the 1980s. While it is important to “update, modernise, rationalise” the existing framework, fair dealing is not the unworkable relic it has been portrayed to be.

So, take Wikipedia’s call with a grain of salt. Their appeal will reverberate across online media, given the powerful interests that stand to gain. Meanwhile, the bid to work within the system is on the outskirts of mainstream coverage.

One thing is clear — a thriving publishing industry ensures the diversity and sustainability of Australian content. This is a better fuel for innovation than any fair use exception.

Mindless mining

NATASSIA CHRYSANTHOS / Hand in hand with Rio Tinto, USyd has played a central role in automating mining

Rio Tinto has a special relationship with the University of Sydney. The multinational mining corporation is one of the world’s largest, generating US \$34 billion of revenue in 2016. In 2007, Rio Tinto partnered with the University to undertake a joint research project, the Rio Tinto Centre for Mine Automation (RTCMA), which sits under the University’s Australian Centre for Field Robotics. RTCMA was charged with creating Rio Tinto’s ‘Mine of the Future’, which involves automating all aspects of a mine’s operation.

The project was established as a 12 year partnership, which means it’s nearing the end of its tenure. Over the past decade, RTCMA has developed automated technology expressly for Rio Tinto’s Australian iron ore mines.

RTCMA has been referred to as both “the single largest investment in robotics research anywhere in the world” and “the world’s biggest commercial privately funded external robotics initiative”. It is one of just five centres that Rio Tinto has established with universities around the world, and is the only one devoted exclusively to automation.

Autobots rollout

RCTMA has been at the forefront of developing Rio Tinto’s autonomous drill technology: equipment that allows for one operator to remotely control four drills, for example, from anywhere in the world. Early reports have shown that, within less than a year, Rio Tinto’s automatic drilling system has created “significant improvement in labour productivity” in the Pilbara; the region of Western Australia from which Rio Tinto has extracted five billion tonnes of iron ore in less than 50 years.

This is accompanied by developments in automated transportation. According to a Rio Tinto report released last week, 20 per cent of the mining company’s trucks in the Pilbara are now self-driving vehicles. Despite its short lifespan, the transition to automation is already paying off for the mining company. Advantages of automation include enhanced predictability and efficiency: machines that

can work for 24 hours straight don’t need to stop for bathroom breaks or shift swaps, nor do they fluctuate in their performance. Last year, each of these automated trucks operated 1,000 hours more than their man-driven counterparts, and at a 15 per cent lower cost. This is a significant saving, as haulage is a mine’s largest operational cost by far.

Rio Tinto’s rail network is also on its way to becoming fully automated: named the ‘AutoHaul’ system, driverless trains can operate continuously without shift changes, driving almost 10km/h faster than manned trains and running at double the frequency. “Once the system knows how to drive perfectly, it drives perfectly every time,” according to Chris Salisbury, chief executive of Rio Tinto’s Iron Ore group. It is intended that the autonomous hauling system will be fully implemented by the end of next year.

‘Jobs and growth’

Of course, when machines can do the jobs of humans, a company needs fewer workers, and the rigour with which Rio Tinto is pursuing its ‘innovation’ agenda shows no sign of dissipating. “We’re going to continue as aggressively as possible down this path,” said Rob Atkinson, who leads productivity efforts at Rio Tinto, in an interview with the *Technology Review* late last year.

In the same interview, Tom Simonite wrote that “Rio Tinto intends its automated operations in Australia to preview a more efficient future for all its mines — one that will also reduce the need for human miners”. Indeed, a recent report stated that “entire mines have been designed and built around automated systems so as to minimise the human presence.”

These developments are not confined to Rio Tinto either: there is evidence that the technology has wider applicability. BHP Billiton is also using automated trucks and drills on its Australian iron ore mines, and Canada’s largest oil company, Suncor, has begun to use driverless trucks on Canadian oil sands. It is foreseeable that developments in the technology will have a great impact upon the entire sector, including employment.

A key way that mining activity on Australian soil is justified and made palatable to an increasingly skeptical public is through the promise of jobs. The new Adani coalmine is being sold to the public almost exclusively on the prospect of supposed new jobs. Given that automation in mining is burgeoning, however, rhetoric that espouses the virtue of new mines because of the consequent employment creation should be carefully scrutinised — for how long will these jobs exist when cheaper and more “productive” alternatives are being “aggressively” pursued?

Even so, according to Richard Dennis of the Australia Institute, mining companies often use economic modeling and claims of job creation to recruit community support. “Mining isn’t the only industry that can create ‘indirect jobs,’” he writes. “It’s just the only industry that spends millions of dollars each year paying economists to estimate such ‘benefits’, and millions more spruiking them to the media.”

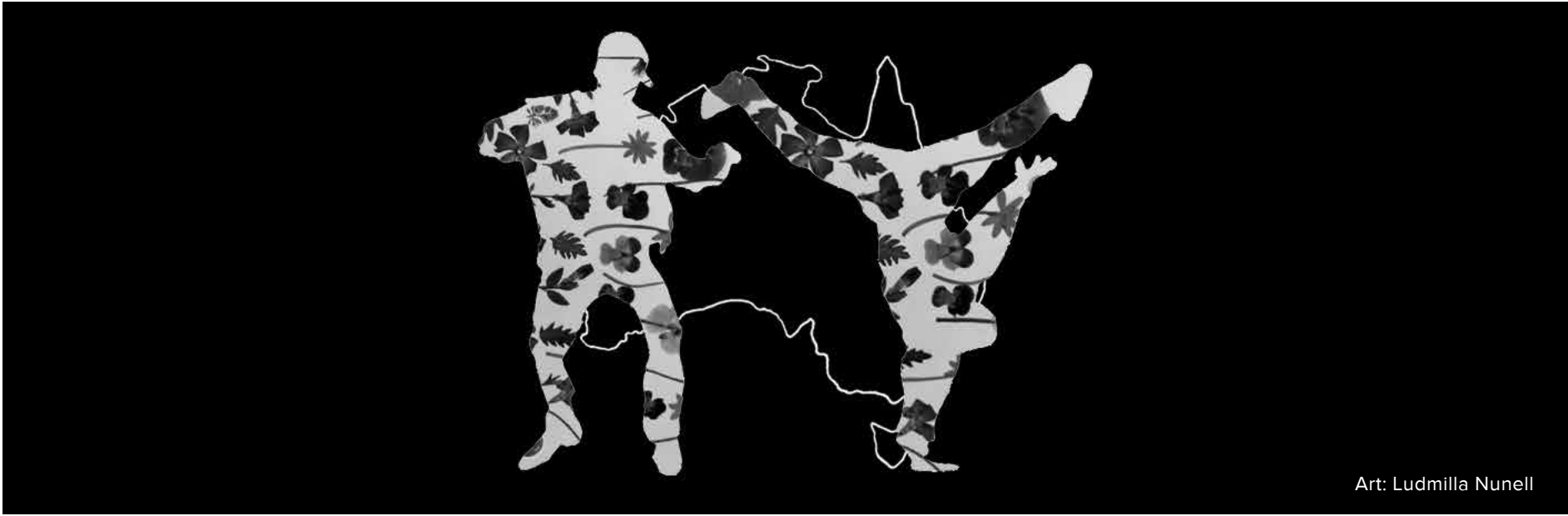
Moreover, as these companies look to maximise their profits on the back of increased productivity facilitated by automation and research partnerships with the University, it is worth considering where this money goes. Last month, Reserve Bank of Australia deputy governor Guy Debelle warned that a significant portion of super profits generated by mining giants like Rio Tinto and BHP were likely to flow offshore in the form of dividend payments.

In this context, questioning the University’s multimillion-dollar relationship with one of the world’s mining giants seems appropriate. “We would not have been able to achieve these productivity gains without collaboration,” according to Rio Tinto’s former technology and innovation chief Greg Lilleyman. As its partnership with the University is due to round up after the next two years, will the University continue to play an essential role in lining Rio Tinto’s pockets? Demands for divestment from mining have mounted over the past decade, but the call of cash may well remain too lucrative.



Welcome to the Asian invasion

BAOPU HE / Meet the young Asians using hip-hop to challenge minority stereotypes



Art: Ludmilla Nunell

As twilight falls on the Sydney skyline and casts a warm glow over the tops of George St buildings, a group of people seeking a different kind of warmth come out to dance. They are headed to Crossover, a dance studio near Town Hall that is largely hidden from passersby. Its only indication of its presence is a nondescript red sign bearing its name. The entrance is one of those dreary office foyers guarded by unresponsive sliding doors and illuminated by sterile neon lights that punctuate its surroundings. Too boring to provoke any sense of curiosity, you’ve probably walked past the entrance many times without ever wondering what lies above.

But despite its banal appearance, this foyer is a portal to the artistic hubbub of street dance in Sydney. As I slink into the sliding doors on a busy Wednesday night, I revel in the covert nature of it all, as if I was walking into a speakeasy during the prohibition. In many ways, the unassuming exterior of the studio is a fitting architectural metaphor for what the youthful hip-hop dance scene in Sydney is like as a whole — largely underground and still on the fringes of mainstream recognition, but nonetheless, quietly present to those who know where to look.

When the elevator door opens, I am met with a sudden surge of sound and heat, and the air seems to throb with heavy beats blasted in the background. Though the reception area is filled with furniture and no bigger than a classroom, everywhere I look I see dancers, with earphones on silently jamming in front of a mirror, or on the floor stretching with meditative focus, or huddled in a circle while they cheer on one of their peers freestyling in the middle. The latter is called a cypher, and is one of the core rituals of hip-hop culture. Much like a campfire where people share stories, a cypher is a place of sharing knowledge to the wider community through improvised performances. Dancers take turns being the flame centre stage, where they give themselves to the spirit of spontaneity and dance with furious, passionate abandon. Those looking on make mental notes about moves they liked — maybe they’ll ask afterwards for a more in-depth explanation on how to execute it. True to it all, I see a b-boy gripped with inspiration pulling transient choreography from the fiery air around him as other dancers and the music urge him on:

“*I know you can’t control yourself any longer / Feel the rhythm of the music getting stronger*”

There is one thing I haven’t mentioned, however. The dancers here, it appears, are overwhelmingly Asian.

x x x

Right from its inception, hip-hop has always been a creative medium for minority communities to resist against societal oppression. Emerging in the 1970s in New York City, African and Latin American dancers created and nurtured the budding art form amidst the harsh realities of their day to day life. Hip-hop’s own mythology ties the origins of dance battles with rival gangs trying to resolve disputes without violence.

Fast forward forty years. The landscape of hip-hop dance looks decidedly different. As a curious effect of American military presence, Japan and South Korea are now the powerhouses of street dance — a success that is being emulated by the Asian diaspora, with Asian-American dance crews like The Kinjaz gaining wild popularity and respect. Likewise, the advent of K-Pop, where choreography can be just as important to a band’s image as its music, has led to the creation of a uniquely Asian style of dance that draws heavily on hip-hop (so much so that it often breaches the fine line between appreciation and appropriation). In my discussions with dancers at Crossover and at university, it seems that the increased visibility of Asian-American dancers, and the inexorable rise of K-Pop are major reasons why hip-hop has grown so fast amongst young Asian-Australians.

But as discussions go deeper, and the studio grows quieter, I realise that the reasons for this popularity are much more complex. Accessibility, more than anything else, seems to be the main driver for Asian participation. Resting from a cypher, Patrick, a Vietnamese-Australian dancer of seven years, speaks of how he doesn’t connect with mainstream male pursuits like rugby and cricket, and that dance offered a fun alternative to stay in shape and feel good about himself. I hear his reasons not only echoed by other dancers, but by my own experiences as well. The reason why I became involved with hip-hop was because I felt like it was the only creative space at university where I didn’t feel alienated — my solace in an arts scene that excluded me due to my ethnicity, or wanted me exclusively because of it. As I bring this up with Patrick, he vents his frustration at the state of Asian representation in Australian media.

“In TV shows and movies, we often see Asian men being emasculated along with other stereotypes. But in dance, it’s different. We don’t have to deal with that. And so you see Asian dancers killing it.”

It’s a deeply relevant point. The model minority myth has perpetuated stereotypical traits unappealing to both young Asian artists and the industry they are trying to make it in. But hip-hop, a culture steeped in rebellion, has provided the Asian dias-

pora with an avenue to smash these restrictive stereotypes, one perfectly choreographed movement at a time. To do so is deeply liberating, and one of the universal replies I got from Asian dancers about why they love hip-hop is the infinite amount of creative freedom it provides. While dancing, they don’t have to be the socially inept nerd or the side character who works in IT, but have the agency to forge their own artistic identity. There are no official institutions stopping them from doing so, no biased establishment to enforce rules because there are no rules to begin with. Perhaps it’s precisely due to the underground nature of Sydney’s hip-hop scene that makes it so attractive to Asian-Australians, for the lack of institutions means that there are no entrenched structural barriers preventing them from showcasing their true potential. Almost subversively, many people tell me that the growing size of the hip-hop scene is not due to increased advertising or public recognition, but rather word of mouth — Asians see other Asians dance, and so they want to try it themselves.

One standout in this burgeoning movement is the dance crew Kookies n Kream (KnK). From its humble beginnings in a park in the South-Western Sydney suburb of Liverpool, KnK was recently selected to represent Australia at the Hip-hop International Championships, held this year in Arizona. And while the majority of its members (aged 15 to 23) are Asian, the first thing you notice is not their ethnic makeup, but more the hyper-sleek, stylistic precision with which they move their bodies, hitting beats in an illusion-like unity. But far from being just technically brilliant (as many Asian artists are stereotyped as being), they have a visceral charisma and energy that most actors could only dream of — their facial expressions, as animated as their movements, playfully beckon us to engage with the stories they conjure up with choreography. One of their members, Teresa Lee, is a current a Masters of Teaching student at USyd.

Elegant and personable, she looks like she could be a ballet dancer. Indeed, Teresa tells me that she did ballet for many years before discovering hip-hop in her second year of university. What first started off as a way to exercise and make friends soon became a deep passion, and within a year of taking classes at Crossover, Teresa was asked by her teacher to audition for KnK. While she faces an uphill battle from now in getting funding for her team and special leave from the university, Teresa’s tone brims with optimism, not just for herself, but for the Sydney hip-hop scene in general. When I ask her about her crew, her face lights up into a contemplative smile.

“It’s like a family. We’re all passionate about the same thing, but at the same time, we’re all different people, and we all bring something different to the team.”

Face-off: ABC2’s football coverage was inappropriate

Last Wednesday, ABC2 covered the friendly match between England’s Liverpool FC and Sydney FC. The coverage was partly hosted by comedians Aaron Chen, Tegan Higginbotham, and Steen Raskopoulous. While some fans supported the comedic approach, many complained fervently across social media.

