

HONISOIT

READ ME!

CHECK OUT THE SCROLL WHEEL ON THAT!
WEEK 12 EDITION | 27 May 2009



Porn 2.0

The rise of a new era

HONI'S GUIDE

**History of
vibrators**

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HEAD TO HEAD

**Academic
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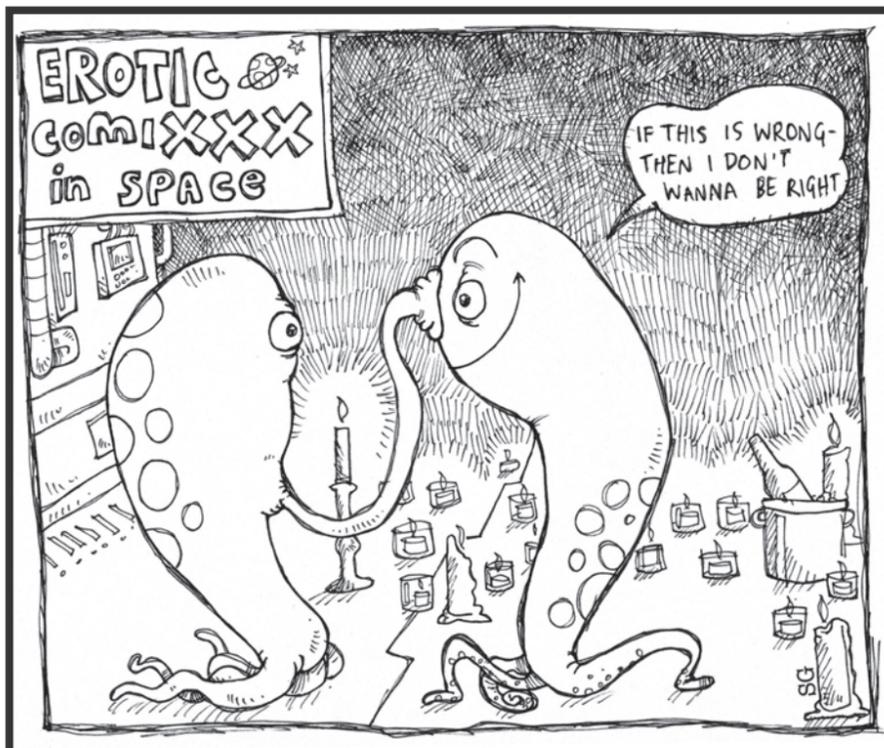


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WE WANT YOU
TO WRITE FOR HONI!
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More thoughts on the Women's Edition

Daniel Wodak, Law V
Dear Tamsin,

First of all, your last report claimed that "women are forced to live in a world where we are the victims of rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence and there are no men trying to help fix this system that they created" – other than "a handful of very wonderful men (some in our SRC)". Really? This seems to be part of the worrying tendency among some radical feminists to assume, and proclaim, that all men are either perpetrators of, or complicit conspirators in, crimes against women. Is it a tad ironic that such universal rampant generalisations, based on the complete refusal to engage with empirical evidence, is the exact source of the problem with sexist discrimination against women? In case you missed the subtlety, the answer is yes. Yes it is.

I don't deny that men – especially those in the NRL – are more disproportionately more likely to commit rape, domestic abuse and sexual harassment. But don't tar all men with the same brush. Most men aren't in the NRL. Most men don't rape.

FROM THE VAULT

Materialist Apocalypse

And then we found, at last
As murderers carry guns,
As priests carry in hostile country
Their crucifixes, and, at times,
Like the precious letters of
immigrants
In the old tongue warm,
With hearts' warmth in inner
pockets,

For our way was a match
To ignite continents. In the cellars
Cafes, little backstreet shops
We would display by signs its edges
To gain from them a nod
Perhaps a meal, or sometimes
martyrdom,
Straw for our fires; a wide country
Dull with suffering and there
We led them wisely to our victory:
The palaces banquets not yet cold
With which we fed their hunger.
Yes!
Free tailors sticked that night
Suits they had cut as slaves. In
summer
All ate nobles' wet as bread.

Of free men, and lay down content.
In the river, all the ice was gone
On the hill we sang the songs of
exile
And peace came down like night
upon the land.

Les A. Murray

Published in Honi Soit, 1960

Quite a few of us try to stop rape from occurring. And not all of those men work in the SRC. (Surprising, I know. I'll give you a few minutes to digest.)

Aside from being offensive and hypocritical, this attitude is counter-productive. To change the pernicious cultures that foster crimes against women requires dialogue. It requires women and men to engage with each other, honestly and openly, about gender issues and moral values. So long as men are faced with accusatory rhetoric about how we're all rapists and awful – except for the handful who work in the SRC, obviously – this dialogue will always fail. It makes it all too easy to dismiss what might be valid arguments by the absurd way that they're formulated, and to stereotype any woman concerned about gender violence as another "angry feminist".

Shaun Crowe and David Batchelor, Science III
Honi,

I am writing to you in disgust at last week's Women's Report. Tasmin Dingley's article seemed more concerned with provocation than substance. Ignoring the fact that 'Men's Honi' was a joke, it is completely offensive to insinuate that men, by 'not doing more', view rape apathetically.

If the women's movement is hijacked by such fringe – and downright insane – opinions, there is little hope for any future progress. We should be moving away from the stereotypical, 'man-hating' conception of feminists. Castigating men, as if they are a homogeneous unit complicit in previous horrors of 'international relations', does nothing but alienate students who would usually be sympathetic to the feminist cause. This should not be a simple 'us vs them' issue; equality is something that can only come about through mutual understanding and respect. It is amazing to think that this could come from the SRC – an organisation there to represent the entire university.

Daniel Graham, Arts III
Tamsin Dingley (women's report, wk. 11),

Why do you make me feel like a criminal? You use 'women' as a term of unity, to mean not only those who have been direct victims of sexual assault but for those who could just as easily be in their place. Flip the coin. What does this mean for the word 'men'? If 'women' signifies a collective (therefore empowered) victimhood, then 'men' suggests that every man is capable of sexual assault, and that if he hasn't done it yet it's because he hasn't had the opportunity.

Reading your report I felt guilty. Guilty in a way that a schoolkid who hasn't done anything feels inexplicably ashamed when the principal addresses an assembly filled with wrongdoers. And your 'there are good men' disclaimer at the end didn't cut it with me. Do you want to know how I help limit sexism and sexual assault against women? By not doing it myself. By treating women with respect. Evidently

that's not enough. Not everyone can be an active women's rights campaigner, but it'd be nice if my meagre contribution to the cause didn't end with me being lumped as a tacit supporter of wartime rape and domestic violence.

A Note to Matt and Curtis

Tess Hutley, International/Global Studies I

Who in Honi's Week 11 The Column questioned the difference between homosexual love and homosexual sex (I loved the article!). The reason the former is permitted (keep in mind this is quite a contemporary stance and something of a breakthrough) and the latter not is less to do with homosexuality (although I don't mean to question the severity of the Church's ridiculous anti-homosexual sentiments) and more to do with sex for non-reproductive purposes.

There is a passage in the Bible (Corinthians I think) that states that 'for a man to lie with another man is an abomination'. It all comes down to one thing: babies. You wrote that "someone who is straight is perfectly able to express love through the body, someone who is queer cannot". That is something of an oversimplification. According to the Bible, sex is primarily a pure act of creation, and its use for other reasons - such as pleasure - is tarnishing its purpose. So the frowning (to put it lightly) on homosexual sex falls less into the category of homosexuality as a sin in itself and more under the encouraged abstinence from protected sex, pre-marital sex, and masturbation.

Honeysoyt?!

Hannah Vieira Science/Law I

What I have been enjoying on a weekly basis for some time now, it appears, I have taken for granted. Students frequently enquire, "What are you reading?" before tilting their heads sideways, squinting heavily and saying very slowly but unmistakably "Honeysoyt" each and every time. Take what you will from this (that Sydney students are not as cultured as we imagine ourselves to be perhaps?), but I attribute this to a lack of interest in the publication generally.

Edition 11's "News in Brief" featured a small but telling paragraph which concluded with a suggestion that a priest had been molesting his altar servers to further his sexual knowledge. Not only was this trivialising the issue of pedophilia in our society, but rehashing a very unoriginal attack on the Catholic Church. "The Column" featured another uber original attack on some of the church's views, claiming they were "nonsensical, ridiculous and cruel". Tasteless, unwarranted attacks on the world's biggest charity organisation will not make Honi more appealing. And if these articles continue the way some of them are going, people will be asking, "What on earth is Honeysoyt?" for a while yet.

Editorial

Since the introduction of VSU, our University has contributed around \$30 million in subsidies for student services, but has suggested that such a commitment cannot necessarily be sustained.

Next month, the Federal Senate will vote on the introduction of a student services fee; funding that will then be administered by universities instead of the often politicised student organisations. Some Senators have suggested such a fee will place too high a price on already cash-strapped students. Others have suggested they will only support such a fee if the money is directed exclusively to sporting organisations.

You will certainly be hearing more on the issue as the legislation is debated but in the mean-time, *Honi* is grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the University and the SRC, without which the quality publication you see before you would not exist. Student publications have long been breeding grounds for journalists and a creative outlet for all students and to lose them would be a travesty.

In other news, you'll notice that many of our letters this week were sent in direct response to the Women's Officer's report published in our last edition. At *Honi*, we too were surprised by the accusations of sexism and criticism of a perceived male domination of the paper. It is an absolute privilege to work with the incredibly talented women on the editorial team and I have no hesitation in admitting these fine editors are all more capable I - something reflected in each week's pages and particularly on Page 8 of this edition. HS

Paul Mackay

Oops!

Don Key, Law V

You incorrectly reported that there were 29 informal votes in the USU election. In fact they were 29 Don Key votes - votes for me, Don Key!

You even interviewed one if my voters in your vox pop, even if you did misspell my name.

It's quite an impressive result for a made up joke donkey candidate.

It also makes you wonder whether Jess Pribee is a made up joke donkey candidate, since she didn't do much better.

Why do you insist on blocking me out of Honi? I'll be campaigning for an autonomous donkey Honi - have you heard what the war in Gaza has done to donkeys?

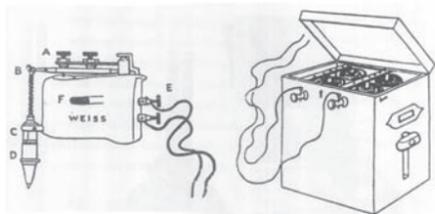


Honi's Guide to... The History of Vibrators

Katherine Connolly sheds light on the sordid past of playthings.

To most, the vibrator shares a place with the sex-shop and internet porn as a product of our modern sexual liberation. Many would be surprised to learn the vibrator, in one form or another, has been around for hundreds and hundreds of years. Doctors massaged the vagina to induce orgasms, as treatment for an array of uterine diseases including 'hysteria', a form of neurosis. The standard medical explanation for this treatment was that it stimulated blood to the 'diseased area' and allowed women to release neurotic tension.

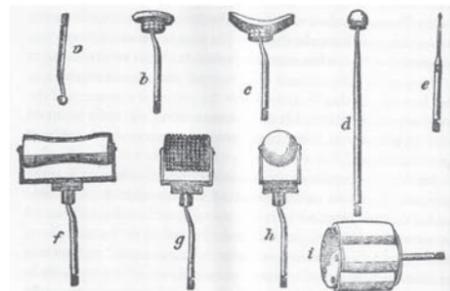
This occurred from antiquity, through the middle ages and the Victorian era. As well as manual stimulation, women in the Renaissance used subfumigation. The patient would sit over a small burner from which fumes wafted upward into the vagina.



Battery-powered Vibrator, 1883

With the development of steam powered and electric technologies in the nineteenth century, dozens of manufacturers started producing battery-powered vibrators. Doctors gave typically sterile justifications for these new machines. Producing orgasms without them was time consuming and difficult – mechanised

techniques mean women achieved 'paroxysm' more quickly and they could treat more patients in less time. As one doctor rather indelicately put it, "No human hand is capable of communicating to the tissues such rapid, steady and prolonged vibrations, and certain kneading and percussion movements as the vibrator."



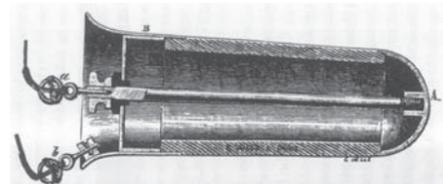
Massage Apparatus Instruments

To achieve this end, doctors developed a mind-boggling array of complex, weirdly shaped mechanisms. Many consisted of a portable battery with an array of different detachable 'vibratodes'. By the turn of the century, a doctor could buy musical vibrators, vibratory forks, muscle beaters, hand or foot-powered massage devices, vibrators powered by air-pressures, water turbines and pneumatic equipment with vibratory massage attachments and even machines suspended from the ceiling of a clinic.

After the introduction of electric lights in 1876, homes rapidly became equipped with electricity. The first machine to be electrified and marketed as for individual use was the sewing machine. This was followed in the

next ten years by the fan, the kettle, the toaster, and vibrator. Now, women could use electrical massage on their own, in the privacy of their homes.

By the 1920s vibrators were marketed far beyond just doctors' use. Ladies' periodicals like Needlecraft and Women's Home Companion marketed them as an aid to health and relaxation. One product available was a home motor, which came complete with a number of useful attachments. These included an egg beater, a fan, an electric radiator, a lamp and a vibrator, which was apparently "very useful and satisfactory for home service". The Star Vibrators, or 'Such Delightful Companions' were available for \$5, or \$12.50 for a deluxe edition, and were, according to their advertisement, "Perfect for weekend trips". Another advertisement claimed "Vibration is life. It will chase away the years like magic. Every nerve, every fibre of your whole body will tingle with force of your own awakened powers. All the keen relish, the pleasures of youth, will throb within you."



Excitateur Vulvo-Uterin Electrode

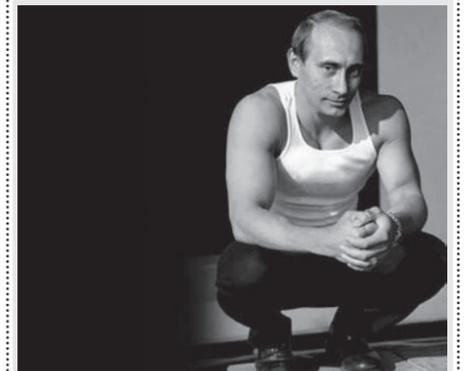
And you thought the Victorians were suppressed...

News in Brief

Impotence entrepreneur Jack Vaisman, mastermind behind 'nasal delivery technology for longer lasting sex' has been described as deceptive by NSW Department of Health. A Department spokesperson has stated, "Jack Vaisman is not a real doctor. Also, there's nothing wrong with men who don't have long-lasting sex. He should shut up and stop giving everyone unrealistic expectations."

The Federal Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, has warned that swine flu is here, and spreading by the minute. The minister also warned "we're all going to die! Die I say! Oh God, the humanity!" Reports have indicated that no one cares, because everyone's over swine flu and busy worrying about sexy footballers.

Australia signed the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. Afterwards, all the signatories hugged. Don't worry though, it doesn't actually mean anyone has to do anything.



Talks between Russia and the EU, intended to repair relations, have unsurprisingly come to a stalemate. It's almost as though Russia is totally belligerent and doesn't give a shit about anyone! The EU is unimpressed by the continued presence of Russian troops in Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and thinks it's not fair of Russia to turn off gas to countries like the Ukraine whenever it likes. But Russia has beef too - with the EU's efforts to engage with Eastern European countries. A spokesperson from the Kremlin told Honi, "Westerners should stay away from Russia's buffer zone! I mean Eastern Europe. What? Oh, and dismantle NATO. Do it! Da."

LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

Filing Complaints

Michael Krasovitsy is sick of bad service.

Picture the following. You're in a restaurant. You haven't eaten meat all week, what with the GEC and all, so decide to splurge and order a steak.

