

HONISOIT

A LITTLE MORE DOBERMAN THAN POODLE
WEEK ONE EDITION | 4 March 2009

ALL NEW
HONI



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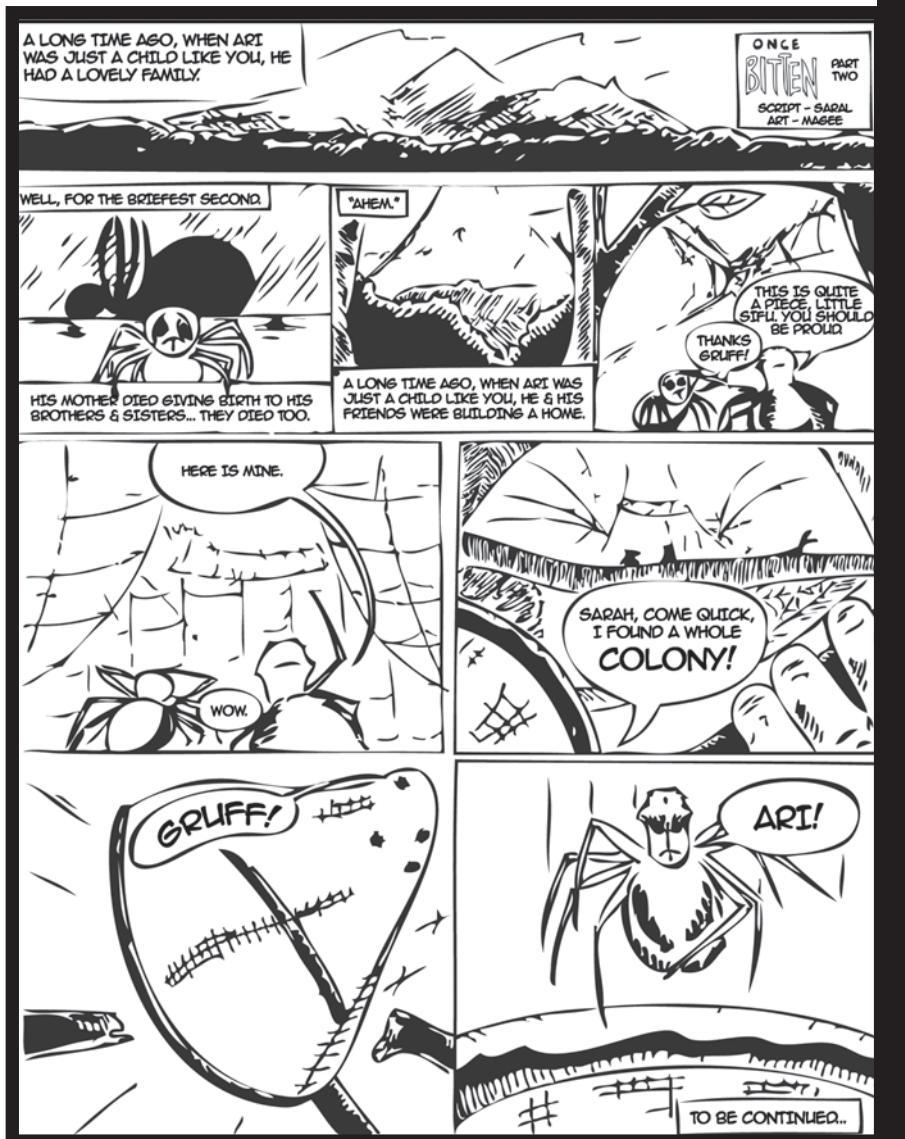
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LETTERS&EDITORIAL

Jumping the gun?

Tom Lee, Arts II

Katherine Connolly accurately describes some of the advantages enjoyed by faction-based candidates in union elections, mainly that of money. A candidate with the backing of a faction commands finances and campaigning resources far in excess of what the lone independent can scrounge together. A determined independent candidate will have prepared a tidy sum to get him or herself through the campaign but nothing can compare to the war chest that is amassed each year by the major factions, particularly the NLS (National Labor Students- which presents itself at Sydney University as the Labor Club), whose entrenched presence on campus and organisational depth has enabled it to secure senior positions on both the union and SRC for the past decade. But where does the money come from, and why can't the humble independent get the same amount? It flows from the coffers of the NSW ALP, via close relationships with individual MPs and friendly figures in the extra-parliamentary organisation made through the Young Labor network. The independent- going without the formal support of a major political

party- is therefore subject to a pretty severe disparity when campaigning against factional candidates.

Keep it coming...

Patrick Langosch, Arts IV

Once again Honi Soit hasn't let facts get in the way of slandering Socialist Alternative. The accusation in Ye Olde Rumour Mill that members of SA shouted "murderous Jews" is completely and utterly false and is typical of right wing attempts to portray anyone critical of Israel as anti-semitic. The only disgusting racism on display at the SRC meeting were supporters of Israel trying to justify the massacre of 1500 Palestinians and the use of chemical weapons such as white phosphorous in the world's largest open air concentration camp. Students who want to stand up against these atrocities should get involved in Students 4 Palestine

We have groupies!

The Presets, Arts (Music Performance) VIII

You know we love it when you write write write write like like like like like that that that that that that.

Stop it...

Kate Leaver, Arts IV

Dear Honi-2009-ers,

Just a quick note to say I freakin love the new layout and the awesomeness of your first edition. It's slick and newspapery and I like it a lot.

Wishing you best of luck for editions to come, and taking on general HoniSoit-ness.

If your O-week edition is any indication, it should be a great year!

Editorial

Naturally, every new *Honi* team aims to bring something new to the paper. In 2009, our purpose is to provide something of interest and value to the average Sydney Uni student: a broad range of issues, a diversity of opinion, and a palatable mix of light-hearted and serious content. Professionalism is a buzz word not often associated with student papers, but it's something that the 2009 team have strived for - from the revamped look and feel of the paper's layout, to the targeted relevancy of our content.

Part of our focus is to include a greater mix of student contributions to the paper. If you fancy yourself a writer, send submissions (max 400 words) to our email address (at left). We can't promise to publish everything we receive, but a fresh, well-written piece will not go unnoticed.

In our feature this week (page 12-13), *Honi* explores the value of 'volunteer tourism' and assess whether or not the burgeoning trend fulfills a beneficial purpose. We conclude that, more often than not, volunteer tourism can bring tangible benefits to the world's poor.

Our cover, incidentally, is a blank canvas intended to encapsulate a key idea of *Honi*'s feature, and won't always star a different editor (though Alex Lee makes for a smoking cover girl).

In this edition and the many to follow, *Honi*'s aim is not so much to perturb as to entertain. We think we've achieved that. But that's not for us to decide.

George Downing



FROM THE VAULT

This week in From The Vault, we present Tony Abbott (President, 1979) in full pugilistic flight, having just picked up an SRC O-Week Handbook...

Many of you are probably unaware of the distinction between the Union and the SRC. The Union originated many years ago as a debating society but has developed into the campus catering organisation. It runs the restaurants at Manning, Wentworth and the Old Union. The SRC provides the political representation of students. Reading Honi is the only contact most students have with the SRC's activities.

The fact remains that the vast bulk of the SRC's money provides a political infrastructure still devoted to the marxist hobbyhorses of ultra-militant feminism, homosexual proselytism, and environmentalism gone to crazy lengths. The Orientation Week handbook is the most recent example of the work of these people. As usual, it

spouted the marxist cliches about 'Capitalist' Society and 'Bourgeois' universities. What always strikes me about these publications is their air of righteousness, as if all they contain is sweetest reason, and their complacent, arrogant assumption that most students actually believe the nonsense they peddle. I suspect the 10 pages devoted mainly to unusual forms of sexuality, though fascinating, were more titillating to the author's friends than students generally. Surely it is not necessary to tolerate an expensive and obnoxious political bureaucracy in order to obtain Legal Aid and other services. It would be infinitely preferable if SRC services were assumed by non-political bodies while the SRC is reorganised on a non-financial basis. The SRC would still be the representative body of students but it will no longer be able to throw student money after every cause which takes its passing fancy. There will be a referendum after Easter on the question of voluntary financing of the SRC. I hope all of you will take the trouble to vote.

Yours, Tony Abbott.

Published in *Honi Soit*, Edition 2, 1979

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THE UNITED STATES STUDIES CENTRE
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Honi's Guide to... the Opera

Matt Gallagher treads the boards.



Worth singing about

For those who are new to the University of Sydney, and those who are not, being a student here is about being cultured, magniloquent and pretentious. What better way to begin your civilising instruction than with Honi's Guide to opera that will rival even the wisdom of Wikipedia.

What is opera?

Opera is the art form that combines the artistic media of solo singing, small ensemble singing, choral singing, orchestral music, ballet, symphony, acting and other variations upon these genres. The term opera comes from the Latin *opus/opera*, meaning work/s which reflects its all-encompassing nature.

An opera is written around the libretto (text or story; then again, you probably knew that) and tells a story with song and music. Opera story lines tend to be melodramatic, vague and far-fetched; there is almost always at least one love story and/or love triangle, and usually there

is a good and hearty death and/or murder, somewhat in the fashion of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliette*.

Its origins

Opera was invented at the end of the 16th century during the flourishing Renaissance climate of revivalism and renewal of classical culture. It was created by a Florentine group of intellectuals known as the Camerata de' Bardi who sought to recreate what they believed to be the format of classical Greek drama, i.e. a story with sung text accompanied by a group of singers known as a chorus and a musical ensemble. The first work to be considered an opera is *Dafne* by Jacob Peri which was written in 1597 and has since been lost.

The work that is often erroneously labelled as the first opera and one of the few of the 'firsts' to still be regularly performed is *L'Orfeo* by Claudio Monteverdi which was written around 1607. Opera initially dealt with classical myths to do with the gods, the underworld and other such fantastic stories; a trend which has continued throughout the history of this art form, most notably with Richard Wagner. Due to the country of its conception, Italian is the predominant language of opera; although the French have almost always used French in their operas, Italian remained fashionable in Germany and England until the mid

18th century.

The players

The major traditional classical voice types used in opera are the soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, baritone and bass. The soprano is the highest of all voices and is almost always assigned to the leading female. The mezzo-soprano is usually the soprano's offside or female counterpart. The tenor is the highest of the male voices and is usually assigned to the young lover and/or protagonist. The baritone often plays the evil guy or the comic relief character. The bass is the lowest of all voices and is often assigned to the wise and/or patriarchal figure.

With this brief overview of what is considered the pinnacle of the performing arts, you will be talking pretentiously in no time. Then again, being the cultured university intelligentsia that you are, you probably already knew that.

News in Brief

Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana and the son of Indian immigrants, was chosen to respond to President Obama's address to Congress. While Jindal's starring role in *Slumdog Millionaire* contributed to the film's 8 Academy Awards, the performance of the rising star of the US right against Obama was described as "amateurish". Although his response to Obama's economic plan was a flop, Republicans are confident he replied well to Obama's skin colour. "Our experiment with women backfired...so we're going black baby", explained an old white male Republican. "For us, black is the new black."

Sydney Boys High School has withdrawn from the Greater Public Schools First XV Rugby this year. Confirming that nerds definitely can't play sport, the school cited safety as the reason for the withdrawal. As the High First XV rode home to their mummies on their tricycles to do some calculus, a student from St Joseph's, Hunter's Hill, commented, "yeah, we kicked that geek ASS." A student from St Joseph's is yet to be accepted into university.

Japanese scientists are using nanotechnology to develop wallpaper that can be turned into a TV screen. The technology is being adapted by Amish scientists to turn TVs back into wallpaper, while nudist scientists are manipulating this technology to make clothes that turn into air.

Germaine Greer's house in the UK was recently burgled. She reportedly described the female police officers as "cabaret artistes, all fishnet stockings and deep cleavage. They did not engender confidence." The list of missing items included jewelry, artwork, and solidarity for women in the workforce.



Gillard mistakes Abbott for a Doberman... Honi uncovers the source of her mistake.

LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

The \$900 bonus

Katherine Connolly unveils the truth.



It's no poultry handout

Last week Honi gave you the 411 on squeezing Centrelink for all it's worth, but this week we're going to tackle the big cheese; those 900 sweet dollars that Chairman Rudd's been telling us all about for the last

couple of weeks. Not only is the bonus handout a hefty sum for a struggling student, it actually seems like it's going to be very easy to get. Better still, since we're receiving it in the spirit of helping an ailing economy, it's our responsibility – nay, civic duty – to immediately spend every last dollar.

To be a lucky recipient, you firstly need to be an Australian resident who has paid net tax in the 2007-2008 financial year. This means that after taking into account your Medicare levy and Medicare levy surcharge, some percentage of your income has gone towards tax. Secondly, you need to make sure you've lodged your tax return for 2007-2008 by June 30th. The amount you'll get will depend on your income for that year:

- If you earned \$80,000 a year or less you'll be eligible for the full \$900.
- If you earned between \$80,000 and \$90,000 you'll only get \$650, so tough

cookies

- If you somehow managed to wrangle an income exceeding \$90,000 you'll get \$350. Is there anyone reading this with an income exceeding \$90,000? If so why are you at University and not off sunning yourself in Ibiza?

- If you earned over \$100,000, you don't get shit, and we don't feel sorry for you. Also, buy me a beer.

The best part of the whole thing is that you don't even need to actually apply for the bonus, which would inevitably involve wrangling with epic amounts of bureaucracy. The Australian Tax Office already knows the relevant information, so come early April, your bonus will be sent directly through electronic transfer or cheque. All we have to do is sit back and wait for it to arrive. Turns out economic crises are actually kind of awesome.

