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WEEK 8 EDITION | 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

FAITH, FERVOUR AND FISHER

RELIGION ON
CAMPUS



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Cheka Ya Facts

Dave Burt, Commerce/Liberal Studies IV

Either the Discipline of Physiotherapy needs to amend its curriculum on Lenin to include the writings of Antonie Pannekoek or Martin McCawley (Letters, Week 6) should stick to cardiopulmonary topics.

Lenin and his Bolshevism was a totalitarian deviation of Marxism. The core of Marxist socialism is the workers' control over production. After Lenin took power in October 1917 he immediately moved to destroy the fledgling Soviets and factory councils and eliminate workers' control. This was accomplished through the Cheka, Lenin's reconstruction of the old Tsarist systems of oppression. By his death in 1924 Russia was nothing but a bourgeois tsarist machine.

Lenin was an opportunistic dictator, he exploited a popular movement to seize state power and Stalin was merely his greatest student. So Martin, no, Lenin does not remain respectable.

The Hypocrisy of 'Heresy'

Alexander Terr, Arts I

Mr Tom Lee (Letters, Week 6), I completely agree that the Evangelical Union should have the freedom to advertise whatever dogma they like, regardless of how inaccurate one believe it to be. But this standard should also apply to them, meaning that they should not use their

freedom to abuse the freedom of others, i.e. promoting that same gender relationships and marriage should be illegal. To say they are non-belligerent is also not true, as it is quite clear they are involved in an ideologic warfare to convert those who they view as heathens (a very broad category indeed) to their way of thinking.

Latham's Lament

Michael Koziol, Media/Comm II

William Harris showed he really knows how to pick an easy, not to mention unoriginal, target in his attack on Mark Latham. Harris is particularly unforgiving of Latham's continued literary presence through his book *The Latham Diaries* and weekly AFR column, which, as noted, is often critical of colleagues past and present. The cold, hard truth is that Latham is fundamentally right – Australian politicians are bland, uninspiring, "one-dimensional robots". Just look at the government's blunt policies on climate change, insubstantial education "revolutions", boring rhetoric ("detailed programmatic specificity" anyone?) – and not to mention the pitiful opposition.

Latham gets tarred because he's seen as breaking those cardinal political rules – constant gratitude and going away quietly. But Latham has nothing to be grateful for, and I for one am glad he's still writing. And I can guarantee the AFR wouldn't be publishing him if nobody was reading. True reformists are too rarely heard – to quote another politician of conviction, it's the current crop of "low-altitude flyers" who are the failures, not Latham.

Kate Kermit's a Crime

Kate Leaver, Media/Comm IV

Dear Kermit the Frog, A.K.A "James Gonczy" the Human,

Given that your actual name sounds distinctly Muppet-y, I can only conclude that you are a devotee of Jim Henson or, in fact, a muppet. This is delightful news and I'd like to book you in for sometime in the near or distant future, whensoever I allegedly commit a crime.

I have a few simple requests as your potential client. During all court appearances and consultations I ask that you dress as the famous amphibian I first knew you as. As the accused, I will be emotionally unstable. It would be best if Kermit were there to remind me of childhood in my time of anguish. Also, what if the prosecution hire Denny Crane? What then? Only a familiar, phlegmy-voiced frog could save me. You're my only hope, Kerms. my. only. hope.

One final thing. If you could specialise in defamation law that'd really help me out.

Cleave it Out

Justin Simon, Arts/Engineering V

Dear Honi,

I opened you last week to see a Women's Report by somebody other than Tamsin "it's only since leaving South Africa that I learned not to hate blacks" Dingley and was filled with hope that I'd not have to endure another hateful misandrist (even as I write this my matriarchal spell check is telling me that's not a word) diatribe. Alas, I no longer feel safe in the SRC pages of my favourite publication. My intelligence is insulted on a weekly basis.

But there is hope. Every week I see women who believe that these columns are just as unreasonable as I do, and they can do something about it. They can turn up to the Women's Collective when office bearers are being endorsed and make sure that next year their gender is not misrepresented by such a pair of insipid twits. If we are not actively fighting against this intellectual bankruptcy then we might as well be at UWS.

Anti-Antares

Tristan Winter, Science III

Antares Wells' letter last week showed conclusively that the arts ("advanced!!") set of Sydney Uni are just as prone to the faux moral outrage and self-righteous back-patting as the most infuriating nadir of the Daily Telegraph. I'm surprised her computer didn't explode at the sheer hypocrisy it takes for Antares to, on the one hand, hold the current editors to impossibly high standards by suggesting that the very physical proximity of two articles amounted to an attack on queer students, and on the other, suggest that because she "doesn't identify as queer or a feminist", her own letter should be immune from criticism.

Editorial

Religion on campus has often come to *Honi's* pages packaged in controversy or scandal, as a topic for heated debate. This week's feature began 3 weeks ago as a look into how religion may disrupt the student experience- fanatics in tutorials, discrimination etc. We instead found a host of student communities of all faiths who hold religion central to their university experience, placing doubt on the notion that religion is reserved for the margins of the carefree, uncommitted and experimental student experience.

The rest of this edition looks at various other happenings on campus; from an interview with a USYD Senator to vox pops with campaigning chalkers, from hearing about synaesthetes to the fire fighting heroics of our SRC and even an insider's look at how this publication is put together week after week. (Be warned, aspiring editors, it's with far less glamour and material reward than we expected.)

Add to that the comedic stylings of our writers, our passion for the trivial and taste for nonsense and you have yourself a (hopefully) entertaining read. HS

Sriram Srikumar

FROM THE VAULT

This week in From The Vault... A selection from Fanny Flatulence – 1996's agony aunt par excellence.

Dear Fanny,
My boyfriend dumped me. Behind my tough exterior is a heart that is hurt.

Dear (if you don't leave your name, how can I address you politely?)
The bastard! How dare he! What a scum-sucking, insensitive pig! I hate him too! All men are liars! The suck. You should be pleased to be rid of him. Thank God you are, I say. Phew! Imagine being stuck with him. I foresee that you will be happier in the future.

Dear Fanny,
Life is a problem.
J.

Dear J,
My, aren't you the philosopher amongst us! You are truly insightful and wise. You are insightful and wise. You are incredibly intelligent and sensitive to all of life's little subtleties. You will go far.

Dear Fanny,
I am a medicine student whose parents are pressuring to become a doctor. The problem is that I don't want to. I want to do the Can-Can on Broadway.
Can I.

Dear Can I,
You can.

Dear Fanny,
I recently had an unhappy love affair and dealt with it by painting my face with ash, sitting in the corner nursing a dead rabbit who is more understanding than most humans, and wanking in a public place over a PA system. Do you think this was an appropriate response given that my love had a remarkable resemblance to Botticelli's Venus?
Tortured Artist

Dear Tortured Artist,
I think that it was an appropriate response that you appropriated from Joseph Beuys, Jeff Koons, and other public wankers. The fact that your love had a resemblance to Venus should not alter the facts of the case in the slightest. I think that love is on the horizon for you, artist, but in order to consume it as your nature would have you, you must open your mind to convention.



Honi's Guide to... Jazz

Giselle 'Gis-Jazz' Kenny boogie woogies.

In 1934, an angsty reporter asked Louis Armstrong, 'Just what is Jazz?' He replied, 'Honey, you tell 'em if they gotta ask, they ain't never gonna know.' Well fine, we're not all geniuses, but still, that's a little mean. As the far more encouraging doyenne of musical education, Fraulein Maria, would say, let's start at the very beginning. It's a very good place to start...

DEEP DOWN IN LOUISIANA

Modern jazz began in the licensed brothel district called 'Storyville' in New Orleans, founded in 1897 as part of a foray into legalized prostitution. Patrons were entertained by 'jazz-men': typically African-American musicians who improvised on already well known tunes including hymns, mission songs and folk songs that were part of various African-American slave cultures. These musicians dispersed when the district was shut down by police and widespread hand-wringing and the earliest gramophone records of jazz were made in 1916. By the 1920s, a jazz form known as Ragtime had exploded into the mainstream. It appeared in more conservative music halls as 'symphonised syncopation'.

DO, RE, ME, I'M MAKING IT UP

Generally speaking, jazz is characterized by improvisation, a rich bass line that determines harmonic direction and a consistently emphasized off-beat (or syncopation). The rhythm section of the ensemble



Hot Sax.

ble – bass instrument/s and drums – is always more important than the melody, which is superimposed on top. Jazz is almost always performed in 'simple' time, meaning phrases are based on 2 beat patterns, rather than the 3 beat patterns that characterize the waltz. While the general structural elements of a piece of jazz are kept the same, each performance of the same piece will differ substantially.

Ragtime gave way to Swing in the 1930s, which in turn lead to Boogie Woogie. Seriously, Boogie Woogie jazz combined the lazy dissonant melodic hooks of Ragtime with the relentless energy of Swing in a rigid harmonic pattern based on 12 bar sections. Post World War 2 New York was when it started to get real. The night clubs on 52nd St. became the kingdom of bebop/rebop/bop jazz, ruled by trumpeter

Dizzy Gillespie from a fried chicken shop that became known as the "Metropolitan Bopera House". Get it? Bebop jazz is usually fast, stresses dissonance and anticipates the beat, giving it a hectic rhythmic drive.

JOHNNY BE COOL

Soon after, Cool jazz emerged. Many attribute this new style to a bunch of (mostly white) Californian musicians who migrated to New York in the 1950s. In contrast to Bebop, Cool jazz is lazy around the beat and uses much more deliberately complex harmonies behind the melody. Stylistically, it placed a much stronger emphasis on composer rather than the improvisation of performers. Most consider the Miles Davis' nine-piece recordings compiled in what came to be known as the Birth of Cool collection as the first in this genre.

News in Brief

Last week, North Shore businessman Michael McGurk was shot in the head and killed opening his car door in front of his ten-year-old son in Cremorne. At the scene a shocked local resident said, "the skinny hitman said to the fat property developer, 'you fucked my diverse but risky share portfolio', and the fat guy said, 'I am sorry sir I did no such thing.' Then a pistol was drawn. They were not a GPS family, what can you expect?"

Ellen De Generes has been announced as the new American Idol judge, in the wake of a shock retirement from Paula Abdul. With this she has secured more time in front of camera dancing like an old person.



A new AIDS awareness campaign has been banned in Germany, as it depicts Adolf Hitler and other randy dictators having passionate sex with models. Germany's Chancellor Merkel in a press release stated, "We have already been fucked by Hitler once, let's put it in the past."



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CAMPUS NEWS

Humanitarian Week

Emily Hedgman thinks it's only fair.

Week 9 this semester will see campus's annual Humanitarian Week festivities make their much anticipated return.

This year's instalment is the biggest yet, boasting the combined efforts of fourteen humanitarian societies (including Vision Generation, Oxfam, The UN Society, Oaktree, Engineers Without Borders, Party for Poverty, 180 Degrees, AIESEC, Amnesty International, GlobalHOME, Red Cross, UNIFEM, and Young Vinnie's) on campus. Together they seek to create an interdisciplinary extravaganza for educating, inspiring, and mobilising USYD students towards the most pressing humanitarian issues facing the world today.

The nineteen event schedule is set to take place from Monday through Friday of week 9, with a massive Humanitarian Societies Fair set to kick things off on the Tuesday. The spread of events features activities such as guest speakers, movie screenings, letter writing campaigns, an international development careers fair and a plethora of interactive sessions whereby students can learn more about or become involved in many of the active humanitarian societies at USYD.

The week's theme "It's Only Fair" makes reference to the view that the factors such as the global financial crisis, the global food crisis (the other GFC), and climate change are skewed so that the poor shoulder a disproportionately high burden. Humanitarian Week coordinator Chris Hoy encourages us to think globally and act locally to address these inequalities, stating "It's only fair that we take it upon ourselves to act on the injustices inflicted on mankind, by doing nothing we exacerbate the problem".

The week provides an access point for students of all disciplines and demonstrates the varied ways that students can contribute to these movements on any scale.

Visit www.humanitarianweek.org.au for more information, or check out the Facebook page.

YOUth Decide

Miriam Chin offers you a blue pill.

350, 25-40%, 5-25%, COP15, 2020, 2°, G8+5... Articles on climate change keep on spewing out number after number, and unless you live in the Matrix, it's sometimes kinda hard to see how these numbers translate to the real world. Luckily, Youth Decide may very well be your blue pill.

Youth Decide, organised by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) and World Vision Australia, is a national campaign giving the youth of Australia the chance to vote on the future they want to inherit.

Three scenarios have been fleshed out for the various emission reduction targets that governments are proposing (4-24%, 25-40% and over 40%). These 'worlds' are based on research conducted by the world's leading climate scientists, and give us a good picture of what these targets look like off the page.

Results of the nation-wide vote will be presented to Australia's government, and then taken to the United Nations in New York during Climate Week in September, and then onto Copenhagen in December. Here, world leaders will be making key decisions regarding strategies for cutting carbon emissions. In other words, they're deciding on OUR future.

Make your voice heard - cast your vote in Week 8, Tuesday to Thursday, 10am-3pm at Cadigal Green, Manning or Eastern Avenue. Grab a free snag on Thursday at the Cadigal Green voting station and listen to people talk about their views on climate change, or jump on the soapbox yourself! And while you're there, why not reconnect with your inner child and make a pinwheel?

Also on is our YOUth Climate Panel on Tuesday 14 September, 1pm in New Law School LT104. Hear from students who've toured India in an electric caravan, and lived on a Pacific Island that's already seeing the effects of rising sea levels, and find out about what's going down in Copenhagen this December.

Verge Festival, in pictures



Fishing Rod Sculptures



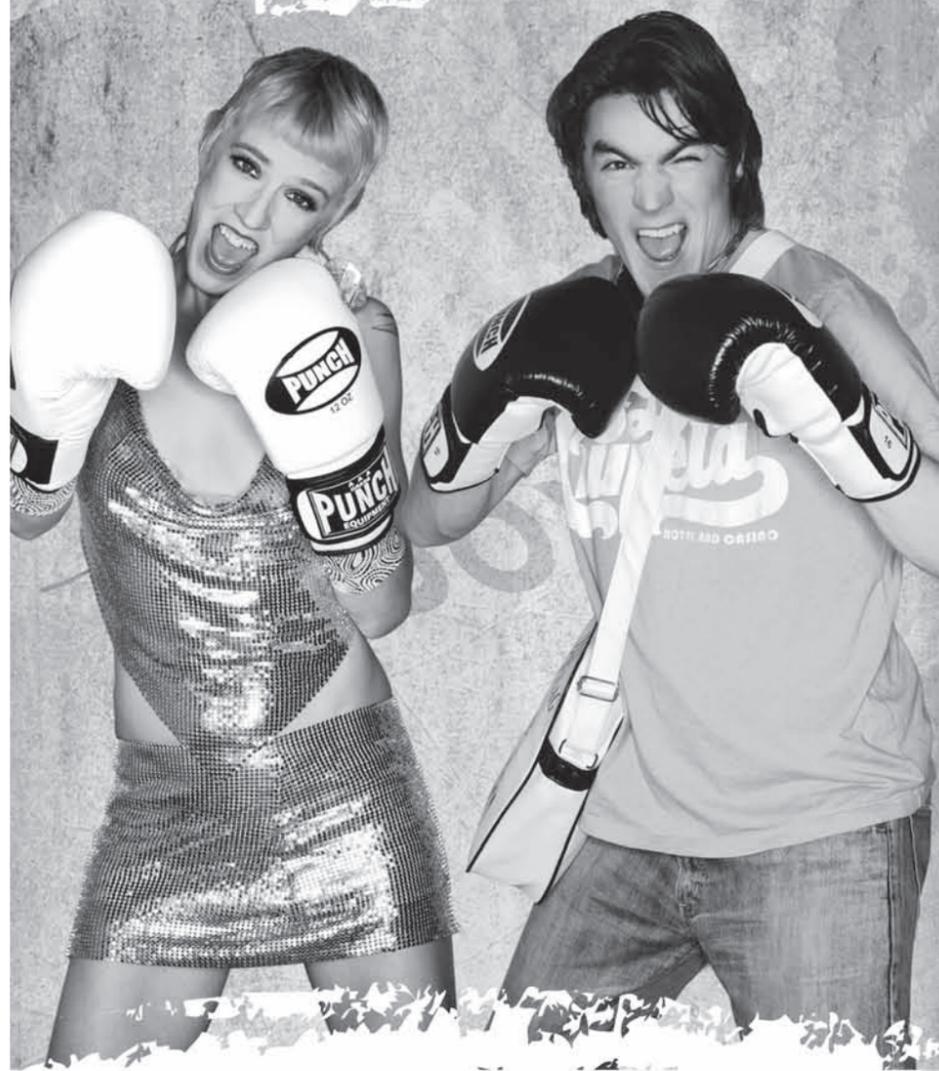
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A passion for the law

STAFF INTERVIEW Jacinta Mulders speaks to Dr. Thalia Antony from the Faculty of Law



Could you tell us a bit about your role as lecturer involves?

