

# HONISOIT

SEMESTER TWO ARRIVES

THIS SEMESTER, I WILL DO ALL MY READINGS.  
WEEK 1 EDITION | 29 July 2009

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ME!

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**WE WANT YOU**  
TO WRITE FOR HONI!  
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to honi2009@gmail.com

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## Fun times for all

Candy Wang, China

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operated amusement machines business.

## I wuv you

Jessica-Lynn Barber, God knows where

OK! so i've been thinking about me and you for awhile. Sorry if all this seems weird to you, just imagine how i feel right now. we have known each other for awhile now and i think me and you both know what's up between us. even thought i know this will ruin our friendship, i know that this is what i want. i am so sorry i have to tell you like this but i don't think i have the guts to tell you in person. i'm pretty sure you know who i am by now. i'm at work right now so message me on linkdater.com i'm under the name "solucky77".

Err... thanks Jess. But this Honi is spoken for.

## Confirming the stereotype

Vivienne Egan, Arts IV

I was having a hard-earned end of semester drink at the Different Drummer, and upon using the facilities, I found a note scrawled on the chalk board:

"Hype for Honi  
4 more years!"

Please confirm/deny the following:

- a) you plan to take over the world, very slowly, mainly through the means of the cryptic crossword, or
- b) you were having a hard-earned end of semester drink and were rip-snortingly drunk.

Either way, I salute you.

## Jesus freakery #1023

Kyle Fifield, Arts III

Just a quick 'Are you serious?' regarding the Science Stunts article in the Week 12 edition. I think there has to be a certain line of respect, or perhaps diplomacy, maintained in a magazine read by students of a variety of religious, racial, political backgrounds, and Aleksandr Wansborough's piece rather brutishly jumped two-footed onto that line and then over it.

I say this in response to the way in which the article moved from insulting the 'door knocking proselytisers (who, given, are annoying), to rather openly criticising Christian beliefs in general. Calling Christian congregations "mindless flock" just seems unnecessary and callow, if not plain offensive. If the 'Science Stunt' is about deterring door-knockers, keep it to deterring door-knockers, not critiquing Christianity. Don't use the title as a guise to go on what is essentially anti-Christian rant in general. It is just tasteless writing. Stick to the task at hand, Aleks.

## Oh waaa. The heart bleeds.

Victoria Justin Yac Arop, Southern Sudan

I am writing this mail to you with tears and sorrow from my heart. My name is Victoria Justin Yac Arop, from South Sudan. My father Dr. Justin Yac Arop was the former Minister for SPLA Affairs and Special Adviser to President Salva Kiir of South Sudan for Decentralization. My father Dr. Justin Yac and my mother had been on board when the plane crashed on Friday May 02, 2008.

After the burial of my father, my uncle conspired and sold my father's properties to one Chinese Expatriate and live nothing for me. One faithful morning, I opened my father's briefcase and found out the documents which he have deposited huge amount of money in one bank in Burkina Faso with my name as the next of kin. The Branch manager of the Bank told me that my father's instruction to the bank was the money be release to me when I

## Editorial

As another semester kicks off, we all stare down the barrel of 13 weeks that will be a now-familiar mix of fun, stress, disappointment and discovery. We like to play along with the stereotype of the student layabout, who spends their meagre resources on beer and bad food but in reality, most student are pretty hard working when it counts. With the outside world being as competitive as it is, lots of us are seeking and finding ways to get an edge - Extra-curricular pursuits, volunteering, internships and part-time jobs.

The result of all this for many if not most students is intense stress and anxiety. For locals, established communities of friends and family help us deal with such problems. How would it feel, then, to be in this same hectic student boat, but without those shoulders to lean, and cry, on? To try and find out, our feature this week looks into the reality of life as an international student. I like to think the piece will open eyes to a host of large but currently overlooked problems.

But since we're jaded students and so are pretty much incapable of being sincere for any length of time, we've also got some five-legged dogs, curious scam letters, Ponzi schemes, drunken college boys and feral pig shooting. 'Cos the world is wacky and fun, and Honi shan't pretend otherwise. HS

Bronwyn Cowell

present a trustee who will help me I am in search of an honest and reliable person who will help me and stand as my trustee so that I will present him to the Bank for transfer of the money to his bank account overseas.

I have chosen to contact you after my prayers and I believe that you will not betray my trust. But rather take me as your own sister. As soon as I receive your interest in helping me, I will put things into action immediately.

Please do keep this only to your self. I beg you not to disclose it till I come over because I am afraid of my weakened uncle who has threatened to kill me.

## FROM THE VAULT

### This week in From The Vault...

Semester Two has kicked off amidst much hand-wringing in the higher education sector regarding the treatment of international students. On the weekend before this edition went to print, the University was papered by a group called 'Nationalist Alternative', who stand on an anti-immigration and anti-international student platform. International students are of an old vintage at the University, and their efforts to represent and defend themselves have come in many different forms. In 1990, a student wrote anonymously to tell of the difficulties they faced and the representative group - NOSCA - they formed:

April

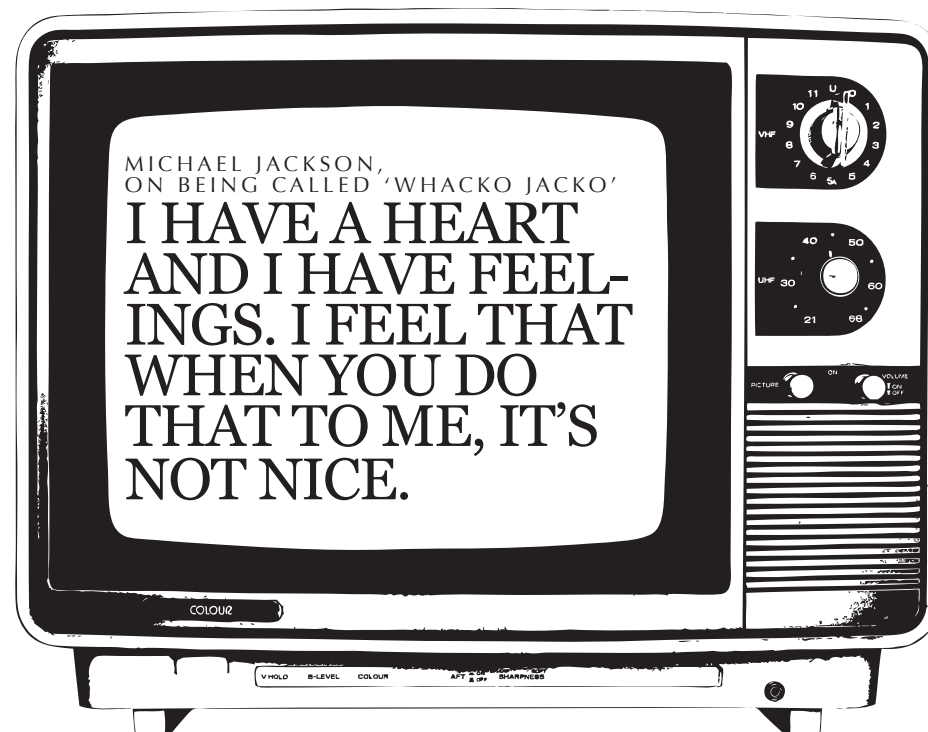
Australia is not as great as I thought, after all. There is so much discrimination. People here do not like Asians. I don't understand why. When they visited my

country, our people greeted them like gods, but when I come over to our country, they treat me like shit.

I went to talk to the Overseas Student Collective today, and told them about the attack I encountered last week. I was so surprised to know that almost all of us (overseas students) share similar experiences. Some cases were even worse than mine. They got bashed by skinheads (the groups who call themselves National Action). I was lucky as I only got verbal abuses. But we should do something about it.

There is a protest at Town Hall tomorrow. The friends from the Overseas Student Collectives asked me to attend the rally. We meet at the university first and take the bus to Town Hall together. After that, we have a gathering to discuss the situation and to plan for future activities.

Published in Honi Soit, Edition 8, 1990





## Honi's Guide to... Ponzi schemes

Bernie Madoff has nudged Charles Ponzi as the All-time Fuckwit of Finance. **George Downing** looks at how he did it.



**Next week: Italy's answer to the financial crisis: Fonzi schemes. Hey...**

In 1920, Charles Ponzi, a flamboyant Italian financier working in Boston, had an idea. He told a handful of investors that he could double their money in 90 days by buying and selling European postage stamps. It sounded too good to be true, and it was – there were no stamps. Yet Ponzi's insistence on doubling-of-your-money meant a truckload of gullible investors were drawn into the scam, so much so that he managed to raise \$1 million (a bucket load of cash in 1920) in three short hours. He had 'invented' a new financial strategy – diverting cash from new investors to existing ones, in the allusion that the money is in fact profit from real investments; in Ponzi's case, the supposed selling of stamps.

Ponzi's biographer, Mitchell Zuckoff, summarised the essential thrust of Ponzi schemes as 'a three-step playbook: splash, cash, dash'. When the pack of cards inevitably came crashing down, Ponzi's little stamp-game caused losses of around \$160 million in real terms; The Economist tagged Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme, the latest and most high profile reincarnation, 'Ponzi squared'. Using essentially the same technique, Madoff managed, over many years, to defraud investors of an estimated \$65 billion. Many victims, from well-heeled mums and dads to high-flying charities, lost literally everything.

Madoff's undoing was the financial crisis, which caused many investors to liquidate (or request cash) in order to pay off other debts. Madoff ran out of money meeting these demands and was forced to confess, allegedly telling his two sons, who held senior positions at Madoff's firm and whose involvement remains a matter of investigation, the whole scheme was 'one big lie.'

There are two lingering questions from the Madoff scandal – firstly, how he did it, and secondly, why no one blew the whistle earlier. Unfortunately, in pleading guilty to all counts of fraud he was charged with, Madoff spared his victims a public uncovering of his precise strategies in court, so much will likely remain a mystery. Investigators do know, however, that Madoff exploited two things in abundance: greed and exclusivity.

Ponzi was small fry with his stamp collection; Madoff, on the other hand, not only offered spectator returns on investments, even in down markets (greed), but ran his fund like a VIP club (exclusivity). Whereas Ponzi accepted capital from any old sucker, Madoff was far more discerning, setting a minimum investment price, frequently turning down applicants and recruiting wealthy philanthropists from the country clubs of Palm Beach and the ski fields of Aspen. In addition, he was a former NASDAQ chairman and veteran of the Wall Street establishment. All this ensured there was constant demand from new investors, lured by the hype, enabling new, fake returns to flow to existing investors.

The SEC, Wall Street's regulator, is cowering in shame in the wake of the scandal. The incompetence of their investigative arms, together with Madoff's unprecedented shrewdness, was the perfect storm for the well-executed Ponzi scheme, which is why it went unnoticed for decades.

Stephen Greenspan, an American psychology professor, has recently published a book called *Annals of Gullibility: Why We Get Duped and How to Avoid It*. The sad irony for Mr Greenspan is that, before the book was released, he invested most of his life savings with Madoff after being convinced by his sister, a longtime Madoff investor, of the attractive returns. Sales have been underwhelming.

## News in Brief

**Toxicology reports done on a toddler who apparently overdosed on a lethal drug concoction have not lead to conclusive evidence about the child's killer. While early reports indicate that the child's mother is most likely to blame for fabricating the concoction, friends of the 22-month old have described him as being "on a downward slope" after losing a custody battle to ex-boyfriend and former back-up dancer Kevin Federline.**

The owners of the boats destroyed at a northern beaches marina last week have described their loss as "deep" and "profound". Though plastic surgery prohibited any outward expression of sadness on the part of the boat owners, the tears of many of the victims' children, who were promised a day of yachting and native-hunting, were clear.

**Western Australian researchers working out of the Centre for Whale Research have established that, at conception, most humpback whales are slimy, wrinkled, disoriented and breathless. Philip Ruddock has rejoiced at the findings, sobbing into cameras, "mummy... da... daddy...". Today Tonight is in the process of orchestrating a re-unification of the broken Ruddock family.**

Politicians in Tasmania have established an Integrity Commission to tackle corruption in the state following a series of political scandals. Though promising, the ultimate question that such a Commission poses is: do any of us really care about what happens in Tasmania? Most political analysts are estimating that no. We do not.

## Japanese Volunteers

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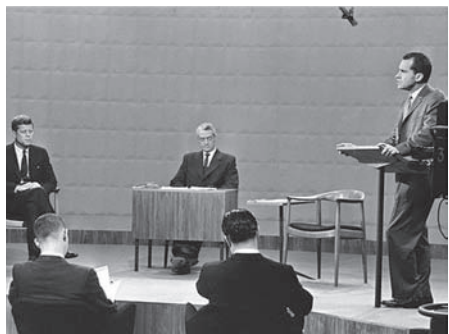
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## Australs victory goes South

Naomi Hart gives us the low-down on Australasia's biggest debating competition



Not since Kennedy and Nixon had debates been as heated

'Well, that's poker,' sighed one team member. 'This defeat doesn't bother me at all,' remarked another. 'I still know I'm the greatest debater who ever lived.'

This pronouncement came after University of Sydney Union 1 (Steve Hind – contingent captain, Chris Croke and Tim Mooney) had gallantly defended public ownership of water resources in the semi-final of the Australasian Intervarsity Debating Championship, hosted by Monash University in early July. They had been outclassed by privatisation apologists Monash University 1.

Returning to the tournament as defending champions, the USU contingent put on an awesome show. USU 3 (Bronwyn Cowell, Katherine Connolly and Sriram Srikumar)

were ranked 2nd, and USU 2 (Rob Chiarella, Pat Bateman and Naomi Hart) 7th, after eight rounds of competition. Both those teams narrowly lost in the first round of finals. USU 1, who had been ranked 4th, smashed two rounds of finals before being knocked out by a tiny margin by the team who would go on to win the tournament.

Two more teams – USU 5 (Sam Greenland, Michael Coutts and Nat Ware) and USU 4 (Daniel Swain, Elle Jones and Paul Karp) – also ranked in the top 16 but could not compete in the finals because of an archaic institutional cap rule.

True to form, USU dominated the top end of the individual speaker rankings. The top ten speakers included Chris Croke (4th), Sam Greenland (6th), Tim Mooney and Steve Hind (eq 9th) while Rob Chiarella, Elle Jones, Bronwyn Cowell and Michael Coutts appeared in the top 20.

Having the afternoon free from Grand Final nerves gave the contingent the opportunity to sing the USU debating anthem, Trotsky's Lament, on the steps of Parliament House. After security hassled the choir but we refused to leave, they informed Monash that they will not be permitted to ever use the venue again. So we may not have beaten Monash in the semi, but we got to stick it to them anyway.

## Club status denied to Whigs

Katherine Connolly investigates this act of political exclusion



WHIGS liege lord Andrew Coleman

At the end of last semester, for the fourth time in three years, the Clubs and Society's committee (C&S) of the Union rejected the application of student political group the WHIGS to become a Union club. This means that the WHIGS will be ineligible to receive Union funding, as well as other benefits that come with being a Union registered club or society, including the use of Union facilities.