CAMPUS NEWS

Sydney Uni's biggest O ever

Bronwyn Cowell gets orientated.



Spot the editor Photo: Jeremy Yao

This year's O-Week celebrations took over campus last week under the theme of 'Flashback Fastforward', which saw fun-park rides and dodgem cars on the front lawns, free fairy floss being doled out by alarmingly hairy men and a retro roller disco on Thursday night.

The festival directors Catherine Josephine-Tayeh and Vivienne Moxham-Hall chose the theme hoping it would inspire students to "connect to the new experience of university," through familiar old-school events and themes – and unhealthily high sugar consumption.

The festival broke slightly with the tradition of having one band-night, one comedy night and one party night, instead opting to combine the band

and music into one big Wednesday night.

This was followed by the roller disco on Thursday and the Big-O concert on Friday, where acts including Ben Lee, The Fratellis and Yves Klein Blue played to a packed Manning house. The whole event was also more interactive than previous years, with more clubs and socs getting greater exposure on the main stage. It meant that bible reading was up there alongside group games of chess and attention-hungry editors plugging their past-it student rag.

And since no O-Week is complete without students maiming themselves in one way or another, Hermann's trivia night ended with broken dreams and broken bones. Host Sam Yeldham had two competitors arm wrestle – whether this was just for kicks or to settle a tie is unclear.

Unfortunately, one of the wrestlers ended up having his arm broken in the struggle, passing out before being swiftly shipped out of the bar, presumably to hospital.

Student art gets a shiny new home

Bronwyn Cowell takes a tour.



The University's colonial loot

The University of Sydney has for a long time lacked an exhibition space specifically set up for the display of student artwork. This is about to change with the establishment of a student art gallery on campus set to open mid this year, in the new Jane Foss Russell building.

An initiative of the Union, the gallery will house regularly changing exhibitions of works by all Sydney

University students and particularly those from Sydney College of the Arts. The Union's yearly art competitions will be shown in the new space. Unbeknownst to most students, the Union has its own impressive art collection, valued in the hundreds of thousands, which sadly rarely gets seen save for some works hung in Manning. The new gallery will serve as a sorely needed exhibition space for this collection.

Current Union board director Doug Thompson campaigned on getting such a gallery established. He told *Honi* that "whilst there was some disagreement on Board regarding how the Union should use its space in the new building, the motion establishing the student gallery went through unopposed."

This as-yet-unnamed gallery joins the University's excellent existing museums, including the University Art Gallery and Nicholson and Macleay museums. They are all sadly under-visited by students so *Honi* recommends you to check them out (the Pathology Museum has dead things! In jars!!) Readers should rest assured we will keep you posted on progress with the student gallery.

Did you know you can study MUSIC SUBJECTS ON MAIN CAMPUS?

You can take MUSC subjects in almost any degree and you don't need to be a student at the Con!

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MUSC 1503 Fundamentals of Music:

Learn to read and write music, and gain a better understanding of how music works. Material ranges from introductory music notation through to putting chords to melodies in the best possible way.
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MUSC 2612 Arts Music Concert Performance 1:

Perform on any instrument, in any style (classical, jazz, traditional etc.), in lunchtime concerts in the Great Hall and the Old Darlington School. Students receive a written report, an advisory interview after each concert, peer student critiques and corrections to program notes.
Prerequisites: 18 junior credit points in any subject + an audition.

MUSC 2690 Music and Gender:

Music and Gender will investigate representations of gender, the body, and sexuality, by both male and female musicians, in repertoire drawn from a number of different historical and geographic moments. Topics of study will cover a range of popular and art music genres.
Prerequisites: 18 junior credit points in any subject. Ability to read and write music not required.

MUSC 2686 Mozart and his Times:

Through reading and intensive listening, we will study the beautiful and challenging music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) within the cultural and historical contexts in which he produced his works. Students will emerge with a sense of what makes Mozart special, how he is (and is not) typical of his turbulent and fascinating age, and the reasons his music still speaks to us so powerfully today.
Prerequisites: 18 junior credit points in any subject. Ability to read and write music not required.

For a complete list of subjects available, visit the Arts Music website: www.artsmusic.info
All classes are held on Main Campus.

For more info, contact Johnathon Foley (Arts Music Unit Administrator):
[E] j.foley@usyd.edu.au [P] 9351 2923 [W] www.artsmusic.info



SYDNEY
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The University of Sydney

Working at Manning

STAFF INTERVIEW Alex Lee has a cold one with Lyssa Trompf of Manning Bar.



Photo: Jeremy Yao

How long have you been working at Manning?

I have been working at Manning for one year now.

What would a typical shift working at Manning be like?

A typical shift at Manning sees a few beers poured, some awesome DJ battles, ragging on the first years and me embarrassing myself at least once every 5 minutes.

Where else have you worked?

I've worked at a balloon shop, as a soccer referee, sold second hand clothes and replaced every Visa sticker in Sydney.

Being a bartender at Manning looks like the best student job ever. True or False?

True. Concerts and beer are all I need. Plus the people I work with rock my socks.

What's the worst kind of patron you get at Manning?

College kids. What is so hard about wearing shoes and shirts in the bar huh?

If Manning Bar werw a person, what would she/he be like?

She'd be tall and freckly, with platinum blonde hair, wear thick glasses and live for Molly Ringwald films.

What's the strangest drink request you've ever gotten?

We love drunken or foreign mispronunciations at Manning, my favourite was the request for a Neweys Too.

What's your favorite drink?

I am a simple lady, I love a cold jug of TEDs.

Do you have any special tricks for getting stragglers out at the end of a day?

I have this hilarious habit of clapping and making up songs when I am kicking people out, I think their obnoxious quality really does the job.

What's the best gig you've seen at Manning?

The best day at Manning was when the Black Keys played twice in one day, and I was there from morning 'til night, pretty much jizzing my pants.

A productive membership

CAREERS Sriram Srikumar ponders an overlooked "real-world experience."

Having decided to stay home and spend the summer in Sydney in search of some course-relevant work experience, I trawled the web at the end of last year looking for that perfect opportunity to build my "real-world" understanding. Five seasons of Boston legal, four movie marathons, three seasons of 30 Rock and two months later, I found myself at the door of a little, old cottage in the city, down the bottom of Kent Street.

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA), with its office at the Glover Cottages, regularly puts on lectures, publishes journals and provides an opportunity for those interested in international affairs to meet and socialise. It is one of many organizations that conduct a similar set of activities for professionals working in any given field. From archaeology to economics, psychology through to physics, professional organizations provide students access to a great set of resources and experience.

When it finally sunk into me sometime late in first year that experience was crucial, I spent most of my energy trying to find formal internship positions. While these are undoubtedly beneficial, I now feel that membership with professional organizations are an often overlooked resource.

The organizations expose their members to lectures, publications and research that are not available to the general public. Because the AIIA and other groups are run by and for those in the field, its forums are often topical.

It's a source of information that's often far more interesting than and always different to the stuff learnt in lecture halls. More importantly, membership with such groups can also provide access to people. "It's not what you know, it's who you know" might be a little cynical, but being connected to a good network of people working in your field of study is interesting at the very least.

Compared to internships and formal employment, membership with an organisation is not exactly impressive on paper. Still, I've found that it's an irreplaceable source of information and insight about your field of study.

Most organizations provide free or heavily subsidised membership rates for full-time students. Almost every field of study have one or more such organizations and, from my experiences, it's well worth a search, especially for those just beginning their majors.

Having a B'Day? Need a space?



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RANDOM TUTORIAL #0649

I glide through the door and slide into the chair, looking forward to my first ENGL2627 Reading Sexuality tutorial. The random process of timetabling has brought together an eclectic combination of potential stereotypes, one which is all the more diverse due to the status of any subject with the word 'sexuality' in it.

Sitting opposite me is the gothic type, who at that particular moment is investing ample energy into chipping sepia polish off her bitten nails. To

my left is the token male student, so obviously outnumbered by females that his place in the tutorial is bound to stimulate debate.

These tutorials provide an avenue for exploring the stereotypes we subconsciously believe to be absolute truths. The benefit of having a young, forward thinking tutor who scaffolds the tutorial on our questions is that the assumptions about the people around us are tested. Opinions fly, arguments go back and forth between the 'quiet' exchange student and the 'outspoken' academic and the silences in between speak louder and truer about those in the room than many of their comments. By the end of my third tutorial the feminist turns out to be a staunch advocate of male equality, stressing

her contempt at the female assault on stay-at-home dads.

While it turns out ENGL2627 is a stimulating subject, experience has taught me this is not always the case with tutorials. Here, the ability to observe the unique and often entertaining traits of the students around you offers an unrivaled opportunity to get you through without falling asleep. Of course, you have to be prepared to alter or perhaps leave behind your initial perception of the boy sitting next to you with the Mohawk hairstyle and 60's parachute jumpsuit.

Allie Pollack

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Margaret Pomeranz vs. David Stratton



Frodo often sought Gandalf's advice

The case for Margaret Katherine Connolly

Before you read any further, it's important to keep one thing in mind; Margaret is the Executive Producer of *At the Movies*, so she owns David's arse. Just like she's going to own David's arse in this *Head to Head*.

There's just no question that Margaret brings the awesome to *At the Movies* and David brings the dull. She's got those huge shiny earrings, bleached pixie cut, and the leathery brown tan that makes it look like she spent the summer cavorting in Barbados. She's clearly the kind of cool person you'd actually want to go to the movies with. Afterwards you'd talk about it over drinks, and if you said you shouldn't have another she'd cackle and rasp "don't be ridiculous!" and order a fourth round of martinis.

David, on the other hand, would say that the film didn't hold a candle to the little known German original,

Nette Nachbarn küsst man nicht and go home for an early night.

It's true, she's had her missteps. Like when she gave *Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* three and a half stars because she thought the driving in it was cool. But it's that little bit of crazy that brings excitement and anticipation to the show – you never quite know what she's going to think of a film.

It's always obvious, however, what David will like and hate, because he's totally predictable. He's the crusty old guy who can't appreciate it when people bring the funny – like when he gave *Team America* one star because "the puppets were ugly" and he "didn't get it". Now that's just lame. Nobody wants to hang out with the lame guy.

The case for David

Paul Mackay

On hearing that there was to be debate on the issue as to which host of *At the Movies* was superior, I was struck with the feeling that I'd missed the point of the show. For years I'd thought it a place for critical review of film, for measured analysis and helpful guidance. With this view I suffered Margaret Pomeranz's inane banter in order to hear from one of the bastions of film critique: David Stratton. I thought all viewers did the same. Not so, I'm told, which leads me to believe I'm missing something, because she certainly adds nothing

to the rational debate of film quality, and no tangible evidence for her irrelevant arguments. Looking like something from *The Lord of the Rings*, cackling abrasively, hers are not reviews; they are self-indulgent, hodge-podge collections of emotion and in my view, a waste of time.

Switching on this week, viewers were treated to a classic Pomeranz potshot in a baseless roasting of Dustin Hoffman's *Last Chance Harvey*. She didn't like the film, but rather than examining its performances, or direction, or script, she cited Hoffman's acting in *Death of a Salesman* as reason enough. David was understandably frustrated that a film released over twenty years ago coloured her judgement, but that's fairly standard with Margaret; a film's merit should never get in the way of a good ol' irrational response.

David, conversely, is an intelligent, elegant man, who has sat on the jury of the Cannes, Venice and Berlin international film festivals, directed the Sydney Film Festival and earned an honorary doctorate from our very own university. Though viewers may not always agree with his opinion, they are left with a far clearer perception of the film and are able to use his ideas to form their own.

Put she is the show's Executive Producer, it seems David, and audiences, will have to endure Margaret. So for now, thank Fellini for the mute button.

GAFFEMAN

We report. You smirk smugly.

Federal Minister for Industry, Kim Carr, warned that "no-one's job is safe", then described this as "a poor choice of words" and decreed boldly that the Federal government is standing "shoulder-to-shoulder" with workers. So remember, workers of the nation - even though "these are difficult times" and "unemployment will increase", don't panic because your shoulders will be touching the shoulders of Federal government ministers while we all queue up for the dole together. Phew.

When US Vice President, Joe Biden was asked for the address of the website he's overseeing, he didn't know (it's recovery.gov, a website designed to make sure the economy gets fixed - no big deal). He then appealed to his imaginary friend off-camera, "Do you know the website number? I'm actually embarrassed." Don't be, Joe – that new interweb fad is just a gigantic super-fast, high-techno, zippy-zap information superhighway, it'll never catch on.

David Cameron asked UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown why his bank bailout had failed to filter down to taxpayers. Brown pointed out that the bailout had in fact "saved the world!" Those pesky taxpayers should stop whining.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi responded to a series of rape cases in Italy by wistfully noting that deploying more troops on Italian streets would not guarantee the safety of the country's women because, "we would need as many soldiers as there are beautiful girls in Italy – which we will never manage." What? Flattered women are safer women, right Silvio? What a smooth operator.

LE BOEUF

Pop radio sucks

Tom Kaldor tunes out.

As the summer comes to a sudden stop, and life once again moves into the higher gears, I find myself increasingly sitting behind the wheel of my car. It didn't take long to remember just how boring driving is.

That's what makes commercial radio such a powerful force: boredom. There's only one thing more boring than sitting in traffic and listening to Kyle and Jackie-O – and that's sitting in traffic and not listening to Kyle and Jackie-O.