KISHOR NAPIER-RAMAN / For

ABC2’s coverage of last Wednesday’s friendly between Sydney FC and Liverpool FC was a patronising and lazy insult to football fans riddled with classist undertones.

I know that many Inner West latte-sippers wear both their lack of athletic ability and nonchalant indifference towards sport like a badge of honour. Sport evokes images of racist fans, and violent, drug-fucked leading men addicted to fame and toxic masculinity. Unlike say, stand-up comedy, sport is a lesser form of entertainment reserved for the westies, the bogans, and boorish, beer-swilling alpha-males.

This caricature of the average football fan as an uncouth caveman makes it easy for many to snootily look down upon those of us who dare enjoy ‘sportsball’. But not only is this narrative tired and inaccurate, it’s insulting to the billions worldwide for whom sport is a secular religion.

ABC’s coverage of the Liverpool game epitomises this snobbish dismissal of sports fans. Rightly or



JAYCE CARRANO / Against

“What would be the reaction if the ABC headed up the next federal election coverage with a panel of comedians?” asks Tracey Holmes at the beginning of her article attacking ABC2’s coverage.

I don’t know, Tracey, political satire is as popular as it’s ever been, so it would probably be a great success. Why should federal politics be beyond the reach of satire? Why should football?

Yes, yes, I understand that it was during the coverage! I hear you! That was your space to enjoy the football. I get it! You want a place exclusive to those who centre their happiness on pass completion, off-side rulings, and nutmeg compilations.

And I’m not judging here; that doesn’t seem any worse than centring your happiness on whether you’ve got the latest Adidas x Supreme joggers, when you last pinged, or if you managed to root someone cute recently. But why is it okay to poke fun at those lifestyles and not football? Football fans

Sigmund Fraud

MAX MELZER / Why do Freud’s 19th century theories still pop up in 21st century classrooms?

If I told you that all three-year-olds were anally fixated, you’d probably be bemused, if not outright concerned. Likewise, most people would be quick to deny ever wanting to sleep with their mother or father. In both cases, the sheer ridiculousness of the proposition means you wouldn’t have much luck convincing anyone of either of these ‘facts’. Or would you?

For all that has been written about Sigmund Freud, one thing is true: modern psychology owes much to the way he approached the human mind. But Freud’s thoughts, however profound, have been around since 1896 — and science moves quickly. As a psychology student, I was told in first year that most Freudian theory was redundant. Conceptually, the idea that behaviour was the expression of internal drives and that the same behaviour in different people could signify different things was perfectly sound. The idea that human beings were motivated purely by aggression and sex, not so much. Yes, talking to patients about their thoughts and feelings is a valid method of diagnosis, and even treatment. However, operating under the assumption that our ideas of sexual attractiveness are derived from our parents is just kind of weird.

So, if this is how psychology views Freud, what’s

wrongly, the ABC is often viewed as a channel for inner city elites. By turning their coverage into a meme, ABC2 told football fans around the country that their game didn’t deserve the dignity of being taken seriously, and was little more to them than a source of cheap laughs.

This is not to suggest that sport should be totally immune from comedic treatment. Nor should its more problematic elements be insulated from fair critique. Indeed, presenters like Santo Cilauro, Ed Kavalee and Sam Pang (who host a podcast on the ABC) are evidence that humorous attention can be drawn to football’s less glamorous aspects in a manner which doesn’t insult the intelligence of fans.



Art: Stephanie Barahona

certainly don’t mind ribbing other sports; just ask the hand-egg supporters over in the NFL. It seems a bit rich to dish it out if you’re not going to take it.

Then there were the people complaining that commercial channels hadn’t been in charge. If you would have preferred an hour of ads, let me direct you to the amazing world of home shopping channels. If you were upset that there wasn’t enough analysis, take a look at the internet where there were dozens of media pundits with hundreds of predictions and breakdowns. If you think it was a lost opportunity to raise the profile of the sport in Australia, I point you to the thousands upon thousands of views, comments, and articles that have arisen from this little fiasco (of which this piece is just the

But the ABC’s Liverpool coverage did none of those things. Instead, the visit of one of football’s biggest and most storied clubs was used as an opportunity to laugh at people for daring to like different things from the average ABC comedy viewer.

The presenters barely disguised their total lack of football knowledge, as well as their utter contempt for those watching the game. Player’s names were frequently misread. The hosts tried to call Harry Kewell, presumably since the retired Socceroos star was the only footballer they could be bothered to name. Aaron Chen bizarrely declared himself possessed by the spirit of football.

By failing to predict just how disrespectful many in the football community would find their coverage, the ABC producers have proven themselves to be stunningly out of touch with millions of Australians. More annoyingly, it looks like we won’t be seeing Socceroos games or the A-League on free to air TV in the near future.



latest to add to the flaming rubbish pile).

Following football is fantastic. It offers exhilarating, edge-of-the-seat tension that brings people together from across the social spectrum. Football deserves its importance in Australian culture, but it doesn’t deserve to be untouchable.

After the coverage, the now-infamous comedians hosting the ABC’s coverage, particularly USyd student Aaron Chen, copped the inevitable flak. One punter messaged him to say, “You honestly make me want to rip my dick off” and got the response: “Dude please don’t do that. I’m so sorry I won’t do it again but please don’t do that. Please man”.

It seems football fans could learn a thing or two from comedians when it comes to taking a joke.

After all, isn’t watching sport supposed to teach resilience in the face of adversity? Let’s see more of that and less rolling around on the ground acting like you’ve been heinously injured.

Symbolic recognition is not enough

KYOL BLAKENEY / Indigenous Australians have had enough of empty tokenism

I am against constitutional recognition because I believe it won't actually do anything, just like so many other campaigns funded and directed by the government and large corporations that affect Aboriginal people. Sure, this might sound a little cynical, but hear me out.

Throughout Australia's short history, there have been countless occasions where campaigns directly affecting Aboriginal people have been launched without their input or consent, and generally only achieve the bare minimum of civil rights, if that. Let's not even start from the beginning, but from the 1967 Referendum. Since becoming citizens, we have come to make up 38 per cent of the prison population. Since the Bringing Them Home Report in 1991, we've seen an increase of up to 16,000 children being removed. In that same year, the Government conducted a Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody, and yet deaths in custody have since increased by 150 per cent. In 1992, Eddie Mabo, a Meriam man from the island of Mer (Murray Island) in the Torres Strait, decided that he was not going to let the big guy push him around on his home land. He decided to go to the High Court to assert his sovereignty.

The High Court found that there had been no previous agreement between the people of Mabo's land and the Commonwealth of Australia or Great Britain and was forced to make the declaration that the land belonged to him and his people, which should be a huge thing for the land rights movement. Instead, we got slapped with native title, one of the lowest forms of land ownership under the Commonwealth. It was a cop out. It basically said the government would acknowledge the traditional owners (you know the ones, they cared and sustained the continent you live on since time immemorial and continue to do so while others benefit from the colonial and cultural genocide of their people), but it would also continue to destroy the land, mine resources, compulsorily acquire space, and profit from that dispossession.

Then, under not one, not two, but six different government administrations, Northern Territory communities found themselves being micromanaged following claims of paedophilia that had been disproved by numerous reports, statements, and articles. I am referring to the Northern Territory Intervention or, as it is known today, the Northern Territory Emergency Response, where military personnel were actually deployed into civilian spaces to monitor and control people.

You can see why some might be hesitant when it comes to trusting the government.

But Recognise is a grassroots movement, isn't it? In their annual review, Reconciliation Australia noted Recognise's funders and major supporters. To name a few, these include the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Rio Tinto (the ones digging up the land), National Bank of Australia (the ones in the top 1 per cent), Transfield Services (now Broad Spectrum, who profit from detaining refugees), Qantas, Telstra, and Toyota. We are continually just a part of somebody's ethical consideration that they can flash on their websites while they simultaneously reap the profits and tokenise our culture.

Call me old fashioned, but if I don't see it, I don't believe it. I have watched symbolic gestures like native title, Sorry Day, NAIDOC Week, and Reconciliation Week play out, and the practical changes are quite limited. As long as my people are still living in half burnt out asbestos houses, being micromanaged, dying in custody, and the highest rates of youth suicide in the world, there will be no meaningful reconciliation.

If we put as much energy into solving these issues as we have campaigning for recognition in a document governing an illegitimate state, we would be truly working at a grassroots level and pushing for a treaty. Whether you like it or not, facts are facts. Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal Land.



Image: APP

Regional media matters

KATELYN CAMERON / Rural media is a vital advocate for community concerns

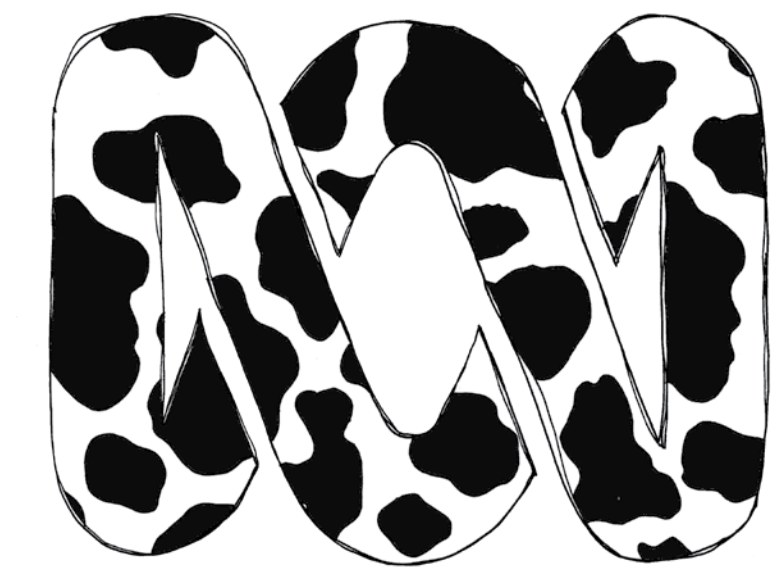


Image: Maani Truu

Earlier this year, the ABC announced that it would be cutting 200 jobs in order to establish a \$50 million content fund and create 80 new roles in regional areas — not so great for those who would lose their jobs, but a welcome announcement for regional and rural journalists after years of devastating redundancies.

Regional journalism in Australia is one of the least researched areas in the field of media and communications. However, the research that does exist shows

that regional journalism connects people, and empowers and advocates for communities in a way that metropolitan journalism does not.

Take my hometown, Albury, for example. Albury is located in regional New South Wales and is home to about 50,000 people. When I was in high school, there were a number of young people in our area who took their own lives. People were alarmed that there wasn't a federally funded service in our region available to help young people living with mental illness.

In August 2012, staffers at *The Border Mail* — Albury-Wodonga's local newspaper — took matters into their own hands. They launched a campaign called Ending the Suicide

Silence, and published beautifully written, personal stories of those who had lost a loved one to suicide, along with an examination of Albury-Wodonga's mental health system. The paper won two Walkleys for what the judges called a “courageous, dignified and superbly put together” campaign.

Then, the paper began a campaign to get a headspace centre in Albury-Wodonga. Headspace is a mental health support service for people aged 12–25. There are centres all over Australia, but Albury

had been neglected. *The Border Mail* published butterflies in the paper, and asked readers to sign them and send them back. I remember sitting down at our dining table to cut out a butterfly and sign it, then walking down to the post box at Woolworths and dropping it in.

The Border Mail stuck all the butterflies up in the window of their office. They ultimately collected about 5000 butterflies, took them to Canberra, and gave them to the federal health minister in person. In January of 2015, Albury's brand new headspace centre opened its doors to young people — all thanks to a campaign started by a local paper.

While I was growing up in Albury, the local media were also vital in the community campaign to get funding for a cancer centre in our area so that patients wouldn't have to drive long distances, away from their family and friends, to access chemotherapy and other treatments. At the end of 2016, after years of campaigning, Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre opened. I was lucky enough to be at the official opening of the centre while interning at ABC Local Radio, and everyone I talked to — doctors, nurses, patients, friends and family — was overjoyed by the fact that people in our region finally had access to a state-of-the-art cancer centre.

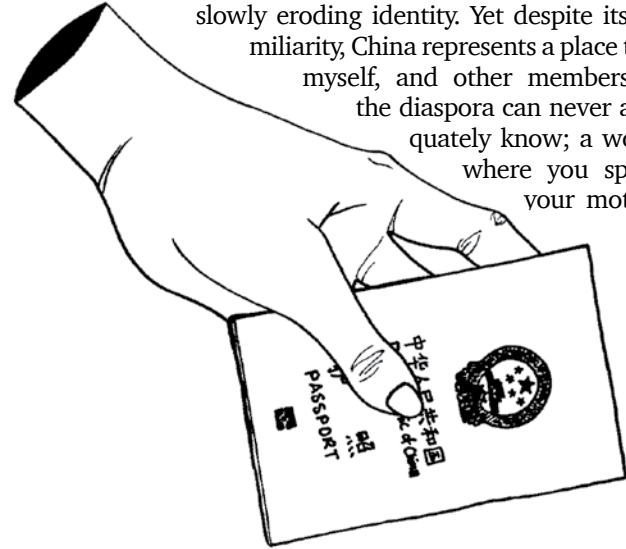
The importance of regional media cannot be underestimated. It is both a powerful advocate and forum for rural and regional communities, and the issues affecting them. Without it, they would be lost.

Between two worlds

ALAN ZHENG / For Chinese-Australians, the loss of our citizenship places us in symbolic purgatory

Before I found out that going to Shanghai on exchange would spell the end of my Chinese citizenship, I was filled with excitement. I dreamed of the prospect of escaping the daily ritual of drifting through an endless stream of lectures and tutorials in a caffeinated haze. I pictured myself on some romantic odyssey, navigating winding streets of homely markets, gravitating towards the scent of familiar street foods, fried xiao long bao, and crisp scallion pancakes. Only once I had read several listicles on Shanghai's food and culture scene did I realise the numerous hurdles facing would be home-bound travellers.

China is a strange place for much of the Australian-based diaspora, including 'ABCs' (Australian born Chinese) and 'Bananas', a colloquial description of people who appear Chinese but have adopted elements of nebulously defined 'Australian' lifestyle and values. In one sense, China is the beating heart of our slowly eroding identity. Yet despite its familiarity, China represents a place that myself, and other members of the diaspora can never adequately know; a world where you speak your mother



tongue in an Australian accent and where your mannerisms, conduct and personality mark you as 'foreign', as if you are not, and never were Chinese.