Although the proposed 'WHIGSOC' fulfilled the technical requirements of having at least 20 access-card holding members, they were rejected on the grounds that they were too similar to the Politics Society, an already existing club with the Union.

Andrew Coleman, President of the WHIGS, has pointed out that the reasoning for this decision is inconsistent, given there are currently two labor clubs registered with the Union, the Australian Labor Party Club and the Labor Club. He also claims this decision was made against the recommendation of the C&S Office and "numerous USU Board members".

Patrick Hurley, President of the Politics Society, wrote a letter to the C&S committee comparing the two organisations. He concluded that, "given the societies' distinctly different aims, I would not expect there to be any significant overlap in the activities and membership of the Politics Society and the proposed WHIGSOC."

When asked whether he saw any similarities between the Politics Society and the WHIGS, Will Clegg, Politics Society Vice President, said he saw "none whatsoever".

For Clegg, the difference between the two groups is that "Politics Society is the club of the Department of Government and International Relations, and it aims to bring non-partisan discussion about political issues (in its broadest sense) to campus. It also provides a social and career network for students of government and international relations, or students from other disciplines interested in those broad areas. I doubt one could describe the WHIGS in similar terms. For a start, Politics Society would never propose candidates for election to public office, or generate political platforms."

Coleman believes it is these attempts to contest student elections at Sydney University that have motivated the decision to stop the WHIGS receiving Union support. The WHIGS currently have 6 members on the SRC council, ran two candidates in the recent Union election and Coleman ran an aggressive campaign against the National Labour Students' candidate Noah White in last year's SRC Presidential election.

In an email to Honi Coleman claimed, "We have been prevented from forming as a club not because we are similar to an existing club, but because we pose a threat to the political establishment. This year the result could not have been more obvious. The vote went down 5-4. The five who voted against numbered every single elected representative from Labor and Liberal clubs. Every independent voted for our inclusion."

Newly elected President of the Union, Patrick Bateman said, "the next thing for the WHIGS is that they really clearly define their purpose, what makes them different to other clubs or societies. Outside of my role as President, I'd be happy to help with that, in the same way I'd be happy to help any other club."

Doug Thompson, Chair of the C&S committee was unable to comment on the decision, as C&S decisions are passed confidentially. Because of this, Honi was unable to access the minutes from the meeting.

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## For those times when Google fails you...

**STAFF INTERVIEW** Giselle Kenny chats with Rena McGrogan. Faculty Liaison Librarian for the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI)



The all-knowing seer of Fisher

### How long have you had the role of Faculty Liaison Librarian and what does it entail?

I've been a Faculty Liaison Librarian (FLL), or working in a similar position, since 1995. I'm based in Fisher and am liaison for SOPHI in the Faculty of Arts - Archaeology, Classics & Ancient History, Gender & Cultural Studies, History and Philosophy - all the good subjects! We are here to support the research and teaching of USYD staff and students. We provide advice, classes, lectures and one-to-one appointments in the best ways to find and use the vast array of library resources and services.

### What is a typical work day like for you?

Busy! Depending on the day, I could have shifts opening or closing Fisher, plus a stint at the Information desk during the day. In between, I respond to email enquiries, work on projects (such as ARTS1000), attend

meetings, give a class, train other library staff, arrange trials of new products, send orders on for processing, check donations, answer EndNote enquiries, talk eScholarship staff about the digital repository, find out why the lifts aren't working...

### How do you go about responding to a request for a source?

Before even looking at a database, I analyse what it is the client wants, identify the key terms in their request and then decide which resources are likely to be of assistance. Good old Google and Wikipedia are excellent for background information but you can't use them in an essay. I use them and the encyclopedias to find out more about a topic. Armed with this knowledge, I can go to the subject guides provided by the FLLs <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/> or the list of databases <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/databases/> and decide what is best to use to find scholarly resources. Humanities disciplines still rely heavily on books, so I need to check the online and the card catalogues. Primary sources are really important in my area, so I also have to know how to find anything from a cuneiform tablet to a twitter tweet.

### What is the most challenging/obscure request you've had?

Just about all of them. Some standouts include looking for court transcripts on "Jack the Clipper" who had a fetish about chopping the braids off young girls; checking the catalogues for a book on "erotic

topiary"; providing a digest of Tony Abbott's activities as a USYD student, and fielding a query from someone wanted me to track down his long lost brother.

### How comprehensive is USyd's access to electronic resources?

We have a fine collection of electronic resources - but with the speed of digital publishing, it seems every time I blink a new resource becomes available. I'd love to subscribe to all of them, but you'd almost need the military budget of the United States. The budget of the University of Sydney Library is much more modest, so it becomes an exercise in balancing what we can afford with the money we have.

### What are the best and worst parts of your job?

The best part - that smile that lights up the face of a student when you find what they need. Just as good, is when I've been able to show a student how to do their own research effectively. This is very empowering for the student.

The worst part - sometimes the repetition can be a bit wearing, especially in first semester when you've explained for the umpteenth time where Short Loan is. I just have to try and remember what it felt like when I was a first year student (bloody scary - Fisher terrified me), look and act as friendly as possible, and avoid the temptation to send them to Rare Books!

## A new crop of Union Board directors

The Union does a bunch of stuff that you probably think is generally pretty good. Like running the food and drink outlets on campus, as well as the Clubs and Societies program. They also have people wandering around Manning occasionally giving out free lollies. Smooth.

Anyway, the fact is that the Union is big, provides you with pretty cheap beer between 4-5pm, and if you're an ACCESS card holder, you're handing ninety-nine of your hard earned dollars over to the organisation each year- so it's probably good to have some idea about who is running your Union. Handily enough, Honi can provide you with that very information to kickstart your semester.

The recent Union Executive election resulted in an Independent whitewash of the Board's key positions, locking out Labor factions from the positions of prominence that they enjoyed since time seemingly immemorial. Introducing our all new, all fresh quartet of Dear Leaders:

**PRESIDENT** - Patrick Bateman  
**VICE PRESIDENT** - Courtney Tight  
**HONORARY TREASURER** - Doug Thompson  
**HONORARY SECRETARY** - Giorgia Rossi

## To infinity, and beyond... and then even a bit further

Georgia Flynn gets all spacey.

On 20 July of this year, the elder statesman of space travel celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the moon landing and every other person over the age of forty felt compelled to bear witness. It's a persistent old cliché, that people remember what they were doing at the exact moment they heard about an event marked in history. What is striking about people's moon landing testimonials is their homogeneity. When Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the surface of the moon, somewhere in the Sea of Tranquility, 500 million people tuned in on television to watch him do it.

Meanwhile, baby boomers were destined to be disappointed by the steady progress of space travel; now in the twenty-first century it is difficult to conceive of the excitement that accompanied the voyage to the moon. Generation Y probably relates more to the comedic jibing of Douglas, who puts an uppity humanity back in its place with the first sentence of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: "Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the Western Spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun."

Nonetheless, there was something poignant about NASA's recent Kepler Mission Statement, based on a "centuries-old quest

for other worlds like our Earth." On 7 March of this year, armed with this lofty purpose, as well as a sizable telescope, the Kepler photometer departed on its mission to monitor the variations in light of over 100,000 stars, continuously and simultaneously for 3.5 years.

When a planet crosses in front of a star, there will be a corresponding variation in brightness, allowing scientists to calculate the planet's size. Of particular interest are those planets half to twice the size of earth, especially those within the habitable zone of stars - at a distance that might allow water to exist on the surface.

The methodology and purpose aside, Professor Tim Bedding of the Sydney University School of Physics notes that, "astronomy is a pure science, in that it in-

volves the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake" and will quite possibly lead to no particular practical advances in the short term. Professor Bedding is just one of a team of over 200 researchers from 50 academic institutions across the globe, comprising the Kepler Asteroseismic

Science Consortium (KASC), who will wade through the vast amounts of data that will be brought together over the course of the Kepler Mission. Says Professor Bedding, "the Kepler mission was funded by NASA and we are fortunate that we are able to participate."

Perhaps this latest foray into space marks a resurgence

of interest in the potential of space for inspiration and prosperity. Space research enjoys a high priority in President Obama's economic stimulus strategy. The legislative



gifting of US\$1 billion under the Recovery Act 2009 is compounded by the US\$18.7 billion provided by the 2010 Budget, representing a marked swelling of NASA's coffers. As Professor Bedding points out, "space missions take many years to develop, so most of the money for Kepler was spent before the current slowdown."

European Space Agency heads such as Roscosmos Director Anatoly Perminov is quick to assure leaders that "the financial crisis has not impacted the demands and production rates in the rocket and space industry." Nonetheless, the space research industry is not oblivious to the toll that the financial crisis may have on their industry. It is perhaps a grim knowledge of the financial climate that inspired the focus of this year's Space Investment Summit: "Down to Earth Market Opportunities."

"Down to Earth" space exploration against a backdrop of fiscal sobriety hardly makes Gen Y-er's socks roll up and down in excitement, but rest assured that space enthusiasts still exist under our unregarded yellow sun. Or at least under the roof of the Physics Department.



## Children on leashes

### The case for...

Katherine Connolly

Leashes for children are a marvellous invention. Should I ever have children, they will all wear leashes. I might even, for additional convenience, tie them to a telegraph pole or the legs of a park bench while I do the grocery shopping. I wouldn't bother getting one that tried to disguise itself by being attached to a Winnie the Pooh backpack – an ordinary dog leash attached to a harness would do for me.

No toddler is cogent enough to protest the restriction of its right to freedom of movement, so why bother tricking it into thinking it has a backpack on instead of a leash? It's not like it has anything to carry around at that age, except maybe some spare dribble and a turd or two, but it already has compartments for those things. Nor would I necessarily limit the leash's use to expeditions outside the house.

Having a leashed child means parents don't have to concern themselves with the pesky dangers that face the small humans they have to carry around with them; traffic, swimming pools, oceans, large dogs, small dogs, the odd pothole. Should the child fall into a pothole, or the jaws of a passing Chihuahua, simply give the handy leash a yank and it will coming flying back not too much the worse for wear. That way, parents are free to contemplate other, more interesting topics, like their life before giving birth to said child. The only danger left is that such reminiscences may be so pleasant they are suddenly inclined to yank the leash less vigorously than they might have done otherwise.

Hopefully, the child would start to learn a kind of Pavlovian response to the leash – stray too far away? You will be yanked, perhaps painfully, back. Acting annoyingly? Same story. After a while, the yanking will become unnecessary as the child associates annoying behaviour with a painful response, and will simply stop engaging in the behaviour. PSYCH1001. This learned

behaviour would ideally stay with the child past the years when it has become unacceptable to leash them in public.



### The case against...

Will Atkinson

The issue of attaching leashes to unruly children, as a means of controlling their desire to go hurdling in public fora, is not one that can be answered without careful analysis, the likes of which Ms. Connolly has failed to provide in her support for this abomination.

In fact, the whole sinister act of affixing a leash to your kid goes far beyond the immediate attack on their freedoms, implied or otherwise. It is one that has wide-ranging repercussions on the child's later development. What evidence do I have to support this? Me.

To begin, however, it's not hard to understand that the aesthetics of leashes convey some pretty questionable imagery. I'll kick it off. Ever heard of BDSM, even outside Turramurra? Yes, that involves leashes. So too does taking your dog, rabbit or ferret for a walk. They're animals. Ergo, leashes signify control, repression, pets and strange sexual peccadilloes (though not necessarily in that order).

My experience at the end of a leash in Lane Cove Plaza circa 1991 has had lasting impacts on my ability to think and act for

myself. Such was the level of control exerted over my three-year old self that even today I don't know how to use the dishwasher without my mother's help. Because my walking direction was pre-determined and rigidly enforced by my mother, times currently that I have nothing to do (i.e. holidays) are filled exclusively with lying in bed on Facebook, worrying if girls like me.

These complications in later life make the issue of 'danger' seem paltry in the present.

The issue takes on a darker aspect too with the advent of new leash technology. I was strapped to my brother's pram with a cord that resembled old phone cords, or as I recalled later in a flashback of sorts, Jimi Hendrix's guitar lead. These days, as Katherine noted, the leash is introduced in a horrifyingly coercive way, depriving children of their agency via backpacks covered in cartoon character branding.

What does this tell our toddlers? That beloved cartoon characters are all part of the establishment of control? All the joy of anarchic cartoon characters like Bugs Bunny is taken away when they're... uh... actively preventing you from chasing after that really interesting looking pigeon. At a tender stage in their educational development, we can't afford to confuse children too much. They'll end up at UTS.

Ladies and gentlemen, the facts stand clear. The evidence is incontrovertible. Do your duty. Ban the leash.



First comes leash, next comes bowl, last comes rabies. You do the math.

## GAFFEMAN

We report. You smirk smugly.

Global Messiah, Leader of the Free World, President of the United States, Barack Obama can't hide from Gaffeman. Talking about the health reform at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, Obama told the crowd; "The reforms we seek would bring greater competition, choice, savings and inefficiencies to our health care system." What? Three out of four ain't bad.

Radu Mazare, Mayor of the Romanian town, Constanta, wore a Nazi uniform to a fashion show, in breach of Romanian law. Even more horrifying was Mazare's admission that he was a Tom Cruise fan. When questioned about his choice of fascist attire, he responded, "The swastika was very small and I didn't see it. I really liked the look of the uniform after seeing it in the Tom Cruise film 'Valkyrie'. I bought it from a costume shop in Germany." That doesn't make it right, Radu.

Once again, the 'We don't give a shit about the US' award goes to the North Korean Foreign Ministry! The North Korean state-run news agency reported the following statement they made about US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton: "We cannot but regard Mrs Clinton as a funny lady ... Sometimes she looks like a primary schoolgirl and sometimes a pensioner going shopping." Oh no, they didn't! In fairness, that time she stayed with chronic adulterer Bill Clinton was pretty funny. Not funny ha-ha, funny weird.

Gaffeman salutes Jeff Goldblum, who showed stellar (and lively) panache in coping after Richard Wilkins gaffed that Goldblum had in fact fallen to his death while filming in New Zealand. Goldblum, alive and well, went on Colbert to give his own obituary: "No one will miss Jeff Goldblum more than me. He was not only a friend and mentor, he was also me. [His] performances combined the masculinity of Brando, the pathos of Streep and the musky sensuality of a pride of baboons." Outstanding.



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## YE OLDE RUMOUR MILL



**GOT A RUMOUR?**  
honi2009@gmail.com

### Its time to go... Union Exec 07/08!!

Honi Soit throws the promises of old into the Rumour Mill and offers a verdict on your elected reps, now hanging up their hats. Everything listed as 'Promised' is taken from the policy statements the Board Exec submitted to the Bull when they nominated their candidature.

#### RUCHIR PUNJABI (PRESIDENT)

**Promised:** Ruchir wanted the Union to create a sustainable community where the ACCESS card offered benefits, not just discounts.

**Delivered:** He worked extensively on the new Jane Foss Russell building, and aimed to create a cooperative relationship between union retail outlets, rather than a competitive one. More importantly, he secured an extra \$1 million funding for Union-provided student experience opportunities (i.e. all Union activities excluding retail and commercial enterprises) and guaranteed ongoing University funding for the Union for the next two years.