After having the idea that perhaps driving could be educational, I did the AM thing for a while. But I soon realised that the choice was always between Question Time and the BBC

World Service. And listening to Senate debate is generally frustrating. So is the English accent.

My latest pick is Hamish and Andy. I used to hate those guys, but their banter has reached all new highs. So much so that Nova's new afternoon team seem to have been picked purely on the basis that their vocal timbre is somewhat similar to their Today FM opposition.

The best thing about Hamish and Andy is that they are generally so content to listen to their own voices that they forget to play songs. Which – given the current state of pop music – is glorious. I direct all readers to a song by Taylor Swift called *Love Story*. It

presents itself as a re-telling of Romeo and Juliet but at the end there's no death, poison or tragedy. Romeo simply sorts out generations of inter-family violence by talking things over with Juliet's dad. That's like turning The Tortoise and the Hare into a song and having the tortoise die of fatness just before the finish line (moral: the more conditioned and aggressive animal will always win).

My AM experience taught me that educational Radio was a pipe dream. Taylor Swift taught me that listening to the wireless could actually make you dumber. Looks like I'll be driving in silence.

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YE OLDE RUMOUR MILL



Election Watch



Honi kept its ears pricked during O-Week for talk of Union Board elections later this semester, and we're ready to reveal more than a few ambitious hopefuls looking to be future board directors.

Giorgia Rossi and Carmen Culina have both come up on our radar, as has David Mann, looking like he'll be run by fellow Paul's boy and current director Patrick Bateman.

We've also heard Ben Jenkins of Theatresports and Gen Faulkner-Firth of Subksi are considering running and they may well be accompanied by Mike 'Dule' Mackertich, Michael Hing and Julia Lenton.

NLS is yet to pre-select their two candidates, and Andrew Coleman of the WHIGS assures *Honi* he will be running at least one, if not two candidates. Adding to the mix the inevitable Young Lib representative, it's likely to be a tightly contested campaign come June.

Start practicing your techniques of avoiding student politicians!

Shamon, Lee!

In a disturbing development in the race to union directorship, second year Arts student Thomas Lee has launched his campaign during O-Week. *Honi* has heard that while spruiking the USU Politics Society, he was also chatting up first years with a few reminders that he's planning on running for Union Board.

This was probably against election regulations (a candidate cannot solicit votes outside the three week campaign period), but here at *The Mill* we clap his ballsy show of ambitious hackery.

Shit hits the fan at the real O-Week

Whilst the official University O-Week was, predictably, a white bread, pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey affair, an initiation of a very different kind was taking place over at the Uni's six residential colleges, **St Andrew's, St Paul's, St John's, Women's College, Sancta Sophia and Wesley**. The infamously colourful week, characterized by cheap goon and nudity, showed no signs of abating this year, and *Honi* was there to catch the action.

Taking a break from scotch and cigar appreciation, the able fReshers of **St Paul's and Women's** are reported to have gotten along famously at a mid-week bash ('fReshers' isn't a typo, but college speak for first year students.)

There was scarcely a single left on the dancefloor, a source close to *Honi* has revealed, as the combination of wicked beats, sickly sweet happy juice and scant clothing fitted Cupid's bill perfectly. Clearly the new recruits had read "Science Stunts" in this paper's O-week edition.

Meanwhile at **St John's**, the annual 'slip n' slide' day party descended into filth when the turf in front of the College turned to mud after an assault of spilt beer, rain and an out-of-control sprinkler. The John's fReshers are said to have embraced their College's rough-cut reputation and took to rumbling in the mud like pigs in a pen, providing low-brow laughs to other guests.

Speaking of low brow, **Wesley College** has been hit by perhaps the biggest scandal of the week, as a reported six fReshers have been suspended for acts that cannot be reproduced in print. No one was hurt, but you don't want to know what happened. Seriously. Additionally, the fResher-Senior hierarchy was given a good shot in the arm one night out in the Cross, when Wesley's fReshers were compelled by their O-week leaders to purchase them drinks, cab rides and miscellaneous entertainment throughout the night.

In other news, a bunch of unidentified College fReshers are said to have confronted Justice Michael Kirby and Justice Murray Gleeson outside the Downing Centre wearing nothing but their academic gowns. This follows a much publicized act during 2008 O-week when a similarly attired group posed for a photo with Willie Mason at a Roosters training session. Always on the lookout for ground breaking photojournalism, the image appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* the following day.



THE COLUMN

There comes a day in every student's life when they meet their first student politician.

For some, this is a run in with the Socialist Alternative at O-Week. For others, it is watching a punch up outside Fisher library during elections.

Their message simple: "Vote for me and all the world's problems will end – all because I can vote on the Sydney University SRC."

Thus it is that the new student quickly realizes the student politician is a curious breed: a strange beast prowling the walkways of Eastern Avenue, stalking its prey in the fertile feeding grounds of Wentworth, and lying in wait on the Manning lawns ready to interrupt your lectures with discussions of Venezuelan politics.

But for all the many hours you can (unfortunately) see your student politicians on campus, come the meetings for which they seek election, the student politician is nowhere to be seen.

And thus we reach a conundrum, for the SRC runs on a quorum system: requiring 16 of 31 councilors to be in attendance before any decision can be reached.

If we'd believed the student politician hype, we'd be amazed at the abysmal failure of the SRC to reach quorum: 20% in 2007 made quorum, 35% in 2008, and 2009 hasn't started too well either at 1 in 2. However what makes 2009 worse is that the failed meeting was an emergency sitting called by a council majority so inflamed by current world events that they couldn't wait a week for the scheduled meeting... or, as it happens, turn up for the meeting when it was pushed forward.

So next time a student politician tries to guilt trip you into signing a petition or declaring your support for an "independent left wing SRC", ask them a simple question: "will you go to the meetings if elected?"

If they are honest, they will have to answer "No."

Love your favourite student politician,

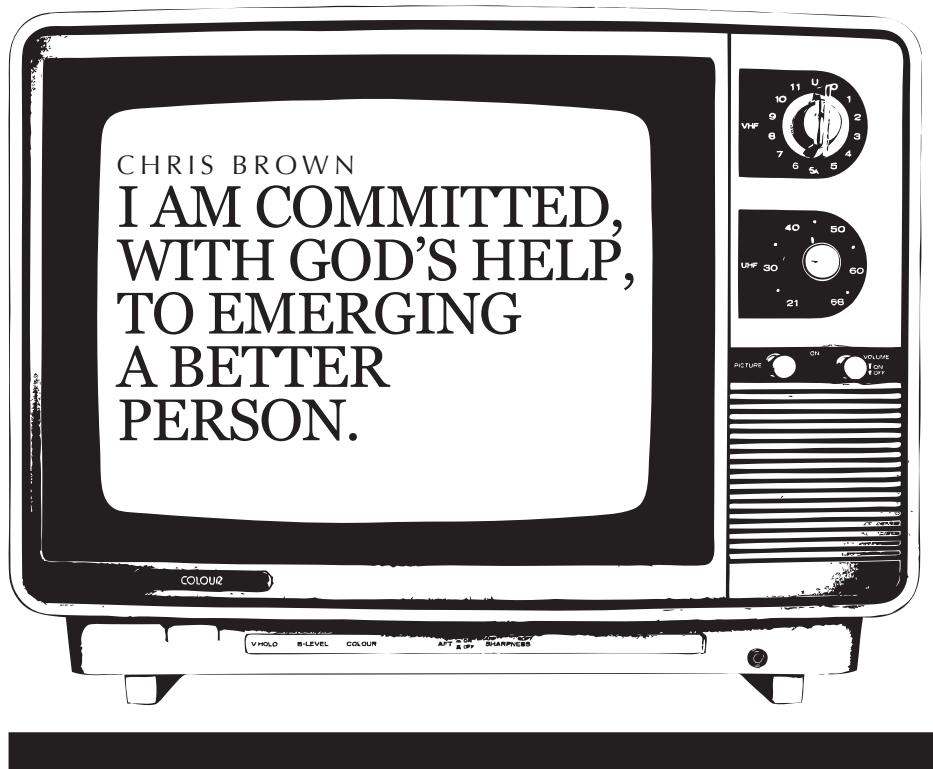
Andrew Coleman

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition is building a generation-wide movement to solve climate change. We inspire, educate, empower and mobilise young Australians to take action on climate change. We coordinate, communicate and network with each other, and run shared projects and campaigns.

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MISCELLANY



Vox Pops!

Mark Di Stefano and Katherine Connolly talks up some fresh.

O-WEEK QUESTIONS

1. What degree are you studying?
2. What clubs or societies have you joined?
3. Shag/Marry/Kill: Hillsong Campus, Socialist Alternative, Medieval Society
4. If you were a senior college student how would you initiate a fresher?

Sophia



1. Arts/Languages
2. Jazz Society, Subski, Politics Society
3. Shag the Socialist Alternative, marry the Medieval Society and kill Hillsong Campus
4. Make them swim naked in the Victoria park pond

Leanna/Mekela/Ella/Parima



1. International or Liberal Studies
2. Politics Society, Amnesty, Darcy Society, SUDS, Vietnamese Society, SASS, SULS, Labour Club, Muse
3. Shag Hillsong Campus, marry Medieval Society and kill the Socialist Alternative

4. Make them steal rare books*

Zoe



1. Economics/Social Sciences
2. Commerce Society, Geosoc, Netball, Subski
3. Shag Medieval Society, kill Hillsong Campus and marry the Socialist Alternative
4. Take them to Plantation and make them buy rounds of martinis

Jesse



1. Liberal Studies
2. None
3. Shag the Socialist Alternative, marry the Medieval Society and kill Hillsong Campus
4. Make them prance around campus with banana skins on their nipples

**Some students in the US actually tried this and ended up in jail for a long, long time, so let's not.*

Diary of a Media Girl

Honi uncovers the hidden diaries of Mark Di Stefano.

I had a great day.

See what I did just there? Active phrasing. And because it is the most important part of my diary, it goes at the start, like an inverted pyramid. That's how you write news stories. Fab.

My train from Bondi Junction was late today. Massive bummer. At least I utilised my time- I sat there and got the latest news from my iPhone's massively cute ABC News Radio App. As the newsreader rounded her vowels and softened her plosives, I practiced opening my mouth wide to pronounce A-Rab, Ack-Ma-Dinner-Jad and Issyouse. My mouth is getting so big, especially for my O sounds.

Picked up my spicy skim chai latte from Campos (hottest barista!), and headed to my Sociology lecture. This semester's subject is Studying Celebrity: Tabloid Trash or Worthy of Academic Study? It was so good to meet up with all the other media girls. We all sat in the best position 3/4 of the way up the theatre, to the right hand side. Most of us aren't really blonde, but our lecturer called us the blonde brigade. So funny.

The girls, Token Gay Media Boy and I went for lunch at Manning. I had the raspberry granola banana bread with infused dragonfruit. Conversation was mostly focused on Tiff's new purchases from Witchery and the fact that we are all still virgins.

In MECO2023, we learnt about the history of the media. As I sat there I began to question the utility of this incredibly vague subject, and considered that maybe MECO is just a glorified Arts degree for over achievers who couldn't get into Law. My concerns were put to rest when I realised everyone in our row got over 99 in their HSC. Hot!

Tonight, we went and got drunk at the Marly with other MECO kidlets from other years! Got so drunk! Just putting the photos up on Facebook, and I look like the biggest trashbag! Ever.

Also, I got the cute bartenders number!

xoxo

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Photo credit
Performer: Tess de Quincey, Nerve 9
Image: Russell Emerson



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Sydney's Unique Combination

Danika Armytage goes behind the scenes of our very own underbelly.

Sydney-made film, *The Combination*, explores the murderous racism between the 'Lebs' and the 'Aussies' in Sydney's western suburbs. Some Australian audiences may find many elements of the film unfamiliar – smoky boxing clubs, gangs, arrests, racial hate crimes – yet somehow, the film offers an authentic reflection of what it is to be Australian today.

The following responses are excerpts from interviews with its two leads, George Basha and Clare Bowen, on the Saturday afternoon before *The Combination* opened nationally.

The Combination depicts the violent racism shared between white and Lebanese Australians. Do you think Australians are more racist and segregated than we are aware of or admit?

George Basha: We are racist, that's just a fact. A lot of people don't integrate with other nationalities, and vice versa. And to me, that shows that we still have a lot of racism around.... When you see young kids, it doesn't matter what nationality you are, Anglo-Australian or whatever, kids of the age of 13 or 14 calling people 'wogs' or 'you Aussie bastard,' that's racism. And for me, you've really got to think, where do they learn that from at that young age? They've got to be learning it from home.

From your own experiences, what do you think is at the root of this racism?

GB: When I was young and was bullied by the Australian kids on an everyday basis. And it got to a stage where I really hated Anglo-Australians because I was only a kid and I didn't understand the world. That's it. I was picked on all the time by the Anglos, they hated me so I used to hate them. Then I matured and started using my brain a bit

"They [Anglos] hated me, and I used to hate them... but we're all the same, mate."

more. Now I've got so many Anglo friends, they're like my brothers - Aboriginal friends, Chinese friends, I've got them all, 'cos we're all the same, mate.

Clare Bowen: It's human nature to be pulled towards what you know and what feels like home. And unfortunately, sometimes that causes a divide. I think the lack of

exploration into the interior of ethnic and white Australian cultures is the cause for a lot of tension because they only see what they're fed - and perhaps their assumptions... I'm hoping that this film gives the Anglo-Australian audience who may not have had the privilege of exploring a different culture, whether it be Lebanese or Turkish or Italian, or whatever – to see what it's really is like on the inside, rather than just what turns up on the news.