China's laws and bureaucracy only further this sense of detachment. In a globalised world, the country's seemingly outmoded prohibition of dual citizenship stands out. Article Nine of the People's Republic of China's Nationality Law provides that “Any Chinese national who has settled abroad and who has been naturalized as a foreign national or has acquired foreign nationality of his own free will shall automatically lose Chinese nationality.” The Article has its roots in China's complex geopolitical history, which has seen the country's borders repeatedly violated by foreigners. Once citizenship is lost, a Chinese passport is one of the most difficult to regain. For second-generation Chinese-Australians, the loss of our citizenship to the country of our heritage and ancestry places us in symbolic purgatory, where we are not quite Australian but not quite Chinese.

However, the prohibition against dual citizenship can theoretically be circumvented. Since Australia allows dual citizenship, a common method is to first renew one's Chinese passport for ten years and then become an Australian citizen, thus achieving a mediocre balance of both worlds. Such a loophole enables Chinese-Australians to not only travel more freely, but more importantly better maintain connection to businesses and property interests in China. At the same time, it provides access to the practical benefits of Australian citizenship, including subsidised higher education — critical to most migrants' pursuit of a new and stable life.

Perhaps part of the diaspora's fear of losing citizenship derives from our parents' worries that, should the life they carved in Australia collapse overnight, China would always be a secure fall-back, an alternative future, or at the very least, another home

Behind the picket line

MAANI TRUU / A baby unionist ponders whether decreasing union membership is simply due to a lack of understanding

As a student, I never knew much about trade unions. I was aware of the concept, I understood that politically charged words touted by the Left — such as “scab” and “picket line” — were born out of the labour movement, and I had seen Facebook statuses urging young people to “for god's sake join your union!”

Proponents of a cause are often very happy to lambast you for doing, or not doing, something. Fewer are willing to articulate why doing something is important, or to explain what something is in the first place.

Three months ago, still completely unaware of what a union actually did, I decided to join mine. The decision was partially an attempt to feel legitimised in my new *grown-up* workplace, but it was mostly a ploy to gain cheaper entry into career related events and programs.

Two months later, I was on strike.

We've all heard that union membership is declining in Australia. As of 2016, just 17.4 per cent of part-time and full-time workers reported belonging to a union. Of this group, people under the age of 25 represent the smallest number of members, with only 6.9 per cent of young people in this bracket reporting membership. Conversely, workers between 50–64 years come out on top with membership at 25.7 per cent.

So unions are dying and quickly losing relevance. But what is a union, what does it do, and why should we attempt to stem the bleeding?

These are questions that I couldn't have answered a couple of months ago. If the average cash-strapped student cannot explain what a union does, it's quite a leap to expect them to hand a union their cash every month — even if it is at a reduced student price.

Obviously, unions exist to protect the rights of

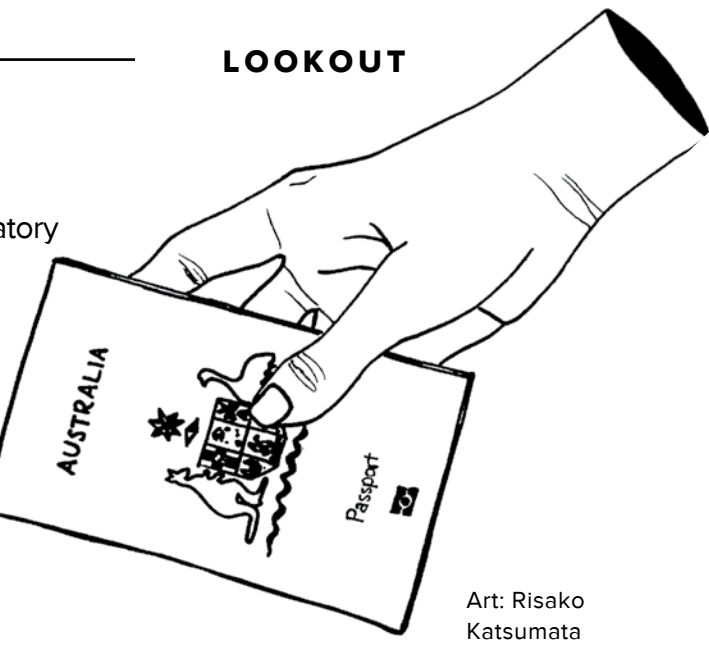
workers, serving both a mighty and unifying cause. After all, bills need to be paid, and we all have to work to make that happen. Arising from the labour movement in the early 19th century, trade unions have given us the five day working week, maternity leave, and superannuation. Currently, the fight to save penalty rates for hospitality workers, established thanks to unions in 1947, rages on.

It seems hard to argue with the concept of an organisation that fights for improved working conditions and fairer wages, however another element of declining membership could be the perception of unions as out of touch with the younger generation. Looking around, it isn't hard to see why.

The Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association, which covers the fast food and retail industries, represents a field of work heavily populated with students and young people. In 2011, its former national head spoke out against same-sex marriage and referenced “Adam and Eve” in his reasoning. Needless to say, such a position is not exactly popular amongst politically-engaged university students. When the people at the top present an opinion at odds with the politics of the majority of young people, it comes as no surprise that the shop union is heavily dependent on agreements with employers to sign up new members.

In the media field, the Media and Arts Alliance (MEAA) has come under criticism for failing to cater to casual and freelance journalists — which is increasingly how young people are entering the industry. And so this sense of disillusionment is spreading to unions with traditionally active and engaged members.

The Secretary of the Australian Council of Trade



Art: Risako Katsumata

across the sea. But tackling the challenge of maintaining Chinese citizenship is difficult, pitting individuals against an institutional behemoth of binary bureaucracies and social ultimatums. In particular, it complicates travel arrangements to China. Using a Chinese visa is impossible on most exchange grants at the University of Sydney, including the vast majority of New Colombo Mobility grants. The result is a confrontation with the Chinese Visa Office as they discover your dual citizenship and subsequently cut off a small triangular edge of your Chinese passport, terminating one's citizenship forever.

The reality is that a passport is just one proof of ethnic identity. The Chinese-Australian diaspora remains and will continue to remain a living, breathing manifestation of Chineseness, even if we cannot be citizens of our spiritual home. At least, that's what I hope.

Unions, Sally McManus, has recognised this failing. In a recent article in *The Monthly*, she identified increasing union membership as her “number one priority”, with plans to target casuals, part time workers and contractors: workers who are traditionally left out of unionism, but increasingly central to industries such as media, retail, and hospitality.

After handing over my bank account details to the MEAA, I didn't expect union membership to drastically alter my life. But months later, as yet another person assured me that “casuals are entitled to a redundancy, just talk to your union” it took on a greater significance.

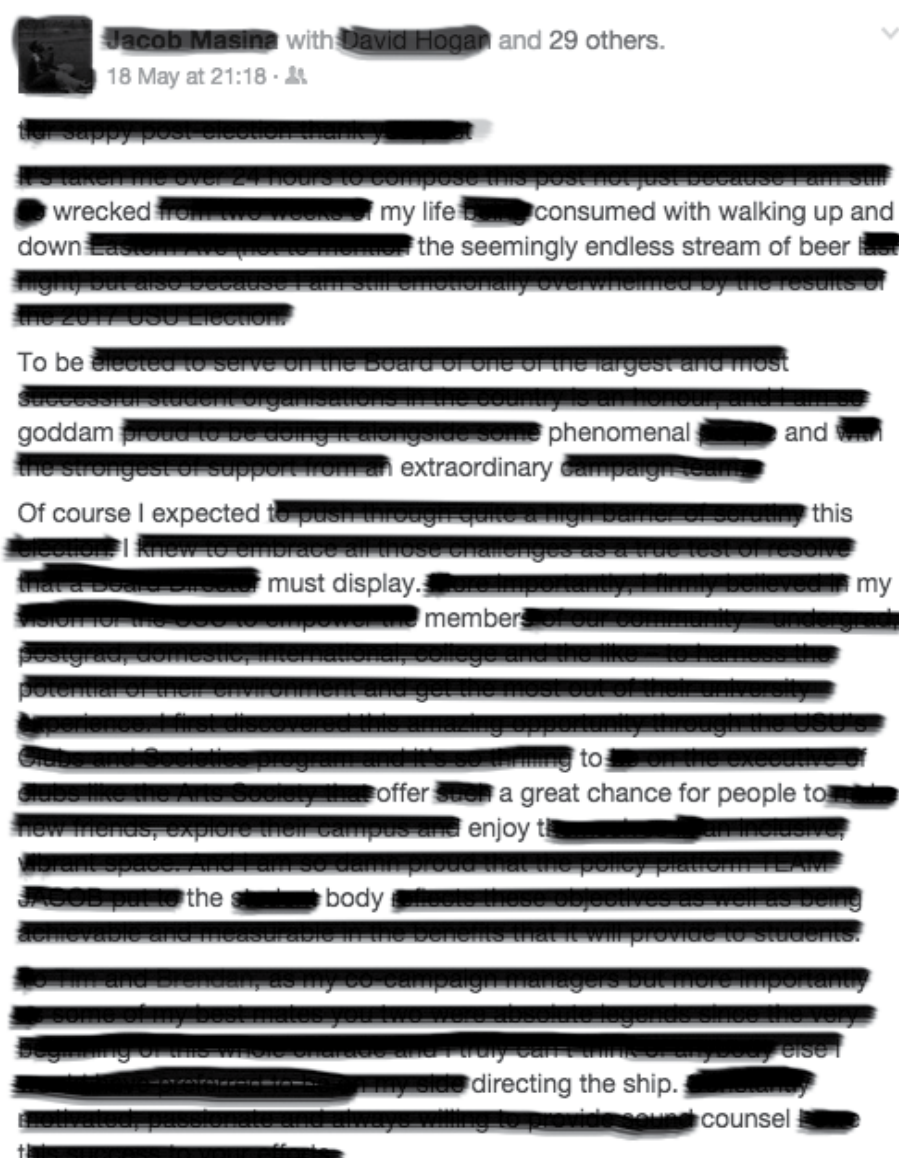
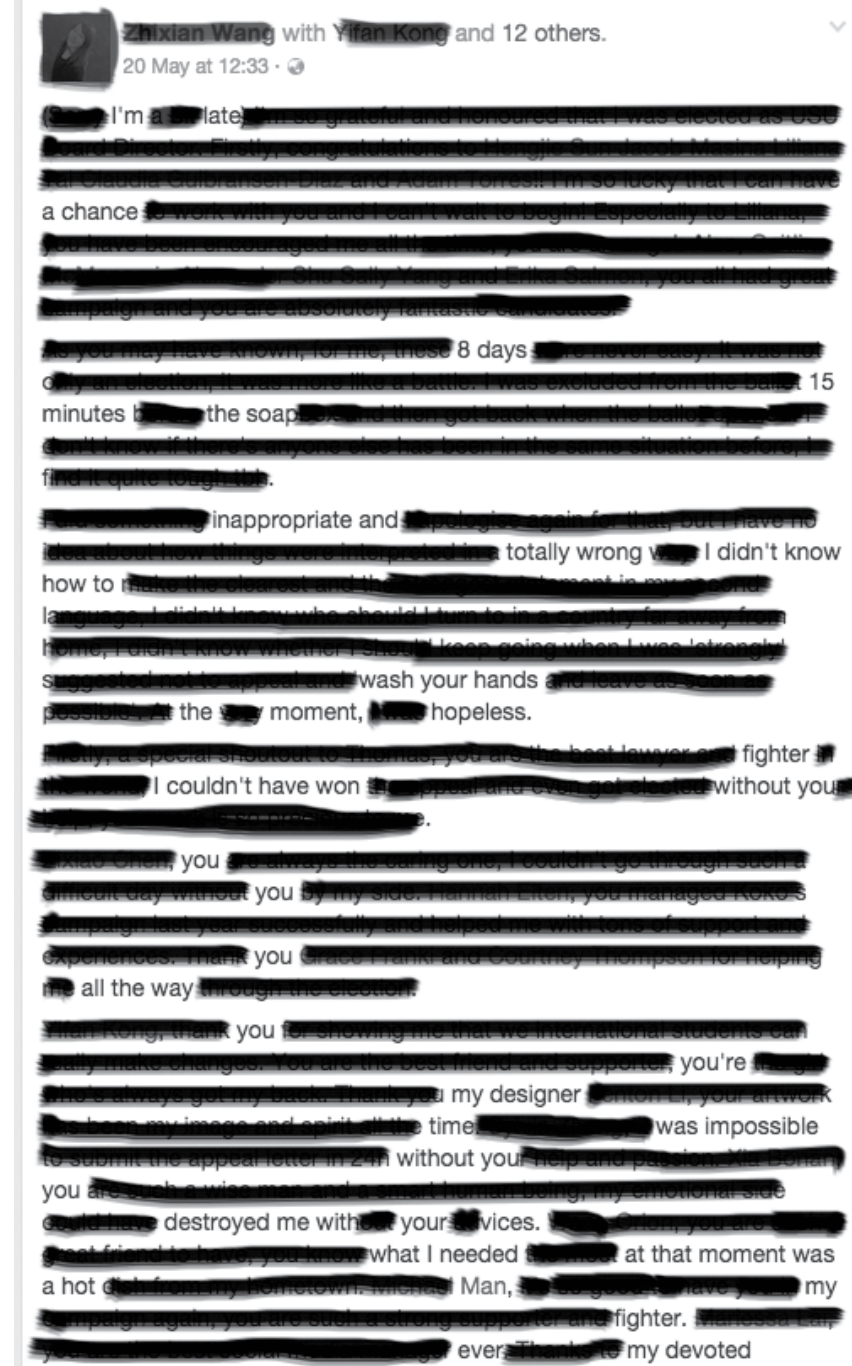
When my full and part time colleagues decided to undertake illegal strike action, it was with the backing of my union that I told my superiors that “no, sorry, I won't be able to work during the strike”, despite my being employed on a casual basis. When I was worried about being able to pay rent after missing a week's work, I was reassured that, even as a new member, I could turn to my union for support.

While practical support during strike action is considered the expected minimum of a trade union, the biggest surprise was the more ephemeral sense of belonging that overwhelmed me when I received that small, plastic card with a white box where my photo should be. As a sceptic largely distant from political organising, I found unexpected power in the realisation that I was not fighting for my job alone; the sense that, in a tiny and helpless way, I was part of something bigger.

It is this sense of pride that now propels me to ask my friends and colleagues: “have you joined your union yet?”

