

Behind enemy lines: We ask VC Michael Spence where USyd is headed / p. 6

Hopeful president seeking student council: Read their profiles, written by us / p. 8

ZUCK 2020: Could the social media juggernaut be the next US President? / p. 16



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

Too often, fear of judgment is the guiding force in our ethical decision-making. You smear the girl who has her nose in a book with slurs and call the pimply boy names because failing to do so will run you the risk of being socially castrated along with them. You keep your head down when your political faction does deals with the other side for preferences and positions, even though you thought you had all pledged allegiance to a doctrine of principles that weren't expendable, even in the pursuit of power. You keep your mouth shut when your friends do something you think ethically erroneous because, well, they are your friends.

The rising threat of nuclear warfare between the US and North Korea has also seemingly been born out of a desire to save face, rather than save country. It's impossible to say that the motivation behind North Korea's nuclear tests have been Kim Jung Un's pride, but these are undoubtedly a way for the government to stake their power in a geopolitical landscape. Similarly, Trump's allegedly spontaneous vow to respond to NK with "fire and fury like the world has never seen" sounds like an attempt to one-up the opposition in a rhetorical shouting match.

The difficulty with a consequentialist approach to ethical deliberation is it requires you assign a value to each party's interest, and judge the best outcome accordingly. It is inevitable that you will give weight to the interests and outcomes that align with your own. It is difficult to consider the lives of others.

This edition of *Honi Soit* is my sonata for a good man. I dedicate this paper to HGW XX/7, in gratitude. Thanks for always reminding me to place principle above populism. **JLH**

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Who made this edition happen?

Editor-in-Chief: Justine Landis-Hanley

Editors
 Nick Bonyhady Kishor Napier-Raman
 Jayce Carrano Siobhan Ryan
 Natassia Chrysanthos Michael Sun
 Ann Ding Maani Truu
 Aidan Molins

Contributors
 Stephanie Barahona, Mark Bosch, Hal Fowkes, Kida Lin, Tim Seguna, Reagan Ward, Joseph Verity, and Jamie Weiss. Three names have been redacted due to their status as *Honi Soit* hopefuls in the 2017 race.

Artists
 Jocelin Chan, Matthew Fisher, Aiden Magro, Momoko Metham, and Ludmilla Nunell.

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What's On

According to that guy who always wears a suit to your tutorials



Staff strikes

When: Wednesday September 13, all day
 Where: USyd
 Price: 2.4%

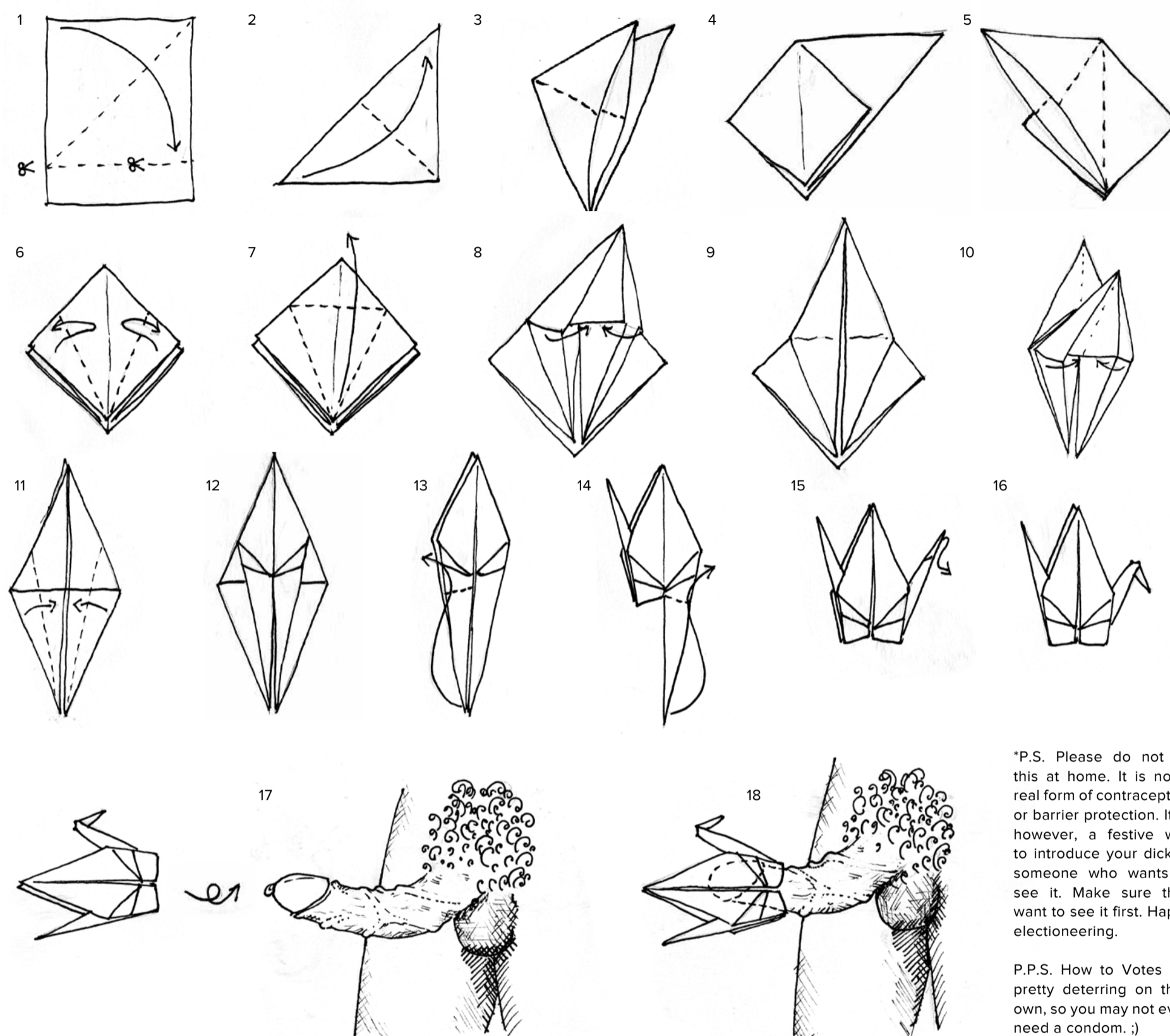
Oh there's a staff strike? Great, that works perfectly, my boss invited me to a luncheon in the city with some of the regional managers at our firm so now I'll be able to go. They often get out the company card for a few Wagyu at this amazing penthouse restaurant in the city. What wage increase are they after again? Just above inflation? Oh wow, once I hit two years at the old firm, they double my pay.

Benjamin Law: Sexuality, Schools and the Media

When: Wednesday September 13, 7pm
 Where: Seymour Centre
 Price: Full \$25 | Concession \$20

Now I'm not just talking about this event because the dude's last name is the same as the name of my course – oh yeah, I transferred into law this year, not sure if I mentioned it already. But yeah, this talk is put on by the Sydney Writers' festival, and seeing as I've been hitting KPIs left, right and centre, I thought I'd treat my brain to a little rest and relaxation.

Spin Doctor: Fold YOUR How to Vote into a condom today*!



*P.S. Please do not try this at home. It is not a real form of contraception or barrier protection. It is, however, a festive way to introduce your dick to someone who wants to see it. Make sure they want to see it first. Happy electioneering.

P.P.S. How to Votes are pretty deterring on their own, so you may not even need a condom. :)

Honi debate

When: Thursday September 14, 11am
 Where: Manning Bar
 Price: Your non-hack status

Yeah I've always been a big fan of these sorts of opinionated events. I don't have to tell you that I have a few opinions myself [laughs]. Never really been a fan of the paper if I'm honest, they always seem to have some sort of vendetta against people like me for some reason. But I haven't got work til that afternoon so I'll drop by. Maybe get a few more BNOcs on my LinkedIn.

SUDS: And then there were none

When: September 13 – 15 and 20 – 22, 7pm
 Where: Holme Building
 Price: SUDS \$3 | ACCESS \$5 | Concession \$7 | Adult \$10

I can't say I've had much time to get around to the theatre since starting my second internship this semester but I might have to make an exception here. I saw several of the cast members promoting it on Facebook while dressed in suits and that is something I can definitely get around. It's set in Devon actually, which is near a farm my family owns. Lovely landscape.

Italian Society attends Italian Film Festival

When: Saturday September 16, 8.30pm
 Where: Palace Cinemas, Leichhardt
 Price: \$18

I managed to get a bit of time off last year to travel Europe. I ended up just absolutely fell in love with Italy: the wine, the Roman history, the food. I personally didn't really enjoy the films – most of them weren't in English and who can be bothered to read subtitles? But this cute girl from one of my law tutes – did I tell you I transferred into law? – is going so I won't be missing this for the world, or as the Italians say, *il mondo*.

Deputy Vice Chancellor suddenly stood down from the University

NATASSIA CHRYSANTHOS

Deputy Vice Chancellor Shane Houston has been suddenly stood down from his position at the University of Sydney, where he spearheaded the Indigenous Strategy and Services portfolio.

In an email sent to all staff on Thursday 24 August, Vice Chancellor Michael Spence said, "It is with regret and disappointment that I must advise that Professor Shane Houston is stepping down from his role ... and leaving the University today."

As a Deputy Vice Chancellor, Houston was one of the most senior executives at the University, and the first Aboriginal person to hold such a role in an Australian university. *Honi* understands that his departure was a great shock to colleagues and other staff working at the University.

The position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) was created in 2011 to advance the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the

University, and to develop a framework for the University to integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values into its programs and strategy.

At the time of his appointment, Houston said, "I want to bring the passion, energy and determination that were part of Aboriginal people's lives throughout this history to the task of graduating future generations of Aboriginal and Australian leaders, and to finding answers to the many challenges facing Aboriginal people today."

"I want to help build a fair and more compassionate Australia."

Houston came to the University with a distinguished background in the health sector, having worked closely with Aboriginal communities.

He led the University's Wingara Mura – Bunga Barrabugu Strategy, which has seen a 36 per cent increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the University, and a near doubling of

the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. The National Centre for Cultural Competence was also founded under his tenure.

Houston's departure coincides with the University's replacement of Shane Perdue in the role of Director of Strategic Management in the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Strategies and Services); a key executive position under Houston's portfolio. Of Native American descent, from the Cherokee people, Perdue has also been a key figure in reforming the Indigenous space at the University.

Houston and Perdue jointly pioneered the University's Service Learning in Indigenous Communities program, which is a world-first in sending students to remote Indigenous communities each semester to work on long-term projects in conjunction with local stakeholders.

The University gave no reason as to Houston's sudden departure.

Former USyd IT manager pleads guilty to fraud

MAANI TRUU

Brett Roberts, a former IT manager at a number of universities including the University of Sydney has pleaded guilty to 12 counts of fraud and deception after the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) made corrupt findings against him in 2015.

ICAC found that Roberts had written more than a dozen false invoices while working at the University of Sydney, Macquarie University and the University of Newcastle as a senior IT manager between 2005 and 2013. Three of the charges involve giving false or misleading evidence to ICAC.

The findings showed that the University of Sydney had been defrauded of \$43,065 allegedly as a result of the scheme, while Macquarie and Newcastle lost \$70,650 combined.

Staff member disappears after Instagram posts

NICK BONYHADY

At the start of semester, *Honi* reported that Michelle Carlin, Executive Director of Global Student Recruitment and Mobility, had posted several images of expensive liqueur on Instagram and hashtagged the acronym of the program she leads.

On the same date as those images were posted, another account showing Carlin posing with a person in a giant chicken suit.

Since *Honi's* report, Carlin has either deleted or made her social media accounts private.

The University now lists her as being 'on leave' on its staff directory.

Through a spokesperson, the University refused to comment. *Honi* attempted to contact Carlin via email, phone and LinkedIn multiple times, but she could not be reached.

On February 3, this year, several images were published by Carlin on her public Instagram.

One showed a full bottle of Silver Patron. Such a bottle usually retails for around \$100.

Carlin captioned the image "we need another bottle on your way back" and tagged another Instagram user.

Another image posted by Carlin on the same date showed a bottle of Chambord, while a third showed an empty bottle of Silver Patron with the caption 'whoops'.

These images were all captioned with #gsrm, as well as #fluffyduckfriday.

Other images posted on the same

date by Instagram user @letigre8 show Carlin posing with a person in a giant chicken suit on what appears to be University property.

@letigre8 has also either deleted their Instagram account or set it to private since the last *Honi* story.

Rounding out Carlin's posting is a video which shows a woman performing a flip across what appears to be a conference room while loud music plays. It is also dated February 3, 2017.

On January 11, 2017 — about a month before the other pictures were published — Carlin posted an image of several people lying on the floor holding what appear to be bottles of wine with the caption "average day in the office #gsrm" and a happy birthday greeting.

Carlin is a rising star at the University. She began as director of student recruitment in 2011, rising to director of global student recruitment in 2014 and then her current position at the beginning of 2015.



Michelle Carlin poses with a figure in a chicken suit. Image: @letigre8 / Instagram



A full 1 litre bottle of Silver Patron tequila, followed by an almost empty bottle of the same. Image: @michellecarlin / Instagram.

Murdoch Uni terminates EBA

NICK BONYHADY and KISHOR NAPIER-RAMAN / Will USyd also pursue the nuclear option?

In a landmark decision, the Fair Work Commission (FWC) recently allowed Murdoch University in Western Australia to terminate its enterprise agreement.

Without the enterprise agreement in place, staff are only entitled to the award wage, which in some cases provides for pay \$30,000 lower than the agreement, although Murdoch has promised to retain the higher rate of pay for six months while it continues to negotiate with the Union.

Enterprise agreements are documents negotiated between a workforce (typically represented by a union) and an employer, setting out employees' pay and conditions. This one directly affects over 3500 staff at Murdoch, but the decision has far-reaching implications beyond that campus and into the rest of the higher education sector.

The Liberal government has embraced the FWC's decision with zeal; Education Minister Simon Birmingham told a meeting of higher education officials that the Murdoch result "should be seized, and hopefully can be replicated elsewhere" to offset the impact of reduced government funding to the sector.

With the University of Sydney and the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) yet to agree on a compromise over the new enterprise agreement here, the Murdoch decision is of particular interest.

A spokesperson for the University told *Honi* that the Murdoch decision would not change its approach to negotiations with the NTEU, but added that "It is difficult to say at this point in time, the University will need to

read the decision to fully understand the applicability of it to our circumstances."

The University also refused to rule out applying to the Fair Work Commission to terminate the EBA at some point in the future, but indicated it has no plans to use the so-called 'nuclear option' in the medium term.

"Although we are disappointed that industrial action is being taken by the NTEU, it is important to note the effort that all parties have put into the enterprise bargaining process over many months. We have come a long way using an open, respectful and collegiate approach", the spokesperson said.

There are also a number of structural differences between Murdoch and USyd that make the nuclear option unlikely for the time being.

The Fair Work Commission's decision on the Murdoch agreement substantially rested on that institution's parlous financial situation — it had experienced falling surpluses for the past four years.

Sydney is, comparatively, in a far better position, with lucrative international student enrolments continuing to grow rapidly. Consequently, it is unclear whether the Commission, applying the "public interest" test that it uses to determine such cases, would find it necessary to terminate the enterprise agreement at USyd if it were ever called on to do so.

Furthermore, Sydney has a stronger tradition of union activism than almost any other university across the country. Given this history, one senior NTEU official indicated that any such militant move from management would lead to strikes.

At Murdoch, the enterprise agreement not only provides for pay; it allows the staff to participate in the university's disciplinary and change-management processes. Similar provisions exist at the University of Sydney.

In an interview with ABC Radio, Michelle Narustrang, Murdoch's Director of People and Culture, said that the old agreement "is close to 200 pages long, full of administrative burden of duplication. It creates enormous confusion and it's very difficult to work with."

NTEU National President Jeannie Rae disagrees, saying that attempts to terminate enterprise agreements "remove important provisions that promote collegiality, consultation and stability, and provide protections including for staff to exercise academic freedom."

Brendan O'Connor, Labor's workplace relations spokesperson, says that terminating agreements "Can put employees and unions in the position of having to start again and mount arguments for previously hard-fought improvements to their pay and conditions."

Labor is concerned it has become too easy for employers to undercut wages and conditions through various loopholes in the *Fair Work Act (FWA)*, particularly at a time when we are facing record low wages growth."

The *Fair Work Act* was passed under the last Labor government, but the Murdoch decision goes beyond previous Commission judgements that have terminated other agreements.

Kathy Reid, who leads the industrial relations practice at the law firm

Minter Ellison in Perth, ran Murdoch's legal team.

She told the *Australian Financial Review* "the Murdoch case went further than previous rulings by concentrating on conditions that allowed for union control of management decisions."

Other termination decisions have often focused on a particular clause that has a direct financial impact, whereas these clauses affect managerial prerogative and restrict things that should just be routine."

Despite recent decisions, there is increasing concern that the current law may be weighted against workers. A report released by the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment last week recommended that the *Fair Work Act* be amended "to prevent the FWC from terminating an agreement where workers would be worse off as a result of the termination".

Under the Act as it stands, the FWC cannot terminate an agreement unless it is satisfied that termination is not contrary to the public interest. However, 'public interest' has not been clearly defined, and in light of this ambiguity, the Committee stated that "termination is being used as an uncompromising bargaining strategy by some employers", jeopardising some workers' living standards.

With the Coalition government in Canberra, it is unlikely that any such change will be made before the next federal election. While Sydney academics appear safe, the future academic freedoms and prosperity of staff at smaller universities in the sector hangs in the balance.

Striking while the iron is hot

ANN DING / The NTEU will go on strike this Wednesday, 13 September. But why?

You've probably heard that many of your teachers will be on strike this Wednesday — and you may be wondering why. Here are a few of your questions about what's going on, answered.

Why are staff striking?