This is my dream job because being a lecturer involves my three passions: teaching, researching and engaging in public debate. I love it when everything's happening at once and usually suffer from a bit of post-teaching depression when semester finishes.

You have mentioned that your areas of specific interest include Indigenous people and the Law, and Native Title law. What first attracted you to these areas?

I grew up visiting Indigenous communities in NSW and developed a deep respect for Indigenous people. In recent years I've also spent a bit of time in remote Northern Territory communities. It's astonishing

how in the face of colonisation Indigenous people and laws are so resilient. For many Indigenous people outside of the cities and major towns, legal pluralism is alive and kicking.

I often feel amazed that more people in Australia don't feel passionate and angry about Indigenous issues, and they feel compelled to go overseas to find a human rights cause.

One key endeavour I have is to ensure that Indigenous legal issues and cases are taught throughout the core law subjects of a law degree – including property law, equity, constitutional law, administrative law, criminal law, torts and contracts. I'm currently working on a book to make teaching and learning Indigenous issues in a law degree not only viable and relevant, but intellectually exciting.

Can you tell us a bit about what you are working on right now outside the Faculty?

I'm working with Indigenous communities and lawyers in the Northern Territory to reclaim their and their parents' and grandparents' withheld wages since the early 20th century.

In addition, I'm hoping to spend time in the Northern Territory assessing the criminalisation and incarceration of In-

igenous offenders for driving unlicensed or driving an unregistered and uninsured vehicle. Prison rates in the Northern Territory have increased by 20% in the past year alone. This is, in no small part, attributable to driving offences. I'm interested in considering diversion avenues and prevention schemes for these offenders.

What advice can you give to aspiring students who are interested in pursuing more than one area of the law, or who feel disinclined to take the clerkship/corporate path?

It can be difficult as a law student to commit yourself to one area of the law. At the same time, legal practice constantly involves crossing many disciplines within law. Whatever choice you make, it's important to realise that it is likely to be only one of many stages of a career. Even more important is deciding who you want to be representing. This will narrow your prospective employers.

Whatever path you choose, it's always invaluable to get some volunteer experience at a community centre or partake in the Aurora Native Title Internship over the summer or winter break. At Sydney Law School there are now subjects in the Social Justice Program that offer clinical opportunities in refugee law and public interest law as well as the External Placement Program that has a range of on-site law jobs.

RANDOM TUTORIAL THAP2612

Postmodernism & Architecture



We second years at the old mental asylum now known as Sydney College of the Arts have been studying postmodernism - a movement within art and philosophy designed to critique modernism's grand narratives (progress, truth and universality), the alleged legacy of the Enlightenment. Art colleges aren't all about the drugs...

In a recent tutorial we learnt how postmodernism began as an architectural trend that rejected functionality and universality in favor of engaging in a cultural context, the thesis being that modernist architecture, concluding with unimaginative concrete cubes, abandoned the idea of language and therefore could not be 'read' or interpreted by the general public. (One can already observe how the visual arts owe a debt to semiotics). Examples of postmodern architecture are best observed at Las Vegas where pyramids are found next to Eiffel Towers and Casinos overtly reference the grandeur but also the decadence of Rome. Indeed, the architecture: fun, self parodying; exemplifies postmodern pastiche for one can see buildings that purposefully conjure up and appropriate Disney themes and theme parks to deconstruct their own purpose.

Of course, so much of postmodern architecture is irrefutably tacky and consumerist. The defenders of po-mo architecture would agree but also argue that the architecture critiques and satirizes its own tackiness. In other words, their invocation to the modernists would be to have a sense of humor about oneself. Actually, it would be contrary to the postmodern ethos to exclude work on the basis of taste.

Still, it would be a mistake to see postmodernism as completely separate to modernism- after all both movements are fascinated by the new and reject tradition.

This explains why our tutorial class discussed whether the Sydney Opera House is modern or postmodern. The postmodernists would say the Opera House depended on the context of the harbor, and that the architectural curves appropriated both waves and boat sails. That said, I argued that it was modernist because the aesthetic is rather too coherent to be postmodern and that the Opera House's purpose is to celebrate modernity and progress.

Anyhow, that pretty much sums up the tutorial so I better get back to smoking pot... I mean studying postmodernism.

Aleksandr Wansbrough

Editing *Honi*: everything it's cracked up to be?

George Downing ditches the beat-up for the slightly less glamorous reality.

They've literally taken over campus, all those budding *Honi* editors. The ins and outs of their campaign pledges vary widely, but – you can tell – they all really want the job. Which implies that the actual role of an *Honi* editor is at once glamorous and gratifying – the *Vanity Fair* of the student media world, if you will.

Is it? High-minded idealism aside, what does editing the thing actually involve? What do editors actually do, day-to-day? Sip martinis, set the campus agenda, and delegate the groundwork to a bunch of starry-eyed interns? Sadly, no.

TUESDAY

Tuesday is the start of *Honi's* week. At 6PM, the 10 editors arrive at the *Honi* office, a dingy room in the oxygen-starved basement of Wentworth that is the SRC. Over banter, rampant sexual innuendo, and perhaps a Red Bull, dinner is shared. Then the meeting proper kicks off, with two stages – the first chaired by the then Editor-in-Chief (EIC), the second by the EIC for the edition two weeks in advance.

From the start of the paper till the end, pitches are received and discussed, often at length. The EIC mandates the pitches that will proceed, and assigns authoring responsibilities. When it's all done, we start again... with the edition two weeks in advance. When, finally, that's done, we go to the Royal and debrief over a beer.

WEDNESDAY

... is essentially the Sunday of the *Honi* week – nothing terribly productive is achieved. Looming monsters (work, theses and the like) occupy the waking hours.

THURSDAY

At some stage on Thursday, the SRC's Publications Manager, Tina, distributes the ad list for the upcoming edition. The ad list can do two things – force the EIC to ditch commissioned articles due to an abundance of ads, or do the opposite and commission extra content to fill blank spaces. It's highly unpredictable.

FRIDAY

The EIC arrives at the office, launches Adobe InDesign (the desktop publishing software), loads a fresh version of the *Honi* Teamplate and plugs in the ads. Deadline for article submissions is midnight Friday.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

On the weekend, the office shifts up a gear and shit gets real as *Honi's* publication deadline (9AM Monday) approaches. The editors embark on the long march toward proofing copy, then subediting, sourcing images, writing titles, subheadings and captions, and laying up the whole lot, times 24 pages. In a professional publication, writers and journalists would be separate from the art department, who design and lay up copy. Not so for *Honi* – most of editors' time and effort goes into the layout

process, rather than writing per se.

It's hard to say where the weekend actually goes – but goes it does. By midnight Sunday – hopefully – the end will be nigh. The final chores, completed in a caffeine-fuelled delirium, include placing the cover image, running through final proofs, linking images, streamlining layout, and other such publishing routine. When, finally, the beast is dead, the office's festering lot of Thai containers and discarded drafts are dumped in the bin, a celebratory beer is cracked, and there is stillness.

And, finally, sex.

MONDAY

At 9AM, the EIC arrives back at the office after far too little sleep. Waiting for him or her will be two DSPs (Directors of Student Publications), SRC-appointed delegates who read a final proof of the entire edition. Their job is to ensure no one mentioned in the paper has been defamed and therefore has grounds to sue. Once they've covered our legal asses, the President of the SRC receives the complete edition, and runs through a second proof. If any issues arise, the EIC will revise copy as needed. Once that is done, Tina publishes and collates the final documents, and sends them off to the printer. 24 hours later, bulging stacks are dumped at their drop points across campus. Then, another 24 hours later, it all starts again.

Politicians who have sexy affairs should be sacked

The case for...

Giselle Kenny

Politicians should absolutely be forced to resign when they have affairs, because then everyone else in society wins.

First, it makes for a great media cycle. These stories get saturation coverage for weeks on end, as more and more sordid details are uncovered. When did it start? Did it affect his/her job performance? Isn't Harmony a silly name? I thought he said he did not have sexual relations with that woman? Etc. Plus, if any other celebrity had an affair, it would feature in those trashy gossip mags that's really embarrassing to be caught reading. When a politician has an affair, it's on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald! No shame in reading that – it's not trivial celeb gossip, this is politics! And when it comes to the governing of this great nation, it's every Australian's responsibility – nay, duty – to stay informed.

The other huge plus for everyone is that we all get to feel incredibly morally superior. The widespread, collective tut-tutting that occurs round dinner tables and at cafes across the nation is actually the sound of smug self-congratulation on being much, much better than the latest morally wayward politician. We need to have zero tolerance for politicians and their dirty affairs, otherwise smearing their character isn't as fun. And the more sympathetic among you, be warned – notice how no one's going around saying, 'Well, maybe he was unhappy,' or 'Maybe it was an accident'? That's because that kind of boring tolerance is tantamount to condoning the heinous crime of passion itself and that simply won't do.

And finally, this particular brand of public humiliation is actually good for those amongst us who are having affairs. First of all, you're very bad people. But, each to their own, take all kinds and whatnot. You all get to feel smarter than the politician who got caught. Whilst publicly demonstrating your disgust at their behaviour

along with everyone else, you congratulate yourself on your diabolical stealth, as you sneak out the back door.

If you're just a normal person having an affair, then whatever- you're going to hell but no one cares about you. But you'd better check you're not a politician (some members of NSW state parliament sometimes forget). It's only a matter of time till you get caught. And when that happens, you shouldn't be spared total public humiliation, because protecting family values is the Australian way.



The photo that nearly ruined Howard

The case against...

Katherine Connolly

It's madness that the media demands resignation when politicians have extramarital affairs. We have entirely the wrong idea about our lecherous leaders. We shouldn't be baying for political blood, declaring the wayward and the philandering unfit for leadership. If we knew what was good for our political landscape we would recognise the extra-curricular sextivities of our chosen leaders as precisely what they are – excellent training for running the country.

All the skills required for beginning, maintaining and keeping secret one's extra-bit-on-the-side match up very neatly with the skills required to negotiate the snake pit that is modern politics and international relations. Arranging meetings with

the chosen nanny/pool-boy/26-year-old comedy writer involves a complex system of secret text messages, pre-arranged locations, code words and disguises to hide the perfidious activities from your hawkish spouse. You only need to watch *Spy Game*, or *The Spy Who Shagged Me* to know it is exactly those kinds of clandestine skills necessary to engage in the espionage so necessary to national security. If our politicians are practiced at sidling down alleyways and using fake names at seedy hotels, then all the better to defend our nation against the terrorists.

Yet another skill acquired through adultery is that of telling convincing falsehoods. This highly important political skill is not just about preventing your eyes from flickering guiltily as you tell your wife or husband that your going on a business trip when actually you're spending three days shagging wildly in the Bahamas with your son's primary school teacher. It's also about developing the mental acuity to keep track of the complex web of lies you've spun, so as to not carelessly let something slip and give the game away. As we all know, sometimes, for the good of the country and the future of the party, it is necessary to weave a similar web of lies for the public, who often don't know what's good for them. Like, for example, when you've paid millions of dollars to bribe the Iraqi government to buy your wheat even though that means funding the activities of an evil dictator.

Sometimes, it's just necessary to deny you knew anything about it, just like it was necessary to deny you knew anything about the underpants in the washing basket that weren't your spouses.

Clearly, it's very foolish to bay for blood when the infidelities of our leaders are revealed. We're simply robbing the nation of the benefit of the finely tuned skills necessary to beat the terrorists.

GAFFEMAN

We report. You smirk smugly.

Memphis Mayoral Candidate, Dr. Sharon Webb seemed surprised when she was asked on live television to name two ways she could make Memphis a better city during her term as Mayor. Webb considered this for a few moments – perhaps for the first time ever – and all she could come up with was, 'I can educate our children in excellence... [lengthy silence]... Don't know.' Webb later described this teensy snafoo as the result of 'brain freeze', which we presume from her qualifications is a medical term.



Aw shit - brain freeze!

When asked about a proposed Senate inquiry into Labor's economic stimulus, Family First Senator Stephen Fielding said, 'We need to get the physical and monetary policy working.' Asked to clarify, he said, 'I will make it quite clear, F-I-S-K-A-L. Fiskal.' He later told Fairfax Radio the error was due to a learning difficulty, so now we all feel bad for laughing about it. Way to ruin our fun, Stephen Fielding.

Gaffeman's favourite son and aging lethario, Silvio Berlusconi once declared that he considered himself 'by far the best Prime Minister Italy has had in 150 years.' In response to the latest scandal involving Berlusconi, a prostitute, 4,000 euros and a villa in Rome, the 72 year old told an Italian magazine, 'Never in my life, not even once, have I had to pay for a sexual encounter...And I'll tell you why: for someone who loves to conquer, the greatest joy is the conquest, so I ask, 'if you pay, what joy can there be?' Good point, Silvio. What joy indeed? Handsome devil.



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YE OLDE RUMOUR MILL



Studdert Named Local Hero

A night that started off as a celebration of Education Officer Rosie Ryan's birth could have gone horribly wrong last Saturday.

The smokin' Womyn's Officer Tamsin Dingley, leaning a little too close to the candle come cake time, found herself suddenly fired up. That is, she was on fire.

Undistracted by the screams that were masked by a fiery rendition of "Happy Birthday", Kathleen Studdert employed training from her days as a Scout to ensure the flames were extinguished, and Dingley could live to fight the oppressive patriarchy.

Critic of Editors' Appearance on Cover Appears on Cover

Labelling this year's Editors as "arrogant" for appearing on various *Honi* covers, then finding himself in the same position, Daniel Richardson suggested he had no idea the photo shoot was happening when he stumbled into shot. "I swear I didn't know the cameras were for *Honi*," Richardson said. "I was just on my way to the toilet store."