StuPoetry

We blacked out the thank you statuses of successful USU Board candidates to create new and improved masterpieces



Review: Womn's Revue

ALISON ESLAKE / Womn's revue is the most fun you'll have at prom



Image: care of production team

Walking into the Reginald Theatre for this year's Womn's Revue, I find that it's become a time machine of sorts. The *Ghostbusters* theme song fills a set of balloons and streamers worthy of the best high school formal decoration committees, and I really do feel like I'm a high school student from the '80s, nervously entering the gym-turned-prom-venue for a night of embarrassing teenage choices.

Unlike formals and prom nights, however, the Womn's Revue is neither underwhelming nor dis-

The show mits the ground running with a buzzing opening number — “are you excited?” the cast screams enthusiastically at the audience. The room is filled with energy; the answer has to be yes. This kinetic energy never leaves the stage, whether the cast is singing along to another ‘80s classic, or cheering on an eight-year-old at a dance recital, or executing some of Kasia Vickers’ killer choreography.

It's absolutely a credit to the talent of the cast that they can keep this up for two hours — although it

appointing. *Memories Always* promises a night of nostalgia and quality comedy, and boy, does it deliver.

Directors Julia Gregoratto & Maddie Houlbrook-Walk pull off what is easily one of the funniest nights of student comedy around — it is no wonder Womn's Revue has developed a reputation for being a highlight of the revue season. The show embraces a theme that, in less-skilled directorial hands, could be tacky and derivative. Instead, they've given us something amazing, enough to suppress even the worst prom memories.

certainly isn't their only strength. The 18 women that form the ensemble cannot be faulted as they transition seamlessly from murderous wives to horny mermaids to characters ever more outrageous than the last without missing a beat. The audience doesn't get a chance to bored between sketches: they're too busy recovering from the most recent punchline.

It speaks volumes that after only two short bits in a wig and wild sweater, Lauren Gale can become a character so memorable that her third appearance on stage has the audience laughing in anticipation before she says a word. Hannah Pembroke, too, will have you in stitches as That Punter Who Got Tickets To Splendour, Eloise Callaghan will teach you more than you ever wanted to know about the Slow Loris (a furry, cute, and deadly pygmy-cum-possum type of animal), and Maddo Lofthouse will be all-too-familiar as that 47-year-old in your sociology tute.

The show doesn't waste the talent of a single cast member (in fact, they find the perfect excuse to have 16 backup dancers in one particular number), nor does it forget to showcase contributions of the rest of the team. Musical director Josie Gibson and the incredible band crank out those 80s hits with a gift for comedic timing. Creative Director Sarah Graham should also be congratulated for the gorgeous 80s prom theme — even during the sketches, the wacky hairdos and colourful costumes never leave the stage, and never stop contributing to the wacko schmacko of the entire show.

Energetic, original, and hilarious, *Memories R Always* really is a night you won't forget. Just like high school partners and teen movies, revue seasons come and go, but *Memories R Always*.

Review: Hazelwood Jr. High

ALEX BATEMAN / Welcome to another '80s prom set

The visage of dreamy lighting and pastel coloured scenery doesn't prepare you for SUDS' daring, dangerous and devilish *Hazelwood Jr. High*. Think *Heathers*, but with more blood and less satire.

Victoria Boulton directs Rob Urbinati's play, a compelling and terrifying true story of the murder of Shanda Sharer by four of her classmates. Boulton delivers what ostensibly appears to be an homage to the 1980s (and John Hughes) through catchy '80s bops — an opening dance number to Kim Wilde's banger 'Kids in America' — and Tatjana Najmann-Reid's killer denim-riddled costuming. Yet this sentiment is entirely subverted by the play's second act where murder becomes the centre of the play's primary narrative.

The show opens on a love triangle which includes Amanda, new-girl Shanda and Melinda. Amanda and Melinda are “going steady” but when Amanda begins to have feelings for Shanda, the play becomes an entirely different beast. School-girl crushes quickly turn to revenge plots and the second act feels like a David Lynch-directed *Breakfast Club*. The stark contrast between the witty and nostalgic opening to the harrowing and dark closing scenes keep the audience latching onto every word.

Although reflecting on an era where cult films presenting heightened realism were a staple — *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Back to the Future* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* to name a few — *Hazelwood Jr. High* maintains naturalism and grounds itself in its strong and distinctive characters. As Shanda and Amanda, Niamh Gallagher and Amber Cunneen play wonderfully off each other and act as the protagonists of the play's first half. Following a mildly satanic ceremony, Shanda and Amanda become catalytic players and four of their classmates, Hope, Toni, Melinda and Laurie, spearhead the second half as a quartet of terror.

Impressively, the production never trivialises its characters — every one feels realised, as do their

relationships with their counterparts. Notably, the interaction between Toni and Hope (Amelia McNamara and Akala Newman respectively), remains incredibly compelling throughout the production as their characters present the toxicity of peer pressure and show the most remorse in the play's final act. Bianca Farmakis' Melinda is vibrant and sincere while Jasmine Cavanough's Laurie is rife with duality and ambiguity; both performances lend an ambience of apprehension as the audience wonders what either character will do next.

This kind of ambience is intentionally jarring against the dreamy high-school-prom lighting, only furthered by the pastel pink stage, which is divided

Image: care of production team



into a school locker-area, a car and a bedroom. Sound, too, is integral to the piece and whether it be blood-curdling bangs heard from behind a villainous silhouette, a diary entry read aloud in voiceover or blaring Whitney Houston's 'I Wanna Dance With Somebody', it is seamless and repeatedly set the tone.

Boult delivers an eerie and captivating performance with *Hazelwood Jr. High*. Juggling social commentary, a designated time period and a true story is no easy task but Boult does so beautifully, creating a fast-paced and enthralling play that leaves you latching onto every minute from start to denouement.

Lyre, lyre, lyre: Sapphic fragments in translation

Art and words by **ROBIN EAMES**

For someone who was praised by the ancients as “the Pride of Hellas”, described by Plato as “the tenth Muse”, and by Antipater of Sidon as “a mortal marvel”, we know surprisingly little about Sappho of Lesbos. What little we do know is plagued by centuries of suppression and misinformation; for example, many sources will claim that she was married to a man named Kerkylas of Andros, whose name translates literally to something like “Dick Allcock of Man Island”.

We know that Sappho lived sometime between 630 and 570 BCE, that she lived on the island of Lesbos, and that she was a prolific lyric poet who in her lifetime wrote around 10,000 lines of poetry, only 650 of which survive. Only one of those poems, the ‘Ode to Aphrodite’, is presumed to be complete, and five more are nearly-complete — including two that were only discovered in 2004 alongside other fragments collectively known as the New Sappho. Her lyric poetry was meant to be set to song, accompanied by a lyre. In her native dialect of Aeolian Greek, her name was Ψάπφω or Psápphō.

The papyrus remnants of her poetry have been put together from an ancient trash-pit outside Oxyrynchus in Egypt, recycled layers of paper and gesso plaster used to wrap mummified corpses, and quotation in other classical works. The Library of Alexandria kept a catalogue of her entire body of work in nine volumes, now lost, and 400 years after her death the librarians considered her to be one of their esteemed canon of Nine Lyric Poets, of which she was the only woman. Solon of Athens reportedly heard one of her songs and loved it so much that he demanded to be taught it “so that [he] may learn it and then die”.

The matters of Sappho’s extrapoetical occupation — her sexuality, her relationships, and her poetic motivations — are the subject of furious academic debate. Even the numbering system of her poems is contested, although ‘Ode to Aphrodite’ is Fragment 1 in all of them. Much of the speculation has been driven by attempts to rationalise or explain away the clear desire that Sappho expresses in her poetry for other women. She has been suggested as a school-teacher of young maidens, a commissioned writer of marriage verses, a mother, a married woman, a cult leader, and a jealous spinster, but the passion and regard that Sappho held for women is undeniable and often the very force that gives her poetry such power. The word lesbian derives from Sappho, who was a Lesbian — that is, a resident of the isle of Lesbos. The ancients tended to characterise Sappho more as a lover than as a lover of women specifically, but there are still nods here and there to the proto-queer Lesbians. The poet Anacreon, born around the time that Sappho died, wrote complainingly of “a girl in fancy sandals from civilised Lesbos” who “sneers” at his attempt to woo her “and turning, gapes in wonder after another of her own gender”.

A twice-named figure in Sappho’s poetry is the woman Kleis, referred to as παις, a word that has been translated as ‘child’, ‘slave’, or ‘youthful lover’. As a result Kleis is often referred to as Sappho’s daughter. And yet παῖδος, the same word in another grammatical form, is the word Sappho uses to describe the subject of evidently romantic/erotic attraction in Fragment 102 (that is, Lobel-Page 102/Voigt 102/Diehl 114/Bergk 90), translated variously as follows:

[As o’er her loom the Lesbian maid
In love-sick languor hung her head,
Unknowing where her fingers strayed
She weeping turned away and said--]

‘Oh, my sweet mother, ‘tis in vain,
I cannot weave as once I wove,
So wildered is my heart and brain
With thinking of that youth I love.’
(Thomas Moore, 1800)

Mother, I cannot mind my wheel;
My fingers ache, my lips are dry:
Oh, if you felt the pain I feel!
But oh, whoever felt as I?
(W. S. Landor, 1807)

Sweet mother, I the web
Can weave no more;
Keen yearning for my love
Subdues me sore,
And tender Aphrodite
Thrills my heart’s core.
(M. J. Walhouse, 1877)

Sweet Mother, I cannot weave my web, broken as I
am by longing for a boy, at soft Aphrodite’s will.
(Henry Thornton Wharton, 1895)

45. RESTLESS THROUGH LOVE
No longer, mother dear, can I
Endure to work my wheel.
Through Aphrodite for that boy
Such longing do I feel.
(Walter Peterson, 1918)

It’s no use
Mother dear, I
can’t finish my
weaving
You may
blame Aphrodite

soft as she is

she has almost
killed me with
love for that boy
(Mary Barnard, 1958)

Darling mother, I can no longer ply my loom,
I’m overcome with longing for a slender lad.
(M. L. West, 1994)

sweet mother I cannot work the loom
I am broken with longing for a boy by slender Aphrodite
(Anne Carson, 2002)

PARALYSIS
Sweet mother, now I cannot work the loom.
Sleek Afroditi broke me with longing for a boy.
(Willis Barnstone, 2009)

Mother, how can I weave,

so overwhelmed by love?
(Michael R. Burch, 2013)

Sweet mother, I cannot weave –
slender Aphrodite has overcome me
with longing for a girl.
(Sappho Bot, 2017)

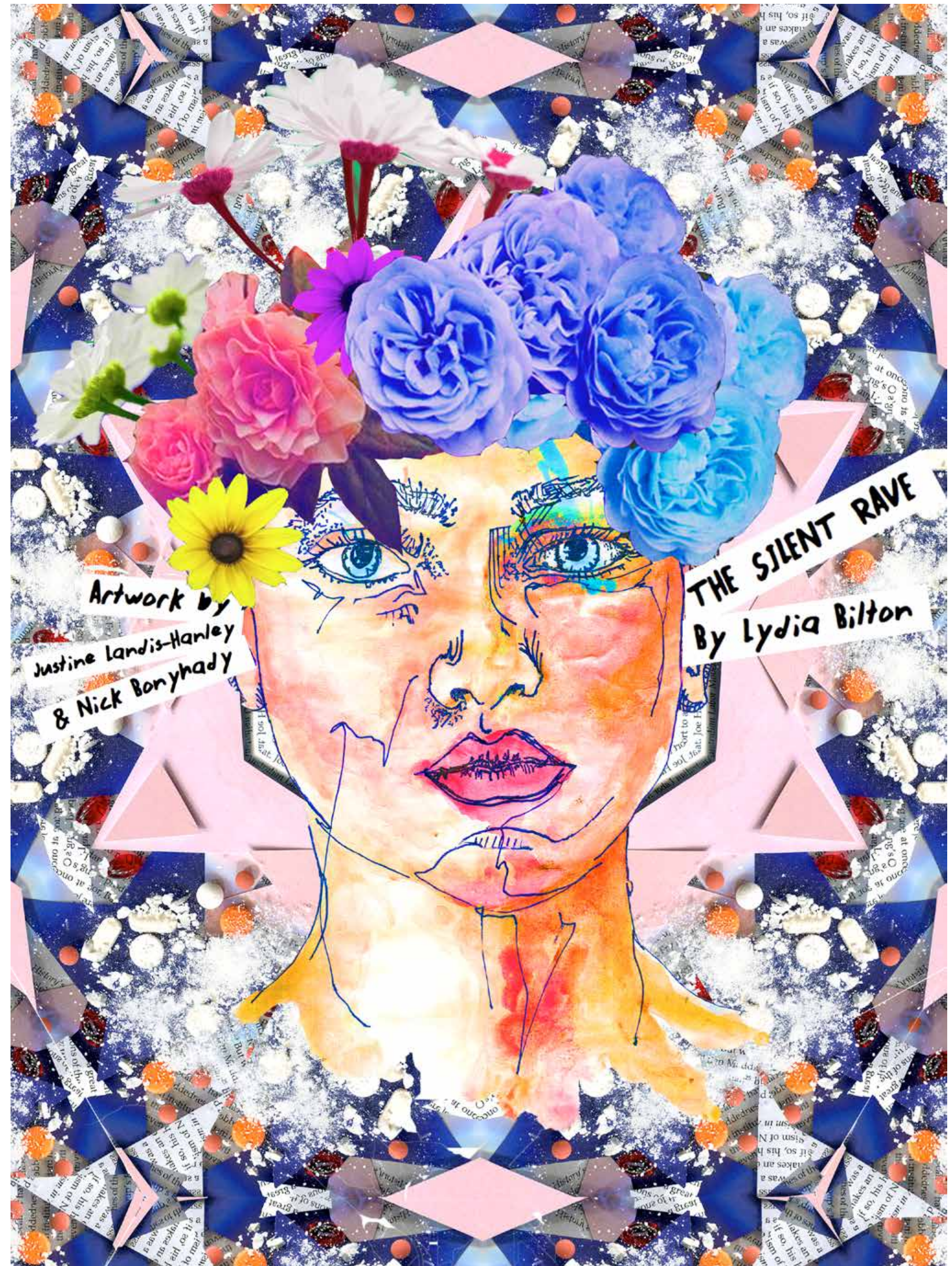
The variance in translation is stark, particularly when we consider that Fragment 102 is only two lines long. The original text reads:

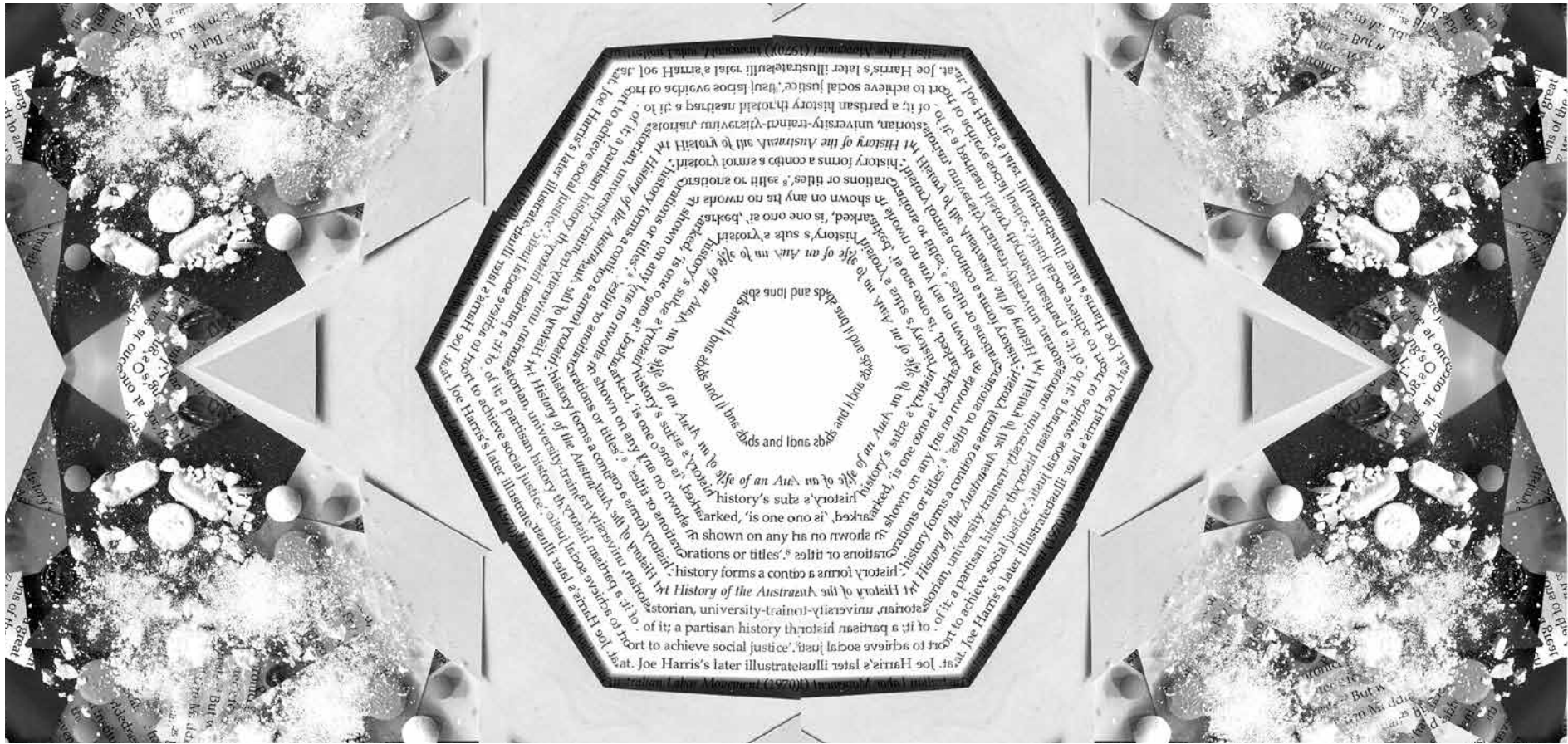
γλυκη	μήτηρ	οὗτοι
[O SWEET DEAR]	[MOTHER]	[TRULY NOT]
δυναμαι	κρέκην	τον ιστον
[I AM ABLE]	[TO WEAVE]	[THE] [LOOM]

ποθωι	δαμεισα
[by LONGING AND DESIRE]	[(I being a woman)
BEING BROUGHT LOW]	
παιδος	φραδινᾶν
[of a YOUNG PERSON]	[SLENDER]
δι’	αφροδιταν.
[BECAUSE OF]	[APHRODITE]

It goes, perhaps, without saying that some of Sappho’s translators, faced with the frustratingly beautiful scraps of poetry that we have left to us, allow themselves to get a little carried away. And so one- and two-word fragments will on occasion become whole sonnets. Willis Barnstone describes his sometimes-excessive use of artistic licence as part of the process of “remaining faithful to the aesthetic quality of the original — to making a poem a poem ... Whatever script is used to record Sappho in another tongue, as she sings in Greek she must sing in English”. Anne Carson, on the other hand, though described by some as “austere” for her utterly undecorated deliverance of the Sapphic fragments, writes “I like to think that the more I stand out of the way, the more Sappho shows through.”

For a first-time reader of Sappho, it’s difficult to recommend any single translation of her work. The Victorian sonnets are equal parts hilariously awful and weirdly charming. The mid-20th century Mary Barnard translations tend to preserve some of the essence of Sappho’s lyricism without elaborating too much on Sappho’s actual words. The Willis Barnstone revised translations do a decent job of rendering Sappho’s fragments as actual whole poems in the kind of style she might have written them in – though of course her poems aren’t whole and for me at least the fragmentary nature of her work is a great part of their appeal. Anne Carson’s translations are perhaps the most starkly accurate: she places her translations side by side with the original Greek text, which she interrupts with brackets to show gaps in papyrus remnants. In the end my instinct is always to read as much of Sappho, in as many translations of Sappho as possible. Nothing less, after all, for the tenth Muse.





The end of semester one is nigh, and exams are once again upon us. While most students will rely on willpower and concentration to conquer oceans of revision this coming stuvac, others have a secret solution.

James* is 21. He is in his third year studying law and economics. Unlike his peers, James' study companion is not the ostentatiously heavy *Cases and Materials on International Law*, but a small, white pill crushed into a fine powder: Concerta. The drug is a stimulant commonly prescribed to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Although he has never been diagnosed with hyperactivity, James says he takes the drug because it makes the studying process more pleasurable. "You sit there for 4-5 hours at a time," he says. "You've got complete tunnel vision. You don't want to talk to anyone else, you're just in there for that purpose ... you just want to work."

Like James, Anna*, a 22 year old Commerce/Arts student, seeks hyperactivity medication to mediate vigorous periods of study. "I've taken it with every major assessment, more or less," she says. "Personally, I think it really helps. You pop a pill, then shoom. You're intensely focused. You can power through lectures at a time."

Research conducted in American universities found that around 7 per cent of students use ADHD medication — Ritalin, Concerta, Metadate, Adderall — to improve their grades and gain a competitive edge. While no comparable study has been undertaken in Australia, a similar culture exists. "I've been in the law library late at night and I've seen people just sitting there with [the] pills at their desk," Anna says. "To be honest, I think that's pretty bold. I tend to be more subtle."

Whether it's done in the open amphitheatre of Eastern Avenue Auditorium, or more discretely behind closed doors, taking medication that has been prescribed for another is illegal in Australia. In New South Wales, Ritalin is classified as a schedule 8, or controlled, drug and is regulated more strictly than other prescription-only medication. GPs must obtain a permit from a psychiatrist to prescribe it. Possessing Ritalin without a script is a punishable offence.

Yet at \$5 a pop, 'cognitive enhancers', 'smart drugs' or, more colloquially, 'study pingas', offer students a quick fix. Facing masses of revision in the coming weeks, James and Anna have already secured their supply. To someone who notoriously neglects lectures and readings, the prospect of heightened awareness for hours at a time sounds tempting. But

is it fair? Comparing Ritalin ingestion in academia to the use of performance enhancing drugs in sports, Kylie*, 21 and studying Arts/Law, thinks not.

"I know the drugs don't actually make you smarter, but it's the opportunities [that] they allow. It's like using steroids in weightlifting," she says, "you use steroids, you become stronger, you can lift more weights. You take Ritalin [and] you're more concentrated; you can study for longer periods of time. If I could study for six hours straight each night in stuvac, I'd ace my exams. But I can't. No normal person can."

To an extent, James agrees with this argument. "If I didn't use Ritalin, my results would be at least 10 marks lower across the board. So yeah, I guess it is a performance enhancing drug," he says. "But why not enhance your performance? It's hypothetical,

'So many people take it legally, worldwide, to treat ADHD — I mean, how bad can it be?'

but imagine if everyone in the entire economy took Ritalin, our nation's productivity would be much, much higher."

Writing in science journal, *Nature*, Stanford law professor Henry Greely advocates for the widespread use of Ritalin and other 'cognitive enhancers'. "Human ingenuity has given us the means of enhancing our brain through inventions such as the written language, the printing press and the internet," he writes. "These drugs are just another way our uniquely innovative species continues to improve itself". Comparing Ritalin to the invention of the iPhone is a contentious argument, and very few in the world of science and academia agree with Greely. But his argument has a certain utilitarian appeal.

Certainly the risks of being caught taking study drugs is low. Given the cost of drug testing, it is highly unlikely the university would ever swab our tongues or test our pee before exams. With no feasible way to police Ritalin use, perhaps we should all just act on Greely's advice: jam our pockets with pills and strap ourselves in for one hell of a long night in Fisher, each tablet edging us towards unlocking our mind's potential like Bradley Cooper in *Limitless*.

When I put this notion to Kylie, she responds

bluntly, "but surely it isn't good for you".

I ask Anna if she knows of any side effects. Her response is a silent shrug accompanying a vacant stare.

I put the same question to James. "I've never actually looked into it," he tells me, "So many people take it legally, worldwide, to treat ADHD — I mean, how bad can it be?"

Neuroscientist Dr Daniel Hermens from the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre warns that study drugs are potentially addictive and pose similar risks to more commonly known amphetamines, but at a much lower level.

The relationship between the white powder James enjoys and the risks it poses is almost as complex as the principles of international law that he's supposed to be revising. First thing's first: while Ritalin, Concerta, Metadate, and Methylin are flashy brand names; they're almost chemically identical. The active ingredient in each drug is known as methylphenidate.

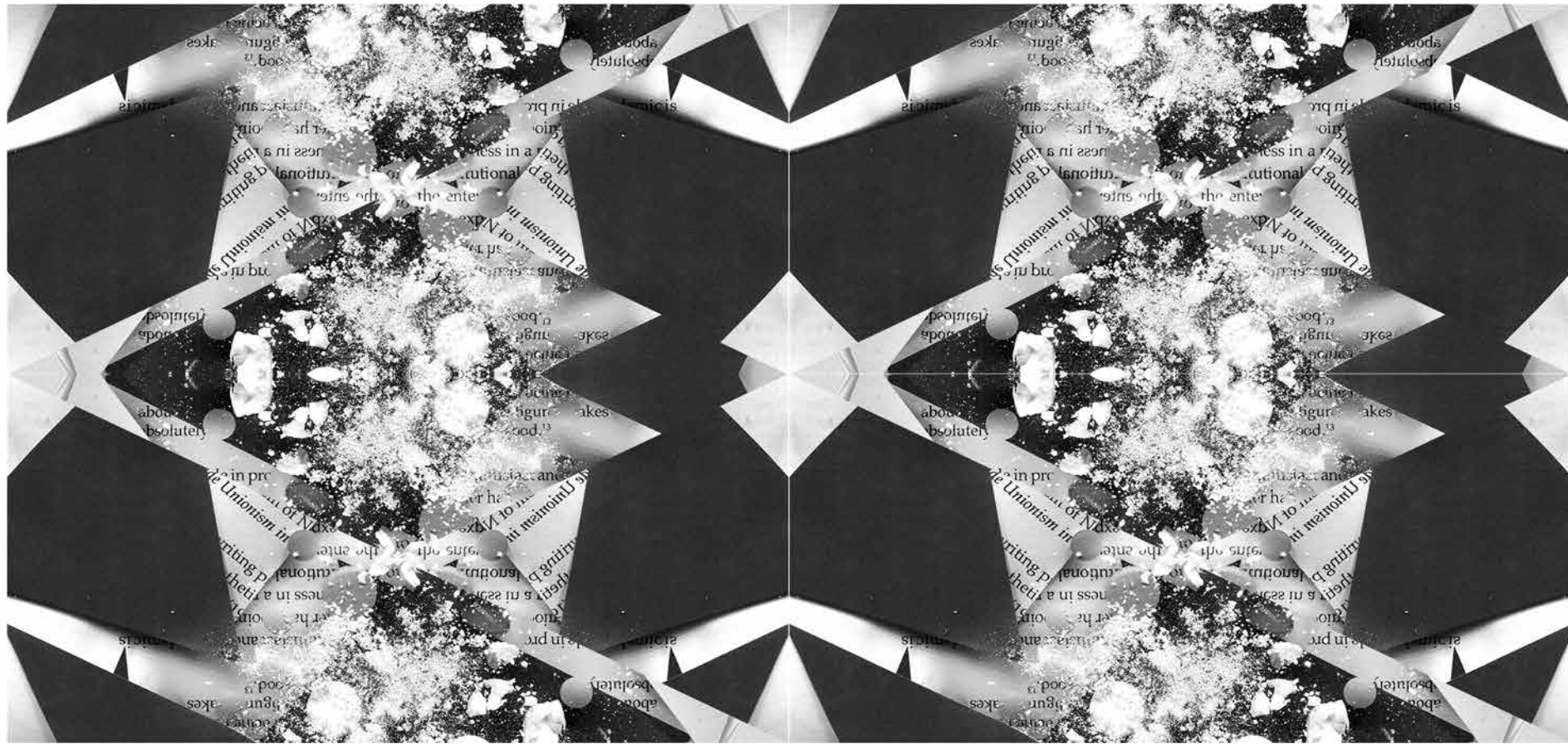
Naturally, our brains release chemicals, or neurotransmitters. These neurotransmitters are fundamental to our body's function. You've probably heard of them before: adrenaline, serotonin and dopamine. Described as the 'rewards' chemical, dopamine is responsible for motivation, attention and lust. The 'this-feels-good-I'm-going-to-keep-doing-it' sensation is simply dopamine.

In the simplest organisms, dopamine is released during activities that are essential to existence, such as eating and sex. For more complex creatures, the chemical is released through a range of activities from eating and sex to beating your flatmate in FIFA, reading *Honi's* ever-so insightful feature articles, and, yes, strangely enough, studying as well. How often have you felt that 'this-feels-good-I'm-going-to-keep-doing-it' feeling when you've nailed an assignment or begun to grasp a new concept? I'm confident most of us can relate.

But not everyone is so lucky. "People diagnosed with ADHD biologically produce lower levels of dopamine," says Dr Hermens, "this makes many simple tasks which require concentration more difficult."

Around 8 per cent of children in Australia live with ADHD. As a result, many experience symptoms that include inattention and impulsivity. 50 per cent of these people carry the symptoms on into their adult life. In such cases, drugs like Ritalin are advantageous, adjusting the brain to a function level that is considered normal.

