

HONISOIT

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Week Twelve | October 24



2012:
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apocalypse, **Bob Ellis**,
Julie Hare, and **John
Laws** review
what made
news this year.
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for Rainforest Alliance
in new coffee tender

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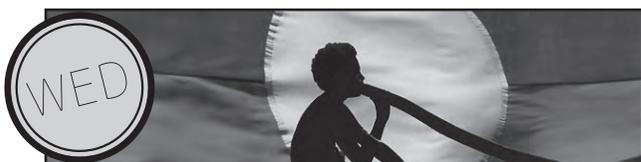
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Planner

HONI'S GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON



The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights at USYD

12pm, Holme Common Room, FREE
Put together by the Sydney University Resistance Club, this is a forum discussing the history of campaigns for Aboriginal rights and Sydney University's place in it.

Annual General Meetings

Various, Various, FREE

With so many USU clubs having their AGMs around this time, we thought we would let you know about a few of them: SASS@1pm, Fine Arts@2pm, Arts Revue@4pm, SU Business Society@5pm, Conservative Club@6pm, Comedy Society IGM (Thursday@3pm).



Charles Perkins 12th Annual Memorial Oration and Prize

6pm, The Great Hall, FREE
Established in 2000 by the Koori Centre, this event commemorates the life-long achievements of Dr Perkins, the first Indigenous Australian graduate of Sydney University.

Theatresports Grand Final

7:30pm, Manning Bar, FREE
Six teams will battle it off this year for the 'Jordan McClellan Memorial Trophy' and entry into the Cranston Cup Competition. Get there early for good seats, always a fun night out.

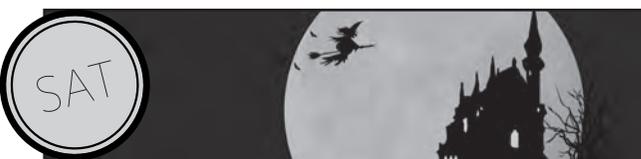


Economics, Regulation and Obesity

9am, Charles Perkins Centre, FREE
The Charles Perkins Centre is sponsoring a workshop on Economics, Regulation and Obesity to be held over the full day of Friday 26 October at the University of Sydney. A range of policies are under consideration around the world to improve diets and increase physical activity. RSVP required.

Wednesday 13

8pm, Manning Bar, \$38/\$44
Previously the frontman of the Murderdolls, Wednesday 13 is on tour from the States to bring us his gore-filled, ghoulish, sleazy show. Could be interesting.



SUSO revisits 1812

7:30pm, The Great Hall, \$10/\$15/\$20

Treat yourself to the best the early 1800s had to offer, with Tchaikovsky's celebratory overture as the centrepiece. Also performing Fanfare for the Common Man and Beethoven's Symphony No.7, with cellist David Pereira performing Bruch's Kol Nidre.

ma. Gallery's Spooktacular Halloween Show

8pm, Sashimi Warehouse Marrickville, \$10
Boogie your zombie booty off to the kings of the monster swamp LA MANCHA NEGRA, the Satan's of saliva THE PIETER VAN DEN HOOGENBAND and the hellish whores from GLITTER CANYON! BYO with bar available.



Reclaim the Night

4pm, Hyde Park, FREE
Starting with a family friendly picnic and then a march at 7pm, Reclaim the Night is an annual, international event that actively campaigns against all forms of violence against women.

2012 Bradfield Comedy Debate

4pm, Ravenswood, Gordon, \$20/\$35
Hear Annabel Crabb, Jonathan Coleman, and the writer of ABC's 'Rake' on the topic 'We get the politicians we deserve'. All proceeds go to Studio Artes Hornsby, nurturing artistic talent in adults with a disability. Tickets from paulfletcher.com.au or on 9416 3638



Faces of Nepal - Photo Exhibition

Mon, Level 1, Sydney Law School, FREE
A special photo exhibition by students of the 2012 Himalayan Field School on behalf of the School in the Sky Foundation, formed by students of Sydney Law School and Kathmandu School of Law to provide support for children in a remote area of Nepal.

Annual General Meetings

Tues, Various, Various, FREE
The AGMs continue! Surfing Society@10am, RollerDerby@1pm, SUDS@4pm, MUSE@5pm, SURG@6pm. Get your beers on at Spanish Soc end of sem party - 6pm Hermanns.

LETTERS

Destroying the joint?

Melissa Chen
Equity Officer, SULS

Dear *Honi*,

In response to 'Honileaks: SULS dilutes AA provisions' (October 17), I would like to make a few comments.

At the meeting Annabel Osborn made clear her opposition to the amendment of the SULS AA provisions. But her comment that "people at the meeting were determined to say there aren't issues of inequality in the law school" is a blatant misrepresentation of what actually occurred. As Equity Officer, I have witnessed first hand that inequalities DO exist - in students' access to financial resources, ability to seek help for mental health issues, and feelings of acceptance amongst certain cohorts. Nobody at the meeting was trying to say that inequalities in the law school don't exist - only that the AA provision was unnecessary. It is far better that SULS focuses on practical programs to address inequalities - from textbook loan schemes and equity grants to women's mentoring programs and publications - rather than on empty words and 'politically correct' provisions.

Moreover, *Honi's* inclusion of 'Background Statistics' showing the inequalities of female representation in law were, in the context of SULS' decision to remove the 50 per cent quota AA provisions, misleading (and very *Daily Telegraph*-esque). Claire, Christina and many others who spoke in favour of amending the Constitution are not, as Annabel Osborn suggested in her comments, "wilfully blind to the issue of inequality". It is clear to anyone that in the legal profession there is still much to be done in addressing unequal representation in partnership and at the bar. But retaining the 50 per cent provision in the SULS Constitution - a student organisation aimed at law students, not lawyers - would not have addressed these problems. To think otherwise is naive and foolish.

Annabel Osborn
Women's Officer, SRC

Just when I thought Michael Koziol might be finished smearing misogynistic drivel across the pages of *Honi* for the year, his article on Bob Ellis appeared last week ('And so it goes', October 17).

Ellis' comments that "wowsers feminists" are destroying the world, the world economy and freedom of speech in Australia is the kind of tripe you expect to come from Alan Jones. His patronising summary of the "pitfalls" of feminism go a long way to show why feminism is in fact still a crucial force in our society.

However, worse than this were his vile comments about women - his assertion that non-consensual oral sex is "impossible without a gun" shows his complete ignorance and utter disrespect. He then denigrates women politicians by commenting on their personal lives and their sexuality (rather than their politics) in a way that he would undoubtedly never do to men.

Koziol provides a pissweak (Abbott-like) defence for his "hero" by listing some women Ellis has admired and claiming that "to label Bob Ellis a misogynist is a serious charge that demands serious evidence". Well thank you Koziol, you provided all the necessary evidence in your article.

It is really quite astonishing that *Honi* would see the need to publish such an article when the mainstream media is already a faithful mouthpiece for sexists like Ellis but what is even more bizarre is that his comments were thoroughly condoned by the writer.

I would encourage everyone to read the comments posted on the online

article, they much more thoroughly pick apart Ellis' revolting comments and highlight that feminists on campus won't put up with this crap you call journalism.

Rebecca Barrett
Law V

Dear *Honi*,

What an appalling toad of a person Bob Ellis is ('And so it goes', October 17). I don't think I've read anything so offensive in this paper in my time at uni as his insistence that rape is "impossible without a gun". Except almost everything else he says in the article. I'm so pleased we women have Bob Ellis to explain to us that date rape doesn't exist, that we should "toughen up" and be pecked at in the shower and that, should we enter politics, women should be prepared to be demeaned as frigid, and have our sex lives interrogated.

Given that every other respectable newspaper in the country has stopped publishing his irrelevant, outdated rubbish, I feel like *Honi* should take the high road and do the same. Or at least to publish it with the slightest criticism.

The "serious evidence" of Bob Ellis' misogyny is there in your very own article. Or perhaps you disagree.

Effective engagement

Benjamin Veness
MB BS III
Fellow of Senate

Dear *Honi*,

Thank you for helping to raise awareness of the role of the student Fellows of Senate of the University ('From child-star to Fellow of Senate', October 17). It has been a pleasure to serve two one-year terms in the undergraduate position, and of my contributions during this time, am perhaps proudest to have amended the bylaw such that my successors have two-year terms and thus greater opportunity to contribute to the University's governance - be that reviewing the performance of the vice-chancellor, Michael Spence; selecting a new chancellor to replace the wonderful Marie Bashir (currently underway); approving a \$1.6 billion annual budget; or overseeing safety and risk management for the benefit of students and staff.

Ann-Maree Moodie, a boardroom consultant, wrote in the My Career section of *The Sydney Morning Herald* on October 20 that, "being the student-elected representative on a university council is arguably one of the most difficult roles in any boardroom. No other board position requires the same degree of diplomacy to juggle a large, diverse and often demanding constituency whilst being beholden to a governing body that makes decisions for the university as a whole." To that end, effective engagement with the elected student representatives in the University, for example the presidents of the Students' Representative Council, Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, University of Sydney Union, and Campus Rewards, has great potential to help the two student Fellows perform their role well - and vice versa. If students, especially these remunerated presidents (except Campus Rewards), feel as though their suggestions and concerns are not being heard, I strongly encourage them to respond to, if not proactively contact, the student Fellows. We should be pleased to help facilitate meetings with, and obtain appropriate responses from, the responsible University officers, or escalate issues onto the Senate's agenda. In 2013, I would love to see co-ordinated action on student mental health, perhaps with assistance from the Australian Medical Students' Association, a collaboration I would be pleased to facilitate.

EDITORIAL

HONISOIT

There and Back Again: A Hobbit's Tale.

Such was the title of Bilbo Baggins' memoirs that we know as *The Hobbit*.

Many similarities can be drawn between Mr Baggins and the events of the past twelve months. At the end of 2012, where have we come? Have we found ourselves where we started, but changed nonetheless?

As we near the end of 2012, we ask ourselves: what have we achieved? For many of us, not much has changed. Neglected assignments, unpaid library fines, and that textbook you always meant to read that still remains safely in its wrapping. But what have we learned?

And what will be the legacy of 2012? It's a question no-one may answer themselves. For the nation and the globe, the legacy of 2012 remains to be seen.

Cuts were the discourse *du jour*; in health, education, and closer to home, at the University itself. But through the hard work of - more than - a few, sanity returned, and some academics escaped the axe.

While education took a beating, outrage was in vogue. Alan Jones clung like a barnacle to his controversial rock; Slipper fell; Bernadi self-destructed; Abbott played a card of matrimonial redemption; Gillard rose from the embers of oratorical mediocrity, and has received a bump in the opinion polls for her efforts. All the while, we were told to watch

our mouths - in public, in our jokes, even in private, where someone might overhear and take offence. Sensitivity is important, but so is freedom of speech.

Context is everything, and for those crying foul, remember: judge lest ye be judged.

But the more things change, the more things stay the same.

New regulations closed the campus gates for our SRC election campaigns in attempt to stem the herd of fly-in, fly-out campaigners of the major parties: but to no avail. Labor rules the roost again, and the machines march on.

Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence was re-appointed, to the dismay of many.

Honi Soit, too, will undergo another stage in its ongoing evolution. We wish the incoming editorial team well.

We made the paper our own, and you will to, as well you should.

We launched *Honi* into the 21st century. We took the paper online and made it interactive.

Indeed, *Honi's* overlords are as litigious as ever. And that may never change.

So there and back again, indeed.

Well may we find ourselves where we were last year, but indeed, it has surely changed us. And we hope it has changed you, for the better.

Next week we bring you a special edition of the paper, but for now, farewell.

James O'Doherty

@jmodoh

Taking a leaf from Chavez' book

Harry Stratton
Arts/Law I

Dear *Honi*,

Fabian Di Lizia's suggestion that Hugo Chavez should turn around and adopt the "compromise" policies of his defeated opponent ('The Revolution Kicks On', October 17) is rather baffling. Demanding that candidates pursue the same squishy centrism regardless of who wins makes holding elections rather pointless; and in delivering Chavez a thumping 55 per cent majority, the people of Venezuela have explicitly rejected just such policies in the form of Henrique Capriles. Indeed, the radical land redistribution and social welfare programs which Mr Di Lizia praises were achieved precisely because of Chavez' refusal to compromise with an opposition which not too long ago was plotting his violent overthrow - hardly the most democratic of credentials.