College Kids Want to Can Ibis

Honi has heard that Paul's College is taking drastic steps to rid itself of an infestation of ibis. While the greater University community largely tolerate the birds, the College will be engaging in a mass cull. The College has allegedly received numerous complaints relating to noise, smell, unsightliness and health risks, along with the obvious impact the birds have on vegetation and other species.

It is believed that a professional hunter has been hired to coordinate the shoot, following an agreement reached between the University and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The birds – protected under the 1974 National Parks and Wildlife Act – must be managed in accordance with the Service's guidelines. It is rumoured that the hunter in charge of the operation will be commanding a team of volunteer shooters from the College.



Beer theft was the final straw

Conservationists on campus are outraged at the decision, citing it as another example of Paul's College's exclusivity. "If you're not rich, white, and from the North Shore, you're not allowed at Paul's," said one protester who wishes to remain anonymous. "The real reason for the cull though is because birdsh*t f*cks up the sandstone."

Gossip Girl xoxo

Good Morning Upper East Siders! *Honi Soit* here. Top story on the interwebs. A keen copycat is causing a stir on Twitter as the pseudonym *@gossipgirlusyd*.

Ruffling the feathers of the Usyd elite is something that is usually the job of *@honi09*, but due to the SRC's crackdown on all outlets of communication, *Honi* has not been able to even tweet about the current SRC elections. So the arrival of *@gossipgirlusyd* last Friday seemed exciting. I stressed 'seemed'.

Within two hours they had a dozen followers, all waiting for the next tweet of uncensored, tabloid trash. #scandalous!

Who had been so inspired by Rumor Mill that they had taken shit stirring into their own hands? Our suspicions rest on the *Honi* tickets running this year. The Twitter account had set up a gmail asking for tip offs: *gossip.girl.usyd@gmail.com*, and tweeted a comment about the *Honi* election that wasn't exactly objective. Is an *Honi* ticket setting up their Rumor Mill section before they are even elected? Will they tweet again about things we aren't allowed to talk about? Why am I asking so many questions? #thatsasecretillnevertellxoxo

Honi's got the fair fax

Two weeks ago when John Della Bosca got all sweaty on his leather couch, *Honi* received a call on the eve of the leak at 11pm. "Hello I'm from the SMH, I was wondering if there is a Harmony who writes for you?... No? What about Kate? No, OK anyway."

So we were surprised the next morning when it was a USYD student, Kate Neil, who was revealed as the girl at the centre of the Della Bosca love tryst/sandwich/leather couch. Even more surprising her pseudonym: Harmony.

Then last Saturday "respected" journalist Paul Sheehan wrote an "interesting" article titled "Loneliness of the University Liberal". In his poorly written "expose", his lead interview was with *Honi's* favourite Lib, Sash Uher. We would like to direct Mr Sheehan to *Honi Soit* 26th August where the themes of being liberal, being isolated and being Sasha Uher were all comprehensively dealt with.

With so much attention from the SMH in recent weeks, we thought we would run preventative measures before the investigate reporters spin our misfortune: we ran Matthew McGurk's excel spreadsheets, we surgically removed Caster Semenya's penis and we were on the grassy knoll.

THE COLUMN

The Women's reports in *Honi* this year have simply alarmed me with the anger, sarcasm and openly prejudiced dismissals of other students. Last week's was yet another shining example. We've seen no encouragement to women to get involved, or awareness of the shocking statistics of violence towards women, or actual publicising campaigns and events which promote women. And even if we have, they've been overshadowed by outlandish statements which appear to have shock value and none other. Every week we've heard a woe-ist-me account of how awful it is to be female. Of how we face a daily barrage and an earful of evil from the soy-latte-sipping patriarchy. Of how every male (bar their comrades at the SRC) are sexist and are contributing to making rape and assault social norms.

Not only is this the biggest load of BS I have ever heard, I can't imagine a more unproductive way to promote the feminist cause on campus. You are angering and polarising most males and many females. Apart from this, the only thing you are succeeding at is becoming a glowing example of what is wrong with the majority left-winged groups on campus- full marks in pointing out the problem, yet never providing a viable solution. The utopia you describe of a sexist and prejudiced free world is a fantasy to be so constantly blinded by that there is no appreciation of the reality. This insistence of living in this vacuum of political correctness coupled with a militant-call to revolution is fruitless to your otherwise worthy cause.

Instead of complaining about the patriarchy in your 500 words, why don't you actually do something to change it? Tell us about your campaigns, get us involved. Make us care. People are not reacting positively towards your whinging and your cause has never been more unattractive. Drop the PC, stop labelling us all as sexist puppets of the patriarchy. And before you run off to type some rude response about how I've betrayed the sisterhood, maybe try working with women and men to actually solve the problem. It might just help.

Sophie Holman



Immobile

Arghya Gupta loses contact

It occurs every now and then, when you are talking about something with a person, and you wish to talk about it further at a later date, perhaps not in person – over the phone perhaps. To go about arranging this, you will ask for their phone number, usually of the mobile variety because everyone knows asking for a home phone is creepy and only paedophiles use them. This is when a fact is revealed – "Oh, I lost my phone, laugh out loud, just email me". This can be a tactic of evasion, but a lot of the time, this is indeed the truth.

Similarly, you can be notified about the loss of a phone through the means of Facebook. What? Another event I'm invited

to!?! Surely I'm not this popular. Then; NO, YOU'RE NOT, FUCK YOU AND GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBERS seems to be the next click. More arrogant is the creation of Facebook groups to get numbers. Really? You want me to join your group, let the whole world know that I've done so, then post my number on your wall – and then never delete the group even six months after you created it, which is enough time for an incompetent human being such as yourself to go ahead and lose another phone, but due to your ever changing social circle merely sending a message to that group again you must start a new one and invite people again to another group which is the carbon copy

of the previous one except for a few more "LOL, I'M SUCH A TRASHBAG!" statements, which you think was not evidenced enough previously. Sure, I'll join.

Here's a tip, wear pants with pockets. Keep the phone in the pocket. Failing that, get a handbag which has easy access so you can put your phone inside it, not on a table or chair. Don't text and talk, it distracts you and you'll misplace the phone. Do not stand near a pool fully clothed with a phone in your pocket (why do people do this?). The \$5 insurance fee tacked on to the end of the bill every month is not your green pass into being a tool. Be mobile, but not too mobile. It's your call.



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Sensing Synaesthesia

Alex Lee explores the condition that makes people taste colour, see music and feel words.



Pixar's most famous taste-colour synaesthete, Remy.

The letter A is purple, weekends are tall, the sound of a flute is sky blue and the word "Mark" tastes of pencil lead.

If these sound to you like the kind of metaphors that belong in a year 8 poetry class, you're not wrong. Those are some terrible metaphors. But for up to an estimated one in every two hundred people with the condition of synaesthesia, they are everyday experiences, where the five senses of touch, taste, sound, smell and sight are mingled and confused. It's a type of cross-wiring of the senses, where the triggering of one sense will arouse a reaction from another.

Synaesthesia occurs when an unusually high amount of connections exist between two areas of the brain's sensory cortex. There are hundreds of different permutations, including grapheme-colour synaesthesia, where numbers or letters of the alphabet will always be a certain colour for a synaesthete, or ordinal-linguistic personification, where days of the week or months of the year may have certain personalities or genders. As Dr. Julia Simner, a psychologist from the University of Edinburgh, described to BBC News:

"So you don't know that number seven is green, but you know that it's a maniacal husband who comes home from work and shouts at his wife".

President of the UK Synaesthesia Association James Wannerton experiences a type of synaesthesia where certain words or pictures bring up a taste in his mouth. Seeing a picture of Tony Blair makes him taste dessicated coconut, whereas Gordon Brown tastes distinctively of Marmite. Another famous case was investigated by Richard Cytowic, who was at a friend's house for dinner, when the friend tried the chicken and then said with disappointment "the chicken doesn't have enough points. It's come out all round".

Recent brain scanning and imaging technology has allowed scientists to actually see how different parts of people's brains light up when viewing pictures, graphemes or colours, that have allowed scientists to start to figure out how and why this phenomenon affects certain people.

Third year Psych student Cameron has what he describes as a "kind of abstract" version of synaesthesia. As part of his course in first year, researchers at the University of Sydney showed him letters that he had to associate with colours. When he did the test a year later, he chose exactly the same colours. Tests such as these that show consistent links between words and colours suggest that synaesthesia is caused by a direct neural connection rather than a mere delusion. Tess, 21, is a Med student at

UNSW who has grapheme-colour synaesthesia, the most common type.

"Every number and letter has a colour associated with it, which kind of average out to give words and numbers a kind of colour vibe – some are much stronger than others. It's more like seeing a shadow or sense of colour, rather than actually seeing coloured figures on a page." She said.

For her, the condition helps her remember everything from phone numbers and algebra, to the "less useful" party trick of being able to tell people what colour their name is. Synaesthesia also has its occasional downsides.

"It prompts a little bit of OCD about what pens and sticky tabs to use for different topics in my uni notes because they have a colour that makes more sense than others".

Another interesting case is Claire, a German Honours student at USYD, who didn't realise that what she experienced everyday was something more than just a "weird personal quirk".

"Wednesday is yellow because the letter E is, and Monday is dark because of the O", she tells me, as if that makes perfect sense to everybody.

But Claire also has another rarer type of synaesthesia, and when she think of times and dates, they each conjure up a certain three dimensional, visual calendar. Her conception of years is like a ribbon and months of the year are more of an oval shaped wheel.

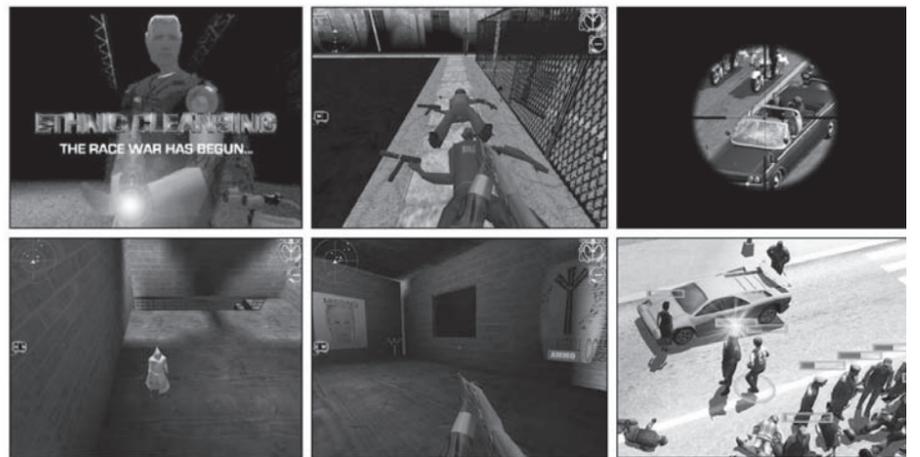
"When I think of the Middle Ages and the 1400s they move diagonally upwards and forwards in my head. Then when I come to the 20th Century it changes directions and looks like it's coming towards me" She explains.

Daniel Tammet is a famous savant and synaesthete, who broke a world record in 2005 by reciting over 22 thousand digits of pi. Tammet sees every number imbued with colours, shapes and textures, which helps him to remember and visualize incredible mathematic sums. He told David Letterman that he looked like the number 117, which was "a tall, lanky number and a little bit wobbly".

As we learn more about how synaesthetes experience the world through variations in their sensory triggers, it seems more likely that every single person truly has a unique perception of the world around us.

Level 3: Ethnic Cleansing

Michael Krasovitsky, currently completing an Honours thesis on Holocaust Denial and Radical Anti-Semitic literature, investigates virtual genocides.



This game is not PC.

Most debates on video games are based on the extent to which images of and references to violence have an impact on young, impressionable players. On the one side are those who argue that children should not be exposed to the often outrageous images and experiences offered in some video games, which range from shooting people to hijacking cars. On the other, are those who believe that these virtual experiences are entirely unexciting, not having any real life affect on their development.

At the extreme end of the video game spectrum, where explicit references to violence, rape and carnage are almost omnipresent, this argument naturally tends towards one side. This has been the case most clearly with one particular game.

Ethnic Cleansing is a computer game released in 2002 by Resistance records, a loose association of organisations founded in 1993. Resistance records is an extreme-right, neo-Nazi network based in West Virginia, in the United States. Originally a music label, responsible for skinhead hit groups such as the Michigan-based Angry Aryans, California-based Cut Throat and the North Carolinians Definite Hate, three of the most popular neo-Nazi bands currently performing, Resistance records now publishes a newspaper, numerous books and has moved online. Ethnic Cleansing, the label's first video game, became an instant hit among both the target market of Resistance, and, to a degree, within the broader video game community.

The goal of Ethnic Cleansing is simple. As the video game's blurb so eloquently reads, "The Race War has begun. Your skin is your uniform in this battle for the survival of your kind. The White Race depends on you to secure its existence. Your peoples [sic] enemies surround you in a sea of decay and filth that they have brought to your once clean and White nation." Your job, as player, is to defend your land, your skin and your people.

So how do I play? I managed to obtain a version of the video game through some frightening manoeuvring and had a play. Your first decision is, as in most computer games, your player. In Ethnic Cleansing, your choices are either a Klu Klux Klansman or a Nazi skinhead. I, of course, chose to be the skinhead, whose stats seemed higher. Level 1 places you in a Californian ghetto, where your aim is effectively to kill as many Latinos as you can. In level 2, you aim to achieve the same basic goal, but this

time around with African-Americans, referred to as "niggas". The power of the African-Americans is slightly higher than that of the Latinos, who are frighteningly easy to kill. The final level sees you fight your way through a New York subway station infested with Jews, the hardest of all your foes to kill. In order to reach the control centre at the end of the level, where you battle the big baddie, Ariel Sharon, you need to make your way through a Jewish command room adorned with maps detailing the take-over of the world by the rabbinically-dressed Jews. If you're successful in your quest, and manage to kill Sharon, you exit to an outdoor space where the sun shines and the sky is blue.

Though Ethnic Cleansing was never a commercial success, it did mark a popular radicalisation of the already extreme nationalist movement in the United States. Moreover, it spawned the development of a number of such games, which reduced some of history's worst genocides, particularly the Holocaust, to just a level in a game. It was condemned by most mainstream media sources, famously by TIME magazine, which has had a long history of reporting on such matters.

It is technically illegal to bring video games such as Ethnic Cleansing into Australia, but in America, such games are entirely legal. Though attempts were made by the Anti-Defamation league to ban the sale of the game, these were ultimately unsuccessful, and today, the game, along with its sequel, White Law, continue to be found in radical enclaves across America.



Hectic



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A view from the Senate

George Downing spoke to Dr Michael Copeman, a Fellow of the University Senate. Dr Copeman works as a clinical oncologist at Manly Hospital, and studied Medicine and Arts at Sydney in the 1980s. He has served on the Senate for two terms, the first commencing in 1996.

Dr Copeman, thanks for speaking with *Honi*. You're approaching the end of your current Senate term, will you seek reelection?

Absolutely – it's an exciting time for Sydney University. A new Vice Chancellor and leadership team, with new visions for the old place. Who knows, maybe the idea of turning the Main Quad into a gothic theme park for tourists has a chance of finally getting up...