"Methylphenidate works by blocking the dopa-



mine transporters in the brain," says Dr Hermens, "for someone with ADHD, that increases the lower levels of dopamine to normal".

Confused? Let me break it down for you. Dopamine is carried away from the brain and absorbed into the body through a series of fixed molecules called dopamine transporters, or 'reuptake inhibitors'. If you picture your brain as a lake, the water as dopamine, and your body, an ocean, the dopamine transporters would be like a river, meandering downstream, gradually emptying the lake.

As people with ADHD produce less dopamine, their lake is naturally emptier. When they take their prescribed medication, the methylphenidate obstructs the transporter, concentrating dopamine in the brain. It's like building a dam at the head of the river. With gradual rainfall, the lake slowly fills, eventually reaching capacity. By normalising dopamine levels, the symptoms of ADHD are minimised.

Yet not everyone living with ADHD enjoys the heightened concentration that is supposed to be enabled by their medication. Within close-knit communities like universities, this has resulted in the emergence of a black market. "I buy my Ritalin off a friend of mine from uni," Anna tells me. "She stopped taking it because she hates the way it dulls her mood and suppresses her appetite." James has a similar arrangement. While some students might be able to make a little bit of extra dosh by defying medical advice, they are effectively putting others at risk.

"If you have normal levels of dopamine and take Ritalin, then the blocking of the transporter leads to excessive amounts of the chemical in the brain" explains Dr Hermens, "and this is where you can get into dangerous territory." Other illicit and highly addictive stimulants function in the same way, blocking our brain's reuptake inhibitors. You've heard of these — speed, ecstasy, MDMA, and methamphetamine (crystal meth). "Ritalin is from the same class or family of drug as methamphetamine; it is essentially amphetamine" says Dr Hermens, "and in that, there's an inherent abuse potential."

We've all seen *Breaking Bad*: crystal meth is serious shit. I'm not trying to say your mate who took Ritalin that one time to smash out his gender studies take home exam is on the verge of becoming a Jesse Pinkman-style junkie. It would take a lot to get to that point. But scientifically, what's happening inside the brain is pretty similar.

For James, the initial hit of Concerta is comparable to other party drugs he's taken. "When you first

take it you get this heart pumping feeling in your chest," says James, "it's like a semi come-up, your heart starts beating really fast, but it's different, you don't want to dance, you just want to focus." According to Dr Hermens, the difference James describes comes down to the type of neurotransmitters that are released. While methylphenidate only increases dopamine, stronger amphetamines cause peaks across a range of neurotransmitters.

For example, MDMA causes spikes in levels of serotonin (responsible for mood) and noradrenalin (arousal and alertness) as well as dopamine (motivation). So when you're on it, you're more likely to stay awake, dance all night and wind up leaving Home Bar at 4am with a group of oddly attractive English backpackers. However, as methylphenidate only acts on the dopamine pathway, its sensation is purely motivational. *Breaking Bad* would have been a very different show if Walter and Jesse gallivanted through New Mexico stealing medication from primary school kids.

'I'm not trying to say your mate who took Ritalin that one time to smash out his gender studies take home exam is going to become a Jesse Pinkman-style junkie'

Ritalin's risks lie in the way it's consumed. When taken as prescribed, by those with a dopamine deficiency, the drug is effective and safe. Each tablet is designed to mimic the brain's natural patterns, ensuring a slow release of methylphenidate over a long period of time. However, when stressed-out students start equating more pills with more concentration, the potential for abuse increases. Like any drug consumed habitually, the human body will slowly grow tolerant to methylphenidate. For regular users, one tablet eventually won't be enough.

"I suspect many students use it because they assume it's relatively safe", says Dr Hermens. "But through prolonged exposure, a few at a time can turn into many at a time, and then many a week. Then the user starts thinking about faster modes of delivery. That is where you get well into the realm of abuse and dependence."

"We don't really know what the long-term effects of Ritalin are. But judging from its chemical similar-

ities, psychotic and depressive symptoms, like those displayed in methamphetamine users, are not improbable from prolonged methylphenidate use."

A couple of concentrated doses of Concerta are a daily regularity for James during intensive blocks of study, but he insists he's not addicted. "I can study perfectly fine without Ritalin," he says, "when I can't get my hands on any, I just drink coffee." However, he does acknowledge the drug's moreish tendency. "I guess it is a bit addictive, I mean, when you're studying without it, the thought is always in your brain, 'I could just eat a Concerta and smash this out.'"

I ask if James has thought about carrying the habit on into his professional career.

"To be honest I wouldn't mind it," he tells me, "I just got back from a work experience stint in the United States, and all the economic analysts at the company I was working for were on it. I really don't feel like it's an unethical thing to do. A lot of people in the industry do already, so yeah I guess I will." However, if Dr Hermens' warnings ring true, the time may come for James when work and Ritalin are inseparably fused.

Therein lies the problem with Greely's argument. In 1954, Roger Bannister was the first person to run a four-minute mile. That time is still fast, but hundreds of people have run a mile in that time since. The feat no longer has the same lustre. When performance rises, so do expectations. In the same way, if everyone were to consume study drugs then employers would likely expect more of their workers. Productivity may rise on net, but that is not a goal in itself — unlike, say, going to Scubar five nights in a row and still finishing your essay.

Exams are fast approaching. We're all sleep deprived and stressed-out. Everyone just wants to do their best — whether that's simply passing, improving on last year's results or pursuing an elusive, high distinction average. Revising is both arduous and monotonous, and we all have our own ways of negotiating the process. For me, it's a Ralph's coffee and a packet of Extra chewing gum. For others, it's Ritalin.

To those considering turning to methylphenidate to mediate their exam preparation this stuvac, it is at least worth understanding how the drug is affecting your brain. From what I've learnt, it may be the beginning of a burgeoning habit. **HS**

***NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.**

RU486 and U: Abortion in NSW

JOEL HILLMAN / How you can procure an abortion despite legal ambiguity

The NSW Parliament recently voted to keep abortion in the *Crimes Act*. But that doesn't mean you can't get an abortion.

There are two types of abortions in NSW: medical termination of pregnancy (MTO) involves two medicines (originally referred to as 'RU486') which cause the uterus to expel the pregnancy and can be used up to 63 days after conception. Surgical termination of pregnancy, often called dilation and curettage (D&C), is where the pregnancy is removed manually, and can be used up to 20 weeks after conception.

But let's take a step back. The decision Parliament struck down was one that would have removed seeking an abortion from the *Crimes Act 1900*. It is still currently a crime to obtain an abortion in NSW. There are, however, exceptions. A judge called Levine ruled that a licenced physician could terminate a pregnancy if the person would suffer harm from the pregnancy. All-round hero Justice Kirby went even further, later ruling that this included future harm, for example threats to financial stability or mental health that would come after the pregnancy was carried to term. Harm is interpreted pretty loosely as being either medically dangerous, causing mental anguish, or 'economic or social stress'.

That means that, according to the court, if you ex-

pect to suffer harm to your mental health as a result of the pregnancy, including if your finances couldn't handle it, then that is grounds to terminate the pregnancy, and it is not a crime. The crime would come from seeking such a termination without such a justification. There is no age limit on the person seeking the abortion.

But just because all abortions are necessarily illegal, this doesn't mean they are easy to access. The drug used for MTO, MS 2-Step (or RU486), is PBS subsidised, so it's currently \$38.80 (or \$6.30 if you have Centrelink), but the rest of the process is still privately billed, and can cost hundreds of dollars for appointments and follow-ups, though some practices bulk bill. Only a handful of physicians are licensed to prescribe the drugs and even fewer pharmacists can supply it. Access in rural and remote areas is absolutely abysmal. If you don't have a Medicare card the drugs are quite expensive.

Surgical abortions usually cost a few hundred dollars, and are privately billed. They include fees for the doctor, the anaesthetist, and for follow-ups. Again, access is pretty much limited to capital cities.

The argument against removing abortion from the *Crimes Act* is that women will start demanding on the spot abortions, and medical practitioners will suddenly set up shop as an abortion supplier. The

only way to prevent these two things is to keep it illegal. NSW Greens MP Dr Mehreen Faruqi (not a medical doctor: she has a PhD in environmental engineering, but she's smarter than most of the physicians I know), whose bill was voted down, has been arguing for this change for years. Dr Faruqi points out that the ACT has had laws like the one she proposed for a long time and hasn't seen an increase in frivolous abortion claims, nor doctors giving them outside of their training.

It makes no sense for a medical procedure to be regulated by a criminal law. While you can still access safe abortions, it's not acceptable that doctors and pharmacists who provide them are under threat of gaol (five years imprisonment for unlawful abortion), or that people don't have rights over what happens inside their own uterus.

If you need abortion services, your GP and Family Planning NSW are great places to start. For rural residents, there is also the Tabbot Foundation (named for Tony Abbott, who famously opposed the introduction of RU486), who do most of the process with a doctor over the phone, and post supplies to the person after a local doctor does an examination.

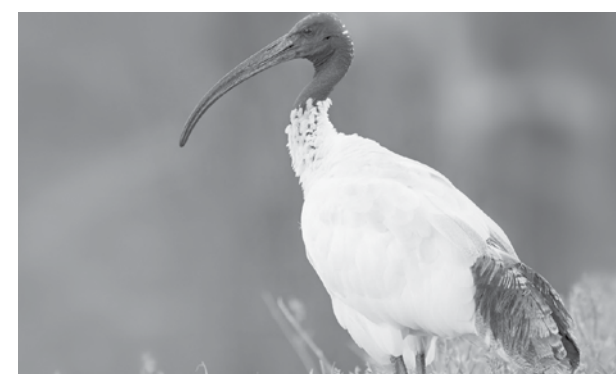
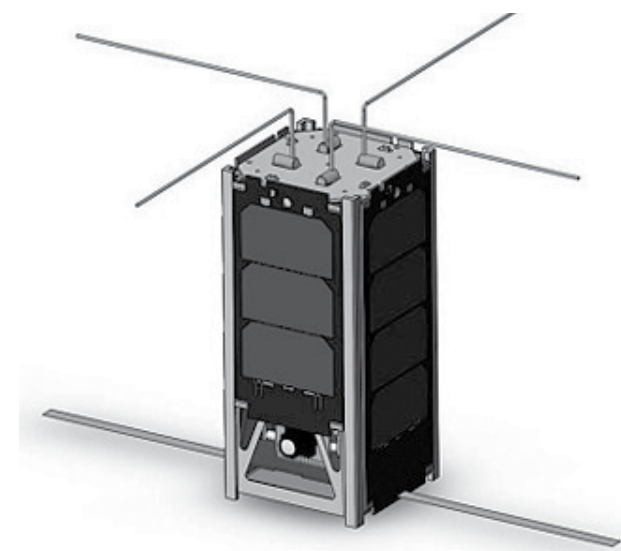
Joel Hillman is a licenced pharmacist and registered to supply medical terminations of pregnancy.

Campus research round up

JAMIE WEISS / It's science, bitch

It's hip to be cube

On May 26, the Australian spacecraft INSPIRE-2, a project led by the University of Sydney, was launched from the International Space Station. INSPIRE-2 is a cubesat — a research satellite that will be part of a network of 50 built by university teams from around the world to “perform first-class science” in the largely unexplored lower thermosphere (approximately 100km above Earth's surface). This was the first launch of an Australian cubesat. Good luck, little guy.



Not so peckish after all

Going from the fluffy to the foul: turns out ibises, objectively the worst bird, are actually picky when it comes to food. New research published in *Behavioural Ecology* by lead author Sean Coogan, a PhD student at the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre and School of Life and Environmental Sciences, shows the notorious “bin chicken” has a strong preference for high-carbohydrate foods, despite their natural diet typically being low in carbohydrates and high in protein and fat. “Urban Australian white ibis seem to be taking advantage of the abundance of high-carb human foods available in [cities]... It could be a situation similar to humans, where we have a preference for high-carb foods perhaps because those foods were relatively rare in our ancestral diets,” Coogan says. In short, the ibises' appetites are evolving — guard your lunch!

Lab report

Everyone knows that dogs are pure and full of love, but can owning a dog actually make you healthier? Associate Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis from the Charles Perkins Centre and Sydney School of Public Health wants to find out. Participants in the Physical & Affective Wellbeing Study of dog owners (PAWS) pilot will see if dog ownership causes changes in physical activity, cardiovascular and metabolic health, and psychosocial wellbeing. Spend time with dogs for science? Beautiful.



you're invited to **thursday night live**: an honi x surg party. the party is at 7pm on **thursday 8th june** at the **lady hampshire** on parramatta road. there'll be free drinks, djs, and all your boogie needs. **love**, student media 2017.

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Special Consideration



What if I am sick for an assessment or examination?
Is there any way not to get a fail?

You can apply for a Special Consideration. Go to the University special consideration website and review the requirements. See your doctor (or if yours is not available, any doctor) and get your Professional Practitioner's Certificate (PPC) completed. This needs to be on the same day that you are sick and should not be backdated. If your doctor is not available you will need to see another doctor. If you are too sick to go to the doctor, search the internet for a doctor that will do a house call in your area. Your doctor should also give a brief description of the things that you are unable to do, e.g. attend university, leave bed, sit up for longer than 10 minutes, etc. The doctor will also have to assess the severity of your condition. If you are not severely affected by your illness you might find it difficult to get special consideration. You also need to submit your PPC within 3 working days.

If you have a valid PPC, and the doctor has assessed that you are severely affected or worse you should be granted special consideration. Be aware that you do not have to provide details about your condition, only what you are unable to do, and the severity.

Remember that Special Consideration is for a temporary illness, misadventure or exacerbation of a long term illness. It is not for long term illnesses per se. That should be dealt with through the Disabilities Services Unit.

What if I am sick for the supplementary examination or every assessment in a subject? Is there any way not to get a fail?

If they reschedule your exam and assessments, but you are still affected or affected again, by illness or misadventure you should apply again for special consideration. If successful your faculty will grant you another supplementary assessment or award you a DC grade. If you receive a DC grade you can apply to have a refund or re-crediting of your fees. Email an SRC caseworker for the appropriate form.

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,

Someone told me I couldn't get Centrelink because I had some savings. That doesn't seem fair to me. Is that correct?

Save me

Dear Save me,

If you successfully apply for a Centrelink payment they will begin paying you based on your “liquid assets”, which includes money you have saved, as well as stocks and shares, etc. For every \$500 (rounded down) as a single person with no dependent children, you will need to wait one week to receive your payment. This time is capped at 13 weeks.