**Verdict:** Extremely hard working, and rumoured to be incredibly bad at delegating. His legacy is security for the Union.

#### ALICE DIXON (VICE PRESIDENT)

*Appointed according to Affirmative Action*

**Promised:** As a Broad Left candidate, Alice was against sexist advertising on campus and unethical corporate sponsors and militarism on campus, which really means 'get troops out of Iraq.' Well, they

are!

**Delivered:** Alice's key issues were the environment and women. The Union is poised to dismantle its green environment policy in next year's corporate plan. Alice was involved in moving the Women's Room has moved from Manning to Holme and spoke strongly against the Affirmative Action policy on Union Board that ironically got her elected.

**Verdict:** Extremely committed, but her tenure was characterised by an about-face on most of her policy standpoints.

#### JUSTIN HANCOCK (TREASURER)

**Promised:** Justin wanted to keep management of the Union in student hands, specifically by 'turning the Bull into a proper student magazine'. Unfortunately, taking the Bull from a weekly to a quarterly publication is currently being discussed. He campaigned on college parking and parties, neither of which really eventuated or improved.

**Delivered:** He was instrumental, however, in remodelling the treasury portfolio, and worked on professionalising Board procedures and keeping the Union unincorporated.

**Verdict:** He kept an extremely low public profile after election, but was a competent Treasurer.

#### VYVYAN NICKELS (HONORARY SECRETARY)

*Appointed according to Affirmative Action*

**Promised:** Vyvyan wanted a Union that 'prioritised student programs', 'to empower members' and be 'sustainable and strong'. So she didn't really stand on any specific policy issue.

**Delivered:** Took the position of HonSec from one of relative power to one of little more than ceremonial relevance.

**Verdict:** No issue really defined her, notably none that could be traced to her faction, NLS.

#### ABI SHEAD

*Appointed according to Affirmative Action*

**Promised:** Abi campaigned on giving more support to C&S, getting a Union car-park, renovating Wentworth, and new events such as a monthly market and day-time dance parties. We do have monthly markets and some of the renovations of Jane Foss Russell spilled over to Wentworth. There was no follow through on any of the other promises, which is lucky in the case of day-time dance parties. Weird.

**Delivered:** Dissented a lot, though had nothing substantive to offer as an alternative, except to argue that we should sacrifice the student experience to make more money.

**Verdict:** Lone Liberal lioness? She was certainly lone and Liberal, with more laissez than faire to her name.

#### JUSTIN SIMON

**Promised:** Justin campaigned on the provision of \$5 lunch, an Engineering café, microwaves, more BBQs on campus and streamlining the C&S program more broadly.

**Verdict:** Justin was not elected but appointed to Board in 2008 to replace Dave Burnett who was killed in a tragic accident. He took little notable action after being taking up this position.

## THE COLUMN

### The Union's 'Independent' Executive

While you holidayed this winter, you missed Pat Bateman's coronation as President of the University of Sydney Union. In so far as one could care about these sorts of things, this was moderately momentous; for the first time in many years the Union President is an 'independent'.

I don't use inverted commas derisively in the way that some of Bateman's vanquished foes may. Rather the punctuation at hand denotes in my mind the fact that Bateman, an incredibly intelligent, dashingly charming and ruthlessly ambitious young man of Young Liberal provenance, is not the member of any of our campus' illustrious factions. Bateman's achievement is significant especially because it came at the expense of Labor Left securing the Presidency for a fourth consecutive year.

I would like to make one point about the ascent of the independents. Perhaps conventional wisdom (so much as it exists in the minds of the few who are interested) would opine the independents have succeeded because they offer an (ostensibly) apolitical alternative to the factions. However I think that independents are in fact bigger beneficiaries of their circumstances than they would like to think. Labor Right had been getting candidates elected to board, disguised as 'independents', for years before ambitious types started bypassing the ALP funding and bankrolling their own tilts as minor campus celebrity.

Instead, I think it is the spectacular implosion of Labor Right on campus in recent years that has opened the space the independents required to get a foothold. In that light, the last three years represent Labor Left filling the Right's void, rather than an era of genuine dominance. I may be proven wrong by an ascendant Labor Left in 2010, but I think the moderate and independent alliance that we see at the moment will be a feature of Union execs for a couple of years to come.

Of course, the independents didn't take over by just being there. Bateman assembled his votes in functionally the same way that a faction would, albeit without a binding caucus vote (although the fear of not being invited to drinking sessions at Madame Fling Flong's may have a similar effect). And there's nothing wrong with that. Independents may want us to think they're apolitical, but lurking behind the wayfarers is the same desire for power, and willingness to politick to get it, that drives the factions. But that should be no surprise – they're student politicians!

So the lesson from Union Exec 2010 is that the independents spooked Labor Left into imitation (in this case an insincere form of flattery) while the independents had to act like Labor Left to lock down the Presidency. And meanwhile the world outside that little bubble has kept turning, taking thousands of students who couldn't give a fuck along with it.

Steve Hind

**THE BEEF**

### What's up docx?!

Mark Di Stefano is not compatible. Nor is docx.

So you have emailed your assignment to yourself to print off at uni. An assignment which made you drink so much Mother that you were crying tears of blood, guarana and sanity. Scampering into uni the only thing that stops a total coronary collapse is the knowledge that the fucker is done.

When you log onto your unimail you download the attachment and a little zip file keeps unzipping and replicating. The more you click, the worse it looks. Until you see the prefix that makes you stomach drop.

.docx

Now the caffeine has drained from your cortex that controls happiness and flooded into the pit of your swirling crumpet filled stomach. Sound familiar?

When the brilliant minds at Microsoft created Office 2007 they created a revolutionary new document format called .docx. So revolutionary was the document format that it.... well. It unlocked heaps of new uses like.... um. Well it is great for bundling xml files as a zipped directory tree (thank you wikipedia).

But as a student none of my files need this tree treatment. Not my essays, my timetables, my pithy attempts at line drawings. Nothing. .docx is useless for me.

But what gets my goat more than its total lack of uses for the common student, is that you can still save your essay as a straight .doc (as a Office 97-03 format). It requires one extra step. Another step that I usually forget.

You have to click "save as" then "as .doc". An extra click that doesn't adhere to my intuitive applemac run lifestyle. If my iPhone can in three touches take a photo and post it on Twitter, than I reckon you can make my file saving one click.

Here is my suggestion Microsoft. Make the standard saving file .doc. Make it the go-to file format. If some bloke wants the brilliant advantages of .docx make 'em work for it. And has anyone else noticed the total remodel of the Office '07 Word toolbar. Where the fuck did 'file', 'edit' and 'format' go? Your windows icon is not a substitute.

Microsoft. Stop making my iLife harder.

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# A new vision for education

HONI  
EXCLUSIVE

Teach for Australia is a recently inaugurated program placing high achieving university graduates in a two year teaching position in disadvantaged Australian schools. **George Downing** sat down with the program's Chief Executive, Melodie Potts Rosevear and Director of Operations, Sek-loong Tan.

**Sek, you are a former management consultant at Boston Consulting Group. How did you end up with Teach for Australia?**

*Sek:* I started at BCG with a girl who had done Teach First [the British equivalent of Teach for Australia], and who joined the firm in a position two years ahead of everyone who'd joined fresh out of university. At first, I thought "hang on, you've been a teacher for two years – what qualifies you to be starting several years ahead of everyone else?" What I quickly realised however, was that she had far better communication, leadership and management skills than any of the fresh grads. She could, put simply, bring about effective change in an organisation more competently than many of her peers.

As a fresh graduate, I think I was slightly arrogant, thinking I knew everything. I think university can give you that arrogance in many ways – you can write an essay criticizing anyone and everything, and it's all in the name of 'free thought', so to speak. So when you come out into the real world you can have a big head, which I think I certainly did. When I heard about what this girl had done, entering a difficult school and transforming young people's lives, I was inspired. So I got in touch with Melodie and went from there.

**Melodie, you were a founding staff member at the Cape York Institute, what inspired you to inaugurate the program?**

*Melodie:* I guess my background is similar to Sek's in many ways – I was a management consultant at BCG in the US and ended up working on some really interesting projects, one of which was the reform of an urban school district in Atlanta. We were essentially trying to bridge the vast black/white achievement gap in the area. I then decided that I wanted to pursue a completely different experience, so through BCG's vast international network, I ended up at the Cape York Institute in its very early days, which opened my mind to the plight of indigenous disadvantage in particular. I had for a long time watched many of my friends go through Teach for America [the American equivalent], including one of my closest friends who upon completing the program started his own school, becoming the school principal at age 25.

This really got me thinking about bringing the program to Australia, though I knew the model would have to be modified for the Australian context. I completed a Masters at the Kennedy School of Government focusing on non-profit and social enterprise, and reached out to the founder of Teach for America, Wendy Kopp, to discuss the process of launching an Australian program. Macquarie University's Vice Chancellor, Stephen Schwartz, also became interested in what I was doing and offered to cover my expenses for the first year. I roamed the country to put together a team and the program subsequently developed over the course of about two and a half years.

**In a nutshell, what is Teach for Australia, how does it work, and what is**

**the selection process?**

*Sek:* At a high level, I view the program as a slightly elongated gap year which takes the most outstanding individuals and puts them at the coalface of one of Australia's most pressing social issues. It both develops their personal skills and directly influences educational disadvantage in this country. The program initially equips participants through an intensive training program, but otherwise allows people to enter the classroom, for the first time in Australia's history, having never studied education. Participants complete two years of associate teaching whilst concurrently studying for a Dip Ed, including ongoing



review of their performance, whilst practically making a difference in the classroom, inspiring and motivating their students everyday. And at the end of the program, applicants are immediately attractive to top companies around the world.

**The program has a discerning recruitment process, with only high-achieving graduates accepted. But do the best students make the best teachers?**

*Sek:* Top graduates have set high expectations for themselves, they've been driven to succeed and they persevere. That kind of individual is a powerful role model and can inspire a student from any background – to extend themselves the same way they have done.

*Melodie:* I think what's important here is that teaching as a profession needs to have its status lifted, and if Australia's going to continue to compete at the fore of the global economy, if it's going to be an equitable nation, you've really got to underpin teaching as a worthy profession, that anyone would want to go into.

In terms of addressing disadvantage, education is perhaps the biggest lever we have, though it's not the only lever that's necessary. So by attracting top graduates from multiple disciplines, we're broadening the reach of education as a profession. The eye-opening experience of the program means that top graduates in, say, law or medicine, have the capacity to directly influence education throughout their lives, whether they stay in education or pursue careers in other areas.

**What proportion of graduates actually stay in education?**

*Melodie:* The data from Teach for America, which has been around for almost 20 years, is impressive. Currently about two-thirds of participants stay in education in some form after they graduate – about 40% remain as teachers, and the remainder may sit on educational boards, pursue careers in education-related non-profits, government and so on. Those figures are pretty amazing considering that perhaps only 1% or 2% of those people would have considered education as a career prior to completing the program.

**The program is currently operating in Victoria. What is the timeframe for expansion to other states?**

*Sek:* Our hope is to expand one state per year, whilst never compromising on the quality of the graduates admitted and the training they receive.

**Are application figures encouraging?**

*Melodie:* Absolutely. We have well over 350 applications for our first round, and of that we're looking to select only a small percentage, which is impressive considering we're a non-profit and a new brand. So it's pretty tight to get in.

*Sek:* These are exceptional candidates that we're selecting – we have a number of corporate partners sitting in on the interviews, and our selection process is rigorous to the extent that these corporate partners in most cases would hire successful candidates themselves.

**Melodie, as you say, Teach for America has been around for almost 20 years and the quality of applicants is unprecedented. Are the current Australian candidates just as exceptional?**

*Melodie:* Absolutely. What we're looking for is a high level of academic achievement as well as evidence of leadership in a broad sense. We ask how candidates have motivated others, and seek evidence of perseverance, strong communication, presentation and influencing skills. But we're also for respect and humility – this will be, in some respects, a humbling experience whilst also being a great development experience.

**I must address criticisms of the program which have emerged in the Australian media, most of which centre on the idea that young grads,**

**regardless of their academic or leadership record, and ill-equipped to front a classroom compared to fully trained, so-called 'career' teachers. How to you respond?**

*Melodie:* I guess there are a couple of things to raise here. Firstly, we have the same goals as many of those criticizing us in the press, which is to see the status of teaching as a profession lifted, and to ensure that children receive good tuition – so were not at all misaligned, which I think is really important. Secondly, the concern over the certified versus non-certified teachers ignores many aspects of the program. This is a two-year process and there is a strong emphasis on the ongoing training and mentorship of graduates with regard to teaching. So by no means are we simply 'letting the graduates loose', so to speak, in the classroom.

You've also got to ask, what are the other avenues available to lift the status of teaching? McKinsey [a consulting firm] released an amazing report last year on what top-performing school systems around the world do, and one of them quite clearly is setting a very high selection bar for entrants to the profession. What we're doing is applying some of those world-wide best practices to this program. So the focus is on recruiting only the top graduates, but it is not elitism by any stretch. It is simply a very different means of providing a structured education qualification.

**Indigenous Australia suffers the largest gaps with the rest of society in terms of socio-economic indicators. The program does not currently target indigenous areas specifically, but is that an aspiration?**

*Sek:* Yes, one day being able to touch indigenous communities is certainly an aspiration. For now, however, it's something we've actively chosen not to pursue, because it's not an area to be experimented with. We want to improve, develop and refine the program in multiple areas before we launch in indigenous communities.

*Melodie:* Absolutely. For me, addressing indigenous disadvantage is an essential goal. We'll be placing Associates next year in Shepparton in Victoria, which has a substantial proportion of Indigenous residents. But our focus is education disadvantage in all forms, and wherever it exists. Socio-economic background is perhaps the biggest single determinant of disadvantage, which requires a fundamental acknowledgement that disadvantage doesn't have a colour. And I guess that lies at the core of what we're trying to do. **HS**

## TEACH FOR AUSTRALIA

[www.teachforaustralia.org](http://www.teachforaustralia.org)

Teach For Australia will be presenting on Thursday 6 August at 1pm in New Law Lecture Theatre 101

The final round of applications for the 2010 program closes on 4 September 2009

**Next week:** coverage of the official Australian launch of the program, featuring a keynote presentation from Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach for America



## THE REAL DEAL

## UNIMATES

### The real deal for international students

You have arrived in Beijing to do a bachelor's degree at a leading university in China. Semester starts in five days, you don't know anyone, you haven't found a place to stay and people here talk a lot faster than your Chinese teacher did. When you eventually find a share house it is twice as expensive as you expected and you have to ask your parents for more money because you haven't got a job yet. You miss your friends.

This story, or some version of it, is a common one amongst international students coming to Australian universities. A survey by the University of Melbourne in 2005 showed that cultural isolation and loneliness were issues of much greater concern to the students than violence or racism. When the media flurry over attacks on Indian students inevitably dies down, common student problems like depression, anxiety, loneliness and financial strain will remain. For international students, these can be worsened and made more difficult to deal with in a foreign country, living far away from family, friends and home culture.