It may be that we're simply unaccustomed to genuine, principled leadership in this country, but it's puzzling that, while angry Young Liberals castigate Julia Gillard for allegedly lying to the electorate and abandoning her principles, Hugo Chavez is encouraged to do both. Fortunately, that seems about as likely as Tom Raue shutting up about bestiality, or Pat Massarani ceasing to wear pink.

An offer you can't refuse

Patrick Massarani
Fellow-elect of Senate

Dear Kira Spucys-Tahar,
Let's have a drink some time?
Regards,
Pat

Sexuality is secondary

Amelia Achterstraat
Economics/Law I

Dear *Honi*,

I have been somewhat frustrated reading the ongoing discussions regarding homosexuality and religion in the past few weeks. This debate becomes difficult on an aggregated level because it denies the heterogeneity of views on an issue in which many have a vested interest. As such, any attempt to look specifically at the views purported by certain groups is intrinsically flawed as the issue itself is in contention. Perhaps the efficacy of these discussions can only be realised by looking holistically at the point of issue.

The church and Christians have, in the past, been guilty of being 'state-sanctioned practitioners of hate' (Letters, October 17). This is unacceptable by any moral or religious standard, and ultimately the product of human failure and error. The primary purpose of the church is not to pontificate regarding morality. The role of the church is, first and foremost, to present the gospel of Christ clearly: the reconciliation of a broken world with a God of love who, by the by, does not distinguish between status, sex or sexuality. This is primary core of the Christian faith. All other issues, whether homosexuality or otherwise, are secondary in nature, and ultimately conclusions on such should not be determinative of the fundamental principles of Christianity, that is: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



USU's new coffee supplier not "fair trade" but socially responsible

Kira Spucys-Tahar gets her caffeine hit from ethical sources

The University of Sydney Union has voted to introduce a new Rainforest Alliance certified coffee supplier to all USU outlets from 2013.

The USU's current Vittoria contract expires on December 31 and the new three-year Canterella Bros. contract, while not conforming to Fair Trade standards, rates highly in corporate social responsibility practices. Despite a referendum held in May 2010 in which 89.3 per cent of voting students said 'yes' to Fair Trade, the current Board resolved to ensure they chose a new supplier based on the best sustainability and labour practices in line with what they perceived as the ethos behind the fair trade movement.

The USU Coffee Working Party consisting of President Astha Rajvanshi, Honorary Treasurer Rhys Pogonoski, and Board Director Tom Raue as well as CEO Andrew Woodward, Operations Manager Peter Underwood, and Marketing Director Alistair Cowie, met with representatives from campus based activist group Fairly Educated and TAG – the Tertiary Access Group – earlier in the year to begin the research process.

TAG is a not-for-profit organisation that represents most major university and TAFE organisations across Australia including the USU and the student unions at UTS and UNSW. TAG acted as a third party facilitator in the process of deciding the new hot beverage provider for the USU.

The Corporate Social Responsibility Hot Beverage Tender process opened for thirty days from June 12 this year. There were 24 corporations advised



of the tender process and the USU received 10 applications for review. Of these applications, four were Fair Trade certified, three Rainforest Alliance certified, two UTZ certified (a European classification similar to FairTrade) and one FairTrade/Rainforest Alliance certified.

When assessing each application, the Coffee Working Party took five key components into consideration including: Corporate Social Responsibility, product range and pricing, equipment, business support and staff training. This was used in tandem with TAG's 'flag' criteria where companies were required to provide information about their health and safety standards, environmental standards, carbon footprint, ethical consumption, pollution and waste management, and distribution strategies. Added to this were questions regarding labour standards as suggested by Fairly Educated.

Each business applying for the tender was asked to provide evidence of an ethical supply chain. Ensuring child labour was not used in manufacture of the product was a key concern, USU President Astha Rajvanshi said.

The Working Party created a shortlist of two suppliers which was taken to the September USU Board meeting. One was

FairTrade/Rainforest Alliance certified, the second Rainforest Alliance certified. The second option had better overall results in the TAG-flag ratings. After vigorous discussion, the Board voted 8-2 in favour of the Rainforest Alliance certified company Canterella Bros.

"Fairly Educated were obviously disappointed with the result, but recognised they were part of the process," Ms Rajvanshi said. She also outlined that Fairly Educated would partner with the organisation in further efforts to ensure sustainable practices within the Union.

The initial 2010 referendum was constitutionally non-binding to the USU and effectively only a survey regarding students' preferences in commercial operations. In response, the then USU Board established the Fair Trade Working Party (later renamed the Coffee Working Party) to examine the viability of introducing fair trade options to USU outlets.

Despite not being officially Fair Trade accredited, Canterella Bros. is 100 per cent organic and 100 per cent Australian owned. The business also has links to the not for profit organisation OzHarvest.

USU Honorary Secretary Zac Thompson sampled all the coffees available from the potential suppliers. "[Canterella] was more flavoursome and aromatic, and slightly sweeter than the current coffees," he said.

A key question for students: how much will it cost? Coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and chai will be roughly the same price. "The choice we made is the best financially and the best ethically," Tom Raue said.

Mr Raue is the new official ambassador for Corporate Social Responsibility at the University of Sydney Union. He will also be bringing a proposal to the upcoming October Board meeting to introduce a new Environmental Portfolio.

There are still some details to be worked out for the new Canterella coffee changeover. The new USU Hub, an online community discussion initiative, will be a testing ground for new designs for the coffee cups, with users asked to give feedback and ideas. The USU will also be making efforts to educate students about more sustainable practices.

The new coffee will be implemented by the start of semester one, 2013, and will be launched during O-Week.



Mapping Sexual Health Services

A new project is tackling the stigma of STDs, writes Rafi Alam

When seeing a doctor or health expert, we expect a certain level of respect, empathy, and privacy. But experiences with medical health services vary, depending on how professional the practitioner is, and what the patient brings to them. Unfortunately not every visit is a positive one, with discrimination and insensitivity common practice.

This is what Lucy Watson, Reuben Stone, Lidia Nikon, Anna Belgiorno-Nettis, and Clare Sullivan, a group of media students, want to tackle with their assignment-cum-project Mapping Sexual Health Services (MSHS). MSHS is a planned interactive website that allows people to find and submit sex-positive and queer-friendly doctors, cheap or free contraception, and consent workshops across Sydney using Google Maps and drop-pins. MSHS will let users search for nearby locations, providing a link, address, phone number, and testimonial.

One of the main motivations for this project was the hushed way sexuality is spoken about in education and in health services. As Ms Watson said: "You don't know when going in to a doctor to get an STI test if disclosing the fact that you're queer will be problematic."

Doctors have often made jokes, assumptions, or even criticisms about the sexuality of patients, making them uncomfortable to return.

The MSHS team is also tackling medical discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. They recognise that, unfortunately, medical health professionals often hold insensitive assumptions about the sexuality of people with intellectual disabilities, or avoid giving advice on safe sex and consent. Sometimes it's just lack of education on how to properly help intellectually disabled people on sexual health issues.

While starting out small, the team is keen to expand to partnerships with other organisations, especially Sydney University's Students' Representatives Council. The project is something that could be integrated into *Honi's* website, with additional links to other services like ACON which provides sexual health and STI prevention information to the queer community. The team is hoping that this networking will be reciprocated with organisations advocating MSHS to their patients.

When asked about the response to MSHS, the team agreed the feedback was "phenomenal".

"I can't believe how responsive and open people have been to it," Ms Belgiorno-Nettis said, explaining that she initially had reservations about the success of the project.

Part of the scheme is to demonstrate the uses of new media, especially social media. The Facebook page, which at the time of writing has 65 attending, has multiple posts from friends outlining good and bad experiences at different clinics and doctors, despite there being an anonymous alternative.

"This whole thing is about making discussion around sex and sexuality more open", says Ms Belgiorno-Nettis, by making access to positive sexual health workshops and clinics available to their target student audience.

But there are some drawbacks with the online medium and interactive nature of the project.

Ms Watson has found that "overwhelmingly people want to give negative responses" but instead are focusing on "positive doctor information rather than risking defamation" due to the



legal ramifications of "naming and shaming bad doctors". Users are only able to avoid inadequate or discriminatory services by going to the ones listed on MSHS.

While the map is the central feature of MSHS, Ms Belgiorno-Nettis is quick to say that they're trying to "cover a whole range of things and the map is only one part of it".

The team is hoping to present information about abortion, contraception, consent, queer sex, and other issues that are under-represented when students are moving through primary and secondary education.

With the website launching in the near future, you can get involved and keep up to date by searching Facebook for 'Mapping Sexual Health Services in Sydney'.



HONILEAKS

All your university gossip, rumours, allegations and revelations with James O'Doherty

REPS ELECT

The campus factions are wheeling and dealing for SRC Office Bearer and executive positions to be elected at a special meeting of the SRC on Wednesday October 31.

The 33 SRC counsellors vote on the decisions, so preference deals play a large role in determining who gets what.

Honi Soit understands a three-way deal has been struck between Grassroots, NLS and Unity. The deal covers the positions of Vice-President, General Secretary, Welfare Officers and Education Officers.

Under the deal, NLS and Grassroots will co-nominate one individual from each faction to share Welfare and Education, Unity will contest General Secretary, and Grassroots will contest VP.

Grassroots and Unity have already preselected their respective candidates, while those from NLS remain to be decided.

The General Secretary candidate from the deal will be Dylan Parker, a senior member of Unity on campus. General Secretary is often seen as one of the most powerful Office Bearer positions, and comes with a high monetary stipend for the year.

The candidate for Vice President from the deal will be Amelie Vanderstock, most recently involved in the SUV rent protests.

Former Solidarity member Tenaya Alattas will be the Grassroots nominee for Education, while NLS will likely

preselect James Leeder or Casey Thompson. The Education Officer position is thought of as a potential springboard for SRC Presidential candidates, with Tim Matthews, Sam Farrell, and President-elect David Pink holding the position the year before their campaigns.

For Welfare, Grassroots will nominate Eleanor Morley, the current SRC Student Housing Officer. She will share a nomination with an NLS candidate, expected to be Harry Stratton. Mr Stratton organised this year's 'Legalise It!' SRC ticket.

There are many more Office Bearers positions to be decided come the end of the month including Directors of Student Publications (who censor all the good stuff out of this paper before you read it), and members of the executive.

The Voice Independent bloc has perhaps unsurprisingly been left out in the cold in these negotiations. It remains to be seen which positions they will contest.

A senior negotiator for Voice said they are still hopeful.

"We're in talks with Unity and Grassroots, both of whom maintain we can still deal with them," *Honi* was told.

Honi understands the campus factions will hold a round table discussion in the coming weeks to determine the breakup of the other spots available. Some names to watch out for include 2012's Presidential hopeful and Law student Sam Farrell, first year Law student Penina Su (who made a name for herself on SULLS this year), Liv Ronan, and Beat for *Honi* campaign manager Joel Einstein.

EXCLUSIVE

Pressure on as SSAF deadline nears

A deal is close to being struck, reports Michael Koziol

Student organisations are expected to reach an agreement today on how to allocate next year's pool of SSAF (Student Services and Amenities Fee) money.

The major sticking point of negotiations so far has been how to accommodate a cut of approximately \$200,000 on last year's funding. That comes about because, although the SSAF pool will increase through CPI to \$12.2 million, the university will take out \$2 million for a 'Capital Sinking Fund', which will leave organisations with slightly less money than was available last time.

All the relevant organisations – the University of Sydney Union (USU), Students' Representative Council, Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF), Cumberland Students' Guild (CSG), the Postgraduate Representative Association, and Student Services – had originally budgeted for CPI increases, which meant the total claims exceeded the available funds by almost \$1 million.

Multiple sources have told *Honi Soit* that SUSF has been intransigent and must accept more cuts than it has been prepared to. Last year it took away \$3.7 million, more than any other student organisation.

But the President of SUSF, Bruce Ross, who is part of its negotiating team, told *Honi* that his organisation had in fact volunteered to take a cut. "That was put on the table early and we've always adhered to that," he said.

Mr Ross added that participants had

agreed to keep all details negotiations confidential.

CSG will also take a hit to its historical funding. Last year it was allocated \$700,000 including an "emergency" grant for occupational health and safety works, including air-conditioning and repairs to its gymnasium floor. But according to a source, those works were never carried out and CSG representatives now deny ever saying the money was to be used for those specific purposes. Another source said CSG had since backed down and was now "back in the fold".

President of the USU, Astha Ravjanshi, was confident that an amenable agreement would be reached today.