"Um... medium rare," you answer when asked how you'd like it. You wait patiently, counting down the seconds until your deliciously expensive steak arrives. Your stomach is growling, but it's coming. It's been about 40 minutes.

That's normal, isn't it? You quell the noises emanating from your stomach with the thought that it's busy. They look understaffed. Yeah, that's it. It'll be here soon. Another 40 minutes pass and eventually, weak from hunger, you ask when your steak is arriving. Your response: "soon". It does arrive soon, thank Christ. You see the waitress walk towards your table and plop something resembling a steak in front of you. It's

small. It's burnt. There's no salad, like you asked. Fuck.

Sound familiar? Sure does! Bad service is a part of everyday life in Sydney. Rarely a week goes past where you're not looked down upon by some snooty sales assistant, or where your order at a restaurant is incorrectly taken. Well it's time to act! Maybe you've had one too many burnt coffees, or one off sandwich too many. Regardless, here's what you need to know about getting recompense from your goods or service provider.

There are a number of ways of approaching bad service. The first thing to do is either to call or visit the business in question with the knowledge that legally, the Ombudsman Act of 1974 has got your back. According to clause 22 of this act, "A person may make a complaint to the Ombudsman about the conduct of a service provider with respect to the provision, failure to provide, withdrawal, variation or administration of a community service in respect of a particular person or group of persons". If, after speaking to someone in the business, your complaint is unsuccessful, the next step is to write to them. A written letter has more validity under the law than a verbal discussion: it's important to

write to the service provider in case your claim goes further. In your letter, make clear what you're after, whether it be an apology, a refund or a new item.

If you're still not going well at this point, it's time to call in a third party. In NSW, this third party may be a representative from the NSW Ombudsman, the Office of Fair Trading or the Australian competition and consumer commission (ACCC). Each of these three bodies is equipped to help you fight against bad service. Though bringing in such a third party will inevitably escalate the complaint, at times, it's important to at least seek some legal and professional advice here.

Finally, your last resort is the law. Suing goods and service providers can be tricky however, due to the changing definitions of "service" in the law. Nevertheless, should it get to that point, the law does provide securities against bad service.

So next time your new shoes break after a week, be sure to take it seriously. There are many ways to empower yourself as a consumer!



Winners of Kirby Cup Announced

The final of the Kirby Plain Speaking Competition was held on Thursday 21st, May and attended by Justice Kirby (ret.), along with a large crowd of students, parents and staff. The competition is in its third year and attracted 60 participants, with 46 competing in the main draw and 14 in the newly formed ESL draw. Organisers commented that the standard of the competition was notably higher this year and are optimistic that the competition will keep growing.

The final was judged by a panel including Union staff, experienced students and a barrister. The main draw finalists spoke on one prepared topic and one impromptu topic ('Heart of darkness').

Congratulations to Eliza Forsyth (winner), Tim Mooney (runner up), Wei Jia Chen (ESL Winner) & Sophia Chen (ESL runner up).

Interest for public speaking has also increased since the formation of the Sydney University Public Speaking society. A second public speaking tournament is planned for Semester

2 which will allow students from other universities to enter as well.

Debating Contingent Announced

Twelve debaters and 6 adjudicators have been chosen to represent the (defending champions) University of Sydney Union at the annual Australasian Intersvarsity Debating Tournament. 'Australas' is being hosted by Monash University this year and will be attended by dozens of institutions from across Australia and Asia. Director of the Debates Committee, Steve Hind, was chosen as the contingent captain.

Revue Season Kicks Off

Teams of students from various faculties have started the weeks of preparation, planning and socialising that goes into the Revues that will be put on throughout Semester 2. Independent societies are formed to put together the shows and they're a highlight of the Union's C&S program, attracting hundreds of students every year.

The Arts revue will coincide with the Verge arts festival in the first two weeks of spring, directed by Carlo Ritchie and Tom Walker. The cast of 10 includes nine members who are entirely new to the revue experience. Themed Murder on the Art Express, it'll be centred on Australian hardboiled detective drama.

This year's Science revue will be directed by Caitlin Gillis and Jack Wasiliev and produced by Paul Sztajer. They're still holding auditions for cast and crew through Week 12 so jump onto sciencerevue.org if you're interested.

In its second year, Commerce revue will be directed by Fraser Raeburn and produced by Prajyoth Mirajkar. It will be held in Week 5 under the theme Nightmare on Wall Street.

The Women's revue, with an all-woman cast and crew wrapped up auditions last week. It will be directed this year by Catherine Josephine-Tayeh and produced by Elena Collinson.

This is the first year that the Law revue will be organised by an independent society, traditionally organised by the Sydney University Law Society (SULS). It will be directed by Allegra Day and Daniel Lim. The cast have been selected though the themes and

script are yet to be confirmed.

The Architecture Revue takes out the prize for best name (so far) in our books. A Collection of Short Storeys will be staged from 17-19 September and promises a new take on our childhood tales, along with an (obligatory) impressive set.

Bambina Borracha at Belvoir

University of Sydney production company, Bambina Borracha, the crew behind the monthly cabaret nights at Hermann's Bar, are producing a show in Belvoir Street Theatre, Beyond The Neck, by Tom Holloway. Founded in 2007 by five former SUDS members, the company has since produced plays and exhibitions across the country.

All Honi readers are invited to come and see Beyond the Neck at the Downstairs Belvoir Theatre for the special price of \$20 from Wednesday 27th - Sunday 31st. Just call the Belvoir Box office on 9699 3444 and quote the offer code "Beyond Special".

Do you binge drink?

We are researching the effects of alcohol on the brain in women (age 18-25 years) and we need your help.

We need heavy weekend binge drinkers (ie those drinking more than six drinks in a row on one occasion) and those who are **non-drinkers or light drinkers** (ie those drinking less than two drinks on one occasion)

The study includes a clinical interview and brain-imaging (this does not involve any radiation). You will receive \$50 for your out of pocket costs eg travel

If you are interested please contact

Dr Glenys Dore or Dr Noeline Latt

Royal North Shore Hospital - Northern Sydney Drug & Alcohol Service

Mobile phone: 0434 562 615

Email: alcoholstudy@cadeclinic.com



NORTHERN SYDNEY
CENTRAL COAST
NSW HEALTH

DO YOU
BINGE
DRINK?

Do you
abstain?

Cancer Nursing

STAFF INTERVIEW Bronwyn Cowell speaks to Professor Kate White.

Bronwyn Cowell spoke to Professor Kate White, who has just been appointed to the newly created position of Dean of Cancer Nursing, having previously been the Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery. The first of its kind in NSW, this position is partly funded by the Cancer Institute of NSW and is run by a consortium of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery and the Sydney Cancer Centre at RPA.

Why do you think the Cancer Institute of NSW set up this position?

Well, the primary workforce that is involved in caring for cancer patients is nurses, be they specialised cancer nurses or nurses involved in some other part of their care. The position was designed to maximise the potential for nurses to have a positive impact on their patients, as we want to make sure nurses are educated about how to do that. Also, from a research point of view, we always want to know what nurses can do differently or better that will have a positive impact on their patients.

What do you see as your role in this new position?

Working with nurses to provide really excellent care. Also creating educational opportunities for nurses. More broadly speaking though, my role is about making clear the important role that nursing plays in healthcare. I think people often feel that nurses are experts, that they've mastered a very basic profession. In fact nursing is very complex and more advanced than anybody thinks. I aim to render the profession more transparent and well understood and to clarify the valuable

contribution that nurses make – a timely, quality healthcare experience.

What is your background in nursing? Have you always worked as an academic?

No, my background is primarily in cancer and palliative care nursing. I have worked mainly in clinical roles. This means I have an interest as a clinician in research and wanting to do better. I find nurses are always wondering as clinicians, what they can do better and just as nurses, what they can do better for their patients.



"Cancer's the pits."

In terms of research I have focused on the psychological experience of having cancer and how nurses can help their patients deal with the consequences of cancer. Things like body image and sexuality. I'm interested in how we can care for our patients in those areas.

What distinguishes cancer nursing from unspecialised nursing, on a normal ward?

People often think that cancer nursing must be a really negative and depressing experience. In fact the majority of cancer patients that you're caring for will be cured of their disease. And we never really think about diseases like

asthma and heart disease – we can't cure those, we manage them. With cancer, we can talk about curing a patient. Cancer nurses understand though that you're looking after a person, not a condition.

Cancer nursing gives people the scope to use both their technical and clinical skills, and their personal skills. When you're treating a cancer patient, you're looking after that individual and their family. It's also an opportunity to work at an advanced level, a very advanced level. And cancer nursing is never boring, ever.

Nursing is now a graduate degree at Sydney University. What sort of student should think about doing a graduate nursing degree?

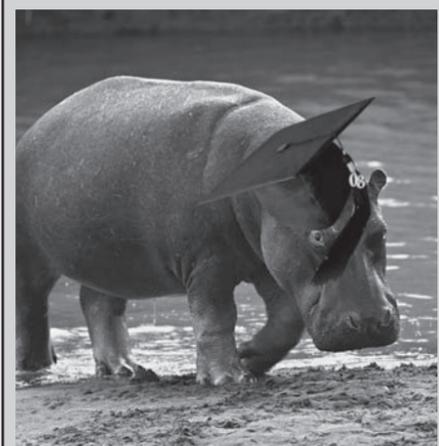
It changes, and I think generations of nurses can be different. We have a great variety of students who take up graduate nursing but generally they're people who are looking for a degree that is professionally rewarding. They want to go home at the end of the day and have a feeling that they have made a difference. Other things about the profession are attractive. It offers a career path that can go in a great many directions and you can really go anywhere as a nurse – it's a license to travel. You can work with paramedics in a helicopter, in remote area care or in accident and emergency – or all of those.

For further information about graduate nursing visit www.nursing.usyd.edu.au

RANDOM TUTORIAL #0649

Why do we dream?

One theory goes that the brain is switching off and reviewing the day's thoughts, reviewing items in its declarative memory (stuff you can declare to know like trivia and quiz answers). If this were true, amnesiacs wouldn't dream. Amnesiacs, along with those suffering from degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, have damaged the part of the brain that forms new memories and allows access to old ones, known as the hippocampus. So, technically, these people shouldn't have memories to form dreams with. Yet, they do dream.



Campus hippo

Experiments by Dr. Stickgold (Harvard Medical School) have come up with an alternate theory. A group of amnesiacs who were made to play Tetris for hours reported dreaming about falling, rotating blocks. Of course, they had no memory of actually playing Tetris and did not know what they were seeing in their dreams. So perhaps the dreams do not come from our declarative memories but our implicit ones - these are things we know without being aware of it. Like the memory of where keys are on a keyboard or how to ride a bike.

This explains why dreams are so incoherent and seemingly random; implicit memories, unlike declarative ones, do not come with contextual information like time and place. According to this theory, we dream as a way of consolidating information and improving learning. The Tetris players improved overnight more than they did during the day. An altogether different explanation provides less purpose to dreams. It argues that when there is little external input, the brain responds to signals from itself. This resonance is observed in all physical systems and is best understood as an echo of previous activity. Dreams, then, are spontaneous output from random stimuli.

LE BŒUF

Can we have a wee bit less chat?

David Krasovitsky urinal edu-cakes.

Picture this. You walk into a bathroom, your sanctuary away from the uncubricled, day-to-day bustle that has come to envelope your life as a busy university student. You are standing at the edge of the urinal stage; it's not that you are shy or aren't proud of the package God delivered and you signed for, you just want other people to have more room if they should so need. The sparkling silver of the metal in front of you shines with both the cascading of urine and the shine of Mr Sheen's bi-annual appearance. You are enjoying releasing all of life's troubles onto Mr Sheen's face.

Then suddenly a large slap on your back and an echoing "G'day Dave" jolts you from your safe haven and into the interminable depths of mindless prattle. Oh god, I have obviously befriended

someone with no sense of bathroom etiquette. And there is definitely an etiquette. This certain male stands within a last shakes distance from me so that are streams almost converge and I am almost forced into a sword fight. "Oh, hey." I try to be cadenced so he would receive the hint to fuck off but alas, he does the unforgivable... he reaches out for the handshake. I look at him and ponder whether politeness is closer to godliness than cleanliness. It's not. When I do not shake his hand he seems to retract both in his shake and in his stream.

I finish before him and go to wash my hands. Once he had done the same I shook his hand and began to tell him of the folklore of toilet etiquette as I will tell you now.

HAVE YOU GOT A BEEF?

Email honi2009@gmail.com

First, it is fine to speak in the toilet. However, if your friend seems upset with the idea of talking or you are having difficulty 'going', stop. Second rule; Do not touch, ever. The last rule is if you are standing at the urinal and a friend is behind you talking to you don't turn around, don't even twist. The slightest rotation could initiate a series of irreversible actions that may end with you embarrassed or in hospital because Steve the Builder doesn't share an affinity with your urine on his pants.

Now that you have been educated, go forth into the bathroom with confidence and if someone breaks these rules discipline them and hopefully your children and your children's children will respect the covenant we have thus laid... like a brick.

HEAD TO HEAD

Academic Doping

The case for...

Sriram Srikumar

It's the supposed new demon of the modern lifestyle. Taking prescription drugs in order to have the big nights out all week and still cram productively the night before.

In truth, it's nothing new. While the drug of choice used to be speed, it's now prescription medication like Adderall and Ritalin.

That's the most obvious reason that disallowing "academic doping" is naive. Nobody's going to stop doing it. They're instead going to keep lying to their doctors to get that prescription, hiding from help if side effects show and relying on whispered hearsay as their source of information. If everyone knew exactly how these drugs worked, they'd know that it's not a magic 'genius' pill. They'd know that it doesn't guarantee good essays the night before, just lots of essays. This is why allowing it to be talked about and used freely is unlikely to lead to many more people taking it up. Not to mention, it's just so easy to get your hands on it that everyone that wants to can already.

While we're shocked that a 20-something could maintain hidden habits, risk legal punishment and lie to their doctors just to "keep up", none of those things have to do with the taking of drugs itself. Boosting our immune systems, healing wounds, curing pains, dealing with sexual dysfunction, suppressing depression... the list of physical weaknesses that we have, over time, overcome through medica-

tion is long. If we can move on from the blunt amphetamines of today to tailored medications that can boost the brain's concentration, creativity or computing powers, it'd simply be the next step along a long continuum.

Academic doping isn't anything new. So long as we sweep it under the carpet and keep it outlawed, we encourage deception and secrecy while discouraging innovation of safer and more tailored drugs.



The case against...

Katherine Connolly

The image of someone feverishly hunched over their desk at 4am drawing graphs or writing essays in a speed induced haze with crazy dilated pupils really freaks me out. It makes me want to sit that person down and tell them to chill the fuck out. Apart from all the ethical questions about using stimulants to get a competitive edge, the whole idea of it is weird, and a little bit

sad. Staying up for two or three days at a time to study is just really bad for you, not to mention the unknown effects of taking off-prescription amphetamines on a regular basis. Surely our dog-eat-dog, success driven world hasn't gotten so drunk on competition that we can think its normal for people to do that to themselves?

But, you might say, people can choose to damage their health (and happiness) all the time to get ahead – if that's the price they're willing to pay, why not let them? If off-label stimulant use becomes more widely accepted, the overall standard of competition increases. As more and more people are able to cram for three days straight before an exam, the bell-curve of what people are physically able to achieve becomes skewed higher. Under than situation, not using stimulants becomes a disadvantage, because everyone else in your class is. So people are less able to choose not to take them, and new, unnatural competitive standards are forcing people to engage in crazy, damaging behaviour just to keep up.

Continue this trend into business, or schools, and things get worse. Law firms, bankers and hospitals already expect their employees to keep horrible hours. For grad students particularly, the attitude is pretty much work as long and as hard as you are physically able. If stimulants are widely available, what you're physically able to do drastically increases, as does employees' expectations. As for schools, we all knew of the freakishly ambitious kid in the library till ten every night – no one wants to see that kid on speed.