Australian universities benefit greatly from the high numbers of international students coming here to study. They guarantee big universities like Sydney and Melbourne up to \$300 million a year, and across Australia the higher education export industry brings in \$15.5 billion per year. For the University of Sydney, fees paid by international students make up roughly 20% of total revenue. These millions are used to prop up those subjects that don't bring in enough cash themselves, and to fund scholarships and research. Doing an Arts

to arrive right before semester starts, when the housing market around campus is at its tightest. Frequently unaware of tenancy rights and desperate to get accommodation as soon as possible, international students are at a greater risk of being taken advantage of by unscrupulous landlords. Long has counselled international students who turned out to be paying \$200 each for a shared room.

Equally stressful is completing a degree in a foreign language. Although Long has at times had to conduct counselling sessions with a translator, it is an extremely small number of international students with little or no English skills. The real problem is not a lack of English skills, that students often lose the confidence to use them: "Their

Even when pressure is not explicitly applied by parents, students are generally aware of the sacrifices being made for their education, and they feel that pressure regardless.

English is often better than they think it is, but they might have failed a subject or two, so they come in really down, having lost all confidence in speaking." When you feel embarrassed and unsure of your spoken English, the everyday business of studying – giving a tute presentation, grappling with convoluted faculty administration – can seem overwhelming.

Lydia Nemitschenko, Head of the International Students Support Unit (ISSU), says that varying and complex faculty administration procedures (baffling to most)

by most students, can be homesickness, loneliness and familial pressures. Families make huge financial sacrifices to send a child to university in Australia, with tuition alone costing anywhere between \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. Long points out that this means "the stakes of failing become very high." Even when pressure is not explicitly applied by parents, students are generally aware of the sacrifices being made for their education, and they feel that pressure regardless. Yu Hen Lao, President of the UniMate Society, which aims to connect international and local students with one another in a social setting, told us that "When you're an international student, and you're new, it's hard sometimes when people can't find other people to contact, and you can get quite lonely". Far away from the friends and family who would have supported them at home, international students often have to endure this stress alone.

All this can impact gravely upon a student's overall wellbeing, and international students also lack the established relationships with medical professionals that local students can turn to with relative ease.

So should we be more concerned about the mental health of international students? Dr Ian Marshall, director of the University Health Service at Sydney University, emphasises that international students are *not* more likely than domestic students to face mental health issues. However, when they do face problems, they often need more guidance and assistance than local students. Dr Marshall attends the orientation events held by the ISSU to talk to students about health, the services provided

He added that mental health treatment regimes established in Australia will sometimes cease completely during holidays when students return home, whether it be because parents do not understand the importance of such treatment, or because appropriate care is not available where students live. Some reluctance can stem from a lack of familiarity with patient-doctor confidentiality. Dr Marshall told us that some students need to be reassured that the medical service will not and cannot release medical information to the student's faculty, or to their parents. Despite this, Nemitschenko stresses that having experienced psychological help, international students largely respond very positively.

At the University of Sydney, the structures in place to help international students deal with all these issues are particularly effective. The ISSU is the first contact point with international students upon arriving in Sydney. It aims, as the website outlines, "to help international students develop successful strategies for coping with the

"In 1996, there were 2,300 international students and the ISSU had 3 full time counselling staff, plus myself. Now, there are 10,500 international students and we have 4 full-time counselling staff."

challenges of living and studying in an unfamiliar culture." Nemitschenko says the ISSU "tries to make the transition as smooth as possible when arriving. We focus on successful entry and settling in, as this often avoids problems later."

### WHEN YOU FEEL EMBARRASSED AND UNSURE OF YOUR SPOKEN ENGLISH, THE EVERYDAY BUSINESS OF STUDYING

degree? Thank the international students.

It has become clear in light of recent events that international students face particular problems above and beyond those of local students.

Practically, the hassle involved in travelling to and enrolling in a foreign university is particularly stressful. Charlotte Long, caseworker and policy manager for the SRC says that most international students can only afford

are enormously difficult for many international students to deal with. The ISSU often has to assist students negotiating things like applying for special consideration, discontinuing a subject or contesting late penalties. "The attitude from faculties is that all the info is online or in the handbook, so it's the student's responsibility to be informed," says Nemitschenko. "If you actually read the policies, if you're from a different background, they can be quite difficult to understand, particularly the consequences of things like handing in a form late, or using the wrong term." The outcome for a student of dealing with housing issues, academic performance and labyrinthine university bureaucracy is often goes beyond stress to serious anxiety or depression.

On top of these burdens, which are borne

within the university, as well as giving a crash course in the Australian health care system.

A student's cultural background can impact upon their readiness to access medical care for mental health problems whilst they're studying in Australia. Ms Nemitschenko sees students, especially from China, who are utterly unfamiliar with the psychological care the ISSU and University Health Services can provide, given the absence of similar services in their home country. She says that many students don't have a framework of experiencing psychological help back home, and so do not naturally seek out care.

We spoke with a doctor from another metropolitan university's health service, who echoed Nemitschenko's observations.

The ISSU was also instrumental in setting up UniMates, which is a student-run club within the Union. UniMates has been enormously successful – in 2008 it had about 600 members and won Club of the Year. Club President Yu Hen Lau says that the club is there for "international students, exchange students, even local students... to provide a place where people feel comfortable, where they can meet new people." With weekly coffee and cakes, UniMates is an accessible and welcoming place for international students to find a new support network in a new country. "People say, 'we're really glad for what you do' and I think it's because there's so many stressful things going on," says Lau. "They have to worry about housing, getting classes right, financial matters, everything, it's pretty stressful. In a way, when they can







THERE ARE 10 500 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY. THAT'S NEARLY ONE QUARTER OF THE ENTIRE STUDENT POPULATION. DESPITE THESE NUMBERS, MOST LOCAL STUDENTS HAVE PROBABLY NEVER MET (LET ALONE HAD AN EXTENDED CHAT WITH) ANY ONE OF THESE THOUSANDS. COMBINE THAT WITH A MEDIA THAT ONLY COVERS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IF THERE'S A FREAK SPATE OF VIOLENT ASSAULTS AGAINST THEM, AND YOU CAN SEE WHY THERE IS A CRITICAL LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVERYDAY ISSUES THESE STUDENTS FACE. **KATHERINE CONNOLLY** AND **BRONWYN COWELL** LOOK AT WHY CULTURAL ISOLATION, SPOKEN LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES, MENTAL ILLNESS AND JUST PLAIN LONELINESS ARE ALL TOO COMMON, AND HOW UNIVERSITY SERVICES INTENDED TO EASE SUCH DIFFICULTIES OFTEN FALL SHORT.

find a place where they can vent and relax for a while, I guess that's the value in it."

One of the best aspects of the programs that support international students is how interconnected and cooperative they are. The University Health Services and the SRC have a strong working relationship with the ISSU, and referrals will be made between each program to try and best serve the interests of each student. Unique amongst these organizations, UniMates provides a peer-led, social service and Lau told us the ISSU, along with actively supporting the club, will encourage people to join.

It is remarkable what a good job is done by the ISSU despite having a meagre increase in resources to accompany the boom in international student numbers over the last decade. Nemitschenko laughs ruefully when we ask her whether or not she perceived a discrepancy between the resources international students bring to university and the resources the university spends on the ISSU.

"In 1996, there were 2,300 international students and the ISSU had 3 full time counselling staff, plus myself. Now, there are 10,500 international students and we have 4 full-time counselling staff." In that same time period the ISSU has also had to take over international student support services at the Cumberland campus. To put this in perspective, Nemitschenko told us "in 2004 we did 1,857 sessions [with students]. In 2008, we did 3,562. Between that time, there was no increase in staffing." For many years, she has asked for re-

sources and not received any. They have been promised one more full-time counsellor, but only until the end of this year. As Nemitschenko pointed out - "It's very difficult for us to continue to deliver high quality services with numbers and demand continuing to grow and resources not".

The Vice Chancellor's office told us that the VC has initiated and will be leading a review of the university's support services for international students. Hopefully the conclusion of this review will be that the valuable services the ISSU provides deserve to be more generously funded. It is in the interests of the university to do so, given the large portion of revenue international students provide.

There is also a review of student accommodation being undertaken by Chief Operation Officer and Deputy Vice Chancellor,

////////////////////////////////////  
**The federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship is involved in never-ending investigations into private education providers. At last count, 6 such formal investigations were underway.**  
////////////////////////////////////

Mr Bob Kotic. Of all students, international students stand to gain the most from readily available, affordable accommodation on campus. Jonathan Ribot, student head of International House, believes living on campus can

mitigate most of the harms sometimes suffered by international students. He says, "The uncertainty of being able to find a place to live or a job, the uncertainty of being understood by others, is taken away when living on campus. The university needs to provide more infrastructure."

The university needs to improve existing infrastructure, but by and large what we have works quite well. Of greater concern are those students who attend private colleges, which charge them a vast amount of money and don't even try to provide the services that Sydney does. Reports abound of crowded classrooms, absent teachers and students being threatened with visa withdrawal if they complain.

In early 2008, around 1000 students were left high and dry after the NSW government shut down Global College, a private education provider in Sydney. It turned out that Global College had chronically overenrolled and did not have the facilities to adequately educate their students. Melbourne's International College collapsed only weeks ago, owing hundreds of thousands of dollars and leaving 300 students to try and find somewhere else to continue their studies. The federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship is involved in never-ending investigations into private education providers. At last count, 6 such formal investigations were underway. The Government passed the Essential Services for Overseas Students Act in 2000 to avoid precisely this kind of exploitation, but Ruchir Punjabi, former head of International House and former Union President says he has "never seen it enforced."

Punjabi says these colleges treat students like cash cows and that the government needs to move from looking at international students as a group that the economy and education system relies on for money, to students who also need quality education. "They're students first, international after. The only difference is they have a few extra needs for pastoral care and counselling."

Many international students at Sydney University settle into university life swiftly and easily, with no more or less anxiety than local students. This is largely due to the excellent work of people like Lydia Nemitschenko and Charlotte Long. Yet just as many international students are not so lucky, both within our own University and at private colleges across the country. There is a lot that both the University administration and the Government need to do to ensure that international students are given the services they need and deserve. **HS**

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

International students trying to deal with any of the problems talked about in this article should get in touch with University services that are there to help.

**F STUDYING CAN**

**SEEM OVERWHELMING.**

*International Student Support Unit*  
Level 5 Jane Foss Russell Building  
8627 8437  
[usyd.edu.au/stuserv/issu](http://usyd.edu.au/stuserv/issu)

*Students' Representative Council*  
Level 1 Wentworth Building  
9660 5222 or [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)  
[src.usyd.edu.au](http://src.usyd.edu.au)

*University Health Service*  
Wentworth Building  
9351 3484  
[unihealth.usyd.edu.au](http://unihealth.usyd.edu.au)

*University Counselling Service*  
Level 5 Jane Foss Russell Building  
86278433  
[usyd.edu.au/stuserv/counselling](http://usyd.edu.au/stuserv/counselling)

*UniMates* is a Union club, and all are welcome, local or international.  
[unimates.org](http://unimates.org)  
Email: [usyd.unimates@gmail.com](mailto:usyd.unimates@gmail.com)



## DIARY OF...

**MICHAEL COLLINS**



**Look familiar? Probably not.**

On July 20, 1969, I single-handedly piloted the Columbia Command Module around the moon's surface. Ushering in history, I completed the impossible, in a feat of aeronautical prowess the likes of which the world had never seen.

After a gruelling period of radio silence, with no contact or assistance from controllers on Earth, I completed a procedure so complex that it required the preparation of 18 different rendez-vous schemes to account for all variables. With any slight mistake potentially fatal, and the entire planet watching, the pressure was almost insurmountable.

But I was successful. I was brilliant. I could be the most talented astronaut to ever reach for the stars. Yet on hearing my name, most people think of a crappy Liam Neeson film about an Irish revolutionary. On hearing my achievements, most people ask about Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. I'm just the other guy.

The other guy who happened to pilot the command module of Apollo 11, but that's probably not as impressive as the insane levels of skill it would have taken to both walk, and collect rocks. No one had ever docked a lunar module in space before, and I've spent forty years wishing I'd not been the first.

Neil sat around mopey the entire trip and hasn't done much of anything since returning to Earth, but they still gave him the Congressional Space Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom – mental. And Buzz broke the circuit breaker that armed the main engine when we were leaving, almost killing us all.

The man's an arse, having walked on the moon he returned to voice a guest spot on the Simpsons, be interviewed by Ali G and make a rap video with Snoop Dogg. Then there's his particularly hideous line of clothing: "Buzz Aldrin, Rocket Hero".

You may not have heard of me, but I assure you, I'm awesome.

## I've read *The Game*, Lucy, so why wouldn't you make out with me last night?

Alright, first off the bat let me say this: I'm as confident as a lion and my body is a temple I worship in daily, okay? Good. Secondly, I'm not mad at you, I'm just disappointed. Maybe it's because you're not as experienced as I am in the world of Pick-Up Artists but last night was totally uncool on your part. I dropped you home at 11pm last night. You said you had a "nice evening", but when I went to kiss you, you totally flaked on me. What's up with that? I've read *The Game*, Lucy, so why wouldn't you make out with me?

I'm no average frustrated chump, I'm not annoyed. A real Pick Up Artist doesn't get annoyed or frustrated, but I think you can see why I'm confused, right? You and I both know I was on fire last night. Maybe you need a reminder. I picked you up at 7pm and totally negged you: "Hey Lucy, that's a really pretty dress you're wearing, I wish it matched your eyes" so I could've made you make out with me then, but I didn't.

What about my classic vintage car? Did you like riding in that? The electric blue

1986 Toyota Camry? It's an experience most people don't forget. I think it's because it's the kind of car you wouldn't ordinarily see, so people think of it as special – and I'm a special guy. One who apparently, you didn't feel the need to make out with last night.

Also, remember at Sharx Pool Hall we played four games of pool and I proved my value as a potential mate to you by winning all four? Then at the all-you-can-eat-buffet in the Sharx Bistro I spoke down to the waiter and other patrons which illustrated my dominance in social situations and my status as a total Alpha. This is textbook *The Game* but for some reason, I went home alone. I mean, do I need to remind you how much I kept touching your leg so you knew I was confident with physical contact? I didn't think so.

Listen, I'm sure it was just a misunderstanding, but you've got to be more careful in the future. As you can see, for someone like you who's only a level 6 HB (*Hot Babe – ed*), it was pretty rude of you to not make out with me last night.

*The Game* is evolution. It's science. I'm the Yin to your Yang. Look, I get it, as a woman you're naturally insecure – if there's one thing I know from my years of experience with women, it's that. And I know you have to do things like pretend you're text messaging someone while I'm talking, or pretend you're not interested when I explain things like politics or art to you, but I see right through your games because I am a Pick Up Artist. An Artist,

Lucy.

Look, I'm glad I got all this off my chest because again, I'm not annoyed or angry or anything, but you need to know you can't keep doing that kind of thing. I mean, I know you're not very experienced but other guys won't put up with it. And unless you want to end up sad and alone, you better start thinking about what the other person thinks and feels, okay? I just don't want to see you get hurt, is all.

## Other top stories inside:

**MAHMOUD AHMANDINEJAD – WINNER**

We talk to Mahmoud Ahmandinejad about winning the Tour de France, the 1967 Oscar for Best Sound and the Golden Ticket to Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory.