On 31 March, the previous enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA) between the university and its staff expired. The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has been in negotiations with university management since February, trying to achieve the pay rates and conditions that they are asking for.

On Wednesday, staff will be on strike for 24 hours to put pressure on university management to grant more of the NTEU's claims. This means they won't be taking their classes or doing any of the work that they'd usually be doing. Instead, they'll be forming picket lines at each entrance of the university, and they've asked students not to go to class in solidarity.

Wait, what's an EBA?

An EBA is a legally binding agreement between an employer (in this case, university management) and their employees (in this case, university staff), who are often represented by a trade union (in this case, the NTEU). EBAs, also known as collective agree-

ments, dictate how much employees get paid, as well as other entitlements like paid leave and superannuation contribution rates. They differ from industrial awards, which set rates of pay and conditions for all the employees in one industry or occupation, since they only pertain to one employer and workplace.

Historically, once an EBA is agreed upon by both the employer and the union, the staff of the university have voted the agreement in. Last week, however, university management sent an email to all staff asking them to vote on whether they would accept the current pay offer, hoping to circumvent the union. Of 6400 staff, 4349 voted, and more than 60 per cent voted to reject the offer and continue bargaining.

What is the NTEU hoping to achieve at the bargaining table?

The NTEU is fighting for a number of claims: among other things, they want casual workers to receive 17 per cent employer superannuation contribution, or the same rate as permanent staff members; they want zero forced redundancies; they want casual staff to be given sick and parental leave; and they want the 40/40/20 split of teaching, research and administrative work for academic staff to be preserved.

On the wages front, the university has put forward an offer of a 2.1 per cent per year pay rise, but since the Reserve Bank of Australia tries to keep interest rate rises between 2 to 3 per cent every year, and the current rate of inflation is higher than 2.1 per cent, staff could be hit with a real wage cut.

To understand this, let's imagine a staff member has a salary of \$50,000. Let's also imagine interest rates go up 2.5 per cent a year from 2017 to 2020 — the length of the agreement. \$50,000 in 2017 would be equivalent to \$53,844 in 2020; living costs would grow at the same rate, meaning that, while the sum of money is bigger, its purchasing power remains the same. However, with a 2.1 per cent pay rise relative to the 2017 salary figure, by 2020 that staff member's salary would only be \$53,216, meaning the actual purchasing power of that staff member's salary would be reduced by around \$600 for that year.

For their part, the NTEU are pushing for a 2.4 per cent per year pay rise over the life of the agreement; as *Honi* has reported in the past, since staff wages amount to over \$1 billion dollars per year, the 0.3 per cent disparity would in fact amount to a \$3 million dollar annual difference for the university.

What about Open Day?

There has already been one day of strike action this year; on Saturday 26 August, the university's Open Day, staff handed out leaflets at high-traffic entrances to the university, as well as choosing not to man information desks in their respective departments.

The last time a new agreement was negotiated was 2013; in that year, strikes lasted a total of seven days, and on several occasions police clashed violently with staff and students.

Will I be penalised for not going to class?

Maybe. Some teachers won't be penalising their students, while some might. If your teacher isn't striking, it's probably best to check with them first. **I'm still going to class. Why are the picketers calling me a scab?**

'Scab' is a pejorative term used to refer to people who break picket lines, also known as strikebreakers. Strikebreakers are usually people who work while their colleagues are striking, but here, it also refers to students. You may have, for example, seen some people calling the USU a 'scab union' for not ceasing operations in solidarity with the staff strikes. Best way to avoid being called a scab? Don't go to class.

The fair controller?

NICK BONYHADY / Almost a decade into his tenure, the Vice Chancellor is not running short of reforms, or controversy

The Vice Chancellor is a fan of trains. He alludes to railway gauges three times in our interview. Before his ascension to Vice Chancellor, Michael Spence says that “lots of railway gauge decisions were being made at the local level, and the University was absenting itself from the conversation.” This colonial metaphor is characteristic of a man with three honours degrees. In Federation negotiations, the Australian colonies had to decide on a common railway gauge for the nation, if trains were to smoothly connect cities and towns. Just as, in Spence’s view, the University has had to regiment its processes to work as one cohesive, efficient, equitable whole. It is a belief Spence holds sincerely, but does not apply consistently.

The colleges, Spence concedes, are “the ultimate railway gauge” — unaccountable and exclusive — but also notes that they are outside his jurisdiction. Spence is technically correct — the colleges were established by NSW statute and do not report to the Vice Chancellor. However, that is not to say that Spence lacks influence. In a city where so many are graduates of Sydney University, he enjoys a high profile in the media. On the one hand, Spence has used this status to publicly rebuke St Paul’s for initially refusing to play ball with Broderick, but on the other, he has advocated for the colleges’ independence, writing to NSW Education Minister Rob Stokes this year to urge him to “respect the different histories of the colleges as independent institutions”.

Spence also refuses to add his voice to calls for the colleges to publicly release former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick’s report into sexual harassment at their institutions. “There is a risk that individual students will be able to be identified [in the report]”, he says. “I don’t want there to be any chilling effect [from public disclosure], with Liz being able to be as absolutely open with them as possible.”

Spence’s desire to work with the colleges is understandable. As long as they remain independent, internal change is the only way forward, but the ‘softly, softly’ approach stands in marked contrast to Spence’s approach to other areas of the University.

At several points in his tenure, the Vice Chancellor has clashed with staff. In 2012, 100 staff members were made redundant. There were seven days of strikes in 2013, as the University negotiated with staff over an enterprise agreement governing pay and conditions. Footage on YouTube shows strikers clashing physically with police. Some reported broken bones. The University’s reputation took a battering too, with several stories in national media. Nonetheless, 2017 has seen the University plough into another confrontation with staff over their pay. In some areas, Spence is not short of a backbone.

‘On the one hand, Spence has used his status to publicly rebuke St Paul’s... but on the other, he has advocated for the colleges’ independence’

Staff want a 2.4 per cent annual pay rise along with a host of other benefits in the current round of enterprise agreement bargaining; the University is offering them 2.1 per cent. At a time when the University’s revenue is rapidly increasing — income figures show the University took in \$130 million more in 2016 than 2015 — it is galling to many staff that the University is offering a pay rise lower than the current rate of inflation. I ask whether staff deserve a real pay cut. Spence — the consummate communicator — retains his composure but is clearly vexed.

“We don’t make a profit, there is no profit”, he notes. “Some of the rhetoric... of the student organisations paints [the University] as if it were a com-

pany where there’s management that represents the interests of capital, and labour represented by unions... but there are no shareholders.”

Spence adds that a common argument — that ‘staff working conditions are student learning conditions’ — is “profoundly bogus”. “That’s for quoting,” he emphasises.

‘He has a knack for rhetorically tracing every decision back to a principle of equality. Whether those decisions are equitable is another question’

At the core of Spence’s argument is the proposition that, because all of the University’s expenditure ultimately benefits either staff or students, students should leave it to the Uni to divvy up the pot between specific expenses. Simplified enrolment processes and degree rules make it easier for students to get where they want to go, regardless of social capital or language skills. Best to let the University decide whether that is worth paying a lecturer a little less. Railway gauges again. Spence brushes aside the numerous anecdotal concerns raised by staff and students that the new student services program is harder, not easier, to navigate.

According to this frame, where only data-driven evidence seems to count, the current pay offer makes sense. The University pays its staff very well. If its pay slips a little, it will still remain an attractive destination for academics. By contrast, when the University seeks to entice more and more international students, promotional websites and beautiful buildings are key.

Spence is aware that his ‘go big or go home’ strategy has its detractors.

“Many of our alumni who were here when the University was much smaller say ‘the University has simply gotten too big... wouldn’t it be better if we all just studied Latin and medicine and three people got to go to University.’”

In reply, the Vice Chancellor charges that growing the Uni produces dual benefits: it allows more people to access higher education, and underpins Sydney’s finances. Indeed, at an Academic Board meeting recently, the Vice Chancellor said that if the University did not continue to expand, it would “go broke”.

It is hard not to detect a certain circularity in the Vice Chancellor’s argument: the University will grow larger to fund buildings, teachers and research, which in turn will enable it to grow even larger. That would be an inherently virtuous cycle, were it not for the fact that there is no shortage of tertiary education in Sydney. Students who don’t get into USyd study at UNSW, Macquarie, UTS, Western Sydney University and Wollongong. Sydney’s gain is often these smaller universities’ loss. “A bit of com-

petition is not bad for students,” he says. The fact that some of these universities are struggling financially is not Sydney’s problem, it seems.

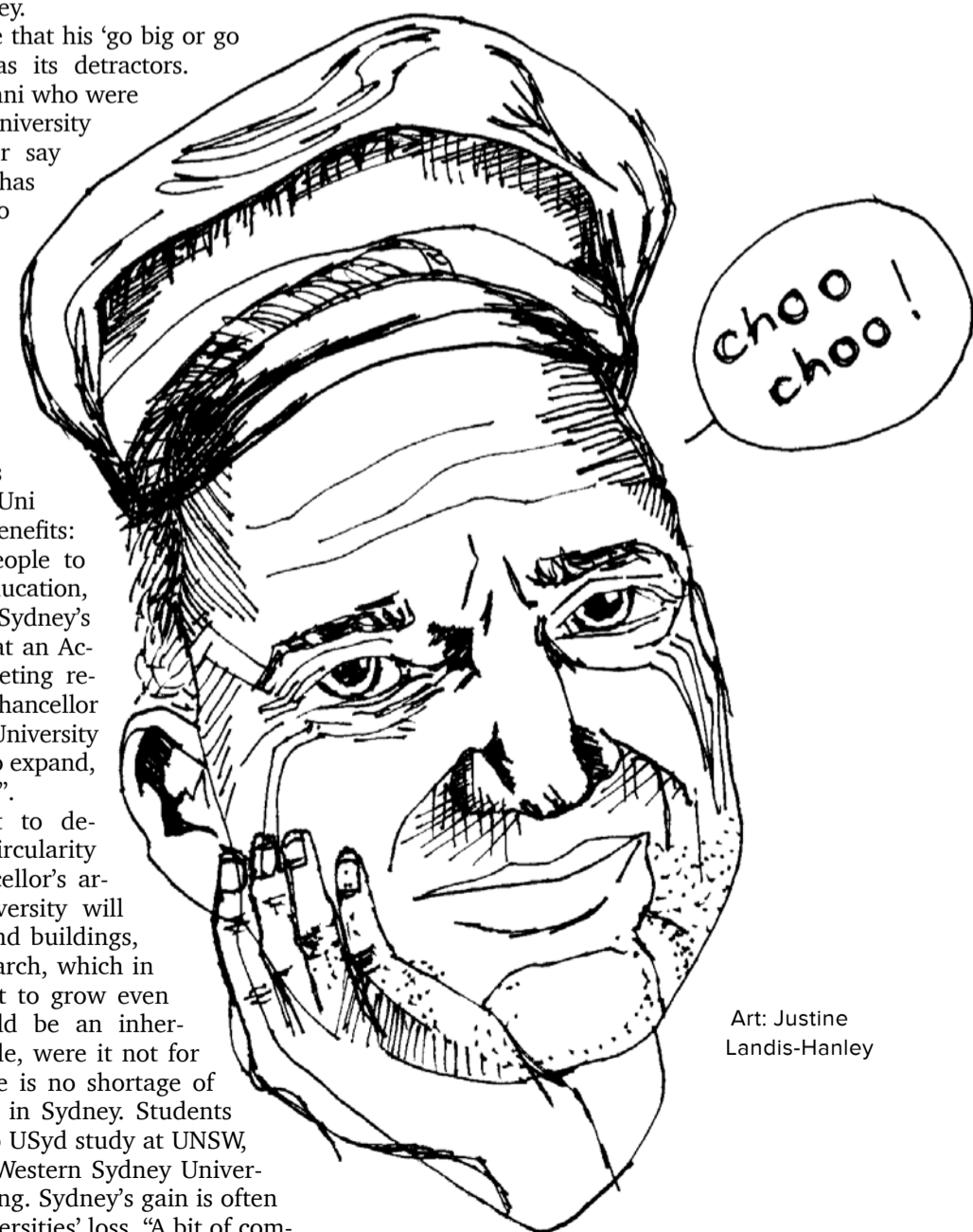
At Knox Grammar, Spence was a high school debater. He has retained a knack for rhetorically tracing every decision back to a principle of equality. Whether those decisions are equitable is another question. Students might sit in spruce lecture halls, but their casual lecturers do not have sick leave. They might enjoy a great time at Sydney, but their peers at Wollongong may be struggling. The colleges remain practically insulated from pressure, but staff do not. Everyone is riding on the same tracks at USyd, but not everyone is in the first class carriage. **HS**

‘Arbitrary authority really used to bug me... I think I’d tell 15 year old me to chill about that a little’: Michael Spence’s advice to his past self from a separate interview.

13 per cent: the number of staff who felt like they had “a voice at the university” in 2016, according to an independent study commissioned by the University.

‘Grim’: the Vice Chancellor’s assessment of the above statistic.

‘My salary is what my salary is’: Spence, when asked whether he’d retain the Vice Chancellorship were it paid at \$700,000 per year.



Double identities

STEPHANIE BARAHONA / Mirela Kadric talks history, migration and deradicalisation

It seems like Mirela Kadrić has accomplished so much in such a short time.

At 23, she is an experienced academic writer and researcher, and a revered community leader. She credits much of her success to her Muslim faith, and her twofold passion for history and education. However, it took a lot of self-reflection and courage to come to this point in her life, and there is a lot more she hopes to achieve next.

“I think I’d like to be a positive role model for Muslim women, to show them that you can get to where you want with determination and grasping every opportunity that presents itself to you.”

Born in Bosnia in 1994, Kadrić arrived in Australia as an infant with her mother and father who had sought refuge from the horrors of the Bosnian War. The Srebrenica genocide that Kadrić and her family fled from is regarded by the United Nations as the “worst [conflict] on European soil since the Second World War.” While she has no recollection of the events that unfolded before her arrival in Australia, she explains that studying history has given her a greater appreciation of what her parents went through, as well as a better understanding of her own identity as a Bosnian-Muslim.

“When you’re a little kid you don’t take notice of the struggle. When people ask me [about the war], I say from memory I didn’t live through the struggle, but now that I understand everything, it was hard for my parents,” she reflects. “History has actually defined my outlook on life. If I hadn’t studied history, I don’t think I would have understood the complexity of my own identity.”

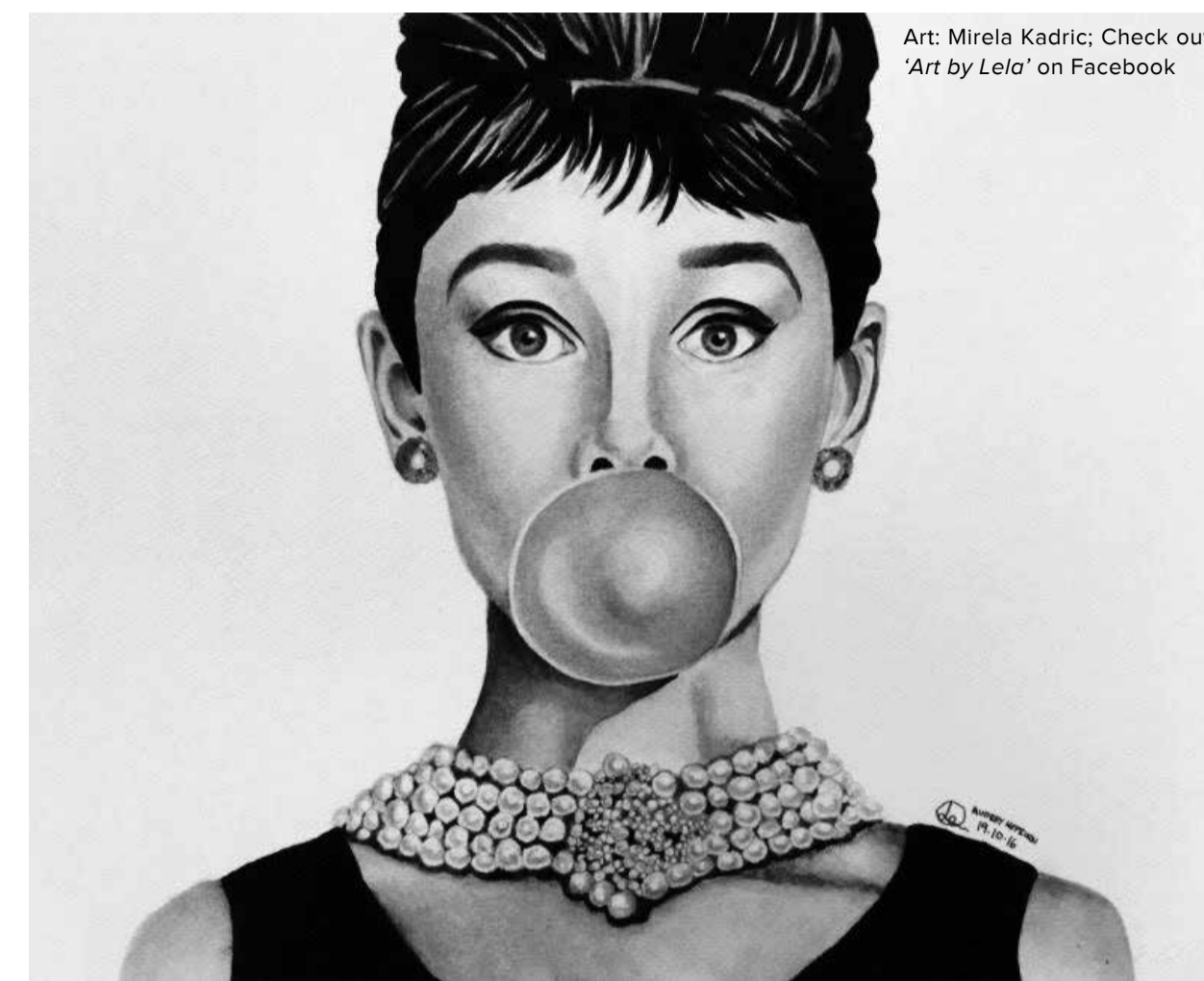
‘History has actually defined my outlook on life. If I hadn’t studied history, I don’t think I would have understood the complexity of my own identity’

In 2016, Kadrić completed her history honours thesis at the University of Sydney. Earning first class honours, her thesis focused on how the Muslim population of Bosnia-Herzegovina developed a distinct Bosniak identity under the leadership of Alija Izetbegovic, from the aftermath of World War Two and the Dayton Peace Accords of 1995. She explains that it was through honours that she was able to develop the research tools necessary to aid her in this journey of self-discovery.

