

HONISOIT

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Week Five | August 29



'Mega brothel'
expands on Sydney
Uni's doorstep

NEWS REVIEW ⑥

The pressure to be thin:
Why campus is the
capital of
eating disorders

FEATURE ⑫

Honi previews
the SUDS major
'Manfred: After Byron'

CULTURE ⑭

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Editor in Chief: Kira Spucys-Tahar

Editors: James Alexander, Hannah Bruce, Bebe D'Souza, Paul Ellis, Jack Gow, Michael Koziol, Rosie Marks-Smith, James O'Doherty, Richard Withers, Connie Ye

Reporters: Rafi Alam, Bryant Apolonio, Ben Brooks, Matt Clarke, Flora Grant, William Haines, Brad Mariano, Rob North, Sean O'Grady, Justin Pen, Erin Rooney, Hannah Ryan, Lane Sainty, Miranda Smith, Nina Ubaldi, Lucy Watson

Contributors: Poppy Burnett, Alexandra Christie, Laura Hanlon, Lauren Hunter, Mason McCann, Nathan McDonnell, Alex Parissi, Zoe Morse, Matt Withers

Crossword: Ghoti

Cover: James O'Doherty

Advertising: Amanda LeMay & Tina Kao
publications.manager@src.usyd.edu.au

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Planner

HONI'S GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON



Commerce Revue: Dirty Financing

7:30pm, Everest Theatre, \$15/\$19/\$27

We are already into the second week of revue season! They are saying it's the best investment you could make and proudly almost censored by Gina Rinehart.

Law Revue: How I Met Your Honour

8pm, York Theatre, \$15/\$20/23

After some excellent reviews, as seen on Facebook, the Law Revue promises an explosion of short sketches, catchy song parodies, big dance numbers, and razor-sharp satire.



Talk: Food Preferences and Obesity

11:30am, Medical Foundation Building, FREE

Dr Prescott is pretty interested in the human perception of taste, smell and oral sensations, and how they relate to food preferences. Pretty interesting really.

Comedy Debate: Alumni vs Students

6pm, The Great Hall, \$10/\$15/\$20

It is finally here!!!!!! In one corner we have VC Michael Spence, funny man Adam Spence & Gates Scholar Fiona Roughley. In the other corner, current students Edward Miller, Eleanor Gordon-Smith and Nick Kraegen.



Talk: Bob Carr

1pm, Withdrawing Room, Holme, FREE

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bob Carr will be speaking on his international agenda for Australia. What is Australia's place in the world as global powers shift towards the Asian Century? There will also be a Q&A so bring along all your questions.

Alpine play Oxford Arts

8pm, Oxford Arts Factory, \$20

Alpine is made up of six friends from Melbourne who make bold, twinkling, sophisticated pop music. Their debut almost-self-titled record is a collection of vibrant songs that shimmer and shine with colourful harmonies and inventive melodies.



Roller Derby Finals

4:30pm, Olympic Park, \$15/\$20

If you have never seen a game before, this would be a great opportunity to check out this crazy sport that's slowly taking Sydney by storm.

The Laurels

8pm, The Annandale, \$15

The Laurels don't make music, they exude it. This four-piece alloy 'psychedelic shoegaze' band is launching a new album. Plains, with support from the sinister, dry land shanties of Witch Hats and the surfing-near-the-treatment-plant garage of East River.



Fathers Day

All day, FREE

Just a little reminder about this annual event in celebration of the fact that fathers exist. Need inspiration for gifts? What about socks, liquorice or a pony?

Carillon Recital

2pm, The Quadrangle, FREE

Sydney University is lucky to be home to one of the two Carillons in Australia. Definitely something to investigate during your time here, and go on a free tour to see the instrument.



Interfaith Week: Launch

Mon, 1pm, Law Lawns, FREE

This year's USU Interfaith week will be opened by Marie Bashir and followed by a panel discussion by faith leaders including Rabbi Slavin, Duncan Corby, Mehmet Ozalp, Rami Sivan and Sadia Niyakan

Interfaith Week: Politics Panel

Tues, 1pm, Law Foyer, FREE

A panel discussion, including Lee Rihannon and David Clarke, discussing topics such as the influence of religion in election voting and the line between secularism and anti-religion.

LETTERS

Quiz kerfuffle

John Gooding
San Marino Enthusiast
MECO I

Dear Sirs (**and Madames - Eds.*),
The beautiful and idyllic Republic of San Marino is the last of the great Italian city states to retain national independence into the modern era. Sprawling across sixty-one square kilometres of forested hills and mountains in central Italy, its cobbled streets and stone buildings are the very essence of cosmopolitan Europe.
The government has operated under the same constitution since 1600, and in 1861, when civil war in the US seemed inevitable, San Marino demonstrated their support for the union by declaring Abraham Lincoln an honorary citizen. He wrote a reply to the Regent Captains, claiming: "... although your dominion is small, your State is nevertheless one of the most honored, in all history. It has by its experience demonstrated the truth, so full of encouragement to the friends of Humanity, that Government founded on Republican principles is capable of being so administered as to be secure and enduring."

Given its rich history and vibrant culture, the glaring omission of San Marino from the so-called "answers" to the *Honi Soit* quiz last week can only be described as an injustice of the highest order. I repeat the question here: "Excluding the Vatican City, what is the only recognised country bordered on all sides by the same nation?"

In Japanese the word 'mu' can be interpreted as meaning nothing, or not, and roughly akin to answering N/A to a question, if the question is seen as being fundamentally nonsensical or unanswerable.

Hoping to find some variant of this in the provided answers, I was dismayed to instead see only Lesotho as the purported solution. Whilst Lesotho is indeed bordered on all sides by a single nation, San Marino is also bordered entirely on all sides by a single nation. Anyone with a rudimentary handle on European geography could tell you as much.

Normally, one can rely upon your publication to be a bastion of noteworthy, factually accurate information. This glittering reputation is what makes the snub of San Marino all the more striking, all the more bitter.

How many poor, deluded fools, blindly trusting the fact-checking team at *Honi Soit*, are now walking the campus with this chunk of purest misinformation lodged in the heads? I demand you declare your error posthaste, and chastise the quizmaster in the appropriate fashion.

(John, you are correct. Lesotho, Vatican City and San Marino are all bordered on all sides by the same nation. Our quizmaster has been appropriately reprimanded. - Eds.)



Redfern derailed

Bruce Stafford
USU Life Member

Dear *Honi*,
Regarding your article by Virat Nehru ('Discrimination lawsuit failing to lift hopes for accessible transport', August 15) regarding Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes' action against Railcorp: you also mention the lack of disability access at Redfern Station.

Mr Nehru wrote that Redfern is used by "hundreds" of university students every day. In fact hundreds of students often get off each individual train in peak period! The overall figure is in the many thousands.

Until about 10 years ago there was a second set of steps and an overbridge at the Western end of Redfern station which was used by most uni students. Unfortunately it became rusted and had to be removed, but was never replaced. This causes a lot of overcrowding in the inadequate steps at the Sydney end.

I suspect that Railcorp has an eye on attracting developers to build on the air space over Redfern Station, and probably there will be no improvements in access for both able-bodied and disabled people until that is done, and that's not likely for many years yet.

Amazingly, one of the smallest stations in Australia - Wondabyne, between Hawkesbury River and Woy Woy - has better disabled access than Redfern! You simply cross the line on the level!

Don't censure the dissenter

Nathan McDonnell
Christian Students Uniting

I really love spirituality and its manifestation in different religious traditions and, thus, I find aggressive atheism unfortunate (but also understandable given the toxic and parasitical role that religious fundamentalism can [but should not] have in our society).

I also think that Interfaith Week is a fantastic way that the spirit of interface amongst different religions can be promoted on campus to benefit both the card-carrying religious and the non religious alike (and it is organised by people distinctly different from the right-wing religious fundamentalists on campus).

However, Tom Raue should not be censured for criticising Interfaith Week. This seems more about isolating the only openly left wing USU Director amongst a clique of CV stacking, corporate management aspirationistas or Labor/ Liberal hacks; it is drawing a line that says that the USU should be run in the spirit of a business where management are thoughtless tools of the bottom line and where serious free thinking and debate is implicitly forbidden. Tom is a fantastic activist on our campus and his dissent should not be punished.

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TWITTER: @HONI_SOIT

EDITORIAL

HONISOIT

Life at university can be lonely. Despite being surrounded by thousands of people, it can be an isolating existence going to and from class each day as an anonymous figure on campus. It can be difficult to make new friends in large tutorials and overcrowded lecture theatres, especially when expectations are high. Studying can be an overwhelming reality.

This week we confront the issue of eating disorders among students. On the precipice of adulthood, this is the time at which we are most vulnerable. Media messages aside, it is crucial students are given adequate support to deal with the everyday occurrences that can build to damage self-esteem.

It is appalling that the rates of eating disorders in the community are so high, but it is shocking that the estimated rate of eating disorders among students is almost four times as high as incidences in the general population. Eating disorders encompass a range of problems and can affect all kinds of students. Always remember help is available.

For those on campus who are still struggling or are unsure how get involved at uni, the best advice is to jump head first into campus life:

join societies, volunteer, or take part in student politics.

It's election season. Nominations have closed and next week you'll be able to read through the policy statements of each candidate in our annual election edition. I implore you all to take the time to vote on Election Day. SRC elections are the time where you choose the people to represent your concerns to the University administration and it's important you elect the right people for the job.

Speaking of politics, this week *Honi* is proud to bring you an exclusive extract from an upcoming speech by Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr. Senator Carr will be visiting the University of Sydney this Friday to speak on his international agenda for Australia in the global shift towards the Asian Century.

Australia is gaining a greater reputation on the world's stage and it's crucial we as university students are able to maintain an engaged outlook on issues related to both foreign and domestic policy.

No matter your political persuasion, university is a place of possibilities. Grab all opportunities with both hands and only good things can happen.

Kira Spucys-Tahar

Honi gets Ed-ucated

Ed Miller
B.Ec / LLB IV

"Le Sigh."

I love you guys to bits, but I'm all about putting the "quality....journalism" back into "quality student journalism". Here are my handy hints of the week.

1. Fact-checking: I'm not enrolled at uni this semester, but even if I was, I would pay exorbitant amounts for elective penis-reduction surgery before running for the undergraduate senate seat.
2. Sources: Human-sized licorice all-sorts (see: Patrick Massarani) aren't valid political commentators.

#HoniPics



Arghya @argsyd
2:03 PM - 15 Aug 12
The best day of my life at @sydney_uni
#usyd instagr.am/p/OVaqiNm3nb/

Right about now...

Alex Dore
President, Sydney University
Liberal Club

"Australia's Lazy Party (ALP)"

Dear *Honi*,

They say that obsession can be unhealthy, and after two letters on the John Howard Debating Cup, I'm beginning to agree!

Last week, Labor Left went to extreme lengths to reject the term "whinge brigade". But alas, for it seems they've proved my point.

For so ready to whinge is this new whinge brigade, that they have even whinged about the term itself!

But as usual, they've missed the point.

On September 12, we'll host the second round of the Howard Cup with Alexander Downer, Janet Albrechtsen, and Tim Andrews.

That's not to mention our upcoming President's Dinner with broadcasting legend Alan Jones, and the Grand Finals with Australia's greatest Prime Minister John Howard!

And yet two letters later, no mention of a single Labor event.

Though at least they've perfected whinging.

Yours in Freedom,
Alex Dore

Congratulations to our published letter writers this week! You have each won a double pass to the preview screening of **Hit & Run** thanks to Pinnacle Films.

Best foot forward: Open Day puts the PR machine in overdrive

Flora Grant was overwhelmed by all the balloons



Thousands of year 12 students and their parents descended on Sydney University last Saturday as Australia's premiere learning institution put its best on show at Open Day.

Prospective students received academic advice as well as sample lectures. The Faculties of Science and Engineering & IT, hosted popular hands-on activities which allowed visitors to make ice-cream with liquid nitrogen, play with robots and get a health check from the Sydney Nursing School.

The University of Sydney Union had a strong presence on the front lawns with a ChocSoc scavenger hunt and paint throwing from the Fine Arts Society. Project 52's Tom Walker hosted an all-day show that drew a large crowd, including snippets of revues, gymnastics,

and Theatresports.

Postgraduates were also catered for, with a four-hour expo in the Law School including career-focused lectures. SCA and the Con were represented with art and performances on the front lawns. The satellite campuses also held their own open days.

Future students were given showbags including brochures and a map, but Gabrielle from Kincumber High lamented the lack of signage. "I got lost quite a few times," she said. Despite this, Open Day swung her in favour of Sydney University ahead of UTS and UNSW.

Josh, a year 12 student at Cherrybrook Technology High was also wooed, saying that coming to Open Day had persuaded him away from Macquarie Uni for his Primary Education degree.

Though Open Day doesn't reflect the campus in its everyday state, it is designed to sell the atmosphere and abundant sandstone that is the reason so many students choose Sydney. Much of the information could be easily found online, but the buzz generated by the activities and entertainment, not to mention the thousands of balloons dotted around campus, was what really seemed to win over prospective students.

Setting the bar higher: a new Manning?

The iconic building is due for major changes, writes Michael Koziol

At some point in the quietest moments of Snowball, Manning's bartenders – their tedium becoming nauseous – must have stared out across the empty dance-floor and wondered what went wrong.

The poor attendance at the USU's flagship semester two event has re-ignited conversation about how to improve the country's most iconic campus bar.

Although hard data is not forthcoming, some have sensed a gradual decline in patronage of Manning Bar over the past few years. While the advent of Taste at the New Law building on Eastern Avenue is often thought to have thinned the Manning crowd, those *Honi* spoke to suggest other factors, such as poor furniture, clumsy design, and unsatisfactory food options, are also to blame.

The building has been earmarked for major capital works in the near future. In November 2011 the USU's Sustainable Strategic Framework document, responding to criticism from the university, proposed the redevelopment of the union's key buildings.

The document included blueprints for a refurbished Manning House, completed by a professional design firm. The USU is keen to stress the plans were generated entirely by the designers as potential outcomes for a revamped Manning. The draft concept replaced the Isabel Fidler room with a vinyl record lounge and installed a cocktail bar opposite its entrance.

The designers had a more artistic vision for the rest of Manning, with a gallery installed in the lower level and the middle floor including artists' studios. The building's next iteration would almost certainly involve different, modernised food options and possibly more second-level floorspace.

Manning House was constructed in the early 1990s and renovated to include a bar in 2000. It is a purpose-built music venue, and has attracted high-profile bands to play sell-out shows over the past decade.

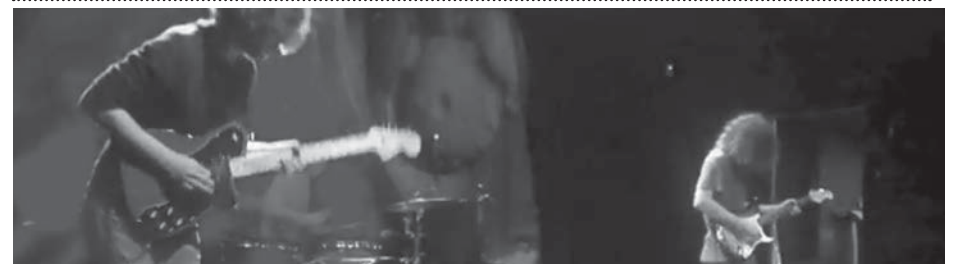
But the USU admits there has been a decline in Manning's relevance as a music venue, which some have blamed on a staff restructure and the departure of Richard Cuthbert in 2010.

"We are yet to see a definitive link that suggests this restructure was what directly impacted on Manning's standing as a live music venue," said the USU President, Astha Rajvanshi. "This is something we are exploring further."

Yet there have also been signs of continued strength: a sold-out show by The Rubens and a stellar band-comp final were highlights of the past fortnight. The bar improved its financial performance last semester compared to recent times.

When *Honi* visited Manning last Friday, the space had been well-colonised by a variety of different groups enjoying the lazy afternoon and fading light. First-year media student Hayley Delamotte was introducing her sister to the bar and said Manning was the default campus destination for her friends. Second-year economics student Mike Major was working on his laptop while waiting for friends, and said Manning remained "a really good place to chill out with mates" or start a bigger night out.