**LAVA WATCH: HOW MUCH LAVA IS TOO MUCH LAVA?**

Plus – Magma or Pumice? The vote's are in!

**NORTH, SOUTH KOREA TO STAR IN ODD COUPLE REMAKE.**

"One of them is an unstable communist military state run by a megalomaniac dictator – and the other one's messy!"  
Da da da daaaaaa, da da daaaa da da daaaaa



**WE'VE BEEN HIDING OBAMA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE THIS WHOLE TIME.**



We thought it was pretty funny.

Enjoy Responsibly

# Swap your Sauvignon Plonk for a Fifth Leg.

**This lil' guy did, and look at him go!**

ANOTHER INITIATIVE FROM  
**Fifth Leg OPERATION KERPLONK**

because you can't get work in a freak show when you've only got four legs.

HONI RECOMMENDS:



**July 29th | Story Club**  
Dave Bloustein, Virginia Gay, Alex Lee, Jon Williams and David Cunningham share stories

**August 5th | Make Way For Ducklings**  
A brand new original sketch show

**August 12th | Hermann's Heroes**  
Stand-up comedy

**August 19th | Casablanca & Jazzsac**  
A live dubbing of the classic, Casablanca

**26th August | FBCNL Junior Tennis**  
Fully improvised comedy - like Theatresports up late

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

We want your

LETTERS & ARTICLES

So send 'em in

honi2009@gmail.com

Submissions must include your name, year and faculty.



## SCIENCE STUNTS

### HOW TO MOURN A CELEBRITY

#### AIM

To analyse the process of the seven stages of grieving that accompanies the public and inevitably tragic passing of a celeb.

#### METHOD

1. The first stage, a sense of shock and denial, is felt upon hearing the news, often from a know-it-all housemate or news source. It should be noted that if the source of news is Sunrise, then the denial felt will more than likely be entirely justified.

2. In 90% of cases, pain and guilt ensued, with mourners dealing with their pain by posting one-liners on Twitter about said celebrity and copying them to Facebook to ensure that everyone knew how quick-witted and irreverent they were.

3. Anger and bargaining is felt next, with the mourner asking "Why? Why take such a talented person's life when the following oxygen thieves like Kyle Sandilands and Richard Wilkins stick around, thieving all our oxygen?" This very question has baffled scientists for many years.

4. The fourth step, depression and reflection manifests in a series of hastily put together documentaries about the celebrity's life on Vh1, consisting mostly of slow zooms into pictures of the recently deceased and solemn voiceovers.

5. Following a purge of emotions in the fourth step, mourners next exhibited an upward turn, and displayed the ability to play the celebrity's songs on jukeboxes in public places without getting choked up.

6. The second final step is a sense of reconstruction, allowing the mourner to purchase all the merchandise of that celebrity from the internet for a greatly inflated price, and secretly be glad that the celebrity is not around to see the huge increase of sales that would almost certainly have pulled them out of the very debt that drove them to death in the first place.

7. The final stage is a sense of hope, as the mourner realises that this makes perfect sense, and that it is most likely that their much loved celebrity has faked their own death and is probably in disguise in an unlikely city on the other side of the world.

#### CONCLUSION

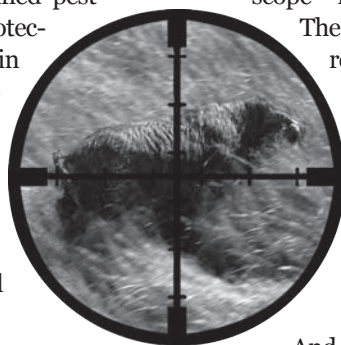
Having experienced the seven stages of grief, the mourner will inevitably sight the disguised celebrity at their local Coles and blog about it on their fan page, finding comfort in conspiracy.

## Wacktivities!

### Git ya'self a boar

Freed from the dreary Honi office, **George Downing** went hunting for feral pigs

With the swine flu pandemic rearing its black-maned snout across the globe, one niche pastime is enjoying a boost in popularity: pig shooting. Before you rig the animal rights flag, let it be known that feral pigs are both a certified pest under the Rural Lands Protection Act and one of the main environmental threats to outback Australia. Their destruction is actually encouraged by pastoralists, governments and landholders. Which is good news for red-blooded thrill seekers.



First things first – where to hunt. Honi visited a remote station in Arnhem Land, NT, but other popular locales include far northern QLD and the back o' Bourke in northwestern NSW. For obvious reasons, hunting is not safe in populated areas, but there are so many feral pigs and vast open spaces in this fine country that finding a suitable locale isn't too much of a problem. Once you've booked yourself a decent spot and a certified guide, its time to hit the road.

To take down a wild boar charging at speed across a remote wetland, and potentially straight at you, you'll need a decent rifle. The learn the basics of rifle shooting, including

safety, technique and precision, the author took a couple of pot shots at a mock target, with varying success. The final weapon of choice was the Ruger .30-06, a stainless steel rifle fitted with a long-range crosshair scope – ideal for hunting, so I'm told.

The basics of shooting, such as resting the butt on the shoulder and peering through the scope at a target, are easy enough, but the whiplash of the discharge and the noise – it hurts it's so loud – take a little getting used to.

And now, the hunt. A sounder of feral swine will often include a boar, a couple of sows and a handful of piglets. For the large beasts that they can be – some weighing in close to 90kg – they are relatively good at staying hidden, often sheltered in grasslands or amongst scrub on riverbanks. Further, they have an excellent sense of smell, and will pick the whiff of an approaching marksman easily. After spotting one (which may be several hours into the expedition) the hunter needs to approach the beast downwind, keeping low to the ground, as quiet as possible.

The pig may be lying still on the turf, or ambling casually, feeding on grasses. If he notices you, he'll take off with blazing

speed, so stealth is paramount. Cue the adrenaline rush as you cock your gun and peer through the scope. Take a few deep breaths, ensure you've got a clear shot and the rifle is steady. Breathe again. Squeeze the trigger.

The boom will reverberate so loudly, even in open grasslands, that any companion pigs will scatter, and nearby birds will screech and take to the air. It's a fleeting moment of chaos.

Finally, the gore. Your hunting guide will butcher the animal so the carcass decomposes more quickly, or as Honi's eloquent leader explained, 'so the crocs come an git 'im'. Souveniring the animal's tusks, if the pig is a boar, is a popular trophy for shooters, and involves hacking the snout apart with a machete to reach them. It's stomach-churning stuff.

Once the hunting party have cleared the area, the eagles will appear first, followed by kites, dingos and possibly a croc, to feed on the remains. Hang in the distance to view the mob of natives feast greedily on the gristly carcass of an invading pest – a glorious scene of nature's redemptive, unadulterated wonder.

Then talk up the size of your hit over a few tinnies by the campfire back home.

## HONI TOP FIVE All-purpose comebacks

01

#### > "So's your Mum"

One day on the mountaintop of Delphi, confused orphan Oedipus consulted the great Oracle on all things mythical, Greek and motherly. When the young Oedy complained about his disputed lineage to the Theban throne saying, "the Queen is beautiful but such a hard nut to crack", the Oracle quipped "So's your Mum". This was confused by Oedipus as "well she's your Mum", and the wheels were set in motion. Now it is still the go-to call of many.

02

#### > "Let's just agree to disagree"

If you want to totally shut down an argument or disputed conversation tap out with this pass-ag gem. But beware, like a young Neville Chamberlain a full blitzkrieg of well directed insults could reopen the dispute and make you out to be a total sissy. A sissy that's ok with Nazis. Next.

03

#### > "More like (insert inappropriate rhyme here)"

As William the conquerer surveyed his war wearied Normans and proclaimed "we claim total victory at this Battle of Hastings", a dying pikeman was heard muttering "more like the Battle of Wastings". And so the nonsensical rhyming comeback was born. Crude is usually best here, and try to be creative.

04

#### > "That's what he/she said"

The origin of this comeback is not well known but we can only assume that the story was about sex and a bragging partner. Lots of it. What Honi has found is that this can be used in any situation, and after any statement of fact or fiction. For example, "this meat is really chewy". "That's what she said".

05

#### > "That's alright, that's ok, you're gonna pump my gas some day"

Want to let someone know of their high chance of being so low in the socioeconomic food chain that there will be a return to the old style of petrol distribution, and that you will be the one that receives this throwback-to-the-past service? No? Well then there is always: "you put the ass in massive", "you put the whore in horrible, or our favourite "Brrr its cold in here".



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report of the SRC President, Noah White//[president@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:president@src.usyd.edu.au)



Welcome back for semester two of 2009 or if you are starting your studies welcome to the University of Sydney. The SRC has been a hub of activity during the semester one exam period and during the semester break. The SRC hosted two student conferences, has been active within the university making sure you are represented, has reorganised itself for an even more active semester two and has even had a make-over (the university agreed to help us refurbish making the SRC offices less of an OH&S hazard and general death-trap than it was before).

### The National Indigenous Students Conference

The SRC again hosted the second annual National Indigenous Students' Conference which was organised by the National Union of Students Indigenous Officer and Sydney Uni student, Carla McGrath. Currently, out of the just over one million students studying at Higher Education Institutions, fewer than ten thousand are from Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal backgrounds. That's less than one percent of students. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make up 2.2% of the entire population.

Hence it was incredibly inspiring to see such a strong presence of around 50 indigenous students from right

across the country despite the stark under-representation of indigenous people in higher education. What was even more inspiring was that all of the delegates were so incredibly passionate about the issues facing indigenous students and indigenous people more broadly.

I would like to thank Carla and all of the delegates for letting me be part of the conference and it is really good to see indigenous representation so strong and a national level and I am very glad that the SRC and the University of Sydney could be part and help in that.

### National Education Conference

Every year the National Union of Students holds a conference in the middle of the year for students from campuses right across the country to come together, decide on policy, talk about the current debates being discussed at a national level and to decide on the direction of the National Union and the wider student movement for the next 12 months.

This year that conference was held at the University of Sydney and organised by the SRC. We had a fantastic turnout (nearly double last year), had representatives from every single state and territory of Australia (something we haven't achieved for a while) and it was great to see

everybody engage actively. I have no doubt that this is a direct effect of the increased activity of the National Union over the last 12 months and the wins and successes we have had recently as a student movement.

The last day of the conference was dedicated to deciding what the National Union was going to concentrate on for the next few months. Participants at the conference decided that there were three should be three major focuses:

### Justice for International Students

International students get treated quite unfairly compared to local students. International students bring in billions and billions of dollars to our economy and subsidise the education that local students receive. But most importantly international students are students first, just like anyone else, they are international after.

International students don't receive concession cards (they pay double when they get on the same bus as local students) and they have quite restrictive visa conditions including a limit of working no more than 20 hours a week. This semester the SRC and the National Union will be actively working for a fair go for international students.

### Fair Education

Next year the federal government will be reviewing how much we pay in HECS. This semester the SRC and the National Union will be laying the ground work for a campaign against any HECS increases. There will also be work on the concerns that exist around the deregulation of places at universities.

### Fair Education on Campus

Right now is a pivotal time for Higher Education. There will be renewed pressure on universities to provide a quality educational experience for students. The SRC will be renewing a focus on our own campus, making sure that the facilities and services are up to standards that we deserve. Internet quotas, availability of computers, 24hour libraries and oversized classrooms will all be issues that the SRC will be taking up. But the SRC can't do all of this by itself. We will be running a survey (watch this space next week) to find out what you want your SRC to campaign on. Most of all the SRC needs your help and without you change won't happen.

I hope you have a very successful semester full of learning and change for the better!

## EDUCATION REPORT

Report of the Education Officers, Elly Howse and Rosie Ryan//[education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)

Oh dear. It's already the first week of second semester. Where did first semester go? How the hell is it already the end of July? WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING WITH MY LIFE??!

I don't know about you but I am massively freaked out. Maybe I'm secretly a cyborg from Battlestar Galactica and that's why I didn't notice semester passing. So if you see me walking around, report me to your nearest Robot Commander-in-Chief for de-programming. Or re-programming? Bah, whatever.

The semester has gone very fast for many reasons. There's been a lot of stuff on, both on and off campus, for USyd students to get involved with - like reforming our education system, improving youth allowance, stopping the Northern Territory Intervention, revealing the truth about the Government's CPRS scheme and fighting for queer rights. USyd students are (I hope!) involved, conscientious, inter-

esting and engaged students, which is what we found out at the annual Education Conference in July at our very own New Law Building. It was a fantastic opportunity for students from around Australia to get together and discuss about the most pressing issues facing students today.

This semester is going to be no different. In fact, it's going to be even better. University isn't just about coming to class, then going home or to work. Whatever time you can contribute, whatever skills or ideas, we want you, to make this the most vibrant, energetic and engaging semester on campus!

Shortly the SRC will be sending out a survey to you all to see what YOU are interested in. What YOU think your SRC should be fighting for. I know what I want the SRC to fight for this semester is International Students and their rights. Imagine paying \$20,000 a year to study here! In these

overcrowded tutorials, poor facilities and lack of resources? International students, some 9,000 undergraduate ones at USyd, put up with this stuff every day yet pay 10 times more than your average domestic student. Apart from this, they have to deal with shoddy and often racist landlords, systematic discrimination in being refused transport concessions, and racist attacks (both verbal and physical) on and off campus.

International students get a pretty raw deal. So that's why I urge you all to get involved in this semester's campaign which is focusing on the issues faced by international students in our university, in our state, and in our country. On 2nd September, students from around NSW will be congregating at UTS at 1pm to march to the NSW Parliament and demand transport concessions for international students.

Join us on that day and during the

semester, or risk becoming a cyborg / robot like the other 40,000 people here!

The Education Action Group meets weekly at 1pm Tuesday on the Front Lawns. If you would like to be involved or be on our email list, please drop us a line at [education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au). Have a great semester!



# NSW EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Report of Kathleen Studdert, National Union of Students NSW Education Officer, [kathleenstuddert@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenstuddert@gmail.com)



I have been given the honor of writing for the first time in Honi Soit. I would love to write a funny witty piece on my job as Education officer but unfortunately for you all i am neither funny nor witty. However, that should not lead you believe that what I do for students is any less important. I am part of the NSW branch of the National Union of Students. We are the organisation that represents Students in Australia and run campaigns on issues that effect students. The position of NSW NUS education officer requires me to organise and facilitate campaigns, assist campus activism and promote the role of a National Union of Students.

Over the past 6 months I have been luckily enough to talk with many campus education officers about the issues that they are facing. Earlier this year I went to University of Wol-

longong O-day to talk to students about changes to the Federal Government's stand on VSU. Students explained to me the importance of their university culture not only to Wollongong students but also for the young adults in Wollongong. Yet as the day progressed I couldn't help but be rather depressed at the society stalls which dotted the main area outside the Wollongong University Student Association. In all i counted 15. James Tier, the WUSA education officer, explained the situation Wollongong was in - in 4 years, without external support, there will be no independent student organisation at Wollongong. However against all obstacles their students continue to show the importance campus culture brings to a university. WUSA still publishes a bi-month newspaper, which I'm sorry to say, hits Honi for six on edginess and hilarity. They

still run campaigns on issues like student poverty, youth allowance and tutorial sizes. Students continue to support student infrastructure such as the UNIBAR, which over the years has brought big name bands to the local area.