After that, obviously, what are your priorities for the University?

Well, lots of people talk about improving the 'student experience' here, which is important. I think it's also important that students leave University with a sense of purpose – they tend to be the ones who create change in our society. Bill Gates left Harvard after one year (perhaps Windows would work better if he had stayed to graduate?). I hope students who come to this University meet people and learn things that stimulate them to go out of here to improve many fields of life – in Australia and overseas – but after they graduate in the Great Hall, of course.

The election of the Senate's undergraduate representative is currently underway. What happens when students on Senate have the balance of power on a controversial issue?

Well, whenever that looks like happening, first, all the other Senate Fellows are very polite to the students – lots of cups of tea, and questions about how they are doing in their studies. And, then the issue is held over until another Senate Fellow who is away comes back from leave... no, actually, I can't recall it happening in the 10 years I've been on Senate. Would be interesting though!

The Vice Chancellor, Michael Spence, has recently unveiled some fairly radical plans to slim down the Uni's admission rates and place a greater emphasis on research. Do you agree with him?

Well, I think Dr Spence's first priority is to improve the staff-to-student ratio. When that ratio gets too low at a university, everyone suffers. Students don't get enough quality time with their teachers and supervisors. Staff feel overloaded and unable to give their best. So, the question is, how do we achieve that aim of improving the staff-to-student ratio? Ideally, we'd like to double the number of staff, but Julia Gillard says no. Our other option is to slim down the university somewhat, which is never an easy task. Dr Spence is preparing all staff to look at this question, and I think we need to see what answers they come up with.

The University now offers more courses and subjects than ever before. Will a trimming down of University include a shortening of study options?

Well, the course in Animal Husbandry has always worried me... but seriously, I think most students here would know one or two courses they have done, or have avoided doing, perhaps – that might do with pruning. Maybe two or three courses



need to be merged. That's a process started under our previous Vice Chancellor, intended to do away with duplication where possible. Maybe a course that currently takes up a whole semester should be shrunk. At the individual course level, that's an issue for university academics to decide. On that front, I'm sure they'll be listening to student views above all.

So, in the spirit of streamlining, should exams and assessments get the axe?

No, bring them on! There's nothing quite like that feeling on the last day of exams, don't you think? Once you finish your degree, most graduates will find they're working in roles where they need to complete frequent and tough assignments or tests – like every time I meet a new patient with cancer. The more you can gain confidence at University in assignments and tests, the better. Frequent tests are a good thing, and having them regularly often takes the pressure off each one, rather than having one or two big assessments (as used to be the case) that so much is riding on.

In your view, which areas of study are the most important to the University?

Engineering. When I travel to Asia I realise how much encouragement and respect there is for engineering in the world – and I think that helps any society move ahead.

The big projects that will protect Australia's environment in the next 50 years, for example – every one of these requires innovative and hard-working engineers at the fore.

But aside from that, I hope we can further improve the facilities where students – and staff – meet and interact. The exchange that goes on between classes is perhaps the most important part of anyone's academic life. It's where you learn what you missed

recommendations. What did you make of those?

In essence, the Bradley Report (and the Government) want to double the number of young people who go onto tertiary studies. I think this has the cart before the horse. First, we need to improve the experience people have of high school, instead of offering them tertiary courses that may lead nowhere.

Another issue the Bradley Report raised was to facilitate tertiary education for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Sydney Uni already has the Broadway Scheme to help people who have aptitude for university study but don't have the 'right' qualifications on paper, often for socio-economic reasons. Often disadvantaged families want their best and brightest to get into the workforce ASAP – on the basis that they may soon be the family's main breadwinner. I think universities need to offer such people the most flexible ways of gaining degrees, so that in the end they and their families both win.

Online learning is becoming a dominant part of the student experience. Is this the future of study at Sydney?

No, I think the day that Sydney becomes a Uni where you can get your degree by clicking a few boxes or writing off for something on the back of a cereal packet should never come. Despite the fact that half of all our learning now is online, it's the time interacting with real people – other students, your lecturers and (in many courses) patients, clients, etc. – the 'hands-on' experience that matters. If local students are going to commute for two hours to get to Uni, and international students are going to come half way round the world, they rightly expect a personal education. We all remember our best teachers from Uni – even if (thankfully) they don't remember us.

Looking further afield, should the University establish more offshore campuses?

Offshore campuses have been a vexed question for Australian universities, including Sydney. Yes, it makes sense to provide tertiary education close to where people live – if you can do it at high quality and with a business model that is sustainable. But most of our international students at Sydney relish the opportunity to come here, to study at one of the great cities of the world. That experience of Australian life is un-exportable, and changes many lives for the better. I would prefer we didn't try to be the 'University of Everywhere', but having our staff teach overseas, for example in Vietnam, can be a wonderful opportunity still. HS

in the lectures – and what or whom your peer group is up to. We should value these facilities highly.

Should University staff be paid more?

Yes, definitely, for three reasons. If students are to learn the most here, they need tutors and lecturers who have strong incentives to teach and to show them how to research. Second, if you compare salaries at Sydney to salaries at some of the top Asian and America universities, we are still way behind. Third, it is exceedingly hard to attract people back from commercial pursuits to universities to provide hands-on training, unless we increase salaries to match what they can earn, on average, in the outside world.

Does the 'Education Revolution' signal a positive step forward?

I'm the grandson, son and husband of a teacher (not the same one!), and I think we need to value our teachers more – in society generally, and at all levels of education. I'm not sure building 1,000 new school halls is the best way to go about this. Having said that, I do recall sitting in a nice new school hall in July 1969 to watch the moon landing.

On that note, the Bradley Report into Tertiary Education was released earlier this year, with some major

FAITH, FERVOUR AND FISHER

RELIGION ON CAMPUS

University days are popularly represented as carefree years of experimentation and freedom, where students explore different ideas and lifestyles before settling down and getting a real job (of sorts). A tired stereotype, perhaps, but a persistent one. Yet on our campus are thousands of students who hold deep and serious religious beliefs, and choose to worship and learn along with their fellow students on campus, submitting themselves to strict rules of behaviour and observance. They have formed religious groups representing most major faiths. *Honi* investigated how religious faith sees students interacting with one another, their studies and the University.

By the admission of those involved in religious groups, it is difficult to accurately estimate how many students who attend our university adhere to any faith. Clubs will often use a combination of attendance at public events, major conferences, email lists and facebook groups to arrive at a realistic number.

The biggest groups by far are the Evangelical Union and the Sydney University Muslim Association (SUMSA). The EU can safely claim 650 members and SUMSA around 700. Both groups point out that there are probably many, many more students on campus who practise evangelical Christianity and Islam, but just aren't regular attendees or official members, so fall through the census cracks. SUMSA President Jamel Rathborne thinks there are about 1000 Muslims at Sydney University in total. After these two giants on the campus religion scene, there is something of a numbers drop off.

The Catholic Society of St Peter has around 200 official members but the University's Chaplain, Father Dominic Murphy, estimates there are about 8,000 baptised Catholics on campus. Hillsong Campus, the campus version of the Hills district mega-church, has around 170 members, and Student Life, another Protestant Christian group, has around 120. Both OM - the Hindu society, and the Australian Union of Jewish Students have 130 members. The newly formed F.O.C.U.S - Fellowship of Orthodox Christian University Students has around 90 members. A smaller Christian group, Overseas Christian Fellow-

ship, meets at Sydney Uni Village and has around 40 members and Unibodhi, the Buddhist society, has roughly 70.

The point is, there are a lot of students involved in campus religious groups, and the total of those aforementioned numbers, 2300, is probably only a fraction of those students who identify with a mainstream religion.

It is difficult to accurately estimate how many students attend our university who adhere to a religion. Clubs will often use a combination of email lists, facebook groups and attendance at public events and major conferences to arrive at a realistic number.

So what do all these groups get up to, and how are these thousands of people spending their time with fellow believers? Most societies run small study groups that get together and study a religious text, or listen to prepared talks on a given topic. They will also hold larger public events to which all are welcome, like Unibodhi's Drop-In meditation sessions and Thursday lunch-time Dharma talks, on issues like Spiritual Ambition vs Daily life Ambition. Or Hillsong Campus' Wednesday worship and teaching service. Or the weekly lectures held by FOCUS, last week delivered by Federal Police officer Albert Osseily.

So in sum, every day you're at uni, rooms big and small across campus are being filled by students who're going about practising their faith and spreading it to others. Groups often have outside speakers from their faith's institutions or clergy come in to add extra teaching to what can be offered by older students or one another. The Evangelical Union has staff workers that work full-time on campus running small groups and other programs, and even has an established program where graduates return to campus to train as evangelists working with students.

It isn't just student groups though - there are several wealthy, influential religious institutions at The University of Sydney. The majority of colleges on our campus are affiliated to a Christian denomination,

yet one doesn't really think of the colleges as places of strict religious observance. St Paul's is Anglican and indeed, the position of Warden at the college (currently held by regular *Honi* contributor Reverend Canon Ivan Head) is one of the more senior positions within the hierarchy of the Sydney Anglican diocese. Wesley College is Uniting Church, whilst St Andrews is Presbyterian. Both St John's and Sancta Sophia are Catholic. The very small Mandelbaum House has a Jewish affiliation.

It is an outcome of the university's history that these colleges are connected to religious institutions. When the university was established in 1850, it was the churches that possessed money and institutional power sufficient to establish residential colleges on the grounds of the new seat of learning.

Those colleges that have an affiliation all have a chapel in their grounds, where regular but barely-attended services are held. Speaking to college students reveals that the religious connections of their institutions have minimal impact on their day-to-day lives, and that there are few resident students at each college who are practising adherents of a particular faith.

Many students will tell you that they don't have any particular problem with religion per se, nor the faithful themselves. Duncan Lockard, President of the EU, tells how any criticism or hostility that he has come across has been squarely focused at his religion as an institution or the EU as an organisation, and that personal attacks are not a part of the culture at the University and indeed are frowned upon. To many students, it's more that the faithful try to evangelise and convert that really irritates and sometimes enrages them. The degree to which the religious clubs and societies engage in evangelism varies significantly, and that can be the result of their size and capabilities, or of their approach and purpose more generally.

The smaller clubs tend to keep to themselves, or at least lack the capacity as a group to really intrude upon the day to day lives of most students - when is the last time someone from the Chinese Christian Fellowship bailed you up at O-Week? Smaller clubs and societies don't have

the people or the presence to really register on most students' radar, and that's fine - they're catering to smaller, specific groups. It is clubs like the EU and SUMSA that have the biggest presence on campus, and make the biggest go of reaching out to those who have not before been exposed to their particular religious beliefs.

In practise, societies like the Hindu Society and AUJS function much more as groups to bring together and create bonds of belief and culture between those who already follow their respective faiths. Abhinav Dua, the President of the Hindu society, speaks about raising awareness of Hinduism and ensuring it doesn't die out on campus, especially amongst Indians who have grown up in Australia without any knowledge of the dominant religion of their home country. There is much less of a focus on bringing in as many new members as possible than exists in some other groups.

Many students will tell you that they don't have any particular problem with religion per se, nor the people who practise a faith... It's more that the faithful try to evangelise and convert that really irritates and sometimes enrages people.

Wherever there are strongly held beliefs, there will doubtless be conflict. Some religious groups deal with more difficulties in this regard than other. SUMSA clearly struggles as a group with the persistent misconceptions about their faith that proliferate in society at large, and on campus itself. Jamel laments that many students still buy inaccurate representations of Islam, like that "all its women are oppressed and all the men are violent". He told *Honi* that one big part of the group's purpose is to dispel these myths and to educate all students about Islam.

AUJS also battles against those who peddle what they see as anti-Israel, sometimes anti-Semitic, messages. David Krasovitsky, Vice-President of AUJS told *Honi* that AUJS aims to "act as a counterpoint" to the few activists on campus that persist with extreme representations of the Arab-Israel conflict. He says "Anti-Israel ideas are alright, every government ought to be criticised, but if often turns into Anti-Semitism and that's plainly a form of

FOR A STUDENT BODY WITH A REPUTATION OF BEING IRREVERENT, IRRELIGIOUS AND JUST PLAIN CYNICAL, WE HAVE SURPRISINGLY MANY STUDENTS WHO PUBLICLY AND PROUDLY ADHERE TO ONE FAITH OR ANOTHER. THERE ARE 16 GROUPS ON CAMPUS WHOSE PRINCIPLE REASON FOR BEING IS RELIGIOUS, AND FROM *HONI'S* PERSPECTIVE, PIECES WE RUN ABOUT RELIGION BY FAR AND AWAY RECEIVE THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPASSIONED RESPONSE FROM OUR READERS. WITH RELIGIOUS CLUBS AND SOCIETIES GROWING, BOTH IN TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC PROFILE, **BRONWYN COWELL** FELT IT HIGH TIME THAT *HONI* TOOK A LOOK AT THESE GROUPS, AND AT WHAT CAMPUS LIFE IS LIKE FOR STUDENTS OF ALL FAITHS.

discrimination”.

What happens once you step into the classroom though? How do deep religious faith and academic study go together? In many instances, the faithful don't bring up their beliefs because they're simply not relevant to a given discussion. Matthew Wong, President of the Chinese Christian Fellowship, told *Honi* that he has almost never had a chance to bring his faith up in class even if he had wanted to, since he's studying mathematics. His observation that it is very degree-dependent is one shared by all other student representatives interviewed for this piece.

Yet sometimes it is the time to bring up one's religious convictions, and that can have varied outcomes. Daniel Wodak, tutor within the Philosophy Department said its often a matter of intellectual honesty, and that students should feel free to be open about their beliefs in class.

There is a sense one gets from both stu-

“University education can teach students the virtues of granting others intellectual charity – including theists – and scrutinising your own assumptions – including secularism”

dents and academics that there is an implicitly understood virtue in laying aside one's beliefs, be they religious or otherwise, for the purposes of academic enquiry and rigorous critical thinking. Dr Edward Crangle, of the Department of Studies in Religion, said “Learning to engage with the material on its terms, without allowing their personal faith to interfere is an essential part of the pedagogical goal”.

The expectation that students be open minded clearly cuts both ways – it is by no means a burden borne by the faithful. Associate Professor Carole Cusack from the Department of Studies in Religion notes “It is also necessary to remind atheist/agnostic students that these are effectively religious positions and that they cannot be dismissive of the faith positions of their fellow students”. Tim Smartt, tutor in the Philosophy Department and active member of the EU, points out that

“University education can teach students the virtues of granting others intellectual charity – including theists – and scrutinising your own assumptions – including secularism”.

“Islam is such a deep and such a rich faith, with so much to learn, that sometimes I don't know the answers. The best and most honest response is sometimes “I don't know”, and then you can offer to find out for them and come back with an answer”

Many religious students have some trepidation about raising their beliefs in class for fear of being cast as an expert on their faith from that point on. In 2006, the University's *Institute for Teaching and Learning released a guide for academic staff titled Inclusive Practice in Relation to Students of Diverse Religious Backgrounds*, which cautioned against falling into this trap of turning a religious student into a spokesperson for their faith, who has to answer for all fellow believers. Jamel agreed that this was a pitfall about being open regarding personal beliefs in class and said “Islam is such a deep and rich faith... sometimes I don't know the answers. The best and most honest response at that point is usually “I don't know” and you can offer to find out and come back with an answer”.