"Everyone was being a little bit unreasonable at the beginning but everyone is realising that it's not possible to have unrealistic expectations," she said. It is understood that if the student organisations fail to reach an agreement on how to divide the money, the university could take away their autonomy over the allocation process.

Ms Ravjanshi said that because the previous round of negotiations were undertaken in March, there had not been enough time to collaborate on potential cost-savings. "That's something we'll start working on at the beginning of next year," she said.

Student organisations are required to submit their proposal to the university's SSAF allocation committee, and the Senior Executive Group, by October 31.

ANALYSIS

University's social media marketing fails to hit its target

Max Chalmers discovers 'What matters to you' doesn't actually matter that much

"What matters to you, matters to us," an anonymous banner reassures browsers of Sydney University's home page. In case readers are incredulous, another link sits beside this one and in capitalised Ariel block begs: "WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?" Go on, open up, tell them you're worried about that rash you got from that person at that place.

Or maybe don't. The banner - and the mass of graphs, videos and hyper-links - are part of the university's not-so-surprisingly named 'What matters to you?' marketing campaign.

You could easily be forgiven for thinking the whole thing was a genuine attempt to gather student feedback. The overwhelmingly rhetorical tone certainly implies this and the online pages are adorned by a mess of polls and comment threads. The page constantly asks you to interact with it.

This approach is embodied by the true star of the campaign, the 'Opinionator', a roving electronic billboard which has been temporarily installed in various locations across the city. Perusing pedestrians can approach the Opinionator and push a button to cast their vote on a given issue.

Insecurity is the reason the university is sending cyber polling machines into the CBD. In the contemporary tertiary education environment it is forced to

constantly justify and sell itself. "There's a lot of competition now, funding is more and more of an issue for institutions so explaining and showcasing our relevance is very important, whether it be for government funding, whether it be for philanthropy, whether it be for an understanding of why we even have [the] institutions," says Acting Head of Brand and Marketing Kate Walker.

"I don't think the general person who doesn't go to university or hasn't got contact understands, well, why would a government fund one?" Come for the straw poll, stay for the promotional videos, support the university.

But it is the first stage that renders this campaign a little irksome. There is just one undergraduate and one postgraduate representative on the university Senate.

In recent years the university has tried to make the student union its personal plaything and has assigned a disappointing amount of SAFF funding to the Students' Representative Council. It has reacted first apathetically then adversely to the efforts by students to mobilise against official policy; for



"No, I don't care about these giant advertisements."

instance last semester's attempt to axe 150 academic staff.

It would be unfair to say the university administration does not care at all about the input of students but there is a dreary irony in the fact that one of their apparently most energetic attempts to engage in consultation with the student community is in fact an act of self-promotion.

At the end of the campaign there will be a page put online displaying some of the 1500 comments that visitors of the site have left. I ask Ms Walker if comments criticising the university will be included in the samples shown. She skirts around answering my question.

HONI TAB

HOW WILL WE USE
OUR SECURITY
COUNCIL SEAT?

=====

BULLY INDONESIA
\$1.16

GET BACK AT THE
JAPANESE
\$2.43

GET DRUNK IN
NEW YORK
\$3.29

STOP THE BOATS
\$217.75

PURSUE WORLD
PEACE
\$400.81

Student Housing Action Collective takes to the streets

Ada Lee reports from the front line

Last Wednesday October 17, around 100 campaigners marched from outside the Carslaw building to Sydney University Village (SUV), demanding affordable student housing. Accompanied by police, protestors carried 'SHAME ON \$UV' banners, chanting "It's not inflation, that's a lie. The rent is too damn high!"

They demanded that SUV maintain current rent levels, provides greater transparency from administration, and that the University take over the Abercrombie Street housing project from a private company.

After the rally, campaigners sat on the lawns at SUV and discussed future actions. Undergraduate Fellow of Senate Patrick Massarani told protestors to increase rent by 2 per cent above inflation rates was "extortionate".

"It is unconscionable and we won't stand for it," he said.

Figures for September 2011 show an average rent increase of 11.6 per cent in Newtown, compared to SUV's increase of 12.8 per cent. Sydney University Village's General Manager Ron De Haan explained an independent market review indicated SUV was undercharging compared to the market. This year's rental increases reflect management "catching up," he said.

According to Mr De Haan, annual rents at SUV are set in consultation with the University as a minor financial co-owner. He believes the university's presence on the management board has a positive impact in keeping increases lower than a totally privately operated facility.



But protesters are not satisfied. SRC Student Housing Officer, Eleanor Morley, told the crowd: "SUV proved what a disaster it is if the Uni sells to a private company."

SRC Welfare Officer Rafi Alam told fellow campaigners their efforts must also be directed at the government, encouraging it to provide students with affordable housing.

Around campus, Mr De Haan points to a lack of beds driving the housing market. "If new facilities open up in the bracket of affordable housing," he said, "people will gravitate towards the new beds whilst more expensive facilities will suffer."

Not everyone is happy with the prospect of more university-provided housing. Residents' concerns about the Abercrombie St Housing Project led the University into negotiations with community groups such as REDwatch (covering Redfern, Everleigh, Darlington, and Waterloo).

A spokesman for REDwatch, Geoff Turnbull, believes the negotiations haven't been successful. Miscommunication had left residents with cold feet, he said. "Many residents feel manipulated rather than respected," he told the South Sydney Herald. "The uni needs to revisit its approach if it really wants good neighbourly relations, not continued demonisation."

Co-convenor of the campus Greens and Student Housing Action Collective protestor Bjorn Wallin says something needs to be done about the situation.

"University housing needs to go somewhere. The inner-west of Sydney is highly dense. There aren't many free spaces. There is a way to strike a balance between [residents and students]... it certainly motivates us to do it better, to take into account their needs and rightly so."



Photography by Jennifer Yiu

OPINION

The market rate is too damn high

Max Chalmers looks at the bigger picture behind the SUV rent increase

When asked to explain why substantive rent increases were necessary for Sydney University Village, General Manager Ron de Haan repeatedly pointed to 'market forces' to justify the decision. Fees, he said, had increased because an independent assessment advised SUV they were charging below market rates.

Sydney University's representative on SUV's management board appears to agree with this approach to rate determination. The University owns a nominal share of the company and is therefore allocated a seat on the board, which is occupied by David Bennett. Both Mr Bennett and Mr de Haan told *Honi Soit* that the University uses this position to try and ensure (among other things) that the rent at SUV remains as reasonably priced as possible. Like Mr de Haan, Mr Bennett believed the recent increases were justified and in line with local prices.

Mr Bennett also vigorously defended the right of the company that runs SUV, Campus Living Villages, to seek substantial financial returns for the company and its investors. He did not believe it was wrong for the company to raise prices when it was already profitable.

For the sake of argument, let's assume that the new pricing is 'right', that the SUV management has been accurately guided by the invisible hand and has perfectly distilled the magic market number. Even when we accommodate for this contentious supposition we find a deeper issue at play.

The problem is that the market rate is not affordable for students who pay their own way or don't come from well off families. Whether SUV should be concerned about this or not hinges on your interpretation of what ethical obligations Campus Living Villages took on when it initiated its public-private partnership with the university. Given the special relationship the two bodies have, it does not seem unreasonable that SUV might strive to help the University fulfil section 4(c) of its Strategic Plan and "provide more affordable and appropriate student accommodation on and near the University's campuses." Considering the cheapest rooms at SUV are now \$256.80 per week (including utilities), it can hardly be said to be doing so.

The intermingling of public and private spheres poses a theoretical and tactical dilemma for the activist movement that, feeding off general concerns about student welfare, has crystallised around this specific issue. Should the target of student anger be SUV for profiteering? Should it be the University for allowing private development of the site in the first place? Or should it be state and federal governments for developing a system of funding in which universities do not have the resources to develop affordable housing?

With a broad coalition of campus political factions showing at least shallow interest in the issue, there may soon be an opportunity to develop a serious student response to these questions.

Student Housing Officer's Report: SUV Rent hikes

Eleanor Morley on why affordable student housing should be a right

Students are finding it more and more difficult to find affordable accommodation on campus, a situation exacerbated by the decision of Sydney University Village to increase minimum rent by 22.4 per cent – in just two years. It jumped \$27 from 2011-2012 (\$211.50 to \$238.50) and, on August 27, SUV announced the proposed minimum fee for 2013 was \$256.80. This is for a room in a four or five bedroom house with no food or laundry services provided.

The email announcing this fee increase was sent to residents shortly before reapplications opened, and with

no consultation or justification. The residents at SUV (myself included), believe this amount is, quite frankly, ridiculous. It far outstrips the rate of inflation (currently sitting at 1.2 per cent), and no amenities have been improved. So, in light of these price hikes I and some other concerned students set up the Student Housing Action Collective (SHAC). Our first plan of action was to organise a rally; this was held last Wednesday October 17, where we also formulated three demands for both SUV and the Vice Chancellor to comply with:

1. No rent increase at Sydney University Village.
2. Abercrombie precinct must be university-run affordable housing.
3. Transparency and input for SUV residents.

So on Wednesday at 1pm we set off from Eastern Avenue, chanted up City Road and down Carillon Avenue to SUV, where we were greeted by cops, campus security and a conspicuously absent management team. Even after we asked for someone from this team to finally let us know why exactly rent had substantially increased, forcing more domestic students out of their homes and

into longer working hours, the situation was left unexplained.

Following the success of Wednesday's rally SHAC is planning further action to try and stop the SUV rent increase, and pressure the University to provide us with affordable accommodation.

Our new undergraduate Fellow of Senate, Patrick Massarani, has committed to helping us with this battle, and if you too would like to get involved, search "Student Housing Action Collective" on Facebook, or email me – because the rent is too damn high!

Purge the prudes and talk plainly

Political correctness is a growing cancer, writes **Zachary Thompson**

Nothing irks me more than a killjoy, especially the kind that halts the happy times with a moan about political correctness. Gawking, gasping, eye rolling, and creating drama out of what would probably have been an inspired punch line or witticism seems to be the modus operandi of the PC-prude. From a casual dinner party to the House of Reps, there is always someone who 'crosses the line' and unwittingly causes offence. In most cases, this just kills the conversation and makes it awkward for everyone, but in grander circles it can result in constant cries of shame, calls for resignations, and demands for an apology.

Of course, some comments are barking mad, indefensible, and totally inexcusable but these are obvious. When someone intentionally hurts another person or community with their words, our natural reaction is to think "what a tool" and walk away. This sense of acceptability is reinforced by our system of manners, which has developed over the centuries and guides most conversations. Being rude and offensive is bad manners, anti-social, and will naturally leave the offender without friends. Yet PC-prudes still feel the urge to correct people, becoming an irritating, neurotic, and self-styled arbiter of appropriateness.

Political correctness is a cancerous phenomenon, hindering the most light-hearted conversations to the very substance of national debate. It is an intolerant system of thought that dilutes the clarity and meaning that solid communication requires. It is hypocritical, arrogant, damaging and it crops up too often, in all kinds of dialogues.

The hypocrisy of political correctness is glaring. It is sad and ironic that the

PC-prudes don't tolerate candid parlance on sensitive issues, believing that their narky interjections do more to spread awareness and build tolerance than the actual exchange of ideas. For instance, I have unintentionally caused offence when referring to Australia's original inhabitants. I was corrected when I thought 'Indigenous' was the preferred term, and I was corrected again after I switched to 'Aboriginal'. The same thing has happened when discussing sexuality and religion: I care deeply about all these topics, yet there is always someone waiting to veto the well-intentioned debate for the sake of political correctness.

There is an air of arrogance surrounding political correctness too: it is just rude to correct people who are genuinely engaged in a conversation. It assumes firstly, that what the talker has said is so unpalatable that an interjection is warranted, and secondly that the corrector has a better sense of appropriateness than the person talking. It arrogantly assumes that the talker is incapable of basic self-censorship, and thus needs 'correcting' when all they may really want to do is discuss a sensitive issue openly. Of course, on certain issues, some will inevitably be more knowledgeable than others: but surely a well-intentioned point deserves to be heard even if it is 'officially' not PC and may cause offence.

The increasing emphasis on political correctness is not good news. In principle, political correctness saves a handful of people from being offended, but this comes at the cost of clear communication. I notice each year that 'Xmas' is gradually replacing Christmas, presumably because the allusion to Jesus Christ marginalises non-Christians. An



elementary school in Seattle renamed Easter Eggs 'Spring Spheres' for the same reason - they're not even spherical! The Arnott's 'Golliwog' biscuits had to be renamed 'scallywags' because the latter has less racial connotations and is therefore more PC. I'm sure it's only a matter of time before the PC-prudes find someone who is offended by 'Golden Gaytimes.'