With \$5 million allocated to a redevelopment of the Holme building, financial imperatives mean the USU's next major project may have to wait. If that project is Manning, as is the preference of some senior union and university representatives, sources say we may see action within the next two to three years.



Milkk rocking out Manning at the final, the video of which can also be found on Youtube

No crying over spilled Milkk

Lauren Hunter rocked out at the Sydney Uni Band Comp

Bands are good. Bands battling each other for \$2,500 is better. Manning was alive and buzzing last Thursday August 23 as the bar played host to the final of the annual Sydney University Band Competition. Six fresh acts fought it out for what MC Tom Walker described as "the fame, the money, the women and the power," with Milkk, an instrumental trio, taking out the title.

Selected from a pool of forty applicants, three heats and two semi-finals, the calibre, talent and diversity of the final line-up was superb.

"It's a great opportunity for bands to play, get known and get heard, because all the other bands bring their mates," said Milkk guitarist Luke Bozzetto.

"There were so many genres, everyone at the same high skill level though, and it was amazing. You had like reggae,

progressive metal and whatever the fuck Milkk were, all on stage together, it was awesome," Tom Walker said.

A \$1750 runner-up prize went to the jangle-punk foursome The Nectars, whilst Ocean Alley, a psychedelic-reggae band-of-six, snatched up 3rd prize and a sweet \$500.

A list of past entrants boasts the likes of Frenzal Rhomb, The Jezabels, Cloud Control and many other successful Australian artists/bands whose humble beginnings as university students resonated highly with most of Thursday night's competitors.

For the victorious Milkk, the competition has just begun. They will go on to compete in the NSW State Final of the National Campus Band Competition, an event that will also be held at Manning Bar on September 14.

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HONILEAKS

All your university gossip, rumours, allegations and revelations with **Kira Spucys-Tahar**

Liberal moderates fail to fly

The IGM of the 'Enterprise and Progress Society', which was scheduled for last Friday August 24, was cancelled at the last minute.

Despite denials from the organiser Jacqui Munro, the club was widely seen as a front for a breakaway group of moderate Liberals attempting to challenge the dominance of the soft-right Sydney University Liberal Club.

Honi understands the club has been in the works for some time with the proposed executive hand-picked by Ms Munro in attempts to strengthen a base.

Right-wing Liberals from SULC threatened to stack the IGM, but it is understood the meeting was cancelled by Ms Munro after it failed to meet C&S regulations.

Senate

Nominations for the undergraduate fellow of the senate are in, and there are nine contenders. In addition to the candidates we mentioned last week, are:

- Stefan Dimou, currently studying Medicine and Surgery. A Policy Officer at Left Right Think-Tank, Mr Dimou was once on the Education Committee at the University of Melbourne.
- Mariam George, first-year Arts student. Ms George was in talks with Grassroots and Solidarity representatives about running for SRC.

- Eleanor Gordon-Smith, third-year Arts student. Ms Gordon-Smith is aligned with the 'Indie' group on campus.
 - William Chan, studying for his honours in Architecture.
 - Yvonne Nguyen, currently studying Medicine and Surgery.
 - Sam Stone, studying Economics. Mr Stone assisted with the Nick Coffman Union Board campaign and is known as a soft-right Liberal.
- Nominations for the postgraduate fellow of the senate number six.
- Stefan Dimou appears again this time as a Master of Philosophy student. Is this the same Mr Dimou for the undergrad race?
 - James Flynn, studying Masters of Commerce. The incumbent candidate, Mr Flynn is a former USU Board Director.
 - Audrey Irish, studying for a doctorate of Dental Medicine. Originally from University of Melbourne, Ms Irish is a member of Labor-left.
 - Manna Mostaghim, currently studying for a Juris Doctorate. Ms Mostaghim completed her undergrad honours in government.
 - Benjamin Teale, currently studying for a Graduate Diploma of Economics.
 - Bradley Wells, studying a Doctor of Philosophy. Mr Wells is formerly of St Andrew's college and is now Vice-Master at Wesley college.



EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW

Foreign Minister Bob Carr to visit Sydney University

What is Australia's place in the Asian Century, asks **Senator Bob Carr**

Most of Asia has transformed in under 50 years. It is however, valuable to qualify the expectation that the century belongs to Asia. For this country, an Asia strategy only makes sense in the broader context of our foreign and trade policy, a policy which will have a global focus.

It is realistic to acknowledge all large Asian economies will face serious challenges this century. There are potential downsides. There are risks.

The President of the Asian Development Bank, Haruhiko Kuroda, said last year: "While an Asian Century is plausible, it is far from pre-ordained" The IMF has said: "There are tail risks of a hard landing in China". And further: "Domestic imbalances in China continue to cast a shadow on its ability to act as a sustained source of demand in the region."

Whether China remains the engine of so much growth in the region depends significantly on the Communist Party leadership's ability to drive more balanced and sustainable growth.

On our relationship with China and with the US, we've got to be resistant to a notion that there's a binary choice.

First, both the Chinese and the Americans tell us that their own relationship is very good – something

that was confirmed by the recent economic and strategic dialogue between Americans and Chinese in China when the distraction of the Chen dissident affair failed to dislodge the talks.

Second, there's enormous economic self-interest in the interdependent relationship. And this is in contrast with the relationship between America and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

The prosperity of China and America would be undermined by a period of military conflict or frozen relations.

The third observation I'd make is this, the Australia-China relationship will continue to be robust because it's in the interests of both of us to enjoy a strong partnership.

We need to keep up our creative, diplomatic efforts to help build trust and understanding in our region.

Australia has long recognised that the geo-politics of Asia are fundamental to our security and prosperity.

Australia needs to ensure that both the opportunities and challenges of an Asian century continue to work to our advantage.

This is an edited extract from an upcoming speech Bob Carr will deliver on Friday August 31 at 1pm in the Holme Withdrawing Room at the University of Sydney.

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney Annual Election

Polling Booth Times and Places 2012

Polling Location

Wed 19th
Sept 2012

Thurs 20th
Sept. 2012

Fisher

8:30-6:30

8:30-5:00

Manning

10:00-4:00

10:00-4:00

Cumberland

11:00-3:00

11:00-3:00

SCA

12:00-2:00

No polling

Engineering

No polling

12:00-2:00

Conservatorium

12:00-2:00

No polling

Jane Foss

8:30-6:00

8:30-6:00

Pre-Polling will also be held outside the SRC's Offices, Level 1 Wentworth Building, on Tuesday 18th September from 10am-3pm.

Authorised by Paulene Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2012.
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
Phone: 02 9660 5222 www.src.usyd.edu.au



OPINION

Hang Territory drunks out to dry

Consistency is not everything, writes **Michael Koziol**

Over the past few weeks these pages have spruiked libertarianism in government policy, cheering on our freedom to drink, smoke, tell the cops to fuck off, and generally make merriment.

But consistency is not everything and this week the tables will be turned. On Saturday another Labor government fell, this time in the Northern Territory, and in its place stands the Country Liberal Party and its new policy for curbing the rampant alcoholism that defines the Top End: prison farms for repeat offenders.

The plan is more severe than the status quo, under which repeat offenders are put on a 'banned drinkers register', stopping them purchasing take-away booze but leaving them free to piss the nights away in bars.

Under the new regime, Territorians charged with drunk and disorderly behaviour three times will be able to choose voluntary rehabilitation or be forced into mandatory incarceration at one of two proposed rehab facilities.

It is worth trying. From the relative privilege of our lost weekends and cranky hangovers here in Sydney, it is hard to fathom the harsh reality of alcoholism in the NT, where the rivers of grog flow constantly and with chronic, dehumanising consequences.

Any who doubt the seriousness of this problem would do well to consult Anna Krien's brilliant 2011 essay 'Booze Territory' in *The Monthly*. Her chronicle is not one of distant East Coast condescension: it is a devastating piece of reportage from the "animal bars" that line the highway between Darwin and the Alice.

These are the ramshackle wet houses with crowds waiting on the doors by mid-morning, into which they will amble and remain through to the blurry night. This is not drinking as we know it: not drinking to socialise, not drinking for sex, not even drinking to get drunk. This is pure, relentless, base: drinking because it is what's done and because there is nothing else to do.

Clearly the Territory's crisis won't be solved by anything short of massive, generational social change. But the shortcoming of the incumbent policy is that it allows burgeoning alcoholics to keep drinking. Banning drunks from buying at the bottle-o, but not in pubs, only shifts the location of the problem.

The more people we prevent from becoming fully-fledged drunks, locked in an unforbearing cycle of dependence and blackouts and street fights, the better the Territory's future will be. It is in that spirit that we should support the mandatory rehabilitation in the form that will be introduced by the CLP.

Special cases require special solutions, something lost on the captains of consistency out there marching against the NT intervention and income management. We should concern ourselves with how those looking back will judge us, and ask how proud they will be if we let the Territory drown itself for the sake of some misguided egalitarian principle.

LOCAL NEWS

Local bordello met with mixed reviews

Behind a drab exterior lies what will soon be one of the largest brothels in Australia - and it's just a stone's throw away, write **Laura Hanlon** and **Zoe Morse**

Local residents have mixed feelings about Stiletto, the dark-grey building lining Parramatta Road in Camperdown.

Stiletto is set to become one of Australia's largest brothels, after a Sydney court ruled in favour of a \$12 million development in June this year.

But if you thought locals would be throwing their arms up in 'think of the children' style protest, you wouldn't be entirely correct.

The nondescript building with discreet signage may be inconspicuous on the surface, but the recent planning green light means Stiletto will be hard to miss.

The brothel negotiated a compromise with the Land and Environment Court after the City of Sydney Council rejected an original application for expansion.

Sydney Councillor Shayne Mallard says the decision will turn the bordello into the 'Westfield of Brothels'.

The developer, Artazan Property Group, plans to add a three-storey building with underground parking next to the existing site. These extensions will double business to 40 working rooms, allowing entry for 60 patrons at a time.

Against any remaining sensitivity to the sex-work industry, some locals see the expansion as a boon for their area. "The amount of security and cameras used for the building actually make me feel a lot safer," said nearby resident Natalie.

Mr Gary Keeling, who operates business Fine Furniture Clearance nearby, says the expansion comes at no consequence to him. His business wouldn't stay much longer, he said. Student accommodation will replace his premises in the coming months.



Stiletto's shop-front on Parramatta Road
Credit: Laura Hanlon

But Sydney City Council still received 80 submissions opposing the brothel expansion, showing many aren't in harmony with the sex trade. Nearby residents raised concerns about parking, safety, noise and property values. The council opposed the expansion before Artazan's appeal to the Land and Environment Court saw their ruling overturned.

Land and Environment Court Commissioner Susan O'Neill defended her decision and the legality of the expansion.

"As a sex premises is a legal land use and permissible in the Mixed Use Zone with consent, moral objections to the proposal are not relevant considerations," she said.

The City of Sydney defended the decision, after the proposal was amended.

"The decision by the Land and En-

vironment Court to restrict capacity of the Camperdown brothel, Stiletto, to 60 patrons at any one time is a victory for common sense," a spokesperson told *Honi Soit*.

This was amended from the business seeking approval for housing a maximum of 160 people (including 50 staff) at any one time.

The council said this would have had serious impacts on residents, including traffic noise and parking chaos.

Despite decriminalisation in 1995, lingering taboos surrounding NSW brothels and their locations still exist. The planning nod is a victory for the sex industry over looming regulation.

The NSW Government is proposing to introduce a licensing model for prostitution similar to the divisive 2011 Western Australian Prostitution Bill. However, this goes against the direct concerns of the Sydney-based Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP), and the industry's wariness of records and police registers.

SWOP General Manager, Mr Lance Schema, said such schemes would be harmful to the industry, returning them to the clandestine through costly licensing systems.

"[These proposals] potentially [push] many brothels back into the black market and wiping away the health and safety gains made over the last 15 years," he said.

Unlike friendly Ramsay Street, our newest neighbours are keeping to themselves, with Stiletto management stating: "We have no conflict, contact, or relations with the University of Sydney."

Been to Stiletto? honisoit2012@gmail.com

OBITUARY

Curiosity lives on as space luminary is remembered

Ben Brooks looks back on the life of Neil Armstrong

You would be forgiven for thinking that the much-hyped Curiosity rover was NASA's most ambitious extra-terrestrial landing. The past forty years have seen a global retreat from manned space exploration: standing on the Moon with our eyes to Mars, the Shuttle programme has instead extradited us back to Earth. Where once they played golf off an airless, basaltic fairway, astronauts now run circles in the backyard of Low Earth Orbit.

But 43 years and 15 days before Curiosity was spirited onto the Red Planet, Neil Armstrong was turning off his Tamagotchi of a guidance computer, and taking manual control of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module. With twenty seconds of fuel remaining, and a heart rate of 156 beats per minute, Armstrong landed near a field of boulders, performing what can only be described as the most complicated parking manoeuvre in vehicular history. A short while later, he emerged from the hatch, slid down the ladder and delivered his legendary incantation.

Stepping awkwardly onto that lunar dust, Armstrong won President Kennedy's space race. Consciously or not, he became the emblem of American manifest destiny, and represented a promising new breed of national icons - pioneering, noble, vaguely larrikin, and thoroughly unprepossessing. Literally and symbolically, they rose above the mire that was the terrestrial Cold War.

His biography will be familiar by now, with obituaries at the front of every paper: his aviation adventures over Korea, into the stratosphere, and well beyond the sound barrier; his exploits with NASA; his fiercely guarded post-Apollo life. It is an appropriately ironic way of celebrating this preternaturally modest hero that his name should be emblazoned - again - around the world.

We tend to remember what he did, and not who he was. Armstrong resented the trappings of celebrity, and this withdrawn stoicism made it difficult for the public to become familiar with the man himself. Perhaps that is all we need to



Neil Armstrong is honoured at a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in November 2011. Credit: NASA/Paul E. Alers

know - perhaps Neil Armstrong was just an engineer who loved to test and teach; a pilot who loved to fly.

So how best to articulate his personal legacy? Building a wind tunnel in his parents' backyard, he epitomised the kid who dreams of becoming an astronaut. And though he dies, some 43 light years away, radio waves continue to broadcast his peaceable message to outer space.

STOPPING THE BOATS

Houston, do we really have a problem?

The conversation surrounding asylum seekers has concentrated on finding a solution. But what exactly is the problem we are trying to solve, asks **Poppy Burnett**

The release of the 'expert' panel's report on asylum seekers and the subsequent reintroduction of off-shore processing has generated yet another round of frustratingly familiar rhetoric. The words 'solution' and 'problem' are thrown around so often I'm starting to feel like I'm back in high school maths or attending a get-rich-quick seminar. But what meanings are they hiding?

It has come to be taken for granted in the dominant political and media discourse that the mere fact of boats arriving is a 'problem', and that anything that stops them is a 'solution'. It can be easy to deploy these terms without being critical of the assumptions behind them.

But to view the arrival of boats as a 'problem', as so many politicians now do, is to ignore a complex web of factors that lead to boats arriving here and to how they are received when they arrive.

One need hardly look far for examples of the 'boat equals bad' formula. Almost every news article contains a numerical summary of boat arrivals in recent months as if it were self-evidently problematic. Bleating cries to 'stop the boats' can be heard from Tony Abbott's side of the house so often one could be forgiven for wondering whether they've set up a farmyard in there.

And, in case you were ever in any doubt about how you should visualise the arrival of asylum seeker boats, the 'flood' of water-related imagery supplied by the media should help you out: torrents, flows, deluges, swamps, and



Credit: Department of Defence

streams are apparently 'inundating' our shores on a regular basis.

It is clear that the problem is seen to lie in the arrival of boats. But what about the solution? There has been a recent revival of nostalgia about 'the Pacific Solution' and Howard-era asylum seeker policy: 'it may have been cruel, but it worked'. It's a persuasive line of reasoning for some, apparently sweeping aside all humanitarian concerns with a stubborn insistence of efficacy.

But what precisely does 'it worked' mean? For whom is it working? These questions are treated as if they had obvious answers, but if you stop to think, they don't. The definition of 'worked' here is clearly very narrow – it applies only if you believe both that 'stopping the boats' is a desirable goal, and that this can be achieved through changes to domestic policy.

If you believe otherwise, or if you were an asylum seeker caught up in the consequences of the Pacific Solution or Temporary Protection Visas, you might have a very different idea of what something that 'works' looks like.