At the present there has been much discussion of the treatment of international students Australia. On September 2nd the Cross Campus Concession Card Committee will be holding a rally to highlight the Cash Crow mentality of the NSW Government on international students. Local and International students will march as one on this issue of blatant discrimination

NSW Education is not always a glamorous job. However I still love being part of a National Union at supports real change for students.

I don't believe in tactics that alienate people, I have and always will believe in an inclusive Union at works with any interested student in all campuses around Australia. If anything I can tell young activists or students who doubt the relevance of NUS, I tell you look to the past and how far we have come from the days of Universities as restricted institutions for the rich. Today we have a system that, while suffering from years of abuse and neglected, allows any Aussie to attend a university I can tell you without NUS this would not be possible. Together we are stronger than we are divided and with a Labor Government now is the time for Students to rise, take control and DEMAND FAIR EDUCATION!

## WOMEN'S REPORT

Report of the Women's Officer, Tamsin Dingley//[womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)

After a very snuggly winter it's great to welcome everyone back for another semester of manning bar, all night essays and of course feminism!

I'd like to extend a very warm invitation to all women on campus to use our wonderful new women's room. As it's impossible to find I'm going to explain in painful detail how to get there. It's located in Holme building which is on Science Road with Parramatta Road on the other side. If you leave Manning and go through the Graffiti tunnel Holme building is ahead of you, slightly to the left. There is a Pharmacy on the ground floor (street level, where you enter) of Holme building at the Science road entrance near the doctor's office and coffee shop. Standing with your back to the Pharmacy there is

a flight of stairs to your left, about 10 meters away. Go all the way to the bottom of these stairs and follow the labyrinth of corridors to the end. The Women's Room is on the right hand side and will have lots of signage.

This room will be open late and locked from the Parramatta road entrance for safety reasons. Women requiring ramp access or with other access needs should contact me or disability services and we will happily arrange an access card for you. There is a bathroom near the room (exit to the left and it's 20 meters ahead on the left). There are double doors for privacy, change tables and toys for children so the room can be used for playing, cuddling, breastfeeding etc. We also have a microwave, boiling billy, sink and fridge for cooking etc.

There are also sofas, tables and chairs etc for studying, napping, chatting, plotting or just having some time to yourself.

This room is for us and I encourage women to take advantage of this great space. Women's Collective meets in this space from 1pm on Thursdays and all women are welcome to attend.

Women's Collective meetings (which will start in Week 1) will run for 2 hours for the next few weeks to accommodate timetable problems etc so come between 1pm and 3pm on Thursdays for your weekly feminism kick.

Finally, Wednesday the 5th August is the USU's monthly markets at Jane Foss Russell Square from 11am to 3pm and Women's Collective will be

selling good quality, affordable, awesome used clothing to raise money for Women's Shelters so everyone is encouraged to come and buy some cool threads and help Women who really need it.

See you at the Women's Room!  
Tamsin Dingley

SRC Women's Officer

[tamsindingley@hotmail.com](mailto:tamsindingley@hotmail.com)

0431 889 590

## ASK ABE

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

Hi Abe,  
I had an absolutely shocking time last semester and failed every subject I attempted. I have previously had an excellent record, but had a lot of family problems happen, especially because of the global financial crisis. Is there any way that I can have last semester wiped off my record so my bad marks don't spoil my record?

DS

Dear DS,  
As a general rule the faculty won't change your marks just so your transcript looks better. However if you had an illness or misadventure that was out of your control and became worse after the census date you should contact your faculty to see if you can get any fails or absent fails changed to DNF (Discontinue not to count as fail) grades. Naturally you will need to have documentation to show that you really did have these problems. It is also a good idea to have some documentation to show the faculty that these problems have been resolved. After you've done this you might also consider talking to an SRC caseworker about having your HECS/fees refunded and having your learning entitlement for that semester

recredited. There are tight deadlines for getting all of these things so talk to the faculty today. The deadline for HECS is less than 12 months, but it's so easy to forget that you'd be better off dealing with that straight away too.

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](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au).





# The SUPRA

## SAAO Corner

Dear SAAOs

I got 49% and failed one of my subjects in Semester 1. I passed all my assessments during the semester so it must be because of my final examination. How do I go about seeing my examination paper, getting details of and an explanation for the mark, and appealing the grade if I think it's unfair?

Best regards,  
Almost-Passed

Dear Almost-Passed

You have the right to view your examination script and some Faculties and Departments offer times when you can view your papers. Where that has not happened you should contact your Unit of Study Coordinator directly. You also have the right to request a breakdown of all your marks in a unit of study. Check your paper carefully for any obvious errors in marking and make sure grades add up.

If you are still not happy with the grade then within 15 working days of the release of the marks you should have an informal discussion with a relevant teacher. They must give you a full explanation for the academic decision. If you are not satisfied with their response you can appeal to your Faculty. See SUPRA's Survival Guide for more information about Assessment rights and appealing grades.

Best regards,  
SAAOs

## “Is Australia Racist?” stumps Australians

While we were all on holidays, the issue exploded. Media buzzed with stories of Indian international students being bashed, stabbed, and in one case, petrol-bombed. This seemingly came out of nowhere, however the issue was simmering for months, even years, beforehand. The Australian public was taken by surprise and suddenly developed an interest in student issues, while every government agency, political party, community organisation, media outlet, and individual, with designs on political power, took the opportunity to have their say regardless of whether they were well-informed or not.

Hardly anyone listened to the students who were actually protesting or being affected by violence and discrimination. Governments have set up “task forces” on international student issues that include only one or two students, and a number of self-appointed “community leaders,” who have never been international students, have completely denounced what students are saying.

The furore started in Melbourne, where the majority of the newer international students are from India (29%, while Chinese international students make up around 26%), and moved on to Sydney. In late May a few vicious attacks on students including one on Sravan Kumar Theerthala, who was stabbed with a screwdriver, made media headlines. Representatives from the Federation of Indian Students of Australia (FISA) allege that Australian media outlets refused to report such crimes until, in May this year, Indian media outlets started to take notice.

The question the Indian media were asking – “Is Australia a racist country?” – caused widespread moral panic, in some ways even more so than the actual issues affecting students: unregulated fees, insecure housing, deception by education agents, precarious immigration status, and lack of safety in public. Predictably, whenever this

question is asked, white Australian society becomes defensive and puts forward a range of illogical rhetoric to maintain a nationalistic ideology about Australian “multiculturalism”.

The most frequent and disturbing rhetoric is victim-blaming. Students have been told that they are “soft targets” and attract negative attention to themselves because of the way they behave. In this case, Indian students were told by both NSW and Victorian police that they should avoid speaking loudly in languages other than English and stop carrying electronic items such as mobile phones and laptops openly.

Speaking in languages other than English is only a problem for people who perceive it to be a problem. Instead of condemning the implicit racism in objections to people speaking in languages other than English, the police used victim-blaming as a diversionary tactic. In fact, police are part of the problem.

Amongst students there is a widespread lack of faith in police. Students have said, for instance, that police do not follow up on reports of assault or robbery. Thus, there is a problem of underreporting which allows police to deny that there is a problem.

At the same time, police have been heavy-handed and punitive in acts of victim-blaming. Not only have senior police officials made biased media statements, but police have actually punished Indian students. For instance, when students in Harris Park protested against a further attack in that area, police arrested and detained two Indian students, and stated that they wouldn't release them until the protesters dispersed. Melbourne police tried to stop groups of Indian students gathering to ‘patrol’ trains and stations by threatening to charge a \$200 fine for anyone gathered in these groups. These are merely a few examples of the

many ways in which governments and government agencies have maintained institutionalised discrimination against international students. Ultimately, this supports the discriminatory attitudes of those who engage in racist violence, and it creates opportunities for violence against international students.

At a forum last week, Gautam Gupta, founder of FISA, made links between a number of previous incidents directed at Indians and India and the current political climate. Incidents such as the detention of Dr. Mohammed Haneef on bogus terrorism charges, inflammatory comments about outsourcing of call centres, and rivalry in sports have all contributed to the current environment of negativity against Indians and India. The heavy-handed, defensive, and biased role of government agencies and politicians in these incidents has supported racist attitudes about Indians and immigrants, which have been shown to play a key role in many of the violent attacks.

Australia has the largest number of international students of any OECD country, and has commercialised its education system to such an extent that it is the third largest “export industry” in the country. This “industry” provides the country with an enormous cheap labour pool, as international students have been shown to be disproportionately concentrated in occupations such as cleaning, taxi driving, factory work, and in service stations and convenience stores. With taxis, this labour pool has actually rescued the industry from a labour shortage. International student fees are also propping up our education system, which has been chronically under-funded since Howard-era cutbacks took their toll.

This country has shown that it is happy to create a population that is living under precarious conditions so long as they continue to fuel cash into the economy. So, I would argue that, while the



# Postgrad Pages

answer to the question “Is Australia a racist country?” is yes, I believe it is meaningless to ask this question of many parts of Australian society because so many of them have a vested interest in both maintaining racism and deflecting attention from the fact that it exists. For instance, within days of stating that Australia is not racist, Prime Minister Rudd took measures to further entrench the Northern Territory intervention into Aboriginal communities, which required suspending the Racial Discrimination Act in order to be put into effect. The bias is obvious.

The question, asked so condescendingly by SBS Insight presenter Jenny Brockie, “Are all the attacks racist?” is a red herring that plays into the logic

of denying racism. It is an impossible question to answer (except for very talented clairvoyants), and in fact it’s irrelevant, because every international student experiencing attack is also surrounded by systemic racism on multiple levels.

SUPRA has been active in the past two months in engaging with a number of international students who are concerned about issues of violence and discrimination. We took an active part in supporting the demonstration on June 7th, by publicising, liaising with police, organising a PA system, and talking with a number of students about the campaign we are running about transport concessions.

If you are interested in these issues,

come along to the meetings of the Cross-Campus Concessions Coalition (CCCC) on Tuesdays at 12 pm at the SUPRA offices. If you can’t make it, encourage your friends to sign our petition for transport concessions for international students, and come along to the rally on September 2nd to present the petition to NSW parliament.

Rashmi Kumar  
SUPRA Co-President  
president@supra.usyd.edu.au

## Show Cause and Exclusion

At this time of year faculties around the University send out letters to postgraduate coursework students whose results have not been as good as they would have hoped. These letters require you to “show good cause” as to why you should be allowed to re-enroll in your course. SUPRA helps scores of students every year to face this process and to get permission to continue studying. If you use our guides and come and consult with one of our Student Advice and Advocacy Officer (SAAO) team, we will help you prepare the best response you possibly can, and assist to connect you with the ongoing support you need to succeed in future.

If you see a SAAO, you can be assured that we understand the needs of the postgraduate population. On the whole, the postgraduate population is older, with lots of personal and life commitments, leaving many students time poor and under pressure. About 75% of the postgraduate population are now enrolled in either an ‘Advanced Learning Masters’ or programs (like Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas) leading into such degrees, or a ‘Professional Masters’ degree program leading to a qualification relevant to entry into a professional field.

Many of you are doing short Masters courses that you want to complete in one or two years and then get back out into the workforce. Others are managing part time study with full time work. Others still see the Global Financial Crisis and shortage of jobs as an opportunity to take some time

to upgrade skills. The postgraduate population is a diverse, robust, and resilient group, demonstrated by the fact that you do complete your degrees in the face of significant pressures. However every now and again when you go through particularly rough patches you should know that SUPRA is there to help.

You all have academic successes in the past and life circumstances you can draw upon to explain why your results sometimes wane and how you can improve.

So if you have received a letter asking you to “show good cause” and have not yet responded to it, please see our comprehensive *Show Cause and Exclusion Survival Kit*, available on our website and also in hard copy from our offices. Also strongly consider booking an appointment to see a SAAO as soon as possible. If you have responded already and the result is that you are excluded from your course, then please still see our Kit and consult a SAAO immediately. We can advise you on your readmission and appeal rights. You should act quickly because time limits to lodge appeals do apply.

## Subscribe to SUPRA - it's FREE!

By becoming a SUPRA Subscriber you will be able to:

- Access our free, confidential student advice and advocacy service
- Participate in SUPRA events and activities
- Receive regular email updates and electronic publications (eGrad)
- Use the SUPRA Resource and Meeting Rooms
- Access discounted photocopying, printing and faxing
- Vote or run in the SUPRA Council elections
- Actively participate in your representative student association.

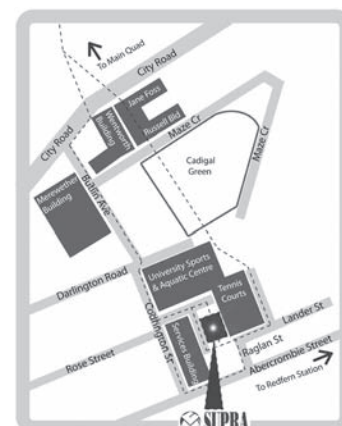
By becoming a SUPRA Supporter you will be able to:

- Access all of the above benefits
- Receive a SUPRA Supporter Welcome Pack (including SUPRA highlighter and t-shirt)
- Show that you appreciate the value of an independent student run organisation.

Complete your subscription online at [www.supra.usyd.edu.au/subscribe](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/subscribe) then follow the links if you would like to become a SUPRA Supporter. Alternatively you can complete a form at our stalls or drop into the SUPRA office.



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Web: [www.supra.usyd.edu.au](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au)



## What's coming up at SUPRA (see [www.supra.usyd.edu.au](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au) for more information)

Thurs 6 Aug, 12pm	SUPRA Second Semester Welcome BBQ - SUPRA Office
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## FILM

**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**

David Yates, I hate you. As director of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, you had a responsibility to produce a film that was both engaging and faithful to the narrative. You achieved neither of these things.

What you should have produced was a dark and suspenseful film, detailing the secret rise of Lord Voldemort, Harry's struggle to understand Voldemort's past, and Malfoy's desperate and conflicted mission to kill Dumbledore.

Instead, you churned out a schmaltzy, overdone piece of generic Hollywood trash. Indeed, with so much material in the original text it is a mystery why you would cut important scenes and add new scenes which were never in the book and add nothing to the film. Shame on you.

The cast contains some of Britain's best actors, but it should be noted that Harry, Ron and Hermione leave much to be desired. Emma Watson's go-to move is looking concerned but helpless, while Rupert Grint becomes uglier with every instalment. Daniel Radcliffe, though certainly not brilliant, does a reasonable job and is very charming in the felix felicitis scenes. Tom Felton's Malfoy, however, is compellingly brooding and tortured. Kudos to him for being the only member of the young cast to give a decent performance. No kudos to Lavender Brown (Jessica Cave), whose appalling performance would have been better suited to a third-rate high school production.

The biggest disappointment, however, is that this film had so much potential. The opening scenes, in the aftermath of Harry's battle with Voldemort where Death Eaters are wreaking havoc on London, are brilliant. They are dark, visually impressive and true to the tone of the book. Sadly you choose to abandon this loyalty to the quality and content of the book, descending into teenage foibles and cheap jokes. This drop in quality culminates in the anticlimactic butchering of Dumbledore's death. The gravity of this moment is completely lost in the film, and no amount of 'sad' music will make up for this.