Clare, your character is named Sydney. Do you think she has a emblematic role for many Sydney viewers?

only fair. It's their film as much as it is anyone else's.

Ali Haidar who plays a lead role of Zeus, a character who is arrested in the film, was recently arrested and is currently facing assault charges. How did the news of his arrest make you feel?

GB: Ali is a very good friend of mine, and he's a very talented actor. And when you see a friend that's in there, it's disappointing, especially someone of his talent. But that's why I make these films, because a lot of kids Ali's age make mistakes - he's only 19 years old. And if you ask me, "What's *The Combination* about?"

step up and get over it.

How do you think the film will be received internationally?

CB: We're identified by our wildlife and epics like Baz Luhrmann's 'Australia' - the sunburnt country, you know. But this side of it hasn't been told. So maybe it will be a bit of a shock... Or maybe it won't. Because while it's set in Australia and it's about the ethnic and white Australian clash, it could be about any race, anywhere... I'm sure people are smart enough to know that this sort of thing goes on just about everywhere, it just hasn't been told from Australian soil.

Do you hope that this film will help erode these racial boundaries and stereotypes and help ease interracial violence?

GB: I don't think everyone's going to come out of *The Combination* thinking, "Oh yeah, we have to all do this..." but there are messages there. And if 1 in every 10 people walk away and say, 'There is a point there,' I'll know that I've achieved what I really set out to achieve.

CB: If it stopped one kid from going out and buying a gun and taking revenge on someone because they called him a name or they did whatever to him then that would be an amazing job done.

The Combination is currently screening in cinemas around Australia.

www.thecomboination.com.au

*On Thursday 26th February, a security guard was attacked at a screening of *The Combination* at Greater Union Parramatta after asking a patron to stop smoking in the cinema. Several brawls occurred in Sydney's west in the following days. This prompted Greater Union's decision to pull the film from its NSW sites. This decision is currently being reviewed.*

Ali Haidar pleaded guilty in Central Local Court to common assault and was sentenced to 29 weeks in jail.



Clare Bowen - what a knockout.

CB: Sydney is the one that most Anglo-Australians viewing this film will follow on her journey. So in a way, she's opening the doors for them to have a look. I suppose she is a representative. She's the one who's brave enough to go in and hopefully the rest of Sydney follows her.

The Combination is set in the Western suburbs of Sydney and it premiered at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre. Why did you feel that to be so important?

GB: Ultimately, we filmed it for the West, out of the West, because we've never had anything for ourselves... People from the community got behind this and gave us their homes, gave us their shops to use, helped us with everything we needed. And I thought I want to repay them and have the premiere in Parramatta, because we never have a premiere in Parramatta for a feature film. It was

I'll tell you it's about choices. Every character in this film makes a choice, and their choice impacts them or their loved ones. One of the biggest messages of the film is be careful what you choose to do. Maybe you're life's going to end, or you end up in jail - or on the good side you can be a rich bloke and if you've worked hard, make a lot of money. But it all comes down to choices.

With incidents such as the Cronulla Riots in recent memory, do you think the film could stir fresh racial tensions?

CB: I don't think it will reignite anything. I hope that it will give parties represented in the film a certain pride that the characters they're watching can overcome this sort of thing, rather than dwelling on the ignorant mentality that causes racism. I would hope that their eye is on the characters who are able to

TRIUMPH or TROS

Volunteer student tourism is a phrase that, twenty years ago, meant little more than worried mothers sending sums of cash to their by-then decrepit and filthy backpacking children somewhere in Europe. Today, it is the it girl of the tourism industry, encompassing a range of tourism opportunities, that have at their core, the idea of combining travel with helping people. With hundreds of private, public and non-governmental bodies all scrambling to take advantage of the eagerness of many students, who have proven to be the pioneers of this trend, the growth of VT seems to be unstoppable.

Volunteer tourism as a term was only officially coined in 2001 by Dr. Stephen Wearing from the University of Technology, Sydney. His 2001 book, "Volunteer tourism", defined the experience as "an organised way to undertake holidays that might involve aiding or alleviating the material poverty of some groups in society, the restoration of certain environments or research into aspects of society or environment." While Wearing sees the term as incredibly broad, he writes that it is fundamentally catered to those who are "seeking a tourist experience that is mutually beneficial, that will contribute not only to their personal development but also positively and directly to the natural and/or economic environments in which they participate".

It is this belief in mutual benefits that

Jeremy, a travel agent for Student Travel Australia, told me that i-to-i's appeal rests with its range of options. "i-to-i offers a bit of everything", he said. "There are a lot of companies out there, but i-to-i is for anyone."

Although volunteers are often confronted with quite monumental tasks, i-to-i, along with most other

AusAID, sends specialised volunteers to the Pacific and South and East Asia. Distinct from the six categories of participation that run through private organisations, AYAD works in seven areas: education, environment, gender, governance, health, infrastructure and rural development. The key is "to have the skills and experience to do the assignment for which you are applying",

market. Student volunteer tourists I spoke to gave me similar answers when I asked them what had inspired them to pick up and head overseas (or to a disadvantaged part of Australia). Some said they were interested in helping people on a grass roots level, others wanted to see the world in a structured way. Another, who asked not to be named, said that he wanted to meet girls with a similar interest in humanitarianism.

Kat Heath, a second year Economics Social Sciences/Law student at USYD, told me that she was inspired to undertake work at an orphanage in Mombasa, Kenya, out of a desire to "really do something". "I wanted a much more real experience, but I also thought, how cool would it be to go to Africa? Volunteering seemed like the best way to see the true side of Kenya". Kat started off her experience on an i-to-i program, which she describes as "useful" in establishing contacts and providing a "support net". Eventually however, she separated from the i-to-i program in order to immerse herself more completely in the cultural experience of Mombasa. "It is disconcerting being seen as a mob of white people walking around taking photos", she stated. "Once we moved out, learnt some Swahili and became locals, we made great friends." Jonathan Salgo, who is currently in his second year of Economics/Law, accompanied Kat on her trip to Kenya, and describes it as the "best travel



Crowded scenes outside the Jolie-Pitt auditions.

private organisations, stresses the relative unimportance of a formal education in volunteer tourism. Indeed, no formal prerequisites are required for any of their volunteer programs, despite the often culturally

in general terms, a university degree and some professional experience in the field. Public sector volunteers tend to find themselves significantly more involved and committed to projects than private volunteers do, due to

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE BENEFITS OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES. VOLUNTEER TOURISM H

forms the core of the i-to-i philosophy as well. i-to-i is currently leading the market, along with other big players such as Antipodeans, when it comes to organised volunteer tourism. The organisation plans trips for 5000 people each year, with volunteers able to work and travel in 30 nations around the world. Asia, Latin America and Africa form the central focus of the organisation, with the largest number of programs being offered in India and Kenya. These programs, and those offered by other companies seem to fit into six distinct categories: education and teaching, conservation, community development, building, internships and sport.

nuanced conditions many volunteers find themselves in. "It's about doing what you love in a constructive environment", Sam, who works for i-to-i, told me. "You don't have to be whiz, just happy to get involved and get a little dirty". Apart from an age minimum of 17, and a university degree for specific programs involving teaching English, "you just need the right attitude".

Organised VT in the public sector is more about matching skills with need, rather than turning a profit and providing a memorable experience to eager volunteers. The Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, or AYAD program, run through

the length of time they spend in an area, and the specific tasks they are confronted with.

Whatever the choice, private or public, volunteer tourism seems to attract

"We went thinking we were going to help out, that it would be hard. But it was just fun. We had such a good time!"

a certain type of character. Students make up a significant proportion of those choosing to undertake some form of volunteer tourism, with one travel agent I spoke to estimating that they make up roughly 80% of the

experience I've ever had". Jonathan felt that one of the most beneficial parts of volunteering was that it gave him an opportunity to help out a community, and to have a wonderfully enjoyable travel experience. Indeed, one of the misconceptions of volunteer tourism is that it is endlessly gruelling. "We went thinking we were going to help out, that it would be hard," Jonathan told me. "But it was just fun. We had such a good time!"

And this enjoyment seems to be a general response. On a recent volunteer trip to Maningrida, North-Eastern Arnhem Land, I was stunned by my own personal enjoyment of working in community development. While

DOUBTLE?

conditions are hard, and the days are certainly difficult, exposing yourself to such a radically different environment, and being welcomed into a community, is incredible fun!

Christina Heyniger from Xola Consulting has worked on mapping the trend of volunteer tourism. She identified the flexibility in time commitment offered by private organisations as a key factor in the growth of the industry. "In the past, volunteer travel typically meant a significant investment of time – generally requiring people to spend several weeks or months supporting a project. Now, there are a multitude of options for people interested in mixing in smaller doses of volunteering with their holiday travel." This relaxing of the time and energy commitments of Volunteer tourism has led to an enormous increase in its popularity. Indeed, Jeremy, from STA, told me that "time [has been] a big factor" in the growth of the private volunteer tourism industry. "Even if people can't devote their lives to a project, they can do something". From summer holiday programs to mid-semester break trips to the outback of N.S.W, students in particular, are finding that they have more and more pockets of time to devote to volunteering.

But is this really doing something? Is flying into a community for a week, with no real skills necessarily behind you, really the best way to approach

exchange" of their own. "We gave something and got something", he stated.

However, the discussions I had with representatives from i-to-i suggested otherwise. Donovan, a consultant from the organisation, told me that projects are brought forward

.....
Whether or not they are supplementing already existing programs, or genuinely replacing what should be provided by the state, volunteers are able to contribute in a real and viable way to communities.
.....

by 'local coordinators' who are based in a given community. These coordinators identify areas where "there is a need" and respond with volunteers accordingly. He told me that "enthusiastic and adventurous travellers" would be able to "adapt" to the needs of the community. So, is volunteer tourism really a force for good, or are volunteers allowing governments to get away with not providing, in some cases, fundamental services?

Stephen Wearing believes that volunteer tourism is essentially, a positive act. By looking at the inherent inequalities of conventional tourism, Wearing argues that VT "offers an alternative which, in a way, looks to the future". "Tourism perpetuates inequality, with the multinational

VOLUNTEER TOURISM IS HERE, AND IT'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE SOON. GROWING OUT OF ECO-TOURIST CRAZE OF THE 90s, VOLUNTEER TOURISM SEES TRAVELLERS HEAD OVERSEAS TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THE DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS OF COMMUNITIES OR ENVIRONMENTS IN DISADVANTAGE. IT IS BEING HERALDED AS AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING AND PROVIDE MEANINGFUL TRAVEL. THIS WEEK MICHAEL KRASOVITSKY ASKS: IS THE TREND SUSTAINABLE OR DESTRUCTIVE?

vital in alleviating the problems of the developing world.

This cultural exchange is certainly just one of the advantages of volunteer tourism. Whether or not they are supplementing already existing programs, or genuinely replacing what should be provided by the state, volunteers are able to contribute in a real and viable way to communities. Volunteers are able to accomplish a great deal: they can further the English education of students, nurture and rehabilitate animals back to health, build infrastructure or teach better waste management techniques. At the same time, volunteers learn a great deal: about the day-to-day realities of living in poverty, about different cultures and, as corny as it may sound, about themselves and what they are capable of. The most profound benefit of volunteer tourism is, as Kat states, "just knowing".

Today, volunteer tourism has not been overly legislated, nor have governments invested in its development. However, as the industry grows, governments will be forced to properly assess and evaluate organisations, particularly those companies that work in nations with which Australia has diplomatic ties. One of the clearest ways that governments could facilitate the industry would be to introduce a accreditation system, whereby volunteer tourism organisations that re-invest in local communities and

Meeting will be held sometime at the beginning of this semester, aims to provide information about volunteer tourism programs that are available all over the world. It will run as a not-for-profit facilitator of Volunteer tourism projects, liaising with local connections and ensuring that all proceeds are re-invested in the local economy.

If you're interested in volunteer tourism, the first thing you should do is to consider your personal interests, and to try and find a program that caters to those fields. Be aware that many organisations charge you for volunteering, a paradox of sorts, so be sure to find out exactly where your money is going: responsible organisations should be investing the majority of what you pay (60% or more is a good benchmark) back into local economies.

Whatever your thoughts on volunteer tourism, get ready to defend them. This new and exciting trend in tourism and youth culture is, as travel agent Jeremy from STA told me, "the next big thing". So, if you've never considered volunteer tourism as a viable travel option, it's time to reconsider. At the very least, you'll be able to start your next "An Irishman, a Frenchman and an Australian found themselves in the wilderness" joke with a bit more pizzazz.**HS**

M HAS SHOWN THAT ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRAVEL CAN LEAD TO LONG-TERM CHANGE.

disadvantage? This "waltz in" criticism of volunteer tourism is certainly a very powerful one, as is the idea that VT fosters a new form of dependency, where communities become reliant on private enterprise to sustain them. When asked about whether they felt this was a valid argument, both Kat and Jonathan were quick to answer no. "We didn't provide services that should have been provided elsewhere, and we didn't replace something that should have been there," Kat told me. "We were adding something that wasn't there, and that wasn't the responsibility of any other group". Jonathan agreed, arguing that the children in the orphanage where they worked were "lucky to have a cultural

companies of the advanced capitalist countries retaining the economic power and resources to invest in and control the tourism industries of developing nations," he suggests. Volunteer tourism with its emphasis on avoiding aid dependence and its investment in local infrastructure, creates a viable alternative.