“I started to think critically about myself and the people around me and about the world... and so when I wanted to do honours I started to ask people who were Bosnian, ‘how do you think about yourself?’ ... and no one really said they were Bosnian Muslim which was interesting due to this double identity.”

Kadrić attributes this concept of a “double identity” to the categorisations of the Bosnian identity during the latter half of the twentieth century. As she describes it, the idea of being solely Bosnian did not translate in the nationalistic and global sense. For this reason, all Bosnians were often seen as Muslim. Religion could not be separated from one’s national identity, which in turn often contributed to the existing tensions experienced within the region; while outsiders often assumed Bosnian was synonymous with Muslim, some in the region found this affronting.

“Bosnians were defined as Muslims. For example, you go and meet a Bosnian and they’d be called Muslim. But the question for me was like, why can’t we just call them Bosnian and see them as Bosnians since we are from Bosnia — we are not from ‘Muslim land’. So it didn’t add up.”



Art: Mirela Kadric; Check out ‘Art by Lela’ on Facebook

Discovering this had informed her of her own double identity, and those of many other Muslims in the post-Trump age.

“I started to understand that there was a double identity at play — that I had a double identity being a Bosnian and a Muslim. You can see that today with a lot of Muslims ... I feel like more Muslims are turning away from their faith as they don’t want to associate themselves with the notion of ‘extremism.’”

However, she does not point the finger of blame at those who choose to opt out of their faith.

“I don’t blame them... because you get so sick and tired of trying to justify yourself and defend yourself. And no matter what happens in the world, it is the Muslims who have to defend their own actions and faith.”

Kadrić is now studying a Masters of Islamic Studies on a scholarship at Charles Sturt University, through the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy Australia (ISRA). Established in Sydney in 2009, ISRA is the country’s first and only Islamic research-based organisation that is affiliated with a university.

Kadrić reveals that she had planned to take a break from studying this year, but saw this as an opportunity to further explore her faith and give back to her community at the same time. After publishing two of her honours seminar papers through the Chicago Journal and ISRA, she was approached by the organisation’s director, Dr. Mehmet Ozalp, to join the team as a research officer. One of the main focuses of her research looks at understanding the perceptions of Muslim identities in Australian society.

“The project that I am doing, it’s being done for Charles Sturt University by the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation (CISC)... The aim is to trace the patterns and factors that led to the transformation in Muslim youth [age 20 to 28] from struggling with their Muslim identity and place in Australian society by being labelled as unpromising youths, to becoming upstanding and contributing citizens engaged in positive action.”

Ultimately, she explains, the centre wishes to explore what is called “Muslim youth positive trans-

formations.” The project aims to seek out ways to depart from the stereotype of Muslim youth being key targets for radicalisation — something that has never been done before.

“Muslim youth positive transformations suggests successful integration, inclusiveness, and commonality with the wider Australian population, and dismisses notions of Muslim youth as an ‘out-group’.”

Asked about how her degree and her experience with the organisation has shaped her faith, she says, “I think the knowledge that I am gaining now is a bit more personal... because we are now learning how to talk about our faith with people of other faiths and how we can talk about it in a way that they understand us... as they say, we are one in the same. We all have our differences, but it is all about trying to find that middle ground.”

Towards the end of our discussion, I ask Mirela about her goals for the future. She talks about her passion for education.

‘You get so sick and tired of trying to justify yourself and defend yourself. And no matter what happens in the world, it is the Muslims who have to defend their own actions and faith’

“Education gives you a sense of fulfilment,” she says, “and that is what got me here today.”

Her ultimate goal is to become an academic and teach history at a university level.

“I think tertiary education is the perfect place to inspire a new generation of students, and as interest in the arts is slowly declining, especially with government cuts, I’d like to inspire students to engage with arts and study history. Having the opportunity to study history opened up so many doors that I could never have considered, or imagined could direct me to where I am now — and hopefully, to where I want to be.” **HS**

Your SRC President Candidates

Brendan Ma

Interviewed by **SIOBHAN RYAN** and **NICK BONYHADY**



Vote [1] **Brendan Ma** for SRC President

VISION FOR SRC

Authorised by Jacob Masino Arts/Law 11 45021066

43%

in our quiz

Political affiliation: Liberal Party member, running as independent

For someone who wants to take political egos out of the SRC, Brendan Ma sounds remarkably like a politician. He failed to specifically answer almost all of our questions despite being pressed on most multiple times. Honi asked four times whether he supported the SRC going on strike in solidarity with the National Tertiary Education Union this Wednesday, yet the strongest response he gave was that he wouldn't attend his own classes but has "a zero-tolerance approach to intimidation or harassment" of students attending classes that day. When asked three times about whether he supported the Student Services and Amenities Fee, which his party, the Liberals, oppose, he framed his ticket as purely independent and "guided by the best interests of students". He would not say if he thought SSAF was in students' best interests, and also said "I think what we have to make sure is that ... [SSAF is] used effectively". The SRC is funded entirely by money from SSAF.

Ma spoke at length about the SRC's issues with reaching quorum (the number of councillors required for the meeting to go ahead) at its monthly council meetings — there has not been a meeting held successfully since June. He appears very passionate about changing this, but was not specific about how he would do it. He said "people can expect a president that really commits towards KPIs for all of its councillors" (as if the SRC were a retail outlet) "and taking a really strong stance on making sure that we reach quorum". When asked what this would mean, he said he would be "a president who is not afraid to sit down with every single person on the SRC" and make them aware of their responsibilities. Past presidents have adopted similar approaches to no avail.

Despite being the least experienced of his fellow candidates in the context of the SRC, on which he

served as a councillor this year, he argued he was more experienced than them due to his experience on USU clubs and societies and at not-for-profit, "places that students really recognise," he argued. Another of his CV points is his work as a student ambassador at USyd — the people who wear red shirts and sell the uni to prospective students. As a University employee, this effectively binds him not to damage the University's reputation, an activity SRC presidents often spend a significant portion of their time doing. He said, "I don't see any big conflict there," and said the experience would be useful as he's learned to explain aspects of the University such as the restructure. However, when Honi asked what he would do if he had to choose between resigning the presidency or his ambassador role if a conflict were to arise, he would not specify, saying, "I'm very comfortable saying whatever I need to say that is in the best interests of students as the SRC president." Evidently, Ma is not so comfortable that he would commit to resigning a role that appears in contradiction with the responsibilities of the presidency.

Ma's policy statement quoted the SRC's small budget of \$360 for its Sexual Harassment Department saying this meant it was not doing enough to fight sexual assault on campus. Asked whether that was misleading given the SRC also provides almost \$5000 to the Women's Collective, which has led the campaign against sexual assault, Ma said he was "completely aware and cognisant" that WoCo received far more money but added "there's a lot more to be done". Given that Ma has not had any experience campaigning against sexual assault, in contrast to both of his opponents, it is unclear why he expects voters to believe he will be more successful in the area.

Overall, Ma walks like a Liberal, talks like a Liberal and, in his interview, parried questions like a Liberal.

Bella Pytka

Interviewed by **KISHOR NAPIER-RAMAN** and **AIDAN MOLINS**



50%

Imogen Grant

Interviewed by **JUSTINE LANDIS-HANLEY** and **ANN DING**



53%

in our quiz

Political affiliation: Grassroots

Bella Pytka's interview was like a 30-minute walk and talk, characterised by all the blandness you'd expect from someone who knows that the backing of 3 labor factional machines makes them an obvious front-runner. Pytka is a member of Sydney Labor Students (one of the two Labor left factions on campus), and is currently General Secretary.

As a candidate, Pytka offers little we haven't seen before. She is by all means competent and experienced — as General Secretary she was deeply involved with crucial administrative issues such as the budget, and was instrumental in passing much-needed reforms to shorten the SRC election period. Given her ability to unite the three Labor factions behind her, Pytka is doubtless also compromising and pragmatic. In her own words, she has "always been a team player".

Yet ultimately, Pytka's is a classic Stand Up campaign, with much of her policy statement devoted to offering vague platitudes about fighting back against various government policies that affect students but which the SRC realistically has little ability to change, notably getting travel concessions for international students and stopping funding cuts to the higher education sector.

Nonetheless, Pytka provided a reasonably thorough, if slightly scripted, account of how the SRC might attempt to bring about such change. She wants to get the 10,000 signatures required to get a petition on international student concessions before parliament. Failing that, she would use committees to get University management to speak out in favour of this policy change. Whether both management, and the zealously anti public transport state government will listen is another matter. Pytka also noted the importance of student activism in halting proposed university fee deregulation in 2014 as an important precedent, when in reality

that was largely down to a hostile Senate cross bench.

If elected, it's safe to say that Pytka will offer little divergence from her predecessor. When pressed about what she would do differently from incumbent Isabella Brook, Pytka hesitated, before finally mentioning "publicising what I fight for in committees", before conceding that Brook has "set the bar high" for future Presidents. Nonetheless, Pytka's lack of a 'bold' vision may say more about the largely bureaucratic and managerial position rather than her own candidacy. Pytka stressed the importance of maintaining much of the good work Brook has done this year, such as increasing funding for caseworkers and legal services, and pushing for capped rents in student housing.

When questioned about whether its control by a series of Labor hacks might have contributed to feelings of cynicism and apathy towards the SRC among the general student body, Pytka indicated that the organisation perhaps needed to better publicise what it does well. In response to the high rates of absenteeism that has led to consecutive inquorate meetings, Pytka told Honi that she would "make sure councillors are . . . more aware that they must attend council". Whether a stern talking to will fix a chronically lackadaisical attitude of our elected representatives remains to be seen.

Pytka reserved her strongest words for fellow candidate Brendan Ma, who she said had "a fundamental misunderstanding about how the SRC works", characterised by his mixing up the roles of the Sexual Harassment and Women's portfolios in his policy statement.

Pytka was definitive when asked about negotiating with Liberals at reps elect later this year — a firm No. Given Stand Up ran against alongside Liberals (and against Pytka and her faction) in last year's SRC election, she clearly has a greater commitment to progressive values than many of her fellow Labor comrades.

Imogen Grant came into our office chaperoned by her campaign manager and current co-General Secretary Daniel Ergas. He read through a spare copy of the quiz we had while Grant filled in her answers, reassuring her "that was a really hard quiz, I wouldn't have gotten 2 per cent" when she handed her paper over. Our interview with Grant was peppered with his choreographed nods of encouragement and well-timed laughs, making us feel less like journalists and more like live audience members on *Everybody Loves Raymond*. Now we don't mean to imply any correlation, but we hear Michael Spence's head of media relations sits in on his interviews too.

It's understandable, though, that Grant's team are as precious about her as they are about winning this election: she is their golden goose, the phoenix rising from the dumpster that is Grassroot's SRC campaign (ah, we see a bird motif emerging here).

For the first time in living memory, Groots were excluded from the SRC Council race after handing in their forms in less than a minute late. Since nominations closed, Groots' Presidential candidate, Grant, has been forced to abandon the green and run on the colour yellow in order to become the face of Switch brand — a group of independent-progressive candidates, who got their nomination forms to Paulene before COB.

As the current Co-Wom'n's Officer, Grant boasts extensive involvement in the SRC and proven success in activist campaigning. Nonetheless, her test scores reflect holes in her institutional knowledge of the SRC — she names some, but not all, of the committees on which the President sits, and, despite supporting the staff strikes, incorrectly cites the universities' inflation wage offer versus that which staff are demanding. She still came top of the class in our Presidential quiz, beating out current SRC co-General Secretary Bella Pytka.

Grant performed better during our interview, providing thoughtful and impassioned answers to our questions. She brands herself as a "genuinely" left-wing and progressive candidate, and perhaps most radical is her proposed stipend reform: Grant wants to redistribute some of the President's salary to currently unpaid Office Bearers in the hope this will encourage more work from their portfolios. When asked whether this would impact her office hours, she admitted to hoping that cutting her pay would equate to cutting her time-commitment in the role. While explaining that this change would only come with the expectation that more paid Officer-Bearers would share a greater responsibility of SRC work, this kind of honesty is nothing short of a political misdemeanor.

Her ideas for getting councillors more involved in the SRC verge on idealistic. She plans on meeting more consistently, and developing professional relationships, with OB's, counsellors, and Ex-Officio SRC members to ensure portfolio's are active and stop the surge of inquorate counsel meetings.

Unlike her competition, Grant stresses that she hasn't come into this election as a "career politician" What Grant fails to realise is that hacks are hacks, and even if she isn't running in this race for the sake of power, many of the counsellors elected next year are. Not to mention, next year's counsel will be comprised of almost solely liberal and labour candidates, unless Switch can pull some rabbit out of a hat.

Grant evidently lacks the political polish and stupid credit worth of her opposition. Her plans for the SRC's future bank on its elected members being willing to prioritise an organisation over factional interest. For Grant, winning this election would only be the first hurdle in a series of improbabilities.

Are you smarter than a fifth grader?

Think you could beat your presidential candidates in our quiz? Find out

1. How much money is USyd set to lose from the Liberal federal government's proposed cuts to higher education? (1 mark)
\$51.7 million
2. What percentage of USyd students did the AHRC survey find had been subject to sexual harassment? (1 mark)
51 per cent
3. Which faculties are being amalgamated into the new science faculty? (2 marks)
Faculty of Agriculture and Environment and the Faculty of Veterinary Science
4. The SCA is coming to main campus. Where will it be housed? (1 mark)
Old Teacher's College
5. How much money did the SRC give to the NUS last year? (1 mark)
\$63,000
6. How much money are USyd staff asking for as an annual pay rise? How much is the Uni offering? How much did staff receive in the last EBA? (3 marks)
2.4 per cent increase, 2.1 per cent increase, 2.9 per cent increase

7. How many days (including weekends) were cut from the SRC digital campaigning period this year? (1 mark)
Five
8. Which senior USyd figure was in charge of the overhaul of student services? (1 mark)
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Registrar) Tyrone Carlin
9. Suppose someone wants to sue Honi Soit for defamation. List each party who could be liable. (6 marks)
Author, editors, Directors of Student Publications (DSPs), SRC president, the SRC, Spotpress (our printers)
10. On how many Uni committees does the SRC president sit? (1 mark)
Six
11. How many council members are elected to the General Executive? (1 mark)
Five
12. From lowest to highest, rank the SSAF received by student organisations in 2016. (6 marks)
Student Support Services, Cumberland Student Guild, Sydney University Postgraduate Representa-

13. How much SSAF did the SRC receive this year? (1 mark)
\$1,734,913 (would also accept \$1,689,174 due to ambiguity after previous question)
14. Why are there 33 councillors? (1 mark)
One councillor per 1,000 undergraduate students.
15. How is a SRC constitutional change passed? (1 mark)
With 21 days notice, by a two-thirds majority of the Council or the student body in a referendum.
16. How can a president be removed from office? (1 mark)
A President can be removed with a petition of 500 students followed by a 2/3rds majority vote a general meeting with at least 200 students present.
17. Name the committees that report to the Academic Board? (4 marks)
Academic Standards and Policies, Graduate Studies, Undergraduate Studies, Admissions
18. Who chairs Academic Board? (1 mark)
Associate Professor Anthony (Tony) Masters

Wogs do it better

TS / The world's most Catholic country has legalised same-sex marriage: why haven't we?

Being Maltese, from a small Mediterranean island that many struggle to locate on a map has never elicited much jealousy from peers. Nor has my pride in it necessarily been based on any specific reason, though *pasizzis* and yearlong sun come pretty close.

But on 12 July, Malta proved itself as the incredible country that I know it to be when it legalised same-sex marriage through a parliamentary vote, in which all but one parliamentarian voted in favour for the replacement of “husband and wife” with that of “spouse” in the legislation.

It must be put in context as to why this was such an incredible feat for the nation that is considered more Roman Catholic than the Vatican.

Malta was the second last country in the world to legalise divorce, with legislation passing in 2011. Abortion is illegal in all circumstances on the island — a stance supported by both major political parties. The morning-after pill was only made legal in December 2016.

It is almost paradoxical that a country of such staunch conservatism, which is so resistant to progressive values that have been accepted by other Western nations for years, is also the fifteenth European nation to legalise same-sex marriage, and the first European country to ban gay conversion therapy. If the Catholic Wogs can do it, why can't Australians?

Discourse surrounding the degradation of “Christian values” in Australian society has been rife in the wake of the recently confirmed plebiscite. And yet Malta is constitutionally a Roman Catholic state; Australia is a secular state, with no state religion. Ninety-five per cent of the Maltese population are Roman Catholic; fifty-two percent of Australians identify as Christians according to the 2016 census, with 30.1 per cent listing ‘no religion’. Following Malta’s passing of same-sex legislation weekly Sunday church attendance remains at 53 per cent; according to the National Church Life Survey, Australian monthly attendance is down to 16 per cent. Conservative Maltese politicians

from both the left and right leaning parties passed same-sex marriage with an overwhelmingly majority, through a Parliamentary vote; Our Federal Coalition Government are willing to spend \$122 million on a non-binding survey.

Unfortunately, unlike Malta, Australia has an incredibly poor division between Church and State, and while the Church has increasingly less influence over Australian lives than previously, it continues to have increasing influence on our elected Parliamentarians.