Interested in a career in medicine?

CAREERS Michael Krasovitsky is just what the doctor ordered.

Whether you've recently sat the GAMSAT, or are considering sitting the test next year, this is what you'll need to know...

The GAMSAT, or Graduate Australians Medical Schools Admission Test, is a marathon, day-long exam held in March. It consists of three sections, the first and second being worth 25% of the overall GAMSAT score, and the third worth 50%. The first section tests your reasoning in the humanities and social sciences. Pictures, diagrams and texts are presented and, in response, students must answer comprehensive or inductive questions. In 2009, Section I featured Foucault, a comic and a flow diagram representing energy distribution in an Inuit community. While comprehension might sound easy, nothing in the GAMSAT is as simple as it seems. A good way to prepare yourself for this section is to partner up with a friend also sitting the GAMSAT and to write each other difficult questions in response to some text.

The second section, the essay section, is perhaps the strangest of the three. In one hour, examinees are asked to respond to a series of quotes, the first on personal issues and the second on social and cultural phenomena. In 2009, the first set of quotes related broadly to intelligence and the second

to the relationship between youth and knowledge. In the essay on personal issues, the GAMSAT markers actually want to hear what your personal response is. This essay presents a perfect opportunity to flex your muscles and show off a little, so be sure to include some reference to your other qualifications.



It's not lupus.

The final section, of which one can only feel innate fear, tests your reasoning in the biological and physical sciences. It is this section, significantly more than the other two, which can make

or break a GAMSAT score. Studying for this section varies enormously from person to person, based on the nature of their undergraduate degrees. Unlike university exams, the mark for each section in the GAMSAT does not matter in and of itself: all that is needed is that you pass each section (over 50) and, generally, get an overall mark of above 58. One friend, having completed medical sciences at USYD, was able to study for about a month and achieve a score of 50. I, on the other hand, having studied arts languages, studied for about 5 months to achieve the measly, yet satisfactory, score of 53. Many of my friends that did science degrees were unsuccessful in the science section, while another, who studies agricultural economics, got 56. Regardless of your undergraduate, this section in particular will require an enormous amount of work.

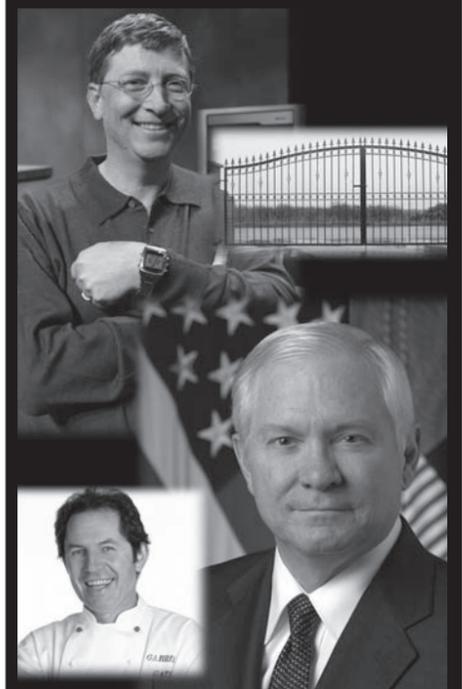
If you've been successful in the GAMSAT, you'll now be applying to medical schools. Be sure to research not just the medical schools in the universities you're interested in, but the university itself. Where will you live? Is there good transport? These questions are just as important as the what-are-the-gastrointestinal-practicals-like genre. For those students now applying to Graduate Medicine, *Honi Soit* wishes you the best of luck!

GAFFEMAN

To gaffe or not to gaffe? Too late.

Gaffeman favourite, suave smooth-talker Silvio Berlusconi described Emma Marcegaglia as 'a showgirl'. Ms Marcegaglia is the first female president of Confindustria, Italy's National Association of Manufacturers and chairman of Italian steel conglomerate Gruppo Marcegaglia. She is widely considered the most powerful woman in Italy. That's probably what Silvio meant. Poor guy. He's just misunderstood.

Barack Obama got a bit confused during his speech about terrorism at the National Archives, when he referred to his Secretary of Defense as 'William' Gates. Robert didn't mind though. It's easy to confuse the Secretary of Defense with that computer guy who made up Microsoft.



So many gates

Special envoy to the Japanese government and former Vice Foreign Minister, Shotaro Yachi may have suggested that Russia return "three and a half" instead of all four of the islands off Hokkaido. He has apologised, after it was pointed out to him that the remark was not only contradictory to the position of the Japanese government, but also quite a silly idea. Oh well. We can't all be winners.

The British Ministry of Defense accidentally sent top secret classified blueprints of submarines and military sites to a small welding firm. Gaffeman overheard a ministry official say quite tetchily, "those aren't the real ones anyway and what's the big deal, it's not like we sent them to the French! Not that they'd do anything about it, except surrender. Chuh."

Ghanian President Mills is well across the economic problems his nation is facing – that, how difficult the word 'economy' is to pronounce. The Ghanian 'ecominy' is also facing tough times. It seems Ghana generally is about to have all sorts of problems.

YE OLDE RUMOUR MILL



Falk for SRC?

In the wake of Michael Falk's shock election loss in the recent Union Board campaign, there has been word on the street that Andrew Coleman, Whigs svengali and one time SRC presidential candidate, approached him with the possibility of running him for SRC President later in the year. What's more, it's alleged that he offered to fund the entire campaign himself. Although the Rumour Mill knows that Falk would make a talented leader, his reaction when asked about the offer—miming shooting himself in the head—is telling of his position on the matter.

Naughty Young Liberals

The Young Libs are reportedly indulging in some soul-searching after Tim Andrew's unorthodox recruiting methods came to light in the Daily Telegraph this week. Following P.J O'Rourke's maxim that the amount of good looking women in a political

organisation is tied to an exponential rise in electoral success, Andrews published a selection of cheesecake shots of Young Liberal women in a variety of 'seductive' poses. The question of whether it is a successful interest campaign might be clarified by a comment on the site that read 'these girls are just about as hot as gazpacho'.

Getting rid of SA

SRC Education Officer and *Honi* favourite Elly 'Maverick' Howse has been overheard rattling sabres over the conduct of Socialist Alternative in the SRC offices. When she was asked on the point, she mused on the possibility of holding a General Meeting of the student body to ban the SA from entering the SRC. While the Rumour Mill isn't against this move, we feel obliged to note that she was, until recently, going around with Jacob Carswell, an SA headkicker and president of the UWS student's association before its untimely demise in suspicious financial circumstances. Heaven hath no fury.

AB steals from your SRC

SRC President Noah White felt something was off when he saw a bunch of people carrying stacks of *Honi* around Wentworth last Tuesday. He followed them, and found them stuffing each paper with a leaflet advertising the Ancient Briton (a pub on Glebe Pt Rd). Noah played the 'President of the publisher' card and told them to stop, so they made a few snide comments and slunk off.

This basically amounts to a large licensed venue stealing advertising space from a student publication — though we are flattered that they thought it was worth breaking the law to get in *Honi*. Further to that, *Honi* has strict guidelines about the advertising material we publish and when AB bar decided to shove leaflets in our paper of their own accord, they bypassed that process. Which is also illegal.

Noah, following up this brazen piece of thievery, called the AB. The bar's publicity manager, Connie, said that

it was the fault of a contractor, whose details she couldn't give out, and that Noah should call the licensee, Vince Seeto.

Vince called Noah back several days later and admitted there was no contractor involved and that the people Noah sprung were a couple of backpackers employed by the AB. When Noah told Vince that *Honi* would no doubt run a piece ripping into the AB, Vince said that we were welcome to and that any publicity was good publicity. To back up this maxim, he pointed to the poo-in-ice-cream affair at the Coogee Bay earlier this year. So not only does his bar break the law, he's a total moron.

We obviously don't appreciate people taking a free ride on the back of our popularity, especially when the SRC is strapped for cash as it is. If any *Honi* readers were planning on downing a few cold ones over at AB, don't. Not because we say so, but rather because it's a really, really shit bar with no atmosphere and a dickhead for a licensee. How do you like your free publicity now, Ancient Briton?

THE COLUMN

Men are the architects of a world that systematically abuses women. Men are responsible for war, economic crises and the rape of your mother, sister, girlfriend, daughter. They do not act against these atrocities, but perpetuate them. So reads SRC Women's Officer Tamsin Dingley's report in the Week 11 edition.

This approach alienates men and women alike. It is destructive.

'Women's' issues can only be solved by treating them as social issues. Violence against women, the glass ceiling and discrimination against women are all grievous social harms.

Pointing the finger at 'men who do nothing' does nothing to empower women, encourage productive conversation or engage with these issues in any meaningful way.

Like Tamsin, we believe in the need for a Women's Room. But that doesn't make everywhere else on campus a men's space. Moreover, the assertion that women can only feel safe in the Women's Room on campus is presumptuous and high-handed. Assuming that all women feel unsafe elsewhere on campus, and that any contact with men is a reminder of the threat men pose, brands all women as victims, all the time. It tells women

who feel empowered, that they aren't. That's no way to move forward, and dismissing those who don't subscribe to the 'right' kind of feminism is counter-productive, arrogant and unacceptable.

We believe in the need for a Women's Edition of *Honi*, but not because it is 'one women's newspaper in a man's world.' Just because women haven't exclusively produced an edition, doesn't mean women were excluded, victimised or exploited in its production. There is no evidence that previous or subsequent editions of *Honi* have been sexist, nor that have women

The women of *Honi* respond to that report.

been denied any opportunity to be involved in *Honi* on the grounds of gender. The 09 *Honi* Editorial team finds any suggestion to the contrary horribly offensive.

Sexuality and gender are issues that shape society, identity, politics and culture. Most people recognise that these are not fringe issues, nor the exclusive domain autonomous spaces. *Honi* is amongst them.

With contributions from editors: Katherine Connolly, Bronwyn Cowell, Giselle Kenny, Alex Lee.



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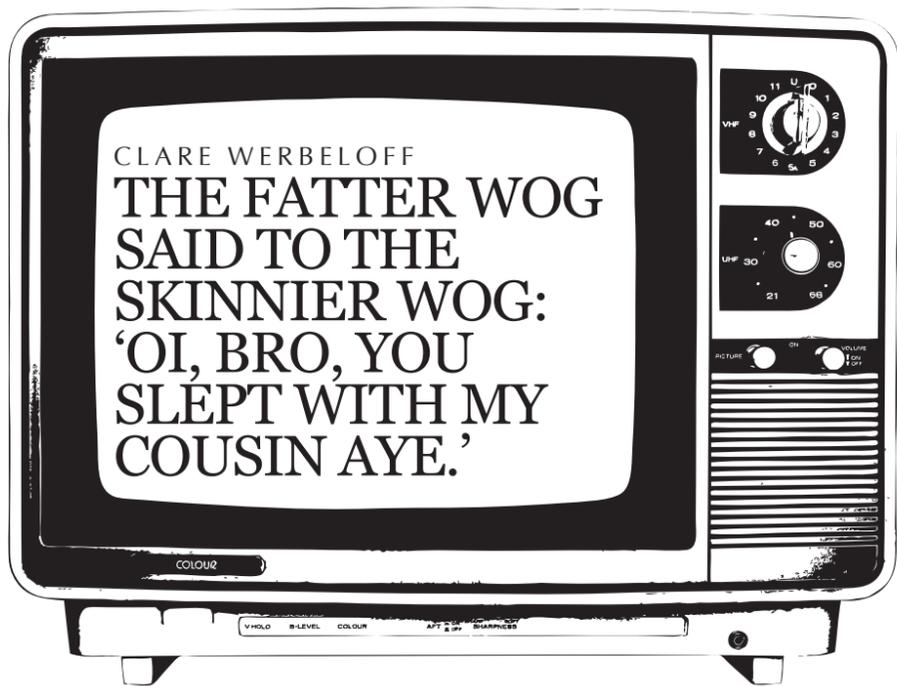
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MISCELLANY



Vox Pops!

George Downing talks to some rangas, sir.

QUESTIONS...

1. What's the best thing about being a redhead?
2. Do redheads get more sex?
3. Geneticists have advised redheads to move to Scotland and interbreed to save the hair colour from eventual extinction. Would you do it?
4. Shag/marry/kill these famous redheads: Cleopatra, Lindsay Lohan, Winston Churchill



Nick Kraegan, Arts (Meco)/Law III

1. You can never disappoint your parents. They weren't expecting anything in the first place.
2. No, but we do get far more intense sex because we are so massively surprised.
3. Yes, for the above reason. But no - redheaded women are almost invariably fat troglers.
4. Shag Winston, because I'm going to need some downstairs confirmation that he was a real redhead, marry Lindsay, for the same reason, kill Cleopatra because she wore black wigs, the piking whore.



Bonnie Campbell, Arts (Meco) III

1. Chris Lilley's Sorry Ranga Day - for us a momentous occasion redressing a shameful history of discrimination and vilification...
2. More if you look like Mad Men's Joan Holloway, less if you resemble Fatty Vautin.
3. Being part of a dying race has a certain je ne sais quoi about it. So no, I wouldn't.
4. Marry: Lindsay (you're totally vindicated in bitching about the mother-in-law when it's Dina Lohan), kill Churchill and shag Cleopatra (from Julius to Marc, everyone was doing it).



Michael Giles, Sports Science III

1. Knowing that it is still in fact against the law to hunt redheads for sport in Australia.
2. For sure - after I discovered I was a redhead last year, girls caught on as well and now I've almost had sex... twice.
3. Travel abroad with the pure aim of having copious amounts of awesome and guilt-free unprotected sex? No that doesn't appeal to me at all.
4. Shag Cleopatra (surely a minx in bed), marry Winston Churchill (I heard he's a terrible shag), kill Lindsay Lohan (for the good of impressionable teens).



Charlie Crane, Commerce IV

1. There are a heap of things, but I'd have to say the best was not being teased at school.
2. Well, given.
3. No, I don't find redheads attractive. They are generally seedy and wierd. Apart from myself, that is.
4. Shag Cleopatra, marry Churchill, and it's a definitive kill for Lohan.

Smart Eating

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"Smart Eating" is a free, research driven internet-based self-help programme for promotion of healthy eating. It includes components on:

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- Self-help strategies
- Psychological health promotion

Current users of the programme find it easy to use, informative, eye-catching, and useful. We are recruiting subjects for a research study of the programme - both as controls and individuals who identify themselves as suffering from an eating disorder.

Controls are healthy people who would be interested in taking part in 4 assessments of their eating and health. In so doing, they could benefit from knowing whether they have any eating disorder or an associated psychological problem. They will have access to the components of healthy eating, family education and health assessment in the programme which will provide automatic feedback.

Individuals suffering from eating disorders are also invited to participate in the study by using the programme for self-help. They will have access to all components of the programme and they can monitor their progress at regular intervals. The programme can be an adjunct to professional treatment.

People aged from 16 to 35 years who are interested in participating in the "Smart Eating" programme either as a control or as a sufferer of an eating disorder can register in the programme at <http://www.smart-eating.com>. For further information about the "Smart Eating" programme please contact:

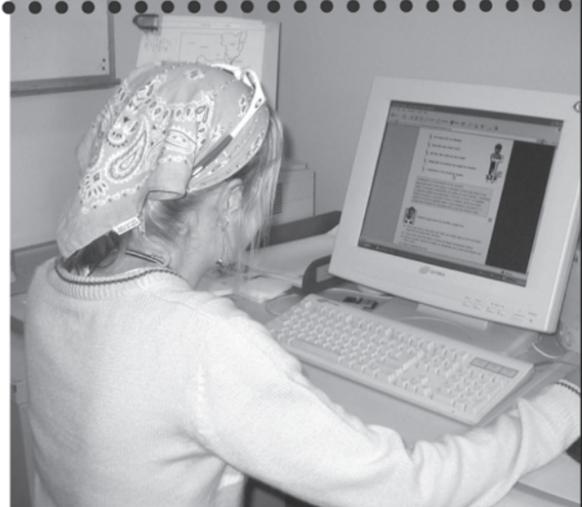
1) Ms. Sau Fong Leung, Lecturer of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on (852) 2766 6395 or email "hsfong@inet.polyu.edu.hk"

2) Professor Janice Russell, Clinical Professor of The University of Sydney on (612) 9433 3555/ (612) 9515 8165 or email "jrussell@mail.usyd.edu.au"

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Affirmative Action in Union Board Elections

Julia Bowes speaks to this year's successful candidates about the merits of this policy.