Those incidents people were able to recount where religious discussion in the classroom prompted tempers to flare, occurred partly as a result of extraordinary outside events, not some combative tendency of students themselves. Daniel recalls an angry discussion about the permissibility of religious arguments in political discourse that coincided with the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. He attributes the strong feelings to what was going on in the wider world at the time. Similarly, Professor Cusack tells how she had to break up a tutorial that occurred in the wake of September 11, where devout Christian and Muslim students made inappropriate comments. She points out though “Everyone returned the next week and apologised and got back to work”.

From the grand scale of the Arab-Israeli conflict to the deeply personal, it is issues like sexuality and reproductive rights that also, as one can probably imagine,

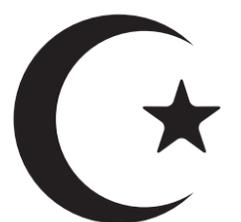
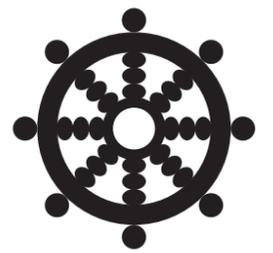
stir tempers and passions. For example, several years ago the American pro-life campaigner and law reformer Terri Herring was invited to speak on campus by the Catholic Society of St Peter. Activists from the Women's Collective and the general student population tried to have the lecture shut down, and forced it to be moved to the church's own property across the road at St Michael's. The protestors continued to chant outside the building during the lecture.

All students who spoke with *Honi* thought that our campus was by and large an accepting place in which to practise their faith, and that apathy, not hostility, was easily the most common response from their fellow students. Several students remarked that if nothing else, their groups add to the discourse at university, where big questions are asked and where the marketplace of ideas sees many answers being given. They invited all students to investigate, ask questions and expect answers. Our religious groups provide a hugely important spiritual, cultural and social support for students, and offer a place for the merely curious to investigate life's bigger questions. **HS**

The details for all the following Clubs and Societies can be found on the Union's Clubs and Socs web page, at www.usuonline.com/Clubs_Socs

- Affinity Interfaith Club
- Australian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS)
- Chinese Christian Fellowship
- Evangelical Union (EU)
- Hillsong Campus
- Overseas Christian Fellowship
- Sydney University Muslim Students Association (SUMSA)
- Student Life
- Unibodhi
- OM – The Hindu Society
- FOCUS – Fellowship of Orthodox Christian University Students

There is no Union-affiliated Catholic club. Interested students can contact the Catholic Chaplaincy of the University of Sydney by visiting www.usydcc.org



DIARY OF...

MEDIA GIRL, PART II



OMG. Want.

It has been sooo long, we should really catch up for coffee or a cocktail some time.

We were talking about Lipstick Feminism in my sociology class today, and it got me thinking about how silly that term is. I don't know anyone who wears lipstick anymore, so I am going to start my own movement: Lipgloss Feminism. Yikes, I better blog about it so people don't steal my kooky thoughts.

Blog is such a funny word. It is really yucky. Like do you blog? Sounds like your shoving your fingers down your throat after a big meal of carbs. See Twitter and tweeting, that's sweet. Hehe sweet rhymes with tweet. I should tweet that.

Anyway, I then went to my internship at this really edgy PR company called Kissy in Paddington and made everyone cupcakes in the office. They offered me a job next year! Thank the lordy, I have so many internships under my belt that they were starting to make me look fat.

Listening to The Shins and Phoenix while reading Breakfast at Tiffany's as I walk. I am so heterogenous! Philip Seymour Hoffman is such a genius. I am going to write my media essay on how Audrey Hepburn character in Tiffany's is a McDonaldisation of the global sphere of post-feminist thought in relation to the neo-critical characterization of Carrie in Sex and the City.

When I get to Azzuri's (I love Azzuri's!) I order my soy skim chai weak mocha with half a sugar, and get so excited when that hot barista knows my name. He didn't even ask for my ACCESS card. Bet you he asks me out before the end of this coffee. I then update my facebook status and saw Katie put a photo of me and that guy at Ryan's Bar who looks like Gerard Butler. I 'like'd' it then immediately released that Katie is friends with him. So embarrassed.

Looking forward to MecoSoc tonight. Going to be such a trash trash night of fun and fancy free fun. Can't wait for the Bar Tab. Probs going for some pre drinkies at Kuletos though.

Bar tab!

Shakespeare actually 3rd-best writer of all time

Michael Falk reports on a literary revelation.



Such sweet sorrow

In a startling revelation today, William Shakespeare, recipient of worldwide adulation for his profound explorations of the human condition, has stated that his works are not so perfect as previously thought.

'I recognise that the enduring popularity of Hamlet weighs heavily in my favour, but I think the whole emo thing is getting a bit tired. And I get the feeling that people don't really understand me anymore. I mean, I haven't heard someone say 'prithee' for about 150 years.'

Responding to accusations that his plays, taken as a body of work, outclass all others, he had the following to say:

'Really? What about Henry VIII? I think everyone agrees I peaked with Henry IV, Part III. All my plays after that were plagued by profound metaphor and dense metonymy. Some would even call my writing pretentious and obfuscatory!'

Other authors are overjoyed over these revelations. Suffering for decades under the 'Shakespeare is significantly better than I am' stigma, many authors now feel better on account of Shakespeare's actually being slightly worse.

Dan Brown commented in the form of a complex riddle whose roots are in elegant historical fictions of crazy historians, and he insisted that its conspiratorial elements were non-fictional. Unfortunately, without Leonardo Da Vinci's assistance, Honi was unable to crack the cipher.

Stephenie Meyer rejoiced in her acclamation as Greatest Writer Ever To Pen A Word In English, exclaiming 'Woo Hoo! Who'd a thunk my verbal diarrhoea would blow so many minds? Every intelligent person I've ever consulted has told me that my books are terribly written, display a remarkable penchant for malapropism and prosecute an insidious programme of conservative religiosity! But clearly, they were wrong!'

The news has said to shock closet dramatists and theatregoers.

How to write a UN Convention

David Krasovitsky on how to become a Leam, Mean, International law-ing machine

There are times in our lives when we feel so betrayed as a human citizen that we we have to seek guidance with a higher authority. God? Well he never finished his law undergrad. What about the International legal system?

Here is a quick summary to writing a UN Convention and getting the whole world on your side. So let's say you were treated rudely by a salesperson. First thing you need is lots of numbers, for example; S/RES/1698 (2009), adopted on the 5912th meeting. Next, make no attempt to follow grammatical rules. For example; Recalling the UN Convention, Noting with concern the appalling actions of said salesperson, Permitting full and swift actions taken against said salesperson in hope of a more

secure and prosperous relationship with said department store and shopping in general.

Always make sure to make the issue seem much larger than it actually is and address as many people as you think could come into the issue; We call upon the shopping community, both those within it in a professional capacity and those who frequent it in hope of finding a garment of considerable worth.

Last of all you need a statement which speaks in totality of a weak action. Such as; opposing vehemently the actions taken and support fully sanctions including an extensive robust and total commitment to possible further talks to resolve the issue.

Heckler Impresses Girlfriend

Michael Hing was also impressed.

Last Thursday, during the opening night of a university sketch comedy show in Sydney, Justin Ardiennes, 21, delighted onlookers by yelling "The cat's out of the bag!" amid a sketch about a pet store. In an attempt to impress his new girlfriend, Ardiennes defied the conventions of theatre and actually delivered the impromptu line from the audience, to the surprise of the actors on stage.

"Well, the sketch was about a pet store, and pet stores sell cats - the heckle just came to me" said Ardiennes, after the show, "I really capitalised on the moment and as a result, Stacey thought I was really funny, which was great".

The date, which had been stagnant up until this point, was given a new lease on life as Justin single-handedly proved himself to be the "relaxed, exciting and funny" guy his facebook profile claims he is. His date, Claire Matheson, 20, described the entire ordeal as "incredibly exciting, not to mention hilarious, he just yelled it out, and everyone thought he was SO funny".

Following the footsteps of comedians like Graeme Bond, The Chaser and Monty Python, who also got their start in revues, Ardiennes plans on taking advantage on his new fame by getting an agent to help him market ideas such as The Cat's Out of The Bag Dancers and a new rap single "Just Justin" to be released later this year.

Witnesses say the two left the show and got into a cab while making out.

Climate change "not so bad", MPs

It was so uncharacteristically hot this weekend that negotiations on the carbon emissions trading scheme have come to a complete halt.

MPs loosened their ties, fanned themselves with the latest global warming figures and chilled out to Nelly's 'It's getting hot in hurr'. As night fell and the weather cooled slightly, MPs dispersed and agreed that the day had been so pleasant that global warming might not be so bad. All efforts to cut emissions have been tossed out.

SCIENCE STUNTS

HOW TO SILENCE THE LIBRARY TALKER

AIM

To get that inconsiderate fuckwit behind you to get off his iPhone and allow silence to once again reign in the library

EQUIPMENT

6 x well stretched mouth muscles to allow for pursed lips
3 x big library books to prove what a good student you're being in comparison
4 x loud, exasperated gasps
1 x mobile phone used to fake call a friend to complain about how loud the library is

METHOD

1. Once loud discussion becomes apparent, it's important not to play all your cards at once. Start with the strategic half turn over the shoulder, to alert the accused that you're onto him. A half turn, the significantly more pass-ag version of the full-turn, aims to guilt the speaker into hanging up and chastising himself over how inconsiderate he's become.

2. If that should fail, move up a notch. Full turn. Look the accused directly in the eye, but only for a moment. Let him know that you've locked onto him as the source of the noise, that you're aware of the fact that he, and no-one else, is a douche bag. Usually, this degree of pass-ag will force the accused back into silence.

3. If it doesn't, it's time to fight fire with fire. Strategically fake ring a fake friend on your Real phone (I can't stress enough that the phone needs to be real), complaining about how loud the accused is being. Use your fake call to insult your now-nemesis: "Oh Kathy, this loser in the library won't shut up, I think he's just made his first friend" is an oldie, but a goodie.

4. Finally, if all else fails, commit the greatest act of passive aggression possible: get a librarian. Well that's what they're there for!

CONCLUSION

Upon following the strict guidelines outlined above, it became clear that passive aggression was in fact a highly suitable tool in dealing with idiots in the library. It in fact proved more suitable than outright aggression, which was too often accompanied by jitteriness and fear of weakness.

Michael Krasovitsky

Wacktivities!

Semester at Sea

Michael Krasovitsky rides the waves.



Water way to learn.

Exchange is a pretty awesome experience for anyone. Having said that, all exchange adventures pale in comparison with one, the Mecca of all exchanges: Semester at Sea.

Semester at Sea is, amazingly, exactly that. A semester of 'study' that takes place on a luxury boat, which, while you're studying, is comfortably making its way around the world. When not in class or on land, you're able to swim in the boat's pool, drink in one of the two bars, or nibble on a snack in one of the six dining halls.

The average semester goes for 100 days and includes about 10 countries. For example, if you were looking to get involved in the Spring 2010 voyage (which takes place in our autumn), your itinerary would look like the following: San Diego to Honolulu to Yokohama, Japan, to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to Chennai, India, to Port Louis, Mauritius, to Cape Town, South Africa, to Salvador, Brazil, to San Juan, Puerto Rico and finally to Fort Lauderdale, USA.

During the travel time between these amazing locations, you'd be subjected to

roughly three to four hours of class a day. Once you've docked at port however, you're allowed free days and nights to explore and party in some of the most wonderful cities in the world.

The academic advantages, though clearly less important, are also pretty astounding. Semester at Sea, run with the academic support of the University of Virginia, boasts an impressive array of Arts and Economic and Business style subjects, with compulsory units in Global studies being offered. Add to this guest lecturers from around the world, who need only step onto the MV Explorer in Cochin, or Guadeloupe, or wherever the ship may be, and you have the benchmarks for a surprisingly enriching academic experience.

More importantly, the ship is brimming with students from around the world, keen to learn, travel and let their hair down. Though relatively expensive, with prices ranging from \$10,995 to \$31,495 depending on your room and the particular program, this is one exchange that just makes you want to jump ship.

HONI TOP FIVE Unfinished Works

01

> *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer

In the depths of the 14th century, a merry band of pilgrims set out on a journey to visit the shrine of St Thomas Becket at the Canterbury Cathedral. They begin a game of competitive storytelling, with the best story winning a free meal at the Inn. Chaucer, writing in classy Middle English, originally intended to write 124 tales, he only got to write 24. Ambitious

02

> *Kubla Khan*, Samuel Taylor Coleridge

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan / A stately pleasure dome decree. So begins Coleridge's retelling of a dream induced by hefty amounts of opium. The 54 line ditty tells the story of Kublai Khan, a Mongol Emperor, and his 10,000 horses. Coleridge frantically documented his dream until he was interrupted by a Person from Porlock, whose arrival disrupted Coleridge's memory. Still, the final lines of the poem: *and drunk the milk of paradise*, seem a nice place to end.

03

> *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides

An edge of your seat historical narrative that documents the titanous clash of the Peloponnesian League (led by Sparta) and the Delian League (led by Athens). Thucydides' account is considered the first work of history (Herodotus was wacked out with the work of the gods), using scientific analysis to describe acts of genocide, blackmail, negotiation and civil war. However Thucydides died in 411BC, leaving seven years of war undocumented. Want to know how it ended? Sparta in a whitewash.

04

> *The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank

A young girl holed up in a Secret Annex with her family, hiding from Nazi's in occupied Netherlands, recounts her day-to-day thoughts to Kitty, her diary. For over two years she writes until suddenly, and without warning... blam! She dies. In a concentration camp. Manned by Nazis. Lesson learnt: don't start a narrative arc if your country is crawling with Nazis.

05

> *2pac*, Tupac Amaru Shakur

Tupac got a lot done: shot, robbed, convicted for sexual abuse, 11 months in jail, released five albums, started a war between the West and East Coast hip hop scenes, shot, died. Not content he then went and released another five albums. His sixth, due out early next year is called SHAKURSPEARE. Genius.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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



Sydney Uni getting smaller?

Over the past week there has been a lot of media following comments from the University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor that the University would be looking at the possibility of cutting intake in order to streamline the University and move towards making it a "world leading research institution."

So what's actually going on? The articles in the paper mentioned a mysterious "major review" that was being unveiled. The major review they were talking about is actually just the University's regular strategic planning process which has been going on for a while.

The strategic plan is the document that guides all the major decisions the University makes. It sets out goals that the University wants to achieve and also details how the University will get there. It is re-written on a five year cycle and the University is currently in the process of putting together the strategic plan for the next five years. It is therefore an incredibly important document and it will be important that students have a big say in what it contains.

The consultation process has already started. Most of the University community has already been consulted and there will be a process from which a first draft will be finalised for the end of the year. The SRC has been actively involved in this process ensuring that the student

voice is clearly heard and listened to but wider consultation with students, the University's key stakeholder group, is very much needed.

The SRC will be working with the University to make sure this happens. An important part of this will be a survey of the entire student body and focus groups but also more innovative methods of consultation will hopefully also be used such as forums, debates and events where more informal one-on-one discussions can be facilitated between students and senior academic staff. If you have any other ideas about how the student body could be consulted please send me an email.