Indeed, i-to-i writes, in its "Meaningful travel" brochure, that it is "against aid reliance". "By travelling with i-to-i, you'll be helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of the local projects that we work". By emphasizing time and effort over financial investment, the organisation stresses how minor changes and cultural exchange are

that work sustainably would make it onto a reference list. This would force companies to act responsibly and with a focus on eventually being able to leave communities. However, such discussions are still years away, with the industry still in its infancy.

So where do you get started? At Sydney University, there are a multitude of ways to get involved with volunteer tourism. Groups such as AIESEC Sydney have a number of opportunities to travel as a volunteer, and can be contacted at aiesec.sydney@gmail.com. A new group, aptly named Hakuna Matata, Swahili for 'No Worries' is also being set up in 2009. The group, whose Inaugural General

VOLUNTEER TOURISM

For more information on specific programs, visit

<http://www.i-to-i.com>,
<http://www.antipodeans.com.au>,
www.redcross.org.au
<http://www.ayad.com.au>.



For more information on Hakuna Matata, email hakunamatata.volunteers@gmail.com

FISHER BOOK REVIEW

Will Atkinson reviews the Oxford English Dictionary

In my short career as a reviewer, I've had a lot of people recommend me books that I turn out to really hate. As far as I see it, the more hype there is attached to a novel, the less interesting it is.

I was in Fisher Library the other day, investigating whether people actually 'christen' the stacks (I just left a Catholic school, so I know the drill and can help out) when I came across a novel called The Oxford English Dictionary, or OED for short. I'd heard quite a lot about it in the past, but never had a chance to give it a read.

What I found only served to confirm my opinions. A book isn't necessarily good just because the introduction says it is "the accepted authority on the evolution of English over the last millennium". It turned out that it wasn't even science fiction!

Instead of something as basic as a plot, it was structured into a series of 'definitions'. I suppose the gimmick was to find a story as you read through them. However, the alphabetical thing the author had going made it a bit difficult, because when I thought I had something going around 'P', it soon turned into 'Q' and I had to start all over again.

It was certainly a creative approach on the part of the authors, but I think it leans towards overkill when you consider that the novel is 20 volumes long.

The thing that really got my goat, however, was the author's clinical approach to description, which had negative implications for the novel's attempts at erotica. I didn't know how it started or stopped and I was just left feeling sexually cold and confused.

This offering from Oxford University Press is definitely adventurous. However, it lacks cohesion and the effort of finding an actual story is exhausting. To be perfectly honest, it also kind of hurt. My doctor says I've got this thing called 'tennis elbow' simply from picking it up. He suggested I try a guy called George Eliot, but I'm pretty sure he'll just be another dead white male.

Trinity Grammar Passes the Baton of Private School Scandal to Knox



Opportunity knox

SUMMER HILL – In an official ceremony attended by heads of school, student representatives, teaching staff and local media, the prestigious boys school Trinity Grammar passed the hallowed Baton of Private School Scandal to Knox Grammar School.

"We've waited nearly ten years for this day," beamed Principal Milton Cujes, who earlier that day had taken the baton down from its place in a glass cabinet next to the school's CAS swimming trophies.

However, later in the day, the ceremony erupted in controversy, when minutes from a Knox school board meeting were leaked to a Trinity dignitary.

According to an unnamed source, the board were already making plans of getting the baton signed by famous Knox alumni Hugh Jackman to pay for the impending legal proceedings.

"Until another girl from Barker exposes herself, or Waverley students destroy Bondi again, that baton is yours and yours alone! That is the cross you have to bear!" the Trinity chaplain was heard to have yelled before he pushed a coffee urn on the President of the Knox P&F.

Turnbull requests living quarters

The Sydney Law school is preparing to welcome its first full time boarder, Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull.

With his approval rating and the economy at an all time low, there are reports that Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull is feeling some anxiety about his future livelihood. As a result, he is demanding that in return for the \$6 million he contributed to the new Sydney University Law School, a section of it be reserved for him to live in.

In an email exchange between Turnbull and the University of Sydney Vice

Chancellor, with the former writing "I gave that money in the good times, but things are getting difficult and I'd like to make sure I've got somewhere to sleep."

"The building is called the 'Turnbull Foundation' after all; it's only fair I should get a bit of it to use if I need to," insisted Turnbull.

When the VC expressed concern at this proposal, Turnbull reportedly responded that students and teachers 'would hardly even notice I was there. Even my friends are clean and quiet.'

Friends of Turnbull are yet to be sighted in Parliament.

First year student misinterprets Access Card advertisement

In an embarrassing scandal for both the Union and St. John's College, a St. John's fResher was caught attempting to have sexual intercourse with an 'Access' card, having misinterpreted the Union's 'Your Friend With Benefits' advertising campaign. The first year blamed the Union for sending such an ambiguous message.

A Union official responded by stating that the advertisement was not meant in a sexual way, but stressed that USU members would have access to certain benefits.

Knickers company in a knot



Chin up, Chesty

Pacific Brands (PBX) says it will cut 1,850 jobs in Australia over 18 months after posting a \$150 million first-half loss and suspending its dividend.

Proving the clothing manufacturer's corset of business principles certainly wasn't Hole Proof, CEO Sue Morphy has been blamed for failing to Jockey the market through this difficult financial period.

Morphet responded today by assuring investors that with a little Hard Yakka, they'd get through the tough times. "FuckKing Geesus," she said. "Dun lop our heads off over this, we'll be fine."

Investors were wary of such confidence, one individual suggesting that the series of investor briefs had left him feeling chafed. "I'd like to ask you if you're losing your jobs while CEOs continue to fill their drawers with corporate booty," he said. "Know what I mean, bra?"

Analysts say however that even a full stimulus package couldn't fill the underwear giant, leaving the company at the bottom of the market.

Company Clarks are investigating the potential of purchasing Bonds from investors to stay afloat, but with so much lingerieing resentment, that may not be a possibility.

Student makes first stupid joke about drinking of the year

Only two days into semester, Timothy Jeffries, 18, has won a prize from the University of Sydney Union for making the first gag about his excessive drinking habits for 2009.

Jeffries, a Commerce/Liberal Studies student, had been at Manning Bar for four hours when he made the joke at 5pm yesterday in front of a group of friends after ordering a jug of New.

"It was just so natural, you know? I was drinking a schooner and a girl asked me what I was studying and the beer was in my hand so I just said 'I'm doing a Bachelor of Beerology.'"

"It was just amazing" said an onlooker, who was lucky enough to hear the joke from an adjacent table. "Because it's not a real degree, he just said it because he likes to drink beer, and because he is at Manning so much, it is as though he is studying the consumption of beer as an actual degree!"

Since the joke was made yesterday, it has since been repeated 341 times, seven of those times by Jeffries himself, who claims to find it both versatile and timeless.

Meanwhile, the rest of the University community wait with bated breath for the first joke to be made about the lifestyle and lack of vocational direction of an Arts Student, which will no doubt bring about peals of unstoppable laughter and thunderous applause from those who hear it.

SCIENCE STUNTS

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS IN LECTURES

HYPOTHESIS

That subject will react to witty comments and effortless charm, and will agree to socialise further in arenas outside the classroom.

EQUIPMENT

1 x cred notebook

3 x pre-prepared arty squiggles in said notebook

1 x packet of lollies

METHOD

1. Arrive late – it's much less obvious that you have no one else to sit with, and a great excuse to slide in next to your chosen subject.

2. Be clueless – Questions like “do you know where the Madsen building is?” or “How much is the reader” are sure to get them talking to you, then cap it off with the grateful smile you've been practising.

3. Subtly bribe subject with offers of lollies, gum or the use of your red pen. Then they will feel like they owe you something without entirely knowing why.

4. Slay some time – Flick to Honi's Page 23 and help subject with 6 across of the cryptic crossword (Hint: It's ...insert crossword hint here)

5. Have a laugh – Start reading amusing article on page 15, giggling at how the editors have managed to so eloquently capture the zeitgeist of student life.

6. Oh God – Be confronted by look of confusion and realisation on subjects face as they realise you have so far used every step of an article called “how to make friends in lectures”

7. Give subject one half of the BFF necklace that you've been keeping in a velvet pouch for this special moment. Close Honi suddenly and spend rest of lecture sitting in awkward silence.

8. Lunch – Call friend from school you never really liked and agree to meet for chips at middle level Manning. Sit in silence as gravy congeals like your own regret.

CONCLUSION

Reading advice on how to make friends is a pretty good indicator that you're off to a bad start. Realise that the best type of friend is one who has seen what your vomit looks like and join SUBSKI, where the line between friend and fuck buddy is pencil thin.

Wacktivities!

Cheerleading! Go Team!

Michael Krasovitsky reports back from



She's a good catch.

Cheerleading just makes you want to dance. And it's not just you, excitable reader, it's hundreds of people from across the country who, from Perth to Wollongong to our own Sydney University, are forming Cheerleading squads. Think Bring it On and Step Up and you're probably not far from the truth. But there's a lot more to cheerleading, or cheer as it's lovingly referred to, than pom-poms and glitter gals.

Cheerleading actually has a complex and interesting history. It officially came into existence on November 2, 1898, when a University of Minnesota student, Johnny Campbell, directed a crowd watching a football game to cheer “Rah, Rah, Rah, Sku-u-mar, Hoo-Rah, Hoo-rah, Varsity! Varsity! Varsity! Minn-e-so-ta!”.

And thus, the proud and, at the time, masculine sport, was born! All-male fraternity squads started popping up all over the country, and the sport was only made available to women in 1923. To this day, men continue to make up around 50% of professional squads. The first cheerleading competition was held in 1948 and from there, it spread into the world of professional sports.

So what exactly is cheerleading? There are two main styles: pom and stunt. Pom is your stereotypical display of over-zealous girls whirling around, brandishing sparkly pom-poms. However, what's often forgotten about pom is the intricate gymnastics, balance and tumbling that are required to be successful, not to mention the near-perfect flexibility and fitness that's needed. Pom is a unique mix of dance, gymnastics and spectacle, brought together in a way that is essentially a team sport.

Stunt is altogether different. It is based around two main arrangements: male-female co-ed pairs and male-three female stunt groups. This type of cheerleading is about pulling gymnastic stunts in the air and about balancing a flyer (the smallest of the three females, who spends most of her time flying through the air or doing arabesques in peoples' hands). Stunt cheerleading can see flyers going up to six metres in the air, flipping and twisting in a way that is controlled by both them and by their bases below.

Both forms of cheerleading are incredibly good fun, and fantastic exercise. There are a number of squads in Sydney, and one at our very own Sydney University. In fact, the Sydney Uni Lions were, in 2007, state and national champions, and are currently ranked 2nd. So get involved, like totally!

HONI TOP FIVE Weirdest Subjects

01

> GRMN2685 – Artificial Humans in German Culture

Not only is this possibly the freakiest subject available, its also the most specific. Apparently there are so many artificial humans in German movies and books that they warrant an entire 12-week subject devoted to them. Maybe that explains the peculiarly German disregard for human life.

02

> ANAT3004 - Cranial and Cervical Anatomy

Why are these two body parts studied in the same course? Why?!

03

> ENGL3635 - Introduction to Old Norse

This makes Top 5 because it was the most truly useless subject found in the Arts faculty course handbook, which is an impressive accomplishment. It's not even New Norse! And you only get an introduction!

04

> JPNS3677 – Behaving the Japanese Way

A university education impresses upon one the importance of looking past racial and cultural generalisations and stereotypes...or not.

05

> BIOL3017 – Fungi in the Environment

Next time you complain about how boring your lectures are, spare a thought for the poor idiots who have to sit through 12 weeks on mushrooms - and not the good kind.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report of the President Noah White

president@src.usyd.edu.au

What's happening in Canberra?

Right now the parliament is debating a piece of legislation that could decide the future of student life on campus. The Government has proposed a Student Services and Amenities Fee (SAF). This fee is too compensate Universities and student organisations for losses that occurred under VSU (see the education officer's report if you don't know what VSU is or the effect it had – basically it was bad for student orgs, bad for unis, bad for students and bad for you) and to make sure that funding for things like clubs and societies is sustainable into the future, which it currently isn't.

The SAF came about because of an intense campaign run by the SRC and the National Union of Students. The aim was for the Government to allow universities to charge a compulsory fee, which would pay for essential student services, clubs and societies, sport on campus, student media, etc. This fee would also need to be flexible so as to allow students who couldn't make the payment upfront, still contribute. And that is what we got... kind of.

There will be a number of restrictions placed on how the fee can be spent. Currently the parliament is debating the legislation and deciding whether certain things will be funded. The things that are in particular danger of not being funded are clubs and societies and student media. It is also not clear whether the Government will have the numbers in the senate to pass this legislation. The support of both the independent senators, Nick Xenophon and Steven Fielding, is needed.

What can you do? You can write a letter or send an email. Let the senators know how much you care about student life on campus and make sure they vote to ensure its future.

What's happening in the Quad?

The SRC is not the only place in the University where you can be a student representative. Every faculty has a number of representative positions that they must fill.

There are many faculties that are notoriously bad at filling these positions. This is often because the elections are not advertised or even just

because the faculty can't be bothered having an election (pesky democracy).

If you are interested in representing the students in your faculty you should let your faculty know. Ask them when elections are held and what positions are available. Hold your faculty to account and make sure that your voice is heard. If your faculty is being particularly difficult, call the SRC and we can help.

That's it for my first report. Thanks guys for reading and enjoy your risotto.

NOAH'S KITCHEN

This should make enough for four people (My 3 housemates and I got through about three quarters of it).