At the University of Sydney Union (USU) Annual General Meeting in 2005, a policy of Affirmative Action (AA) was adopted. It aimed to address institutional and cultural barriers that had led to the under-representation of women as both Union Board Director candidates and elected members. Yet the implementation of AA has only stood as a new barrier to female candidates, in the campaign, in the election and in their perceived legitimacy on Board.

In 2007, following the disqualification of one female candidate, the number of women in the election was equivalent to quota. As such, all were directly appointed to board. During the campaign, the three female board appointees were virtually invisible – they were banned from campaigning and their names removed from the ballot sheet. A policy designed to guarantee a voice to women on campus had effectively silenced them. The recent Union Board Elections have demonstrated the policy's flaws once again. *Honi* decided to chat to the female electees about whether they felt affirmative action had helped or hindered their campaigns.

Giorgia Rossi, the highest polling female candidate believes the policy cost her votes. 'Hundreds of people told me they would be voting for boys because I would "automatically" get on', she told *Honi*. In an election where the voters lie to the candidates nearly as often as the other way around, it is impossible to quantify how many votes affirmative action cost female candidates. But Rossi was firm

that there was a 'definite anti-girl vibe on the day', she felt that voters were 'voting against AA, rather than against the girl candidates.'

Mel Brooks, who polled one hundred votes behind the highest polling male to not be elected to board, agreed with Rossi's assessment. She added that she felt AA had cost her 'a lot of support on the day.' She noted that affirmative action had been brought in because women often found the campaigning process more upsetting than their male candidates. But in this election, Brooks noted that what made her most upset was 'having stacks of friends ditch you to campaign for a male candidate.'

This has led Brooks to reverse her public support for the policy. She thinks many voters still hold sexist attitudes towards candidates, but AA does not 'serve as an incentive to run and makes it harder for female candidates.' Rossi, who also supported the policy during the election, is also now an outspoken critic. Notwithstanding this, Rossi admits the existence of reserved positions for women weighed heavily into her decision to run.

Lizzy Watt, the second girl to be elected to board, also told *Honi* 'she would not have had the confidence to run for Union if I didn't know that there was an affirmative action policy in place.' Watt was quick to clarify that 'that wasn't because I don't think I'm capable enough' but more 'because I didn't think I had the "network" such as Sydney Uni

feeder schools, college, debating etcetera to mass mobilise.' Yet, Watt, a former Women's College resident, and member of the National Labor Students (NLS) did have or could have had her own institutional support.

Rossi and Brooks both commented that that NLS appeared to put most of their campaigning effort and resources behind their male candidate, Scott Brownless. Watt noted, however, that this campaign 'was more challenging as a woman, as the men were pulling stunts and playing caricatures which I don't think a woman could get away with.' She asked: 'can you imagine a woman riding around in rickshaws and getting 250 votes from it?'

Her observation is particularly disappointing when reflecting on a campaign overrun by nauseating puns, when the only candidate with a truly pun worthy name, Mel Brooks, chose not to buy into it. Brooks stated that she would have run regardless of affirmative action, but felt the security provided by the policy allowed her to run the campaign she wanted to run. 'I was able to run a more serious campaign based on the policies I was actually passionate about, rather than the populist policies.'

From an outsider's perspective, however, the affirmative action policy hurt the ability of female candidates to run pro-women campaigns. Rossi told *Honi* in their election edition that she was passionate about a female mentoring program, but was not going to campaign

on it because she thought 'people wouldn't like it.'

Whereas in previous elections, when the number of female candidates has been low, female candidates such as Lauren Hendry-Parsons, Jenny Williams and Beck Mann all used the opportunity to openly campaign about the importance of having female representatives on board.

Similar campaigns from these three self-professed feminists were notably lacking in this campaign. To campaign on these platforms would only have drawn attention to the relative free pass the female candidates were receiving compared to their male counterparts.

The affirmative action policy hampered the female candidates' ability to procure support, votes and the freedom to campaign on the issues they felt passionate about. More than that, however, the affirmative action policy embarrassed the female candidates on the night. One thing the girls were all in agreement about was how 'uncomfortable' they were made to feel in the way the votes were counted and revealed at the election party.

Successful affirmative action policies instigate change at the point where candidates are selected, not after votes are counted. An affirmative action policy that creates barriers, rather than alleviating pre-existing ones, and makes women feel more, not less, uncomfortable is a truly bizarre one.

POETICALLY CORRECT

Ode to Axelrod Alex Rafalowicz

I. The Man

I know he has a big moustache
That bristles when he chomps down on
a cigar,
I imagine.
His quiet voice coins phrases,
'No drama with Obama'.
On top of his head he wears
His family's skullcap.
And his big cold hands would warm a
glass of ice,
Covered by good scotch,
That makes his eyes glaze over only so
slightly,
Ever so slowly.

II. The Work

So he can still see the spreadsheet in
front of him.
Long lists of numbers and letters,
That I know he looks at,
Like exit polls in the morning
They spell victory.
A win won on his words
That he read from the rising tide for
change.
In meetings he talks 'on behalf of the
American people',
He calls out to 'working families'.
And promises that there is no such
thing
As false hope,
Only 'change we can believe in'.

III. The Hope

He started out as a thirteen year old boy
On the streets of Brooklyn.
Now every word is checked
Against every demographic
In a tiny square office, that's closest to
his boss's.
He is his master's voice,
Counsel to the President.
Now early morning in the Whitehouse
He's the first you'll see,
The boy who in 1968
Sold badges for Bobby Kennedy.

Tom Paine

Aleksandr Wansborough

His bones were lost,
He had no grave,
A revolution,
He could not save.
In spite of this,
he pursued and found,
our liberties.
And in so doing,
was able to shame the Burkes,
and no abilities,
Thomas, or as we call you
Tom,
Our hero forged through pain.
We implore you,
please, return to us,
and live again.



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Heroes, Villains, Producers and Reality TV

Danika Armytage gets her voyeur on.

Do you remember the excitement of the first Big Brother season in 2001? Real people, doing real things. Reality... on television!

Well, the horse has been flogged, the turkey slapped, the mole 'game-on'd and eight series later, Big Brother is no longer watching. But when it comes to Reality TV, Australians still love to watch...

This week, *Honi* talks to Tim Brunero, runner-up of Big Brother 2005 and 'Reality TV coach' who offers us some hints on how to get cast and make a scene on the old school reality classics like BB...

Whilst Julian Cress, executive producer of The Block and Channel 9's HomeMADE says it takes a bit more than a 'nice guy' strategy to become the reality star these days.

TIM BRUNERO

What advice do you offer as a Reality TV Coach?

Everyone on Big Brother when I was on it, was playing 'the game' as it's called. What does that mean? These shows run on caricature. There are heroes but there are also villains. You can't construct a whole personality but you can know what your strengths are. So my strategy was 'the nice guy who talks things through and looks out for other people and is a bit older and wiser.'

I didn't lack genuineness but I just thought about what I was doing. I wasn't prepared just to be a meat puppet for these people who are making a lot of money out of the show.

How do you maximise your airtime once you're 'playing the game'?

Anyone worth their salt would know that reality TV is about kissing and crying, emotional high points. Anything where there's high emotion of any kind. They have to truncate it, they have to give you the most interesting emotional moments. That's exactly what they're going to show.

TIM BRUNERO'S RULES



1. Let your personality release over time: "Don't vomit your whole personality out in the first week or so, but give enough so you won't get punched because you're boring."

2. Construct your character: "You're getting it on with one of the other people, perfect! Even talking about it. 'I really like so-and-so, they don't like me.' Suddenly you lift out."

3. Think like a producer: "Look at what's going on around you and think, 'What is it here that's interesting?' If people are fighting, be part of the resolution because they'll definitely show people having a fight."

4. Be flirty, in a controlled way: "I might already dig you sexually and have a crack. Not in a weird creepy way, not in a way that you're going, 'This is unpleasant' but people love that. Sexual tension is the basis behind countless shows."

5. Bully your agenda onto the show: "You can't hide under a bush. You've got to get out there and create storylines. Create drama."

JULIAN CRESS

Do you seek to cast 'heroes' and 'villains'?

There's definitely been a trend in reality television over the past few years to cast heroes and villains but I think people are noticing it now and in some ways you have to do less to attract an audience, be a little less 'clever.' You've got to think about it, but we don't cast contestants for our show to necessarily have a villain in there. We'd rather cast a group of people where everybody shares the same dream, and then see what unfolds.

What do you look for in the casting process?

Choosing the contestants is about finding people have something that 'pops' on the screen and you can't take your eyes off them.

People like Angelina Jolie have that at the pointy end of the business. And at the reality television end of the business... you're still looking for something that 'pops.' It's the way that they talk, the way that they interact, their self-confidence... though sometimes it's their lack of self-confidence that appeals to people as well.



home
MADE

Gretal Killeen nowhere in sight.

What do Australian audiences look for in our reality stars?

A certain amount of modesty goes a long way with an Australian audience! You can't just cast a bunch of egotistical, self-obsessed narcissists and hope that you'll find your audience, and there's plenty of them out there and they always apply to be on reality shows, but you have to drill down further than that.

When finding the contestants for HomeMADE, it wasn't like they'd auditioned for every series of Big Brother, missed out and now they're going to trying this one. It had to be, 'Wow, this is the show for me.'

Recently a Reality TV School opened in New York and increasingly ex-Reality personalities are offering coaching for aspiring reality contestants. Thoughts?

Big Brother is probably the show that a Reality Television School would be able to create talent for. But, Reality TV has moved away from the Big Brother thing where you take anybody off the street. People are more interested in people who have a dream to succeed in a particular area, and that's Idol, that's Master Chef, and HomeMADE, competitions about young professionals.

If you wanted to go on So You Think You Can Dance, you're not going to get someone off the street that hasn't studied dance on that show. And the audience isn't coming to the show to see people flounder about who've got no dance experience. They're want to see the cream of the crop and competition at the highest level. I don't know that there's a reality TV school that's going to get you ready for that.

Reality TV is criticised as an oxymoronic television genre. How do you strive to find the 'reality' in the Reality TV that you produce?

We will tell the story as it happened. We won't change it, bend it, we won't take things out of context and create drama where it doesn't exist. But if drama does exist and it does happen and we've filmed it, then we will use it. And I think people respect that.

Sure contestants go, 'Jules are you going to use that bit where I'm crying?' And I say, 'Of course I am!' But that will be balanced against all the happy moments. That's the trust. We're going to show it all.

Are the 'real people' of reality television just skilled media performers playing characters with quirky catch phrases or are producers finding new and ingenious ways to catch them off guard as they really are? Either way, reality TV is here to stay. In fact, rumour has it Big Brother might be back in 2010. Seriously. HS

Porn 2.0

Negotiating the new sexual terrain.

Tracking the history and effects of pornography is a tough task, made tougher by the problems of defining an 'art movement' whose intent has been to put changing cultures' sexual habits on display.

While the Ancient Greeks saw the pornographic as "written descriptions or illustrations of prostitutes or prostitution", other more modern definitions have been based around the appearance of women's forearms (Muslim cultures), hyper violence on semi naked bodies (Tarantino's films) and even the photography of naked children... thankyou Mr Henson.

What pornography is, at its most basic, is the depiction of sexually explicit material without artistic or literary intent. The sole intent is to sexually stimulate. This ontological titillation has its hardcore and softcore variants, professional and amateur modes of production, and a whole swathe of sub genres from Reality Porn to Red Rhapsody (*Google it*).

It may have never won an Oscar or Archibald, but the history of this pseudo-art has been at forefront modern cultural and technological change.

The 1970's saw porn thrust deep into the public realm, with specialised theatres airing feature length films, and viewers participating in communal masturbation sessions

The 1980's and early 90's saw the Adult Industry dictate the relationship between technology and culture, by shifting millions of their films to videotape, therefore relocating porn into the lounge rooms and bedrooms of consumers. According to legend, the tape wars, between VHS and Betamax, were settled by 'Big Porn's' decision to produce their films onto videotape, effectively gagging the superior Betamax.

But it has been on the Internet where pornography has not only found its true home, but also supplied the foundations for its stable erection. The Adult Industry was the innovator behind first generation Internet mainstays, pop-up advertising, fee-based subscriptions and electronic billing, while revolutionising daily site updates, thumbnail picture galleries and embedded video.

Talkin' about the second generation...

What we are witnessing now is the rise of a new era of pornography, enabled by the online move toward more user-generated content such as YouTube and web-based communities, like Facebook and MySpace

Closely reflecting the second generation of the Internet dubbed Web 2.0, Porn 2.0 is all about new modes of production and consumption where users

without the nasty aspects of popups and payment.

YouPorn is a site that best exemplifies and embodies the spirit of Porn 2.0. The spare, neutral interface doesn't burst with aggressive advertising, and the banner - pastel pink bubble writing with little stars in the O's looks more like it belongs in the diary of a 13 year old girl than the homepage of a hardcore XXX site. That's not to say that it's without confronting images and language. You'll be greeted to the homepage with a cheerful depiction of interracial anal penetration and captions such as "My Chubby Wife" and "Gagged, Fingered and Fucked" with images corresponding to all of the above.

It's also the most popular porn website, coming in at number 47 on the list of the world's most visited sites (Alexa rankings). To give you a sense of scale, that's above Google Canada, Google Turkey and Google Poland.

This popularity indicates a shift towards user-generated porn, with new videos, both amateur and professional, being uploaded everyday. But who is actually watching porn, and what do they think about it? We conducted an online survey with responses from 60 Sydney University students.

The results: 19% had never watched online porn, although 10% watched it at least once a day ("it's like eating

why the traditional porn peddlers are starting to get a bit hot under the collar, and not in a good way.

In 2006, Pamela Paul wrote a book called *Pornified*, blaming the cultural acceptance of the porn industry and its ability to be accessed by anyone at any time for such social ills as female lack of self-esteem, men's lack of interest in relationships and children being able to watch hardcore porn while doing their homework.

Hardly new criticism, but it's worthwhile to consider how everyone can now watch, produce or participate in porn, and how this changes sexual politics.

There's a lot in porn that could turn any woman off not just porn, but the act of sex altogether. The constant male perspective and implicit viewing position. The focus on male orgasm. The language used by the actors themselves, with any combination of "do x, bitch/slut/whore" forming the basis of most dialogue. Meanwhile the titles are the usual "milk/granny/underage/racial minority gets banged/fucked/cummed on/ in the bodily/facial orifice".

We could go on, because unfortunately the rise of user-generated content hasn't affected many degrading aspects of mainstream porn. Luckily, as we've seen with the rise of niche porn communities like feminist and queer

"YOU JUST GET TIRED OF WATCHING WOMEN GAGGING ON COCK. THIS IS WHY I LIKE GAY MALE PORN, BECAUSE"

to the brilliantly avant garde Deep Throat, Devil in Miss Jones and Debbie Does Dallas. These graphic films accompanied the magazine boom led by Hustler and Playboy, to create the economic market known as the Adult Industry.

The Adult Industry considered this their "Golden Age", as it was "an era of their birth. Where sexual depictions were unlocked by the sexual liberation movement, the contraceptive pill and the legalising of abortion", according to 1970's porn producer, Jeremy Watson.

can publish erotic fiction and photographs, upload videos, rate what they watch, make comments and discuss issues on forums. It's the move from passive consumers to active participants who are creating and sharing their own pornographic culture online.