Anyway, I know that there are some people out there that loved this film. But let me assure you, they are wrong. Kindly go back to film school.

**1 1/2 Knuts out of 5**

**Edwina Burn**

## THEATRE

**Six Degrees**

Six Degrees is a contemplation of the intricate mingling of art, life, storytelling, musicals, form, voyeurism, film, belonging, wealth, novels and celebrity. Director David Mack and Assistant Director Clare Matchett have chosen a difficult piece, but have used much ingenuity in creating it for Cellar Theatre. The gallery-inspired set underscores the relationship of audience/viewer to performing/visual arts. The action happens all around us, creating a charged atmosphere, as does direct audience address. Though the breaking of the fourth wall to shock is now passé, the proximity of the actors is still exciting

The directorial choice likely to raise the most eyebrows in the casting of the role of Paul: though the script is unequivocal in its rendering of him as a black American, Mack and Matchett have cast Guang Li – an actor of Asian descent – in the role. Aware of this beforehand, I expected to find this problematic, however I found myself proven thoroughly wrong. The characters who inhabit the elite world that Paul is so desperate to infiltrate are blithely oblivious to those things which don't accord with their inclinations: from their double-sided Kandinsky to their active ignorance of their children's lives, they see only what they wish to see. As such, the casting displays a subtle interpretation which engages intelligently with the thematic concerns of the piece. And Li has certainly won the part on talent, not because he fit in with an artistic agenda. Though there were moments at which I wanted to see more vulnerability, he is engaging as the charismatic raconteur and con man.

The other main roles, Ouisa (Jacqueline Breen) and Flan (Nick Starte) are played impressively and with commitment, as are a number of the smaller roles; the intensity shown by Stephen Sharpe and Sean Ohlendorf and the comedic finesse shown by Alistair Magee and Matthew Rossi are particularly noteworthy, though many of the accents require fine-tuning. This play is, for my money, the best that has been produced in the Cellar this year.

*6 degrees is playing in the Cellar theatre from July 29th to August 8th.*

**4/5**

**Vivienne Egan**

**Kulcha**

For a university that offers no degrees in acting or theatre praction, Sydney Uni alum are taking Australia's theatre scene by storm, with writers, actors and directors such as Tommy Murphy, Jenny Williams and Nick Coyle being touted as the new darlings of the Sydney theatre scene. This week, **Alex Lee** chats to Theatresports veteran and theatre director David Harmon, whose show *The Sneeze* opens this week.



**David was a bit too optimistic about what he would be able to get through airport security.**

**How did you first get interested in theatre?**

I think I was at my first O-Week for all of thirty seconds before I was being accosted by a large, cheerful gentleman who was telling me I had to join SUDS and see his play and buy a t-shirt. I was too terrified not too. I was cast in a show three days later and the rest was future-history.

**What course did you study at uni and afterwards?**

We-eell \*technically\* I enrolled at Sydney Uni in an Arts/Law course, but the less said about the law component, the better. I like to think that I'm part of a proud tradition of Sydney Uni law degree drop outs that went on to do comedy & theatre - a tradition that includes The Chaser, some of D-Gen & Sean Micallef. I like to think this because it stops me crying into my pillow every night over my giant HECS debt. After USYD I was lucky enough to be accepted into the NIDA full-time postgrad directing course. I just finished up there last year.

**What show are you working on at the moment/in what capacity? (tell me a bit about it)**

I'm working on a show called *The Sneeze* which is the flagship production for a group I'm part of called Theatre Forward. Basically five directors and five actors have locked themselves in a room for three weeks with some of Anton Chekhov's early vaudevilles, comic sketches and sillier monologues. The idea is to put a whole lot of wildly different young creatives in a melting pot with some very classic text and see what comes out. This is funny stuff. Not exactly wailing about your wasted life over the samovar.

**What have been your favourite shows/experiences that you've worked on?**

Oh god! Too many to mention. Arts Revue everything. All nighters in the Cellar Theatre, working on silly musical adaptations of cult films. Hanging out at the Garden of Unearthly Delights at Adelaide Fringe. My first Melbourne Comedy Festival after party. Getting to work with some awesomely talented people who have just gone on to do cooler and cooler things. Also staying up with Ben Jenkins & friends at the VERGE arts festival 24 hour comedy show.

**What's your advice for readers who want to get into the theatre scene?**

Do SUDS in as big a way as you can. Sydney University has a dedicated theatre space and puts on something like 15 shows a year. Anyone can act, anyone can direct, it's pretty balls-to-the-wall awesome. Do revues - especially Arts Revue! I'd never directed a show before the 2005 Arts Revue and it started all this poverty-stricken silliness I'm engaged in at the moment. After that just keep doing shows, take the time to get good photos taken of each one and always have a show lined up you want to do. Also strap yourself in for years of eating instant ramen because there is no money for theatre in this country! Take risks and go up for things you don't think you'll get - you get surprised all the time.

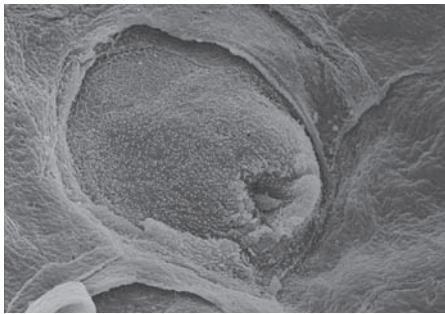
*The Sneeze opens on Tuesday 28th and plays six performances till that Saturday. You can buy tickets by clicking the link at [www.theatreforward.com](http://www.theatreforward.com)*





## Yum, yuk, mmm, blach!

Michael Krasovitsky takes a bite out of the science behind food, flavour and taste



**Our tastebuds. Also, the lead in Alien 4.**

Ever wondered why you think broccoli's the bomb, but everyone in your family hates it? Or why you're constantly the only person at 21st parties who'll dive into the babaganoush? Scientists are making enormous progress in understanding the nature of taste and in mapping out the biological and social reasons behind our like, or dislike, of certain foods.

At school, we're taught that there exist four basic flavour strands: sweet, bitter, sour and salty. Recently, scientists have isolated a five fundamental 'basic taste'; that of umami, a Japanese word translating to savory. Umami comes generally from protein-rich foods and, more specifically, foods containing the protein glutamate such as beef, lamb and blue cheese. The idea behind these five basic tastes is that, when food enters your mouth, the sensation of taste is created within a certain 'taste range', which is distinctly sweet, savoury, bitter, sour or salty.

But there's much more to taste than that. Yes, our taste buds play a central role, particularly in establishing the basic parameters of the taste that we are about to experience, but there's more at work when you take that first bite. Firstly, by identify-

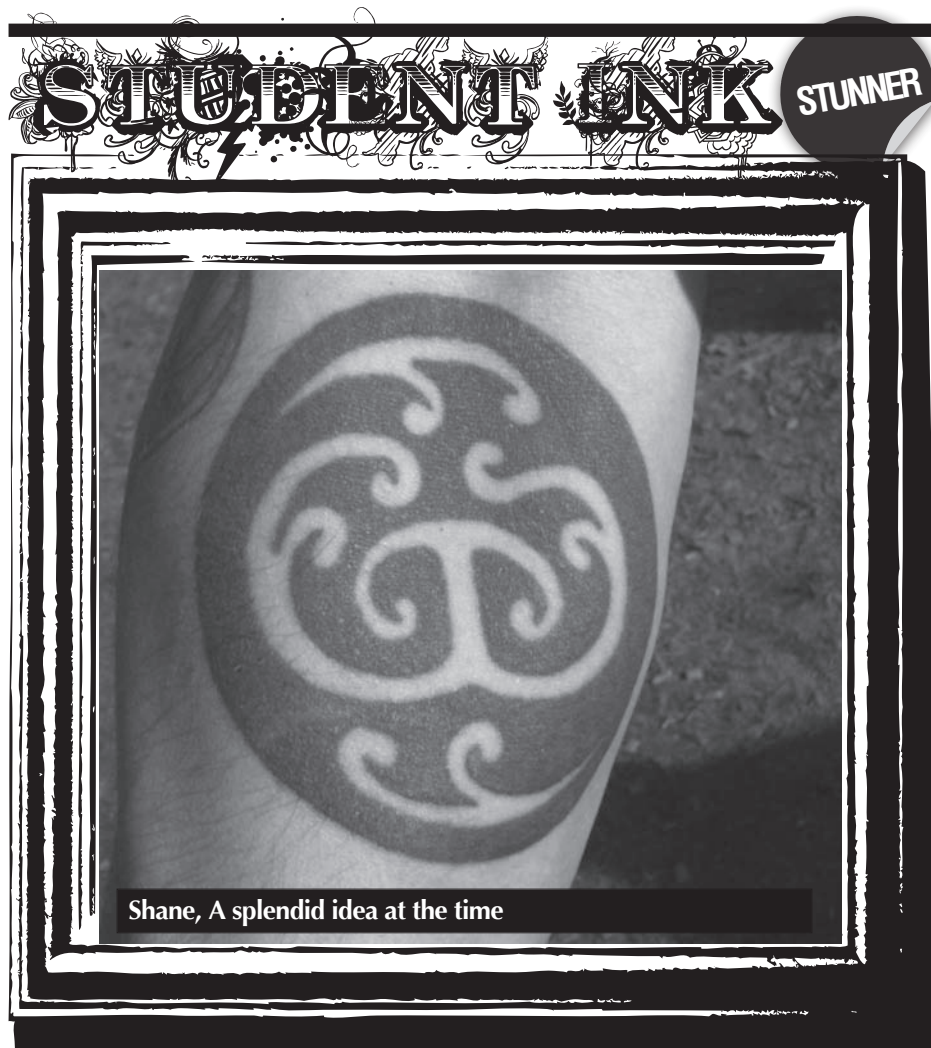
ing certain foods visually, we are immediately predisposed, as a result of memory and experience, to formulate an idea of the forthcoming taste. This is confirmed by nerve endings in our hands, which move to confirm the character of our delicious meal as we pick it up.

Next, as our meal moves to our mouth, its smell is picked up at receptor sites in our nose. Scientists now believe that smell is in fact more fundamental in distinguishing flavours and the nuances of taste than our taste buds. While the roughly 10,000 taste buds on your tongue are essential in transmitting the basic taste of your food to your brain, via either a G protein-coupled receptor or an ion channel, it is your nose which allows you to feel the full strength of food's flavour.

When food enters your mouth, its temperature and texture also play a role in determining how you respond to the taste. As the temperature of food changes, its physical properties do too, meaning that you may respond better to food at different states or temperatures.

Finally, our social nature means that our experience of food cannot be divorced from our lives. Many culturally-important foods, though we may not be born with a chemical affinity for them, are so drilled into us as children that we develop a certain likeness for them. Yes, I'm talking to you, Vegemite. Our mood too has an effect - if we're depressed, the mood-elevating chemicals theobromine and phenethylamine found in chocolate may chemically improve our state of mind. At other points, we may have no need for these effects.

Bon appétit!



## On exchange in China

David Cao reports on an adventurous semester abroad



**Paying homage to Chinese notions of respectability and grace**

Before I flew over, I had a very narrow minded view of what studying at Tsinghua University, in China, would be like. As it turned out, all the clichés of an exchange semester turned out to be true; the wider perspective on life, the new friends, the non-stop fun and the excitement of all the unplanned things that come your way.

Like many exchange students, I went out almost every night of the week with a

crowd of students from across the globe. Whether it be parties, clubbing, eating out, trivia night, beer pong/flip cup night, chilling at the numerous cafés... There was just so much to do in the Jing (Beijing) and the 'Wu' (Wu Dao Kou is the student town of Beijing). I made some great life-long friends who have helped give me a wider perspective on life.

While I was there I celebrated Halloween for the first time, had Thanksgiving, saw Kanye West in concert, won VIP tickets to see Kylie Minogue, and watched the world's top DJ's Armin van Buuren and DJ Tiesto spin their stuff at Beijing's ultra-trendy clubs.

I enjoyed exchange so much that I deferred Semester 1, 2009 to stay at Tsinghua to study Chinese. During this time I opened myself up to other areas. I modelled for David Ubl during Chinese Fashion Week, was in an editorial photoshoot for Madame Figaro Magazine, co-hosted a weekly bilingual Travel Show on Chinese National Radio and was cast in Cheeky Monkey Theatre's (China's first bilingual theatre company) production of Kung Pao Shakespeare.

### Fashion

**Is men's fashion a stale enterprise?**  
*Anusha Rutnam*

I sometimes wonder if the male populace laments the fact that men's 'fashion' is a complete and utter bore. Probably those with an interest in the clothes they wear would disagree with me, but I maintain that, guys, you've basically been wearing the same thing for 200 years.

The French Revolution played a part in cramping dude-style, with sober colours and modest cuts being seen as more suitable for the new and less decadent age that followed.

Since then, innovations in men's fashion have been few and far between; the pants/shirt combination is still the absolute norm today. While the past decade has offered women an array of exciting and creative fashions, few stand outs for men spring to mind... maybe pink shirts?

Of course this sartorial situation has its advantages; it has been scientifically proven that all men look good in suits, and it's a go-to that only the willfully unattractive can stuff up.

Also there is some subtlety, almost a secret language that exists in men's fashion that perhaps has no equivalent in women's. What constitutes a good suit seems to come down to elements in design and construction so minute that it is astonishing that they are perceptible to men who are otherwise fashion r-tards.

Similarly, I must ask, what the feck is up with neck ties? Why is one garish pattern considered passable and another unutterably offensive? I for one judge ties by the following test: Would I wear that pattern in a dress? Yes? Good tie.

But perhaps there is hope. A stroll past past the Oxford St boutiques will show that, while we are undoubtedly living in the age of the t-shirt, there is some room for a little creativity (and no, I am not referring to Alpha60's overpriced, snob-tastic, screen-printed numbers. Word to the wise, guys, putting Stanley Kubrick on a t-shirt is mind-blowingly pretentious.) Innovative jersey draping is one example of menswear moving forward, as is the new wave of boy-jewellery, including long necklaces which look simply fab.

And to end on a radical note, the MET exhibition *Bravehearts: Men in Skirts* may be taken as an indication that the winds of change are blowing in men's fashion. I for one believe it's time for guys to cast away their chafing pants. All hail the man in a skirt!





## COLLEGE

### 'Tis the season...

David Wilton took a swig from his goonbag before writing this article



Mrs. Claus was disgusted... yet strangely aroused

Most people subscribe to the fallacy that there are four seasons, and that these can be determined by the changing of weather patterns or other climatic indicators. These people are misinformed. Every collegian knows that there is in fact a fifth partition, probably the most important season of all: Silly Season. Apparently Silly Season has a namesake in late December, but no one is at college at this time so we haven't really looked into it all that much.

While the Union tries to soften the blow of a return to full time studies with ReOrientation week, which appears to consist of two trestle tables and a balloon, the return of college students is heralded not by a week of celebration, nor a month, but by a season of festivity. After a hard month back on the farm or sailing the Greek Islands, a solid stint of revelry is taken before the onslaught of assessments and Informals begins once more.