You will need: 500g of sliced chicken, 3 cups Arborio rice, 1 litre of chicken stock, an onion, sliced mushrooms, sun dried tomatoes, Parmesan cheese, four cloves of garlic, some thyme and rosemary and finally 6 bottles of wine (this is very important, we only bought 3 and it was definitely not enough and we had to go back and get more).

First heat the stock in a saucepan. Sauté the onion and garlic until it is nice and golden then add the rice and stir gently for about five minutes. Cook the chicken separately in a frying pan. Add the hot stock to the rice so that it covers the rice by about half a centimeter. Simmer stirring occasionally until all the stock is absorbed. Repeat this until the rice is cooked (it should be nice and creamy).

Next stir in the mushrooms, cooked chicken, Parmesan cheese sun dried tomato, thyme and rosemary. After a few minutes it should be ready!

EDUCATION REPORT

Report of the Education Officers Elly Howse and Rosie Ryan

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

O-Week has wrapped up, taking the carnival tents, fairy floss and fevered society joining with it. Snaps to the union for an electric three days jam-packed with the very best of university life. The ability of Student Unions everywhere to provide an on campus culture such as was on display at O-Week has been severely impacted by the introduction of voluntary student unionism in 2005, and at many campuses across Australia there is nothing left.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of organizations like our SRC and the National Union of Students, the outlook is no longer so bleak. An alternative system to VSU known as the Student Services Fee will provide student unions and

representative councils with much needed funding and support. Now is a crucial time to pressure independent senators to support the bill and bring student life, support and representation back to campuses

Youth Allowance is virtually inaccessible, and the payment rates inadequate. The assumption that anyone under the age of twenty-five is being financially supported by their parents is ludicrous and subsequently many students are attempting to hold down part time jobs, pass their subjects and pay the rent with no support.

The Bradley Review into Australian Higher Education was released at the

end of last year and the federal government will be announcing their response to the recommendations any day now. We may be getting a major overhaul of Youth Allowance. We may also be getting a 'voucher system' of university funding which would mean the sector was deregulated and essentially privatised, with cuts to less popular courses such as the sciences, humanities, nursing and teaching.

The solution to all this? It's in your hands. Student control of student affairs has been our mantra for a long time. But we believe it, and you should too. It's got to be us, the students, who contribute to the great work of our student associations, SRCs, unions

and guilds. Because without us, those representative bodies are nothing and they don't have the ability to help you, inspire you, educate you in ways you just don't get in class. So what are you waiting for? Get active! Come along to the Education Action Group, 1pm every Tuesday on the Front Lawns, if you want to make a difference on your campus, and for every university campus in the country.

GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT

Report of the General Secretary Russell Schmidt

gen.sec@src.usyd.edu.au

So, as everyone else is in Hermann's celebrating/lamenting the end of O Week, I'm in the SRC dungeon, trying to bang out this report before I finish my jug o' beer so I can return to the fray. Doubtless you won't care as the monotony of semester begins to set in, but O Week sure was entertaining wasn't it?

Since the role of General Secretary was created two years ago, each Gen Sec (as they are affectionately known) has started the year by expressing some anxiety over the fact that their weekly report is going to suck. One got a job working for the ABC and the other became President of the SRC, so it

couldn't have been all bad. With that said, I still have that same niggling feeling that you all are going to hate what I write each and every week, but bear with me.

The General Secretary's role is a weird one. It's a combination of what used to be three positions, the Treasurer, Secretary and part of what the Communications Officer's role was. So my job is kind of varied, but the constant is that it's bureaucratic; and everyone hates the bureaucrat.

My promise to you is that I will only tell you the boring stuff that you need to know; I will spare you the rest. However, if you also have an odd attraction to budgets,

constitutions or being overly anal-retentive about minute details, don't hesitate to get in contact with me at gen.sec@src.usyd.edu.au.

This year the Council will hopefully be pursuing an agenda of Obama-esque change. Much of the way we operate is archaic and desperately needs reform; given the Government's proposed student amenities levy our membership programme will need to be revamped. The regulations which govern the operation of the SRC also need to be updated.

Yeah sure, I know this doesn't excite you (it doesn't even excite me) but you need to

know its going on because if it does happen it is going to make the SRC a lot better at its core business; representing students, and that makes everyone happy!

My other major duty is to assist the entire office bearer team in fulfilling their various duties. Unlike other universities, the General Secretary here is an activist position and is an important part of the campaigns run by both the SRC and the National Union of Students. If you promise to read my report, then I promise not to interrupt your lectures about the Demand A Better Future campaign.

XOXO Gossip Girl

WOMEN'S REPORT

Report of the Women's Officer Tamsin Dingley

womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

This week in the midst of all the partying, free stuff, chaos and sleep-deprivation that is O-Week, I found myself at a Roller Disco at Hermanns. My friend and I were talking and he asked what I wanted to achieve this year as Women's Officer.

I hadn't thought about my role in these terms before so my answer surprised even me - I want to save one women from being sexually assaulted or raped.

So there it is. MY goal for

the year; my purpose. It's a big task, I know, but I think it can be done. We have an active collective of strong, committed women who work very hard. Indeed the campus and community is rife with incredible women.

And so I'm excited. I think this year we can do something really great and that's inspirational. I'm looking forward to seeing some new faces, and to seeing some familiar ones after a long, happy holiday. We'll be running many campaigns this

year, which are decided by the collective, so come along and tell us how you'd like to help women.

Here are some future events for those who are keen:

- First Women's Collective Meeting, 1pm Thursday Week 1, Holme Women's Room
- International Women's Day, 7 March
- First Women's Collective Discussion Group, 5pm Monday Week 2, Holme

Women's Room

Everyone is welcome at Women's Collective so don't be shy, come along and get involved!

ASK ABE

Dear Abe,

I am a first year student here. I came from a really big high school that has lots of students here too. I had a really hard time at high school and hoped to be able to get away from all of them and start a new. Do you have any advice for how I can have a life for a change?

Newby

Dear Newby,

High school can be really difficult if you're not lucky enough to find one or two reasonable friends who accept you for your own flawed self. The best part about uni is that there are about 35,000 others here who were probably in the same situation. You've missed O-week but you can still look on the web for all the clubs and societies run through the Union or the Collectives through the SRC or smile at people you fancy in your lectures.

If you do start to feel a little sad or overwhelmed, talk to someone in the Counselling

Unit. They're a free service that gives confidential advice and help whenever you need it.

Uni is a great chance for you to re-invent yourself. I hope it all goes well for you.

Good luck,

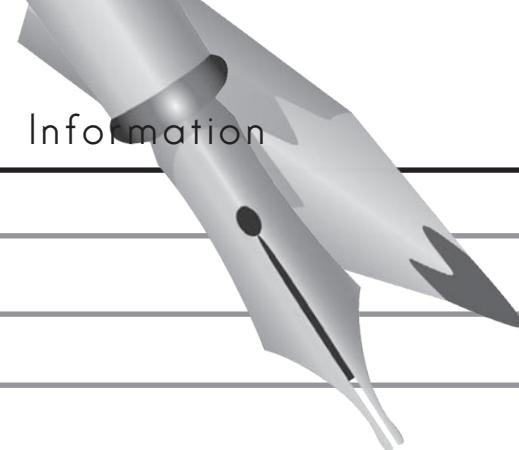
Abe

This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything that may affect their "welfare". This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as a question on the state of the world. If you would like to ask Abe a question send an email to help@src.usyd.edu.au.



SRC HELP: 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

Level 1 (basement)
Wentworth Building, City Road Entry



The SUPRA

www.supra.usyd.edu.au

Are you seeking accommodation whilst you study at Sydney University?

Finding accommodation in Sydney is not easy no matter whether you are an international student or whether you are a local student. Even if you have grown up in Sydney you may live a long way from the University and want to move closer. No matter the reason you are seeking accommodation, you will find you will come up against issues such as:

- high rent costs;
- substandard accommodation in some cases;
- low vacancy rates so that any room/flat/house advertised will go quickly;
- legal issues as to whether you are considered a boarder or a tenant (as per the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 - as a general rule boarders have less legal rights than a tenant - see www.tenants.org.au for more information or come to SUPRA to make an appointment to see a Student Advice and Advocacy Officer for assistance).

Below is a list of suggested questions for you to ask of the landlord/real estate agent/owner/head tenant as you view any premises you are considering renting.

The range of questions we suggest you ask are based on real life experiences many students have faced when seeking accommodation in Sydney - some of those students failed to ask these questions and found that they had committed to renting in a 3 bedroom flat with 8 other people! Information is at the end regarding further support and assistance available to you.

When looking at the premises:

How many bedrooms in the house/apartment?

How many in total will be living in the house/apartment? Are all rooms let at the moment?

Is there adequate security and are there locks on doors and windows? Ask if there are keys for the security devices and ask to use them to double check that doors/windows can actually be locked. Double check if there is a lock on your bedroom door.

If there is no lock on your bedroom door and if this is an issue for you ask if you can install your own lock on the door of your room.

Is it on a busy road, rail line, flight path? Whilst being close a busy road or a rail line can mean better access to public transport it can also mean a higher noise level especially if the accommodation is under a flight path as this may affect your decision.

Are there any restrictions? Some owners/landlords have restrictions such as no animals or children on the premises or that friends cannot stay over. Make sure you understand what restrictions there are.

Do the light fittings work? Switch lights on and off to check they are working - if the globe has blown ask will it be replaced before you move in.

Is the oven/stove, gas or electrical? Check that all parts of the stove work (that is, griller, oven and stove top parts).

Do the toilet and shower work properly? Turn on taps to ensure water is running away and that there is no blockage.

Is there damp or mould on the walls/ceilings? These may be a

sign of underlying problems - if you want to take the room/apartment/house ask that it be removed before you move in.

Is painting required? Again, if you are interested ask that the painting be done before you move in.

Is the place furnished? What furniture is provided? If furniture is provided check the condition of the furniture and whether it is really suitable for your needs.

Is there an insect/pest problem?

Will the landlord carry out any repairs before you move in?

How are repairs made once you live there, and who pays for which repairs?

Facilities: phone/internet connection/laundry/heating/cooling

Is there a working telephone line already connected? Is the internet connected? Is it dial-up or broadband? Is there a limit on how much downloads?

What kind of heating/cooling is there? Are there extra charges if either is used?

Are there any laundry facilities? Is there a washing machine which you will be allowed to use? Will there be an additional charge if you use the washing machine/laundry facilities?

Rent/bond/receipts

What is included in the rent? (Food? Electricity? Water? Internet? Limited or unlimited internet use? A bedroom by myself or a share bedroom? If a share bedroom how many will I be sharing with?)

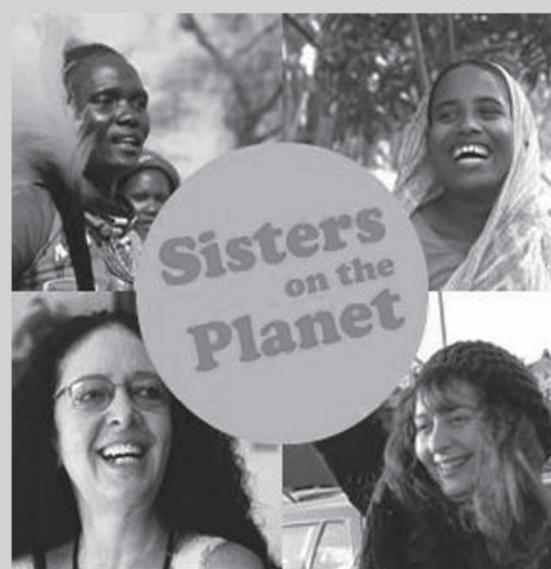
What amount is the bond? What is this amount equivalent to (e.g. 1, 2, 3 or 4 weeks rent)?

Will the bond be lodged with the NSW Rental Bond Board?

How will my bond be returned when I leave?

Ensure that you are provided with a RECEIPT if you pay any money for rent in advance, or for bond, or for key deposits. If, you are told a receipt will be supplied later, inform them that you are willing to accept a handwritten note from the person you are handing the money to and ensure you do follow up and ask for a formal receipt (on company/personal letterhead or from a receipt book) within 2-3 days of moving in.

International Women's Day event



Join us at SUPRA for a screening of
SISTERS ON THE PLANET and a light lunch

Climate change is hitting the world's poorest people first and worst, and it's women who are often at the greatest risk. This OXFAM documentary tracks the lives of six women and the impacts of our changing climate. Come and be inspired to join the fight against climate change!

**THURS 5TH MARCH
1PM @ SUPRA
(RAGLAN ST BUILDING G10)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SUPRA ON (02) 9351 3715



Postgrad Pages

Notice periods

Ensure that you ask what notice periods are required for:

- moving out
- urgent repairs (e.g. hot water system breaks down; lock broken on front/back door)
- non-urgent repairs (e.g. broken element on the stove)
- does notice need to be in writing or can it be verbal?

Ask if I want to leave before the agreement/contract ends will there be a penalty fee?

Would the penalty fee be different or waived if leaving early if you were to find someone else to take over your room?

If you are told electricity will be calculated separately to the rent and will be an additional charge:

Ask how will the electricity be calculated? Would it be on the basis of the power usage of equipment you have in your room plus a contribution to hot water heating, use of kitchen equipment, lounge room equipment (TV etc)? How much time will you be given to pay your contribution towards electricity charges?

Ask if you will be provided with a photocopy of the electricity bill each quarter.

The possibility of break-ins and theft

Ask if the area has a high or low rate of break-ins (you can independently check this via the websites of insurance companies and the Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Ask if your things are covered by existing house and contents insurance against damage or theft.