As evidenced by the names - YouPorn, PornoTube, RedTube and the ever classy YouJizz, the Internet has conceived Youtubes of sex. Clearly, subtlety and nuance are not the pursuit of these sites, but what they do provide is easy access to a variety of ever-changing videos

food now" said one respondent). 86% preferred the Porn 2.0 style of video streaming as opposed to the traditional download. One reason given for this is issues of computer privacy and viral invasion. "You go in, stream, dream and then click off" said another respondent, "There is no residue left on your computer and its much more dynamic, changing every time."

The third reason for YouPorn's popularity is simple, and ingenious, in the way that only Porn 2.0 can be. It's free. Only 5 respondents had ever paid for porn. You can understand

porn, more inclusive pornography is out there, you just have to look harder to find it.

(And a digression, we know, but is anyone else disproportionately bothered by the rampantly bad spelling and grammar that is evident in the use of the word "cum"? How can you both have cum and do it? Another warning for anyone embarking in the world of porn, any clip advertising a "facial" does not feature exfoliation, citrus peels or cucumbers. At least, not in that way.)



ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING IS HERE TO STAY. BUT WHAT IF WE TOLD YOU IT WAS NOT BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL KEEP STALKING OTHERS ON FACEBOOK, WATCHING CUTE ANIMALS ON YOUTUBE OR OPINING ON BLOGSPOT. **MARK DI STEFANO** AND **ALEX LEE** UNCOVER THE ONLINE ENCLAVES THAT ENABLE OPEN, FRANK AND CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS ON SEX.

WHAT WEIRDOS! WHAT IF WE TOLD YOU USYD STUDENTS ARE LEADING THE WAY...

What we think is perhaps more interesting about Porn 2.0 is the changing methods of production. Amateur porn is very often made not for commercial gain but for sexual exploration and expression.

In our survey, 61% preferred amateur to professional porn, citing realism – “the guys are usually younger and more realistic looking and so better fantasy material”, “no stupid fake orgasms” and because it “makes me think I have a chance.”

But another response that came out was that knowing that it was real couples performing sexual acts “because they want to, rather than being paid” actually sat better with a lot of responders, and alleviated some of the sense of post-orgasm guilt. So is amateur porn more popular because of its potential to be less exploitative? Not necessarily so.

Those who preferred professional porn raised concern that the lack of regulations and safety precautions in amateur productions opened up the possibility for a greater exploitation of young women.

“You only have to see the subgenres of ex-girlfriend or voyeur porn to understand that the issues of privacy and consent are also huge” said one respondent. With every amateur video comes the chance that they are online without both parties’ blessing or even knowledge.

sexy. Porn with two women at least allows me to identify with one or both.”

With this trend comes concerns inherent in gay porn, especially what one respondent identified as the “gay-for-pay phenomenon”, because “it feeds into homophobic and widespread perceptions of homosexuality as not serious or a genuine expression of sexuality”.

However, as Laura Kipnis said, new technologies or genres like Internet porn only thrive when they confirm dispositions inherent in the culture. Porn 2.0 may be an opportunity for alternative cultures to set the agenda and create porn that is sexy without being shameful.

Industrial innovation

The free component of Porn 2.0 has cast a large shadow over the Adult Industry’s annual revenue of US\$14 billion, a figure that exceeds the combined income of Hollywood. DVD sales, which make up 40% of total revenue, are down 15% from three years ago while old man Heffner is looking to sell Playboy and the mansion at a discounted rate.

The question: Is the Adult Industry under threat from the Internet and its proliferation of free content? Sounds eerily familiar to the panicked questions asked of other more traditional media landscapes in recent years:

before DVD release, but creating online subsidiary companies that aim to professionalise the arena of free porn. They are reclaiming the common space by rebranding their porn for the user-generated generation, causing the evolution of the Online Adult Industry.

Like SonyBMG or Universal on youtube, professional porn houses like Naughty America create ‘channels’ on youporn to distribute a free snippet of their larger body of work.

But the most prevalent and successful business model for online porn has been that which uses 60 second preview clips on a user generated interface. Let’s call it... preview porn.

Sites such as Brazzers, Naughty America, Realitykings and Bangbros are key proponents of preview porn and offer thousands of short clips that can be streamed from an embedded video file, “all for free and with no catches”. The clips are a quick compilation of a larger ‘scene’, and are arranged on the website according to category, views, ratings and pornstar. They also allow visitors to post comments, making consumers feel as though they a part of a professional production process.

Ultimately, what we found was an anonymous community of porn users that has emerged against the

THE HONI SOIT PORN SURVEY

62 Respondents

What is your gender?

Male = 42%

Female = 58%

What is your sexuality?

Heterosexual = 85.5%

Homosexual = 9.7%

Other = 4.8%

How often do you watch online porn?

Never = 19.7%

More than once a day = 3.3%

Once a day = 6.6%

2-3 times a week = 16.4%

Once a week = 13.1%

Once a month = 16.4%

Once a year = 6.6%

Other = 18%

Have you ever paid for online porn?

Yes = 8.1%

No = 91.9%

What sites do you regularly visit?

(most popular responses included)

youporn.com, redtube.com,

pornhub.com, literotica.com,

spankwire.com, waybig.com,

hotgaylist.com, eskimotube.com,

donkparty.com

Do you prefer download or streaming?

Download = 13.3%

Streaming = 86.7%

Do you prefer professional or amateur pornography?

Professional = 39.5%

Amateur = 60.5%

N, BECAUSE THE MALE BODY IS FRONT AND CENTRE AS AN OBJECT OF DESIRE”

Interestingly, the response from some women was that heterosexual porn was the least appealing for these reasons, and so they often view lesbian or gay porn. As one female heterosexual responder aptly put it, “You just get tired of watching women gagging on cock. This is why I like gay male porn, because the male body is front and centre as an object of desire”.

For other women it was a matter of identification. “I don’t like straight porn made for men. There’s nothing to identify in it, therefore it’s just not

Is youtube signalling the death of the Cinema and Television Industries? Is Myspace replacing the role of the Music Industry? Did video kill the radiostar?

The answer, while never a definitive no, has always involved a reassessment of commercial conventions, and a shift towards opening new possibilities within the digital economy.

Porn powerhouses Vivid Entertainment Group, Hustler and Extreme Associates, are not only rushing to release movies online

backdrop of a plurality of voices, images and opinions.

By its very nature, porn has always had the potential to appall the uninitiated, represent the unrealistic, mislead the ignorant and exploit the vulnerable, but with this increased access and exposure comes a reinvigoration of education and debate about a huge array of social and political issues far beyond sex and sexuality. HS

DIARY OF...

JOHN HOWARD

Dear Diary,

The economy is fucked and I couldn't be happier. What a blessing it is that I lost the election! Now everyone will think Krudd screwed our economy. Incidentally, why didn't I think to call Rudd Krudd during the election; it would have perfectly decimated the Kevin 07 campaign. Anyway, thankfully, I'm not in office. But where was I? Ah yes the economy. My old friend.

Although the Australian people know that Rudd can't be blamed for our economic situation - that was George's fault (poor George, I miss our romantic walks), I know the Australian people; in the end their economic ignorance and short memories will get the better of them. That was how I served four terms and was able to pass off Hawke and Keating's economic reforms as my own. In other words Australians will eventually conclude Labor stuffed the economy yet again and this will pave the way for my comeback. That is, once I assassinate Maxine McKew. So, thank you George for destroying the world's economy. No wonder America is my - I mean our - closest friend.

The only thing that pleases me more than the economy's petty performance is the pathetic performance of that Republican rodent Malcolm Turnbull. Serves the Liberal party right for picking a 'liberal' leader. What we need is a strong conservative leader who's a little on the short side (nicely avoiding the tall poppy syndrome), wears glasses displaying intelligence, and has nice authoritarian eyebrows as well as being erect for the Queen (Elizabeth not Elton John).

Moving on, I have heard that refugees/asylum seekers/boat people/would-be terrorists have been in the news again. Bloody Krudd. Who the hell cares about the rights of boat people aside from those communists in Amnesty International?! Why can't we decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come?

Speaking of coming, Janette wants me in bed. She has an orgy planned. A black leather event. Looking forward to her licking my eyebrows although I'll be thinking of Thatcher. Apparently Costello is a bit sore that I haven't invited him. But even Peter is too stiff for me. Usually I like tight-arses but Peter's is excessively tight. We'll make do with Tony Abbott- he shines as the unrepentant catholic in our sex games. The game we are playing tonight is weapons of mass destruction where we have to find an exit strategy after premature entry. Should be fun.

Nighty, night.

Aleksandr Wansborough

In other news... with Project 52

Is it just me, or am I completely engulfed in flames?

Man on Fire reports from the flames.

Hey, maybe I'm way off the money here, but I usually have a pretty good sense for these things and I just can't shake this nagging feeling. Maybe it's the smell of smoke, the faint crackling noise or the searing pain shooting all through my body, but it all seems to add up to one thing - I am on fire.

Now I know a lot of you might think that this is a pretty hasty conclusion to jump to and you know, a lot of you may be right - but there's just something about the way that horrified people are throwing blankets at me which piques my curiosity. Sure - I might just be near a fire or heck, maybe just a really good picture of fire - these are all possibilities I could consider before running screaming, limbs akimbo toward the nearest body of water.

Oh, but imagine how silly I'd look if the whole thing was just in my head! I'd be all wet! Gosh though, now that I think of it, I am starting to feel faint and I was awfully covered in petrol just before. Petrol's the flammable one, right? I feel as though there are really too many factors at play here, conversely though I also feel as though I am on fire, hurtling toward death at an increased pace so I really don't know what to believe!

Oh wait, yep I'm definitely on fire - Ok, wish I'd addressed this earlier as I now no longer have the physical or mental faculties to deal with it. Ah well, you live and learn.

The Editors of Honi are a Bunch of Racists

OPINION Some Mexican writes before his siesta.

I write to address the flagrant and insipid racism being published in the pages of Honi Soit [EDs - It is possible the author means 'insidious where 'insipid' has been used, or maybe simply 'hey check me out and my bottle of tequila amigo!'] The standard of character, journalistic integrity or any kind of ethical morality is that one could expect from ACA or Piers Ackerman, not - God forbid - Australia's leading student publication [EDs - In English, the phrase 'Ethical Morality' is a redundancy but never mind learning the language]. As a

[dumb old] Mexican by birth I am as proud of my [silly] heritage as I am of my Australian citizenship and I find it despicable that Honi Soit continues to vilify [stupid Mexicans] merely out of insecurity and ignorance. So Gracias Honi Soit [EDS - no translation available] for not only lowering the quality of student journalism in Australia but also attempting to lower the quality of life for [Stupid Mexicans like me, now if you'll excuse me, I have a Sombrero to dance around. Areeba reeba! (The sound of guns being fired into the air)]

Police unlikely to hire King's Cross Bogan as Detective

Despite her best efforts, Clare Werbeloff, the 'King's Cross Bogan', who erupted to stardom after her eye witness account of a shooting in King's Cross last week went viral around the internet, will not be considered as a candidate for graduation from the latest round of the New South Wales Police Force's Extraordinary and Investigative Designations.



She's not there

Werbeloff, who described being a detective as "the kind of thing I think I'd be pretty good at, for reals" was distraught when contacted earlier this week, and is said to be angry that her "crime solving skillz" are going unnoticed by the constabulary, "I'm not sure what else they expected me to do, I mean, I correctly identified them as wogs, and I could do the gun sound, what else is there?"

Fans of the 19 year-old are said to be shocked and appalled at this latest snub by the NSW police force, who earlier this week, refused to take a legal statement from Werbeloff regarding the violent incident on the grounds that her account was 'fabricated and borderline racist'.

Sources close to the Pittwater resident say while Ms. Werbeloff did not expect to be made a fully commissioned officer, she is apparently furious she was not recognised with a symbolic designation as an investigative detective. "She's absolutely stunned at the sheer rudeness of the NSW Police Force" said Tamantha, a friend.

However law enforcement officials have been quick on the defensive, "I'm not sure why she would expect this in any way" said Senior Assistant Commissioner Sean Cooper. "She didn't take the detective's examinations, nor has she shown any ability in crime solving or basic investigative procedure".

Responding to allegations that Ms Werbeloff was dangerously underqualified for the position and lacked both the cognitive abilities and people skills required to be a detective, President of her Official Facebook, Jeremy Filton group said "Clare's a trooper and she'll obviously be fine, if anything, it's a loss for the NSW Police Force, who could've used her charm and super powers in the everlasting fight against crime".

"Obviously you don't do these things for the awards, but it would've been nice for her to receive some sort of recognition for her work" said her publicist in a prepared statement last night. Any other police forces wishing to hire Clare as a detective (or commissioned officer) can apply through her website.

Over-Zealous Editor Attributes Excessively Long Headline To Article - a Shame Because It Was Really Interesting But We've Got No Space Left Due To The Aforementioned Long Headline

HONI RECOMMENDS: PROJECT 52

27th of May, Week 12
Junior Tennis Academy
Hilarious, fully improvised scenes from all your favourite players.

3rd of June, Week 13
What's Next?
A West Wing trivia night, that's what.

10th of June, STUVAC
Make Way for Ducklings
A brand new sketch show from some of the funniest people at uni.

20th of May, Exams
Hermann's Heroes
The best alternative stand up there ever was, ever.

COMEDY EVERY WEDNESDAY
HERMANN'S AT 8.30PM
\$5 ENTRY IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT

SCIENCE STUNTS

AIM

To reject and repel all door knocking proselytisers.

MATERIALS

Alas, garlic only works on vampires and a cross will only encourage Christians to compare notes with you. Or invite a crowd of 'New Atheists' preaching the good word of their lord Richard Dawkins. No, crosses and garlic won't work. I suspect a stake or even a silver bullet wouldn't dissuade evangelicals. So, one is left with only words and one's own body as a defense mechanism.

METHOD AND RESULTS

Honi tried various methods to rid ourselves of door knocking Christians.

1. Point out that there is absolutely no evidence that God exists.

This proves unsuccessful (it has been tested on Seven Day Adventists and Jehovah Witnesses) because they will perceive an unbeliever as a challenge and boy, do those putrid puritanicals love a challenge.

2. Answer the door naked. Christians will be afraid of flesh and do not want to be infected by temptation.

3. Afraid to disrobe? Claim to be a member of another faith. Not judaism, they'll still want to convert you. Buddhism will suffice, they'll be sickened and contemptuous of your inner peace but a suggested faith is Islam - they'll definitely cross you off their knocking list.

Being truly scientific we at *Honi* used a control. A blank stare as the doorstep preachers preach at you. Alas, looking blankly as they try and convert you won't wear them down. Particularly if one of them is a pastor. After all, their congregation consists of mindless flock.

CONCLUSION

Using pitching long since perfected by used car sales men (who actually sell a better product) religious reptilians will haggle with you, their smug confident gazes hypnotising you into submission if you attempt to strike up a conversation with them. Since you probably don't want to end up a believer, you must get rid of the Christian intruders as fast as possible. Remember, nowadays churches send hunks and babes to seduce you into letting Jesus enter and fill your body. Sus much! Therefore, if you have the guts, method 2 is preferable but, provided you quickly start speaking Arabic, method 3 will prove just as successful. Also, you may consider taking measures to prevent preachers from coming to your door such as equipping your door with a pornographic door knob and playing loud Marilyn Manson music and having sex at every hour of the day... including the godless hours of the morning, just for fun.

Aleksandr Wansborough

Wackivities!

Red Bull Airwing

William Villarica takes *Honi* to the paper aeroplane world championships.

The Red Bull Paper Wings World Finals took place this May in the picturesque town of Salzburg, Austria. The competition was, as could be expected for a paper plane throwing competition, an amazing and unforgettable event. To put things into perspective, 203 pilots from 83 nations took part in the World Finals. Red Bull sponsored the entire event, covering all the contestants' flights, accommodation and food expenses.