This process will hopefully raise some very interesting questions and highlight some areas of the University and the student experience that need much more attention than they currently get. Already, as reported in the media and in the intro of my report, there have been questions put about the size of the University. Over the past 20 years the Uni has simply grown and grown without limitation and is now the second largest university in Australia with 48 000 students. The media has focused on how that will restrict the University's ability to be a "world leading research institution".

In last week's media reports comparisons were made between Sydney and other international universities such as

Harvard, Yale, Oxford or Cambridge. The point was made that these leading research institutions only have approximately ten to twenty thousand students each, much smaller than Sydney. Unfortunately, I think there is very little chance of Sydney becoming anything like any of these institutions by simply cutting numbers.

The good thing that would come from cutting student numbers (or at the very least maintaining the current levels of student numbers) is that it would give a chance for the University's infrastructure to catch up. Over the past decade and a half the services the University provides and the infrastructure there to support it has not been increased at the same rate that student numbers have been. Essentially it could mean lower class sizes and a smaller student body will always be easier to provide quality services and world-class facilities for.

The problem comes when you start looking at how a reduction in numbers would actually be achieved. Uniform reductions in student numbers across the University's range of schools and departments are possible but it has its limitations. As soon as you start to reduce student numbers in any particular course the cost of providing that course per student increases because the overheads that the University will have to pay for anyway are still going to be there but the cost will just be distributed across less students. That means that at

some point reducing student numbers in this way becomes financially unviable for the University. Considering the University's current costs and plans the extent to which it could act in this way would be severely limited and would only allow for very minor reductions.

The only other option that then becomes available for the University is to cut courses or departments or even faculties and this is where it gets extremely difficult and controversial. If the University does want to go down this path, how does it choose what to cut? Does it depend on how much money a particular course is making or loosing for the University? Would it depend on how much research funding it attracts or on how much research output it produces (inevitably giving courses such as those taught out at the SCA the short straw)? Or would someone be making (what would inevitably be a very objective...) decision on the academic merit of a particular course.

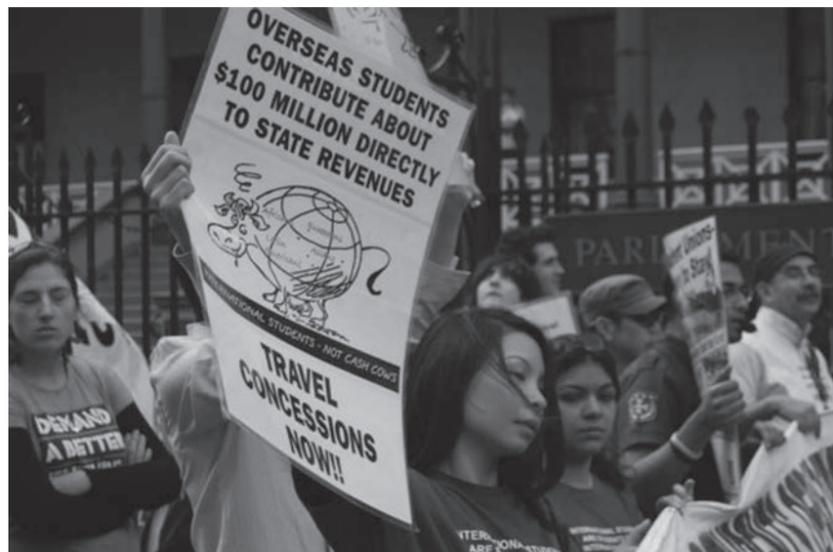
The idea of cutting student numbers is one that has been brought up quite a lot but it is time to start discussing the details. The University needs to engage in a discussion with students and the rest of the University community on this issue.

EDUCATION REPORT

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

Over 900 international and domestic students marched to State Parliament on September 2nd to demand justice for International Students. The main demand was to gain travel concessions for international students, so these students who are already forced to pay exponentially more than domestic students are no longer made to pay twice the bus or train fare of other students. Also focused on were workplace rights, safety and the lack of affordable student accommodation.

Over 9,000 of students at Sydney Uni are from overseas or on exchange. These students are being milked like cash cows by the university and by the government and not being given any real support. The rally on September the 2nd demonstrated that there is real dissatisfaction and anger with the current situation, and saw students from universities across NSW come out to make a lot of noise about it publicly. In Sydney there were over 900 students and speakers included Senator Hanson-Young and representatives from unions including the LHMU and the NTEU. Even our Vice Chancellor, Michael Spence attended! The fight is a long way from over but judging by the media coverage we certainly forced our state government to start listening.





GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Fait Accompli

The Government passed its enabling legislation for the de-regulation of university course places this week. In response the University of Western Australia announced it proposed to collapse its current 70 degrees programmes into 5 programmes much like Melbourne University. Five. De-regulation has arrived and its effects will soon be felt!

And then?

Julia Gillard has long called for a 'national debate' about education, so lets have one. The Whitlam reforms and the massive explosion in the numbers of university students radically changed

the face of the university education sector. There was a concerted change in policy away from seeing universities as the 'bastions of privilege' and a move to make them accessible to all.

The problem is often posed as a choice between access and quality. The misnomer in all of this is the way people think about access. Providing access to university is not about admitting every secondary student into tertiary study; it is about admitting those on the basis of ability and nothing more. A bright kid in a comprehensive high school in Greater Western Sydney should have the same chance, all else being equal, of getting into university as someone at Sydney Grammar or SCEGGS. Currently

they don't, and as long as they don't the education system will remain, pardon my French, fucked.

And now we are forced to ask if the problems with tertiary education are really that closely related to tertiary education, or are they social problems? Isn't the problem that if you want to get into university, you're better off being rich than smart? This is something demonstratively borne out by the figures; students in private schools enter university at a proportionally higher rate and finish it at a proportionally lower rate relative to the size of the intake than those in public schools. In my mind the most purposeful reform in regards to tertiary education is the dismantling of the UAI and the scal-

ing system that is used and abused by those who have the capacity to do it.

Maybe the answer is to return to the way of the ancients (sans the slaves)? Now I don't know much in depth, the courses I've done that dealt with the ancient world were all characterised by a sweeping generality, but many of these civilisations put a high value on perfection. Perhaps we should be looking to build a comprehensive national education system, one from pre-school to post-tertiary study, that produces quality; quality unskilled labourers, quality tradespeople and yes, quality lawyers, bankers and accountants with just five sorts of shiny degrees too.

WOMEN'S REPORT

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

Upcoming Events for USyd Feminism

Thursday 10th September 1pm: Stop Violence against Women Zine Workshop
Week 2 of the Verge Arts Festival brings an even crazier mix of feminism and art, femartism if you will. We'll be meeting in the Holme Women's Room to make pages for an anti-violence zine which will be distributed during anti-violence week. All art supplies and literature/information will be provided but please bring any pictures/stories/stats you'd like to include. Also, there will be tea and cake. Hooray.

Monday 5th to Friday 9th October: Anti-Violence Week
Women's Collective will join forces with Queer Collective to bring you Anti-

Violence week 2009. We'll be running forums on sexual assault and domestic violence, including queer-specific issues such as same-sex domestic violence. Well have speakers from across Sydney sharing personal experiences and talking about current research.

Tuesday 6th October: Queer Honi released. Submit your stories, poems, pics etc now!

Tuesday 6th October: Women's and Queer Collective paint a banner to demand a response to violence. Surely the 1% conviction rate for perpetrators of sexual assault infuriates you, and the government? Why is more not being done? This can't possibly be considered an adequate response!

Wednesday 7th October 11am - 3pm:

Women's and Queer Markets, Jane Foss Russell Courtyard. We'll be selling used clothes to raise money for Women's Refuges and also distributing information, whistles etc at our anti-violence stall. We'll also have resources on dealing with assault and victimization, and places to get help.

Thursday 8th October 2pm - 4pm: Self-defense classes (Free!), Holme Building, location to be advised.

Thursday 8th October 1pm Holme Women's Room: Women's Officer 2010 Election. Well be electing a returning officer this week (10 September) in collective.

Friday 30th October: Reclaim the Night! Women's Collective and other passionate

feminists from across Sydney will march through the city to demand an end to the fear and victimisation women feel, and lay a claim to space that is rightfully ours, even if poorly lit and isolated!

Events held in the Women's room are autonomous (Women Only) but all other events are non-autonomous and everyone is welcome to come along. This allows men to get involved, learn, and support the Women's movement but also allows women to decide the direction of campaigns and the goal of events based on what we feel we need most. All participation is most welcome and encouraged. Get involved in feminism at USyd and have fun while helping women!

ASK ABE

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

Dear Abe,

I am in a difficult position. I need to move out of my mother's house because she is an aggressive person. I tried living with my father but his wife doesn't think that I belong there because they have a young family of their own. When I moved back in with my mother she became even more aggressive, as she thought that by trying to live with my father I was betraying her. Now she directs her anger at me and I have to spend all of my study time at the library - in fact I try and spend as much time there as possible.

I'd like to move out of home but I just can't afford it, and I can't get Centrelink because my mum earns too much money, but I know she won't give me any if I move out. I think I can probably put up with living with mum for a little longer, but it really is getting into my head. And this is all starting to affect my study, with assignments coming up. Do you have any advice?

LA

Dear LA,

Things like this are really stressful, it's a good idea to go and have a chat to a counsellor at The University Counselling Service.

In reagrds Centrelink, Youth Allowance is currently up to \$370 per fortnight plus about \$75 rent assistance. Given what you have told me, you would possibly qualify as an independent person - meaning it does not matter what your mum earns. You need to demonstrate you are experiencing a significant breakdown in your family relationship and it is "Unreasonable to Live at Home" because your physical or emotional well being is in jeopardy if you stay. You need to think about a third party - eg. counsellor/doctor/relative - who can also make a statement to this effect. However, you MUST NOT be living with either of your parents when you apply. Talk to an SRC caseworker for more information and support. You may be able to get emergency accommodation while you sort all of this out.

The University has some subsidised housing and there is a student cooperative housing called STUCCO which is very affordable. The University Accommodation Service (search the uni website) maintains a database for students to look at, and Real Estate Agents and Domain.com.au are also places many students find accommodation. Because you are a low income earner, the NSW Department of Housing RENTSTART Scheme can help by paying a significant part of your bond. It's not a loan - they just pay it for you, and the money is returned to them when you leave. You will probably need to sign a contract or Residential Tenancy Agreement. The latter is preferable - again talk to the SRC for more information.

Something you can access now, regardless of what you decide to do and whether you are on Centrelink or not, is the Low Income Health Care Card (search http://www.centrelink.gov.au/) This gives you significant savings on prescriptions and access to free ambulance cover, amongst other things.

And remember, if you find yourself short of money, go and have a chat with the University's Financial Assistance Office (search the uni website). They have interest free loans and bursaries, and are there to help you.

If this is affecting your studies, you could decide to withdraw from one or more units (you may be able to do this without getting a fail, and you could get your fees back) or ask for extensions on assignments. I recommend you talk to an SRC caseworker to talk through the options.

Abe

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

The SUPRA

SAAO Corner

Dear SAAO's,

My lecturer asked me to go to dinner with him. I did not really want to go but felt it might be seen as rude if I refused so I went to the dinner. During the dinner he kept touching me and making comments about my appearance/clothes that made me feel uncomfortable. What can I do?

SAAO says:

What you are experiencing is called sexual harassment. Any unwanted attention that has a sexual overtone to it does not have to be tolerated. Sexual harassment is against the law and may constitute either unsatisfactory performance or misconduct under the Enterprise Agreement which covers the terms and conditions of employment for academic staff.

You can make a complaint about your lecturer's behaviour. Within the University, you can seek advice from the Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit (SSEOU) about making a complaint. The SSEOU is responsible for, amongst other things, resolving individual staff and student concerns about harassment and discrimination. You can contact the SSEOU by phone 9351 2212 or by email: admin@eeo.usyd.edu.au

Alternatively, if you would prefer to get advice which is independent of the University you can come to see one of the SAAO's here at SUPRA (see contact details on opposite page) OR you can phone the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board for their advice on: (02) 9268 5555.

One Voice From September 2nd Rally In Support Of Fair Education For All: End The Racist Exploitation Of International Students

ABOUT ME:

After being told I was not eligible for travel concession during my enrolment, I asked various staff, "Why not? I am a full time student paying full fees." These are some of the responses:

'Yeah I know it's not fair and you pay way more too'

'You used to get them but I am not sure why you don't anymore'

'You don't get concession, really why not?'

I remembered a phrase from my SUPRA orientation, 'We are the people you can go to when you can't get an answer'. SUPRA's response gave me hope:

'Thank you for letting us know about your concerns regarding transport concessions and the social inclusion of international students. This is something SUPRA takes very seriously and does a lot of work around...'

I was not alone! SUPRA viewed the situation from the same perspective! It was my first experience in which I was a student first! SUPRA did not tell me to leave as this was an 'international' issue but welcomed me with open arms!



I immediately joined the Cross-Campus Concessions Coalition and aided in the rally preparation, my passion growing each day.

THE RALLY!:

My experience at the rally was one I will never forget! Students and supporters from all over demanding, 'CONCESSION CARDS NOW!' and 'FAIR EDUCATION FOR ALL!' while marching the streets of Sydney. I need to personally thank each and every speaker that spoke at Fisher Library, UTS, and at Parliament for each of you increased my sense of belonging and the fire within me. Although the focus of this march was to submit our petition regarding Concession Cards for international students, CCCC is moving forward on other critical issues for international students. These demands include stopping racist attacks, no students in detention, ending visa restrictions, as well the need for safe, affordable accommodation.

Our journey began at Fisher Library, as we marched towards the courtyard of UTS I will never forget - we were greeted



by the sound of applause. At one point international students were asked to speak out, all my feelings boiled to the surface and I came forward. I spoke without thinking, from my heart. I cannot recall exactly what I disclosed during this moment but share pieces of it with you now:

I am saddened, shocked, and appalled that the NSW government can simply change the wording of The Transportation Administration Act and legitimize discrimination against international students with no consequences. I know there are MPs that support our cause and who are embarrassed by the actions of the government, they recognize that we are students first and that this is a human rights issue! It increases my sadness when I know the government receives billions of dollars annually from us, knows we purchase goods and services, that we are potential future ambassadors of this country and publicly acts in this manner. We need to come together and demand an end to this injustice! The government is using its power of discourse to oppress us and this cannot happen! We demand concession cards and we demand them now!

As we moved from UTS and drew closer to Parliament the feeling of solidarity increased and our voices rang throughout the streets. My heart was thumping so loud I could hear it in my

Postgrad Pages

ears. Everywhere I turned my feelings were reflected in others, we were one. Our petition was officially submitted to Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young when we arrived to Parliament. I could not stop smiling, but it was bittersweet. NSW and Victoria are the only parts of Australia that do not have concessions for international students and most people I meet do not know the history surrounding this issue. If the government can legitimize discrimination and years later the fight continues, what and who is next?

We need to stand together in solidarity as we did on September 2nd and we need to keep standing! This rally was an important step but it is one of many. Let me get straight to the point by using one of our chants, NSW government 'BULL**** COME OFF IT OUR EDUCATION IS NOT FOR PROFIT!!'

Kathryn Stachyra
SUPRA Councillor



When: Friday September 18th from 6pm in the SUPRA Resource Room
What: This time around we will be showing a documentary that deals with transgender issues.
Details: queer@supra.usyd.edu.au

What can SUPRA casework staff do for postgraduate students?