Cleanliness and doing the housework to keep premises clean

Who is responsible for keeping the common areas (kitchen, bathroom, laundry, loungeroom) clean? How will it be shared? How are disputes about different standards of cleanliness be resolved?

Repairs and maintenance

Who do I notify if I notice that something in the flat/room/house needs repairs?

How will repairs be done and by whom?

What notice will I receive if a tradesperson is coming to repair something?

Miscellaneous

Do I have a say in who can stay here (either an overnight visitor or a permanent renter)?

Are visitors allowed to stay overnight? If visitors are allowed to stay overnight am I held responsible for their behaviour?

Apart from rent and bond, are there any other fees or charges I have to pay?

Can I use the kitchen, lounge, laundry facilities?

Will I have a shelf in the refrigerator?

If there are others in the house/unit and excessive noise is being made who can I talk to about this?

Some tips when seeking accommodation in Sydney:

- if you are an international student don't assume that a landlord/owner/real estate agent who originally came from your country will help you - we have found

that, unfortunately, compatriots from your own country oftentimes want to exploit your lack of local knowledge;

- ask lots of questions so that you are clear about what you are getting for your money;
- make notes of any conversations you have regarding the premises as you are looking at it and of any subsequent conversations as these may prove useful if a dispute arises;
- ask for a receipt for any money you hand over and ask that the receipt be itemised (that is, broken up into whether the amount you have paid if for rent in advance, bond, key deposit, etc).

Further assistance and support:

1. You can make an appointment with a Student Advice and Advocacy Officer at SUPRA for assistance with any tenancy/accommodation problems;
2. You can call a tenants advice and advocacy service in your local area - see the website of the Tenants' Union of NSW www.tenants.org.au
3. You can also obtain information from the website of the NSW government department called Department of Fair Trading www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au
4. Over sharehousing issues go to www.rlc.org.au/sharehousing.

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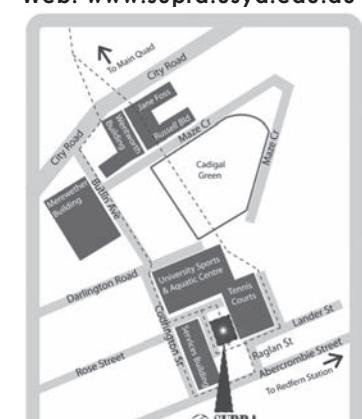
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Thurs 5 March	International Women's Day "Sisters on the Planet" Screening @ SUPRA Office 1.00pm
Sat 7 March	International Women's Day March @ Town Hall, assemble 11-11.30am march sets off at 12 noon, through CBD to Hyde Park
Thurs 12 March	NTEU & SUPRA Forum - Your Rights at Work @ Carslaw Lecture Room 173, 1.00pm
Thurs 19 March	"Soldiers of Peace" Film Screening @ Footbridge Theatre 7.00pm

LIFESTYLE

REVIEWS



FILM

The Reader

There comes a moment in *The Reader* when we see Kate Winslet act through her eyes. She's lying naked in a bathtub next to a teenage boy whom she is sleeping with. He stares at her, besotted with love and blinded by lust, and asks her a series of questions about her feelings for him. Without words, she instantly delivers her reply, offering a brief glimpse beneath her stoic façade all through minute shifts in her eyes. TIME just proclaimed her "the finest actress of her generation". The Academy just gave her the Oscar. The eyes have it.

The Reader is set in post-war Germany, where a new generation of thinkers struggle to understand the actions of their elders. Fifteen-year-old Michael Berg (David Kross) enters a private sexual revolution with the help of a much older train conductor, Hannah Schmitz (Winslet). Their affair lasts a summer but heralds a new beginning for Michael. All the while, construction crews rebuild a devastated Berlin.

Years later, as a law student visiting a war-crimes tribunal, Michael hears a familiar voice and in an instant his innocence evaporates; Hannah is on trial for working with the SS and Michael, like generations of Germans to come, is forced to reconcile the atrocities of the past with his own experiences.

Director Stephen Daldry makes clear a nation's future is inextricably bound to its past – it is significant that Michael's guide through this moral maze, his law professor, is the established Swiss actor Bruno Ganz who played Hitler in 2004's *Downfall*. Like its muted hues and minimalist German modernism, the film's soul is bleak and austere and its execution almost amateur at times. Just like Winslet's Schmitz, this façade belies an absorbing exploration of mass guilt and modern failures in empathy.

4/5

David Mack

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FILM

W.

Oliver Stone's latest biopic chronicles the life of George W. Bush. It ambitiously spans the wild reckless days of his youth, his dalliances in the oil mining industry, his governorship of Texas and Presidency of the United States. Although Stone is widely considered a master of the political biopic after the successes of *JFK* (1991) and *Nixon* (1995), his ambivalent portrayal of one of the most controversial figures in recent memory ultimately fails to engage.

The film is quite sympathetic to Dubya personally, and takes care to detail his struggle with alcohol, his revitalised religious faith and the dynamics of Bush family life. Scenes from his White House, however, seem hurriedly cobbled together from scrappy anecdotes that are now common knowledge, and are too restrained to be convincing.

Nevertheless, Josh Brolin's performance is outstanding. He flawlessly recreates Bush's most notorious mannerisms – his nervous, twitchy gaze offset the Ivy League frat boy swagger perfectly. Unfortunately, the strong supporting cast is given little scope to develop. Some of the characters have been reduced to pitiful, two dimensional caricatures; Dick Cheney played by Richard Dreyfuss, is portrayed as icy and pure evil, and Thandie Newton's Condeleeza Rice is a shrinking, farcical sycophant.

It does offer moments of subtle poignancy, in the quiet support of Laura Bush (played by Elizabeth Banks), and in the simple, endearing sincerity of Josh Brolin's Dubya. The use of obvious recurring symbols and themes, however, does not develop the plot or the characters, and tires almost immediately.

The film lacks tension and pace because it doesn't offer any new insight or perspective. The realities of Bush Jnr.'s presidency are too fresh in the public's mind for a simple retelling and careful personality portrait to sustain a film for two hours.

I had anticipated this new release with high expectations. I misunderstood.

2.5/5

Giselle Kenny

CONCERT

The Big O

Dispensing with the typical Union-organised frivolities at the end of O-Week, as has been the case in previous years, Manning welcomed the Big-O tour as a fitting finale to the yearly orientation hoopla.

Drawing on some well-known international and local acts, from the Fratellis to Ben Lee, the Big-O tour has hit Australia's major universities at the cusp of first semester, at the precise moment when gaggles of bewildered freshers are trying to sort out their timetables whilst simultaneously getting shit-faced and bumping into each other. Without resorting to Union speak, the gigs have been defiantly "student orientated", and, given the quality of the line-up, laden with the expectation of sure fire success.

The small, yet raucous crowd enjoyed Manning's superlative qualities as a venue and excellent bar service, albeit with some surprising stage placements. The Fratellis, delivering their idiosyncratic Scot-pop sound – like a meshing of the Strokes on uppers and the Ted Mulry Gang – seemed wasted on the downstairs stage, where the sound quality off the hard surfaces was rather poor. Without resorting to cliché, their faster-paced tunes off their first album, Costello Music, were the crowd-pleasing tunes of the evening.

Ben Lee, long known as the best Australian act to throw an empty tinny at, capitalised on the musical preferences of fresher girls on the main stage, avoiding serious injury due to the Union's lucky preference of plastic schmiddy cups. Apparently a band named "The Music" headlined, or so I've been told. I can't quite bring myself to make an educated assessment of their set, as I was probably drinking beer, but thanks for coming, guys.

It was never really a gamble with the line-up offered at the Big-O. So aside from a few niggling issues with the quality of sound and stage placements, it was a more than a worthy end to Sydney's O-Week in 2009.

3/5

Will Atkinson

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O-Week sounds

Mard Di Stefano does rounds.

Along with the sandstone of the quad, the stale smell of indie at Manning and the decor of Columbine High at Wentworth, Jobs' little white earphones are an omnipresent feature of campus. Use your iPod like you would your timetable - there will be ample moments when it will save you from that awkward conversation with the guy you took to the year 10 formal.

But what to put on it? Honi went around O-week, and not only found the music you should have been ripping the night before, but the clubs/socs whose aural ideas could be on your next On-The-Go playlist...

Questions:

1. What song best encapsulates your stall/society/club/uni experience?
2. The last album that you listened all the way to the end?
3. What was your favourite Triple J Hottest 100 song from last year?
4. Which artist/band's career would you like to end?

Students' Representative Council

1. The Rolling Stones - You Can't Always Get What You Want
2. Pink Floyd - The Dark Side of the Moon
3. Jimmy Record - Drapht
4. Britney Spears

University of Sydney Union

1. Take On Me – A-ha
2. O – Damien Rice
3. Sex on Fire – Kings Of Leon
4. Lady Gaga

USU Debating

1. Asshole – Dennis Leary
2. The Island Years - Tom Waits
3. Youth – MGMT
4. Madonna

Sydney University Skiers & Borders (SUBSKI)

1. Hi Friend – Deadmau5 feat. MC Flipside
2. Wednesdays @ The Eastern, mixed by Steve Frank
3. Flippers - Art vs Science
4. Mobin Master

Project 52 (USU Comedy)

1. All The Single Ladies – Beyoncé
2. Nastradamus – Nas
3. Time To Pretend – MGMT
4. Cat Empire

Sydney University Drama Society (SUDS)

1. Jizz in My Pants – The Lonely Island
2. Best Of Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong
3. The 99 songs that weren't Sex on Fire
4. P!NK

Evangelical Union (EU)

1. Stairway to Heaven – Led Zeppelin
2. Way to normal - Ben Folds
3. Electric Feel – MGMT
4. Pussycat Dolls

THE POSTCARD

It's a tough life

Antony Faisandier checks in at the Bahamas.



In January '09, my friend Jason and I - along with our golf-caddy and personal bellboy, Joey - took a trip to indulge our inner big-spenders with a week at the Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, the Bahamas.

While the average punter is most likely to recognise the Atlantis from its role as the setting for Casino Royale, the gambling addict is more likely to know it from its role as the host of the annual PokerStars Caribbean Adventure, one of the biggest Texas Hold'em tournaments in the world (the winner this year took just over \$3 million US - making it several times more lucrative than my parents' lives).

It's also possible that well-informed animal suffering enthusiasts could know it from the story of the shark that jumped out of the shark pit and slid down a water-slide - raising the important question: did it have fun? The answer is no. It drowned in the chlorine.

We were there for the poker however. Or more accurately, Joey our bellboy was, as part of his job moonlighting as a genius. So in between our days of sunshine and cocktails, swimming and convincing American girls that Australia had its own language, we found a bit of time to watch Joey front up to the best that international poker has to offer.

I recommend the experience. All you need is a mate who is a great deal smarter than you, a few more mates who are good at fostering the original mate's gambling problem, and a tropical paradise complete with beaches, coconuts and a multi-billion dollar casino complex.

I'm not saying it was a cultural experience - local culture is almost entirely absent - but French people offer a cultural experience and look what tossers they are. I'll stick with my decadence, chilli fry style.

FULLY SICK

GASTRONOMIST

Take a dump... er, - ling

Michael Falk reviews Din Tai Fung, World Square.

Many of us have eaten Chinese. With more than a billion of them in the world, there's plenty to go round. But for those who prefer consuming the food, a fantastic restaurant has opened in Sydney's newest shopping centre (World Square) last year: Din Tai Fung.

This is the legendary Taiwanese chain's 42nd restaurant worldwide (I probably should rework the China gag). The chain's branches in Taiwan and Los Angeles regularly have queues stretching out the door at lunchtime. When you try their dumplings, you'll understand why.

We arrived early, at six, so there were only four others queuing outside. Even so, the inside was packed. We sat on the provided chairs while Lady Boss-of-the-Queue waited to find us a table. To do so, she corresponded with her subordinates inside on a hands-free walkie-talkie. It was pretty professional.

While waiting, we examined the menu and began circling our orders on the provided card. Looking up, we could see the kitchen through a wall-length window. Inside, a throng of scrambling dumpling-cooks fried the pork, boiled

the broth and prepared the delicate dumpling-skin.

Finally, some sated diners were leaving, and Lady Boss-of-the-Queue admitted us to the inner sanctum. The décor inside is classy. We seated ourselves around the circular table indicated, completed our order-form and presented it to a headphone-equipped service agent.

My Won Ton soup with prawn-and-pork dumplings was superb. Firm noodles, a tasty, though not overpowering broth and the world-famous dumplings combined with the low price to produce near-perfection. We ordered mountains of xiao long bao, the chain's world-renowned pork dumplings. Quite different to your usual Yum Cha dim sum, these are small sacks of crisped pastry, tied at the top with edible string! Eating them was like Christmas come early. The Santa Sacks burst in the mouth, releasing a sharp, hot broth and small chunks of crumbly pork. There's pickled ginger on the table, but you should definitely try them naked first.

We ordered seconds.

Fuck Tha (Fashion) Police Anusha Rutnam

Ever since God kicked Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, sparking a craze for fig leaves, humans have worn clothes for three main reasons: protection against the elements, modesty and decoration. Cast an eye over our campus, however and one gets the sense that the latter has fallen by the wayside.

But for some notable exceptions, the student population seems to exist in a uniform that consists of skinny jeans, a t-shirt and Cons. As with most things as intensely inoffensive as this ensemble, it is difficult to pick out anything really bad about it but, as Miss Clavel would put it, something is not right.