The use of universal terms like 'problem', 'solution', and 'worked' serves to normalise a particular viewpoint to the exclusion of all opposing voices. If you wish to express a view that doesn't accept the basic premises behind the dominant perception of what is a 'problem' and what is a 'solution' (such as examining global factors that influence the rate of boat arrivals, or questioning why the arrival of boats is inherently problematic) you are further alienated from discussion.

It is in this way that those in power (politicians, media owners) control the discourse around an issue – by setting the terms of the debate, and making it difficult for those who don't accept the terms to engage. They don't have to waste space or time trying to argue their position – they just make it seem like the natural state of affairs.

It should be obvious that looking for a solution to a problem that hasn't been clearly justified is, well, problematic. The real danger this country faces is not being able to see the forest for all the trees.

POLITICAL COMMENT

Redefining rape harms discourse and victims

Politicians' 'gaffes' can't be excused as ignorance, writes **Justin Pen**

US Republican Senator Todd Akin and British MP George Galloway recently attempted to redefine 'rape' in what have become highly-publicised and possibly career-ending political statements. To call these comments 'blunders' or 'gaffes', however, betrays the endemic misogyny present in both the right and left wings of political discourse.

In an effort to explicate his unwavering, anti-abortion position on a local Missouriian station, Akin revealed his severe lack of understanding regarding the capacity of female anatomy. "From what I understand from doctors," Akin asserted, "[pregnancy from rape] is really rare."

He continued in an attempt to justify his claim: "If it's legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down." While Akin has since apologised, he continues to ignore pleas from the GOP to resign from Missouri's senatorial race.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Galloway, an elected, incumbent MP of the left-leaning Respect Party, declared his support for accused rapist and WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange. Contrary to the expected archetype of the rape apologist – the belligerent, stalwart Conservative – Galloway is an advocate of social welfare expansion and was an active political protestor of the Iraq War over the noughties.

Speaking from that modern-day soapbox, the personal video blog, Galloway claimed that, rather than commit rape, Assange merely displayed "bad sexual etiquette."

His bellicosity went further, declaring: "If the allegations made by these two women were true, 100 per cent true, and even if a camera in the room captured them, they don't constitute rape."

The men's contention that 'rape is rape is rape (but only when rapists exert physical force)' narrows the scope of consent and diminishes the multifarious experiences of survivors. While Akin and Galloway were speaking to two dramatically divergent political issues, it's essential to cleave their words from their ostensibly defensible context. Failure to hold these misogynists to the highest account would passively endorse the perpetrators of sexual assault, and would likely preclude those that have been raped from coming forward, if indeed their assault appears to be deemed 'legitimate'.

Politicising and belittling rape for political gain goes beyond mere ignorance. Through their assertions and insistent belligerence at the veracity of their comments, these men have exposed one of two possibilities. Either they value their respective causes – anti-abortion advocacy and the continued freedom of Julian Assange – more than the views of those they've been elected to protect and represent; or, they simply hold a trifling regard for rape survivors in the first place.

RELIGION

Patriarchy: they're having nun of it

These sisters are doing it for themselves, writes **Nathan McDonnell**

In April this year, the Vatican denounced an organisation representing 80 per cent of American nuns for 'radical feminism' and not focusing enough on the destruction of gay marriage, abortion, and contraception. Rome delegated Seattle Archbishop Sartain to overhaul the Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR), which came as a shock to the nuns who saw their social justice work as embodying the spirit of Christian love for the modern world.

So last week, buoyed by a groundswell of support from broader society, the LCWR gathered to discuss their response to the Vatican's criticism, agreeing to engage in dialogue but not to compromise their core work and deciding the right response "entails resisting rather than colluding with abusive power".

Firstly, what the heck does a club of patriarchal leaders from Rome know about the needs of nuns who devote their every day to the lives of the poor, the sick, the abused, and the lonely in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, counselling clinics, and homeless shelters?

Secondly, given the devotion of their lives to serving society, why shouldn't nuns be radical feminists? Jesus Christ's gospel of love for the oppressed was a radical one. So why shouldn't these nuns be supporting those on the margins and

resisting the extraordinary social, political, and economic injustices of our time?

The group have been very outspoken on Obama's initiative of universal healthcare and are currently on a nine-state bus tour protesting Vice-Presidential candidate Paul Ryan's budget of cuts because of its disproportionate impact on government programs for the poor.

A few months ago, an 82-year-old nun, along with two peace activists, caused the biggest security breach in the history of the US' atomic complex, pouring human blood and spraying "Woe to the Empire of blood" in the inner sanctum of a Tennessee nuclear weapons facility. It is these nuns, not the crustaceans of Vatican City, who are enacting the Church's authentic mission of justice.

Thirdly, why is the Church so dominated by patriarchal crusaders? It seems the authoritarian Church patriarchy are the neo-Pharisees, imposing their power on the people through legalism, guilt, and fear, a type of religion that Jesus himself overturned. And why is the Church so insistent on choosing gay marriage, abortion, and contraception as its frontline political struggles? Why is the traditional nuclear family sacrosanct? Is this a defensive flash of sectarian fundamentalism against progressive changes in a society that the Church no longer



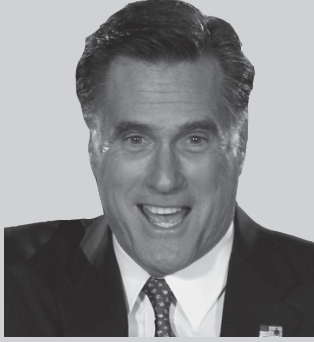
controls? Is this really 'pro-life'?

I am pro-life. But I don't see telling gays their love is unacceptable or denouncing women who make the difficult choice to abort as 'pro-life' things to do.

What about the industrialisation of murder, the incineration of whole villages in Afghanistan by near supernatural military technology, demonic legions in the service of Empire? Or what about those poor souls who, fleeing to Australia as refugees like Jesus' family fled Herod's genocide, are sent to concentration camps on Nauru and Manus Island? What about our systematic pillaging of the Earth, from open cut mining in the Pilbara to the deforestation of the Amazon? These should be the focus of any sensible 'pro-life' faith.

Third Drawer

DEAR DIARY,



Oh fudge – things didn't go as well overseas as I thought they would. I was just trying to be honest with England about their Olympics and Cameron had to get all flustered and claim that Salt Lake City is "in the middle of nowhere". First of all, David, Salt Lake is slightly north of nowhere; secondly, we true conservatives really need to have one another's backs if we're going to get the world back on track by fixing America through repealing Obamacare everywhere except Massachusetts.

As for my press aide cussing at reporters outside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Poland well, let's just say I'll have to have some stern words with him (although nowhere near as stern as he used!) My only worry is finding someone new to do his job – flying in a replacement from China on such short notice would cost a fortune, and I know Anne's really had her eye on that new car elevator. I'd hate to disappoint her, diary, I do love her, she's just the right height and I'm so comforted by her body warmth and facial symmetry. I guess we'll just have to hope and pray that the old plant goes into receivership so I can cannibalise its assets and sell off its pension funds for an enormous profit. We're really just trying to make ends meet.

At least I've got a big name in a small package on my side now. Paul Ryan should really electrify the base, and my advisors have assured me that Republicans will be thrilled to see at least one Republican on the ticket. Plus I very much approve of his economic plans. If he really lowers the capital gains tax rates that far I might even be tempted to move some money back into the old American accounts. What a thought! I'm a little concerned about the logistics of taking him along on the campaign trail though – I can't say with certitude whether or not he would fit on the roof of any of the cadillacs. Besides, the wind would almost certainly disrupt the formidable combination of hairstyles that we're currently maintaining. Other than that things really seem to be looking up though, diary.

Oh my godness. I just read on Twitter that an anagram of "Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan" is "My Ultimate Ayn Rand Porn"! I can't possibly associate myself with such a crass and offensive thing. I don't particularly want to be associated with pornography either. It looks like I may have to end up riding the Cain Train after all. Honestly diary, it's times like these I just wish I could have a fucking beer.

Yours,
William Mittingworth Romneyfeller III

WHERE AREN'T THEY NOW?

Brad Mariano gets into Lynch and surmises it all for Dianne

Any list of bizarre and memorable characters in David Lynch films would be quite extensive, and the 'Where Aren't They Now' section could be dedicated to his films alone – any of the mysterious double identities from *Mulholland Drive* or quirky favourites from *Twin Peaks* would suffice, but this one reverts to his first (feature-length) film, the visceral, low-budget cult phenomenon that was *Eraserhead*. A surrealist exploration of urban decay, dream logic and Lynch's own personal anxieties surrounding fatherhood dominate the debut of one of the most iconoclastic and polarising artists of the last few decades. If you haven't seen it, proceed to do so immediately. Go on, I'll wait here while you do.

Done? Ok, so in the rare event that you're back here with your mind intact and your last meal still in your stomach, then let's continue. There are some memorable players in the film with interesting actors behind them – the central character Henry, played by Jack Nance who would appear in all Lynch films until his suspicious death in 1997, or the grotesque, deformed figure of the "man in the planet", played by Jack Fisk who would go on to be a successful art director, working on all Terrence Malick films and marrying Sissy Spacek.

But they'd be too obvious. One of the unforgettable images is that of The Lady in the Radiator – an angelic figure with grotesque cheeks looking like a 1920s film star with elephantiasis who sings the disturbing song "In Heaven", which has been covered at least once by any and every alternative band worth their salt. She appears as a vision of idyllic escape from Henry's droll



Hauntingly beautiful

existence in his dingy apartment with his mutant spawn.

For those budding actors interested in knowing how one goes about getting parts in landmark indie films, the story of how the actor, Laurel Near, was cast is interesting. She was part of an all-girl hippie pop group with her two sisters, The Near Sisters, and one of her sisters was good friends with Catherine E. Coulson – longtime friend of Lynch, who was helping out behind the scenes of this production and who would appear as the titular character in his short film *The Amputee* and become immortalised as the cryptic 'Log Lady' in *Twin Peaks*. Near would become an icon to the LSD-crazed midnight movie crowd throughout the 1980s, and hipsters world-wide ever since.

Unlucky to be snubbed for an Oscar nomination as Best Supporting

Actress that year, this would be Laurel Near's only ever film role, though she would continue to work in the performing arts, joining what is described as a "wild exuberant 70s feminist company called The Wallflower Order Dance Collective" (her words, not mine) which was a group "stylistically rooted in martial arts, athleticism, and social justice".

When you can legitimately argue that starring in *Eraserhead* is not the most eyebrow-raising creative endeavour of your life, you're doing okay for yourself. She stayed with them for six years and toured across America. She recently founded SPACE (School of Performing Arts & Cultural Education), an after-school program fostering local children in Ukiah, California and is the mother of three children of her own.



Illustration: Bryant Apolonio

HORNI SOIT

I were early on a Mondy morn when wee Bonnie McGregor me' Fritz Herzenschlampe in the olde library of Sydney University. She'd 'ad an 'ankering for'im since arriving Doon Under from olde Sco'land some time ago. His wee moustache tickled 'er fancy, and also her cheek when he kissed'er good day. Now they were "practising their language skills", a pretext for doggin' each other oft used by exchange students.

Fritz greeted wee Bonnie with a salute, an affectation she found dullion like. "Good day, me friend!" she cried (said loudly, not wept). "How are ye goin'?" Fritz nodded in reply. His perfectly gelled hair se' her heart a-flu'er. "Ja!" he barked. "Gut! Und now, shall ve schpeak English togezzer?" Her heart sank as if i' had taken a wee tumble on the Sco'ish highlands. He didn' seem t' understand the true meaning of their encounter.

She unzipped her tartan skirt and le' it fall to the (newly renova'ed) floor

of Fisher. She 'ad no pantaloons on. "Ye big goon," she cried (see above). "I kenn ye! I kenn wit ye wan'!" Fritz clicked his heels together suddenly, as was his wont. "Ja!" he yelled. "Und was ist das?" "Gonae give us a nip, eh, me wee Fritz?" she questioned, liltinly. He gawked at 'er newly skuddy fanny, frowning. "Vot?!" Having been previously merely sexually frustra'ed, now she became a more generic type of frustra'ed. "Me wee Fritzzy," she whispered. "I cannae believe ye don' understand. I'm horni."

Fritz had been finding it hard to understand, but now he just found himself hard. "JA!" he shouted. He stripped ou' of his khaki uniform and swiftly proceeded to invade our bonny lass Bonnie. "Aye," she cried, this time with a bit more weeping. "Ja!" he yelled, again and again. And thus our two wee protagonists swapped not just cultural experiences, but also liquids. They finished messily, and so did this week's Horni Soit.



TWEETS FROM THE DEAD

Paul Von Hindenberg @Paul_v0n_Hindenberg 2m
@Schlieffen ... that didn't go so well #firstworldwarproblems

Lee Harvey Oswald @Lee_Harvey_0sWald Wednesday 17:52
HEADSHOT!!!! #winning
Retweeted by Jack Ruby

Shirley Temple @lil_miss_understood 2m
I'm on a boat #lollipop

Adam @original_man 10m
Retweet if you love #apples!

Eve @original_sin 18m
RT @original_man: Retweet if you love #apples!

Isaac Newton @IsaacNewton 25m
RT @original_sin: Retweet if you love #apples!

Marie Curie @MarieCurie 26m
@Pierre and I just discovered #radioactivity... this will certainly not have any adverse effects! #NobelPrizeMeBitches

William Wallace @Willy_Wally 28m
Because freedom.
Retweeted by Ivan Milat

Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney Annual Election



Polling Booth Times and Locations 2012

Polling Location	Wed 19th Sept 2012	Thurs 20th Sept. 2012
Fisher	8:30-6:30	8:30-5:00
Manning	10:00-4:00	10:00-4:00
Cumberland	11:00-3:00	11:00-3:00
SCA	12:00-2:00	No polling
Engineering	No polling	12:00-2:00
Conservatorium	12:00-2:00	No polling
Jane Foss	8:30-6:00	8:30-6:00

Pre-Polling will also be held outside the SRC's Offices, Level 1 Wentworth Building, on Tuesday 18th September from 10am-3pm.



Authorised by Paulene Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2012.
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
Phone: 02 9660 5222 www.src.usyd.edu.au

Squatting: beating the rental squeeze

Johann Johansson delves into a different kind of share-housing

There is a strong tradition of squatting in Sydney, from the post-war squats in the '40s supported by the Returned Services League and the Communist Party of Australia, to the Broadway community spaces squatted first in the late '80s and again in 2002 (which later led to the community space set up in Homebush). More recently there have been a number of dwellings and other empty buildings squatted for political purposes and as community centres, as well as homes for people to live in.

In the current post-GFC economic climate, with the high cost of housing (both rent and mortgages) and the hugely over-inflated property market, the idea of

squatted spaces is starting to resurface from its underground roots into the broader 'alternative' community.

A quick look at statistics from both the housing market and numbers of homeless, as well as struggling low income families and renters, serves as a startling reminder that the current legislative framework and efforts by various government and NGOs are failing to address the housing needs of vast swathes of the population.

The number of unoccupied residential dwellings in Sydney counted by census workers in 2006 was 122,211 with the highest number found in the inner city. That doesn't include other empty properties such as warehouses, halls, churches and various other empty commercial properties.

In a briefing paper published by the NSW government entitled "Homelessness in NSW" the number of homeless in 2006 on census night was approximately 105,000 with 27,374 in NSW. That means there are approximately about 4.5 empty residential dwellings in Sydney alone per homeless person in all of NSW, as well as more than enough houses in Sydney for every homeless person in Australia. This includes varying degrees of homelessness as well as houselessness.

While there are a number of reasons



for properties being vacant and also for people being homeless, and no one is suggesting that we should just give each person on the streets a home, it is startling to think that we live in a society where there is both an abundance of empty homes and tens of thousands who are homeless.

Australia has survived the recent economic turmoil fairly well compared to a lot of other countries in the 'developed' world, and has a relatively strong public healthcare system.

So how does this relate to squatting?

It's not fair to say that squatting is a perfect solution to the housing crisis or a long term solution to the woes of the property market, but squatting does provide short term solutions to a number of issues. Obviously it will never be popular in more conservative circles but for open-minded types it helps to weigh up the potential benefits and risks as well as barriers and logistical problems.