In practice, the pitfalls of political correctness run deeper. It derails discussions where openness and maturity are vital, and it is frequently exploited as a political tool. Last December, the City of Sydney spent a ton of money festooning its streets with banners that wished a 'happy' rather than 'merry' Christmas. I was concerned to discover that 'merry' was intentionally replaced on the basis that it subtly encouraged drinking. The arrogant, holier-than-thou PC-prudes had struck again, and I was 'offended' that they disregarded my ability to interpret the word 'merry' maturely - in hindsight, I should have corrected them for being so insensitive!

On a federal level, klaxon-like cries of racism or xenophobia railroad nationally important discussions over multiculturalism or border control. I fear that after the Prime Minister's impassioned speech last week, immensely significant discussions about gender equality have been stunted because words like 'misogynist' and 'sexist' have been used for pillorying political opponents.

Common sense, maturity, and plain old good manners do away with political correctness. It is hypocritical, it is arrogant, and it is damaging how we exchange ideas and communicate even at the most elementary levels - this neurotic fad has to go.



Fanning the flames of trolling

You can't stop the trolls if you don't know who they are, writes **John Gooding**

Watching Katherine Feeny of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and Joe Hildebrand of *The Daily Telegraph* grill a set of self-described "trolls" on SBS's *Insight* last Tuesday was like watching a pair of kindergarteners perform heart surgery. They were admirably enthusiastic, to be sure, but they did not fundamentally understand the topic at hand.

The problem with any discussion of trolling is that no-one agrees on what it actually is. If you've read the newspapers or watched any current affairs in the past few months, you will likely think that trolling is repeatedly lashing out at public figures and vulnerable web users, driving them to depression and suicide. Celebrities such as Robbie Farah, Stephen Fry, and Charlotte Dawson have experienced this form of abuse, with the latter being hospitalised as a result.

As sad as these stories may be, however, to say that these people were victim to trolls is to ignore what many self-described trolls consider trolling to be. Take the more nuanced definition given by another of the *Insight* panelists, Asher Wolf: "trolling was not seen as necessarily just bullying or just law breaking or just abuse of others...really insightful trolling involves getting

information across to others, it involves changing the way people think about things". None of the above cases count as examples if one adopts this standard. All of the pathetic tweets that Farah and Fry received are merely old-fashioned bullying on a new-fashioned medium.

Under this definition, trolling is not limited to online communication. For instance, in an episode of *Top Gear*, the presenters attempt to drive across Alabama with slogans such as 'manlove rules OK' and 'NASCAR sucks' painted across the panelling of their cars. They were trolling. Ashton Kutcher's *Punk'd* is trolling. If you've ever told a friend that "gullible" isn't in the dictionary and they went and looked it up, you were trolling.

When trolling is genuinely funny or interesting, it doesn't exactly grab headlines. However, when people troll poorly or try to pass off their attempts to bully as trolling, it gets attention in the form of vapid, cudgel-wielding sensationalism such as *The Daily Telegraph's* 'Stop the Trolls' campaign. As Hildebrand explained on *Insight*, the campaign is referring to "...personal sustained abuse at strangers from anonymity". Stopping these people is an admirable goal, but to call them trolls is to imply that every

self-described troll revels in abusing people, which is simply not true.

English is a democratic language insofar as majority usage determines the meaning of words, and there is no way to protect a word from redefinition. Perhaps the majority have come to believe trolling is inherently, unavoidably malicious. If this remains the case, then all the vaguely nuanced trolls across the world will cease being trolls and will instead become provocateurs, or culture jammers, or some other bland academic term. Meanwhile, the word "troll" will simply denote any ambiguous internet bogeyman. The media have redefined trolling to mean "being an asshole on the internet", and then complain about trolls being assholes on the internet. Sure, people who harass and bully are a problem, but in attempting to correct them we should not smear by association every interesting troll along the way.

The people dissected on *Insight* were not the Feeny-and-Hildebrand version of trolls. They were not idiots who abused strangers for no purpose other than to hurt. At the worst, they were the "mean-spirited prankster" type of troll. Not all trolling is funny and amiable, but not all of it is hateful garbage either.

A cautionary tale

The big lesson from the Presidential debates is that they're useless, writes **Ben Winsor** in New Jersey

The first was a lesson in hubris. President Obama blew off debate prep which led to a damagingly lackluster performance, from which his polling still hasn't recovered. Obama himself joked that he was so energetic in the second debate because he slept through the first.

The second debate was more even, but no less revealing. On every question, on every issue, the Presidential candidates seemed to be working off different facts.

Depending on who you believed, Obama either cut gas and oil drilling or raised domestic production to its highest level in sixteen years. Romney either wanted to let the car industry go bankrupt, or was dead set on providing them with assistance to invest and stay open. Obama either destroyed the economy and doesn't care about business, or he added more than 5 million jobs and doubled stock market capital. Romney either wants to cut planned parenthood funding and ban abortion, or wants women to have the power to make their own decisions free from interference.

For an hour and a half, not an answer went by without Romney or Obama claiming that everything the other guy had just said was completely false.

It was like watching two bubbles of alternate reality smacking right into each other. In one bubble Romney is robbing from the poor to give to the rich and is a closet neo-con who hates women and probably eats babies. In the other, Obama is a complete failure who has destroyed the economy with wasteful spending and probably eats babies.

It's a phenomenon writ large across America at the moment. Depending on which is the most comfy, you can kick back and nurse your gun in the Fox News bubble, or recline with your copy of Faust and MSNBC. Fear not, no one will disturb you. If an independent study comes out and shows you've got something wrong, just wait a week and six more will appear contradicting it.

Just as in the debate, there are no strong independent guides in the American media - no source of analysis or critique of facts, policy, or substance. The 'non-partisan' media is focused on the horse race, the politics, the rhetoric, and the game. They report what was said and who said it, offer a counter-quote, and leave it at that. CNN, once a powerful news leader, increasingly resembles an entertainment channel - with all the requisite special effects, good looking hosts, and dramatic music to go with it.

No truly independent voter could have had their mind swayed one way or the other by the second Presidential debate. With no uncontested facts, even about the candidates' own positions, what could they possibly have learnt?

If facts aren't clear, if they don't matter, if you can pick and choose; then all that's really left is style. It's a reality show where no matter who wins, America loses.

The US is a cautionary tale. Let's do our best to make sure in Australia, politics doesn't become a competition over who can blow the biggest bubble

HORNI SOIT

FYI, there will be a lot of foreshadowing in this story. For bestiality, skip to the last paragraph – but if you want the lead-up, read on. Matt and his comrades had pitched their metaphorical tent outside Thai La-Ong 2 on King St. What is a metaphorical tent doing in this story? It's unclear (unlike Matt's vision, which was 20/20). Regardless, they were there to protest pressing (Nb. there will be some more physical "pressing" later in the piece – keep reading, reader) issues. Unimportantly, it was a Thursday. It was cloudy with a chance of meatballs. But not really. For balls of a different sort, read on.

The pressing issues were these: the presence of gluten in the restaurant's noodles, the destruction to the environment caused by the reckless uprooting of vegetables so they could eventually find themselves in a chicken Pad Thai, and the increasingly extortionate prices of said CPT, which had recently escalated from \$6 to \$6.30. Also objectionable was the Western imperialism that caused Thai people to subject themselves to a deplorable range of English-language puns that belittled their proud heritage. Matt and his friends were frankly Thai-red of it. See? Disgusting. Thai-rrible. Just like the preceding non-sentence.

Also disgusting were some people's closed-mindedness to bestiality. This wasn't really related to the Thai protest, but why not, eh? Not only must you stand on something, if you're going to stand up (mainly the ground), and also generally near something (unless you're in the desert), but you have to stand for something, or even a range of things, loosely linked by 'ideology'. A mounted policeman passed by, in order to maintain state control over the seven protesters. Besti-curious, and thinking about the important pan-sexuality issues raised by Senator Bernardi, Matt went over to caress the horse. His attraction to the horse was not physical, but intellectual. Their sex was brief, public, pubic, and equine. It wasn't erotic. At all. It ended abruptly, never to happen again, just like *Horni Soit*.



TOP FIVE...

Cults

Sean O'Grady on beliefs that everyone but their members consider absurd, if not insane. Some are funny, most are terrifying. If you really want to rebel against your parents/the Man/society, join one of these.

5 Raëlism

These guys are pretty into aliens. They believe life on earth was scientifically created by aliens called the Elohim. While they are atheistic, they believe religious figures such as Buddha and Jesus were prophets for the return of the Elohim. In anticipation of this, they have been seeking permission to build an embassy for aliens in Israel.

4 Scientology

Hearing Tom Cruise talk about his faith is enough to turn anyone off this 'religion', but in case that isn't enough, insert some whacky theology about aliens, nuclear explosions and a dude called Xenu who is more of an asshole than other fictional assholes like Voldemort. Joining will also cost you a small fortune, blowing hundreds of thousands on E-metering in the hope of surpassing amnesia and coming to understand the meaning of life.

3 The Manson Family

A quasi-commune who practiced a lot of free love. Patriarch Charles Manson predicted an apocalyptic race war termed Helter Skelter, taken from the Beatle's song of the same name. Moreover, they believed the *White Album* was prophecy. Convicted of seven murders and conspiracy, Charles Manson was sentenced to death, which was commuted to life imprisonment.

2 Westboro Baptist Church

The representative of a whole lot of crazy Christian cults in this list. Famous for picketing the funerals of American soldiers killed in combat with signs saying 'God Hates Fags', pretty much everyone in the Church is biologically related. There are about 70 of them, and they believe they are the only ones going to heaven.

1 People's Temple

A hippie commune gone wrong, founder Jim Jones believed in a coming apocalypse that would transform earth into a socialist paradise. He used Christianity to propagate Marxist ideals and support radical movements. Best known for the Jonestown Massacre in which 909 members committed suicide by drinking grape Kool-Aid laced with cyanide, the People's Temple were also a favourite of politicians given their ability to mobilise 2000 people for campaigning within six hours.

FIRST THING THIS
HORSEY DANCE...
NEXT THING,
PEOPLE WILL WANT
TO MARRY THEIR DOGS



'Psyhipperly Slope'

Illustration: Kimberly Barrett

Soundtrack to: Holding a Seance

By **Matt Clarke**

Turn off the Light - Nelly Furtado

You're not really sure what a séance involves, so you decide to start with the basics. You then spend the next hour before everyone arrives lighting a shitload of tealights in order to make your apartment look like a scene from *The Craft*.

Take My Hand - Dido

Ok so no one told you there'd be handholding. It's a little bit awkward, and you feel bad because you ate a pack of Cheese Supreme Doritos before everyone got here. Also, Denise has really sweaty hands.

Come Into My World - Kylie Minogue

It's been a while and nothing's happened so someone decides to bring out the Ouija board. That being said, you're fairly certain it doesn't work because it just spelt out the word BOOBS.

Ghosts - Laura Marling

There's a strange whirring sound coming from the next room. SHIT JUST GOT REAL PEOPLE!

False Alarm - KT Tunstall

Ok so that wasn't a ghost, it was your combination washer and dryer. There's only one thing to do at this point: shut it down.



PATHWAY TO A MAJOR IN MITT ROMNEY

Say what you will about Mitt Romney: his incomprehensible tax plans, his verbal gaffes, and the fact that Mormons are usually nuts, and his political ascendancy warrants investigation and imitation. This major will teach you the skills needed for a successful corporate and political career.

MITT1001: Nonsensical taxation policy
Assure us we will be more likely to get a budget surplus after \$5 trillion in tax cuts.

MITT1002: Recovering from Gaffs
Learn how to explain why the ability to open windows on planes would be a great idea.



MITT2012: Romnesia
People are stupid. Learn how to change your beliefs and policies for any event!

MITT2422: The Demons of Federalism
Just because Romneycare was good when I was governor, doesn't mean Obamacare is good for the nation.



MITT3001: Downplaying Your Religion
It's better people forget you believe Jesus Christ visited the Americas.

MITT3222: Cayman Islands
Why paying fuck-all tax on an income in the tens of millions is your god-given right as a member of the 1 per cent.

Cross-Listed Units:

GEOG3011: The Third World
A geographic study of cheap labor and efficient shipping routes.

ENGN3046: Car Elevators
Design and Build extravagant contraptions for all your luxury items.