Silly Season is more than an excuse to drink vodka red bulls and be naked. It is the season of giving, where all the colleges (except Sancta) come together for a week of merriment. It's a lot like Christmas, but the carols are dirty and the only tree is the kind you climb up to spew out of. Ok, there aren't many gifts given either. The analogy is weak but whatever, Silly Season is a good excuse for a big piss-up and people are going to drink jagerbombs and be rowdy either way.

It may shock readers to learn that this most deserved and revered of holidays is under

threat. By the end of last semester the flu casualty rate was particularly high, promoting health officials to discourage large gatherings and generally freak the shit out of students with doomsday emails. If these Health Scrooges think that by combining students from all over Australia in sweaty bars and encouraging various forms of intimate contact, the college community is undoubtedly propagating the influenza, I counter that they have missed the very spirit of the Season itself.

Financial issues also threaten the post-holiday holiday period. The GFC has not spared the college party scene. Some classic events such as the Harold Park Paceway derby day are in doubt, due to financial difficulties at these venues. College students can only pray that the regular stimulus packages paid to Newtown pubs will end the recession, so that they can continue to get drunk in public venues and don't have to eat minced fish cakes for lunch quite so often.

Despite the twin shadows of impend-

ing swine flu apocalypse and financial collapse, many collegians are resolutely determined to "do sumfin' crazy" this Silly Season. The new semester will be reigned in with the traditional Highlander on Sunday night, which in the spirit of giving has installed beer taps this semester. Tuesday night looks to be one of the A-list soirees of the year, the Sancta-Johns Cruise. Iceberg anyone? On Wednesday the Intercol Rubik's-Cube party will be hosted by Drews. Pauls are having a few parties too but you're probably not invited.

On the eve of the new semester Silly Season promises to be a resounding success, spreading its festive message throughout the Campus. While there are many challenges to be faced, all that is needed is a bit of the old-fashioned Silly Season spirit. No one is really sure what that is but agree that 'getting loose' is a pretty good start. From the college kids, season's greetings and a happy new semester.

# SNOWBALL<sup>2009</sup>

THURSDAY AUGUST 6, MANNING HOUSE

+++ DANCE STAGE +++

## BANG GANG DJs

(AJAX, DOOM, HOODRAT)

**SAM LA MORE**  
(Ministry of Sound)

**KATO AND ANNA LUNOE**  
ROGERS ROOM  
(Luke Calder and Smart Alec)

+++ PURPLE SNEAKERS STAGE +++

## GRAFTON PRIMARY

**PURPLE SNEAKERS**  
DJS  
FEATURING PhDJ

**JANE GAZZO** (Channel V)  
DEEP SEA ARCADE (Live)

+++ MANNING THE DECKS STAGE +++

HIDEKI // JAMIE TEK // DOCEY DOE  
SQUINT EASTWOOD // CROOKES // ANDREW RHODES

7PM TIL LATE

PRESALE TICKETS (More on the Door)

\$15 + BF USU **ACCESS** Card Holders

\$20 + BF General Admission

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

[www.manningbar.com](http://www.manningbar.com)  
or The ACCESS Centre  
(Level 1 Manning House) Ph: 9563 6103  
For more info [www.manningbar.com](http://www.manningbar.com)



Brought to you by the USU  
and The University of Sydney

USU supports and encourages the  
responsible service of alcohol





HONI CRYPTIC

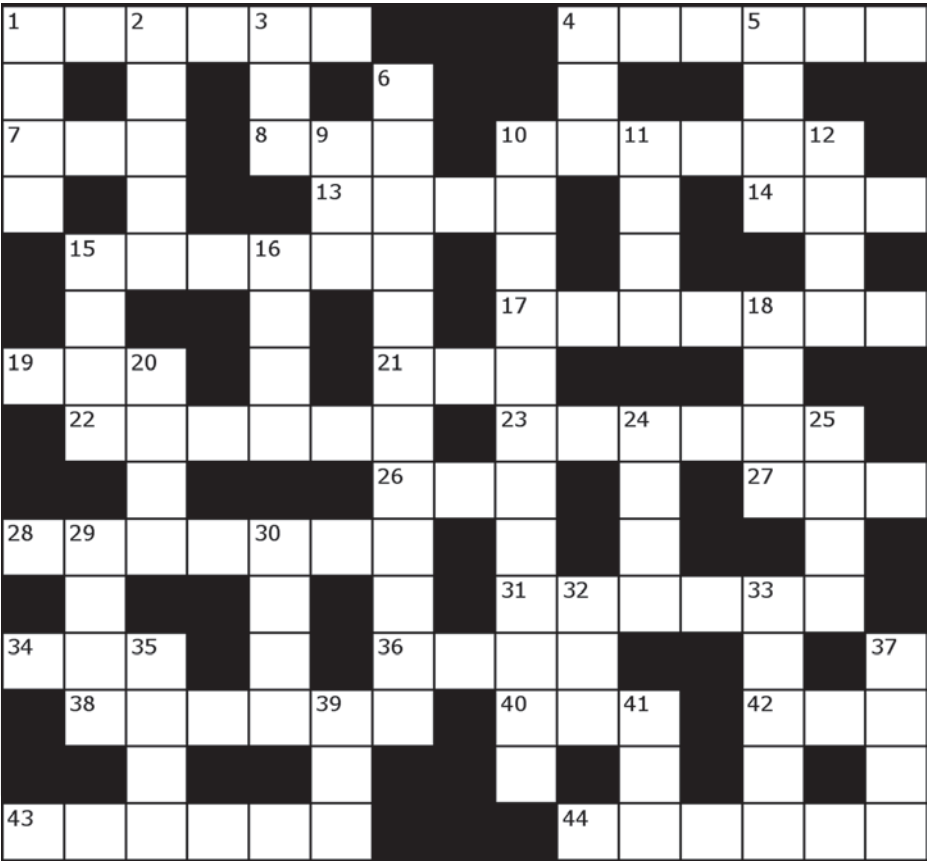
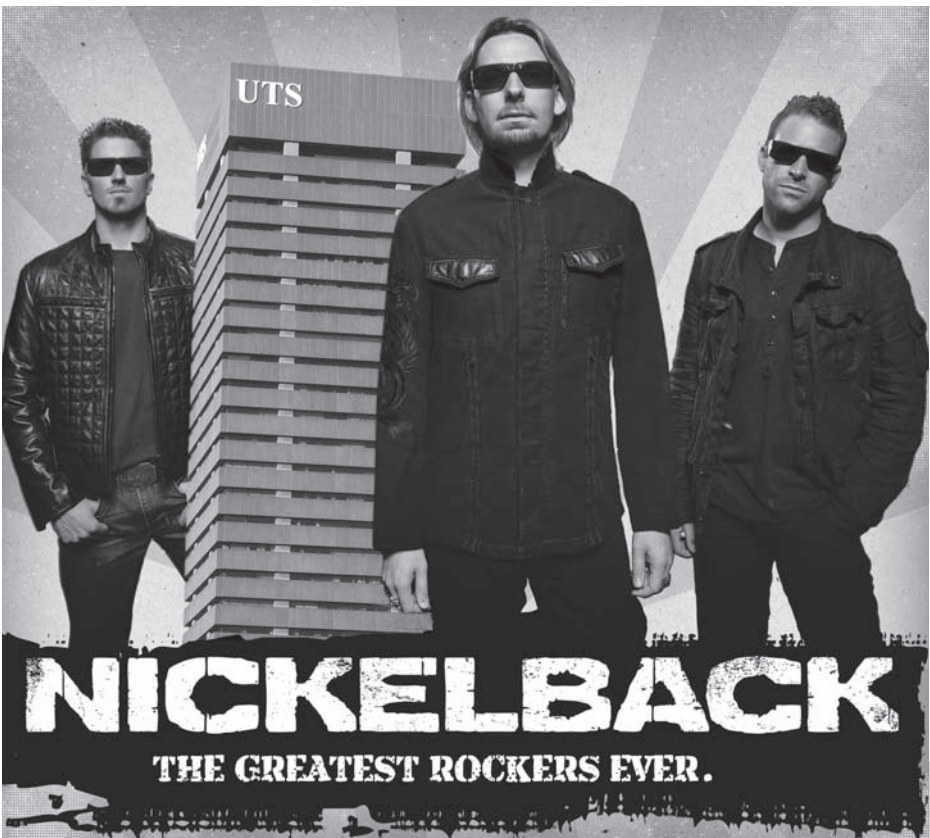
All marked (\*) clues share a theme, and go otherwise undefined.

//ACROSS

- \*1, 44-across Head of the River? (6, 6)
- \*4, 43-across Drug lord? (6, 6)
- 7. Help a passport, for instance (3)
- \*8, 40-across Jogging buddy? (3, 3)
- 10. North and Twist skate jumps? (6)
- 13. Twist dance and frolic (4)
- 14. Modest but a bit trashy (3)
- \*15, 38-across EFTPOS? (6, 6)
- 17. The last craftiness (7)
- \*19, 9-down. Turning circle? (3, 3)
- \*21, 26-across Betting pool? (3, 3)
- \*22, 23-across Revolving restaurant? (6, 6)
- 23. See 22-across
- 26. See 21-across
- 27. Point to one intermediate driver drink (3)
- 28. Virtuoso jazz played by robots? (4, 3)
- 31. The Mariana, for one, is a style of warfare (6)
- 34. Farrow and Wallace sing Paper Planes? (3)
- \*36, 18-down. Pokie winnings? (4, 4)
- 38. See 15-across
- 40. See 8-across
- 42. Bombers shortly sound like a single letter (3)
- 43. See 4-across
- 44. See 1-across

//DOWN

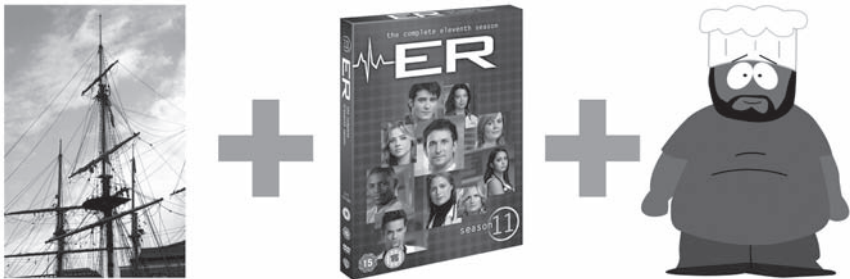
- \*1, 37-down Famous leader? (4, 4)
- 2. Right now two lines from the middle to the edge (5)
- 3. Sounds like a drink will make you sick! (3)
- 4. Nothing between fifties is funny (3)
- 5. Expires like a gambler's means? (4)
- \*6, 10-down Place halt mail chooses saucepans' lids! (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)
- 9. See 19-across
- 10. See 6-down
- \*11, 24-down Oil down? (4, 4)
- \*12, 25-down Evil Jedi? (4, 4)
- \*15, 30-down Shakespeare? Boring! (4, 4)
- 16. Point towards the Orient (4)
- 18. See 36-across
- 20. See 29-down
- 24. See 11-down
- 25. See 12-down
- 29, 20-down Idle food? (4, 4)
- 30. See 15-down
- 32. Get Brett an alternate driving tester (1, 1, 1)
- 33. Copy another lover's answers? (5)
- 35. Place as big as the length times the breadth (4)
- 37. See 1-down
- 39. Indian currency is not starting right (1, 1, 1)
- 41. Brewed ale on grazing pasture (3)



BMFD

PUZZLER

Put the pictures together to discover a popular TV dinner.



SUDOKU

		5				3		
				9	3		4	
		7				5	8	1
6	1	3	2		8	9		
	5	4	3		9	6	1	
		9	1		4	8	5	3
5	3	2				1		
	8		6	3				
		6				2		





# Students' Representative Council

## The University of Sydney

FREE MEMBERSHIP join online  
**[www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)**

or in person at the SRC office or  
the SRC bookshop phone 02 9660 5222

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

#### Support & Advocacy

- Centrelink Advice
- Academic Appeals
- Discontinuing/Withdrawing
- Students at Risk
- Show Cause
- Exclusion
- Tenancy Advice
- Fee Refunds
- Harassment & Discrimination
- International Students
- Plagiarism & misconduct

#### Free Legal Advice

- Referrals
- Discrimination & Equal Opportunity
- Employment law
- Minor criminal matters/traffic offences/ fines
- Victims of violence
- Debts

**ASK US  
ABOUT**

**YOUR VOICE  
YOUR SRC**

#### SRC Books - *Cheapest books on campus!*

- Buy & sell your textbooks
  - Search for books online SRC website
- Wentworth Level 3 (opposite newsagent)

#### Emergency Loans

\$50 emergency loans for  
students in need

#### Student Publications

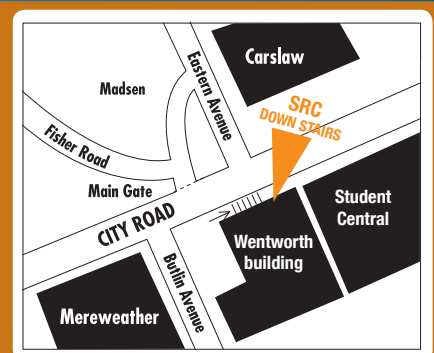
- Honi Soit weekly newspaper  
see: [www.src.usyd.edu.au/honisoit](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au/honisoit)
- Student Handbooks

#### Student Rights & Representation

SRC Representatives are directly elected by  
students each year to stand up for students'  
rights on campus and in the wider community.

#### Find the SRC at...

Level 1 Wentworth  
Building (downstairs  
under the City Rd  
footbridge)  
Ph: 02 9660 5222  
[www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)



**NEED HELP  
WITH  
SHOW  
CAUSE?**

#### Come to an SRC HELP workshop.

WHERE: Carslaw Room 353 or 361

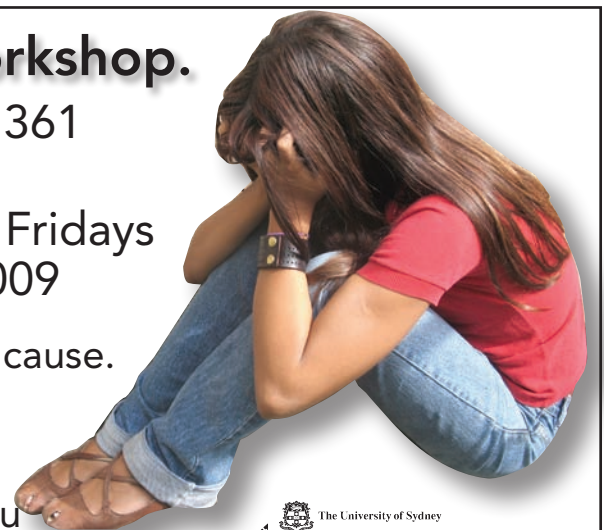
WHEN: 10.45am

DAYS: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
Starting 17 July until 31 July 2009

Step by step guide on how to show cause.  
Come along, no bookings required.

#### MORE INFO:

02 9660 5222 [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)



 The University of Sydney



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The SRC's operational costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney.

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