For a start, there is a reasonably common practice in the property market known as 'negative gearing'. This basically involves owners using property for which they are not receiving rent and keeping the properties vacant so they can write off the property as a loss and claim it as a tax deduction. This is especially true for a lot of commercial properties which, it just so happens, make ideal community spaces, social centres, and in some cases shared housing.

For an organised squatting community this provides the opportunity to establish something in the order of a 'care-takers lease' or licence agreement, whereby those using the empty space are guaranteed some stability and security, and can legally use the space without interfering with the owner's finances. While not all property owners are willing to enter such agreements, there are those who are happy to have their property

looked after as well as used to provide for a community.

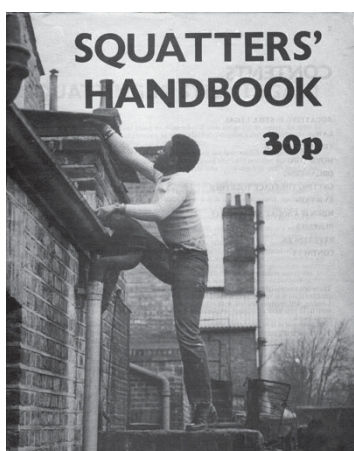
There is also a growing trend, especially within low socio-economic status families, for parents to act as guarantors for their children both for rented properties as well as new home owners' mortgages. This exposes families to a huge degree of risk, especially with the likely 'bursting' of the property bubble and the uncertain outlook for economic conditions. If, for whatever reason, children are unable to gain financial security and they're forced to back up their guarantee, any family would be at pains - if not financially ruined - to cough up hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Most people find the relief from the



burden of rent and debt outweighs the quest for a long-term home, especially with most enduring squats ending up as securely rented properties - but this is by no means the status quo.

Squatting communities that are well organised offer the potential to look after a house or property without the burden of rent, which is genuinely a great way to save money as well as a potentially a great way to meet open-minded and alternative people. There is a strong sense of community amongst most squatting networks and a lot of support for those new to the idea.



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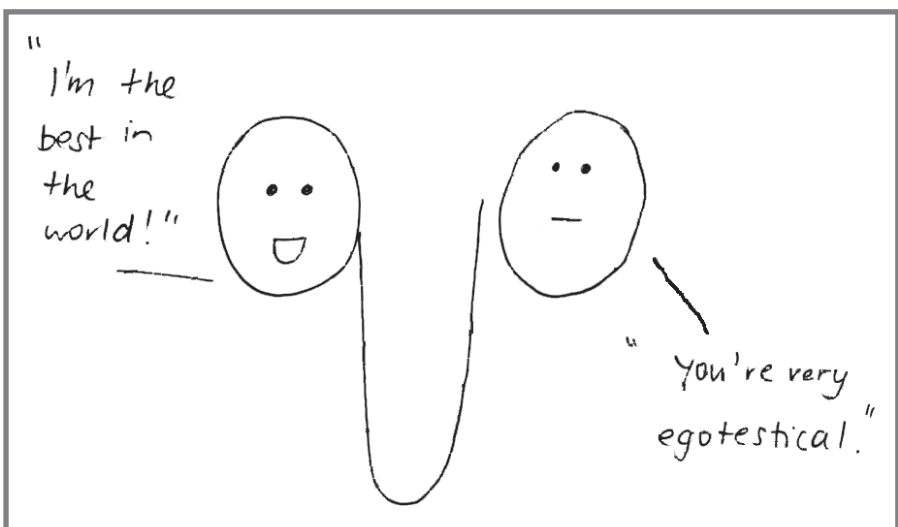


Illustration: Nina Ubaldi



SWIMMING WITH SHARKS MADISON STEWART

Connie Ye speaks to the young shark conservationist and filmmaker on why these fish are friends, not food

The world beneath the ocean's surface can be a frightening place for the uninitiated. Even for amphibious Australians, we stick mostly to the coastlines, always half wary of what might come from beyond the deep.

And when the bogeyman shark does come to visit, we tend to be left with a vision of blood and maimed limbs, amputees and sobbing families clutching one another on the shore.

Media reportage surrounding shark attacks every year is one-sided and sensationalist. Our fear of sharks, of their teeth and wily man-eating ways, was culturally embedded in our beach signs and lost Titanic survivors far before *Jaws* came along. But ridiculous as it sounds, what do sharks themselves think of all this?

Madison Stewart is one eighteen-year-old asking that question, in her fight to turn the tide against the ageless myth of sharks as monsters. An underwater filmmaker and shark conservationist, Stewart shoots documentaries on the plight of the shark, one of the most endangered species in the world, in a less than accommodating environment for a girl with such controversial convictions.

In one of Stewart's films, *Man Eating Shark*, an inquisitive white nose bumps against the camera before the shot cuts to Stewart slowly, mesmerisingly stroking her hand over it. It's clear that Stewart has just been playing with a Great White, traditional predator-at-large and supposed serial man-killer. It takes a few more moments to realise that she's virtually unprotected save her chainmail-like wetsuit. So natural is the way she handles the creatures that we forget the usual (voluntary) encounters between man and shark tend to occur with at least one of them suspended in a cage.

Does she ever find herself in a situation where a shark session might turn nasty?

"There have been many moments where panic would like to kick in and have a say, and many moments of dan-

ger. I think it's noteworthy that not one of these is the result of a shark. Sharks have never shown me any aggression or danger."

To make a point about the fallacy of shark aggression, Stewart instead offers instances of danger as resulting from equipment failure, intrepid ocean conditions and "being chased by the occasional turtle."

Born in NSW, from an early age Stewart's father, a dive master, took her free diving in the oceans, where an affinity with the piscine lives around her was born.

At age two her family lived briefly on the Great Barrier Reef. It was on her twelfth birthday that her first encounter

.....
"Societies like Sea Shepherd cause controversy. People are used to violent revolutions, just not in the name of animals."
.....

with grey nurse sharks around Byron Bay led to a deepening concern for the animals. With her work taking her to places as far flung as Micronesia, to the Coral Sea and the cenotes of Mexico, Stewart's love for sharks took a turn for a more serious fixation when she realised the threats facing shark populations in Australia's own waters.

"This all started for me more precisely when I was fourteen, and found out the Australian government had legalised shark fishing inside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage area, taking 100,000 sharks a year," she says. "As one of the few people who get to see these creatures first hand, to help them is almost an obligation."

Stewart's main focus is also in education, despite sacrificing the completion of her own High School Certificate by leaving school at fourteen. And although she insists it was "never a planned career" and that she does "dream of normality," this hasn't prevented her from being invited to talks, predominantly due to her uniquely placed situation in helping younger generations realise their com-

placency in consuming shark meat. She gives a common instance of how many people are unaware that the 'flake' in fish and chips is simply another 'gummy' version of shark. And the solution?

"[Putting] public pressure on the government, consuming smarter, knowing what not to buy and how it affects sharks," Stewart says. "There are many simple ways people can help, my life is in fact devoted to making people realise this."

She's adamant that people see the good in these creatures.

"[People should] look past the *Jaws* and media view of sharks, and see them for what they really are, an amazing and important creature," she says.

Stewart speaks with passion on the topic of the devastatingly (and ironically) inhumane treatment of sharks. It's easy for her to rattle off statistics, but she maintains that "the most powerful weapon against sharks is humans' fear of them, this is what we must eliminate first. Most people don't even know sharks are responsible for an average 5 deaths a year, whereas humans kill 100 million sharks a year, most of this through a practice called 'shark finning' where the fins are cut off and used in a status soup in China," says Stewart.

"The shark's thrown back while still alive, to painfully bleed to death or suffocate. Also despite being fish, sharks live and breed with long life cycles and have few young, like mammals, making them very susceptible to fishing pressure."

I broach her political views. For someone so embedded in her outlook, what does she think about how the general public views the tactics they use to go about raising awareness? I bring up a suggestion that Greenpeace may appear extreme to some sections of the public.

Stewart laughs at the idea, conceding that Greenpeace are "extreme letter senders". But she outlines the importance of direct, and at times necessarily violent, action to the cause of ocean conservation.

"It's societies like Sea Shepherd who may, yes, cause controversy. But let's face it, people are used to violent revolutions, just not in the name of animals. The truth of Australia is that our waters are currently run by governments and departments who are not established to protect them, but harvest them, and the people of this country can be so very distant from the truth. For example, shark from the Great Barrier Reef is for sale at your local Woolies."

She goes further to posit the legalisation of shark fishing as being "the organised crime of governments".

"You'll always get rebuttal for this kind of [forceful] action, but occasions do call for it, when direct action needs to take place because there's no hope for taking a different approach or no time, it can be the only way. I wouldn't personally use this approach in any situations I've faced, but I also wouldn't refrain from cutting an animal loose from a line."

As a young woman doing something different in a dying world, Madison Stewart will continue to have a lot of public attention come her way. So far she's been featured on Triple J and Bing advertisements, and, considering her message and her line of work, publicity is probably more welcome than not.

Her passion is one she wants to see shared.

"Anyone can get in the water with a dolphin or a turtle or whale, and love it and see the beauty, but hidden in a feared apex predator is a beauty I think only a select few can appreciate.

"To love something like sharks, that the rest of the world wants to see dead [yet] has no understanding of, makes you want to be a part of the movement to change this."

Photos by Ernst Stewart





EXPECTATIONS

The stress of university can leave students vulnerable to contracting an eating disorder. Sydney University needs to provide greater social support, writes **Alexandra Christie**

Starting university was an exciting and long awaited experience for Lucy*, a third year arts student. But as the beginning weeks of first year hit, Lucy found herself living the cliché of a small fish in a big pond. She felt overwhelmed, lonely, stressed out, and depressed. Lucy dropped out after three weeks and spontaneously took a trip to South America. Four months later she got off the plane exhausted and numb. Lucy was suffering from anorexia nervosa. The next three years would be a blur of appointments, scans, tests, hospital stays, and meal plans set within a world of loneliness, self-hatred, and desperation. How did this happen?

The move to university can be challenging for most of us: the unlimited freedom to learn, work, and play as an adult is often in stark contrast with the anonymity of campus life. Free from the spoon-fed world of high school, we are left to our own devices – to see whether we will sink or swim. For some, this is the time when a number of factors align leaving them vulnerable to an eating disorder – as they did for Lucy.

A dietitian specialising in eating disorders, Genevieve Michael points to the convergence of the expectations and responsibilities of adulthood with the pressures of newfound independence and a propensity for anxiety and depression; coupled with feelings of anonymity and the confusion of new sexual relationships as leading to an increase in the likelihood of developing an eating disorder at university. She emphasises the extent of such a dangerous dynamic. “It is important to seek help as early as possible rather than punish your body or your capacity for clear thought in the short term and in the long term, the possibility of reproduction,” she says.

Professor of Clinical Psychology and Co-Director of the Peter Beumont Centre for Eating Disorders, Stephen Touyz, also acknowledges the prevalence of eating disorders at university. Although statistically anorexia nervosa typically begins in high school, Touyz argues that the lack of adequate diagnostic criteria and successful treatment methods at this time means that “even if you pick up someone at the ages of 12 or 14, only 30-40 per cent are likely to recover, so by the time you get to university they are pretty sick.”

“If someone asked me to pick one place to find one hundred eating disorder patients, I’d go to campus,” he continues. “Because that’s where you’ll find them. Where I wouldn’t go is a group of people in their sixties, because most people with anorexia nervosa would have died by then.”

Research also suggests that certain personality traits can be linked to anorexia nervosa sufferers, which again increases the instances of the disease occurring at university. Patients tend to be obsessive, driven, absolutely determined, and perfectionistic, which Touyz says often leads to them getting the highest marks at school and continuing on to university.

Professor of Journalism and Director of the Journalism and Media Research Centre at UNSW, Catherine Lumby, agrees. “Universities attract a proportion of very high achieving students who may be prone to putting unrealistic pressure on themselves,” she says. This challenges common misconception that sufferers of anorexia nervosa are vain and stupid.

“Anorexia nervosa doesn’t change your IQ. Smart people get anorexia nervosa. If you’re in high school and you can’t eat with other people, what do

you do? You can’t go out, you can’t see friends...so you just study,” Touyz says.

Unlike anorexia, the later onset of bulimia nervosa typically occurs around 18-20, and can also be facilitated by the tumultuous transition to university. But bulimia is much harder to detect, as sufferers may not exhibit severe weight loss. Nevertheless, bulimia nervosa is an equally serious disorder. It is characterised by an inability to cope with emotional distress, as sufferers attempt to diet but become trapped in a cycle of bingeing and purging of food.

It is clear that university is a place where age range and environment can collide to provoke the onset of an eating disorder. Why then are there so few resources to combat the disease in the university environment, let alone a definitive debate around these issues in the public sphere? The stigma surrounding mental illness is one reason the discussion of eating disorders is still very much taboo. Despite increasing awareness of mental health issues such as suicide and depression, eating disorders have been very much neglected in the debate.

In fact, any focus on eating disorders in the mainstream media assumes one of



Lifetime mortality rate for anorexia nervosa: 20%
 Incidence of bulimia nervosa nationally: 1 in 20
 Estimated incidence of bulimia nervosa in the student population: 1 in 5
 Average age at onset of eating disorder: 19 for women, 25 for men

two attitudes. The first is your typical tabloid sob story; expect to see a piece about tears and tragedy followed by a derogatory analysis of the trivial obsessions of teenage girls, a vox-pop about gossip magazines and ‘industry expert’ decrying the impact of the fashion industry. Essentially, the overall tone is one of voyeuristic curiosity, moral judgment, and ultimately dismissal.

The second approach glorifies extremely underweight fashion models and celebrities, whereby gossip magazines place images of emaciated women alongside dieting and weight loss advice.

Genevieve Michael says this is almost the reverse of a social taboo, as young women suffering from eating disorders are depicted as having the ideal body shape. Ultimately though, it is society’s prevailing dismissiveness regarding mental illness that strengthens the impact of both media narratives. A youth consultation process by the National Eating Disorders Collaboration (NEDC) evidenced this depressing truth in a study that identified 51.3 per cent of 12-17 year olds who agreed or strongly agreed that a person with an eating disorder should “snap out of it, there are more important things in life to worry about”.

Lucy remembers countless conversations with friends and family who challenged her commitment to recovery. One friend asked: “Why don’t you just go and eat a heap of Maccas?” Another relative would frequently demand to know if she had put on any weight. “I felt like I was constantly telling people I wasn’t obsessed with Victoria Beckham,” Lucy says.

Despite the obvious impact of the media on public attitudes and awareness, it is important to realise that eating disorders are not the result of media and social pressures to diet.

“Don’t assume that someone with an eating disorder has simply ‘swallowed’ a media message to be thin. It’s not that simple.”

“There is often a too simplistic connection made between images of thin models and eating disorders, which suggests as a straightforward cause and effect relationship,” says Catherine Lumby, “as if people simply ‘catch’ eating disorders from media images.” In reality eating disorders are caused by a number of genetic, psychological, and behavioral factors including perfectionism, anxiety, and a low sense of self worth. Most importantly, eating disorders are not self-inflicted. As Lumby says, “Don’t assume that someone with an eating disorder has simply ‘swallowed’ a media message to be thin. It’s not that simple.”

“If someone asked me to pick one place to find one hundred eating disorder patients, I’d go to campus”
 - Prof Stephen Touyz

In essence, if everyone woman on a diet developed an eating disorder we would be in the middle of an epidemic. Nevertheless, the disturbing fact is that the mortality rate for people with anorexia nervosa is 20 per cent, or one in five, the highest of all psychiatric disorders and over 12 times the rate seen



in people without eating disorders. The risk of successful suicide is also 32 times higher than that expected for major depression, in which deaths from suicide are 21 times greater than expected in the general population. Those who do not go on to make a full recovery are also likely to suffer from major, persistent physical abnormalities, including osteoporosis and anovulation, as well as psychiatric problems such as major depressive disorder and obsessive compulsive symptoms.

Perhaps less well known are the extreme dangers of bulimia nervosa through which excessive vomiting, laxatives, enemas, and diuretics can cause a loss of fluid and electrolytes in the body. This can lead to severe electrolyte imbalances causing kidney failure and cardiac arrest. Less common causes of death in bulimia include choking, rupture of the esophagus or stomach, and suicide. Sadly, there are also debilitating and sometimes profound psycho-social handicaps that result from long-term eating disorders, including isolation and failure to establish autonomy and independent living.