GCST3104: Binders Full of Women
This Unit of Study will teach you how to appeal to female voters. Jokes.

NB: Students reliant on any government welfare, or those wishing to defer course costs to HECS will not be considered for this Major.

ROAD TEST • CHINESE SPA

There are many forms of prostitution in China, ranging from thousand Yuan club hostesses catering to wealthy business men to 30 Yuan "shed girls" catering for dislocated rural workers. The forms of prostitution most obvious, and therefore available, to Westerners are what are called Barber Shop Brothels, or massage parlours which provide sexual services. Hong Kong even has a centralised website on which girls create profiles which list available costumes, services, fees and locations. Some work out of their homes, others come to you. No white man, no matter how mild-mannered or puritanical can avoid any lengthy stay in China without encountering some form of prostitution or other, but it is usually obvious, and easy to avoid. The strangest, at least to Western eyes, and most entrapping, are the Cosplay sex-workers of the super spas.

It is commonplace for a big night out in Hong Kong to finish across the border in Shenzhen for a sauna, spa, and massage, as they take the edge off even the nastiest of comedowns. On my most recent trip the taxi driver knew of our favourite spa, "Queen's Garden", but insisted that he knew a "better" one, called "Angelic Fountain". Drunk, and all sorts of high, we went with his ecstatic smile. Initially there was nothing weird about "Angelic Fountain." We arrived and were taken to the men's changing room, stripped and given a micro chipped bracelet. We proceeded through a dizzying array of spas, steam rooms, plunge pools, saunas and showers where we were dried and dressed in identical matching blue pyjamas. We got in the lift, expecting to arrive at the usual central lobby, where we would be reunited with our fairer sex partners.

Women there were... our female friends there were not. Instead of a huge room with bars, cafés, massage chairs, cinema screens and desks where you could book massages (everything recorded on your bracelet) there was a huge room filled with what looked like cryogenic cylinders Zordon style. Inside each was a young lady, standing almost perfectly still. There was an Angelina Jolie, a Penelope Cruz, a Xena, lots of schoolgirls, sexy secretaries, nurses, realistic and what you might "inspired by". Down one end there were girls covered by black or pink latex, some even had their faces covered. There were some animal costumes. It was like a wax works, but these girls were all flesh, and they had dozens of men prowling about salivating.

Knowing my girlfriend was on another floor of this establishment, I decided not to attract any bad karma. My buddy, Max, had no such qualms. We spent a good half an hour surveying the landscape and he settled on two traditionally dressed Japanese Geishas, as their label explained that they were "supremely talented sisters" and their services came with a complimentary sake bath and four-hand massage. He swiped his bracelet, and the dim light in their Zordon tube turned red. The floor started to rise, lifting them through a trapdoor which had opened in the roof where they nodded serenely and waved slowly. My friend was then escorted away.

I went back through the spas, where I indulged in a more conservative form of massage, making sure I asked for a male masseur so as to avoid any confusion, and waited in the lobby for the girls. They appeared in fine moods, talking about what a quality spa this had been, how good the facials were and showing their newly painted nails. They thought it was a great idea that boys and girls had been kept separate the whole time. Confused, I decided to wait to see what had happened before spilling the beans to them about the male floor. Max came out, white. Everything had been amazing he said, but he had been landed with a 8000-Yuan bill (about \$1200). He had paid it reluctantly, thinking that the sisters had indeed been "supremely talented", and only after realised that it had included the girls' bill. It turns out that is the price you pay for quality prostitution, carried out in a way to keep your wife in the dark, even if she is with you at the time. We never paid Max back, as we thought it fair punishment for his errant ways.

🐦 FROM THE DEAD

Anne Frank @AnneFrank 3s
how do I turn location services off on Facebook? #awkward

Bob Marley @Jammin' 25s
Too high to function #destroyedthejoint

Oliver Twist @twistn'shout 30s
Check out my new instagram! #gruel

Don Bradman @OverAndOut 30s
OMG no! 4 more runs and I would have averaged 100 #firstinningsproblems

Banjo Patterson @Sunburnt69 3s
BRB gone bush. Camping by a billabong #SWAG

Cleopatra @QueenofDaNile 25s
My milkshake brings all the boys to the yard.

Lady Godiva @ladeeee 30s
I'm a racing car, passing by #dontstopmenow

Horatio Nelson @impaired 30s
im findinf iy vert diggivult tp typw with onlt 1 eye ans 1 arn.

Dr. Malcolm Crowe @6thSense 30s
Holy Fucking Shit.

Up, down, and completely out of it: an Honi dictionary of drugs

Mariana Podesta-Diverio and Xiaoran Shi wrote this under the influence of extensive research



Life is fucking hard. You don't have to be stuck in a mine, or a character in *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, or a woman of colour to know that. But in spite of this cold hard fact, life gives us just enough of that sweet, sweet milk of paradise to justify repeating the inhalation/exhalation process a few more times. So, until we stop relying on self-destructive behavioural patterns to temporarily distract us from the pitiful misery that is existence, let's get down to business and talk drugs.

Dude. They. Are. Everywhere. Think back to the joint passed around at the last house party you went to, or the line being snorted by a fellow club-goer in the adjacent toilet stall on any given Saturday night. It's pretty safe to say that drugs are an omnipresent force in the social fabric of youth. But, what do they all do? And more importantly, just how bad are they?

These days, the availability of drugs on campus is so widespread that one need not look further than a few rows down one's lecture theatre if seeking to experiment with substances, whether they be prescription or illicit.

In the last decade or so, the rhetoric surrounding drugs has shifted to reach a broader spectrum as a result of the booming black market of legal prescription drugs, mainly stimulants such as methylphenidate, which have become alarmingly common study aids. Is it such a travesty for a student to seek that extra push in return for their pocket shrapnel?

The lay knowledge surrounding drugs tends to be dominated by the experiences of a friend of a friend, or pamphlets handed out during high school P.E.

It's high time this drug taboo was dispelled with earnestness and a pragmatic approach to dealing with myriad pills, powders and weeds people ingest - sometimes on a daily basis. It's probably time for us all to take a chill pill, sit back and read up on what consuming these drugs actually means. It's impossible to cover all of them in one sitting, so here are but a few to get your brain juices going.

ON THE DOWN LOW: DEPRESSANTS

Alcohol is for pre-schoolers. So, stop bragging about how many Jagerbombs it takes for you to chunder all over the place, and listen up. Did you know there are drugs that make sleeping fun? No longer must you suffer through being a

brain-dead zombie for eight hours every night, now you can navigate the depths of unconsciousness with a variety of choose-your-own-adventure options including climbing up cranes and engaging in sexual intercourse.

Sleepwalking, hallucinations and delusions are some of the known side-effects of zolpidem (Ambien, Stilnox) which is a prescription sleeping pill. For a drug experience devoid of sleepwalking theatrics, there's alprazolam (Xanax), one of the most abused benzodiazepines in the country. The past decade has seen a steady rise of Xanax prescriptions in Australia, so there's a good chance that someone you know is currently stocked up.



PostSecret: where Xanax users unite

Pros: widely praised for their "chill the fuck out" properties.

Cons: morning-after effects leave you looking like a haggard beast in your 9am tutorial.

HIGH AS A KITE: STIMULANTS

Forget caffeine. We're talking about the hardcore stuff: methylphenidate (Ritalin, Concerta), dextroamphetamine (Adderall, Strattera) and our old friend cocaine (cocaine). With a booming market demographic in university students, the availability of drugs like Ritalin is showing no signs of dying down, much like its short-term effects on users. At less than \$5 a pop, prescription stimulants like Ritalin offer a short-term solution to many undergraduate problems, like getting an assignment done on time. Users of prescription stimulants report an increased ability to concentrate, higher levels of energy and an improved mood. However, stimulant abuse can be a dangerous game, due to the lack of research into their long-term effects. Cocaine, albeit rarer in university environments, retains a spot for itself in the campus

market. The comparatively exorbitant price of cocaine limits its availability to the more affluent, or users who take their habits way too seriously.

Pros: cheap, effective, relatively easy to obtain.

Cons: highly addictive, just like HBO.

WHOOAAAA. MAAAAAN: DISSOCIATIVES

Technically categorised as a hallucinogen, dissociatives distort sensory perception and produce feelings of detachment from oneself and one's environment via blocking signals to the conscious mind.

The good news is that all of this and more can be conveniently found in your local pharmacy.

The dissociative hallucinogen, dextromethorphan (DXM), is an active ingredient in a variety of over-the-counter cough medicines including Vicks and Robitussin, which can cause closed-eye hallucinations and feelings of intense euphoria even in moderate doses.

If DXM is a little too mainstream for your taste, the highly-controlled general anaesthetic agent, ketamine, may be more up your alley. Rumour has it that the rare appearance of ketamine on the black market is the real catalyst for otherwise meaningless public holidays like "Labour Day" and the "Queen's Birthday". Aside from its widespread use as a sedative in human and veterinary medicine, ketamine has also been shown to effectively treat depression and bipolar disorder, which explains its popularity as a recreational drug for clubbing and raves.

But, this class of drugs is not all fun and games.

The dissociative neurotoxin, phencyclidine (PCP), also known as angel dust and embalming fluid, has been strongly correlated with the increased development of schizophrenia.

Take, for example, the case of US rapper, Big Lurch, who murdered and partially cannibalised his roommate after smoking PCP.

Pros: an interesting combination of depressive and hallucinogenic effects.

Cons: you might end up eating a woman's lungs. Like, seriously.

TRIPPY AS FUCK:



Big Lurch might be regretting his last free meal.

HALLUCINOGENS

Some of the best music that came out of the sixties and The Dandy Warhols' recording studio was almost certainly influenced by psychedelic members of the the hallucinogenic family, namely LSD (acid) and 'magic mushrooms'.

This is probably culpable for the synonymy of hallucinogens with aptly-named 'stoner rock'. Although psychedelics might seem cool, a 'bad trip' may leave you, well, dazed and confused for hours or even days.

The effects, just like with any other drug, are different for each user, which means that it's impossible to know how a psychedelic will interfere with your cognitive function. Magic mushrooms (shrooms) are not the kind of fungi you should toss into your salad or simmer with your risotto. Shrooms have been linked to paranoid delusions, panic attacks and depressive disorders in long-term users, with effects sometimes lasting for years after a single trip.

Interesting fact: the name "psychedelics" comes from the idea that these drugs bring out elements of the mind that are sentient and existent, but untouched without the aid of LSD or shrooms. Well, to that we say: perhaps there are parts of the brain that best remain untouched.

Pros: when they're good, they're great.

Cons: when they're bad, it's like watching yourself being skinned alive by a Teletubby.

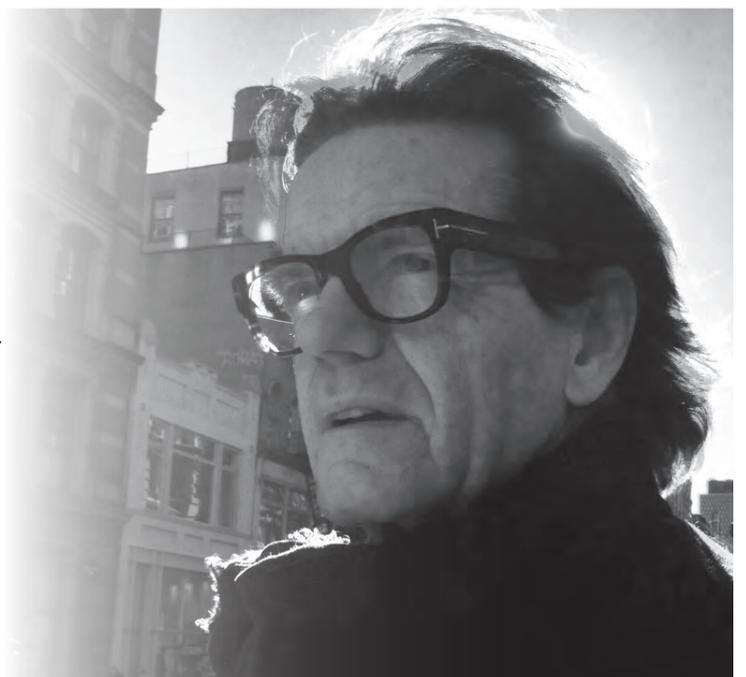
So, kids, with the above in mind, always remember: the key to perfecting a science is experimentation. And extensive research. Otherwise, keep pumping caffeine, sugar and alcohol into your body on a daily basis: they are society's acceptable addictions, but might not be the only ones for much longer.