Team Australia, anything but plain

So how did I get involved in paper planes anyway? My first exposure to the competitive paper plane scene occurred in late 2008. Haplessly wandering around uni, I was lured in by the promise of a free-pick-me-up courtesy of Red Bull. The catch? I would have to enter a paper plane throwing competition first. With a

little bit of skill and luck, I was fortunate enough to walk away with 1st place in the aerobatics category. For winning, I was given a pair of aviators, a model plane and a 24 pack of Red Bull Energy Drink. A couple of months later I was invited to compete in the Australian Paper Wings Finals, held at Bankstown Airport. The judges here were equally impressed by my paper plane (it flaps as it glides through the air) and I was awarded 1st place. The prize for winning the Australian Paper Wings competition was the all expenses paid trip to Austria to compete against other pilots from around the world.

Exclusively for university students, the competition was divided into three disciplines; largest distance, longest airtime and most aerobatic. The rules were simple: for the largest distance and longest airtime categories, only a single sheet of A4 paper could be used, and the paper itself could only be altered by folding. The rules for the aerobatic category were more flexible, the only rule being the body of the plane itself had to be constructed of either paper or cardboard.

All events were held indoors without

any wind. But don't let the simplicity of the rules fool you, this competition was serious business. The eventual winner of the largest distance category launched his plane just over 54m, further than the Wright brothers were able to travel during their first flight in a motorised aircraft at the beginning of aviation history.



Will flies the flag plane for Australia

While unsuccessful at the world level, I still had a blast just competing in such an amazing event. One thing is for sure, I will be a Red Bull fan for life.

HONI TOP FIVE Fonts

01

> Gotham

Gotham is a product of the democratisation of type, a triumph of functional aesthetic over artistic innovation. It was created in 2000 and modeled on a form of architectural type popular in mid-nineteenth century New York. Originally commissioned for *GQ* magazine by New York type foundry Hoefler & Frere-Jones, Gotham has shot to stardom in recent years, appearing as the principal font in Obama's campaign collateral, the pages of *Vogue* and, most notably, the masthead of *Honi*.

02

> Didot

Firim Didot was a bit of a hero. His brother, Pierre, was too. That's because the two Frenchmen created one of the most beautiful neoclassical typefaces ever developed. Inspired by the work of Giambattista Bodoni and John Baskerville, Didot came about amidst the Age of Enlightenment. The ingenious use of contrasting stroke weights are as instantly recognizable on the cover of *Vanity Fair* as they are inside Voltaire's *La Henriade* (1818). Stunning.

03

> Helvetica

Much has been said of Helvetica – arguably the most iconic typeface of the 20th century – and little of it is negative. That's because it's hard to argue 3M, American Airlines, American Apparel, AT&T, BMW, Jeep, Lufthansa, the New York Subway, Microsoft, the Space Shuttle program and Orange were all in the wrong for choosing it as their corporate masthead. Most people don't notice the font, just the message contained within. And that's why it so fucking beautiful.

04

> Clarendon

Clarendon is one of the most instantly recognizable fonts in the slab-serif family, originating in nineteenth century England. Hermann Eidenbenz and Edouard Hoffmann of the Hass foundry (the joint that created Helvetica) revitalized the type in 1953, almost a century after it first appeared. It has an authoritative English personality, yet appears in both corporate and playful settings. You'll catch it in retro-feel books, nightclub posters, and the identities of companies from Starbucks to *Honi's* favorite pizza haunt, Eagle Boys.

05

> Futura

Although Paul Renner, Futura's creator, was not associated with the Bauhaus movement, his iconic typeface (1927) is widely considered to adopt most of the elements of the Bauhaus style. Renner believed that a modern typeface should express modern models, rather than revive archaic designs. Volkswagen and Boeing can't get enough of it, and the type is enduring something of resurgence in contemporary graphic design. It is historically significant as one of the first widely adopted sans-serif fonts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report of the SRC President, Noah White//president@src.usyd.edu.au



On Campus

Two things that seem to annoy a lot of people on campus. One; library opening times. Two; internet quotas. There are no 24 hour study spaces on campus apart from the Carlaw Access labs which you have to pay to have after hours access to. Particularly during Stuvac and exam weeks this can create big problems if you live far away or if you don't have internet access at home. Hence it would be great if the major libraries on campus could be open for 24 hours during these peak periods.

There are problems associated with libraries that are open 24 hours. There are huge staffing costs and if there aren't very many people there it may not be the safest place at 3am. However, I have been speaking to the Libraries administration about the possibility of extending library opening hours and giving students 24 hour access during peak usage periods. It looks promising and I will keep you all updated about how its going.

Undergraduate students get an internet quota of 6 megabytes a day (downloading a few journal articles could easily exceed this) which is allowed to roll over but only up to 42 megabytes. This is extremely low when compared to other universities and also doesn't allow for times when students might be using the internet on campus more than other times. You are able to top up your quota but this will cost you. In fact, every year the University receives \$1.2 million in revenue from students topping up their quotas. This is \$40

per undergraduate student.

The University needs to realise this is slightly ridiculous and should bring itself inline with almost every other university where exceeding internet quotas is almost unheard of. I have also been talking to the university about some action in this area.

If either of these things annoys you, you can email the vice-chancellor and tell him what you think. Just go to <http://www.usyd.edu.au/vice-chancellor/students/contact.php>.

In Canberra

Amongst a raft of reforms to the Youth Allowance (YA) scheme the federal Government announced that it would be scrapping the "workforce participation", independence test (as of next year) whereby a student can qualify as independent for Youth Allowance by earning over \$18 850 in an 18 month period after leaving school. For YA recipients under 25 this is by far the most common method with which they become eligible.

The Howard government brought in the test after they increased the "age of independence" to 25 and at the same time they introduced "work for the dole" and other welfare reforms. The rationale behind it was that YA recipients should be "working for it". The obvious problem with this attitude is that in fact means that it takes longer to complete a degree and therefore longer to get out into the workforce and contribute back to society.

The Rudd government hasn't abolished the test without reason; they are doing so partly because they are decreasing the age of independence back to 22 (over 3 years). On one hand this is the right direction to move to, towards a system where welfare is universally accessible by all those who need it. On the other hand, scrapping the "workforce participation" test before other eligibility requirements are relaxed far enough will mean that a significant number of people will miss out.

Are you a part time student, hoping to go back to full-time study next year as receive youth allowance while doing so? Or maybe are you going overseas for a while at the end of this year, and will therefore have to reapply for YA when you get back? Well if you're not 24 then it doesn't look like you'll be getting anything. In fact there is a whole cohort of year 12 students that finished last year, a significant number of which have taken a year out before studying in order to rack up the \$18 850 to qualify for YA next year. Most will miss out.

The SRC, in conjunction with the National Union of Students have started a campaign to a) make sure that anyone who has made arrangements based on the fact that this "workforce participation" test existed isn't screwed over by it suddenly disappearing, and b) getting the Government to delay scrapping the test until the "age of independence" comes down further (preferably to 18).

NOAH'S KITCHEN

Nanna Jim's Jam Drops

My housemate Jim makes these cookies, I stole the recipe off him, so actually its "Jim's kitchen" this week. This will make about 20 of Nanna Jim's Jam Drops.

You will need:

- + 1 cup caster sugar
- + 125gms butter
- + 1 egg
- + a dash of vanilla essence (not essential)
- + 1 1/2 cups plain flour
- + 1 1/2 cups self raising flour mix
- + some jam

Cream the sugar and the butter. You do this by mixing them together and then beating the mixture until it is light coloured and fluffy – preferably with an electric beater otherwise I guarantee you will have sore arms the next day.

Add the egg and vanilla essence and mix thoroughly. Add the flour and knead into dough. This works best if you add 80% of the flour and then add slowly after that to make sure the dough isn't too dry.

Pat out the dough into round, flat shapes about 1cm thick on a baking tray and poke a small hole in the middle with your finger (not all the way through!). Put a drop of jam in this hole. Bake at 180 degrees for about 10 minutes (or until they start to go golden).



Nanna Jim

EDUCATION REPORT

Report of the Education Officers, Elly Howse and Rosie Ryan//education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Eurgh. It's nearly 1am on a Saturday night, I am completely sober (having been DD at a 21st) and here I am, writing an Honi Soit report. Sigh. Life can be difficult sometimes! Next up is the council report...double eurgh.

I can see you staring there from across the block

With a smile on your mouth and your hand on your (huh!)

I realised tonight that probably no one is going to read this report anyway so I'm going to crap on about the shit affecting students. I was thinking maybe I'd do a Lucy Saunders in 2007 and offer free limes to whoever comes down to the SRC offices. Someone would yell out to me down the corridor, 'Hey Elly! I read your report every week and it's so awesome.' Hmmm maybe not. Limes are pretty expensive at the moment and I think

my imagination is running away with me.

Let's have some fun, this beat is sick

I wanna take a ride on your disco stick.

Besides being the song which is completely stuck in my head, I think Lady GaGa and her song can sum up quite nicely the feeling in the air after the 2009 Budget. Surprisingly a fair bit was in there for students, but you've probably had this drummed into you by Noah and Russell in last week's reports. The current beat of the Krudd government is pretty 'sick' at the moment and it seems everyone is happy. Except for Lady GaGa (who represents the student body). We haven't yet had our ride on Krudd's disco stick. I don't know if it's run out of batteries or what, but I'm still waiting. The government wants to

get rid of the whole "earn \$18,000 in 18 months since leaving school and you're independent" eligibility for Youth Allowance, but the age of independence is still a pretty high 22. Hopefully all of you want to be finished your undergrad degree by the time you're 22 so sucked in – Krudd ain't go no disco stick for you!

Guess he wants to play, wants to play

A love game, a love game.

Mr Rudd certainly does want to play. Him and the rest of the government are using this Budget to somehow prove that 'Hey guys! We know you're doing it tough as students but really, we're not as bad as the Howard government.' Mmmm yeah. Still yet to prove that to me, Krudd. The government is playing games with us and it's about time we starting play-

ing. Eh? Let's get it on, people!

Do you want love?

Or you want fame?

Are you in the game?

Dance the love game.

If you want to 'dance the love game', if you want me to quote more Lady GaGa lines, and if you want to talk about students taking over the government armed with nothing but knowledge, attitude and amazing dance moves, come to the Education Collective every 1pm at the Chancellor's Lawns.

Don't think too much just bust that kick

I wanna take a ride on your disco stick.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Report of the General Secretary, Russel Schmidt//gen.sec@src.usyd.edu.au

Quality vs. Quantity

I don't want to dwell on the Federal Government's budget, but it has been a slow week so I will. Last week I wrote about the changes to Youth Allowance; the reason it is significant in the context of education is because the biggest barrier to participation in tertiary education is not HECS or anything else; it is income support. Students entering university will by and large be at a point in their life when they want to/have to become independent of their parents. If you choose to study then you are foregoing the wages that your friends are making; the economics student out there knows this as opportunity cost!

Whilst the dust hasn't settled in the debate around Youth Allowance (and probably never will) the government is always faced with the question of quality vs. quantity. Given there is (arguably) a limited amount of money for education does the government want more students or better students? (Or

false dichotomy for the time-rich arts students?)

So outside of Youth Allowance what did the government do for education?

Teaching/Learning/Research

The Government announced many billions of dollars of funding. I'm not a huge bureaucracy so I can't tell you how much because everyone uses different numbers, but suffice to say it is 'between \$5 billion and \$6 billion'; not exactly spare change. Perhaps most significant is the \$578 million to index teaching and learning funding to inflation. The drastic under-funding of education by the previous government was largely due to the fact that funding was not indexed, universities got a number, call it \$X billion each year, but as prices went up \$X billion buys you less and less lecturers. The government has however only partially indexed funding, you get more lecturer than you otherwise would, but not as

much as you need. There is \$491 million for an extra 50,000 student places at university; for perspective USyd has 46,000 students, 30,000 of which are undergrad. On top of this increase universities can access another \$325 million if they increase the number of low-SES students studying.

There is a \$202 million 'structural adjustment fund' to help universities prepare for the influx in students as well as extra funding for the 'Education Endowment Fund' set up last year and a massive \$2.6 billion for new university infrastructure. Continuing on from the focus on science in last year's budget there is a 25% increase in science and innovation funding, the largest increase ever.

The Caveat

The thing that no-one is saying that has to be said is that the funding is ridiculously back-ended. Much of the money that was 'announced' is slated to spent

in later years, this is normal, but with a looming election against an opposition that neglected education when in power and with an 'uber-deficit' putting pressure on government spending, there is nothing to guarantee any of us will ever see any of this funding. There is also some criticism that the Government's goals and the amount of money they have set aside to meet them are not actually close to resembling each other.

Conclusion?

I agree with Ian Chubb, VC at ANU and chairman of the Go8, and it isn't cause he has a name that makes me giggle a little bit. Whilst the government can always do more, the result isn't too bad, especially against the low expectations of the preceding year and the doom and gloom of the last decade. The only way we got what we did was because we put our case forcefully and it is the only way we will continue to win. Kudos to you.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Report of the Women's Officer, Tamsin Dingley//womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

I was disgusted by Jessica Cowell's article on abortion. I was horrified that by being posted in Honi Soit her biased opinions would be associated with the SRC. The only true thing she said was that abortion is a "complex and emotional issue". It is interesting that in telephone-counseling the law says you must state you are pro-life, but in the written media there is apparently no such law. For the record I am pro-choice. These are the "sides" that Jessica's thinks are apparently doing nothing for women's welfare. I would disagree. I think standing outside abortion clinics heckling women in a vulnerable state is probably detrimental to their welfare, on the other hand I think raising money

for women's refuges (what women's collective is currently doing) is beneficial to women's welfare.

The utopia of which Jessica speaks is magnificent. A place where "women have a real choice", women's refuges are funded (or indeed unnecessary), men always take responsibility for their offspring and women are treated as the caring, loving, devoted, goddesses they are. This is not our world however. We live in an evil place where women are held hostage in their homes and abused by their partners, young girls are raped by family members, university students are drugged and raped in colleges, people make mistakes, accidents happen, men don't always take

responsibility for their children and women's refuges are not funded. Indeed half of women who present at refuges are turned away.

The reality is that when women have an abortion it is never a lighthearted decision. It's not something that is done flippantly and it is not necessary or appropriate for anyone (including politicians and religious groups) to tell us what a dire situation we are in and what they think we should do. Nor is it appropriate, especially in a university publication, to write complete rubbish preceded by "studies have shown" to scare women. It is interesting that Jessica alludes to a society where women have

"choice", because even women who are not "morally opposed" (absurd!) still don't have a choice. Abortion is not a choice between the fetus and the mother; it is a woman being given the same control over her body as the rest of the world is given! Furthermore, abortion is only the "safe and simple solution" of which Jessica speaks when it is legal, attainable and covered by medicare. When this is the case and women's refuges are fully funded then Jessica can start preaching about morality, but until this time the rights of women to fair and adequate healthcare must be placed above the wishes of religious groups.

ASK ABE

SRC HELP: Level 1 (Basement) Wentworth Building, City Road Entry 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

Abe,

I'm currently get Youth Allowance. It's not much, so I work part time as well. At first I forgot to tell Centrelink how much I was earning. Now I remember it seems to late. Is there much chance that they will find out? Will I get into much trouble? Will I have to pay them any money back?

Working and Studying

Dear Working and Studying,

This is a really serious issue and concerns many students. If you do not report your correct income to Centrelink or in any other way defraud them, they will prosecute you and YOU RISK GOING TO PRISON. That's right, an actual custodial sentence. That would be quite a negative experience for most people I imagine. If you are earning money "under the table" then you are unlikely to get caught UNLESS someone reports you. That is, one customer, boss or fellow worker that you happen to annoy one day. That really isn't that unlikely. If you are earning money legally then you are DEFINITELY going to get caught. It's just a matter of when. You will be made to pay back all of the money that you were overpaid, then you

will be fined (from 10%) for the delay in payment, then you will be charged.

If you are charged, remember that this is a very serious offence. Do NOT make a statement, in writing or in person, to Centrelink. Instead make an appointment to talk the SRC solicitor.

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.