According to the NEDC website, “the social handicap experienced by so many of these more chronic patients is as great as that found in schizophrenia”.

Raising the issue of eating disorders in the university population would not be complete without addressing the complexities of speaking up about

mental illness. It is extremely challenging to confront a loved one about their mental health, whether or not it is concerning an eating disorder.

Lucy remembers discussing her health with her grandmother, who insisted on referring to it as her ‘problem’. Yet, as we have become more aware of

the importance of social awareness in mental illnesses like depression, eating disorders are ignored. Just like other psychiatric illnesses, eating disorders require early intervention, support and aggressive treatment in order to give sufferers the best chance of recovery.

Even at an institution such as Sydney University, where the occurrence of eating disorders is a significant issue for the student population, there are very few options available in terms of treatment or even basic information.

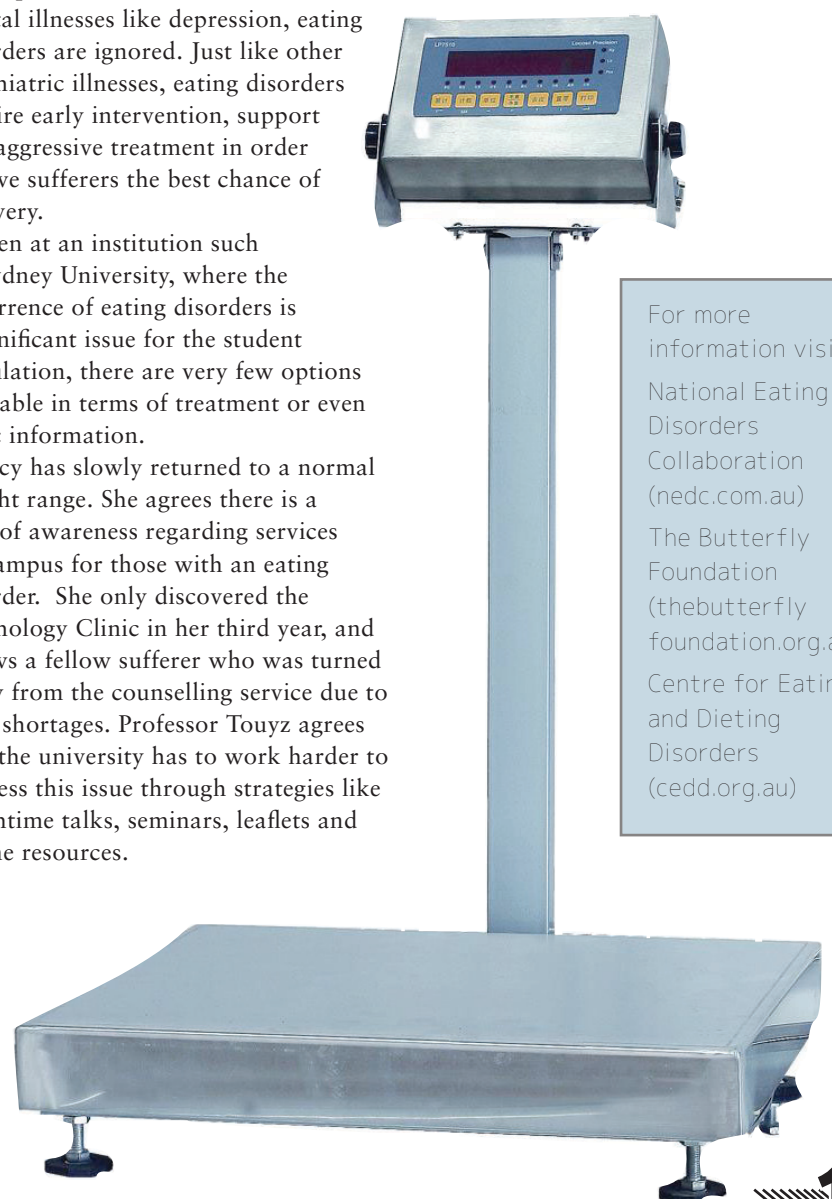
Lucy has slowly returned to a normal weight range. She agrees there is a lack of awareness regarding services on campus for those with an eating disorder. She only discovered the Psychology Clinic in her third year, and knows a fellow sufferer who was turned away from the counselling service due to staff shortages. Professor Touyz agrees that the university has to work harder to address this issue through strategies like lunchtime talks, seminars, leaflets and online resources.

For the moment there remain only three non-specific places to go for help: the University Health Service, the Counselling Service and the Psychology Clinic.

It is clear that with the rise of mental health in the national agenda, the seriousness of eating disorders can no longer be dismissed. Touyz stresses his disappointment in the current approach because “[anorexia nervosa] is not recognised as the most serious psychiatric illness, but it is.” Despite her recovery, Lucy also emphasises the all-consuming nature of the disease. “Every day is a constant struggle with the anorexic voice inside me. I think it will be something I have to deal with for the rest of my life,” she says.

The NEDC estimates one in 20 Australians has an eating disorder and the rate of those affected within the wider Australian population is rising. With the high risk of eating disorders amongst students, university is the best and most important place to raise awareness and provide much needed services. With the renewed focus on student health, such as the recent smoking ban and the proposed ‘Healthy Campus’ initiative, it will be interesting to see whether Sydney University will step up to combat a disease that can no longer be overlooked.

*names have been changed



For more information visit:
 National Eating Disorders Collaboration (nedc.com.au)
 The Butterfly Foundation (thebutterflyfoundation.org.au)
 Centre for Eating and Dieting Disorders (cedd.org.au)

 SUDS MAJOR PRODUCTION

Manfred: After Lord Byron

The dramatic conception of bringing a Romantic poem to the stage will be truly original entertainment, writes **William Haines**



We are the fools of Time and Terror: Days
Steal on us, and steal from us; yet we live,
Loathing our life, and dreading still to die.

Ask almost any student director why they chose the play they did, and you will be told: "I wanted to do something different." "Different" usually means "my own version of self-indulgent, group devised, conceptualised psychodrama" – in other words "exactly the same as usual but with more me in it". In Finn Davis' case however, he really meant different, for there is no other way to characterise the attempt to bring a 1,300 line Romantic poem to the stage. Even if it turns out to be more self-indulgent, group devised, conceptualised psychodrama, *Manfred: After Lord Byron* will be very, very different, not least because of how much Finn Davis there will be in it.

For those of you who don't know the current enfant terrible of the Sydney University Dramatic Society (SUDS) world, Davis has two major passions - The Beatles, and the occult. Coming straight out of a collaboration with playwright David Potter where they brought The Beatles to the stage, Davis thought it was time to focus on

the side of him that thinks trench-coats, beaten antique briefcases and magically endowed Roman jewellery are all must haves. "I wouldn't say I knew exactly what I wanted the show to be about, but I knew I wanted something epic, and something supernatural," Davis says.

Enter John Dunk, SUDS resident intellectual, (he's doing honours, seriously) who thought Byron would be the man for the job. After a reading of *Manfred* by candlelight with writer David Potter, they decided the poem must be brought to the stage.

Seemingly the only aspect of the production Davis and Dunk agree on is why it had to happen.

"It is simultaneously an elegy for, and a hymn to, human consciousness. A bemoaning of parched post-industrial

life combined with the desire to reconcile oneself to it," says Dunk. Davis thinks the line "The hand of death is on me, but not yours" could well be used both to epitomise the play, and explain why it is "relevant".

Their adapted script retains the Faustian affects but brings out a Hitchensesque attempt to confront mortality while retaining one's independence from greater forces.

This is a play about human freedom. The directors are adamant that this is not just *Manfred* on stage, explaining why they have chosen to say "after Lord Byron" not "by Lord Byron". They have "taken chess pieces and turned them into real characters".

Strictly speaking, this is very much against the spirit of the poem, but in general Dunk and Davis have refused to tie themselves down conceptually. No definitive decisions were made on what techniques to use in performance of a poem; no definitive decisions were made on how Romantic imagery could be brought to life visually.

"No, no the music isn't really Romantic," sound designer Travis Ash says. "Well I suppose it sort of is, it's trying to do the same things." He get's excited: "But it's grungy, really grungy... lots of bass!"

Order from chaos seems to be their guiding principle, as Dunk characteristically arrives late and then explains that Davis is a "precocious preschooler" and shouldn't be listened to, while David Potter sits up the back in a black turtle neck quietly trying to insert Lacanian overtones. Fraught with monetary concerns, changes in the production team, aesthetic squabbling and neurotic script changes, the success of this play would prove the Romantic belief that true art comes from spontaneous fountains of originality.

The whole team is brimming with confidence, however. Designer Michaela

Savina says that while the budget prevented her from creating the eight metre papier-mâché mountains of her dreams, and while she couldn't afford five smoke machines, the final set does capture the supernatural and disassociated sentiments within the play. Expect to see spirits appearing and disappearing into a set made of exactly the same materials as their costumes. She characterises it as a "great white expanse," which will certainly be a welcome relief from the "great black expanse" common in fashionable black-box theatre.

Leading man Patrick Morrow explains that the lack of definitive style has been hugely helpful, as the play is too "multifarious" to be stylised, and it has enabled him to draw on his experience with Shakespeare, Greek tragedy and Buto to create something unique.

Understandably, he claims to be "super petrified". The complexity and length of the role of Manfred is what has kept it off the stage up until now, and Morrow (with a wicked grin) admits that previously he has "played shallow or callous characters, which are so easy ... so rewarding."

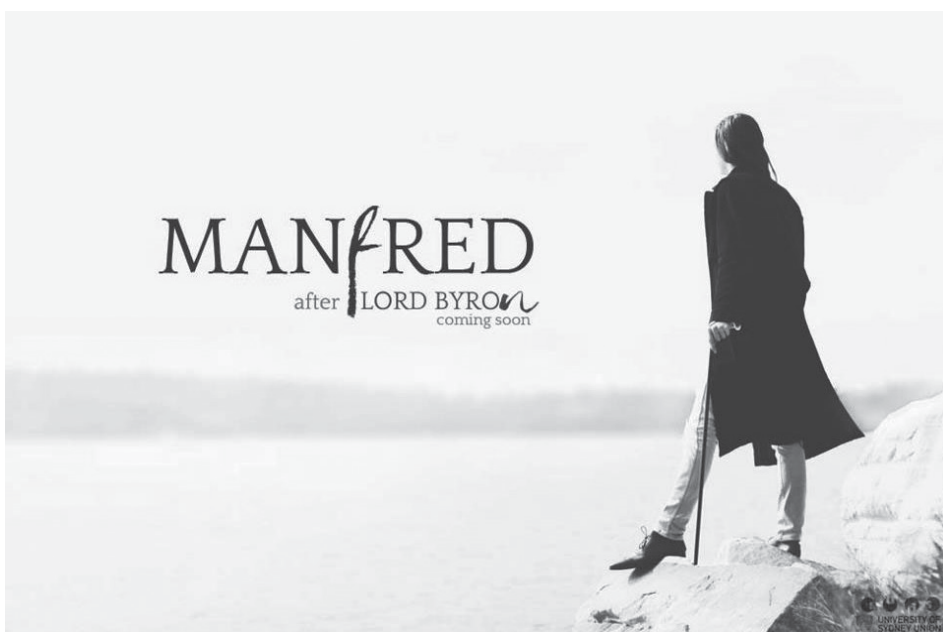
In a world of forgettable theatre, *Manfred* is a show not to be missed. It is the most audacious, original and energetic major production SUDS has attempted in a number of years. Cast and crew alike managed to instill confidence in me that this show, while perhaps at times confused, is going to be highly entertaining. For me this show represents a synthesis, combining the current generation's taste for the classics with the previous generation's taste for student writing and devised pieces. It is a feat for which Davis and Dunk are uniquely placed.

"A dream", says Travis Ash, of the production.

"Process and play alike, a huge terrifying dream."

Manfred: After Lord Byron

Tues 28 Aug - Sat 1 Sept
7.30pm, PACT Theatre,
Erskineville,
Access \$17, Conc \$23,
Adult \$25



Courtesy of <http://blog.tinasun.net/>

Revues Season

ARCHITECTURE • ARTS • COMMERCE • EDUCATION • ENGINEERING • LAW • MEDICINE • QUEER • SCIENCE

Arts Revue - *Artsmageddon*



Take the good with the bad for an enjoyable show, writes **Matt Clarke**

I can't help but like Arts Revue. Year after year it puts on a show that's fun, quirky and often just plain odd. While this year's show was very much in the same vein as past years, unfortunately the 'fun' didn't always translate into 'funny'.

While there were some definite highs, (a skit about a computer piñata, and a gangsta-rapping Tigger for instance), for the most part, the show never really got off the ground. Although many of the skits were amusing, they tended

to be more playful than funny (this was particularly true in terms of the show's recurring storyline, featuring an awkward boy-girl-ventriloquist love triangle).

The song numbers also presented some problems. Although the cast included several top-notch vocalists, the songs themselves tended to be slow-paced and whimsical, rather than energetic and witty. That being said, the band did a great job as usual, although it would have been nice to see what they could do

if allowed to break free from their set list of mostly mid-tempo muzak.

Despite all this, there was a lot to like about the show. The cast was crazy enthusiastic, and included some of the better 'actors' you're likely to see in a revue. Although the skits didn't always work, it's hard not to appreciate their willingness to take risks. And that's always been the thing about Arts Revue – it lives and dies by its wackiness. Sometimes it fails, and sometimes it's glorious.

The end of the world doesn't bode well for improvement next year, writes **Miranda Smith**

For the past two weeks, the image of (what looks like) a gay-rights piece of broccoli has been lining the billboards of Eastern Avenue and Manning.

This was our first encounter with the 2012 Arts revue, *Artsmageddon*. My bad, the aforementioned broccoli is in fact a rainbow-coloured mushroom-cloud. In the face of nuclear holocaust, it seems to say, let us reflect on the lighter side of the apocalypse.

Such is the premise of *Artsmageddon*: the laughable notion that Arts students have somehow survived the dawn of

the dead by being good at outrunning zombies. (Hat tip, directors: Arts students never run.)

Sadly, laughability throughout the show is hardly consistent.

The love story at the show's heart, around which this "*Artsmageddon*" is constructed as an elaborate set up for Earth's last man and woman, is a strange one at best. Was I the only one who wanted to see Last Girl get together with Steve Clement's demonic hand-puppet?

Sketches picked up towards the show's finale, with Loredana Cross' rebuilding

of society according to the application of theoretic principles being particularly enjoyable.

Riordan Lee is the show's true stand-out; he raps like a rebel without a pause to 'Tiggers in Paris' (Jay-Z meets Hundred Acre Wood), before showing us life after tackling the Elite Four for Ash Ketchum, (battling 'gym leaders' at the local Fitness First). In the show's second-last sketch, Lee plays a zealous preacher from the Church of O. (That's 'O' for Oprah. All you non-believers out there, Happy Interfaith Week.)

Here, the entire cast come together for a song and dance about the redemptive power of Lady O, reminiscent of everybody's favourite Oprah meme: BEES!

I'd wish the cast of *Artsmageddon* better luck next year, and probably even recommend to them to cut out all the show-tunes type singing (lest they learn to love pre-recording and auto-tuning). But alas, it's pointless: we've reached the end of the Mayan calendar and there's not going to be a next year.

Education and Social Work Revue - *Wuthering Heights High*

The verdict is unanimous - this Revue was short and sweet, much like these reviews. By **Lane Sainty** and **Brad Mariano**

Short but sweet is probably the best way to describe *Wuthering Heights High*, the 2012 Education and Social Work Revue. The show only ran for an hour and a half, including a twenty-minute interval, but it had all the hallmarks of an excellent small revue: niche but not too niche, didn't take itself too seriously, and most importantly, it was funny.

While there were many enjoyable longer skits, the musical numbers and shorter sketches are what kept *Wuthering Heights High* going. The main storyline petered out about halfway through the show, but frankly, I was having too much fun to notice.

The best musical numbers included 'Chess Club', aka S Club, and 'Bad Work', a reworked version of Gary Jules's 'Mad World', which inexplicably, and amusingly, starred two dancers

wearing body socks. A couple of clever and charming songs such as 'How do you solve a problem like Korea?' and 'Maths Teacher', a version of Man Eater, nicely rounded out the musical acts.