Pictured below: Teletubbies baying for your blood



Charles Waterstreet

Working hard and playing harder: **Hannah Bruce** met Australia's most notorious criminal defence lawyer



The infamous criminal barrister Charles Waterstreet navigates the perilously stacked file boxes in his office, folds his lanky legs under his desk, flicks on an electric shaver and begins to glide it under his chin. It is late in the evening and he is mid-trial. A rape.

"I have had two innocent clients in a row! It's much more stressful when they're innocent," he quips, brandishing the shaver, eyes wide behind thick round glasses. Waterstreet is a charismatic and flamboyant character known for his court antics, his penchant for vices, and *Rake*, the ABC drama about Cleaver Greene, a character 'loosely' based on his private and professional life. A stress ball in the shape of a breast sits between a client file and his computer. "Want Spotify?" he asks before I begin my questions.

A Sydney Law School graduate and practicing criminal barrister since the early seventies, Waterstreet confessed, "I'm still not going to do law when I grow up. I always hated it. The thought of it was frightening." After graduation Waterstreet began lecturing in public law and the law of protests at UNSW. "I made a pledge with myself not to sleep with any students until the graduate course. Then I took them two at a time," laughs Waterstreet. He says teaching is what relieved him of his fear of public speaking. "I'm not a natural talker and it got me over my shyness".

I ask Waterstreet why he pursued a career in criminal law and rejected other legal disciplines. "Oh because conveyancing is simply the stuff of life," he proclaims sarcastically, smoothing his wiry hair. It was the Barton fraud case that catapulted Waterstreet into criminal

defence and away from the confines of academia. "Next thing, I'm here, still at the Bar instead of leading my whole life. I'm like Al Pacino, 'I try to get out and they drag me back in' " he reenacts. What will Waterstreet do if he ever gets out of the law?

"Write," he replies.

Waterstreet tried his hand at sketch comedy writing as a cast member of the 1973 Law Revue, *Last Mango in Paris* (a play on the raunchy film *Last Tango in Paris* featuring a scandalous anal sex scene where Marlon Brando uses butter as a lubricant, Waterstreet kindly describes for me). He recalls David Marr's impersonation of Gough Whitlam, and that one of the video sketches, 'Jesus's 21st', was shot on 8mm at George's in Double Bay.

“I made a pledge with myself not to sleep with any students until the graduate course. Then I took them two at a time!”

Waterstreet never prided himself as the greatest university student.

"I didn't turn up," he says.

"In one of my exams they said 'you're not even enrolled', we called your name but you weren't here. So I started my Commercial Law II exam half an hour late. I had to stand up the back at one of the teaching benches in the old law school because all the seats were taken. I got a distinction, I think."

After moving from Albury, where his father managed the local pub, Waterstreet lived at St John's College before

he was expelled and excommunicated by the Cardinal Gilroy in 1969 for an article he wrote

for *Honi* entitled 'The Groves of Roth'. "Well, *The Groves of Roth* was one of the first books I ever properly read. So I thought I would send it up and write the Catholic counterpart. Philip Roth was a narcissistic Jewish wanker and I was a Catholic wanker."

Waterstreet professes his discontent with religion: "I'm anti-authoritarian to my bootstraps. The ironic thing was that during a legitimate 18-year-old's crisis of conscience, I asked the rector (of St John's) why the Church's stance was anti-abortion and anti-contraception.

"The next week he gave up his position at college because of the philosophy on contraception and ran off with a nun from Sancta Sophia." I inform him of my own stint at John's. "Oh, is it bisexual now," he asks.

Waterstreet has established himself as one of Sydney's most prominent criminal defence lawyers, appearing for defendants charged with murder, drug trafficking, rape, fraud, and people smuggling. He is renowned for his generosity, providing hours of pro bono representation for vulnerable clients. I ask for his thoughts on the current state of the criminal justice system. "We pander to victims," he asserts. "The level of police intimidation and police corruption is appalling. Every day I come across corruption. Not money corruption, evidence corruption. Not taking money but fudging evidence, doing anything to get the conviction. There is a reservoir of corruption at the everyday level after the Wood Royal Commission (into the NSW Police Force in 1995)."

Waterstreet suggests that Barry O'Farrell's proposed reforms to water down the right to remain silent will make it easier for police and prosecutors to secure convictions, by allowing an adverse inference to be drawn against an alleged criminal who refuses to speak to investigating police, but later gives evidence at trial. "People give bizarre explanations if they have to talk to the police. People lie like children, 'no I didn't go to the moon'.

"There is a tendency to waffle and people go to jail for all the wrong reasons. The spotlight should be on police powers and the more cherished notion of the presumption of innocence."

He remembers how poorly the accused were treated by judges when he first began practicing. "They would peer down

from the bench, look at the accused and demand that they be taken away. Laurence Street, former Justice of the NSW Supreme Court, changed all that. He treated them like human beings."

Waterstreet has penned two memoirs (*Precious Bodily Fluids* and *Repeating the Leaving*) that are in the process of being made into a movie, as well as producing a number of other film and stage productions. He tells me that the musical play *Boys' Own Macbeth* that he staged with Graham Bond (of *Aunty Jack* fame) was the longest running Australian musical prior to *The Boy from Oz* but "unfortunately we sold it to the mafia". He currently writes a witty weekly opinion column for *The Sun-Herald* and his life-stories are the inspiration for many of the *Rake* plots.

Waterstreet confirms that many of the clients Cleaver defends in the show are closely derived from real-life cases. Recall the bestiality threesome between a doctor (played exquisitely by Sam Neill), his wife and the family Rottweiler in the first season. Also, the Muslim woman accused of plotting a terrorist attack because she was found to be in possession of a large quantity of hydrogen peroxide which she claimed to be used for anal bleaching ("the middle Eastern man is very hairy so you need a lot of it," mimics Waterstreet).

"They steal some of my best lines. Like Shakespeare, 'all you do is speak in cliches'. So now I have to come up with new jokes." There are more subtle hints towards Waterstreet's life in the show; he did in fact live above a coffee shop when his finances "were in appalling condition". Even Cleaver's mannerism of kicking back in his office chair and crossing his legs on the desk is vintage Waterstreet. Set to go to a third season and possibly to a remake in the US with FOX and starring Greg Kinnear, Waterstreet praises the creative team behind *Rake*. "The stars that have come on board are unbelievable. Without a doubt Richard (Roxborough's) charm and charisma is what has made the show. Even though he's a bit short and a bit blonde and not nearly as pretty as me. And David Wenham wasn't available".

I enquire how much of the show is fiction. "None of it," Waterstreet replies.

"Except for the drug abuse, and the womanising. That's all completely false. And the drinking."

I can't help but smirk.





The year was.

They say hindsight is 20/20. Honi asked a number of Australia



The higher ed reality doesn't live up to the rhetoric, writes **Julie Hare**

2012 was crunch year for higher education - the year the full gamut of recommendations and changes from 2008's Review of Higher Education by Denise Bradley came into play. For the first time ever, universities could enrol as many domestic students as they wished. And most did.

ATARs headed south and a war of words ensued between those who said quality would be compromised by too many academically under-prepared students being admitted (those with ATARs under 70) and those who said poor people aren't dumb and the quality argument is patronising (disadvantaged students tend to get lower ATARs because they don't go to private schools).

Things got really heated over the number of students with ATARs under 50 being admitted into teaching degrees (thousands). That's bad, people said, because they are the teachers of tomorrow. And then it turned out there aren't any jobs for graduating teachers anyway, so do we really care?

As domestic student numbers skyrocketed, international students stayed away in their hordes, which didn't help universities balance the books.

Universities continued their endless battle with government about funding or lack of it. The government didn't shift,

but then higher education came out of the May budget relatively unscathed too.

The feminisation of higher education continued apace with 60 per cent of undergraduates and 55 per cent of academics now female. But that success is not being translated into the workplace. Women earning significantly less than men just five years after graduation (can't blame babies for that one) and only 28 per cent of associate professors and above being women.

2012 was the year of the MOOC (massive open online course - Google it) and while no one knows how it's going to play out in the long run, pretty well every one accepts it will be a game changer.

And 2013: early signs show student demand is flatlining and government predictions for ongoing growth will not eventuate. But there is a flight to brand with the so-called sandstone universities fairing well, and those on the bottom of the status ladder getting pummelled. The question is: will some universities have to fold or merge?

2013 is also the year of the election. The Libs haven't said what their policy platform involves, but it's likely to continue the focus access to university for equity and disadvantaged students.

Andrew Robb reckons universities have to think big and change their



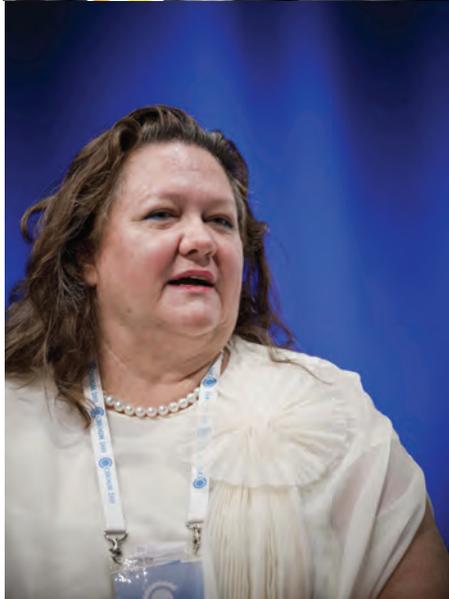
"business models" and "products". That includes educating 10 million Asians a year, mostly online (refer to MOOC).

Vice-chancellors will keep muttering under their breaths about funding levels, everyone will keep up their justified rant over red tape, students will continue to study in disciplines in which they will never, ever find a job.

But believe the rhetoric and it's all about the post-minerals boom and creation of a knowledge economy.

Fingers crossed.

Julie Hare is the higher education editor of The Australian



Free speech is unpunished speech, and it took a thousand cuts in 2012



This year saw the end of Rudd, the return of Carr, the revival of Gillard, and the slow crumbling of the Liberal adventure across Australia. Newman sacking nurses, O'Farrell and Baillieu eroding TAFEs and sacking teachers, Redmond offering her job, in vain, to Alexander Downer, and, in Canberra, Pyne and Abbott running from the chamber when a duly elected member voted on their side, showed how cack-headed that side of politics had become, and the getting of Slipper for a Les Patterson-style simile uttered in private showed how fascist we all were getting, with every stand-up co-

median and cartoonist now theoretically in danger, and the phrase I grew up with, 'not in front of the ladies', once more the rule in Australia.

Overseas, the slaughter in Syria continued, taking out the Che, the Orwell, Attlee, Camus, Mandela, Aung Sang Suu Kyi, FDR, Lincoln and Jefferson of that country among tens of thousands of lesser lights and innocent bystanders because no-one offered sanctuary to Assad and his court as others did Amin and the Shah, and the UN insisted he accede to his own beheading. This killing by the better armed side will go on for years,

and it's a pity.

Greece and Spain are being asked to sack more and more people and starve more and more pensioners to pay unmeetable debts in a currency, the Euro, that cannot long survive, when the solution, a second, shrinkable banknote - the drachma, the peso - was all that was needed; plus, perhaps, a two-year moratorium on rents and mortgage payments so money could begin to move around once again. But it was not to be.

Arctic ice grew very thin, and it was thought the seas would engulf Mar-rickville and Woy Woy til it was then



r that



...
lia's news makers for their take on the events of the past twelve months.

John Laws reflects on the shortcomings of 2012, and reveals what was in that drink



On Sexism

I think it's ridiculous to say that you can't criticize women that are in power. If you're before the public then you're going to be questioned, and if you put yourself in that kind position then you have to expect it. I, however, don't like denigration when it becomes sexist. It doesn't make any difference to me that Julia Gillard is a woman, she's the Prime Minister of this country and consequently is entitled to respect – even if you don't like her, even if you didn't vote for her, she's still the Prime Minister. That's a pretty important job in a pretty important country, and she, I believe, is entitled to respect. A lot of people don't

agree with me, but that is my belief.

On Alan Jones

I don't know what was achieved by axing Jones' advertisers, apparently it was the station's decisions not the advertisers. The people crying out for Jones to be sacked were probably angry by them coming back. I do think you've got to confront the fact that people don't like what you're doing. But people are strange - they like to have a bit of bile.