The SUPRA

SAAO Corner

Dear SAAO,
I'm having trouble balancing my work and study commitments. I work evenings in a restaurant so there are no timetable clashes, but I have early classes which means I am really tired and sometimes sleep in and miss class. What can I do? Can I apply for Special Consideration because of my work commitments?
Regards,
Working Hard

Dear Working Hard,

This is problem faced by a majority of students, especially at postgraduate level where there are fewer opportunities for income support or other means to support yourself while studying.

The University does not recognise work commitments as legitimate for applying for special consideration unless you give at least four weeks notice. BUT seeing as you are constantly tired and may not be getting enough sleep, there may be a medical reason (related to your work and study schedule) for you to need extra time to complete your assignments or study for an exam. You should consult with your doctor, and come see a SAAO afterwards to discuss your options.

You should also remember that the University expects students to place their studies as their number one priority. Don't worry, we know how ridiculous this can seem in light of the fact that for many students, if they don't work then they can't study and would need to drop out of uni. So you should be thinking about what changes you can make in your work or study schedule to allow you to continue with both. This may mean going part-time in your studies, or reducing your work hours, or even finding different work that won't impact so much on your ability to study.

I recommend you come see a SAAO and discuss this further.

Striking philosophers

When they were PhD students, Liz Jacka and Jean Curthoys would have been astonished to hear the language now bandied around the Professorial Board room. "Student-centred", now a catch phrase for any ambitious academic, had never entered the minds of most on the Professorial Board in 1973 when they voted 39 to 7 against the Jacka and Curthoys-proposed unit of study, "Philosophical Aspects of Feminist Thought".

The Feminist course had been approved by the Philosophy department, and just scraped approval through the Faculty of Arts by a vote barely over 50%. That is officially where it should have ended.

But professors still controlled the money. David Armstrong, Professor of Philosophy and a vocal opponent to the course, called his friend, Deputy Vice Chancellor O'Neill, who was soon to receive the paperwork to fund the approved course. The Deputy Vice Chancellor said there was no money to cover Jacka and Curthoys salaries, so the course could not run.

Angry members of the Philosophy department – both staff and students – appeared, to the Deputy Vice Chancellor's horror, "unannounced" to make their case. O'Neill referred the matter to the Professorial Board.

Professors were different then. Mostly, one professor ruled each department absolutely. Their job, as a matter of tradition, was to protect and uphold academic standards for the good of civil society. They were the masters, controllers and protectors of knowledge.

Students – and many junior staff, it should be said – started to call them "god-professors". "Professor O'Neill has made it clear that he believes the best decisions can only be made by those with the highest rank" said Jacka and Curthoys in an open letter to the Professorial Board.

Jacka and Curthoys were among those who believed that it was time the control of knowledge shifted away from professors. They thought that this would allow new knowledge to be explored. Knowledge like feminism.

When "Philosophical Aspects of Feminist Thought" Jacka and Curthoys' open letter declared that professors were no longer the legitimate owners of knowledge: "The kinds of things that bodies like yours usually consider

don't apply in this case. This of course is not to argue that whether or not we are competent is unimportant or undecidable, but rather that you aren't the proper people to decide it."

They declared a revolution in the control of knowledge: "We feel, then, that those who are in a position to judge our competence have already done so. This week we will be asking these people to demand of Professor O'Neill that we are immediately appointed."

Hardly likely to be sympathetic to this position, the Professorial Board voted against the course.

This led to the Philosophy Strike, where many students and staff, with support from the BLF, went on strike in support of feminism and participatory democracy. A "Women's Tent Embassy" was erected in the Quad. The strike was highly disruptive and gave the university a lot of bad press.

A University Senate inquiry eventually recommended that the course should go ahead. Which it did.

The Professorial Board room in the Quad, unlike the Academic Board that replaced it, has still kept the old name, evoking the elite group who once ruled it. But in it, as elsewhere, feminism is now considered to be a valid area of intellectual inquiry.

Hannah Forsyth is a PhD student in the History department, researching The Ownership of Knowledge in Higher Education in Australia. Email hfor6587@usyd.edu.au



Image Credit: John Burnheim papers, with thanks to Alison Bashford.

Postgrad Pages

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

TO BE HELD AT 5.30PM ON THURSDAY 28 MAY 2009

AT THE SUPRA OFFICES
(Cnr of Abercrombie St And Raglan St, Darlington Campus)

AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement Of Country
2. Confirmation Of Chair, Introductions And Apologies
3. Minutes Of The Annual General Meeting, 2008
4. Annual Report And Accounts
5. 2009-10 Election Report
6. Amendments To The Constitution
7. Other Business
8. Close Of Meeting

For more information contact Rashmi Kumar (president@supra.usyd.edu.au or 9351 3715)

After the AGM join us for

End of Semester POSTGRAD PARTY
Food and Drinks Provided
The Royal Hotel,
Cnr Abercrombie and Codrington St

Needs Assessment of International Students in the City of Sydney

SUPRA has received a copy of the above report via inter-campus networks. A needs assessment study was funded and conducted by the local government City of Sydney Council between January and August 2008. In-depth interviews were conducted with 14 international students and 9 service providers from both government and the private sector.

The findings of the research revealed the below list of the major issues identified by both service providers and international students as being of concern for international students:

- accommodation
- public transport
- safety
- social isolation
- financial hardship
- lack of support services

Comment: this is a welcome addition to available research into the needs of international students. The fact that it was funded by a local council is indicative of the extent to which insufficient funding within universities and private education providers for appropriate student support services has impacted on the community outside the grounds of the education provider.

Student organisations for many years have been arguing that better support services and more funding to existing student support services are needed so to genuinely meet the needs of international students once they arrive in Australia.

This report from the City of Sydney Council confirms what students and student organisations have been saying for many, many years – stop turning a blind eye to what is really happening to international students once they arrive in Australia and do something genuine about understanding their multiplicity of needs. And, this needs to be done both inside and outside the grounds of the education provider.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the said report please email admin@supra.usyd.edu.au and a copy can be forwarded to you.

SUPRA is re-invigorating the campaign for international travel concessions. To get involved in the Cross Campus Concessions Coalition contact Rashmi Kumar, SUPRA President via president@supra.usyd.edu.au

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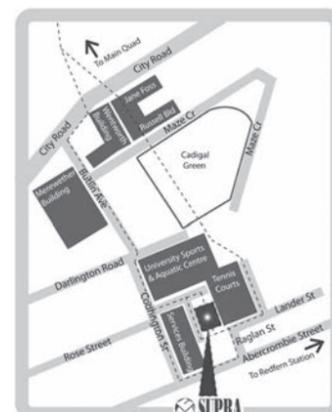
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What's coming up at SUPRA (see www.supra.usyd.edu.au for more information)

Thurs 28 May, 5pm

SUPRA Annual General Meeting and End of Semester Party @ SUPRA



FILM

Star Trek

I've always thought of Star Trek as a bit of relic. A product of a different time; starting when computers used cardboard and ending as people discovered that living vicariously could go beyond a moderately difficult hand gesture and a Klingon phrasebook. The previous few Star Trek outings have not so much boldly gone where no man has gone before, as blundered tackily over the same old ground like a drunk Shatner singing 'Rocket Man'.

J.J. Abrams has changed all that. His Star Trek, the 11th iteration of the series but essential a prequel to them all, not only revives the franchise, it injects some much-needed red matter into the spluttering core of sci-fi movies. From an awe-inspiring opening to immensely satisfying end (set to the dulcet tones of Leonard Nimoy) the film takes the genre beyond warp-speed into a new dimension of futuristic spectacle. The bottom line is everything just works.

For starters, the plot maintains a near-perfect balance between Trekkie-pandering and crowd-pleasing. All the classic Star Trek elements are there: the unshakeably logical Vulcans, a suitably vengeful and (megalomaniac) Romulan (played by an unrecognisably green but unmistakably gruff Eric Bana), and of course, the skivvies. These are combined with a character arc (the life of a certain James T. Kirk, from childhood to Star Fleet and beyond) stronger than the Fleet symbol itself and the requisite sci-fisics of time travel and singularities. A typical recipe, perhaps, but pulled off here with such dynamism and conviction that is almost impossible not to be propelled by the sheer kinetic energy of everything.

The casting is spot on too. Chris Pine invests Kirk with an infinitely likeable swagger that shares a similar orbit to memories of Shatner's expansive bravado but is never eclipsed by them. Zachary Quinto adds a latent intensity to Spock and delivers his litanies of logic with Nimoyian class. The youth of this pair and of the other cast members on the Enterprise means that the bridge scenes sometimes resemble high school debates (not helped by the presence of an outrageous Russian accent) but the chemistry of the Kirk-Spock duo and some inspired banter give dramatic fizz.

The acting is strong, but what a stage to play it out on. Abrams's realisation of space is just that, it all feels so real yet so magnificent. It's what I imagine Virgin Galactic will feel like, except Branson can't conjure up cosmic battles, space-diving or the millions you spent on the flight. This Star Trek is no relic. It's a glittering blueprint for the future. What's that about beams and a Scotsman?

4.5/5

Joe Smith-Davies

SYMPHONY

Carmina Burana

The most famous work to be composed in Nazi Germany, Carl Orff's 1936 *Carmina Burana* has (thanks in part to the fame of its opening and closing movement, "O Fortuna") become a mainstay of contemporary classical music performance. This week, it is the combined forces of the Sydney University Symphony Orchestra (SUSO) and the Sydney University Musical Society (SUMS) who scale this vertiginous work, with a little help from their friends along the way.

The subtitle of the work is "cantiones profanae", profane songs, and it is in precisely this balance of the sacred, magisterial themes of some sections with the vulgarity and coarseness of others that the piece succeeds as such entertainment. One of the best aspects of this student-performed version of the piece is the energy and rollicking sense of fun which the combined choirs and orchestra display. Conductor George Ellis appears to be having as much fun as anyone in the audience, and he brings this to bear in the open, jubilant style of Sunday's performance.

While both groups do admirably to achieve the balance required, it is in the larger orchestral numbers – such as movements "Ecce Gratum" and "Circa Mea Pectora" in particular – where the numbers mean the choir suffers in comparison. The speed, which succeeds in heightening the excitement, is sometimes beyond both choir and orchestra and the piece occasionally came unstuck: there were a few moments during the performance where both groups could have done with committing to the chosen speed.

In the smaller, quieter movements, this version of the piece fares better. Each of the soloists brings sensitivity to their parts (although the higher parts of the male solos prove difficult), which compares neatly with the brash vocal style of other movements. It is no mean feat to capture the drama and drive behind this sixty-minute piece, and for the sheer entertainment value that it brings, this performance is a great showcase of student music on campus.

This performance of Carmina Burana will be repeated on Thursday in the Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

3/5

Christopher Hay

A CAPELLA

Barefoot Musica Antigua & Eleven

There are two situations in which I will sing without music: (a) in the shower, and (b) when my car stereo is broken. Neither of those involve an audience and that's a very good thing because anyone who has heard me sing *We Didn't Start The Fire* knows that it sounds much better when my voice is almost entirely drowned out by Billy Joel's.

So when I was invited to "an a capella journey" in the Women's College Common Room, featuring two newly formed choirs and a friend's Scrabble Champion housemate, I was a little apprehensive as to what I was getting myself into.

I needn't have worried - these guys have some serious game. The show opened with the eleven barbershop performing some original arrangements of songs by Sam Sparro, The Turtles and Simon & Garfunkel. As Chris May, eleven's director, explains, "No musician has really made it until they've been covered by a barbershop quartet".

Following the barbershop were Barefoot Musica Antigua, an a capella group in the more traditional style who won hearts with soaring numbers that date as far back as the fourteenth century. Here the Women's College Common Room came into its own - the acoustics bringing to life the scriptural excerpts and the traditional chants such as Kyrie Eleison.

The night finished up with the full eleven ensemble continuing the eclectic mix of musical influences, from Shakespeare to The Teddy Bears' Picnic. The final number, a Chris May original arrangement, was my highlight of the night. The name says it all - 80s Medley.

Do yourself a favour - next time you get a chance to see eleven or Barefoot Musica Antigua, grab it with both hands. These review pages are often full of the latest musical trends, and going to those sorts of gigs are a lot of fun. But none will put a smile on your face like these guys.

4.5/5

Patrick Wall



The demise of the Aussie musical

George Downing is hoping for a comeback.

What place does the musical have in modern Australia? In a nation built on mateship and sport, not art and theatre, it has always been a challenge to convince the average Aussie punter to get excited about a musical. Or any type of theatre, for that matter.

There are currently only seven professional shows playing anywhere in Australia. Disney's *High School Musical* closed after a few weeks, rather than the hoped-for 14 months. A Broadway production may run for decades, but sustain a (mostly) full house in Sydney for 11 months, and you've got a monster hit. It's chalk and cheese, but the point is that for a seemingly cosmopolitan, arts-loving 21st-century city, Sydneysiders (and Australians generally) have little tolerance for musical theatre.

In productions that at least break even, a pattern emerges. *Priscilla*, *Chicago*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Wicked*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Billy Elliot* are household names by world renown, or via popular film adaptations, and all of which have started Australian celebrities: Bert Newton, Caroline O'Connor, Gina Riley, Tony Sheldon. All are big budget spectacles with costumes and sets to rival an Olympic opening ceremony. By and large, they succeeded.

On the other hand, *Little Women*, *Shane Warne the Musical* and *Pippin* were without 'celebrity' leads, all with small budgets, and from day one, a gamble. They crashed. Have Australian audiences reached a point of no return, where only the mega-musical will be profitable? It may be cultural cringe. Or maybe our obsession with the Hollywood blockbuster has brought us to expect the same from theatre. *Priscilla*, a musical that delivered that element of extravagance, also cost \$6.5 million to open, with similar or higher figures being attached to the other shows mentioned above.

That's not to say that big-budget pop musicals are a bad thing. On the contrary – most established musicals are entertaining spectacles featuring brilliant scores and highly talented performers. Yet the industry can't rely on the Australian psyche to support the genre. Rather than a night of subtly and refinement – which so many lesser know musicals can offer – Australian audiences want flashy costumes, songs they can sing along to, and reality TV celebrities.

With such a dire status quo, what's left for the fate of the more high culture theatre genres, ballet and opera? Let's hope the unbridled escapism that live musicals offer will endure the stifling attitude of the contemporary Australian audience.

THE POSTCARD

Exams at Cambridge

Jamie Miller puts off study and writes to *Honi*.

Cambridge University is in lock-down mode. For many, exams start this week. The college libraries feature levels of cramming unseen since my days doing the HSC at Sydney Grammar; some students have shipped in their food, contact lenses, doona and pillow to ensure maximum study time.



It's no "Transient Building"

Cambridge is, if nothing else, a rarified atmosphere. The university, such as it is, consists of what is essentially a federation of colleges, each adhering to a similar structure. At the top is the Master. This is a largely ceremonial role, with perks including immense stand alone houses on the college grounds and a title carrying pretensions of omnipotence. Then come the fellows, a mix of post-doctorate academics and seasoned professors, most of whom have a teaching load while drinking a small African nation's GDP worth of port at high table. Next are the predominantly international graduate students, many of whom adhere to the principle of being neither seen nor heard around the college grounds and are less-than-affectionately known as the "sad grads". Finally, there are the cherished undergraduates, who provide the bulk of the social, sporting and syphilitic life of the college.

But what makes Cambridge is its intellectual atmosphere. Most students, while more than willing to be out on the 'lash' at 'bops', engaging in 'banter' about some pasty swamp dweller they just 'pulled', are just as comfortable engaging in sophisticated discussion. Not everyone judges their analytical

worth by their ability to parrot back the latest leader in the *Economist*. There is an unspoken assumption that the vomiting mess you see in the corner of the bar is, perhaps not at that exact moment, a gifted expert in his or her field.