Art: Aiden Magro

tarians.

The close relationship between the Church and State in Malta allowed for the successful legislation of same-sex marriage, in which advocates were able to develop religiously favourable arguments that worked towards parliamentarians’ faith and beliefs.

At the moment, 40 per cent of the Coalition Government and 30 per cent of the Labor Opposition identify as Christian. Every fortnight during parliamentary sitting weeks the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship

meets with regular attendance of sixty parliamentarians from all parties, describing itself as “an interdenominational group of Members and Senators who seek to live out their faith in Christ Jesus while serving the Australian public through their role in government.”

Current arguments for marriage equality in Australia, have been out of sync with our elected representatives’ religious views, because our parliamentarians’ religious views are not reflective of that of the Australian populations’ per se. Australia’s precarious secularisation, in which the percentage of religious parliamentarians is disproportionate to the general public, has seen the debate surrounding same-sex marriage attack religion, rather than appealing to a parliamentarian’s sense of faith as a means to an end.

The bedrock of Australian democracy is our ability to elect our parliamentary representatives. If these individuals don’t have the integrity or strength to represent their own electorates, or even their own conscience, one must question whether they are capable of serving in Federal Parliament. The fact that the Government is comfortable to spend \$122 million on a national survey but won’t take legitimate action on climate change, the struggles of farmers, forced surgery on intersex youth, or better funding for health and education, should anger all Australians across political lines.

If Australia is a truly secular government, with clear divisions between State and Church, using religion to argue against same-sex marriage should not stand in the way of our parliamentarians’ decision making.

If Australia is truly the great religious nation that our politicians consider us to be then follow the lead of the most religious nation in the world. Do as the Maltese have done in showing that tolerance, religion, and equality can all come together, and co-exist; legalise same-sex marriage.

If the Wogs can do it then surely the Aussies can too!

larisation of a wellness-*tonic-fix-all* mentality has created a false equivalence between a product and tangible social change.

Empowerment now vacillates between making space for yourself in a society that is institutionally engineered against you and as a hashtag to send your social media posts to the top of the newsfeed. I don’t profess to own ‘authentic’ feminism — but concern still arises in considering the role of self-love driven commodification in watering down feminism’s intent. In attempting to make feminism more ‘accessible’ by aligning it with the capitalist aims of modern society, it ironically renders it inaccessible for those who cannot afford it.

Consumer palatability cannot be the main goal of feminism. When feminism fights against a system of oppression, that system — capitalism, and society even — will not benignly destroy itself to pave way for egalitarianism. When such systems reduce feminism into a product, we trade intersectionality for purchasing power.

The TEDx conference was the epitome of said commercialisation — it ceased to be accessible to the minorities it purported to represent. It disassembled feminism into platitudinal self-love messages, using rhetoric easy to comprehend by a mainstream, capitalist society. This is not to be moan that accessibility. But said proliferation of feminist ideals must remain loyal to nuanced, socially responsible outreach. The popularised version of feminism should not be privileged. Everyone should engage in feminism — without having to pay for it.

Why we should abolish Honi Soit elections

MAANI TRUU / A public election encourages, rather than mitigates, the ‘Honi circle jerk’

We’ve said it once but we will say it again: It’s that dreaded time of year once more. And while I’m sure you’re sick of people who once accosted you on Eastern Avenue calling foul on the whole shamozzle, I’m going to do it anyway. Because what better time is there to call for the abolition of the *Honi Soit* elections than in the midst of one?

The current system sees the editors of *Honi* elected for a year-long term alongside the Student Representative Council President and councillors, and National Union of Student delegates. This means campaigning, a-frames, the whole nine yards: but this hasn’t always been the case.

The current system was only introduced in the 1980s. Before then, Editors in Chief were elected by the editorial team itself from the pool of reporters already contributing to *Honi*. Think of it as a promotion. So why do we subject ourselves to a hellish process for something that isn’t even hugely traditional?

WHERE THE ELECTION GOES WRONG

Let’s begin with the basics:

Journalism, and editing in particular, is a skill. It is something that people go to University to learn and spend whole careers mastering. *Honi* has a hard-earned reputation for keeping up with professional newsrooms. For this to continue, the people in charge need to know how to write a lede, seek appropriate comment, and do all of this ethically (and without getting sued).

That is not to say the best candidates for the job will always be the ones with the beefiest writing portfolios. In fact, *Honi* is importantly one of the only places a keen young journo, comedian, artist or miscellaneous content creator can get their start, judged solely on the quality of their ideas. But for this creativity to manifest, you need a familiarity with creating media, or, at the very least, a familiarity with how *Honi* is run.

When you combine the election of *Honi* editors with a political election for SRC supremacy, you imply that it, too, is a political election. It opens the editorship up to political hacks masquerading as student journalists and pushes creativity and skill to the backburner while campus popularity stays at the forefront. Under this system, it is no surprise that the founding members of the majority of past winning tickets have had previous involvement in student politics or other prominent campus groups. It is also no surprise that candidates running in the current election feel comfortable bragging that they have never read *Honi* — the paper they wish to edit.

Don’t be political and personal

KIDA LIN / The case for depoliticising the university classroom

CONTENT NOTE: ABORTION

“I feel that all these discussions are inherently political,” Ben said, shaking his head.

He was referring to a tute we just had for *Practical Ethics*. The topic was abortion, which someone had compared to infanticide. Although rarely discussed in public discourse, the position that early infants have the same moral status as foetuses (and therefore that infanticide is justified) is held by prominent pro-choice philosophers like Peter Singer and Michael Tooley. At the very least, that comparison merits some serious philosophical analyses — if abortion is defended on the grounds that a right to autonomy justifies terminating a relationship of dependency, as per Judith Thomson, we need an account that distinguishes the dependency of a foetus and that of an infant.

Regardless, it seemed to Ben, and many in my tute, that discussions of that sort inevitably contribute to the patriarchy in society. Some detailed the horrendous abortion experiences of their friends; some talked broadly about patriarchy and the problems women

face today; some doubted whether we should even discuss topics like this.

To be clear, all of these are undoubtedly legitimate and important points. But there is something to be said about the politicisation and personalisation of the classroom. Discussions on certain topics are marred by accusations of “dubious” and “reactionary” political allegiance; arguments are dismissed or refuted by personal lived experience. The line between instances where emphasising political context and lived experience is helpful, and instances where such talks can shut down debate and be counterproductive, has been increasingly blurred. When we start a point with “I feel” instead of “I think”, we make it difficult for others to engage without fear of being offensive or disrespectful. It is, after all, hard to say “I don’t agree with how you feel”.

As a result, this gives rise to an environment where people feel it necessary to declare, “I am not a racist/sexist/homophobe/transphobe, but what about ...”. Worse, some simply refrain from making a point to avoid such perceptions. Validity and reason, which we

WAIT, WHAT WAS THAT?

So how can a public, supposedly democratic, election be exclusionary?

To have the opportunity to edit this fine publication, you have to run in the annual SRC election as part of a group of ten undergraduate students (known as a ticket). Tickets have dumb names: this year it’s Heat versus Mint. Last year, some losers even ran on the name Wet.

Tickets form entirely independently from any organisation and are often in the works up to a year in advance. They usually start as two or three friends with similar editorial aspirations. These “founding members” then embark on the process of filling out their ticket with others who share this ambition.

In an ideal world, this process would involve trying to find the most talented and creative people available to run. This might involve reading through past *Honis*, asking around, perhaps scouring the performing arts scene and the Media and Communications department.

In a less ideal, but still palatable, world, it would involve networking with friends and friends of friends to find your future colleagues.

In a realistic world, it involves these two things with the additional consideration of the looming election, where editing the paper requires getting the most votes. And to get the most votes, the people in your ticket need to know a lot of people; not just to bring in voters, but to recruit campaigners.

So, in the spirit of collecting votes, the people organising the tickets try to target as many social groups on campus as possible, almost as if checking personality types off a list. The big ones include the performing arts scene, debating, political factions, and larger, more politically engaged societies such as Model UN. You don’t need me to tell you that students facing financial difficulty or other disadvantage probably don’t have time to network at debating drinks.

Then there’s the worst type of world, in which tickets are engineered by political factions with the express purpose of furthering the power of their party. Yes, this happens too.

That’s not to say you can’t try your luck and approach a ticket to join — they are, for the most part, nice people. However, for those outside the student politics bubble, there’s no way to know where these tickets are forming and who’s involved. Even then, your worth to the ticket will be determined based not just on your experience and ideas, but the size of your network.

So under the current system, to even be in the running to edit the paper you have to be a quasi-BNOC (for those lucky enough to not know this acronym, I regret to tell you it means Big Name on Campus) or at the very least, be mates with some BNOCs.

Which is bullshit. Especially for a paper that prides itself on originality, creativity and countering the mainstream narratives. *Honi* will never be at its best until it is opened up to a wider range of student voices.

OK, BUT HOW COULD WE DO IT DIFFERENTLY?

This year, despite these issues, 20 people are running. Last year, 30 did. So there should be no shortage of applicants if the role was opened up to the public in a run-of-the-mill application process like nearly all other gigs.

The applications would be widely publicised around campus and open to all undergraduate students.

A board of judges consisting of a random selection of past *Honi* editors, media professionals and SRC staff would review the applications. They would appoint ten editors — individually, not as a ticket — on the merit of their ideas and ability to implement them, taking into account that running a paper like *Honi* works best with a mix of skill sets, not only career-climbing media and communications students.

Concerns around the SRC taking control of the process and appointing editors sympathetic to the powerful faction’s causes are valid, particularly when it has happened before. In the 1960s, conservative editor Keith Windschuttle was appointed by the SRC to stem *Honi*’s left leanings.

But in a perfect world — with watertight regulations and a vocal student body ready to call bullshit — this model would result in a well-rounded, diverse team, appointed based on what they honestly bring to the table, and not the number of friends they made at first year Arts camp.

strive for in a persuasive argument, risk being replaced by identity and personal experience. A couple weeks ago, I was confronted with this at first hand, when I, as a person of colour, found myself reluctant to raise a criticism of Charles Mills’ Racial Contract in a philosophy class.

Of course, this is not to say that political context and lived experience have no place in the classroom; they do often provide valuable insights. This is also not to deny that power dynamics continue to operate in a learning space. Rather, the point is that we should recognise the need to create a space where issues can be discussed from multiple dimensions. We should acknowledge that by facilitating an environment where principled and/or empirical sides of the issue can be freely explored, we enrich our political and personal understandings at the same time.

This could be difficult. All too often, we can’t help but to see things from a pre-conceived political and personal lens. But it is ultimately something worth trying — after all, as the new saying goes, the university (of Sydney) is a place for unlearning.

History says don't hope

REAGAN SCOTT WARD / Ireland's past births the nation's ongoing sense of struggle

Many of my forebears were Ulstermen and women from Northern Ireland. My great-grandfather, Joseph Ward, was the last of our line born among the hills and Atlantic coastline of Cú Chulainn's great province. Stories of his piercing brogue, learned from his childhood in County Donegal, came to my mind as the dockworkers lashed us to the harbour in Belfast. Coming ashore did not feel like crossing a threshold; it was a homecoming.

Most of the street graffiti in Belfast is politically charged. A boarded-up café carries the slogan "Acht Gaeilge Anois" where its windows once were, demanding the introduction of the Irish Language Act. Here, with the grandiose City Hall rising ahead in Donegall Square, there is a supposed equanimity; rival republican and unionist neighbourhoods are found outside the central district.

It is in these quarters, however, that bittersweet but familiar sights are found: Falls Road and its murals depicting scenes of solidarity; the beaming smile and scarlet shirt of Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) hunger striker Bobby Sands that colours a brick wall. Slightly north, on the Shankill, the opposition is stark; unionist communities are awash with red hands, crowns and memorials to their slain commanders.

The spirit of division lives on in the people, as well. Civil strife does not easily breed or bleed out. As I wandered around a ramshackle, volunteer-run republican museum, a man behind me noted his father's presence in monochrome footage of a skirmish. On mentioning that I was headed to Derry the following day, on the eve of the Marching Season's zenith, an elderly shop attendant cautioned me to remain vigilant. It was the same wariness, though magnified, that could be found in my English parents' generation; but who can criticise the concern of a mother who had seen Manchester and Canary Wharf engulfed in the IRA's flames? What does it matter that it occurred some twenty years ago? It is unlikely that the warzones of our era will be cut along the

same lines two or three decades into the future, but we shall still warn those days' youth about the danger of which they never knew.

In some regards, the worried words are justified. At a newsagent's in Derry, I browsed the front pages of the morning's papers. Bold, capital letters told of a growing scandal in nearby Strabane: a mural depicting two armed paramilitaries had been erected by republican group Saoradh, with the ominous subtitle "Unfinished Business". As I read this, I stood within a short walk of the stunning Peace Bridge that straddles the River



Art:
Jocelin
Chan

Foyle. But the Bloody Sunday Monument and Free Derry Corner were also close by. Two opposing ideas, one of healing and one of claret-stained remembrance, threatened to strangle each other within those famous walls.

Across Irish culture, there is a sense of struggle. The Republic's national anthem, *Amhrán na bhFiann* ('A Soldiers' Song'), speaks of eliminating by force the safe havens of despots and the concept of slavery. Unionists frequently use the slogan 'No Surrender!' Rebel songs mention eight hundred years of resistance. The six counties outside the Republic go by many collective names: Northern Ireland, Tuaisceart Éireann, the North, the Occupied Territories. But whether they might be happy to know it or not, the people there do not lack that Gaelic endurance.

In other countries, such as in Australia, lessons may be learned from Northern Ireland's scars. Reflections and corrections remain unmade here. Seamus Heaney, Nobel laureate and national poet of the North, often etched a striking mixture of cynicism and optimism into his work; it is so influential that it appears to have infected the public ethos. His most celebrated stanza instructs us to note the following:

*History says, Don't hope
On this side of the grave,
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.*

But for the future of Northern Ireland, and those who may wish to avoid ethno-cultural divides and foster diplomacy, his final words may be the most appropriate. They balance a parental tenderness with a commanding air — a binding appeal to the people of the Six Counties who, weary of war, must face fresh crises with a stern outlook.

"*Noli timere*" — Do not be afraid.

The old family is dead

AZ / How culturally-dictated familial relations have restricted a population's ability to express emotion

Corporal punishment in schools that is legitimised by state policies; cultural inflexions hoisting all caretaking responsibilities onto the eldest son; and an entire generation of male breadwinners, patriarchs and managers, empowered by the providence of their status and the virtue of their intellects.

This is the social backdrop of the archetypal post-Cultural Revolution Chinese man, who grew up in an age where education transformed from Maoist political propaganda to one of four 'Modernisations', under the economically-gearred careerism of Deng Xiaoping. The icy masculinity that this era spawned, with values distant from the liberating qualities of our own world, remains a lingering presence in the families of the modern Chinese-Australian diaspora.

The Chinese man of the 1970s is, in all likelihood, a father now. My father has never been a particularly affectionate man. Not because of some malicious underlying agenda, but because his father certainly wasn't, as his father before that wasn't, on the warm side either. They collectively hailed from generations and cultural contexts where men carried with them a certain internalised elitism, a shying away from affection, and a maintenance of an unadulterated and hegemonic masculinity.

But my father's generation, gifted with the added privilege of education, detached themselves even further from emotional and physical touch. This was partly because the nurturing quality of

physical affection is conceived as traditionally effeminate, and also because emotional coldness reinforces a certain patrimonial, managerial assertiveness in family and, by extension, state affairs.

But in pluralistic societies like our own, it is easy to forget that not all cultures hold the post-material values that advance the fluid reconfiguration of the family unit and traditional gender roles. Needless to say 1970s China was not an especially diverse place. Buried deep within the traditional Chinese ethos of my father's era was Confucianism. As a social philosophy made into reality, it embedded homogeneity and filial piety.

The same philosophy, which defined deeply performative roles for the father and children, ascribed to Chinese women 'Three Obediences': to serve the father as daughter, to subordinate to the husband as wife; and to submit to the son as mother. Ironically, the very same ideals, which intended to foster mutual respect through physical and emotional distance, are anachronisms that excessively formalise family relationships. These lingering barriers to a liberalised family unit come despite the increasing pluralisation of Chinese family structures on the mainland following the relaxation of the One Child Policy in 2013.

The traditional Chinese wedding involves 'zuoyi' — a traditional form of bowing or kowtowing in which the bride and groom bow to the Heavens, to their parents and typically only then,

to each other. The order of bowing is important. It entrenches the bride and groom as mere agents of social expectations, unaffected by the simplicity of organic love.

There is no perfect expression of intimacy. But cultural attitudes which neglect a whole dimension of affection ultimately normalise familial disharmony, where children and parents are shunned for externalising feelings.

It's unsurprising that gradually discarding an entire medium of intimacy to preserve outward appearances of male masculinity and female submission isn't quite conducive to familial closeness. As modern Chinese youth relinquish the chains of marriage for social status or 'social hypergamy', and settle on love instead, the continued shift from masculinity can only generate greater goodwill in the family. These thoughts came to me early. I remember sitting with a friend at his house in year three when it struck me how different my own parents were from his mother and father, embracing and holding hands. It was only upon growing up that I've seen glimpses of the same intimacy in my own parents, albeit outwardly more restrained. But my parents are still my parents after all and although they love differently, love is still love.

WHY TWO STUDENTS TRAVELLED TO NORTH KOREA FOR A HAIRCUT

A HERMIT'S PRIDE

WORDS: JAYCE CARRANO
ART: REBEKAH MAZZOCATO



COVER IMAGE: JUSTINE LANDIS-HANLEY

A train rattles along the Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge on its way to North Korea. A wide blue-green stripe runs the length of the white carriage, punctuated by the North Korean coat of arms.