But on the question of social media's influence - I don't know anything about Facebook, and social media – it sounds more like anti-social media to me. Who would care if I put up on Facebook 'I'm just going to the lavatory. I washed my hands while I was there.' You know, all that is garbage.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority just ruled he Jones would have to employ a fact checker for his comments, too. I've never heard of someone having to employ a fact checker – it's the first time I've heard of that in my career. I would have thought that automatically one would at least want to make sure that the facts were correct anyway. I would have thought it was his job – I definitely see it as my job. It's pretty simple to do. But again let me say, if you dare to question Alan at 2GB, you'd probably be out the door in a

flash. That's what people think, anyway.

On Politics

I don't think anyone's been doing a particularly good job anywhere, this year, politically.

I think Julia Gillard was absolutely opportunistic, with Peter Slipper – and Craig Thomson. They're both misfits, and it's very unfortunate that we have either of them having anything to do with the running of this great country. But, politics is like hypocrisy – you can't really be in one without having a bit of the other. She needed them, so she let them get away with it.

In NSW, Mr O'Farrell, like all good politicians, didn't quite adhere to his pre-election promises...but none of them do. Education and health have to be the two most important things – by a long way. And we should be spending more on both.

There's got to be budget cuts available... maybe if they started cutting around themselves, they could probably save a lot of money in the public sector.

I question whether Tony Abbott is the best Opposition Leader. But I do think he'll lead Opposition to the election. And I think Gillard will lead the other lot. I think it would be too late to change now. Unless Malcolm Turnbull speaks up and says he wants to go back, but I

don't know that he would. I, like a lot of people, think Turnbull may have some more fire in the belly, but a lot of people in power don't agree. As far as Tony Abbott is concerned, I don't think he's tough enough. People seem to think that Malcolm Turnbull is on the nose because he's too successful and rich – I don't really subscribe to that. I would think the average Australian would like to have a smart leader. So I don't think Malcolm Turnbull is thought of as too smart by the Australian public.

If you're a tall poppy for long enough, people get used to the fact, and it seems to bother them less.

I don't – touch wood – have any problems with the general public when I get recognised or anything. Workmen on the side of the road wave, and say G'day. I don't get any of it now. I did when I was younger. But I probably asked for it back in the day: I was a bit full of myself.

And finally, on his 7.30 appearance and what he was drinking

Wild Turkey and coke, of course – but I mean, it was my first of the day, if there was any suggestion I was elephant's trunk. I just love the taste.

John Laws has been on top of the talk radio industry for more than a generation. He currently broadcasts on 2SM.

... from Slipper to Assange to Alan Jones. Bob Ellis reflects on a looming wowsers century

discovered Antarctic ice was thickening because the ozone hole above it let the heat out. Which means the answer may be there after all: less ozone, less heat, more aerosol, more sunscreen, the ice comes back that feeds the Ganges, and all will be well.

Chavez kicked cancer and won an election that showed how to do things in this age: let the money made from oil uplift the poor and fund good government jobs that spread prosperity. Castro, his idol, watched approvingly, and capitalism elsewhere bit off its own arm in its final, fatal thrashings and blamings, and

twenty thousand children died, mostly of bad water, every day in countries it had foreclosed on, and 'privatised' into needless misery in its weird pursuit of billions for the few, the very few. Gina Rinehart made two hundred thousand dollars while you read this article and will make in the next hour three times Obama's annual wage, and it's hard to see why, and in what measure she deserves it.

Last week, Obama retrieved his advantage in a debate performance – the best, perhaps, in world history – that may save the West from Tea Party fascist barbarity for a few more years perhaps, perhaps.

What he will do with his victory is as yet unknowable, but it is better, surely, than the plans of a man who for forty years of his life believed that no Negro could enter heaven and that drinking coffee attracts hellfire.

In Australia, Abbott's view that fifty cents per year per taxpayer was too big a price to buy us onto the world's High Court will do him a bit more harm than the hundreds weekly inundating his Final Solution, Nauru, and will make impossible his other major policy, piracy, and he will fall by year's end and Turnbull, resurgent, cause Labor to reconsider its

leadership, probably.

A terrible wowsers century looms if we are not careful. We are permitted to borrow *Mein Kampf* from North Sydney Library but not say 'mussel' to our gay lover to describe female genitalia, on pain of a half million dollar fine and social ruin. It should be noted that free speech is unpunished speech, and Assange and Alan Jones, and Murdoch, and Slipper, and Austin Tayshus equally deserve that freedom. It is a right.

And so it goes.

Bob Ellis is an author, filmmaker, and former editor of Honi Soit.





MUSE's 2012 Repertory Season - *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Assassins* and *Patience*

Cale Hubble is a triple threat: sitter, watcher, reviewer.

The Sydney University Musical Theatre Ensemble (MUSE) has once again put together a trio of fantastic shows for its repertory season. All the shows require a bit of 'just run with it' – whether it's a man-eating plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*, an absence of guiding plot in *Assassins*, or the usual Gilbert and Sullivan nonsense in *Patience* – but if you do, you'll have a great trip.

Patience

The standout of the season – and the 'dark horse' according to MUSE insiders – was the hilarious *Patience*. As a contemporary jazz adaptation of this 1881 comic opera, this show had a clear vision that was consistently followed through on every level. Olga Solar, the Composer and Music Director, deserves the greatest credit, and somehow her jazzy tunes combined with Director Cheryl Wong's contemporary setting (replete with iPhones and adolescent idiom) to produce a clean, high-paced production that just *worked*. The whole thing became a long lampooning of hipster culture, with the men boasting scarves, and top buttons occasionally being done up. The script was subtly changed to suit: a reference to "toffee" became "coffee," opening up the chance for a latte joke.

The whole production was ridiculously tongue-in-cheek. Actors never ceased to be engaging and comedic, and visual gags were abundant in the backgrounds of scenes. The entire cast was amazing, with particular mention going to Elizabeth Cooper's gorgeous soprano, the comic improvisations of Aidan Kane,

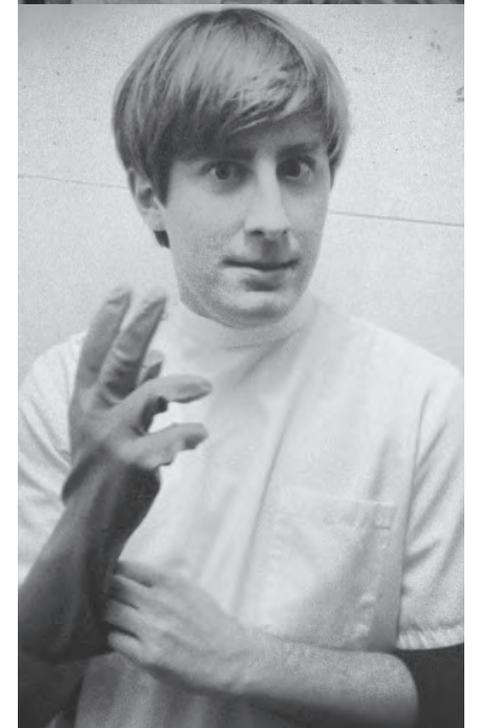
and the arresting voice of Daniel Hickie. The band was decked out in casual clothes, not the usual orchestral blacks, and this little shift in emphasis was indicative of the attitude of the entire show: laid-back, silly, hilarious and fun.

Little Shop of Horrors

There is something charmingly bizarre about *Little Shop of Horrors*. First produced in 1982, it still has the distinct feel of the low-budget 1960 film it was originally based on. Director Jaimee Taylor-Nielsen has embraced the absurdity, letting her actors take their roles to their extremes – a particular nod towards Michael Richardson in this respect, with his almost manic portrayal of a sadistic dentist. The leads Matt Bartlett and Katerina Halkeas both have great voices, portraying their roles with touching innocence; the trio of street girls/back up singers when-you-need-'em (Mary Cowell, Steph Gray and Lillian Kenny) oozed sass; and Peter Hoekstra-Bass had a lot of fun voicing a surprisingly funky plant. Huge kudos also to the amazing Music Director, Robert McDougall, for putting together a very disciplined and talented orchestra. The music was crisp, energetic, and perfectly interacted with the performers on stage.

Assassins

Assassins is something of a Sondheim classic, ably brought to the stage by Director Jennifer Bartlett. I find the musical itself to be a series of disconnected vignettes that struggle for relevance outside the USA, but this production brought them together successfully, especially in whole-cast scenes in the second half. This is a true ensemble



musical, and these complex characters were convincingly portrayed across the board. Special mention must go to Patrick Howard, whose honeyed tones, consistent accent and engaging stage presence were the centre of this production. Comic relief came regularly in the form of a brilliant Anna Colless.

The acoustic panelling on the walls and ceiling of the Tom Mann Theatre felt a lot like monstrous teeth, which worked for *Little Shop*, but unfortunately its other practical difficulties let down both that show and *Assassins* – their larger orchestras occasionally obscured, both visually and aurally, the performances on stage. These shows also suffered from some uninspired choreography and overly static numbers. The ensemble members for both, however, were fantastic, with some memorable and hilarious little cameos (I'm looking at you, Chris Dendle and Gabi Kelland).

All in all, these shows were a lot of fun. *Assassins* was a well-staged portrayal of some fascinating characters; *Little Shop of Horrors*, a rollicking and silly journey through an alternate 1960s; and *Patience* brought Gilbert and Sullivan kicking and laughing into the 21st Century. Go check 'em out.

MUSE Repertory Season

Tom Mann Theatre, until Friday 26 October

Buy tickets for two shows and get the third free

Clockwise from top: *Assassins*, *Patience*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*

Below: *Little Shop of Horrors*



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REVIEWS: FILM

The Intouchables

Swa Kaushik is touched by the intouchable

The Intouchables is one of those films that somehow makes you feel good without seeming like it deliberately ignored the difficult and uncomfortable issues. Based on the true story of the relationship between Philippe Pozzo di Borgo and his carer Abdel Sellou, the film is about the enduring power of friendship and humanity.

The Intouchables tells the story of an unlikely pair. Philippe (François Cluzet), a wealthy quadriplegic, hires Driss (Omar Sy) as his live-in carer. Driss is a young black man from a troubled family, who proves to be exactly what the ailing Philippe needs - a breath of fresh air. In their months living together, they develop a strange bond, based on incredible empathy and human understanding.

But *The Intouchables* is not the tired story of a benevolent old white guy who straightens out a wayward youth, or of a hip street kid who reinvigorates an old man's life. The film goes beyond these stereotypes, partly by playing directly into them. It points to socio-economic disparities of French society, but only to make a broader point about humanity - the film is about the strength of Philippe

and Driss' relationship, not about what they had to overcome to achieve it. Philippe and Driss base their relationship on sensitivity, understanding and humour, and the audience walks away having thought very little about the plight of the disabled, social inequality or race.

The Intouchables presents a moving story with sharp dialogue and great leads backed up by a strong supporting cast. Omar Sy in particular adds an extra level of individuality to Driss' role, preventing

him from becoming a caricature. It also has a lively and fitting soundtrack, a mix of classical music and Western pop hits, and Driss' fondness for Earth, Wind & Fire is particularly endearing. The film has a few weaknesses - an unnecessarily long dance sequence, some unresolved plot points and no strong sense of finality. But *The Intouchables* is still highly entertaining, really funny and surprisingly touching, and a little bit different to a standard tale of friendship.



TALK OF THE TOWN

Tom Lawrence spent an hour at The Flinders, and it was one hour too many

Being tossed about in a sea of paisley shirts, flat caps, soggy armpits, short skirts and an overpowering sense of sleaze was such that ordering a beer at The Flinders became my Everest. I had been known to frequent this nightspot so often that my friends believed I slept in the rafters, but returning after an absence of three months was to experience an unsettling and unpleasant change to the place I once loved.

The line was long, that was the same. The extra three security guards at the door waving a metal detector around my crotch wasn't. It felt like an airport, the guards making you feel like you were packing a sawn-off, when all you were carrying was ten dollars and a hopeful condom. "It's because of the stabbing", I heard the guard say.

Already it felt like the start of something truly un-fun. As you pass through the double doors, the usual wave of heat and whiff of dance-floor foreplay cascades over your senses. The place is small, vintage bottles adorned the walls, a stuffed grizzly bear head in a canoe hangs over the bar. I must admit,

it is unique and has an exciting energy. Flinders has long been the choice of twenty-somethings for big and gloriously loose nights. The kind of place you expect to spend your week's earnings on stupid drinks, falling in love and waking up in a back alley of Chinatown with nothing but half memories and a full hangover.