Students who come to the casework service at SUPRA are often unsure about what caseworkers (i.e. our Student Advice and Advocacy Officers, SAAOs) can offer.

What is advice and advocacy?

Advice and advocacy are important levels of support to postgraduate students so that they can work out what is the best course of action to follow, if they have a problem which they have not been able to sort out by themselves. What is most important for postgraduates is that advice is independent of the University, free of any bias and takes into account the student's individual situation.

An example to demonstrate this:

You may have been failed in an essay you submitted. Your lecturer made no written comments on the marked essay other than 1 or 2 ticks and 3-4 crosses. The essay may be worth 25% of your overall mark and you have another essay due later in the semester.

The lack of specific feedback leaves you uncertain as to how to improve your next essay so that you don't fail again/don't fail the whole subject. Additionally, the lack of specific feedback leaves you wondering whether you have misunderstood the essay topic. However, your lecturer appears to be unfriendly and makes it clear that they don't have long to chat.

If a student in this type of situation came to see a Student Advice and Advocacy Officer (SAAO) at SUPRA, we would be able to provide you with a copy of the relevant policy related to assessment and we would explain to you what that policy means and whether your lecturer has followed that policy or not. In effect, we can advise you as to whether you have grounds for an appeal about the lack of specific feedback.

After you hear that advice you may decide you want to do something about the lack of specific feedback by your lecturer. The Student Advice and Advocacy Officer will

then be able to outline for you the possible avenues you can follow to get specific feedback. In addition, the SAAO can advise you about the pluses and minuses of each possible action you can take.

For instance, a SAAO can advocate for you, if you want, by contacting the lecturer. That is, the SAAO can contact the lecturer on your behalf outlining your concerns; or you might prefer that the SAAO phone your lecturer and talk to them about your concerns; or you might prefer that the SAAO assist you to write a letter or email to your lecturer.

However, our advocacy work can also be more 'behind-the-scenes' in assisting you to synthesise your arguments so that you can better express yourself and be better prepared for approaching your lecturer by yourself. So advocacy can mean acting for you, or it can mean helping you to take action.

In essence the advice work of SUPRA's SAAO staff is very comprehensive and the advocacy work can be as much or as little as you want it to be. SUPRA is an independent student organisation within the University of Sydney and is well recognised both on and off the campus. Finally, all records related to any student are kept under lock and key within SUPRA, and details of your situation remain confidential.

The University cannot find out if you have been to see a Student Advice and Advocacy Officer, unless you ask the SAAO you are seeing to assist you or to advocate for you in some way. So if you have an issue that has been worrying you for some time now (whether related to the University or to outside the uni) come and make an appointment to see a SAAO as soon as you can or send an email help@supra.usyd.edu.au and one of us will get back to you within 24 hours.

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.

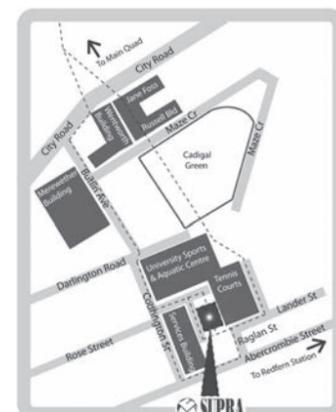
By becoming a SUPRA Supporter you will be able to:

- 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 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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FILM

Inglourious Basterds

After the misfire of *Death Proof*, Quentin Tarantino's contribution to Grindhouse, one had to question whether one of the most influential directors of the 90s had run his course. Fortunately, *Inglourious Basterds* not only represents Tarantino's return to form but he has developed what could be one of the most creative films of the year. The title of the film remains as a homage to the Italian picture, *Quel maledetto treno blindato* – *The Inglourious Bastards*.

His comic book version of World War II is thickly wrapped in a rapidly shifting tone of drama, cynicism, satire and comedy. The contrast between the intense opening scenes of the Jew Hunter interrogating a farmer, to others that feature Brad Pitt's wonderful comic timing as Lt. Aldo Raine, makes the film a complete rollercoaster of emotions for the audience. Given the changes in tone, along with the intensity of Tarantino's trademark lengthy dialogue sequences, the impact of the ultra violence has been dramatically increased, perhaps more so than any of his previous films. Aiding a great deal of the tension to these scenes are the performances. All of the actors are impressive. Brad Pitt is a standout as the square jawed Raine but Christoph Waltz steals his thunder, wholly creepy as the Jew Hunter.

The film is also bolstered by Tarantino's pop culture references, allowing *Inglourious Basterds* to act as a satire of cinema itself. We are constantly reminded that this is a film and one that is entirely conscious of what it is: highly dramatic, over the top and ultra violent. As the Nazis sit back, clapping and cheering the onslaught on their own screen in the film, we know that this is indeed a continuation of Tarantino's fascination with violence as one of the most fun things to watch.

The self-awareness of *Inglourious Basterds* allows it to be one of the most unique experiences of the year and a completely fresh take on many of the clichés of the World War II genre. Although the brief but ultra violence may deter some, there is a sharper and cleverer film at work here, one that is often very funny and entirely conscious of its audience's expectations for Tarantino's work. It is a very impressive and timely return to form for the director.

Damien Straker

THEATRE

Eurydice

The haunting myth of Orpheus and Eurydice has inspired much art over the centuries, telling the tale of Orpheus, a man of such musicianship that he could make the stones themselves weep, one of the only three mortals ever to enter the Underworld, which he does in order to retrieve his beloved Eurydice. While most of the art focusses on his loss of her, Sarah Ruhl's 2007 play re-focusses the story on Eurydice herself, giving her agency at the end of the story and infusing modernisms and whimsy into the ancient mythology, creating a dream landscape encompassing the over- and underworlds, which is reinforced in the visual and technical design by Caitlin Kenny and Nicholas-Dixon Wilmshurst, which were effective despite the makeshift theatre space of the Old Darlington School, where SUDS' production played for two nights before transferring to The Conservatorium of Music as part of Verge.

Director Pierce Wilcox has skilfully represented this recentring of Eurydice (played with a lovely innocence by Eleni Schumacher) from the periphery of the story to the focus of different masculine desires. Orpheus, unable to stop hearing music or looking for Eurydice, is played airily by Dom Mercer; his gentleness is shown in sharp relief by Sean Ohlendorf, who is arresting as the uber-sexual god of the Underworld who steals Eurydice away from her mortal life. Houston Ash gives a finely wrought performance as the lonely spirit of Eurydice's dead father.

One of the most innovative choices has been to make the Chorus of Stones, borrowed from Greek theatre, into a small chamber ensemble of actor/musicians. Roman Benedict has composed a score at times eerie, romantic, mournful and sexy. The stones, who wield a strange power in the Underworld through their jarring dialogue, now have extra force of expression through their music and the physical presence of their instruments. Understandably, due to constraints of student theatre and the space, the Stones played from sheet music; however, a separation from the traditional accoutrements of the pit band would have benefited the piece, as the Stones would be freer to become a more cohesive part of the scenery and action, further representing a departure from the traditional. This is a minor criticism however of a delightful piece of theatre.

Vivienne Egan

REVUE SEASON 2009

ARTS REVUE

Murder on the Oriarts Express

Thanks to an extravagant budget a few years ago, the Arts Revue is now put on somewhat more intimately in the Downstairs Theatre at the Seymour. It's really the only revue to exercise quality control in its casting, so rather than hoards of super-keen first years stampeding the York theatre stage, there is a small ensemble of very good performers. All three girls were called Harriet, which in itself was amusing. Joined by a tiny man, a tall man, a chubby man and a lanky man, they had some very funny moments.

Outrageous skits, some of which worked better than others, took us rollocking through the first act of this year's Arts Revue. Some time after the Venga Bus departed, we arrived back for the second act for MURDER ON A TRAIN! The Cluedo-esque, whodunit plot delighted audiences with its absurd, clever twists. As it went on this felt less and less like a revue and more like a play that could have worked as a show in its own right.

...and never before has a nude sketch been carried out with such hilarious confidence. There was only one naked man, but he was very, very naked. Very naked. Extremely naked. Really, really naked. SO NAKED!

Kate Leaver

The 2009 Arts Revue took an approach that hasn't been seen since 2005, adding a murder-mystery to the usual sketch comedy found in revues. And I'll be honest; the murder-mystery was a resounding success. It was a fantastic parody of many of the usual features of such pieces; with stereotypical characters, romance at every corner, and a nude scene to be proud of. With a cast including 3 Harriets and two Jordans, how can it possibly have gone wrong? I'm just disappointed it wasn't Miss Scarlet in the Library with the Rope.

But I found the first half of the revue to be somewhat lacking. I was a huge fan of some of the sketches, but others were lost on me entirely. Some highlights included the crime fighting duo of Nun & Stick, Merlin's mischief, the anti-Mime, new ways to pick up widows, a taco fetish and some musically talented bank robbers.

The sketches that didn't sit so well with me were, nevertheless, well acted – but just didn't appeal to me. In any case everyone else was in disagreement, sharing a hearty laugh at the end of each scene. Regardless, I had a fantastic time at the revue, and the murder-mystery was oddly satisfying, with (in my mind) a perfect twist at the end.

Tom Clement

MED REVUE

Slumdog Medicare

The cast of *Slumdog Medicare* have one hell of a bedside manner. If they can bring the grandeur, wit and rhythm of this revue to their consultations and operations they will revolutionise the world of medicine. And I hope they do.

In all seriousness though, this may just be the best revue I have ever seen. With full-scale Bollywood dances, martial arts dance fighting, amazing costumes and some really impressive individual performances, it was in a league of its own.

Now, who woulda thought something so simple as a narrative structure could work so well in a revue! The Med Revue, contrary to the sketchy, jaunty style of most revues, followed the story of Jamal (a *Skins* reference) trying to get into a Medicine degree as an Arts student. A completely charming professor-type took Eddie Maguire's spot in a 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' set-up as they worked through skits on the main stage and parodied *Slumdog Millionaire* perfectly.

The opening number was breathtaking, as was the saucy minx who led the Bollywood style dancing. A barbershop quartet of guys in scrubs broke bad news to patients in boy-band style to thunderous applause.

It was clear very early on that there was someone behind this show who knew exactly what they were doing. There were hilarious moments, even poignant moments and the level of professionalism was remarkable.

Kate Leaver

The Med Revue was a very entertaining experience. It was a real shame, though, that the heckles were the funniest part of the revue. In the crowd on the Thursday night were the Engineering, Science and Architecture casts, whom contributed greatly to the humour of the revue. There were some saving graces, though, in the form of the all male singing quartet, medical capoeira, *Beached As* parodies, multi resistant TB, the male nude gymnastics and berating UWS.

In spite of this, the revue was a great experience and was fantastically put together. Mixing of the sketches and overarching story with music, videos and amazing dancing numbers (and lets not forget the heckles) stopped the revue from ever entering a comedic lull. Some of the more mentionable numbers were: Jai Ho dance scene and Total Infarct of the Heart

In the end, though, I feel a little cheated. The heckles at the beginning of the revue set me in the mood to laugh, a mood I might not have had on another night.

Tom Clement

New England, NSW?

Carlo Ritchie visits the seventh state



The tree of Independence

New England; a land of rolling hills, cold winters and warm pubs, where Old is on every tap and as Lonely Planet will tell you the “Cherub Faced Locals” are always good for a yarn. Situated on the Northern Tablelands, roughly 500 kilometres North of Sydney, New England is a region where mountains meet broad farmland and where political ideology is simplified into Independent representatives and everyone else. Independence is increasingly the dominant stand-point of New England, with both State and Federal representatives being entrenched in independence and at local council elections it was difficult to find a candidate who had party connections. It is consequently not surprising that New England spent a considerable part of the last century attempting to become a new state, and as some New Englanders will happily tell you, it was a struggle that has not ended.

The first moves towards independence were made following the creation of the State of Queensland in early colonial times, New Englanders feeling that if a place like Queensland deserved statehood, the surely they deserved the same for their own region. Tension between New England and Queensland is still felt today, and was most evident in New England's decisions during World War Two that should the

Japanese ever invade, they would shut themselves off from Queensland. A militia was maintained throughout the war whose job it was to cut down trees and block all the roads in to New England should an invasion take place.

The movement for Statehood continued to gain momentum after World War Two, reaching its height in the 60s with the commencement of “Operation Seventh State” which would lead to the 1967 Referendum for statehood. New Englanders felt that the government of NSW no longer paid heed to the needs and complaints of rural Australia; Agriculturalists, Landed Gentry and Townies all felt that the state government was draining the resources of the country into the cities. Statehood however did not, as our maps will show you, come to fruition, as the referendum was defeated (by a mere 5%).

The collapse of the statehood movement occurred shortly afterwards, and with it the hopes of many New Englanders for protected interests. Regional communities continue to feel the brunt of higher petrol prices and lack of public transport while new Metro-lines continue to be debated in state-parliament. As many a New Englander will ask you over a glass of Old; “What's it's like to live in NSW?”

STUDENT INK

STUNNER

Rose tattoo, Horticulture III



A saucy history

Michael Krasovitsky feasts on the simplest of sauces



Liberté, égalité, fraternité, Aioli!

A delicious addition to any meal, Aioli is a garlic mayonnaise sauce with a rather tantalising history.

It originated in Provence, in the South of France as early as the second century B.C.E. Around this time, Roman forces were consolidating their position in modern day France and expanding their settlement across the south-eastern region. As part of their attempts to impose their culture onto the Ligures and the Gauls, the Romans introduced their sauces into Provencal cooking and encouraged the dissemination of Roman cuisine. Food historian Marian Woodman had written that “Highly flavoured sauces often containing as many as a dozen ingredients were extensively used to mask the natural flavours of Roman food.”

Though sauces became an important indicator of Roman rule in Provence, their production was difficult. The natural terrain of the region made it difficult to pursue large-scale farming or agriculture there. To overcome this, eggs rather than milk, became the central ingredient of the most famous Provencal sauce, Aioli. Made by simply combining garlic and eggs, two of the most abundant and accessible ingredients, Aioli came to be a key part of not only Provencal cooking, but also identity.

Indeed, at the time of the French Revolution, Aioli became a poignant symbol of French unity and power. As the traditional food of the lower classes, it came to represent the power of an emerging *tiers état*, the Third Estate, or commoners. It was appropriated as a symbol of indigenous France and used to support claims of historical continuity. To this day, Aioli symbolises French working-class culture and its possibilities.

More importantly than all this is the fact that Aioli is delicious! One of Sydney's finest can be tasted at the Book Kitchen in Surry Hills.



Whatever and ever, Amen.

Rouel Dayoan celebrates the sustainability of Ben Folds.



Bitches ain't shit

Sustainability is so hot right now! But while many focus their attention on the environment or the economy, it is a very real issue for the music world also. Too much of its population is content to pump out poxy music that has little-to-no meaning. Their products, made from whichever unsustainable synth/beat/cultural reference combination is the ‘it’ sound of the month, are heard fleetingly and disposed of.