The problem lies in a perception that one cannot have an interest in enjoying clothing without being a capital "F" fashionable type (you know, the kind of person who is always in sync with the astoundingly idiotic "do and don't" lists spewed out by the fashion mags each month). The time is hella ripe for us to realize that it is easy enough to be one and not the other.

This said, perhaps it is unsurprising that most of us will opt to get our bland on rather than make an effort, given how expensive, exhausting and confounding the work of a dedicated follower of fashion must be. Unfortunately in doing this we might be missing the opportunity to have some fun with what we wear.

Luckily, and to my own great pleasure, there are more than a few peo-

ple at Sydney Uni who do manage to wear clothes that are beautiful without being fashionable. This feat is often accomplished through experimentation with colour and texture in fabrics, unusual lines in the structure of garments and the use of elements of pastiche in an outfit.

I recall one young lady, so Eastern Suburbs it hurt, who used to hover around the Mills building in a wheat coloured linen shift-dress which, though impeccably cut, would most readily be associated with a woman twice her age. Over the dress she wore a thickly knit cardigan of an algae-green so luxurious it practically called out to be touched. Even without making any overt references to current trends the outfit was sensational - the sartorial equivalent of foie gras, if you will.

Then there was the splendid tutor who favoured mid-calf length full skirts, in prints that looked like a Georgia O'Keeffe on acid (well... more so). Trendy? Hardly, and most fascist fashionistas would probably dismiss her threads as being unflattering. Nevertheless, looking at her one got the distinct impression that this excellent woman, who resembled nothing so much as a friendly mushroom, was someone who got a kick out of clothes - and if that doesn't count as being well-dressed, I'll eat my bowler hat.



If football in England is fish and chips...

SOCER Joseph Smith-Davies takes us to the second part of his soccer Odyssey - the institution that is Real Madrid



Assuming the position.

If football in England is fish and chips, in Spain it is tapas, a reflection of the vibrancy and variety of Spanish culture, yet an indispensable aspect of everyday life.

La Liga is arguably the second biggest football league in the world, however Real Madrid is undoubtedly the most storied club in the world, names like Di Stefano, Puskas and Raul indelibly im-

printed on football's history. So it was with heart strumming like an hyperactive flamenco artist that I walked out of the Santiago Bernabeu tube station and collected my ticket to Real Madrid vs Osasuna.

Like in England, the stadium in Madrid comprised an integral and awe-inspiring part of the football experience. First

Rivalries bring out political and regional divisions (read hatred) as much as sporting ones.

and foremost, it is utterly gargantuan, bulging at the seams and supported by hundreds of concrete columns. The interior is no less impressive. The sides of the stadium are precipitously steep (our section was aptly named 'Vomitorio' N26), giant electric heaters beam down ample warmth from the roof and the PA system was loud enough to drown out a low-flying jet fighter (or Maria Sharapova. Just.)

The Spanish football spectator experience is distinctly different from the English. Firstly, rivalries bring out political and regional 'divisions' (read hatred) as much as sporting ones. Real

Madrid's opponents on the day were Osasuna, from the Basque region and the Madridistas absolutely despised them. The small band of Osasuna fans had to be escorted into the stadium by police (amid chanting spitting and jeering) and one guy sitting in my row ranted at them for about 88 minutes of the match.

Secondly, the fans seem to respond to the play through general noise (horns for approval, whistles for disapproval) rather than chants. They also respond to different things. Whilst in England a lung-busting covering run and tackle would elicit roars of admiration, applause is reserved for pieces of skill or intelligence.

Thankfully, there were such moments in the match, mostly courtesy of Arjen Robben, who bamboozled the Osasuna defence on countless occasions with the same trick (and the same foot). The game was more open and evenly-matched than the one at Emirates and Osasuna played with flair that belied their lowly league position which is conspicuously absent from a number of Premier League teams.

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A row of books is shown on a shelf, including titles like 'FUTBOL', 'IMPERIUM MOJEGO', 'RYSZARD KAPUŚCIŃSKI', 'SL. WILKIEWICZ', 'CYBERIADA', and 'POEZIE'.

Page 23.

THE TIMESLAYER

ACROSS

- What happens if you mace Paul Hogan? Insincere remorse. (9, 5)
- Crippled dick in Bard's tale? (7, 3, 5)
- Delegates a placard in a donkey (7)
- Orated the computer's results (7)
- Maybe sprawl atop the noble beast (4)
- Misstep in emergency room with last doctor. (3)
- Move! I race with a student for dessert! (6)
- Battle witnessed by Paris of the East (6)
- Dark and stupid (3)
- Cut the video (4)
- Performance cancelled by exhibitionist (7)
- Poo fort raided by aerial locale. (7)
- Subtext like a coke addict on a break (7, 3, 5)
- Lightning in your Lipton's blown out of proportion (5, 2, 1, 6)

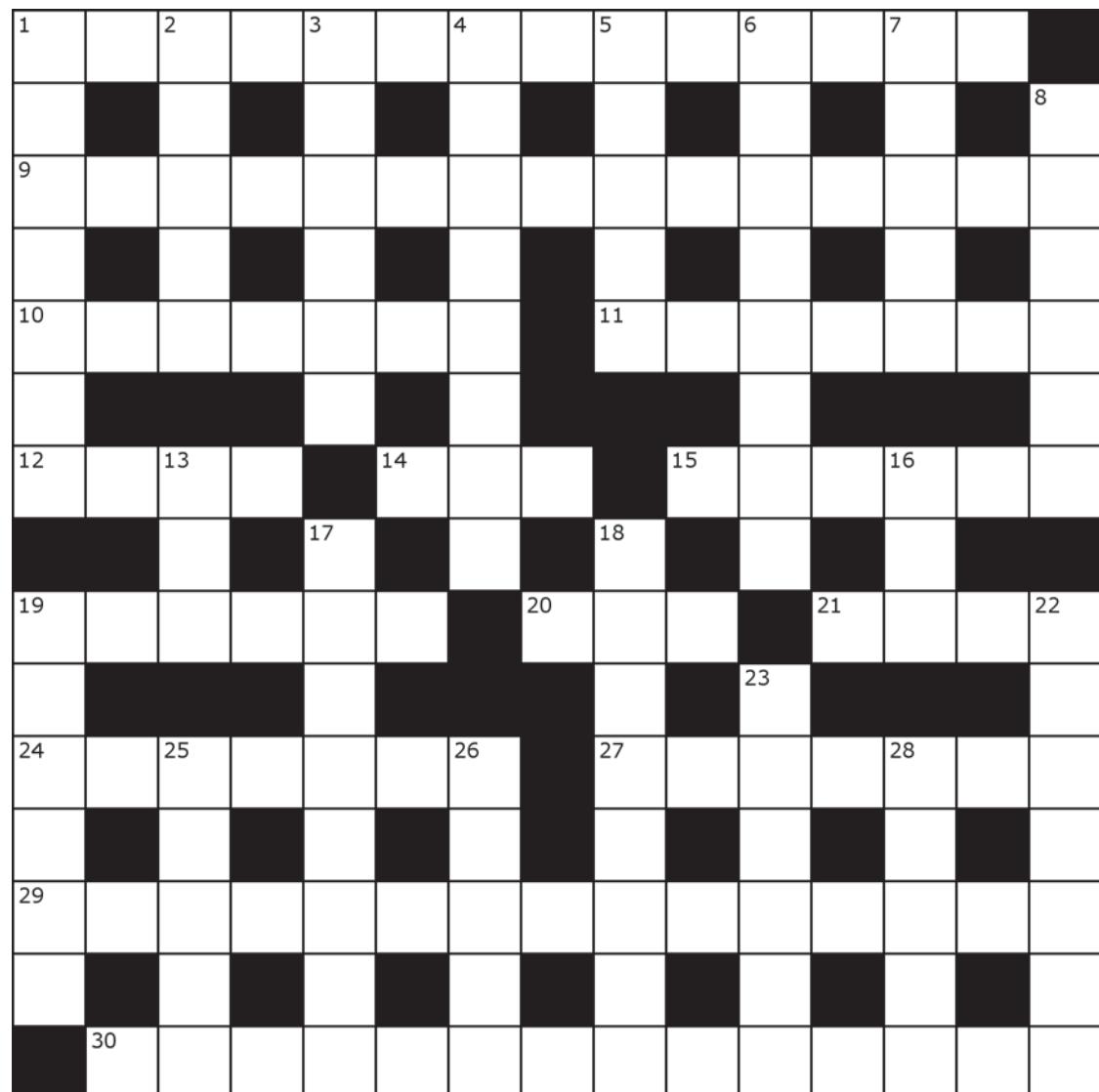
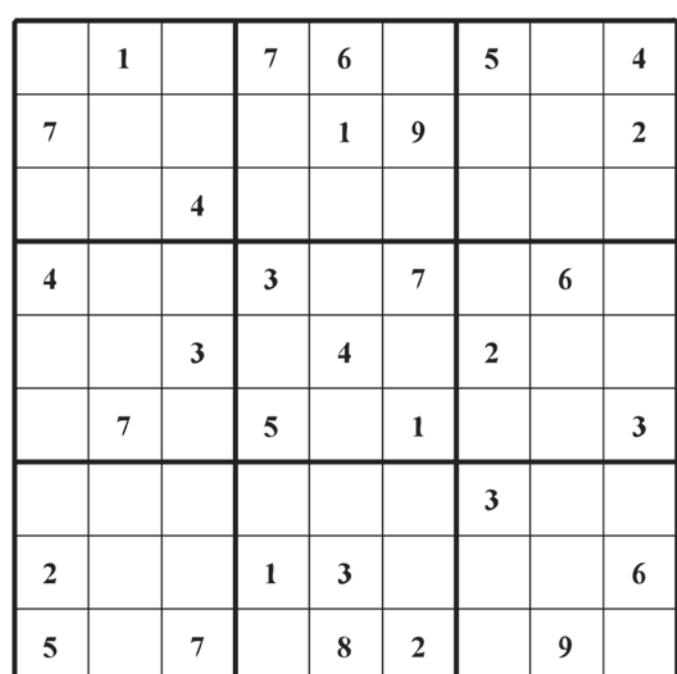
DOWN

- Restrict a dog end (7)
- Alternatively an auto for Willy and Shamou. (6)
- A colourful, fruity town (6)
- Find us trying inside the biz! (8)
- A sedative atmosphere (5)
- Charm at the opening (8)
- Lord Rataxes, for one – is a horny beast (5)
- Perry White or George Downing, for example, rioted confusingly. (6)
- Paddle on the other hand, maybe. (3)
- Sick beer sounds? (3)
- Clumsily beats our subverter (8)
- Runs for a hardier movement. (8)
- Hot and Saucy? (6)
- Speaks out about the plumbing's ascent (5, 2)
- Protects The Net by touching your balls (6)
- Eight in the orange county offensive (5)
- An exciting chap said 'Mushrooms!' (5)
- Backwards nut in command of army outfit (5)

O-WEEK CROSSWORD ANSWERS



どばじ。ほば



BCJ

BUT I DON'T DO CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS!

That's loser talk! The Honi Soit Cryptic is designed for people who don't necessarily do Cryptic Crosswords so now you don't even have an excuse. Unless you don't have a pen. In which case get one.

Here's a clue: A small confusion for some animals. (6)

Find the Literal Clue

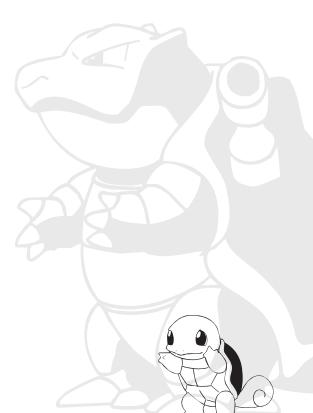
So, with a Cryptic, the literal clue (that's what the clue actually means) will either be at the end or start of the phrase and if you can narrow down what the literal clue is - then the rest is easy. So the two options are 'A small confusion' or 'Some Animals'.

Work out what's Cryptic

Then there's the Cryptic element of the clue. In this example the cryptic element is an anagram, the word 'confusion' shows us that. Words like confusion, crazy, disorderly, jumbled, drunk, damaged...etc generally (but not always) denote an anagram. Then we need to find which letters to anagram. A SMALL has 6 letters and so does the answer.... so if we move them around (or 'confuse' them) - we get LLAMAS - some animals!

Anagrams are only one facet of the cryptic clue, there are many others, but as long as you are able to separate the Cryptic from the literal you should be fine.

Hope this has made things more confusing.





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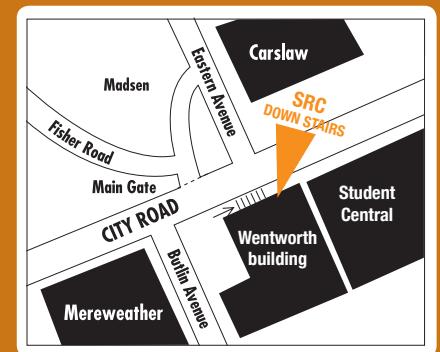
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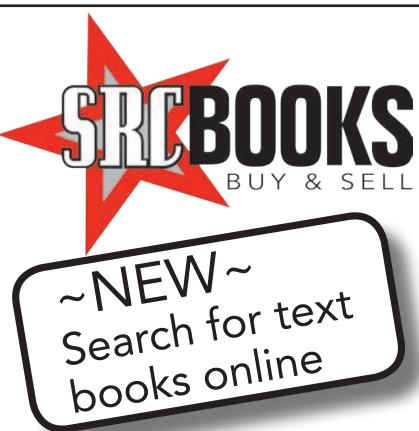
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