Snappy sketches such as 'Awkward things to say in the staffroom' pulled many chuckles, as did the hilarious and slightly-too-real 'Diary of a Drama Teacher'. Plenty of fun was also poked at bureaucracy, with everything from the infamous laptop scheme to the not-so-humble lollipop lady coming under fire.

Wuthering Heights High may have lacked some of the funding and finesse that accompanies the larger revues, but made up for it in enthusiasm. It was a highly enjoyable contribution to the Revue season — well done to all involved.

- LS

The 2012 Education and Social Work Revue was short and sweet – in other words, the polar opposite of the school experience it tried to remind us of.

Though it ran well short of 90 minutes, this was a revue favouring short and punchy sketches with almost no filler – I just wonder if some of the shorter sketches could have been milked for a little more.

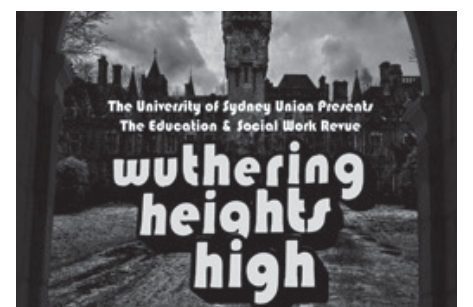
On offer, a *Grease* number referencing everyone's least favourite private school went over well, topped by an inspired 'Chess Club 7' song as well as three separate songs on different anxieties of teachers in the second half. The musical numbers occasionally had some suspect choreography, but were consistently funny and entertaining throughout the show.

Of the running gags, some were great hits ('Awkward things to say in the staffroom' and 'Diary of a Drama Teacher') while the historical sources sketches for the most part missed, with the extremely notable exception of the Greek grandmothers gossiping about Hitler, a triumph of comedic delivery, gesture and costuming that was the funniest thing in this (and potentially, any) revue this year.

The sketch of HSC examiners deciding on questions was excellent, and the first of what will surely be many 'Call Me Maybe' punchlines of the revue season was similarly popular. There were two incredibly strongly video segments – a documentary on lollipop ladies was one of the show's highlights, surpassed by an astonishingly well-produced Gotye video clip about shady teacher-student relations.

The only real negatives were how a promising central narrative of a returning teacher being demoted to the PE staff was curiously dropped entirely by the second half and a conspicuous lack of nudity. Though if the worst you can say about the future educators of your children is that you haven't seen their junk, they haven't done too badly.

- BM



TECH OPINION

News Limited CEO: You are all “copyright kleptomaniacs”

The film and TV industry need to wake up to online streaming if they want us to pay for content, writes **Rob North**



News Limited CEO, Kim Williams, at the Australian International Movie Convention

If you're reading this there's a good chance that you're a criminal.

At the risk of generalising, we are a generation of benign thieves. We steal as if there was nothing illegal about it. Hidden behind a desk and a monitor, otherwise law abiding Australians knowingly steal when it comes to streaming our favourite TV shows, or downloading blockbuster films.

This year's report from the Intellectual Property Awareness Foundation revealed that more than 37 per cent of Australians admit to having downloaded material illegally, a staggering figure if you consider that the respondents are admitting to stealing!

Not surprisingly, the film and television industries hates us.

Last week News Ltd CEO Kim Williams delivered the keynote speech at the Australian International Movie Convention on the Gold Coast, arguing that “the copyright kleptomaniacs of the digital age” are harming levels of product quality and job prospects across the television and film industries.

“Right now, on the brink of a new era of digital uptake through the establishment of the NBN is the time to

act to strengthen our digital copyright laws and bring them into the digital age,” he said.

So are we all immoral entertainment bandits? A generation of “copyright kleptomaniacs” taking advantage of lax legislation?

I choose to think not.

Generation Y expects immediate gratification, a notion which the television and film industry seem to want to avoid.

.....
37 per cent of Australians admit to having illegally downloaded material... [yet] none of the ten most pirated movies of 2011 were available to rent online.

While Mr Williams states that a growing number of companies now offer low cost legal downloadable content, technology writer David Pogue points out that none of the ten most pirated movies of 2011 were available to rent online. In an article published by the *Scientific American* last Tuesday, Mr Pogue argues that Hollywood is encouraging online piracy by inadequately supporting paid download and streaming rental services, with many classic films such as *Star Wars* and the *Indiana Jones* series also inexplicably unavailable online.

When the first twenty Google search results for “Saving Private Ryan download” are torrent websites, with no way to instantly purchase and download the film, the ability to quickly circumvent the law becomes more attractive.

Television is much the same.

Internationally, the industry has failed to keep pace with the digital age and Generation-Y concerns. Given that we can read about new episodes of our favourite shows which have aired in the US months before we get the chance to legally see them in Australia, it makes sense that we are among the most prolific offenders when it comes to the piracy of television content.

The film and television industries obviously need to change, and recognise that young consumers want their entertainment now, delivered in the most convenient ways possible. The music and gaming industries recognised this years ago, allowing the offering of successful digital distribution platforms such as iTunes and Steam. While these platforms still compete with illegal downloads, they at least offer a legal and relatively affordable method of purchase, and delegitimise arguments supporting piracy.

We want to give you our money. We want to pay for good content. But we want it now.

No doubt we've all seen that ‘gritty’ heavy handed advertisement where illegally downloading films is equated to pinching handbags and lifting televisions through broken windows. Bombastically, the advertisement assumes that I wouldn't steal a car.

And they're probably right. I probably wouldn't steal a car. But if I can't legally buy that car, I might just have to download it.

Rob North is on Twitter: [@RobertGNorth](#)



Aussies that admit to illegally downloading content



TV and film make up most of the pirated content on the web



Top grossing Australian films available for legally streaming online (across different services)



Drop in music piracy as a result of music subscription services in North America since 2007

GAMER CULTURE

Pokémon Dating: I choose you!

Erin Rooney reveals how Pokemon could help you find someone who puts the ‘magic’ in ‘Magikarp’ and the ‘charm’ in ‘Charmander’

When girls talk about how they've met their best guy friends and boyfriends, they name a lot of things that have helped them break the ice. Some identify their appearance as a contributing factor, others the help of a mutual friend. Me, I name the Pokémon franchise.

The year was 2001. After a very successful shopping trip with mum, my younger brother and I managed to secure a copy of *Pokémon Gold*. We were both a little Pokémon-obsessed back then, so we decided on a diplomatic solution to the problem of only owning one copy. I would play *Pokémon Gold* first because I was older (and therefore wiser, more deserving, etc) and he would get to have our old copy of *Pokémon Red* to himself in the meantime.

No sooner than I had defeated the Elite Four, Nintendo released *Pokémon Crystal* for Gameboy Colour and I managed to save up for a copy. Peace was restored once again in the Rooney household as my brother claimed ownership of *Pokémon Gold*.

Everything was going swimmingly, until I stumbled across a curiosity in the *Crystal Version Handbook*. It seemed that my favourite Pokémon, Vulpix and Ninetales, weren't available in *Crystal* or *Gold*.

It was then that I became very close to a family friend that happened to own *Silver*, and he traded me the Vulpix. We would spend hours at each other's houses, trading, battling and talking, gaming on the Nintendo 64 and reading *Horrible Histories*.

When our mums would come to pick us up, we would ask them jokingly to have a “Five-Hour Cuppa!” so we could spend more time together while they gossiped over tea. United over a shared love of Pokémon, he became one of my best friends.

One day, we were playing a game of *Pokémon Snap* on the Nintendo 64 as usual, when he passed me a folded note. It all seemed very mysterious, and deadly serious. I opened it to reveal, in scrawly Year 4 handwriting, the message: “I love

you”. I replied, slightly flustered, that I loved him too.

Though later we parted ways, even today, Pokémon has had an influence on many of my friendships and relationships and remains to be an initial point of interest. I've had some great discussions when getting to know people about which generations of the game and show are the best, shared some hilarious nicknames for Gary in the game over the years (although most of them are restricted to ‘Stupid’ and ‘Pooface’), and spent many nights trying to work out how to play the theme songs on the piano.

So fellow lonely hearts, forget eHarmony: join a fan site instead! Because although I am still searching for someone who can put the ‘magic’ in ‘Magikarp’, the ‘charm’ in ‘Charmander’ and the ‘cool’ in ‘Tentacool’, Pokémon has given me a lot to be thankful for.

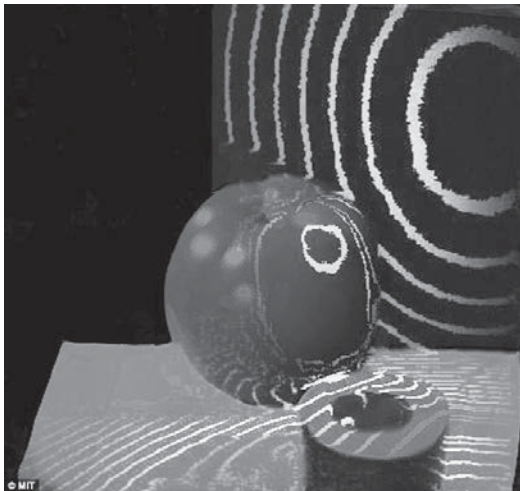
Erin Rooney is on Twitter: [@ErinRooney](#)



Illustration: Erin Rooney

Femto photography: faster than the speed of light

Ramesh Raskar's new camera will light up your life, writes **Rafi Alam**



MIT's Media Lab has developed a method of taking pictures of light passing through objects. Source: hybrattech.com

Science regularly employs cameras for some of its most weird and wonderful discoveries. Quantum physics, CERN and the Higgs Boson, and our research into space would have been impossible without them. They capture discreet, functionally invisible data that scientists then analyse to uncover new information about our universe.

But these aren't your regular cameras.

The camera that captured the Higgs Boson, for instance, took images at 40 million frames per second. This was necessary to film the creation of the elusive particle, moving at speeds far beyond the extent of human sight. But while this number sounds impressive, a new invention by Ramesh Raskar and his team at MIT achieves a technical aptitude of a trillion frames per second.

It can, as he demonstrated at a TED event, capture the movement of light.

Science aficionados are likely aware that light is made up of photons, miniscule particles smaller than their

subatomic counterparts, that exist as 'packets' that explode upon contact with matter. These explosions send out waves that illuminate its immediate surroundings.

Raskar's camera technology, known as 'femto' photography (a femtosecond being 10^{-15} of a second, the speed at which the camera follows), captures light moving through various objects, such as a bottle, showing us the progression of luminosity. He highlights its possibilities for 'scientific art' by giving us examples of photos taken by the camera.

The scientific potential is more than just its aesthetic value. Femto photography can teach us more about the way light works. The characteristics of light are the subject of furious investigation in modern physics. It was only recently that the idea that light could be 'slowing down', and could be slowed down by humans, was uncovered. The nature of light as both a wave and a particle is also a field of study. And as quantum mechanics – that ethereal and esoteric science – becomes more important in computer technology, scientists will need to have access to devices that can record light in its various stages.

Raskar makes this evident when he shows an image of the waves of light moving away from the viewer, something that shouldn't occur. He explains that this phenomena is due to the camera capturing a minute reversal of time in the photograph. Just some food for thought.

Another possibility of femto photography may be more astonishing

to the average layperson. Raskar, along with Nature.com, created CGI demonstrations of how the camera can be used to peek around corners. The demonstration has a camera pointed towards an open door, to the left of which is a mannequin hidden behind a wall. The camera sends out beams of light to the door, which then explode, hit the mannequin, explode again, hit the door, explode again, and hit the camera. A minute amount of light particles will actually make it back, and so the camera will do this multiple times, until – through an algorithm that uses the time taken for the particle to come back and the speed of time – the status of the object is created by calculating its distance and angle.

And, as Raskar shows, this forms a very similar image.

While this may sound complicated and long winded, the speed of light means this entire process takes only a few seconds in real time. Soon we may see the military using it to see around corners; later, as Raskar noted, you could use it check the state of objects, including how ripe a tomato is.

Femto photography will be integral to science in the upcoming decades. Despite its prominence in theoretical literature, light is one of the final frontiers of scientific discovery. Its usefulness for physicists is matched only by its functionality in practical applications.

Fortunately, the future for femto photography is looking bright, as Raskar has confirmed that this technology will be made open source for budding developers to use for their pleasure.

Rafi Alam is on Twitter:

[@rafialarm](https://twitter.com/rafialarm)

Alligator Gar

Matt Withers won't be seeing this alligator later

Ferocity is not an attribute often associated with freshwater fish, bar of course the piranha, whose notoriety has been cemented by a few isolated incidences of mass-murder and an eponymous 3D film. However, these razor-teethed schooling fish of the Amazon pale in comparison to North America's largest freshwater species, the monstrous *Atractosteus spatula* or 'Alligator Gar'.

At an early age these primitive, elongated fishes assume a rather elegant guise; streamlined and dappled with dark spots against a golden-olive body, juveniles often wind up as exotic oddballs in the aquarium trade. Buyer beware, however. At two-foot in length a juvenile specimen is already pushing the limits of all but the largest of home aquariums. Adulthood is another kettle of fish altogether (see what I did there?) The unassuming, wide-eyed innocence of the young animal soon fades away as rapid, protein-induced growth transforms the fish into a beast more deserving of its namesake.

Maxing out at roughly nine feet and 160 kilograms, and sporting a tooth-studded jaw to shame most crocodiles, the adult alligator gar is a truly fearsome spectacle. The gaping jaws of the individual below no doubt confers this point more succinctly than any description I can muster.



However, despite all my sensationalism and its leviathan-like appearance, to label the alligator gar a brute is something of a misdemeanor. Though certainly carnivorous (being an ambush predator, much like alligators themselves) and subject to intermittent folk-devilry stemming from unconfirmed reports of attacks on humans, the alligator gar is quite a solitary and docile fish. Sadly, as is so often the case with evolution's larger produce, human-gar relations are skewed against the latter.

A drawling, tongue-in-cheek Kurt Cobain once noted "it's OK to eat fish, because they don't have any feelings", neatly encapsulating the fate of many of this particular species. While big game hunting appears taboo for all but the Spanish royal family, aquatic giants are not accorded the same grace. As Google Images will readily attest, the alligator gar is a common target for US sports fishing, being more frequently sighted on dinner plates or as formaldehyde-encrusted wall mountings than as wild animals.

Battle of the species: a marathon with a difference

Lane Sainty will probably never run a marathon of any kind



Humans have trumped horses twice in the somewhat coveted history of the race. Source: Zuma Press

Once a year, humans are pitted against riders on horseback in a fierce contest known as the Man vs Horse Marathon. The 22 mile race is neither sensible nor technically a marathon, falling just over four miles short of the required distance. However, none of this has hindered the highly unusual event from taking place over the past 32 years.

Unsurprisingly, the Man vs Horse marathon originates from the United Kingdom, home to a disproportionately high number of ridiculous sports.

Green's first thought was 'What better way of settling this than organising a race?' Of course, the better way would be to acknowledge that a horse is faster than a human, and move on with life. But apparently things are not so easy, nor so logical, in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Green proved a determined man, and in 1980 the first Man vs Horse marathon was run. It marked the beginning of 24 long years during which horses proved to the human race that they are better, faster and stronger than we could ever

hope to be. The course was altered in 1982 to include terrain that was more difficult – and probably more dangerous – for the horses. This gave humans more of a fighting chance, if not an opportunity to actually win.

In fact, it wasn't until 2004 that male runner Huw Lobb won the race, the first human contestant on foot to do so. Lobb won £25,000 for his efforts, as each year the £1,000 prize money for a victorious runner had been set aside, steadily accumulating until Lobb achieved the unthinkable. Since his victory, one other human has won the race, with Florian Holzinger taking out the top prize in 2007.

If nothing else, the Man vs Horse Marathon is a prime example of why drunken arguments should never be taken seriously. Surely, three decades after the creation of this bizarre race, all possible points have been proven. The accompanying streak of insanity is all that remains.