Abe



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President's Report

ISABELLA BROOK

Its week 12 and that means we're one week closer to stuvac, exams and the end of Semester One ! I wanted to use this week's report to update you all on an issue that has been pottering on for the entirety of this semester, and that is the Enterprise Bargaining that is taking place between the University and its staff.

Enterprise Bargaining takes place between employers and employees who are collectively organised and represented by their union. Enterprise Bargaining Agreements set out the basic terms and conditions for all em-

ployees. They include things like pay rates, bonuses and leave entitlements.

The main union that represents staff at Sydney Uni is the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU). The NTEU has three key asks in this round of Enterprise Bargaining. They want to see secure work that abolishes forced redundancies and improves rights for casual workers. They want increased staff participation in university decision-making and they want fair pay, leave and superannuation for all workers.

Sounds super simple right? Think

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*.

again. The university has refused to come to the table on many of these key claims and is instead proposing changes that will strip away some of the basic rights of our staff.

You might be thinking, why does this matter? Why should students care about staff conditions? The reality is that staff working conditions are OUR learning conditions. When the rights of staff are eroded we see changes like bigger class sizes and less face to face teaching time. If our teachers are stressed or overworked due to poor conditions the quality of our educa-

tion will be impacted. This is why it's important that, as students, we show our solidarity and fight for the rights of the staff at this university.

We're going to be hearing a lot more about the Enterprise Bargaining in the upcoming months. The SRC encourages all students to support the NTEU in their fight for fair working conditions and pay. Have your voice heard and let your lecturers, tutors and professors know that you support them.

Education Officers' Report

APRIL HOLCOMBE and JENNA SCHRODER

The National Day of Protest on May 17 against the Liberals' proposed fee hikes was a tremendous success. Thousands of students took to the streets around the country, including disrupting a fancy lunch for Malcom Turnbull in Brisbane. It was a large, public, defiant blow to the Liberals who are on shaky ground and whose cuts to universities are opposed by a majority of the population.

More than 300 rallied on Usyd campus and marched to UTS with rebellious energy – in fact, we had the

single largest campus turnout in the country. Activists and the Education officers did a huge amount of work leafleting, poster, lecture bashing and talking to students about the massive cuts, how they affect us, and why protests can stop it. Several smaller stunts in the lead up took excellent advantage of the transient media interest in students, with coverage on multiple occasions by ABC, SBS, Nine, Ten, Seven, SKY, 2GB, AAP, the Australian, Buzzfeed, and Junkee.

Since these attacks have not gone

away and we have a lot more beyond that to fight for, the National Union of Students is preparing for a follow up protest on August 16, and we will need to see the same organising effort as this time.

But also on the Education Department's agenda is the crucial task of supporting staff against management's attack at a local level. The NTEU is quickly moving towards industrial action in the face of proposals by the bosses for forced redundancies, de facto individual contracts for academic

staff, and further erosion of rights for casuals. NTEU members are ready to strike if management do not back down on all attacks and if they do not accept all the union's demands. This level of determination from workers is truly excellent and must be matched by students in solidarity. Come to EAG meetings on Thursdays at 1pm to discuss this campaign and more.

Written by April Holcombe.

Wom*n's Officers' Report

IMOGEN GRANT and KATIE THORBURN

On Friday Women's Collective attended the Sorry Day Rally. Sorry Day marks the day Kevin Rudd 'apologised' to the Stolen Generation. However, since then child removal rates of Aboriginal children have increased, and are now at the highest rate ever. Indigenous children are taken at a rate ten times that of non-indigenous children. It's important for WoCo to fight alongside Aboriginal activists against a racist system that removes children. Whilst WoCo has also been fighting for reproductive justice in the fight for legal access to abortion (abortion is still in the crimes act), it's also important to not ignore the unique issues facing first nations women.

On Tuesday WoCo pulled a stunt on the fence of Parliament house. We hung coat hangers attached to the faces of the 25 elected representatives who kept abortion in the Crimes Act. The action was to 'name and shame' those who had the opportunity to save lives by making abortion legal, and thus doctors more able to perform the operation. We remain in 1900 when the Crimes Act adopted an even older British law rooted in misogyny that women are to be breeders and have no control over their bodies.

Finally, we're fighting for the implementation of a nation-wide 1800

counselling line for those affected by sexual violence in the university community. In August this year, the AHRC report into university sexual harassment and assault will be released. We expect that the report, and its associated media coverage, will kick up a lot of dormant trauma within the survivor community and result in increased disclosures and strain on existing university counselling services. As it stands, Sydney University's CAPS (counselling and psychological services) is not equipped to handle sexual assault trauma. As officers, we've received so many horror stories about the mishandling of cases, that we make a point of never referring a survivor to the service. CAPS also has wait times and is only available to currently enrolled students and, therefore, survivors are often unable to receive a timely appointment and survivors who have dropped out following sexual assault are unable to access support. Cumulatively, survivors at USyd are currently unable to access timely and appropriate trauma informed counselling. We need a 1800 hotline that's staffed by trauma informed counsellors. Students and survivors are worth it. To join the fight, sign the petition here: http://www.fairagenda.org/uni_counselling

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Indigenous Officer's Report

JACKSON NEWELL

Last report, I stated that the Koori Centre is trying to obtain a new printer for Indigenous students. I raised this issue at the Indigenous Strategy and Services Committee meeting around a month ago and was met with mostly positive reactions. I am continuing to speak with members of the Indigenous aid team, Mura Yura Student Support Services in relation to this issue.

I am currently considering our budget to the SRC General-Secretar-

ies, and if there are any ideas you have that will advance community within the Collective that will need funding, please get in contact. I am currently re-instating 'Koori Lunches' as part of our SRC budget for one.

RECONCILIATION WEEK is THIS WEEK, 29 MAY - 3 JUNE. It's great to see the university celebrating the need for Reconciliation and hosting a number of events, which can be found at whatson.syd.edu.au/events/public

lished/reconciliation-week-2017 (link includes bookings forms). Events include:

- Hands of Reconciliation interactive artwork, 10am – 4pm daily at the University lawns, Camperdown campus.

- 1967 Referendum – Implications for health then, now and in the future, Indigenous health discussion panel, Tuesday 30 May, 9am – 1pm (bookings essential).

- Jane Gleeson-White on 'The Swan Book' by Alexis Wright, literature discussion in land and country, Tuesday 30 May, 6:30 - 7:30pm (bookings essential).

- 'Arts and Aboriginal Australia: decolonisation or reconciliation?', discussion on ATSI museum collections, Wednesday 31 May, 6 - 7:30pm (bookings essential).

As always, any issues, contact me at indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

International Students' Officers' Report

ZHIXIAN WANG, HELENA NG WAI TING, YIFAN KONG and WENXIN FANG

This month has been a fruitful one for international student collective. The very first constitution of the collective has been finalised, and was implemented in the first election of the collective. Consequently, about 10 students were elected in the first election to work on several major issues outlined in the annual action plan.

After the massive sign-ups collected during Oweek, the awareness for the collective has been raised like never before. The collective has been recognized as a community for international students, therefore, more and

more students are getting involved in the collective this semester.

At the beginning of the semester, four office bearers had a meeting and discussed the outline the details of our first constitution. The constitution is divided into several parts, important ones are electoral regulation and position descriptions.

Our first collective election took place on 4th April in Carlaw 173, the election was the first meeting which followed the new constitution. There were about 30 people signed up for the election and about 15 people

went. 4 officer bearers were assigned to different duties: secretaries, grievance officer and treasurer. There are 4 departments divided by duties: event, marketing and special programs. There were 10 positions taken at the first election meeting.

Due to high demand, another round of interviews was held later on in SRC office. 5 students showed up in the second meeting after the election, we discussed some critical issues on special programs, precisely, we discuss the Honi Soit special edition with the president and after this conversation,

more details on the concession opal card petition has also been discussed in the office.

This week, we are going to focus on the spending within the collective and make some decisions and plans regarding to the budget. We are currently planning an event for the collective to attend Jew revue, this will be our first social event of the collective.

Join our Facebook group 'USYD International Students Collective' and like our Facebook page 'USyd International Students Collective'.

Refugee Rights Officers' Report

KELTON MUIR DE MOORE, JESS WHITTALL and CAITLIN MCMENAMIN

It's been a successful semester for the Campus Refugee Action Collective as more Sydney Uni students than ever in recent history have become active in the refugee campaign, fighting to end the injustice of offshore detention of refugees on Manus Island and Nauru. There was a record contingent to the national Palm Sunday rally with over 80 students arriving an hour before the rally to assemble en masse and march together as a block and join the rally of thousands. Students energy at the rally led from the front with passion-

ate chanting reflecting the politics of the day, decrying Trumps bombing of Syria and our governments continued involvement in the wars of the Middle East and consequential refugees. The collective has published another bulletin this semester updating on and analysing refugee politics over the past 6 months, smashing the narratives that both major parties push in an attempt to gain votes and racially scapegoat from their unpopular neoliberal policies. Over 60 students attended the first of 5 meetings this semester

on an intro of how to be an activist, and dozens more have joined the collective since in activity protesting to #SaveSaeed blockading Villawood and the Immigration department and #SackDutton. We're looking to have more students join us next semester and will be setting up regular meetings (every 2 weeks) and some social events to build an even more organised, educated and active collective. We organise to fight for refugee rights and against the racism that originates through our government and media's

scapegoating of refugees for the ills of Australian imperialism and neoliberalism.

NOTE: THE REFUGEE RIGHTS OFFICERS WERE NOT DUE TO SUBMIT A REPORT THIS WEEK BUT HAVE DONE SO AS THEY MISSED SUBMITTING IN PAST WEEKS.

Notice of Council Meeting

89th Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney



src

activism
advocacy
representation

DATE: 7th June

TIME: 6–8pm

LOCATION: Professorial Board Room (Quadrangle)

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SUPRA what’s-on Give our kids back

EILA VINWYNN - SUPRA DSP

Apart from lobbying on behalf of their represented groups, Equity Officers have a couple of other components to their jobs. One is community engagement and another is event organising. Here is a snapshot of some of the activities councillors have participated in and initiated over the last couple of weeks.

Our Women’s Officer, Natasha Chaudhary, has weekly meditation sessions at 3pm at room 5060 the Abercrombie building. Also, the Survivor’s Network met on Wednesday to ask “What does it mean to be a woman in your country? They create a safe space to share their personal stories and learn about each other’s journeys as women. It was at the Women’s Room, Manning House. Then Natasha hosted a walk from Coogee to Bondi on Sunday May 21st . People met at Central Station and bussed it to Coogee and met up for a hike on an unseasonably warm May Sunday.

Meanwhile on the same day, Rachel Evans, Education Officer, attended an anti WestConnex forum at Sydey Uni nursing School in Camperdown. Rachel is pretty busy around the CBD, attending rallies for all kinds of causes. She was also at the March Against Monsanto Rally on Saturday - the annual anti-GMO rally we all know and love. She reported that Australia now has 100% GM cotton. All fast-fashion uses GM cotton, so word is, get back to the op-shop and buy up the good old cotton pre GM garments! Then, keep recycling them - or buy some good quality organic cotton and sew your own, after your pre-tax, no-penalty rate, post HECS debt repayment dollars flow into your community bank account. Continuing her extensive community engagement, Rachel was also at a rally the previous Thursday outside Docs, supporting a family who are fighting to get their children back from the Government. The horror stories issuing from so many families are disturbing - a litany of trechant abuse and denial of human rights. Rachel has given a run-down on both of the rallies in the following articles “Give Our Kids Back” and “Say No to GM Cotton”.

The 20th anniversary of ‘Sorry Day’ is coming up on May 26th, and at 5:30 pm in Victoria Park (Broadway side) a candle-lit vigil and march to Central Station Platform 1 will happen, which is where stolen children were split up and sent to institutions and foster homes.

Ollie Moore, Queer Officer, organised a screening of ‘But Im a Cheerleader’ last Tuesday night and Gareth from the SUPRA Disability Network hosted a Coffee Break for postgrad students who identify as having a disability on Friday 26th.

Councilors Nic Avery and Karen Cochrane worked hard on drafting changes to the Constitution which is critical work for the effective functioning of council. We will vote on the proposals in the AGM, or will have voted - we exist in a Honi time -warp lag - on Thursday May 25th. I wont invite you unless you can time travel backwards.

Our case workers here do a LOT of work for students. Adrian’s summary: “In a typical week the advocacy team at SUPRA might deal with emergency housing cases, get bond back from unscrupulous landlords, help research students prepare for their annual progress review, and support coursework students assert their appeal rights. They provide free, professional, and confidential advice, independent from the University.” Dont forget the free legal service for Post Grad students!

RACHEL EVANS - SUPRA EDUCATION OFFICER



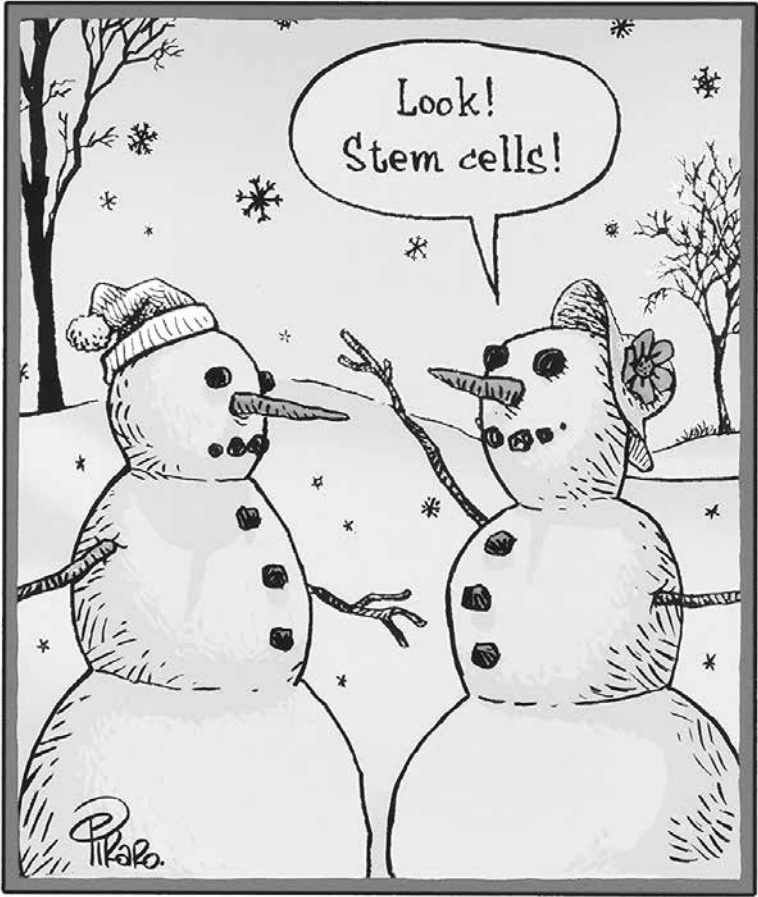
Photo: Rachel Evans

Granmothers Against Removals organised a rally outside Docs on Friday 19th May. They were supporting a family fighting for the return of their childnred and other turned up with similar stories to protest. “Familiesjump through every hoop there is to satisfy departments they are fit parents” a spokeswoman said. She said that “Despite attending drug rehabilitation and parenting courses, they face a system which does not seem to know the meaning of ‘discretionary”’.