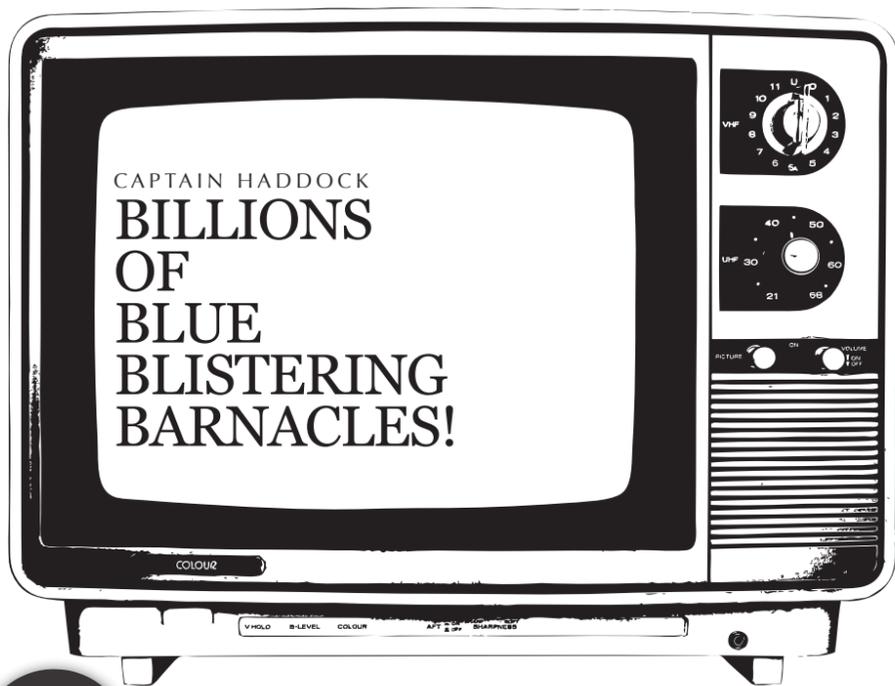
Then there are artists like Ben Folds who can share with us a brand of piano pop that has no used-by date – an intelligent, captivating and bold style that continually engages his long-standing, sometimes obsessive fan base. Not one to rest on his laurels though, he experiments with new ways of letting audiences experience his music. Folds featured in MySpace's (remember MySpace?) first live webcast concert, penned tracks for Dreamworks' Over the Hedge and toured with the Australian and American symphony orchestras to showcase the elegance of his origi-

nals. More recently he has road tripped around America to record an album of university groups performing his pieces a capella, and released “Stems and Seeds”, an album of his songs' stem files produced as remixes.

Folds' inventive nature has been combined with other talent also; collaborating with Regina Spektor for one of his newer singles, “You Don't Know Me”, and with William Shatner for the experimental project “Fear of Pop”. And be sure to keep an ear out for Folds' latest collaboration, with author Nick Hornby of High Fidelity fame who penned the lyrics to a new album.

Ben Folds doesn't really need to pull out all these tricks though, because his ability and extraordinary performances stand firm by themselves. But his love of music and respect for his audience forces him to push beyond that. At his “Songs By Request” concert at the Opera House last week, the final show in his latest tour to Sydney, Folds joked that he takes to the stage to give his adoring fans what they want, “like the monkey that he is.” This monkey, a true story-teller, musician and performer, proceeded to rock out on the piano, conduct three part harmonies with the crowd in one song and compel them to ceremoniously yell “FUCK” in another, genuinely enthralled the entire audience – Folds fanatics and fresh punters alike. Ben Folds, truly sustainable, and the memories will stand the test of time, like his music.

THE TIMESLAYER



THE WEEK AHEAD

//THREE THINGS WE'RE DOING THIS WEEK

1. Taking the long route to class to avoid the campaigners.
2. Celebrating Editor Atkinson's 21st - Happy birthday, Will!
3. Trying to learn about the sub-game perfect Nash equilibrium.

Vox Pops!

Mark Di Stefano goes for a night time chat with the chalking campaigners.

1. Draw a picture of yourself in 30 seconds.
2. What is your favourite chalking ground?
3. What would you be doing tonight if you weren't chalking?
4. How will you be repaid for your service?



Elle Jones, Arts/Law II

1. (pictured)
2. This is my first night, so probably right here on City Rd
3. Watching a Law and Order Marathon
4. Steph has to return to her marital bed



Albert Spry, Arts III

1. (pictured)
2. The sandstone in the quad
3. Watching reruns of Margaret and David
4. Blowjob



Will Zhang, Engineering III

1. (pictured)
2. Eastern Ave because more people get to see my sick anime cartoons
3. Playing World of Warcraft
4. Being thrown a big party at Mandelbaum House



Bel Campbell, Visual Communications UTS

1. (pictured)
2. Physics Rd - the sun sets beautifully and bathes the area in dappled light.
3. Designing fonts
4. Getting flown to Melbourne for a complimentary dinner at Vue de Monde.

COLLEGE

Securing the college vote?

Dave Wilton doesn't like your chances.



A beer for me, a vote for you.

George Bush Senior once said "politics are gay and stupid." It would almost be impossible to summarise the opinion of the college community on student politics better than this, but the rest of this article sort of tries to.

The college community is the holy grail for any seeking fame and glory through student politics. Over a thousand student cards live minutes from the voting booths. Yet few have managed to harness the hotbed of student activism that is the college community, and this vote gold mine has remained an elusive prize.

Many would argue that this is because college kids, like most students on Campus, don't really care about student politics and are not really sure what the Union is. It is pretty hard to argue with this, but it is also pretty hard not to be insular when there is a beer tap in your lounge room. So how can the fickle college vote be won?

When playing up your attributes, tweak the vocab slightly. Anyone worth voting for is a 'top bloke', and although referring to yourself as this displays a Pauline level of arrogance, you are going to have to get this vital message across somehow. Remember, scarecrow did not need a brain, he needed 'daybo smarts'. The lion didn't need courage, he needed 'ticker'. And the tinman needed a heart so he could 'bleed [insert respective colour of college at which the tinman is a 'hero']'. Captaining a sport or being a big dog at Arena probably isn't going to hurt your chances either.

Instead of playing up your public school roots, wear the jumper of your local GPS establishment, and bring up that time your school 'had that heaps big fight with Newington'. Get your understanding of college

rivalries down, popular ridicules of other collegians are: 'ugly', 'fat' or 'ugly fats'. Use often and without a tone of jest. Finally, finish your campaign speech by drinking an alcoholic beverage quickly and then throwing the cup at someone. Let everyone know who is boss.

Do not mention Manning, VSU or Noah because these concepts are foreign and confusing.

The standard more coffee/Gaza policy platforms are just not going to cut it at the college level. A successful college campaign must be staked on real issues. The serious problem that tutorials continue to be scheduled on Thursday morning needs to be addressed. Perhaps some sort of tutorial/pre's on a Wednesday afternoon would also prove a vote winner. (Yeah we get drunk heaps, what of it?) The issue of long and tiring treks up to Eastern Avenue is also a community topic that has failed to receive adequate attention. Two birds with one stone: Sancta rickshaws?

Crime and public safety are also big vote winners this election. Any elected official

promising to get the po po off the backs of the college party scene would receive widespread community support. A policy to end this discrimination would be more popular than Krudd's \$900.

Many college kids are only half aware that elections are really happening, but there is not a whole lot that can be done to change that. Student politics is written off because the colleges are barely involved and barely need to interact. It's not like the college community is running the US. Yet.



HONI CRYPTIC

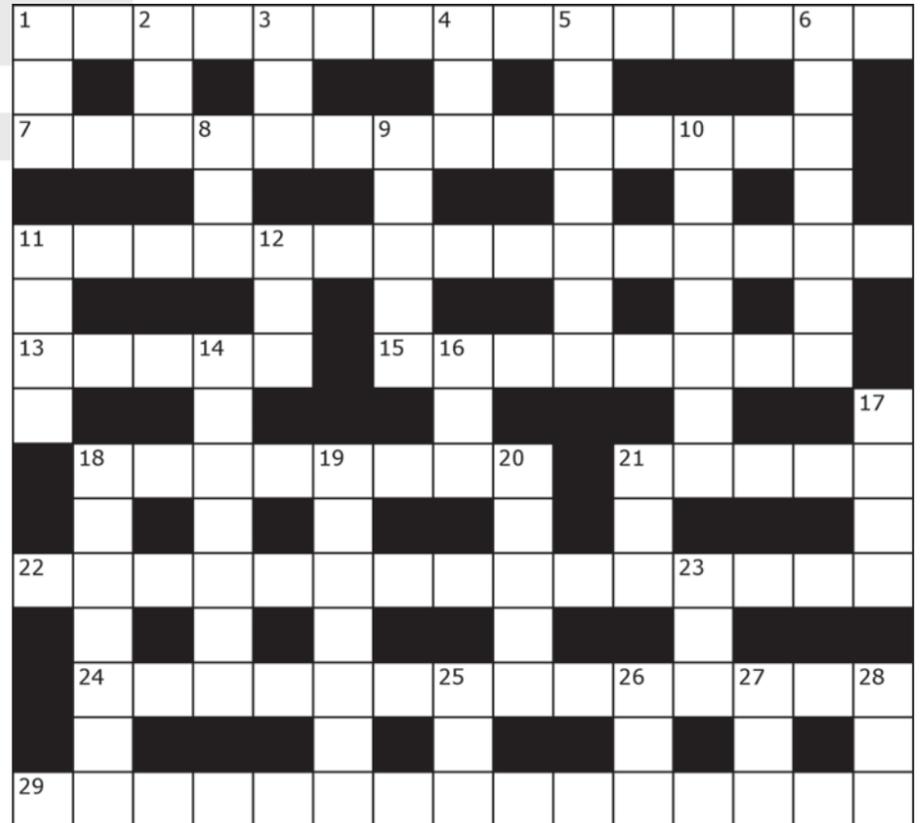
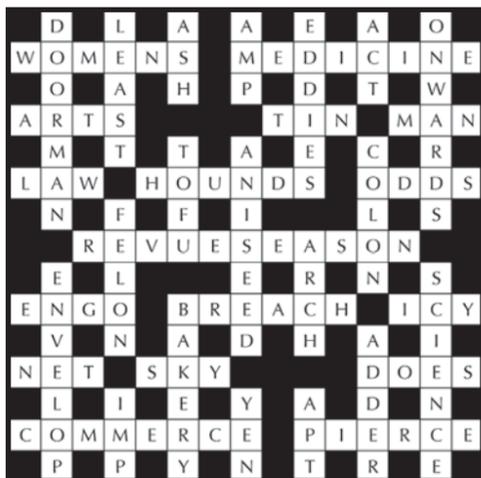
//ACROSS

- Part 1: Feathers at Carillion and Missenden (4, 2, 3, 6)
- Part 2: Notably gay on King (3, 2, 3, 6)
- Part 3: William and the homeless (5, 3, 3, 4)
- 5 day assessments? (5)
- Part 6: Made for walking (4, 4)
- Quickly make two cuts (4, 4)
- Russian rulers are a model to flu syndrome (5)
- This crossword's inspiration are doing this in New Orleans (7, 2, 1, 5)
- Part 4: Lads are at the park (4, 3, 7)
- Part 5: Get a metal faucet (5, 1, 6, 3)

//DOWN

- This pair sounds like they're entitled to nothing (3)
- An intellect like a headless fool (3)
- Have now arranged... (3)
- ...a prostitute reportedly used on a farm (3)
- On home base and in the rye? (7)
- Takes a woman to dinner? (4, 3)
- Got sick from ingesting basil legumes (3)
- As useful as the end of your arms (5)
- Say it quickly (7)
- Pieces for horses to chew (4)
- Do you know the answer? (3)
- A shopping cart like an ogre under a bridge? (7)
- How a ghost calls the police? (3)
- Addict and a misogynist (4)
- Bird's inn for levering (7)
- A vocal work is able to thank twice (7)
- Nip model? (3-2)
- Coating for roads and smokers' lungs (3)
- Poison that sounds like life support? (3)
- Bathe midgets in a record company (1, 1, 1)
- Grampa Lincoln? (3)
- Computing Studies in brief is a dirty hole (1, 1, 1)
- Space from taking a position (3)

//LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



BMFD

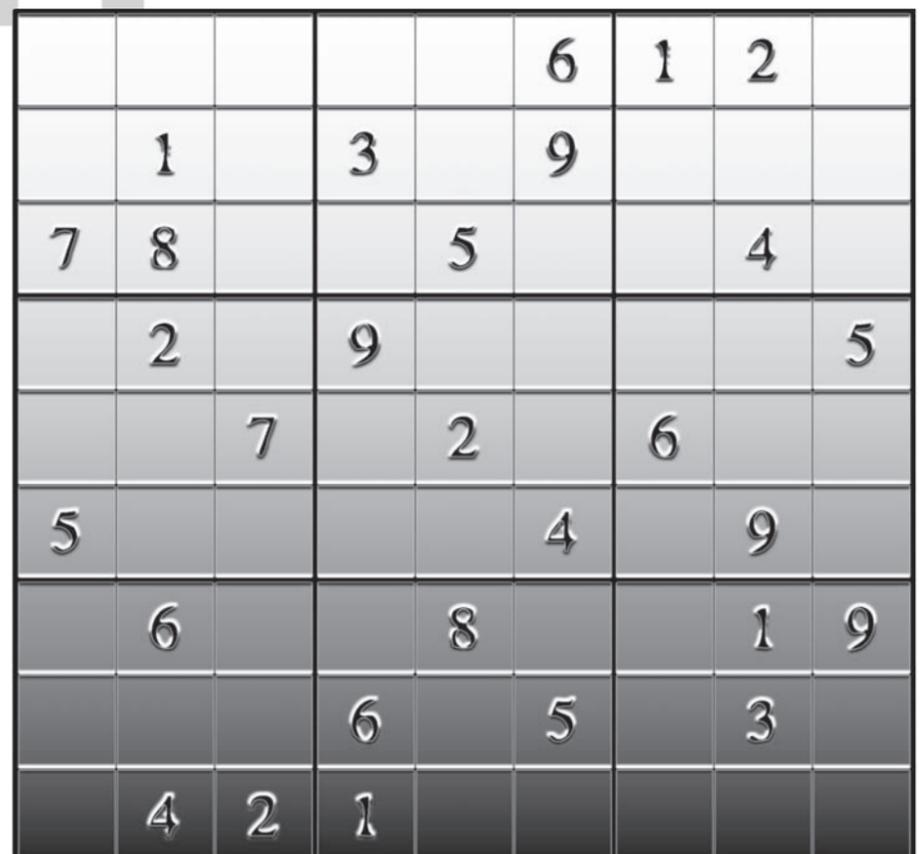
PUZZLER

YOU'LL NEED TO BE ON A ROLL TO GET IT...



LAST WEEK'S ANSWER: MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

SUDOKU





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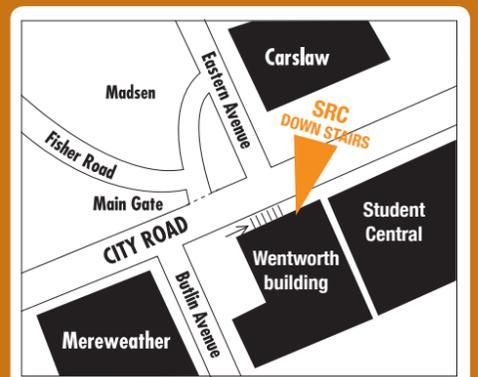
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