Lane Sainty is on Twitter:

[@lanesainty](https://twitter.com/lanesainty)

Lecture Notes

? THE QUIZ

1. Only once has both an original film and its sequel won 'Best Picture' Oscars, what two films are these?
2. In what year did Sir Edmund Barton take office as the first Prime Minister of Australia?
3. Neil Armstrong passed away on Sunday at the age of 82, what is the name of Armstrong's fellow Apollo 11 crew member and the second man on the moon?
4. Warsaw is the capital and largest city of what country?
5. Which three nations have successfully conducted manned space flight?
6. Vermillion is a shade of what colour?
7. What gas is the most abundant in the Earth's atmosphere?
8. The Cuban missile crisis was a thirteen-day confrontation that occurred during what year?
9. Opening this week, *Moonrise Kingdom* is the latest film from which director? He is also known for the films *The Royal Tenenbaums* and *The Darjeeling Limited*.
10. Franziskaner is a beer that originates from what country?
11. How many Tour de France titles will Lance Armstrong stand to lose if he is convicted by the UCI of the doping allegations that have been leveled against him?
12. Since the conclusion of World War II, the United States has spent more days at war than it has at peace; true or false?
13. In what year did the space shuttle 'Challenger' disaster occur, with the shuttle breaking apart 73 seconds into its voyage?
14. Richard III was King of England for two years during what century?
15. After the Oslo District Court found Anders Breivik sane and guilty of murdering 77 people, how many years was he sentenced to in private detention?
16. Who was the last F1 (Formula One) driver to suffer a fatal accident during competition?
17. What is the principal ingredient of marzipan?
18. What is Trichotillomania more commonly known as?
19. In what century was Bram Stoker's *Dracula* written?
20. What is the world's most isolated city (furthest distance from any other city)?

Answers below.

SUDOKU

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

A girl who was just learning to drive went down a one-way street in the wrong direction, but didn't break the law.

Why?

TEASER

TARGET

E	N	S
T	I	S
I	V	E

Make as many words out of the letters above, always including the letter in the centre.

- 12 = This is actually my favourite number.
 20 = This one not so much.
 35 = My cat's favourite number.

KENKEN

2+	15x		1-		7-	2+	
	2+		2-			14+	
13+			2-		2+		
10+		60x			13+		
3+		11+		8x	18+	24x	15x
14x		8x					
1-	7-		5-	8+		14+	
					5-		

- KenKen tips: 1. Numbers can not repeat in any row or column.
 2. The puzzle is split into boxes called "cages".
 3. In the upper left-hand corner of each cage is a target number and a mathematical sign indicating how the numerals within a particular cage interact to produce the target number.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8				9		
10				11		
12			13		14	
16		17		18		15
			19			
	20				21	
	22					
23			24		25	
26				27		

Ghoti

ACROSS

8. Corporal punishment holds right sort of dressing down (8)
9. Said to be created within a lady (6)
10. Stick to commercial in this place (6)
11. Tough parrot on paper (4,4)
12. Truths aren't loud in parts of a play (4)
13. Mitt ran S-bend as broadcast
16. Cheese isn't off after heightener (7)
18. Gale Ten storm is classy (7)
20. Pepper from California. PS - I have an orgasm (8)
21. Violently fight a 26-ac for ___ and ___, two things found in Las Vegas (4, 8)
23. Easy peasy for secretion to hang in the air (8)
25. Realise it ain't frozen water? (6)
26. Hermit takes in a borrowed car (6)
27. Frenzied quote the foam gun sent back

DOWN

1. Deception to engage in urban renewal? (9)
2. Provides food and reacts badly (6)
3. Depraved eccentric unties coil (10)
4. Encourage the leader to be a nerd (7)
5. Rambo taken aback, big opener lost to thief from *The Wire* (4)
6. Exchanging doesn't start making magic (8)
7. Speed is totally eternal: my Post Office, for starters (5)
14. Guy tucked into vegetables with the Queen and a fiery lizard (10)
15. Down South, worker has a twitch following car crash (9)
17. See 21-ac
19. Fry [sic] a cocktail to become fearsome (7)
21. Priest hidden in sofa the Rabbi brought (6)
22. Instructor cooks trout (5)
24. Change reproductive organ that lacks love (4)

Please direct any crossword questions or complaints to ghoti.cryptic@gmail.com

Answers: 1. *The Godfather and The Godfather Part II* 2. 1901 3. Buzz Aldrin 4. Poland 5. Russia, China and the US 6. Red 7. Nitrogen 8. 1962 9. Wes Anderson 10. Germany 11. Seven 12. True 13. 1986 14. 15th century 15. 21 years (minimum of 10 years) 16. Ayrton Senna 17. Almonds 18. Hair pulling 19. 19th century 20. Perth

Privacy – almost as good as serenity

Scenario 1: You want to enter a competition to win a supply of raspberry jam for a year. On the entry form you have to state your marital status.

Scenario 2: Your lecturer is sending out an email to all students who failed a particular assessment as a warning to study harder for the next one. All of the names were listed in the “to” section and not the “bcc”.

Scenario 3: A guy with a promo t-shirt and iPad comes around to invite you to go in a competition to win an iPad. All you need to do is give your name and address, and student details to enter a draw.

These scenarios are all potential breaches of privacy.

Scenario 1: Your marital status is not relevant to a jam competition. It is, however, relevant if you are trying to squeeze demographic information out of someone you want to spam.

Scenario 2: The BCC function means that no-one other than the sender needs to know who is receiving the email. It

is up to you who you tell your marks to, not anyone else.

Scenario 3: Who is that guy? Does he have ID? Is that ID real. Why does he need all those details? Sometimes there are opportunities to enter into draws as a reward for answering surveys and the like. Think about your privacy and make this decision for yourself.

The Office of Australia Information Commissioner [www.privacy.gov.au] has a 10 point plan to protect your privacy. Here are the points in an abbreviated and slightly more readable format.

1. Read privacy policies.

This is the bit where you usually don't read but click “yes I understand and agree”. Take the time to read it wherever you can.

2. Ask why the information is required, what they will do with it and who will it be disclosed to.

There's a chance they don't need that information at all.

3. Only give out as much personal information as you need to.

If you don't want to give that information you probably don't have to, or you could just make something up.

Sometimes it's okay to just tell them that it is not their business. This is probably a bad idea if it is something that involves the police.

4. Request access to your personal information.

“You have a right to be granted access to the personal information that organisations and agencies hold about you.” Well that's what the government say, but try getting the information they hold about you at ASIO. The University and Centrelink, however, have fairly standard ways of getting you your file.

5. Make sure the information an organisation or agency holds about you is accurate and up to date.

Usually this needs to be done on paper. If you deal with the organisations I deal with, you'll also need to do it again and again until they get it right.

6. Take steps to protect online privacy.

Use virus software, use passwords that aren't easily worked out, don't fill out all of your personal details in forms or for competitions, don't email passwords or private information (eg, passport number). Be aware that scammers are tireless.

7. Take steps to ensure your hard copy records are properly destroyed.

Celebrate Richard Nixon. Shred like there's no tomorrow. This includes credit cards.

8. You may wish to ‘opt out’ of further contact with an organisation when completing forms unless you know you want to be in further contact with them.

Opting out will probably stop spam marketing. If you want to be extra sneaky use a different middle initial when you sign up with people and you can track who they sell their mailing list to. Remember that there is a “do not call” list that you can put your mobile and home phone numbers on if you do not want telemarketers calling.

9. Know your privacy rights.

The better you understand your rights, the better able you will be to defend yourself.

10. Exercise your privacy rights.

Privacy is an important issue. Take it seriously before it becomes an issue.



PLANS BY O'FARRELL GOVERNMENT TO WATER DOWN THE RIGHT TO SILENCE

The O'Farrell government is proposing to introduce legislation to allow the Prosecution to make inferences in court that are prejudicial to an accused's defence if that person exercises their right to silence when interviewed by Police.

Why is the right to silence important?

An individual's right to silence under interrogation from police has been a fundamental civil and human right recognised in our legal system since at least the 1700s and firmly accepted as part of Australian law since at least 1824. It is a right fought for and attained in reaction to Star Chamber trials, witch-hunts and other inquisitorial processes.

It is an important aspect of the right not to incriminate yourself. This right is only meaningful if exercising it cannot be used against you. That is, if it cannot be said against you at any criminal trial that you must have had something to hide or your defence should not be believed because you did not explain yourself to police when arrested and questioned.

Arrested persons may be shocked, scared, confused, vulnerable and alone. Often they have no real idea of what the police are investigating. They do not get to see the evidence they are being asked to ‘answer’ under interrogation. Police are only obliged to reveal their evidence later, when the matter is going to trial.

As an ordinary, innocent person would you know how to answer evidence you haven't seen? Would you know how to talk to the police?

The proposed change will mean a jury could be asked to disbelieve your defence if you did not give the explanation you later give at trial.

At present if you agree to talk to police, the video tape of the interview will be used in evidence, including your body language in how you answered or did not answer any question.

This proposal is totally opposed by the legal profession and civil rights groups. If you are arrested you should consult with a solicitor before answering any questions put to you by police. You can contact the SRC solicitors on 9660 5222 or come into the SRC in the Wentworth Building at the Darlington campus.

Annie Zeng and Maggie Hayes
Solicitors, SRC Legal Service

Ask Abe



To Abe:

I am really sick and cannot study full time. I can't live without my Youth Allowance payment and they told me that I have to stay full time. If I do that I'll have failed subject again and be on show cause. What should I do?

Sick

Dear Sick,

If you are able to get a doctor to write a certificate for Centrelink (SU415) you can get up to 13 weeks at a time where you do not have to study at all. You can also go part-time, which is worth considering, so you can maintain your momentum with study. By withdrawing from subjects before the DNF deadline you will not fail and therefore avoid Show Cause. Double check that all of your details are in order with SRC Help before approaching Centrelink. They can be most unhelpful sometimes and it might just help to be sure.

Abe

President's Report: Education Deregulation and You

president@src.usyd.edu.au

Phoebe Drake believes we need greater investment in student support

Deregulation – how does it impact me?

The landscape of the higher education sector has changed significantly - in many cases for the better. Comparative to the first wave of students who walked the halls of Sydney University, we are a much more diverse group of people. Women now make up more than 50 per cent of enrolments, international student figures are soaring, kids from the country have means to make it to university and those from a culturally and linguistically diverse background are able to access support.

Deregulation has the capacity to further this. Recommended by the Bradley Review, the deregulation of student places has come into affect this year. The intention is simple - expand access to higher education. In many ways this has been achieved. More students are at university then ever before, and the background of students at Sydney University continues to be diverse.

In theory, this is great.

Additionally, in theory, I support the deregulation of student places. Practically, and inevitably, however, the situation on our campuses is vastly different.

Earlier this year I spoke at the student rally against the staff cuts. I spoke about how staff, both academic and general, make up the backbone of our university. Additionally, I ventured the thought that if we were serious about supporting our diverse body of students at university, then we needed to invest in our staff and support services.

The thing is, you can give a rural student, for example, a place at university, but place them in overcrowded tutorials, queues for basic services and a situation where tutors are so overworked they cannot provide timely feedback or support, then you are setting a student up to fail.

Consequently, investment in student support services and high quality teaching and learning, is hugely important and will go a long way to assisting in the retention of students from all backgrounds at Sydney University.

Interestingly, retention of students from low SES and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students actually has a financial incentive for the university through additional government funding.

This is why I was confused recently to hear that the Koori Centre would be changed to the Centre for Cultural Competencies.

As part of my media degree last year, I wrote a short article on the relocation of invaluable support services for



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at USYD from the Koori Centre to Student Support Services. The students I spoke to voiced their strong opposition, saying that being able to swing by offices gave flexibility and created a sense of community - a home away from home.

Disregard of the student perspective by the university has been one of the most startling parts of this change. And, given the deregulated environment in which we now study, a move away from accessible support services is puzzling to say the least.

This is one of the many reasons why the SRC supports the stance taken by the students who use the Koori Centre and is committed to supporting them in the campaign against the changes.

Deregulating places is one complicated idea, but deregulating fees is another. The Grattan Report on education released earlier this month recommends the deregulation of fees. This ultimately means that your university sets the price for your degree. This is something we should all be concerned about. The

report additionally recommended an increase in fees to 60 per cent of the total course cost. This is problematic for many reasons. Firstly, it is unfair. An example of an expensive course at university is nursing, where, clearly, students go into the field expecting to earn less than students in other degrees. I ultimately believe in a fair education, where students should not be crippled by HECS.

If you care about this issue, or would like to know more, swing by the SRC or email me at president@src.usyd.edu.au

Additionally, this week on campus we will continue to run our Fair Fares petition, which calls on the government to legislate for change around travel concession cards.

As many of you know by now, if you are an international student, a student with a part-time job, or a part-time student, you are technically ineligible for travel concession. This is unfair, and if you are interested in being involved in the campaign, visit us in the SRC or find one of our activists on campus!



Vice-President's Report: Elections

Tom Raue shows solidarity for our Queensland counterparts

vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au

SRC elections are coming up and you will no doubt be harassed by campaigners in brightly coloured shirts. It can be very annoying having to decide between candidates that all claim to be the best, and you'll probably wish the whole election could be over and done with. Despite all of this, I hope you can appreciate that we have it pretty good at USYD. To show what a paradise our university is, let's take a brief look at student politics at the University of Queensland.

The student union at UQ has been controlled by 'Fresh' (Liberals) for several years. This means they control an organization with a budget of \$16 million and give full time paid office bearer positions to their mates. This year, 'Fresh' changed the election rules in secret, effectively so that nobody was allowed to run against them. 'Fresh' removed the rights of groups to reserve



brand names in advance, and then registered possible names for themselves.

Opposition groups were not informed of the changes until after nominations had closed and campaigning was about to begin.

The opposition to 'Fresh', called 'Pulse', is not allowed to run, but a group of 'Fresh' students are running under the name of 'Pulse', having registered the name for themselves in secret. Whoever students vote for, they will actually be voting for 'Fresh'.

Students don't have access to the

union's financial information or electoral regulations. At our university, the constitution and regulations are available for download on our website, and the budget was discussed publicly and is available in meeting minutes or on request. Transparency is integral to democracy and the Sydney University SRC does it better than most.

As confusing and annoying as SRC elections are, at least you get to make real choices between candidates.

By all means insult individual campaigners, but be careful what you wish for if you decry the election in general.



For more information about the SRC, visit: www.src.usyd.edu.au

International Officer's Report: Concession Fares

international.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Domestic students need to assist in the international student fight, writes **Ronny Chen**

Over the winter holidays I had been thinking a lot about fighting for international students' rights to use concession tickets on public transport. And I realised that we have been looking at this in the wrong way all along. In the past, we have been engaging international students to go out on the street and protest. We have been submitting reports and petitions to various ministers.

Then it suddenly appeared to me: This has all been fruitless for a reason!

Australia is a country under the rule of law (or at least it appears so). And we could write to the ministers or the bus



companies all we want, but if the law says that international students can't

have concession, then we ain't gonna get nothin'! Because no matter how strong our arguments are, or how many people sign those petitions, they are NOT going to breach the law for us!

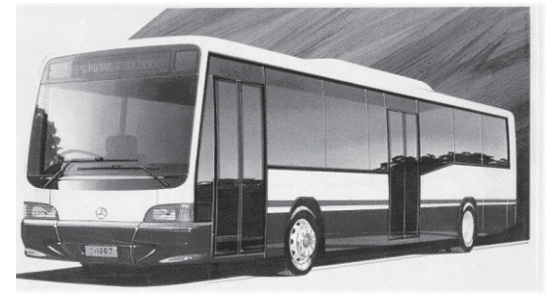
Hence came a revelation - we should aim to change the law. Then it is natural to ask this question: WHO can change the law? Now I am going leave that judicial activism crap to the High Court and just say it out loud: the parliament! The parliament is THE body responsible for making and changing the law. And we should focus on aiming for legislative change!

So, I dug further. How can we influence the parliament? And that's when I encountered the ugly, UGLIEST truth: we have to influence the politicians! Ah, the politicians, the one profession that (possibly) attracts more hatred than lawyers. What do politicians

care about? Well, one thing for sure is that they care about is votes.

Yes, votes! Finally we get somewhere. We have to engage the voters, Australian citizens, to write those petitions and letters to their local MPs! The International Student's Collective wants to fight for Equal Rights, and we are offering readers of *Honi Soit* who are Australian citizens prizes to email to their local MPs.

Here is what you do: Write an email to your local NSW MP to fight for equal rights by urging them to speak about and support international students' right to travel concession. In that email include your name, address and postcode, mobile number and email address. When you send it, CC it to international.officers@src.usyd.edu.au. This automatically places you in the lucky draw.