Commuters waiting for the train at Sinuiji, the first stop in the pariah state, will soon get a closer look at the emblem. They will immediately see the five-pointed red star – a communist symbol from the Russian Civil war, each point representing one finger of the worker's hand. Beneath the star's scarlet rays sits Mount Paektu, an active volcano rising nearly 3000 metres above the Chinese-North Korean border. In Korean mythology, the mountain is the birthplace of Dangun, who founded the first Korean kingdom. At the centre of the coat of arms, lies a hydroelectric plant. It is usually identified as Sup'ung dam, a power station built by the Japanese along the Yalu River between China and North Korea. At every turn, North Korea struggles to claim more than partial ownership over the symbols of its own existence.

The train's paint is glossy and thick; from afar it has the appearance of an oversized miniature model. The knitted curtains are drawn back to reveal curious faces. As they coast past an industrial area, the passengers glimpse a man straining under a load of scrap metal. Inside the train, several tourists murmur conspiratorially. There is a disapproving tsk tsk and a few pitying headshakes.

'...THIS FLOOR HAS NOT BEEN AFFORDED THE EXTRAVAGANCE OF ELECTRICITY. AS THE METAL CURTAINS CLOSE, THE GUIDE STANDS LIKE A DISGRACED MAGICIAN WHO HAS INADVERTENTLY REVEALED HIS TRICK'

Alex Apollonov and Aleksa Vulević watch the other tourists with bemused frowns. Their train keeps moving and the burdened worker recedes into the distance.

Several months before their trip, the two Sydney University students had seen viral articles claiming there existed a restricted menu of thirty approved haircuts in North Korea. A brief internet search showed this story first appeared in 2013 and had resurfaced every year since. Sometimes there was one permitted haircut, sometimes 15, sometimes 28. The articles always relied on "unnamed sources". Cynical and adventurous, the two students decided to test the reports first-hand.

It's well known that North Korea only affords visas to tourists on approved tours. Several companies compete for English-speaking customers. Their websites offer readers a breadcrumb trail of words like "intrepid" and "pioneering" and "audacious" all the way to the point of purchase. The tours provide a source of stable foreign currency to a regime that desperately needs it.

Alex and Aleksa had chosen one of the cheaper options and travelled to Dandong, a Chinese city separated from North Korea by the Yalu River. In Mandarin, Yalu means "duck-green", although the water better resembles mud-brown. Some areas are shallow enough that it's possible to wade across to the other side. Unsurprisingly, most people cross at the Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge instead.

Along Dandong's harbour, Chinese vendors sell trinkets that tourists are forbidden from buying across the border. Aluminium coins, pressed notes, and patriotic badges each bear a face from the patriarchal line of leadership: Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, or Kim Jong-un. North Korea watches from across the water as its reclusive reputation is flogged as novelty for profit. There's little to begrudge; the same reputation props up its own tourism industry.

Each night, Dandong lights up with thousands of incandescent yellow dots and neon advertisements. Across the river, Sinuiji sleeps in darkness. Looking down the bridge to North Korea gives the impression of staring into an abyss. Aleksa calls it the "bridge to nothing".

The train stops in Sinuiji long enough for passengers to buy snacks. Ladies patrol the platform carrying baskets of bottled beer and scaled fish. Foreigners are not allowed North Korean won so Aleksa hands across 10 Chinese yuan – around two Australian dollars – for an entire smoked mullet. It tastes like pungent beef jerky.

The Australians arrive in the capital, Pyongyang, and meet their group's guide: a stern North Korean woman in her mid-forties. Many of the chaperons have relatives in the upper echelons of government. They are future diplomats and leaders, corraling foreign tourists before they deal with foreign politicians.

The guide addresses the assembled tour group. She has never left the country but her English is flawless. The tourists glance around the concrete station, hungry for some tell-tale North Korean idiosyncrasies. "The North Korean people's greatest dream is to be unified with South Korea again. Can you tell me the dreams of your countries?"

The only American on the tour, a 50-year-old pilot named Bill, calls out first: "Americans dream of world domination!" Everyone laughs.

Yanggakdo Hotel provides accommodation to



nearly every Western tourist who visits Pyongyang. The hotel sits on Yanggak Island, surrounded by the Taedong River, which flows through the city.

The hotel's rooms are unremarkable. Two single beds are separated by a black box that might pass for a bedside table if its face wasn't decorated with indecipherable dull yellow buttons and grey knobs. Opposite the beds is a television. The first channel offers Al-Jazeera's 24-hour news, the second shows a frantic choir accompanying a military parade, and the third is a nature documentary where a thick-legged spider subdues an insect to the beat of Darude's electronic dance hit "Sandstorm".

Rumours of bugged rooms had inevitably spread among the tourists. Although Alex and Aleksa were sceptical, they spend several hours speaking in gibberish, revelling in the image of a North Korean officer desperately trying to decipher their coded messages.

In the morning, the pair wake to the sound of ringing. Their black box apparently functions as a phone. When they lift a blocky receiver, the deadpan voice at the other end tells them, "Your time is up". They had received their first North Korean wake-up call.

On the way down, the elevator prematurely grumbles to a halt and the doors begin to open. They reveal a dark corridor. A shadow emerges from the gloom and a male tour guide enters the elevator. He stiffly acknowledges his wide-eyed company and waits for the doors to shut. There's a moment of bewilderment before the guests realise that this floor, occupied by tour guides alone, has not been afforded the extravagance of electricity. As the metal curtains close, the guide stands like a disgraced magician who has inadvertently revealed his trick. His eyes slide down and find a spot on the floor to bear his self-conscious gaze. Some of the tourists snicker. Later, over several beers, they'll openly laugh at the charade's undoing. The guide's shoulders do not relax when the elevator doors finally meet.

Soon Alex and Aleksa's tour bus arrives at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun. Since Kim Il-sung's death in 1994, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent renovating this site. Its main attraction is the elder Kim, whose body is kept



preserved in the same manner as other communist leaders like Vladimir Lenin, Mao Zedong, and Ho Chi Minh. Aleksa has come down with a cold and snuffles continuously as he observes the small man's corpse. His watery eyes pale in comparison to the sobbing of several North Korean visitors. Another part of the mausoleum is dedicated to the Korean war, and contains a life-sized diorama of dead American soldiers in the style of Madame Tussaud. Speakers play the sound of crows cawing.

That night, dinner is served in the rotating restaurant atop Yanggakdo Hotel. Six kilometres away, a triangular building rises sharply like an arrow tip above the rest of the city. Ryugyong Hotel is the tallest unoccupied building in the world. If it were operational, its 105-stories could provide accommodation for more international visitors than the city is likely to receive anytime soon.

Tonight, a lively Yanggakdo makes up for its lonely sister. In one of the hotel's karaoke rooms, drunken lips stumble around lyrics. The Korean tradition is alive and well in Pyongyang. Surprisingly good craft beer fills glasses and loosens tongues. Guests buoyed by whisky courage compete to see who can laugh loudest at the expense of the North Koreans and their leaders. The hotel workers pretend not to notice. Alex and Aleksa mouth Korean lyrics into their microphones and receive excited praise from the guides. One crowd favourite is Wham's "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go". Alex belts out the hook and the bizarreness of this hermit country momentarily fades.

*Wake me up before you go-go
Cause I'm not plannin' on going solo*



On their last day in Pyongyang, the two Australians get the haircut they came for. Aleksa sits down in his red Ribena shirt and shows the hairdresser a photo of the 16th "hipster hairstyle" on a Men's Fitness listicle. The model has a low fade on the sides and a slicked back pompadour on top. The request causes no commotion. The lady begins to wash Aleksa's longer-than-shoulder-length hair. No pre-approved haircut menu is thrust into his hands. The hipster cut eventually emerges. Either the rumours are false or North Koreans are more willing to accom-

modate tourists than we've been made to think. The seat reclines entirely flat and Aleksa is treated to a shave with a cut-throat razor.

The pair's final stop is Munsu Water Park in the east of Pyongyang. Electric blues and pop-art reds spiral giddily in every direction, pipes twirling into funnels of orange and yellow and pink and green. The water is a crisp chlorine-smelling turquoise. A statue of Kim Jong-il stands in the shallows wearing a military jacket and board shorts. The park luxuriates like a rainbow paradise in an oasis of sand-coloured apartment blocks. The two Australians tower over the locals waiting in line. The crowd parts and a handful of North Koreans yell at each other to let the foreigners through. Alex realises that the red pavement isn't warm from the sun, but from expensive underground heating.

Over the course of a few hours, the two students receive various cuts and scrapes from the slightly misaligned pipes. Alex remarks that "the slides were not built for tall white people".

In fact, that is precisely who the slides were built for. They are another colourful and transparent attempt to counteract the prevalent and largely correct Western view of an undeveloped, impoverished North Korea.

Back in Australia, Alex and Aleksa appear on Channel 7's *Sunrise*. They're being interviewed about *The Haircut*, a 20-minute documentary the pair made using footage they took in North Korea. The title is an allusion to the *The Interview*, a 2014 comedy where Seth Rogan and James Franco's characters assassinate Kim Jong-un. *The Haircut* mocks media stories that sensationalise life in North Korea and has received over 150,000 views on YouTube.

Sunrise hosts Monique Wright and Andrew O'Keefe, their foreheads shiny under the lights, jump when Aleksa says North Korea wasn't as bad as people assume. The presenters are almost unintelligible as their voices scramble over each other: "But didn't you get a sanitised view?"

Alex and Aleksa are aware of the orchestrated nature of their experience. Aleksa equates it to the way that tourists usually only visit the best a given country has to offer. But North Korea is unique in only offering that part of itself.

Few could argue that Western mainstream media have ignored the plight of North Korean citizens. The towns that languish outside Pyongyang are well-worn

'THE CURRENCY OF INTEREST IS NOW PINNED TO THE REGIME'S ECCENTRICITY: MANDATED HAIRCUTS, BUGGED ROOMS, FAKE CORN... AND EVERY NORTH KOREAN GUIDE KNOWS THIS'

territory for the Western gaze. But that's not why most tourists go to the reclusive nation. The currency of interest is now pinned to the regime's eccentricity: mandated haircuts, bugged rooms, fake corn. Each tour group is either starting a pity party or looking for a freak-show. And every North Korean guide knows this. It is little wonder that, once those guides are promoted to positions of power, they double down on demonstrating North Korea's seriousness with military parades, or its supposed wealth with unnecessarily heated water parks.

When those actions are then reported in sensationalist terms, it often reinforces the stereotype that North Koreans are "obedient robots" who "are too stupid to realize [the] government is bad" – to use the words of the North Korean defector, Kim Joo-il, in an article for *Dazed*.

Those flimsy clichés have tangible consequences. There was little protest when Australia cancelled its humanitarian aid program to North Korea in 2002 or when the United States followed suit in 2008. The United Nations programs in the country, which depend on government donations, consistently fall short of even modest funding goals. This is despite half of the population living in extreme poverty and, according to the World Food Program, one third of children suffering stunted growth from malnutrition.

Nuclear posturing and brainwashed stereotypes have eroded worldwide empathy for the plight of ordinary North Koreans. Western media can do very little about the regime's atomic threats, but all journalists have the capacity to reverse the dehumanising narrative surrounding the North Korean people.

As the *Sunrise* interview draws to a close, a graphic fills the screen. Someone has been paid to Photoshop Kim Jong-un's infamous hairstyle onto two television personalities. Monique and Andrew laugh. Alex and Aleksa smile rigidly for the cameras. The ridicule machine rolls on. **HS**

Check out Alex and Aleksa's video on their Youtube channel **Boy Boy**

Zucc it up

JOSEPH VERITY / All hail ZUCC 2020

As the Trump administration draws to the end of its eighth month, it's easy to start speculating about a possible Democratic resurgence in 2020. The only issue with this endeavour is the dearth of appealing candidates the party is able to offer. Senators Sanders and Warren, 75 and 68 respectively, are arguably past their campaigning prime, whilst younger colleagues Kamala Harris and Cory Booker have come to epitomise the kind of empty centrism that Trump's ardour so quickly rendered impotent back in 2016. In the age of the businessman-cum-politician however, one name stands out, his moderation tempered by his outsider status: Mark Zuckerberg.

The 33 year old, whose 71 billion dollar fortune is sure to antagonise a thin-skinned incumbent, seems increasingly likely to throw his hat into the 2020 presidential election. Despite his lack of involvement in politics, Zuckerberg's recent public image has begun to resemble that of a politician more than a businessman.

In May, delivering a Harvard commencement address, he showcased a sharpened set of oratory skills, outlining a vision for a society unhampered by inequality of opportunity. A prolific user of his own social platform, the Facebook CEO has been an outspoken critic of Trump's rescindment of the DACA program, which protects the rights of the children of undocumented immigrants. In a less overt indication of his intentions, Zuckerberg has hired several renowned Democratic pollsters and advisors, including David Plouffe, who managed Obama's successful 2008 campaign, and, in a telling tribute to the obfuscation that



pervades American politics, he's even denied any intention of running for public office.

But beneath the routine preparations undertaken by the potential candidate, it's difficult to ignore the somewhat more Machiavellian undertones that pervade Zuck's emergence into the political sphere.

Last year, Facebook reinvented its stock structure, with specific amendments to the conditions under which its CEO would be forced to relinquish executive power. Under new guidelines, Zuckerberg would be able to retain control over the company

whilst "serving in a government position or office". Since January, his personal account — endowed with 96 million followers, more than Obama and Trump combined — has been immune to the 'block' feature. The button remains, but the function is disabled, an immunity also granted to his wife, Priscilla Chan. Facebook has alleged that this is simply a reflection of its community guidelines, but the excuse is weak — the Zuckerberg family are two of the only profiles on the website with this privilege.

Paired with the previous revelation, it's hard to suppress the shades of Orwell which are already becoming increasingly intertwined with social media. Consider for a moment, the implications of a Trump vs Zuckerberg race. It's no secret that the current President is the face of Twitter, with some analysts estimating that his presence is worth \$2.5 billion to the social media giant. A race between Trump and Zuckerberg is no longer just a contest for the most powerful office on Earth, but a contest for control over the medium through which its incumbent is portrayed.

Revelations regarding the use of promoted Facebook articles by Russian 'troll factories' to influence the 2016 election have set the tone for 2020, and indeed the midterms in 2018. Social media is no longer simply a means to relate information, it's an instrument to control the narrative. As democracy writhes under the weight of our apathy, let the prospect of President Zuckerberg be a reminder — the distinction between dystopia and reality relies on our ability to wrest control back.

Five exit strategies for the end of the world

HAL FOWKES / What happens when your leaders watch too many post-apocalyptic thrillers

1. Operation Looking Glass

Somewhere flying over the United States is a plane. Manned by 20 staff, the plane acts as an airborne command centre that, should all land-based command centres be destroyed in an attack, would take control of the US' nuclear forces and, presumably, launch them. The plane first took-off in 1961, and is regularly replaced with newer models. It continues to fly over the US, waiting for the go-ahead to take command of the world's largest military.

2. Letters of Last Resort

Every five years, the United Kingdom elects a new Prime Minister. With this PM may come new policy, new negotiations and new legislation. It also comes with new Letters of Last Resort. As custom, the new PM is required to write four letters, which are entrusted with the commanding officers of four military submarines. The letters provide specific instructions in case the British government falls under attack. These instructions typically call for retaliation, suggest placing command in an allied power, or permit the commanding officers' to use discretionary judgement.

3. Dead Hand

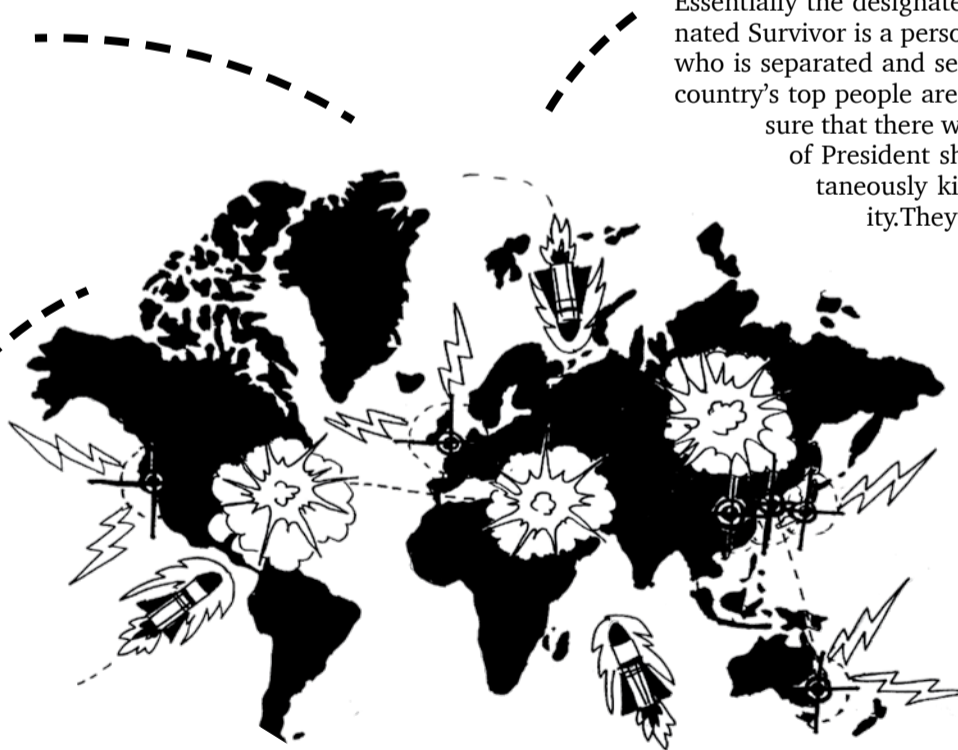
Created during the Cold War, this Soviet nuclear-control system was the USSR's backup weaponry system against the US. Like Operation Looking Glass, it served as an alternative method of launching nuclear warheads if the central command system was destroyed, ensuring mutually assured destruction with the US should they launch a preemptive strike. In a 2011 interview a central commander of Russia's missile resources confirmed the system was still operational.