Studies show that children who spend time in out of home care are many more times likely to suffer from mental health issues. Twenty years after the original “Bringing them Home” report was released, Aboriginal children are still being taken from their

parents in even greater numbers than before. In 2012, Olga Havnen, a senior Northern Territory government official, revealed that more than \$80m was spent on the surveillance of families and the removal of children compared with just \$500,000 on supporting the same impoverished families. Her warning of a second Stolen Generation led to her sacking.

Professor of Indigeous research, Larisa Behrendt pointed out that a lot could be achieved by simply implementing the recommendations of the original report - “these included the need t end discitiminatory practices within the child sector that made assumptions about dysfunction in the Aborginal community”



Monsanto - say no to GMO cotton

RACHEL EVANS - SUPRA EDUCATION OFFICER / Thirty-eight countries take action against Monsanto

On May 20th 100 people gathered in Addison Road Community Centre to protest for the fifth consecutive year in Sydney against Monsanto - the company that is the foremost proponents of Genetically Modified Foods (GMO) technology. This was part of a global movement to oppose GM crops on that day.

Michelle Sheather ecologist and representing GM Free Alliance explained Monsanto’s domination plan to control all agriculture production from 1996, had not come to fruition. ‘GMO foods are still mainly in 5 countries - the food movement, public opinon and protests against GMO have had an impact,’ she noted.

‘GMO foods have their deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) altered in a laboratory - genes are added from other plants, animals, viruses or bacteria,’ she explained. ‘It is not a simple cross breed of plants - such as traits of a white and red flower to become a pink one - it is a much more bio-invasive procedure. GMOs cannot exist in nature, they can only be created in a laboratory,’ she clarified.

‘Monsanto did no testing on the human population to check for adverse reactions, before releasing GMO foods into the food chain.

In Australia and many other countries our government has done no tests on the impacts of biodiversity on our environment.

Monsanto sells the GMO seeds to farmers with the lie the seeds will produce higher yields, but farmers have to use Monsanto’s pesticides to guarantee the higher yield, then the soil is depleted and pesticide resistance develops don’t work. The contract with the agrochemical company is that the farmer does not own the seed - the agrochemical company does - the company owns the chemicals - it is in control of our entire food chain; a vicious cycle - and a monopoly,’ explained Sheather.

Sean Davis, from Glyphosate Information Action, told the meeting ‘Studies have shown that Monsanto’s genetically-modified foods can lead to serious health conditions such as the development of cancer tumors, infertility and birth defects.’

Sheather noted ‘In the English countryside where you have hedges as fences, biodiversity studies of GM crops proved that they caused a decline in the biodiversity of species - this contributed to rejection of the growig of GM crops in the UK.

We call on the Australian government to undertake comprehensive biodiversity studies here including for any trials.

Avoid the four heavily dominated GMO crops - soy, cotton, canola, corn - most of the GMO crops are turned into animal feed’ advised Sheather. ‘Now in Australia, a country with strong links with the United

States of America (USA), we now have around 100% GMO cotton production,’ Sheather warned.

‘Internationally,’ GMO food has been fought off in Russia, most of Europe, Thailand and many parts of Asia. In Europe there have been big battles,such as in France where farmers protested riding their tractors. GMO soy barons are based in the USA, Canada, Argentina and Brazil, so imported soy milk from those countries has a high probability of being GMO soy. In fact, around 90% of GMO crops come from the Americas,’ Sheather noted.

‘Brazil initially resisted GMO with community organisations taking court action but the government caved seven years ago,’ continued Sheather, ‘Monsanto campaigned hard in Eastern Europe but people opposed their introduction as it would change the entire nature of their small scale farming, with some activists receiving death threats, but persisting,’ noted Sheather. ‘Mexico has been a success,’ continued Sheather, ‘with GMO corn being banned - this is important as it is the centre of origin of this crop- in Africa there has been a lot of pressure but still most of Africa is GMO free, except South Africa.



‘There was an attempt federally in Australia to get GMO food labeled through the Blewett Review, but we lost that,’ noted Sheather. However, ‘we have had some success in local councils banning Round Up and Monsanto pesticides,’ Sheather commented. ‘All of Australia is soy and corn GMO free and South Australia and Tasmania do not grow GMO canola,’ noted Sheather. ‘People got together and also blocked the growing of GMO wheat and rice which is not grown anywherein the world except for field trials. Our government is very influenced by US and US food trade deals,’ cautioned Sheather.

Sean Davis explained ‘Monsanto is responsible for Agent Orange and under occupied Iraq the people cannot collect seeds. Monsanto has ravaged the third world - because there it is easier to steal land.’

Ugandan speaker Alison Gleeson, addressed the crowd. ‘There is a massive famine in East Africa - South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia - and Monsanto is putting pressure on farmers to allow GMO telling them that the drought is a result of no new technology.

In Uganda all PHD agricultural scientists are sponsored by Monsanto who advise the government.

And now in Uganda we have incidents of diabetes and cancer where we have not before’, explained Gleeson.

“I returned to Uganda and met with women in villages,’ continued Gleeson, ‘I have three acres of land with corn,’ the farmer told Gleeson, ‘I used to grow a tonne of corn, now I get a fraction of that. I can no longer find the old seeds because there are Monsanto seeds everywhere, and where the harvest would be long, it is now only good for two weeks. I have to spray my crops, but it is expensive, I can’t afford it,’ told the villager to Gleeson.

Gleeson commented ‘So families are moving kids from school so they can eat, a friend had 100 acres and didn’t even get 100 kilos of corn out of 100 acres.

Ugandans aren’t lazy, which is the lie being pushed, they like new technology, but it is all crap - it does not work,’ said Gleeson. ‘All the science says it not safe and in Uganda, now, even the cows are getting sick - the doctor lines are so long - people spend a lot of time in lines and kids out of school and go to home hungry. The food problem with Monsanto has worsened not got better,’ noted Gleeson. But with social mobilisation on the ground grassroots actions, we can defeat Monsanto,’ concluded Gleeson.

Find out about how to take action by contacting

GM Free Australia Alliance : <http://www.gmfreeaustralia.org.au/gm-freeze>

Billionaire claims to be part of the middle class



Specifically, the upper-upper-upper-upper-upper-upper-upper-middle class. P3»



Man with pee-shyness unable to ever urinate as God is omnipresent

Ann Ding Lifestyle Reporter

Man with pee-shyness unable to ever urinate as God is omnipresent

Pee-shyness, also known as ‘bashful bladder’, ‘stage fright’, or its formal scientific term, ‘paruresis’, affects people from all walks of life. For some, it strikes suddenly, rarely, and without warning, while for others, it is an ongoing struggle.

But none know its curse more thoroughly than Jeremy Pritchett, a 23 year old masters student, who recently came to The Garter with his heartbreaking story.

“I used to pee, as a child,” he begins mournfully. “I remember pissing joyfully as a toddler; at home, in public restrooms, even in the swimming pool.”

Looking back, Pritchett now recognises the signs of pee-shyness that began to emerge when he started school. “I would wait until my friends left the bathroom — only then did I feel comfortable enough to relieve myself.”

Raised in a loving but strict Catholic



Jeremy Pritchett feels that the presence of God interferes with his ability to empty his bladder.

23 dad jokes that take away the sting of estrangement



“Hi ‘really sad and missing you and just want you to come back so so much’, I’m dad!” P5»

‘How can I be racist if race is a social construct?’ asks self-proclaimed ‘woke’ One Nation senator, Malcolm Roberts.

Baopu He Political Correspondent



‘Woke’ Senator Malcolm Roberts.

An unprecedented political move sent shockwaves through Australia’s political sphere, One Nation senator Malcolm Roberts has defended himself against claims of racism with radical sociological theory.

“People have been accusing me of ‘racism’ by saying that I encourage discriminatory acts of hate speech. But what those people forget is that basically, it’s impossible for me to be racist because race itself is a social construct — it doesn’t exist,” said Roberts.

“The belief that races are anything more than arbitrary categories invented by society, or that they are grounded in some objective scientific reality, is as ridiculous as it is dangerous. Instead, we at One Nation have always favoured a more social constructionist view”.

“Biological essentialism is the next biggest threat to Australia after multiculturalism,” added Roberts, before stating that his MBA from the University of Chicago gives him the right to speak as an expert not only on Climate Change, but also on Critical Race Theory.

While many on social media expressed their astonishment at Robert’s new found “wokeness”, academics have pointed out that his recent statements are simply a logical progression in one of the foundational dogmas of One Nation praxis, namely, ‘How can I be racist towards Muslims when Islam isn’t a race?’

I bought a \$3000 camera and I still only have 34 Instagram followers.

Perspective P8»



Six tips for keeping your vulva teeth sharp

Katie Thorburn Health Reporter



Who doesn’t want chompers this sharp?

So you’ve started noticing a bit of plaque and demineralisation on the teeth in your mouth down south. Time to start looking after those pussy pincers! Here’s how:

1. Firstly, you have to be motivated before tackling your dull vulva teeth. Listen to some high-energy tunes and repeat some affirmations to yourself before attempting any new sharpening regime. Looking for inspiration? Check out some ‘before and after’ photos of others’ vulva teeth to get you thinking about what you’d like yours to look like.
2. The best spa day for treating your chompers is lounging by the seaside. Sprinkle hot chips around your labia majora so seagulls peck at your vulva teeth. Their beaks on your teeth work just like like cuttlefish bones do on their beaks! Amazing. Excellent exfoliation, too.
3. Kegels are important for ensuring your razor blades don’t come loose — and there’s nothing quite like MRAs to make you clench your hoo-hah. Try waiting outside (or even attending) a Red Pill screening if you really want a workout!
4. Use fuzzy ended tools to apply metho to your vulva teeth. Normal toothpaste simply won’t cut it — you need a top-grade solvent to wash away the smegma that’s accumulated in all your folds. Make that smile sparkle!
5. Legend has it that sacrificing your normal mouth teeth to the large jar on the Redfern Run grants you a lifetime of pointy pearly-whites protruding from your labia minora.
6. Vaginal lubrication is the best natural WD-40 for your chompers. And really, all you have to do is pick your poison. Whoever best butters your muffin — whether it be 90s boy band heartthrob Justin Timberlake, small-screen big-dick Jon Hamm, or even young pope Jude Law — a bit of fantasising is the perfect way to have this natural formula all up in your business.

Third year uni students resorting to Greenwood as nightlife habitat shrinks

Jayce Carrano Environmental Reporter

Australia’s party animal population faces extinction across large parts of New South Wales as lock out laws, early closing hours, and cashed-up idiots threaten the vulnerable species’ habitats.

Experts are warning of an “unfolding tragedy” which is seeing numerous students being forced to migrate as far as Greenwood nightclub in North Sydney.

Jake Rowley, 22, is the latest victim looking for a place to dance on a Thursday “that doesn’t require me to deal acid just to afford the cover charge”.

Rowley, who is in his third year of university, last attended the Greenwood dance-floors back in 2013.

“I never thought I’d come back here,” Rowley said. “I just saw three kids from my school. One of them was snorting coke in the bathroom. I’m pretty sure he was in year 9 when I graduated.”

Rowley’s friend, Xavier Lam, is also struggling to re-adapt to his surroundings.

“I feel like the guy with Gollum eyes in 30 Rock, except instead of saying ‘how do you do fellow kids’, I’m just yelling at the bartender

over the sound of 2000s pop music that is older than everyone around me.” However, there have been some familiar faces.

“The bouncer is still the same tattooed dude who threw me out multiple times in year 12 for being a repeat customer at aus-siefakeid.com,” Lam said. “I think we both recognised each other. I’m not sure who was more embarrassed to be here.”

Numerous conservation groups, such as Keep Sydney Open, have highlighted Rowley and Lam’s plight as examples of the catastrophic impact of nightlife habitat destruction.

“If something isn’t done soon, these poor creatures are going to have nowhere left to turn,” said a spokesperson for Keep Sydney Open. “They’ve already been to Scary Canary three times in the last fortnight.”



Greenwood: A nursery for young party animals.

‘Surely those aren’t under 9s, winning team’s gotta have some older kids in it,’ reckons dad

Aidan Molins Sports Editor

Phil Westbroke, a local father, has become increasingly suspicious about the age several players in the under 9s division of the local suburban soccer league.

The players are part of the division’s strongest team, the South Strathfield Lions, who have several wins over the team his son currently plays for, the Burwood Eagles.

“Oh, come on,” Phil Westbroke argued following the Eagles’ third consecutive series loss to the team, “look at some of those boys. They’ve gotta be eleven, twelve at least, I figure.”

Sources report Westbroke had just started his second Crown lager at the time.

“I mean, just look at that one bloke who scored two of the goals against you guys. He was about twice your size. I reckon I even saw

a bit of armpit hair sticking out.”

Westbroke’s suspicions weren’t limited to the age of the winning team’s players.

“Of course, didn’t help that the ref was always giving friendly eyes to that other team’s coach,” he said. “I mean, something was clearly going on there.”

Westbroke, who has never assisted with the team’s training or watched a game of soccer outside his son’s league, also had some analysis to improve the team’s play.

“You lot really gotta think about possession — the other boys ended up having the ball all the time and they ended up scoring a lot of points off that.”

However, halfway through his third Crown lager, Westbroke still made sure to remind his son that winning isn’t the most important factor.

“Yeah, soccer is pretty much a girl’s game anyway,” he said.



Phil Westbroke demanding to see the birth certificates of opposing players.

DO YOU NEED A SHORT EXTENSION?



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

66A Simple Extensions

(1) A unit of study co-ordinator, who is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so, may permit a student to submit a non-examination task up to two working days after the due date with no penalty.

(2) Such permission is an informal arrangement between the unit of study co-ordinator and the student which does not:

(a) affect the student's entitlement to apply for special consideration under this policy;

(b) alter any *time limits* or other requirements relating to applications for special consideration; or

(c) constitute an academic decision for the purposes of the University of Sydney (Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006 (as amended).

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

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

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

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