Multiple entries allowed - email your friend's local MP with your friend's consent, with your friend's name, address and postcode, but with your OWN mobile number and email address. And similarly when you send it, CC it to our international officers email address.

Please note that all winning entries will be verified against the NSW electoral roll and winners will be contacted via their mobile number or email address.

So please, help us and fight for equal rights!

Education Officer's Report: Recording your lectures

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Sam Farrell thinks it's time for Sydney Uni to put itself on the record

It is consistently inexplicable that the University of Sydney refuses to record lectures. This is a contentious issue that points firstly to how pedagogy is evolving, and also to the debate over student-centered learning (the paradigm that universities should tailor courses, teaching styles and supplements - such as online lectures - to students, rather than making students fit their learning around what the University dictates).

In this case, it is relatively baseless to keep asserting that attending lectures in the flesh best facilitates a student's learning. And within the context of constantly evolving technology and the millions of dollars the university is currently spending to upgrade its ailing networks and learning spaces, it seems that the University has tacitly recognised that it needs to

do more for its students, especially when it comes to using technology to make students' lives a little bit easier.

The University of Sydney currently has no institution-wide policy on recording lectures. This means that podcasting happens on an opt-in basis, whereby the individual course co-ordinators and lecturers can decide if, how and when they will put lectures online. There are some justifications on behalf of lecturers as to why they may refuse to record their lectures; maximising face-to-face teaching and attendance being amongst the most



common reasons. There are also courses (in particular Science, think subjects like Anatomy and Neuroscience) where there is a particular emphasis on visual illustrations within lectures to aid learning.

However, it is also reasonable that students want the choice to listen to their lectures online; not as an alternative to attending, but when attending is impossible (such as in the cases of employment or carer duties) or when revising the lecture is not only helpful, but also necessary. It is a commonly understood tenet of teaching that revision helps the retention of information - and some students exhibit a preference for aural learning.

For those students who have some difficulty with English - and particularly the rate at which many lecturers speak - online lectures are an indispensable tool

to fully understand the content of their course. At best, it seems unfair that these students should suffer due to a somewhat misguided belief held by countless lecturers; that their lectures must be fully attended in order to be pedagogically effective. Even more misguided is the assumption that students will stop attending lectures if they are available online. As one prominent university administrator once put it to me - a great lecture is a great lecture, and people go to great lectures. UTS has implemented a policy of fully recording all of their lectures; therefore it is more than a little perplexing as to why the University of Sydney, a supposedly world class institution, consistently refuses to take such a simple step to exponentially increase the learning potential of its students.

Welfare Officer's Report: Semester Survival

welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Rafi Alam is looking out for student interests

Phew! SRC elections are coming up - are you prepared for this strenuous time? Hope so! Remember, there are always student support services for when all the campaigning/being campaigned on becomes too overwhelming.

But here are some things we've been at recently:

OTHER CAMPUSES!

One of our epic caseworkers, Mel, is taking us on an excursion to Camden to tell some of the off-main campus students about our services and some Centrelink information. Mel has proposed water bottles; I think cans of energy drinks are more appropriate. Oh well. Either way, if you're reading this, expect us Friday 31st August.

DRUG LEGALISATION

The SRC has legalised drugs. In its own world. The council voted last meeting to endorse drug legalisation as an important step for student welfare

(by emphasising education over incarceration) as well as for social justice in general (read reports on the drug war in South America, it is horrendous). This is fairly new - and controversial - policy, so it is most likely that next year's Welfare Officers will take this on board, although this year Brigitte and I are both keen on pursuing this as a topic.

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Brigitte and I have also started working on our Survival Guide for uni. It is going to be badass. Trust me. Loads better than the Orientation Handbook and Counter Course.

STUDENT HOUSING

N(ational) U(nion) (of) S(tudents) has recently started a campaign on student housing issues. It notes the difficulty students have with regard to housing and a declining support base from the government for these students. The choice is often between missing class and work-

ing to pay your rent, or staying at home and having to travel hours commuting to university. This is a fairly unique situation to Australia, as most of the Western world to my knowledge funds student housing; even if it's not always equitable, it's something that's seen as a default rather than an added extra bonus a benevolent government is bestowing upon us. The NUS survey is here www.surveymonkey.com/s/FYBWFXFX or you can contact us at welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au for any comments you have!

NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Goddamnit Labor. Seriously. This isn't really 'uni student welfare' related but more 'student welfare' related. That's right. I'm talking about the fact that Labor is going to increase funding for private schools.

Gillard, a former socialist who railed against private education in the 90s, is now saying stuff like seeing a big inde-

pendent school in a coastal suburb isn't "unfair" but is a "great example".

What!?! I can understand Labor being anti-refugees, since there's a strain of protectionism and racism in the party. I can understand Labor being anti-same sex marriage, because they have a conservative working class base. But being pro-private education is just BEYOND me. You'd think Gillard, after being Minister for Education, would know better.



They talk about how they can't afford more funding for universities but apparently rich private schools can reap the benefits of a budget surplus.

Sounds so sweet... for a campus hack

HACK THE VOTE

So my meeting with my ex went really well. I mean sure, she only offered me second on a ticket headed by some first year Arts/Law student, (I mean shoot me for studying BPSS why don't you), who was apparently a really big deal in the Debating society, but she had been really encouraging about my suggestions regarding the colour of our campaign shirts.

She listened very attentively while I explained the nuanced benefits of campaigning in cerise (among other things, tests I had done showed it looked really good against the blue background on Facebook). Then when the meeting was over her hand lightly

grazed my forearm as she kissed me on the cheek. She thanked me for all my careful thought and consideration, and suggested we get a drink at Hermann's soon "for old times sake" she said. I said, a little bit too quickly, that there was a really great minimal dub (I think that's a cool genre of music) playing at Beat the System on Thursday, and asked if she wanted to do meet then. I didn't want to seem too enthusiastic, so I qualified it by saying that with elections coming up we should be seen supporting student events, and she agreed to come. She told me to text her to remind her.

Then on the Thursday disaster struck. I was sitting at Taste pretending to do my readings (eavesdropping) over a double shot latte when I heard the enemy talking about the colour of their campaign shirts. It was the same as ours. I mean, I didn't know for sure that we were using lilac, but when I raised it with my ex, she had seemed really receptive. After recovering after nearly choking on my latte, I hurriedly called

her. When she didn't pick up, I called again. It wasn't until about the fourth or fifth call that she finally picked up. I was about to launch into my rant about the disaster that had befallen us. About the mole that was obviously in our caucus who had leaked my brilliant idea to the opposition. About the witch-hunt I was planning to weed him out. About the immorality of the bastards who had evidently stolen our idea ... when she cut me off.

She said that she wanted to tell me in person. But it had gotten past the point where she felt as though she could wait.



She told me that she was no longer really comfortable with the intensity of how I interacted with her. Her (new) boyfriend also thought I was far too attached to her, and that we would benefit from giving each other some space for a while.

Apparently I contact her far too much. Is tweeting @BeatTheSystem that we were going that night, sending her a couple of really casual texts that morning, reminding her about our plans, and calling (after she didn't respond to my texts) to make sure she had got them, really too much?! I was just trying to be a good friend!

She told me not to worry about the campaign shirts. I was still on the ticket she said. But not needed in the caucus meetings. She wanted me to focus on 'mobilising the engineers' and that she would contact me when needed. *They* would let me know when they decided on what colour our shirts would be.

- Sean O'Grady

Generic Arts Student

Oh man, shit is getting real at uni.

Last week one of my tutors announced that lectures were compulsory for this Philosophy subject I'm doing. I want to drop out but then I'll no longer be eligible for youth allowance. Fuck that shit, no way am I giving up that gravy train. Speaking of which, the bastards at Centrelink are auditing me. Apparently they've worked out that my parents are actually cashed up and are threatening to cease my fortnightly payments. It's complete bullshit and has got me doing some serious thinking: being a white, upper-class male is THE WORST.

I mean I want to move out of home because 30 minute cabs from Oxford Street every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night are wrecking my plans to go to Amsterdam at the end of the year, but my parents are so fucking financially

secure and/or supportive (though they refuse to pay my rent; apparently uni fees, textbooks, car, phone bill and petrol is enough #wtf) that I can't get shit out of the government.

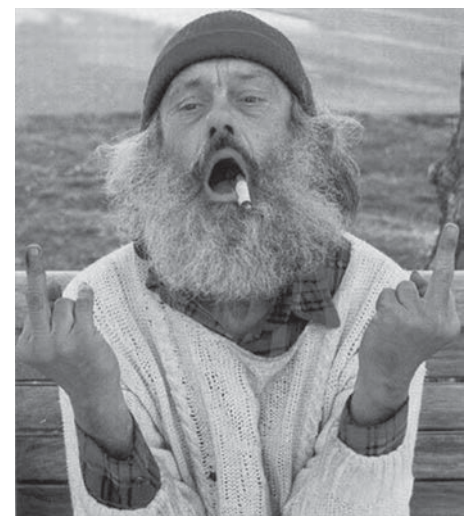
Anyway, in order to realise my dream of living no more than five minutes from Oxford Art Factory I did some snooping around the Internet and found this on the Centrelink website. Pay particular attention to the first two points



Centrelink will accept you are unable to live at home if you cannot live with your parents or guardian because of:

- Extreme family breakdown or other exceptional circumstances; or
- It would be unreasonable to expect you to stay at home because there would be a serious risk to your physical or mental health due to violence, sexual abuse or other unreasonable circumstances; or
- Your parents cannot provide you with a suitable home because they lack stable accommodation.

So if I can prove my parents are abusive then the government will accept that I need to move out and will continue to fund me! Now I've just got to come up with a story...I'm thinking of going with 'my dad beats me and my mum's a whore'. I know it's not exactly the truth,



but their decision to effectively hold me hostage at their pathetic, far-away home is seriously bullshit.

Surry Hills squalor here I come!

Another Day, Another Drink with Dr Rupert Thorogood



It doesn't do well to cling to past treasures, but life has a way of kicking you in the teeth with them, with the violence of an absinthe shot. Last night as I stumbled down King St, I caught sight of an old haunt - Gould's, that venerable trove of literature, full of hidden corners

and secluded alcoves for reading Marx and blowing Masters students.

That was then, of course. These days there are no silly girls waiting to snog in the back aisles, save for Hemingway's women and the small collection of pornography the good folk of Gould's have

blissfully retained. Now the hideaways are merely good for concealing bottles of shiraz, with a packet of Cialis sandwiched between Fitzgerald and Foucault.

Last night, though, not even my usual dosage was able to coax Little Rupert out of its rum-soaked slumber. For a nasty surprise had met me in the second aisle - a copy of my only full-length book. Tattered, stained, and alone it lay there - much like myself, ironically. "*Dykes on Strikes: A History of Lesbianism in the Australian Union Movement*". Oh, it was fun researching that one.

It sold. There were parties, and we dined and drank and did lines off hookers' backs, sending the bill to the publisher, who didn't notice or didn't care. Come to think of it, that might have been the beginning of my own undoing. It dangled before my watery eyes the carrot of momentary success, like giving an honours student an HD for their proposal before mercilessly savaging their thesis. It's the only joy I get these days,

bar those blue-pill rendezvous in Gould's.

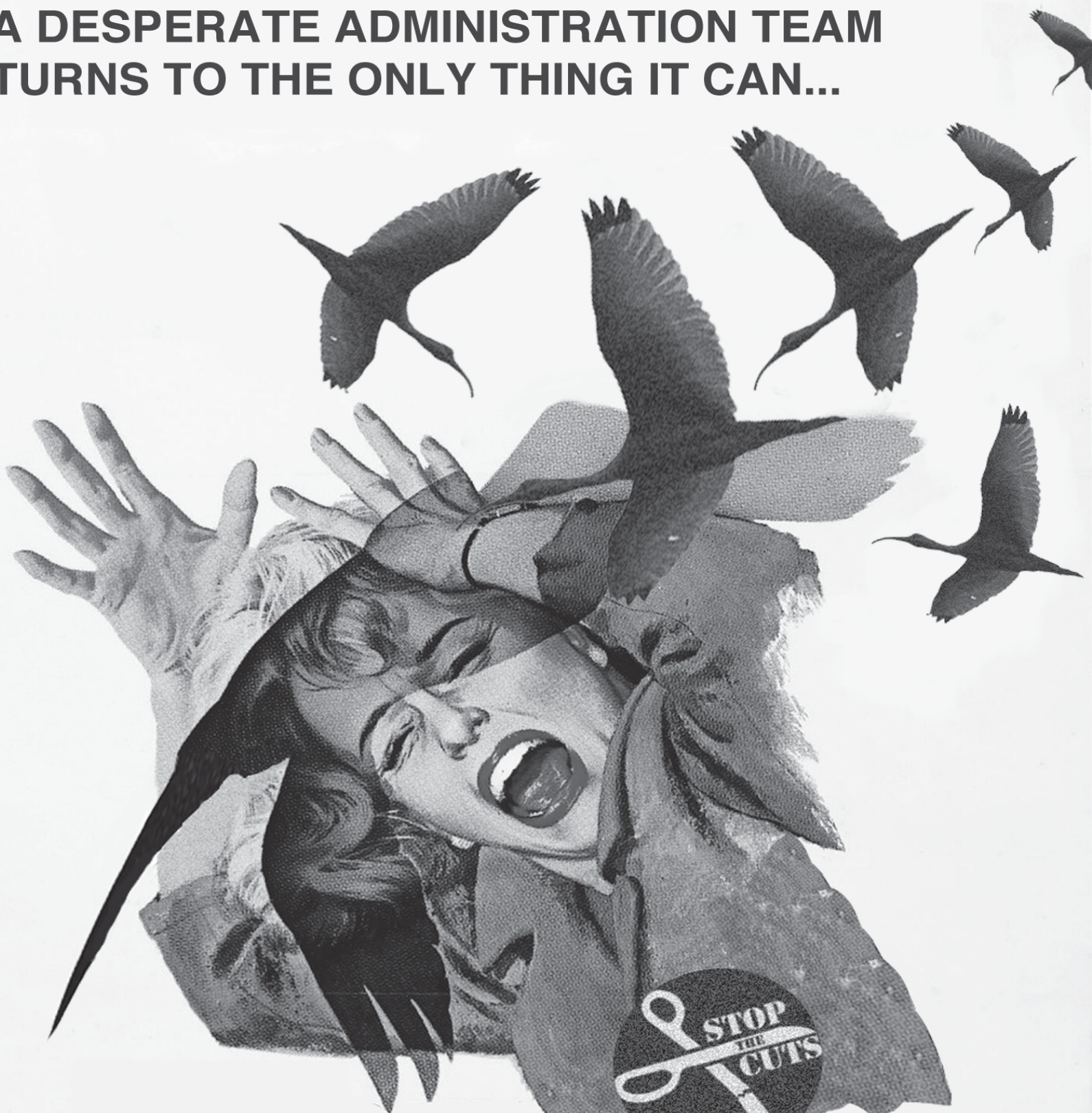
So there it was, its faded cover staring at me, mocking me, humiliating me from the stool on which some ignorant schmuck had no doubt thumbed cluelessly through its pages. Eventually sales slowed, the royalties dried up, and the publishers stopped calling. My interests and abilities were never to align in such a way again.

I dared not touch the dreaded book, for fear it would elicit tears or, given some recent health issues, dysentery. I simply informed the sales girl - a prize lass who decades ago might have blown me in Biographies - that there was a book out of place, and then sidled out. I purchased two bottles of "Bowlers Run" and skulled them in the local park, waking to discover that the taste of sick, soil, and tweed is less objectionable than one might predict.

My editor once told me to write about what you know. Alas, she did not mean carnally. And as such, I'm out of ideas.

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pretties,
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LIMBO

The **Honi Soit** Opinion Competition is back for the last time ever (using the Mayan calendar). It's your chance to win **\$1500!**

The theme for the opinion competition this year is 'LIMBO'.

Judged by **Joe Hildebrand**, entries should be between 700-800 words, and the winners will get **cash prizes** and their works published in **Honi Soit**.

Deadline: Midnight, Wednesday 26 September 2012, emailed to opinion@src.usyd.edu.au.

Include: Full name, year, degree, faculty, student ID number, email address and phone number

The Opinion Competition is made possible by the generous donations of one of the University's most supportive alumni.