4. Designated Survivor

Essentially the designated driver of the United States, the Designated Survivor is a person, usually within the President's cabinet, who is separated and secured in a secret location every time the country's top people are gathered together. The purpose is to assure that there will be someone able to rise to the position of President should all the Cabinet members be simultaneously killed, assuring the government's continuity. They are treated with president-level security during this period of time, and are even entrusted with the "nuclear football", a small device that can authorise the launch of nuclear missiles.

5. Preparedness 101

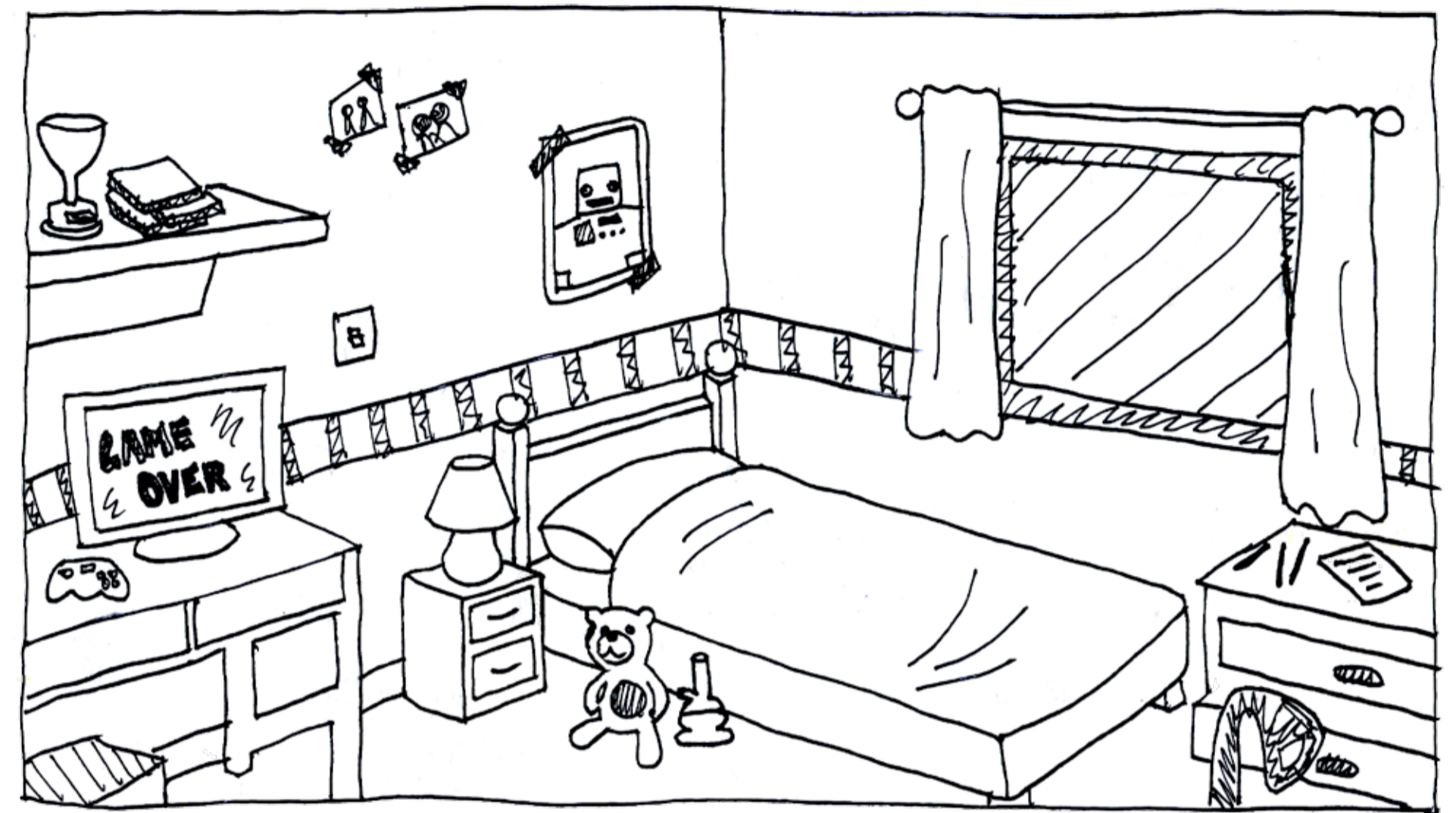
In 2011, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention published a blogpost discussing the most imminent apocalypse in our horizon: zombies. The blogpost, while an obvious joke, tells readers how to best prepare for a zombie outbreak. It also states that the CDC would conduct an operation of isolation and quarantine, treating it like any other disease outbreak. Interestingly, academic analysis of this scenario (which sounds super fun) argues that the government would actually launch a full frontal assault against the horde rather than quarantine, but that ultimately, all humans would end up zombified or dead. Fun.



Art: Momoko Metham

A Saturday at Tommy's

FICTION by MARK BOSCH



Would you like to continue? Y/N

Tommy glances top right. It's already late afternoon. He goes for N.

The raging goblin — who had torn out and devoured the last of his three hearts while standing upon his mangled, third-person corpse — blinks out of existence.

He removes the headset and places it on the coffee table. He cups his head in his hands, kneads the raw skin of his face, rubs his eyes. He still has sleep in his eyes. He runs his hands once more over his forehead.

He sighs. Tommy sighs. Has it been a long day? That feels like the sort of thought he should be having, so he has it. But it doesn't feel genuine. He walks to the window and paws at the curtain, leans his head against the glass.

Looking out at the street, at the stillness, that loyal tableau, *reality!*, he thinks of that stale old Internet joke: *the graphics were amazing, but the gameplay was terrible!* That joke doesn't really speak to him. It's pretty lame. Life is fine. It's fine. This is fine. A talking dog is slowly engulfed in flames.

There's nothing wrong with what he's thinking about right now, by the way, not in itself. It's ok for your mind to be a transient Twitter feed. It just happens sometimes. It's not your fault.

Tommy strafes to the left. Banks to the right. Attacks. Ducks, barrel rolls. Attacks. He hears a trumpet. It's being played by a 3D-rendered skeleton. Doot doot.

Tommy had only taken a short break. He'd watched the street, he'd done a stretch, he'd washed his face, he'd peed. Now he was back at it. He was expecting a final boss. But the fanfare was simply for a little boy.

The boy emerges from the opulent gates of the castle grounds. His dress is regal. His voice is grating. 'Well done... Tommy-Nine-Seven. It would be remiss of me not to offer you inside for a brief respite.'

A child shouldn't know those words. What were the developers thinking?

This is a game from an independent studio in England. Tommy thinks about the developers. He thinks

about *developing*. He thinks about *Arrested Development*, about *Always Sunny*. He thinks about other ways he could be spending his time right now.

So he removes the headset and places it on the coffee table. He rubs his eyes and runs his hands through his hair. He leans over and plugs in the charger for the headset. It's dusk outside. Inside, the lights have come on and he feels just how bright everything is. His eyes do that thing where everything pulses white for a few seconds. He feels light-headed. He waits. Then everything goes back to normal.

Right now Tommy thinks of taking a shower. Pros: he needs one. Cons: nobody will care how his armpits smell. He's home alone and he has no plans. He indulges himself and walks to the bathroom and gets undressed. He removes his last sock and states a command.

'Twelve minutes at thirty-eight degrees. Full massage.'

His landlord had made a great investment here. This shower unit was top-of-the-line, ecologically sound too. Five minutes later, Tommy's swearing profusely as the water temperature briefly fluctuates, and scalds him.

As he towels himself off, Tommy thinking about memes. Doggos, birbs, cats who no like the banana and cats who are okay banana. For a moment, he faces up to it: his head is a murky cloud of meaningless information. His thoughts are aimless. Today sucked. His life *sucks*. He *hates* himself. He has *no* friends.

Despite a day spent in a magical-realist medieval paradise, capped off with a near-perfect full-body massage, Tommy is feeling a bit morose. He walks to the body scanner next to the microwave — another great investment — and checks his serotonin levels. Low. It prescribes him an eighty milligram dose of modified desvenlafaxine.

Now, wait a minute. Tommy's not living so far in the future that the computer can pump that stuff right into his veins or anything like that. He has to actually go and collect it from his local Chemist Warehouse. He's too lazy to do that right now, so he

orders ramen instead.

Having done that, he puts his phone down, saunters over to the living room window and pulls back the curtain once more. Again, nothing's happening out there. A stray cat crosses the street. A bat traces overhead. Tommy's mind is on rewind. *The graphics were amazing, but the gameplay was terrible!* He feels within himself a groundswell of self-loathing, rising up, then pulls himself together.

He sets a goal to have one worthwhile thought today.

Spoiler! He doesn't succeed. His ramen delivery arrives, he eats, bemoans its tastelessness, watches three quarters of an episode of *Arrested Development* that he's seen at *least* five times before, ponders the inexplicable nature of time (no, that doesn't count), and looks out at the street one last time for the evening. Nothing happened out there today. Somewhere, thousands of kilometres away, and also ten kilometres away, and also a hundred kilometres away, an assembly line churns, strikes percussively the repetitive motif of human engineering, of products and the pursuit of pleasure: maximum efficiency.

So, Tommy dons the headset again. Right now, just then, once again: Tommy strafes to the right, banks to the left, attacks, ducks, barrel rolls, attacks. He crouches in a thicket. There's a dragon, there's a damsel in distress; Tommy rolls his eyes at this narrative choice, accidentally deactivating the heads-up display. He gets frustrated when he can't figure out how to bring it back, so, one last time for the evening, he removes the headset and places it on the coffee table.

Finale. Tommy climbs into bed. The poor guy thinks about his life, and asks himself: would you like to continue?

He's embarrassed at himself for having this thought, but he can't help but entertain it. The prompt appears before him. Y/N. He goes for N and hopes to die.

Of course, nothing happens.

Keeping it real in virtual reality

AIDAN MOLINS / How USyd's virtual reality hub has become a vital research institution

Hamish McDougall looks like the physical embodiment of a cyberpunk dream. Sporting a long black ponytail with a sleek undercut, and black clothing, he looks like a character ripped directly from an 80s sci-fi epic set in a post industrial dystopia. McDougall runs USyd's Virtual Reality Openlab, which occupies a sizable chunk of space next to the Brendan MacCallum Learning Hub in the Griffith Taylor Building. Yes — this is absolutely that place across the road from Manning Bar which hosts a mannequin donning a Guy Fawkes mask in the window.

For the last four years, the lab has operated under the Sydney Human Factors Research group, an organisation within the Psychology faculty. Although the lab facilitates a wide field of study, the work primarily examines the Vestibular system, a sensory complex in the inner ear that is in charge of your sense of spatial orientation and balance.

When asked to put the achievements of the Virtual Reality Openlab lab into quantitative terms, Hamish was unable, and unwilling, to. "I wouldn't want to say we're the biggest or the best or the most high tech," he says, setting himself apart from the stereotypical virtual reality pioneers, who often hype their own work to oblivion. Though he cares about VR, McDougall seems determined to avoid inflating any egos.

In the past, innovators have failed extraordinarily in making virtual reality experiences. In the 1990s, companies experimented with headsets that created virtual images — not by using LED screens, but by beaming lasers into your eyes. In fact, Hamish has been in the virtual reality game long enough to have a few of these duds on a shelf in the lab.

"The lab is not just a site to experiment with VR, but a place to build the equipment that allows those experiments to take place"

Distrustful of big players like Oculus, which was purchased by Facebook in 2014 for two billion, virtual reality's fifteen seconds in the big tech limelight isn't of interest to Hamish. And either way, it doesn't matter to his main goal — to use VR for research.

Even though VR has now ascended to lofty heights in the Silicon Valley buzz-sphere, the USyd lab maintains the gritty do-it-yourself practicality of virtual reality's grassroots period. The lab is not just a site to experiment with VR, but a place to build the equipment that allows those experiments to take place. The lab's workshop spaces are used to hack together research gear, which is then given to institutions around the world (especially those in poorer countries that have smaller medical budgets) that would like to do virtual reality research but who don't have the cash for shiny new factory-built solutions.

"We try and dumb down a 150,000 machine to make a \$100 machine, and then give away the \$100 machine," Hamish explains.

In fact, not even NASA was able to shake Hamish's penchant for completing high tech projects on a shoestring budget. After working for them briefly in the 2000s, Hamish accepted a project from the aerospace giant that was designed to help astronauts with vestibular issues, both while in space and after returning to earth's gravitational field. He completed the apparatus for the project — a huge spacecraft movement simulator, designed to train astronauts to deal with, create

"We try and dumb down a \$150,000 machine to make a \$100 machine and then give away the \$100 machine"

and measure the effect of motion sickness — in a third of the \$300,000 budget allocated for it. He used the remaining funds to build two more simulators, one of which he was able to keep, and the other which he gave to a colleague.

"We did that by skimping," he tells me. "They wanted to sell us carbon fibre cabinets for \$30,000, but because we're Aussies, we just bought \$500 plastic water tanks."

"This, for example, is just three sheets of plywood screwed together. But NASA wouldn't let us call it that," he says, pointing at the simulator's base. "They insisted we call it a laminate cellulose substructure."

In a *Youtube* video demonstrating VR on the lab's site, Hamish sits in a virtual casino alongside a taller looking man with dark shaggy hair. On his back is a t-shirt with the word 'Voat' across it. Voat is a right wing clone of the popular link-sharing website Reddit, started in 2015 by disgruntled members of the social news aggregator, when the then CEO, Ellen Pao, banned five of the site's most hateful communities. The explosive backlash online which ensued served as a kind of alt-right prelude, a first emanating pulse of a right wing dudeocalypse whose magnum opus was thrust into the United States presidency last November.

Many men migrated to the virtual to escape a world that, due to progressive social politics, they felt alienated from. But with last November's election, many of those same men realised they might not have to run away anymore. In this sense, the guy with the 'Voat' shirt is emblematic of many in the tech world.

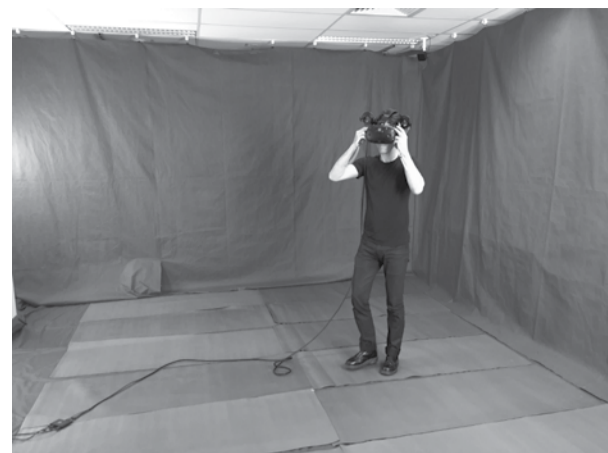
Just last September, Oculus CEO Palmer Luckey had his sophoclean journey in the industry come to a close when a journalist for *The Daily Beast* discovered that he was using his newly found riches to fund Donald Trump's meme machine. Similarly, Hamish tells me the 'Voat' guy had to part ways with Openlab when his politics became too unbearable for the office. "I'm not completely sure, but I do know that he did have some very strange political ideas. He was all 'Trump Trump Trump'," Hamish explains.

So far the biggest 'deliverable' to come from the Human Factors Lab's four years of work is their project to develop a virtual reality therapy system for vestibular disorders patients, who suffer limited inner-ear function. This means that they not only have issues balancing, but can also suffer from dizziness and unease when sitting still. As Hamish points out, among all patients with sensory impairments, those with vestibular disorders may be the most inhibited in terms of their daily life.

"Vestibular function is pretty underrated. Everyone knows about their vision and about their hearing, but not everyone knows about their vestibular function because its so automated that it does everything for you — until something goes wrong."

While the system invented here doesn't cure vestibular disease, it does allow patients to improve their balance and mobility. Feedback from the first 20 patients to use the program found 100 per cent of patients had seen some improvement.

But Hamish isn't satisfied with one successful round of a demo program. He is itching to go further and use simpler, cheaper technology that utilises smartphones and hacked Wii Fit scales to spread the therapy amongst more patients around the country and world.



Hamish demonstrating the lab's special VR space



A space shuttle simulator with a cellulose substructure



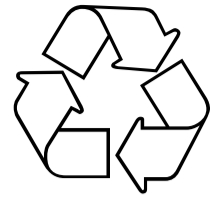
The 90s were a weird time.

The road ahead for the Virtual Reality Openlab is uphill — all Hamish's shiny gadgets are almost useless without an in-house developer to write software for them. And with many developers getting huge salaries at startups fuelled by juicy venture capital funding, it can be hard for a small lab like Hamish's to compete. Despite its location within a university that markets itself as forward thinking, USyd's Executive are reluctant to commit to funding.

"While the system invented by the team doesn't cure vestibular disease, it does allow patients to improve their balance"

Given past failures in the virtual reality landscape, perhaps this cautiousness is wise. But regardless of what the future holds, the lab's work is a refreshing reminder that in the midst of a tech milieu dominated by products that either don't exist, aren't useful, or are downright unappealing, that VR has potential to transcend flimsy virtual creations and improve people's actual lives.