And Cambridge caters to that. Trinity term featured visits to Cambridge by genocide survivor Paul Kagame, genocide specialist Gerard Prunier, and possible *genocidaire* Hu Jintao. One week in Lent term saw both a speech by Michael Parkinson at the Union and a rowdy party at which a girl wore around her neck a small but very much alive python. One student spent a good month making nocturnal visits to St. Catherine's College, leaving small deposits to be discovered by the Porters the next morning.



Thank God I put on page numbers

So for every restless night spent agonising over your dissertation's footnotes or the intricacies of Enron Accounting 101, there is always hope that the aptly named post-exams all-day-binge known as Suicide Sunday will cure what ails ya.

GASTRONOMIST



Slow Cooking

Will Atkinson wrote this article tenderly and slowly.

Like a slug excreting a glistening trail wherever it goes, the average student leaves in their wake piles of takeaway containers, empty paper coffee cups and assorted grease-rent detritus. Who's to blame us? Suffering from a marked absence of time, gnawing hunger pains and a empty wallet, the reflex towards fast food – cheap, relatively tasty and most importantly, easy to clean up – is always an attractive option. In the hierarchy of needs, the issue of efficiency versus nutritional value doesn't warrant much consideration. It's *there*.

I've come to relish a home cooked meal over the course of an Arts degree, enjoying the process of making it almost as much as its reflective consumption on the couch whilst watching the 7.30 Report. Like most things in life, it's a transient pleasure, more often than not sidelined for something reheated or bought in the interests of time. Eating shouldn't merely be a process of refuelling, it should be enjoyed, but the way we live – and whatever it is that I do with my time – means that it just isn't the case.

Since we pulled out the slow cooker from the back of the pantry for winter stews, however, the realisation has

dawned that a solution to this problem exists. It's just contingent on whether you can wake up a few minutes earlier than usual to chuck all the ingredients – and there's no hard and fast rules on what you can put in it, it's a chance to get creative – into the pot and click it on. Feel like you haven't the time when you return home at the end of the day to knock something up? Well, you've got a pot of stew waiting. Cover that shit with grated cheese, grab a bread roll and you're laughing. Fire and forget: everything's done for you, and as a bonus, there's little cleaning to be done at the meal's end.

The beauty of slow cooking is that it can turn cheap ingredients into something that wiser men than me have described in ages past as 'transcendental'. In fact, cheaper cuts of meat are actually recommended, as the tougher cuts have the greatest scope to be transformed into tender, falling-apart chunks. If you're a vegetarian – poor sods, otherwise – then I recommend mushrooms as a substitute. With such wild weather over the past few weeks, coupled with upcoming exams, now is the best time to fire up the slow-cooker and get creative.

Vive la stew.

Fashion

Model Idiots? Anusha Rutnam

Just over two weeks ago the Metropolitan Museum in New York held its annual Gala Benefit, the theme for which was provided by an accompanying exhibition: 'The Model as Muse'. As party themes go 'model' is a bit of a kick in the pants to anyone who, well, isn't one. But never mind the fugly masses; pulchritudinous lovelies came out in force, wearing gowns so extravagant and luscious, it would have been rude to mention the word 'recession' in front of them. In all, the night was indicative of an increased respect for the modeling profession and an interest in how models can act as a mediator between the fantasy of the fashion designer's sketch and the reality of a bought and worn garment.

Charles Worth, often credited as the original true fashion designer, was also among the first to have used live models to display his garments in the 19th century. Movement and shape came to be recognised as essential to the display of fashion. Over a century later, Gianni Versace took things a step further by crediting his models and giving them first billing e.g. Naomi Campbell for Versace.

Clearly, models are more than mere clothes horses. Without the presence of Kate Moss (current supreme overlord of all that is fashion) in Calvin Klein's 1992 jeans campaign, it is difficult to imagine Klein minimalist

aesthetic would have been so effectively captured – even if Moss' co-star, Mark Wahlberg would later note that 'she kinda looked like my nephew'.

And if reality television has taught us anything (clue: it has) it's that modeling shit ain't that easy. Spare a thought for Erin O'Connor who was asked at one Paris Fashion Week to wear a dress that included a 13-inch metal waistband. The next day O'Connor found her body covered in burst capillaries caused by the contraption.

Reflecting the spirit of the times, Italian Vogue responded to critics – who noted a distinct lack of black women in the publication – with a mid-2008 issue that only featured black models. Contrary to the fears that 'black girls don't sell', the issue was the first in the magazine's history to go into reprint.

Models are often the target of attacks because they rest on their (genetic) laurels. Suck it up guys, some people are born with brains, others with a face that fits the golden ratio. Don't hate them 'cos they're beautiful – just shut up and stare.

STUNNER

MODEL IDIOTS

SOMEWHERE IN TIME WE'LL MEET AGAIN, ARTS III

If you can't win, change the rules.

SUPER 14 RUGBY Cat Montray figured out the motive behind the not-so-Super 14.

Rugby is a simple game, or at least it was until SANZAR got its claws into it. There was a time when rugby was played during winter. Known as the Super 12, there were five good teams from New Zealand, two good teams from South Africa and two average teams from Australia could field a passable rugby side with left-overs enough for two more teams. The rules were simple enough. If you had the ball you kicked it, and if you got the ball you kicked it back. It was easy to understand, easy to play, and very difficult to watch. Just the way rugby should be. This evolved into the Super 14 (soon to be 15) competition, very similar to the above mentioned game but with a couple more crappy Australian teams.

This evolution brought with it the ELV's, the ABC's and the Doh Ray Me's, it should be easy as 123. The theory; instead of giving so many full-arm penalties and the game consisting entirely of 3 pointers, we change to short-arm free kicks, to induce a new spirit of free flowing, running, exciting rugby football. The reality; the rugby pitch is marked like a Dalmatian with various brown spots on an otherwise green field, where repeated scrums have occurred due to the numerous dropped balls, caused by the almost anxious desire by the players to look like they are playing spirited, free flowing, running, exciting rugby.

The powers that be thought that

this would make the game far more marketable to the potential cash cows knows as supporters and to fight off the almost Mongol-like hordes of the ever expanding AFL, the sleeping (well, comatose) giant of Soccer and the R 18 Rugby League.

So now we find ourselves on the brink of a new era in sport, the birth of a new rugby competition, to go hand in hand with the new rules, new style of play and the new viewers (maybe). But what has really changed? The Kiwis still smash everyone, South Africa still play dirty and Australia still can't seem to get a team in the semi-finals. The Super 15 is set to fix this, with a team from each country guaranteed to be in the finals. That's the answer - if you can't win, change the rules.

Honi reckons rugby would probably be better if SANZAR looked a little more like the classy fella on your right.

ALL HAIL SANZAR!



COLLEGE

The college gamble

Alice Blain muses on the joys of communal living.

Communal living. It's not really a term that creates a warm, fuzzy feeling inside. It evokes images of a hostel deep in the heart of Amsterdam. Hair-clogged drains. A mattress smelling of the owner's el-cheapo fags. Well, that is what used to spring to my mind before I moved into college. While I've now come to terms with the fact that it's standard to walk into Wesley and have to forcibly remove my thong with every step from the stickiness below, and quite normal to find three broken toilets (I'm talking smashed porcelain) at St. Andrew's College, in recent weeks I can't help but feel that the various colleges around campus have really been taking this whole communal living thing a bit too far! And as a result I'm starting to fear for both my physical and mental health.

It's not every day that you are advised to don a medical mask and refrain from sexual activity to ensure you too don't become the subject of swine flu, glandular fever and the likes. Nor is it every day that you wake up to receive an announcement that a number of head

lice cases have been reported within the halls. The very fact that I recently had a conversation with one my mates concerning her recent infestation of bed bugs, as if we were talking about the weather, genuinely worries me! And what's worse, since arrival at this fine college establishment that I call home, I finally have a medical history worth talking about. Let me tell you I said goodbye to the common cold a long time ago. Nowadays it's all about the super strength flu, tinea and ringworm. Yes, you heard me... ringworm.

I guess you could say that us "folk" over here at the University of Sydney colleges really are living the "dream" that is communal living. While it may seem that we've brought back to life some truly archaic diseases, and are creating a living standard worse than that during wartime, don't get me wrong I will let you know that communal living also has its advantages. I'm pretty sure that it is only in a communal living environment that sharing toiletries (...yes, toothbrushes) is considered normal behaviour. And I'm more than certain

that, Corey Delany and his antics aside, a communal living environment is the only environment in which it is more than acceptable to invite over everyone you know, and everyone they know, for a few "casual" drinks.



Sup.

So, when you next see a noticeably "college" looking person in your lecture and scoff to your mates because they're wearing their beat up trackies and singlet in the middle of winter, take a moment and reconsider your

preconceived judgements. This poor individual has probably just put their more respectable and suitable clothes in the incinerator for fear of bed bugs, or been through a vigorous de-lice treatment. Maybe they are on their twelfth course of antibiotics for the month. Yes, every day in college is a gamble, and it's on that note that I say over and out from the bedroom in which I've been hiding in for a good four days. Contrary to popular belief, this poor soul is still maintaining that lice will never be "in", even if everyone else is doing it.

HONI CRYPTIC

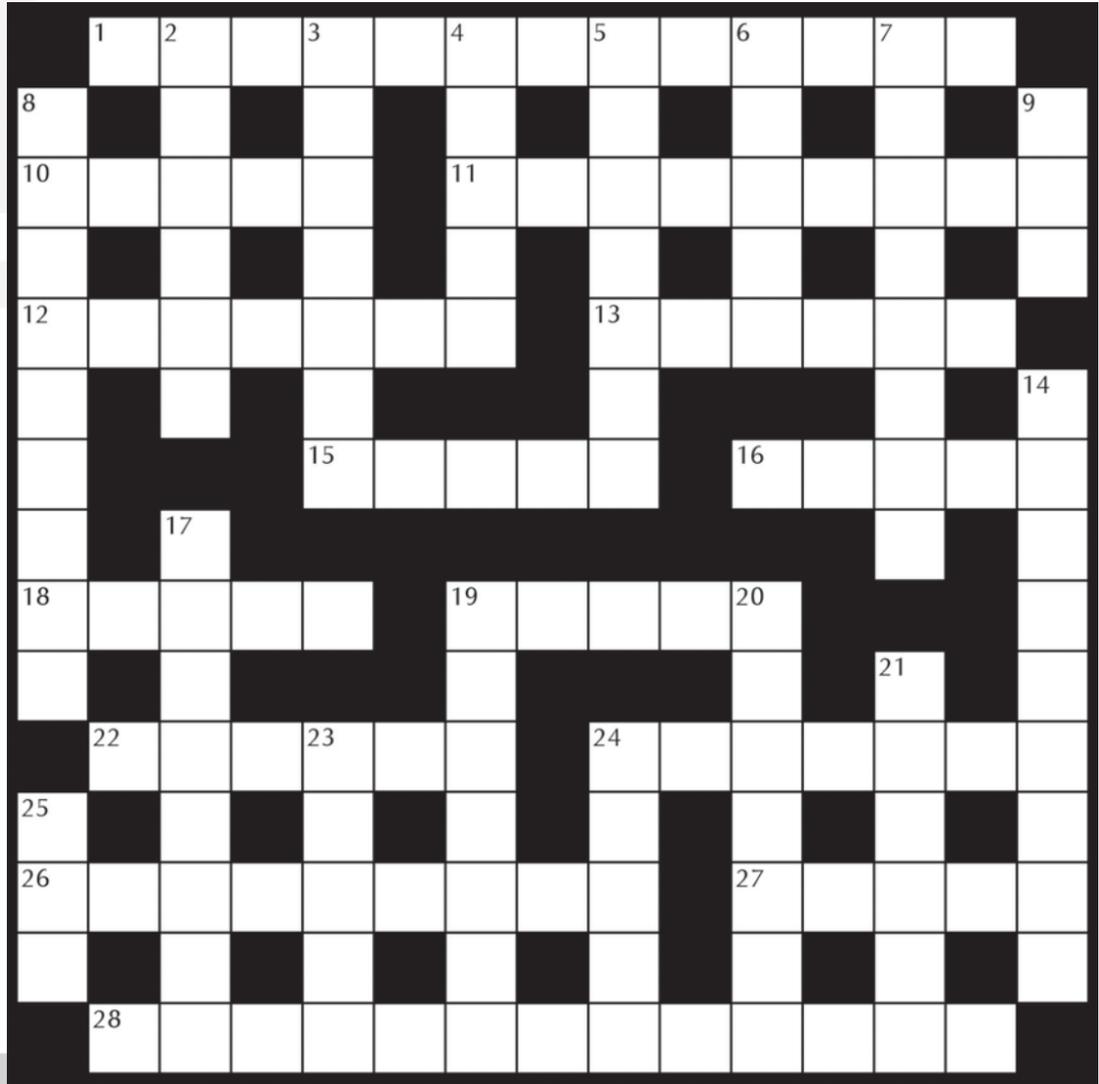
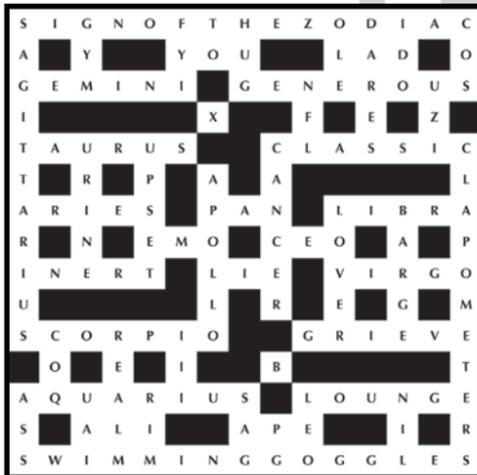
ACROSS

1. Where you buy tickets to jeer Elvis away from the meth. (7, 6)
10. Cover the inside, it's obvious! (5)
11. Cross a friend? Game over man! (9)
12. I heard the toad makes mistakes... but these have no gender. (7)
13. What you're looking for is what you're looking for (6)
15. However motionless (5)
16. Sex jelly too crazy for Japanese city. (5)
17. I drew messily because I was over caffeinated! (5)
19. Sweep the second best space (5)
22. Where students get plastered? (6)
23. I'm high and I'm sick doc, (puke!). (4, 2)
26. Unaccompanied with a coffee at a Wilson St Cafe. (9)
27. A dance with dips? (5)
28. Joking around like an Olympic drug tester. (6, 3, 4)

DOWN

2. Prepare for business with strong rum, energy and a backwards joke. (4, 2)
3. Cute critter's pointless skits are XXX. (7)
4. Stevie barely hits it. (5)
5. Backless farm gear in General (7)
6. Firstly, for all Kia's easy sorrow, she makes it up!
7. Boy takes headless bird as escort. (8)
8. Knock out Dracula in 3, 2, 1... go! (9)
- 9, 25 Down. Watching, watched... it goes up and down (3, 3)
14. Mucking around on Peter Shaffer's Equus (9)
15. Italian Omelette ruined - I fart at it! (8)
19. Dodgy Lego- Bot broke. (7)
20. Reconciles but lies! (5, 2)
21. Confuses by strapping saddle (6)
25. See 9 Down

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



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.

HOW TO SOLVE A KENKEN (BELOW)

1. Every box in the grid will contain a number, from 1 to 4.
2. Each row and column will contain the numbers 1 to 4 only once!
3. The numbers in each heavily outlined box (called cages) must combine using the mathematical operator in the top corner (in any order) to produce the number in the top corner. (e.g. the 2/ cage can have two possible entries, either 4 and 2 (as $4/2 = 2$) or 2 and 1 (as $2/1 = 2$))





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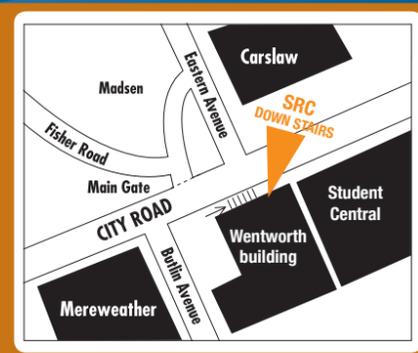
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