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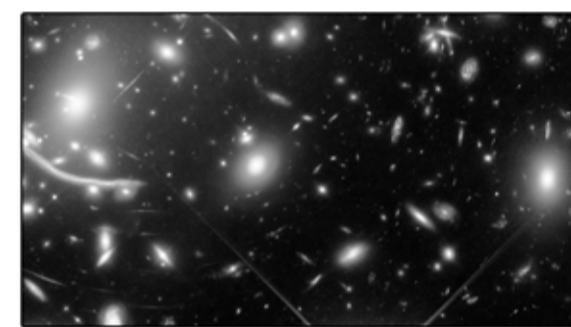
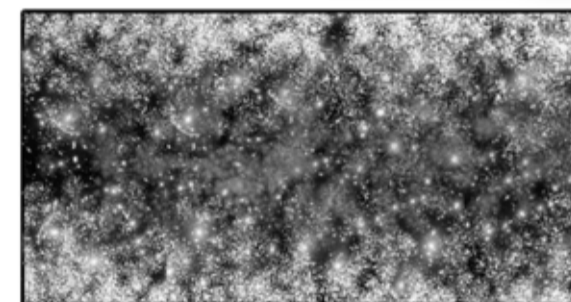
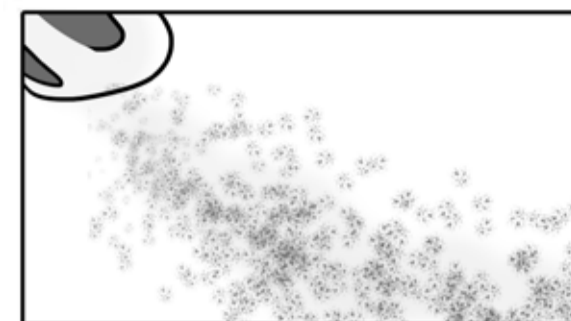


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What to _____ say _____
when you see your _____
friend _____

- Hi!
- Nice to see you again
- I've missed you these past few weeks!
- Me? I've been alright.
- Oh! That's great to hear.
- Goodbye!

The Camperdown Public Chatterbox

Graphic design is my passion

Despite campaign pages having only been up for under a week, things are starting to MINT up (ha, ha). Both Heat and Mint are hedging their bets on a bold new design in order to seduce the humble punter. Unfortunately, neither design is much to write home about. One would expect that a name like Heat creates ample opportunity for visual puns and a wild reddish-orange colour palette. Looking at the branding they've gone with on their Facebook DPs, you would be sorely mistaken. Sure, we get some chillies stuffed in a mouth, but we also get boxing gloves, popcorn, and a tennis racket, making viewers do some serious mental gymnastics to understand the link to their name. Mint have gone for a less obscure approach, and instead have made everything look like a tic-tac. As DP change followed DP change, it became clear that many of them are weirdly proud of having never read Honi before. How this makes them also qualified to claim that they hate the paper a mystery even to us omniscient editors.

So much for the tolerant centre

As the less experienced ticket in the race, Mint

have also been quick to brush up on their editing skills in time for the campaign. On Friday, they made a post saying "REGIONAL STUDENTS ARE GETTING A RAW DEAL FROM HONI SOIT" in capitals reminiscent of your grandmother who's just learning to text. Their research method, which involved typing the word 'regional' into our website's search bar, was similarly geriatric, leading to them claim "it has been 5 years since Honi decided to report on a regional issue". This is entirely false, as a number of commenters including past Honi eds and Heat for Honi member Cameron Gooley were quick to point out. They linked numerous examples from the past few years — some their own articles — until Mint deleted their post, without any other acknowledgement of their error. Someone also posted to their page, but that post has since been removed. As a side note, searching 'rural' returns nine pages of results — better luck next time, Mint ;)

Too many cooks cook the video

Sunday night saw the drop of the first video of the Honi election too, courtesy of Heat for Honi. In a continuation of their abstract riffing on the hot theme, the video consisted of a montage of various ticket members undertaking normal kitchen activities like drinking tea, burning candles, and putting one's head in a gas oven. So far, so wholesome. The video prompted a comment suggesting they should perhaps add a content warning, which said, "I'm not really sure what's cute or funny about sticking your fingers in the toaster or shoving your head in the oven." In response, they apologised and edited their caption to say,

"This video may cause seizures for people with photosensitive epilepsy, and depicts scenarios where people misuse dangerous appliances. Don't try this at home." Truly enlightening advice.

All I want for Hackmas is You(r preferences)

It's the silly season. DPs are a-changing. The smell of a-frames fills the air, and preference deals are in the making, though not for all the presidential hopefuls. Brendan Ma (running as an independent despite his Liberal Party membership) has been left out in the cold, and told Honi he wouldn't be preferencing anyone. Meanwhile, on the other end of the political spectrum, Grassroots candidate Imogen Grant told Honi she had a '2 for 2' preference deal with Labor candidate Bella Pytka — i.e. they will direct their second preferences to each other. Seems like a run-of-the-mill arrangement, however, in a statement that was definitely not scripted by her one of her three campaign managers, Pytka told Honi, "we will be working with other progressive teams to ensure a progressive SRC that works for students". We can presume that by 'progressive teams', Pytka is ruling out a deal with the Ma, although given Stand Up's illustrious history on that count, one shouldn't count their chickens before they hatch. When asked to confirm if there was a '2 for 2' deal with Grant, Pytka seen-zoned us. Weird to discover some people actually have other things to do on Sunday nights.

PUZZLES

To the student sitting in Courtyard at 10am last Wednesday, furious that we included a crossword rather than a sudoku in the previous edition: we are sorry. We hope you enjoy these beautiful sudokus throughout the week.

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Know your rights in a rented share house.

Ned Cutcher, Policy Officer, NSW Tenants' Union

Until a couple of years ago, renting laws in New South Wales did a pretty poor job of giving share house residents straight answers about their rights. The law only properly recognised rental relationships between a single landlord and tenant. However, there is a spectrum of rental relationships, and share housing offers up some of the most complicated types.

In the past, a problem between housemates could be extremely difficult to resolve, especially if it boiled down to a dispute over legal rights and duties. The Residential Tenancies Act 2010 has gone some way towards changing that – some answers are clearer than others. But you have to know how it works in order to make the most of it.

The first thing to consider is where your rights and duties actually come from. In a rented share house, your legal status will depend upon a number of possibilities:

- If you are named on the residential tenancy agreement along with one or more others, then you are a co-tenant. Your rights are equal and several, so you could be held liable for the actions of your housemates.

- If you are named on the residential tenancy agreement but your housemates are not, then you are a head-tenant. You've transferred part of your right to occupy the premises to your housemates and you act as their land-

lord. Your obligations to your housemates will depend on the nature of your agreements with them.

- If you are not named on the residential tenancy agreement, but you have a written agreement with the head-tenant, then you might be a sub-tenant with rights and obligations covered by the Residential Tenancies Act. But if your agreement is a 'lodging agreement' you'll be covered by the common law or (less likely) the Boarding Houses Act.

- If you are not named on the residential tenancy agreement and have no written agreement with the head-tenant, then you could be a sub-tenant with no rights under the Act, or a boarder or lodger. Your share house could be a 'registrable boarding house' subject to the Boarding Houses Act 2012, and you could have an 'occupancy agreement' under that law. A number of criteria must be met for that to be true – it's more likely that your rights will derive from the common law of lodging, which is not ideal. (If your head tenant resides elsewhere, you may have rights under the Residential Tenancies Act).

The Tenants' Union argues that all renters who are not covered by the Residential Tenancies Act should have an automatic right to the kind of occupancy agreements the Boarding Houses Act provides. This would be very easy for the NSW Government to achieve. It



would ensure all renters in NSW have basic occupancy rights and access to affordable, independent dispute resolution.

A final word of caution – if you live in a share house that has seen a number of occupants coming and going over time, you may not know who is named on the residential tenancy agreement. It's possible that you are a sub-tenant without rights under the Act, and your head-tenant is the unknown person who signed the original agreement. Your relationship to the landlord, and your right to occupy the premises, may be tenuous and in need of some care. But other things are possible, too. It's a good idea for your household to get to

the bottom of this, to make sure everyone knows where they stand. Speak to your local Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service to find out what to do.

Talk to your housemates about getting your house in order:

- Decide whether you want to be co-tenants, or head-tenant/sub-tenant.
- Get more info at tenants.org.au/factsheet-15-share-housing
- If you are a head-tenant/sub-tenant, write up your agreement. Download an example at tenants.org.au/share-housing-agreement

Ask Abe



SRC caseworker HELP Q&A
SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Dear Abe,

I had an essay due in last Wednesday, but I was quite sick. I handed it in on Monday with a doctor's certificate, but the University is saying I have to get a late penalty. Is this correct or can I appeal it?

Too Sick

Dear Too Sick,

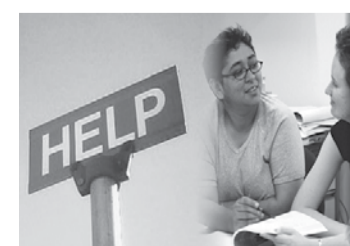
Maybe you didn't follow the correct procedure for gaining Special Consideration. You need to see a doctor on the day (not the day after) you are sick. Remember if this means calling an after hours home visit doctor, or going to the hospital emergency department, then that is what you should do. The doctor should fill in a Professional

Practitioner's Certificate (PPC) where they should indicate how your illness affected your ability to study. Generally speaking if you are "moderately affected" or less, you are unlikely to be successful in your application. So where you say you were "quite sick" it really would depend on how the doctor interpreted that.

You should hand in your assignment as soon as you can, though if you are granted Special Consideration, the Faculty will advise you what the new due date is. Turn in your assignment as soon as possible even if you are not sure when it will be due.

Regardless of all of this, you still have the right of appeal for this decision. Talk to an SRC caseworker about your options.

Abe



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Relationships and Twenty-first Century Technologies

BEATRIZ LOPEZ PORTELLO | PHD CANDIDATE - SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Are modern technologies changing our romantic behaviour? And if so, is this the beginning of the decline for romance?

Before I tell you my thoughts on the subject, you should know that I've been studying romantic relationships since my Bachelors Degree in psychology. I have studied the dark side of relationships as well as the positive ones, and I'm personally a true believer in the old-fashioned way of flirting, for example, going to a pub or a party just to meet people. I really think it is a better approach than using Tinder or any other dating app. Don't get me wrong, I do believe in love and commitment, but these fast paced technologies require individuals to learn new skills and spend more time on them, two things we may not currently have.

Is this excessive interest in others' romantic relationships and this friendlier, faster way of approaching mating deteriorating genuine romance? I do think so.

Nowadays it's quite common for us to discuss how easy it is to meet someone, with our friends and colleagues. This may even include a person you would never have imagined meeting, for example, someone from another country. Therefore, they usually tend to conclude that romance is everywhere. It's easier, friendlier and faster which to a certain extent has changed our romantic behaviours, as well.

Furthermore, there has also been an increase in the number of apps for dating, relationship-oriented TV shows, blogs and websites, which can only be the result of an offer-demand (i.e., people wanting romantic relationships). After all, individuals do place their relationships as some of the most valuable aspects of their lives, and research has shown the relevance of relationships in our everyday lives (i.e., impact on mental and sexual health and well-being in general).

However, is this excessive interest in others' romantic relationships (e.g., the Bachelor and Bachelorette) and this friendlier, faster way of approaching mating (e.g., Tinder and eHarmony), deteriorating genuine romance? I do think so. Why? Well, comparing ourselves to others creates an archetype in our minds of how our partner and relationship should be, and this almost always results in dissatisfaction (i.e., there is a continuous evaluation).

Keeping in mind that relationships are important for individuals, being dissatisfied with your romantic relationship can affect other areas that might not

be directly related either, for example, work, exercise routine, hobbies, etc.

So, the question is – how do we keep the romance alive in this fast paced era? Might sound like a silly answer, but try to understand yourself, understand the other and communicate verbally as much as possible. This is why my research as a PhD candidate at the School of Psychology aims to understand how the personalities of each member of a couple and the emotional link they share are affecting their willingness to communicate personal sexual information to their partner.

When understanding romantic relationships, it is necessary to understand how each individual is (i.e., you see, feel and think different from your partner), and how the interaction of two possibly distinct personalities works. For example, an introvert (i.e., someone who gets drained easily from interaction with others) might be dating an extrovert (i.e., a person who loves to engage in social interaction frequently).

Moreover, attachment also plays an important role in your relationship. If you are dating someone who is kind of anxious (i.e., he/she wants to know where and with who you are), sending a text letting that person know that you will be going out with a friend after school/work could be considered a nice gesture (not that you must, but adapting your behaviour to your partner's attachment can save you both from a lot of arguing). However, if you are dating someone with a secure attachment (i.e., is not scared of getting attached but at the same time loves his/her independence, thus, loves yours) sending texts advising where you are might not be necessary at all.

These two psychological factors have been well studied within the field of romantic relationships. However, research on their interaction and how they both affect processes within dyads has thus far been limited.

One of these processes is sexual self-disclosure, which can be explained as the willingness to communicate sexual information about oneself (e.g., feelings, thoughts, likes, and dislikes) to others, particularly, the partner.

Actually, we are running an online survey which will help us understand how trust and partner's support affect the link between personality and attachment, and sexual self-disclosure. This is important because understanding these links can help us model how interactions are occurring and we can also create therapies or workshops to help individuals communicate better. After all, better communication leads to more satisfaction and well-being.

In conclusion, we can keep the romance alive, even in this fast paced era. All we need to do is to

be responsive to the other. So, the next time you go out for a date or your partner is trying to communicate with you, try to be as responsive as possible. Research has shown that being responsive increases intimacy, trust, satisfaction and mental health.

For more information on this research you can contact Beatriz on blp8674@uni.sydney.edu.au

Meet your Reps!

NATASHA CHAUDHURY



A very warm welcome everyone! I am Natasha Chaudhary, the Women's Officer at Supra and I lead the Women's Collective for all postgrad women at USyd. I am an International student and through the Collective I organize events, bushwalks, workshops and also send students to Conferences. I invite you all to join the Collective through our Facebook page: USYD Postgraduate Women's Collective. You are also welcome to be a part of the organizing team to help run the Collective. If there is anything that interests you or you would like to learn or share, we will make it happen!

LUONING DONG



G'day!!! I am Luoning (Lionel), Treasurer at SUPRA. I am currently in my first-year of the Master of Professional Accounting. Everything here is quite new to me. But I enjoy challenging myself with new things. A funny fact is that at the university I always seem to speak Mandarin to all of my non-Chinese friends!!! So, if you see me on campus sometime, don't be surprised if I end up speaking to you in Mandarin. Have a happy semester and get those HDs!

Meet more Reps!

MIKE BUTLER



G'day. I've lived in Sydney most of my life but am an Aboriginal Irish Queenslander by birth. I'm a father of three kids, am studying law and my sense of place here are the old parts of Ultimo and Pyrmont. My indigenous community there is currently building a traditional fish trap under ANZAC bridge (we're hoping to build a traditional canoe in the future) and I'm a part owner in a full-scale replica Viking longship on Sydney Harbour.

NIC AVERY



Stumbling across the rocky plains of undergraduate philosophy, I have found a resting place in the warm enclosure of the department of political economy, where I struggle with the fact that we live in a society of precarious work and rapacious individualism. In student collectives I have found people and ideas that bind our silo bodies into movements that are strong, beautiful and menacingly empowering. My place at SUPRA has been to attempt, at least, to be a conduit, a lever, and, if I am honest, most usually a pencil pusher, for the overflowing force of these student movements. I will fail, of course. I have failed. But I swear, I will keep going.

What's been happening?!

ZUSHAN HASHMI | SUPRA DSP



PHOTO: HDR Study Spaces Event

SUPRA has been up to a lot as of late. Aside from all the great work that the SUPRA staff has been doing to assist you as postgrad students in regards to your legal, advocacy and other service support, your representatives across the field have been very busy too!

If you've missed out on any of our events in the past, do not worry!

We recently held a FASS HDR Study Spaces discussion at the Quad, which saw over two-dozen HDR students from various different fields and disciplines attending. Several issues were discussed during this meeting as well, including, but not limited to, office space hazards, comparisons between hot desks and permanent desks, the lack of space for the very large HDR cohort at FASS (approximately 1100 students have only 824 desks!). One attendee stated that 'students wait to jump on its prey as soon as its rival fails!' Nonetheless, these students were able to come together and discuss the aforementioned issues to come up with a cohesive and structured plan on how to try and rectify these matters in the future.

Additionally, SUPRA also held its first International Welcome Party, which was hosted by SUPRA's International and Women's Officers'. Due to the overall success of the event (with over a hundred people in attendance, and no leftover food or alcohol), we are already looking forward to hosting the next one!

Similarly, the first week of this month, as the tradition goes, also featured our Wine & Cheese night. And thanks to the overwhelming response, once again we ran out of both wine and cheese!

If you've missed out on any of our events in the past, do not worry! Our Wine & Cheese event takes place in the first week of every month, and we are

working on hosting other events such as the International Welcome Party for you. So do keep an eye out for these events on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/sydneyunipostgrads/>). Similarly, we'll continue to support you in our fullest capacity, so do get in touch with us through our Facebook page or website!



PHOTO: International Welcome Party



President's Report

This week there are two important things happening on campus. On Wednesday, the NTEU (the union representing staff at usyd) will be striking for 24 hours.

This is due to the university's refusal to improve the working conditions and pay of staff. Striking is a way for staff members to exercise their power by withholding their labour. It puts pressure on university management to meet the key demands of the NTEU and treat our staff with the respect they deserve.

It's important that as students we acknowledge the contribution that our staff make to the university community. Our learning conditions are directly shaped by the working conditions of our staff. Cuts to the pay and conditions of our staff means less face to face teaching time, more overcrowded tutorials and lectures, and overworked staff who will have less time to mark our work and provide detailed feedback.

We need to support our staff to put even more pressure on the university.

Our staff have the best interests of students at heart and we should have their back in return. So on Wednesday join the strike and don't go to class, visit the picket line to show your teachers some support and join the rally at 1pm.

The second important thing happening this week is the beginning of the SRC elections. I know that most of you are probably groaning at the thought of overly enthusiastic people in coloured shirts trying to talk to you on your walk to class in the morning but hear me out.

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

The SRC is yours. We exist to represent you, to fight for your rights and we're funded by your money through SSAF. You deserve a say in who runs the SRC in order to ensure that they are working in your best interests. I encourage everyone to read over the policies of the candidates running for election, visit their Facebook pages, and have a chat to a campaigner on eastern ave. Most importantly I encourage you all to find a polling booth and vote on the 19th -21st of September.

General Secretaries' Report

You'll be reading this either the day before, the day of, or a day or two after your teachers and staff strike. So we thought that this could be a useful cheat sheet to get you up-to-speed with what you can do to help.

Why is there a strike? First things first – what even is a strike? A strike is when people collectively refuse to work until their employers grant them fair working conditions. On strike days, the striking staff (who take leave without pay for the day) form picket lines – ie. congregate at Uni entrances – and ask other staff, and all students, not to come onto campus that day, to show the Uni their

strength and resolve. It is vital that you do not cross that picket line.

This strike has been precipitated by the need for a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement between the University management and its staff. The University has offered staff a real wage cut, and refused to extend standard conditions to tutors (casual staff), such as sick leave. As a result, the staff union (the National Tertiary Education Union, or NTEU) balloted its members – ie. literally sent a ballot to their home addresses – and the staff voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action (above 90%).

Why does this affect you? As we

covered in our last report, staff working conditions are student learning conditions – it is pretty obvious, for example, that if your tutors are overworked (and unable to even take sick leave) the quality of your education will suffer. You accrue the benefits of a stronger staff negotiating presence.

So what can you do about it? If you're reading this the day before the strike (ie. Tuesday, Sept 12) – message your lecturers and tutors, and let them know you support them, and their industrial action; message your mates, and make sure they know what's going on. You should join us on the

picket lines that next morning!

If you're reading this the day of – what are you doing?! If you're not already on the pickets, get there; and join us for the rally at 1pm. (And take a picture with the people's rat, Scabby. We love you, ETU Victoria.)

If it's the days after the strikes – don't worry, there will likely be more strike action for you to get involved in. We'd love it if you signed the petition Daniel's been working on to force the USU to support our teachers' fight, and close in solidarity on strike days – which is accessible at form.jotform.co/danielergas/ourUSU.

Wom*n's Officers' Report

The Wom*n's Officers did not submit a report this week

Global Solidarity Report

The Global Solidarity Officers did not submit a report this week

Environmental Officers' Report

The Environmental Officers did not submit a report this week


Disabilities & Carers Officers' Report

The Disabilities & Carers Officers did not submit a report this week

DID YOU KNOW?


You can borrow a **UNIVERSITY APPROVED** calculator $f(x) = x^{-1}$ from the SRC for your exam


The SRC is open from 8.30 to 5.00 during the exam period. Bring your student card.



Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you.
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We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01), University of Sydney
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If it is not possible for you to come to our office, a classworker can meet you on a satellite campus, or speak to you on the telephone or Skype.






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When does your student visa run out?

It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with all your student visa conditions, especially the length of stay allowed under your visa entitlement.

You can find out about all the applicable visa conditions and your visa expiry date using the online service (Visa Entitlement Verification Online – "VEVO") on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website. Use this URL: <https://online.immi.gov.au/evo/firstParty>

When accessing this online service, you will need your passport number and other identification details which can be found on the visa grant email sent by the Department.

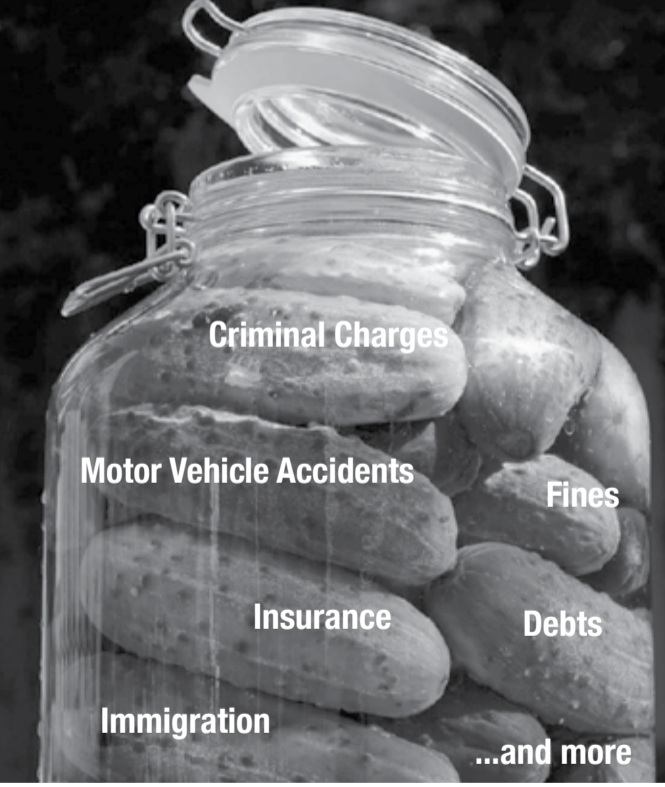
If you are not sure how to use VEVO or have trouble with this online service, you can get FREE help from the SRC registered migration agent by contacting 9660 5222.

Make sure you put the visa expiry date in your calendar and remember to NOT overstay your visa! Overstaying leads to serious legal consequences which in some situations may require you to leave Australia immediately and you will not be able to come back again for 3 years.




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Tinder finally introduces ‘Super dislike’ button



App users now paying hundreds of dollars on the feature just to let Dylan know he’s a piece of shit **P2»**

Panic! At The Disco because there’s no god or divinity



Local nihilists introduce workout night named “No Lights No Lycra No Hope No Love” **P6»**



Child prodigy outsmarts child-resistant medication packaging, dies

Ann Ding
News Editor

A six year old boy has died this morning after tragically, but cleverly, figuring out how to get past the child-proofing measures that are present on almost all children’s medication.

James “Jimmy” Darling, the child of a young couple living in West Ryde, was found by his mother this morning on the kitchen floor of the Darling family’s suburban residence.

Toxicology reports have yet to be completed, but it is likely Jimmy died from simply being an unparalleled genius wunderkind, resulting in his being able to crack the child-resistant packaging, and then ingesting a dangerous amount of drugs in a lethal mix.

Jimmy had been recognised as a gifted and talented individual by teachers at his primary school. He had already been sent to higher-level mathematics classes within his school, where he consistently scored among the top handful of students in that cohort despite being four years their junior.

While it is deeply saddening and unfortunate that Jimmy’s young brilliance landed him in such a heartbreaking end, it is also

extremely impressive that Jimmy was able to solve the perplexing child safety locks — on the medicine cabinet, the prescription medicines box, the child-resistant caps, and many other places besides — which at times even confuse adults.

In the history of child-resistant packaging, there has been only one other child prodigy who was able to navigate its complexities: Tiana Diaz in 1992, who was 12 at the time. Unlike Diaz, Jimmy, who is half her age, also demonstrated that he could solve a number of different child-proofing apparatus, not only the safety cap.

Jimmy’s mother, Paula, recalls finding him lying unconscious in the middle of the kitchen, surrounded by empty blister packs and discarded pill bottles.

Paula Darling said to The Garter, “I mean, in retrospect I should have seen it coming; ever since Jimmy was a baby, I knew he was really something special.”

Jimmy’s father, Jon Darling, expressed similar sentiments. “Jimmy was always going to achieve greatness. Make history. He really did us proud. That’s my Jimmy.”

It is estimated that Jimmy’s IQ was somewhere between Tesla’s and Einstein’s.



Jimmy’s parents estimate that he ingested at least this many pills

Thousands of Australians boycott the sea to protest Tim Winton

Aidan Molins
Australian Literature Expert



The boycott includes beaches, rivers, and even lagoons which are by the ocean.

In a groundbreaking act of rebellion, thousands of Australians are avoiding visiting coastal areas as part of a nationwide protest against acclaimed Australian literary figure Tim Winton.

“Today we are taking extreme measures. For the good of Australians around the country, Tim Winton must stop writing self obsessed novels about the alienating coastal lives of moody Western Australians.”

“I liked Tim Winton at first,” said Monique Foley, the lead organizer of the grassroots movement, in a statement to the press.

“His down-to-earth portraits of issues quintessential to Australian life really spoke to me at first. But then I realized his books just overuse the same ham-fisted motifs over and over again. Like, fucking hell, give me a break. Jesus.”

“I was considering focusing the boycott on Western Australia, Winton’s awful homeland, instead of the sea” Foley noted.

“But just by being normal people, almost all of us were already boycotting Western Australia.”

Yu-Gi-Oh fans cry out against persecution of duel citizens

Jamie Weiss
Domino City Correspondent



Senator Yugioh in happier times.

The citizenship scandal currently gripping the Australian parliament has had unforeseen consequences for players of the popular trading card game Yu-Gi-Oh. The debate in parliament has spilled out into the community, and public opinion has turned against these innocent duel citizens.

“It’s an absolute tragedy, a rotting of the democratic process,” says local MP for Blade Bay, Jack Bidaman. “It’s fundamentally un-Australian. How do we know where their loyalty lies? It’s bad enough that we’ve got Kiwis in the House of Reps and Canucks in the Senate. Now we’ve got these zealots spreading their strange preoccupations through the community. Blue Eyes White Dragon? That sounds like a hate crime. What’s next — a Pokémon player as Prime Minister?”

The Garter spoke with Hugo Exodia, human rights lawyer and prominent figure amongst the duel citizen community. Exodia stresses understanding and tolerance, and says that Australians have nothing to fear about duel citizens in the community.

“My father had an inappropriately dark-type based deck and so I was born in the Shadow Realm. It’s not my fault that his strategy was inappropriately predicated on trap cards. I’m just a normal, average Australian, who just happens to be possessed by the spirit of a vengeful ancient Egyptian pharaoh obsessed with trading card games. This government needs to wake up to itself and realise that their hateful rhetoric about who can or can’t sit on parliament or play a monster card in defence mode has deeper implications. We need to work together so that all our life points are adequately protected.”

‘Fool! My parents’ divorce only made me stronger!’



Parenting **P11»**

Guitar at party just dying to be touched by nearby douche

Aitch Rinkort
Live Music Reporter

A battered old Yamaha acoustic guitar was put to an ultimate test of endurance last night as it waited patiently for local “musician” Nate Brock to take it for a spin at a Paddington birthday party. Even though Brock had previously gone on record saying he “only knows a couple of tunes”, the Yamaha was adamant that Brock would eventually give it a go.

Purchased in the 1980s by the homeowner and family matriarch Winona Jansz, the Yamaha spent most of its short career in a Blondie cover band; with a brief resurgence in the early 2000s when Steph Jansz, daughter and yesterday’s birthday girl, used it to craft pale imitations of Avril Lavigne’s back catalogue in her bedroom. The Yamaha now spends most of its time gathering dust leaning against the living room wall.

The Yamaha suspected Brock might be

building up to a performance when he made a joke about “plucking the G string” but that was a false start. It’s easy to see why the Yamaha was intoxicated by Brock. It’s in every guitar’s DNA to yearn to be touched by someone who half knows Vance Joy’s Riptide, who can struggle through the finger-picked intro to Stairway to Heaven, who can recall four of the six chords required to play I’m Yours by Jason Mraz.

By the time speeches had finished and cake had been served, the Yamaha began to resign itself to the fact that it might not be touched by the dreadlocked jack of all trades, master of none. As the party came to a close, it was all but certain.

A source close to the guitar claims that as Winona Jansz was cleaning up after the party, she gave the strings a nostalgic strum as she walked by, allowing a dissonant open chord to ring out through the empty house. Other sources claim she just bumped it.



This guitar has been going through a long dry spell and just needs to be held so badly right now.

Young professional with no personality makes up for it by buying brightly coloured socks

Jayce Carrano
Business Editor

Grant Taylor, 23, is a digital marketing assistant with an astonishing sock collection.

“I think I have sixteen different pairs with junkfood on them,” Grant says. “It’s pretty awesome.”

Grant, who lives with his parents in Neutral Bay, became obsessed with foot-gloves late last year.

“It started around December when I had broken up with my longterm girlfriend. The decision to break up was mutual. Make sure you write it was mutual,” Grant said. “So I knew I had to shake things up.”

His first foray into the world of toe-sacks began when he purchased every single item available on ‘happysocks.com’.

“I’ve got monotone stripes, abstract swirls, rainbow candy, love hearts. You name it, I’ve worn it on my feet.”

Grant says his favourite pair is covered with prints of little pineapples.

“It just speaks to me you know. Everyone’s so serious at work and I’m here just like

‘hey, look at my pineapples’ [laughs].”

Grant says that since the break up, which was a mutual decision and not a result of his ex thinking he was suffocatingly boring, his heel-holders have brought him significant attention from potential love interests.

“Girls are always coming up to me and complimenting my socks, especially the puppy ones. But they usually end up losing interest for whatever reason after we start chatting properly.”

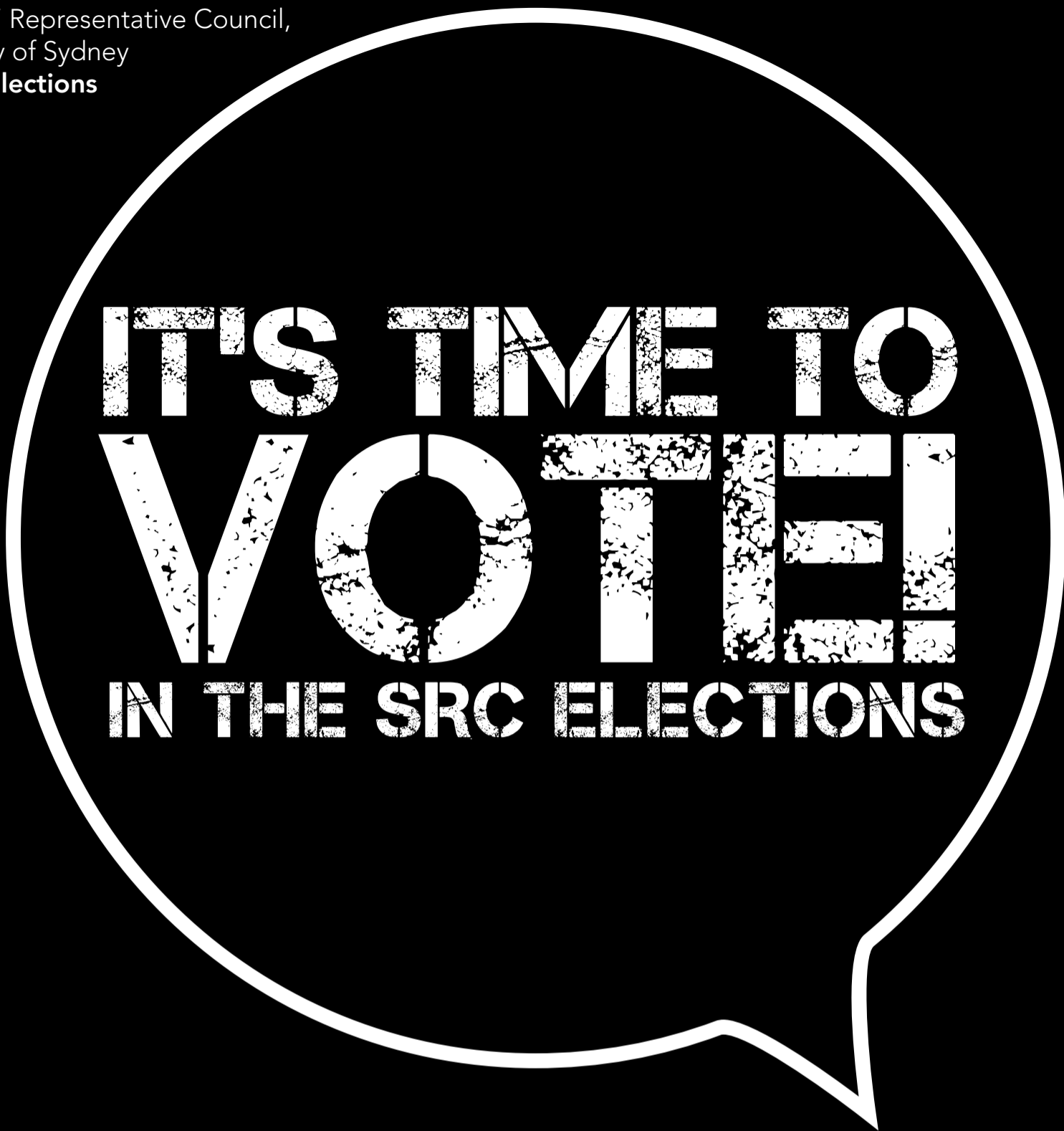
Despite that, Grant’s eclectic purchases certainly make him stand out in the workplace.

“It’s what I’m known for. They call me ‘that sock guy’, ” Grant says. “I guess you could probably call me office famous.”

Natasha Swinburn, a colleague of Grant, describes Grant as a recluse.

“Oh, that sock guy, yeah. Like, don’t get me wrong, a lot of the socks are pretty cool, but he doesn’t shut up about them,” Natasha says. “He never comes to work social events, and spends his lunch break scrolling through web pages buying more socks.”

Natasha told The Garter that Grant had previously gone through a phase of wearing loud neckties.



2017 Polling Booth Times and Places

POLLING LOCATION	WED 20TH SEPT 2017	THURS 21ST SEPT 2017	PRE-POLLING
Fisher	8:45 - 5.15	8:45 - 5.15	Pre-polling will also be held outside the Jane Foss Russell Building, on Tuesday 19th September from 10am-3pm.
Jane Foss Russell	8:45 - 5.15	8:45 - 5.15	
Manning	10:45 - 3.15	10:45 - 3.15	
PNR Building	11:45 - 2.15	No polling	
Cumberland	9:45 - 2.15	9:45 - 2.15	
Conservatorium	9:45 - 2.15	No polling	
SCA	No polling	9:45 - 2.15	