But there is a limit. For god's sake there has got to be a limit. In the hour that I spent there I witnessed three fights. Some guy probably spilled his bourbon and coke drink on another guy's vintage shirt, perhaps a girl felt a corner creepster was making too much eye contact. Seems like grounds enough to punch someone.

The bartenders though. These bartenders have an insane sense of superiority, an attitude that says, "I'm cool for working here, but you are an absolute idiot for coming here and giving us money". The pair are wearing hats, indoors at nighttime, and look as though they single-handedly support the local drug dealer. When I finally get my drink, my money is snatched out of my hand as if

they are doing me a favour and look at me as if they are furious that I exist. We are the ones that fuel your drug habit, so treat us right.

This attitude, one which seems to be increasingly prevalent in Sydney bars, perplexes me. Why someone thinks they can ignore societal norms of behaviour because they pour beers and mix drinks is not okay. You're a bartender, not a rockstar.

What is actually wrong with us? What happened to the image of Australians as fun, party-loving people who welcome and embrace each other? Today we go out to get wasted, grind the night away and then punch the guy next to us when we get bored. What's worse is that whilst these stupid blokes were displaying their unbridled lust for ripping each other's throats out, the staff was casually slinging out rows of shots to their increasingly inebriated clientele.

By all means go if all that sounds up your alley but after just one enlightening hour I had to leave. Standing outside, one of the fight's participants, a hideously aggressive bearded chap was scream-

ing at the bouncer, calling him a "Dago cunt". I am worried that I have become like the withered old things on *A Current Affair*, ranting on about the perils of the 'youth of today'. But I assure you that I like going out as much as anyone else, I'm not a social recluse or a model plane enthusiast - I just don't think arrogant staff, sweat drenched boof heads, aggressive bouncers and average music is fun.

Not interested in being associated with anyone in my general vicinity, I put on my headphones and walked home thinking about my affair with Flinders. Maybe at 21 I am just getting old. Maybe it's our fault and not their's. Regardless I don't think I can do it anymore, so this is my Dear John Letter;

Dear Flinders,
I loved you, you made me so happy. You were unique and not afraid to be different. I will never forget the times we had together, but you have broken my heart.

So I ask of you kindly, stop fuelling the fuckwits.

Regards, Tom.
P.S. Hats are for outdoors.

Fast tracking TV shows is not the solution

Australian TV viewers will still elect to illegally download TV shows until a true on-demand platform arrives, writes **Rob North**

It would be far from controversial to declare that Australia's (legal) access to overseas television content is terrible. For years I've been ranting and raving to anyone who will listen about the frustrating delay between overseas and domestic screenings of professional video productions.

If *How I Met Your Mother* ever actually gets around to introducing the future Mrs Ted Mosby, and assuming anyone is still watching by that point, spoilers will likely hit the front page of entertainment news and social media sites long before Australian audiences get to see it with their own eyes. Things are even worse for fans of serial dramas, where the twists, turns and revelations are typically the central appeal.

Admittedly, over the past six months a valiant effort has been made by Networks Ten and Seven who have been 'fast-tracking' a number of US programs to local screens. Cable platform Foxtel is similarly offering a smorgasbord of US serial drama, with some programs airing within twenty-four hours of their US premieres.

At long last the Australian television industry has recognised that audiences are illegally streaming or downloading content during the gap between US debut and Australian premiere, and believe that reducing this gap will solve the problem.

Yet I'm starting to think that we may have missed the point. Don't get me wrong, I want to be able to watch

overseas television programs as soon as possible. But ratings suggest that the emphasis on 'fast-tracking' is failing to impress Australian viewers.

Homeland attracted over 1.2 million Aussie viewers when it premiered on Ten in January, and has since drawn international critical acclaim. Earlier this month, the season two Australian premiere of *Homeland* attracted just half of that audience, despite airing only



The *Walking Dead* is now fast tracked 33 hours after airing the US, however many will still opt to illegally download new episodes

twelve days after debuting in the US. A similar fate befell critical darling *New Girl*, which was broadcast 10 days after the US.

Foxtel's FX channel aired the season three premiere of *The Walking Dead* only 33 hours after the US, however many dedicated Australian fans whom I have spoken to instead chose to illegally stream or download the episode.

So what's the problem? Australians are getting far closer to immediate access than ever before. Are we that impatient?

Can we not wait a few hours, days, or a week? The answer may be that the delay is still too long.

Or, more likely, viewers are electing to illegally stream or download titles to suit their own schedules.

Earlier this month a report from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) found that almost half of Australia's online adult population have watched video content via the internet within the past six months.

The report estimated that 5.2 million Australians looked at online video content, with 61 per cent watching full length television programs. Unfortunately, the options to do so legally in Australia are limited, fuelling illegal streaming and downloading.

Catch up services offered by the free-to-air broadcasters are the primary platforms for accessing television content online, with around 1.5 million Australians using these services in the month of June. However there is considerable disparity between the services.

ABC iView is by far the best offering, with 305 hours of content per week, free of charge and without advertising. On the other hand, Network Ten and Channel Nine's streams can take a long time to buffer on the best internet connections, and the picture quality varies. The Seven Network fares better, but getting repeatedly flogged with the same ad for 'Fango' at arbitrary intervals (sometimes half way through a scene) is annoying.

The next best legal option, iTunes, is considerably more reliable, but you won't be able to download new episodes from the Australian store until they've aired on local commercial or pay-TV services. Internet TV is also very limited; Fetch TV has become far more affordable in recent years due to competition between internet service providers, but there are far fewer on-demand programs available than one would like. Quickflix and BigPond Movies deserve a mention too, but only for titles typically already available on DVD.

Ironically, the best service 'available' for Australians who prefer not to illegally stream or download content is to enter the legal grey area of using a virtual private network (VPN) to access US services such as Netflix and Hulu, both of which feature extensive libraries and work extremely well.

The fast-tracking of overseas TV shows is only a band-aid fix to our expectation of on-demand content. Australian TV stations need to understand and support services that allow access to content at a time of our choosing and on a screen of our choosing, if there is to be any hope in quelling the copyright abuse of modern day television programs.

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

Printing the news: Newspapers and the next 10 years

An open letter to the world's next leading journalists, editors, and media moguls by **James Alexander**



Ask yourself, would you support this business? First; we cut down trees and ship them on big trucks to processing plants to create paper. Second; we ship the paper to power-guzzling printing houses. Third; we print a huge amount of content with very little feedback on what is actually read and much of it outdated once the ink hits the paper. Finally; we send this out around the city with the hope that someone will buy it or flick through more than a couple of pages.

There used to be a period in history where this process of publishing content was a license to print money. Today, this process sounds archaic, inefficient and just plain stupid. Newspapers are massive money bleeding businesses and the newspaper publishing industry has had a dire year.

In June *Fairfax* announced cuts of over 1900 workers, shutting down of two printing presses and the shrinking of its print circulation.

Rupert Murdoch has been forced to split his multi-billion dollar media empire, safeguarding his money making

entertainment divisions from the less lucrative publishing businesses, including some of the world's biggest newspapers. Mr Murdoch also predicts that newspapers will cease to exist within 10 years due to new "disruptive technologies" and online competition.

But for all the commentary by media moguls and complaints of journalists, many of the world's biggest media organisations have taken very small steps in transforming themselves for the digital age where 'the screen' dominates and 'the paper' languishes.

Here are six ideas that need to be considered for this to happen.

Dynamic content is a monumental shift

In today's online world the shift from static relay of information to dynamic news-as-it-happens is monumental. Television has a natural advantage, it is naturally dynamic, but there is only so much depth you can cover and many television programs will emphasise dramatic stories over thoughtful editorial.

The rise of self publishing or 'social media' has also helped fuel the fire - everyone is a publisher of content but not anyone is skilled at articulation, interviewing and writing. Newspapers need to capitalise on their reporters abilities and apply it to real-time content.

A rethink of 'The News'

A big problem with all newspapers strategies in 'going digital' is that the websites and apps they hire other people to create are designed for distributing content destined for print, not the other way around. Building an iPhone app is by no means the revolutionary thinking or approach that will reinvigorate a business that has grown accustomed to publishing outdated information. In all likelihood everything will and is already changing - from the creation of content to the workflow of journalists.

Click fodder versus curated content

Newspapers needs to realise and recognise the difference between the bored Facebook user (read: student) stubbornly scrolling through 9Gag or similar click fodder, versus curating content for the engaged web citizen, scrolling through their auto-created Google News homepage looking for an insightful and well-written news stories.

Editorial will be king

In the world of 'every day publishing' where anyone can create and share content, the need for editorial and content curation will become greater than ever before. The argument constantly thrown around by journalists and online editors is that the attention span of online readers is minimal and thus hard to pin

down. This is not true and extremely short-sighted.

Newspapers need to experiment with various payment models and realise that the more screens they have access too, the better potential for audience engagement and retention. As a student I'm a not going to pay to read *The Australian* nor bother to go back to the website because they simply throw up a paywall.

New opportunities

The best and most respected news agencies already started this process with online versions and apps to varying degrees; *The Economist*, *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*. Closer to home to *The Sydney Morning Herald* iPad app is exemplary. However, they all fall short for the reasons already mentioned.

So why do traditional newspapers still struggle with new forms of online revenue? Simply speaking, the people in charge do not understand how 'digital natives' (you and me) think and act online.

This is where the next generation of journalists come into play. The internet, along with disruptive mobile technologies, will create the next leading news publishers of the world. The challenge today is to turn this revenue losing excuse into the attractive new opportunity that it has become.

[@shortino29](#)

SCIENCE NEWS

Space diver and the world of tomorrow

Felicity Nelson watched this one from a safe distance



Photo: Wired.com

The world watches, tweets and waits as a lone man in a silver space suit stands on a precipice 36 kilometres above the Earth swinging beneath a colossal helium balloon. Before him lies the million-dollar view of planet Earth as a luminescent blue ball spinning against the darkness. He can trace the outline of continents from this height. Suddenly, he salutes and leaps out into empty space aiming vaguely for Mexico.

Such was the feat of Felix Baumgartner last week when he became the first man to survive a space skydive from the stratosphere and the first man to break the sound barrier in free fall.

Like the first person to dust the snow off the top of Everest, or the first man to take a stroll on the moon, this Austrian daredevil has gone where no one has gone before...and, importantly, lived to tell the tale.

Baumgartner and the Red Bull Stratos team had to overcome a range of technical, physical and psychological barriers to successfully pull off the dive. The research involved brought together experts in engineering, aerospace, medicine and pressure suit design, and the information gained will provide valuable insights for future space travel and skydiving.

Baumgartner conceived the idea over seven years ago but it has taken a lifetime of record-breaking to reach the level

of expertise needed to pull off such a dangerous stunt. In his list of achievements are a B.A.S.E. jump from the tallest building in the world (101 Tower in Taipei) and the lowest jump on record taken from the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro.

Even for a pro, executing a safe skydive from the stratosphere is extremely difficult. So many things could go wrong. The balloon fabric could tear, there could be a fault in the space suit or the wind could just be blowing

the wrong way. The initial launch was actually aborted when wind interference tangled the 30 million cubic foot helium balloon. The fabric is incredibly thin and the tiniest tear below 4000 feet would mean almost certain death, as the occupant would not have enough time to release their parachute.

In a dive of this duration there is a real danger of the diver spinning out of control and become unconscious due to the G-force. In the live footage Baumgartner is seen tumbling over and over for the first minute instead of adopting the advised delta position (arms back, head down).

At this height there is only 2% of the oxygen found at ground level and a functioning pressure suit is essential. Expert American skydiver, Nick Piantanida, attempted the first jump to Earth from this height in 1966 but his efforts ended in tragedy when his space suit inexplicably lost pressure. He was driven into a coma from lack of oxygen and died several months later. He was a pioneer in this field and prepared this dive at a time when space exploration was still in its infancy.

The record for highest skydive has not been beaten for 50 years. A member of Baumgartner's team, Joe Kittinger, successfully jumped from a height of 31km in 1960.

We have to wonder why Red Bull would funnel so much money into what could have gone down in history as the most epic sponsored suicide of all time. Ad campaigners around the globe must be taking their hats off (and scratching their heads) at the sheer nerve of this company...the huge payoff. The live YouTube stream drew the single biggest audience to date, a record of eight million viewers. The photograph of Baumgartner kneeling in the desert raising his fists in triumph went viral on Facebook and over three million tweets mentioned the event. Red Bull did not release the final figure of the seven-year enterprise but it is rumored to be in the tens of millions. The value of the positive press exposure probably exceeds this figure.

Baumgartner has defied gravity, death and common sense in his efforts to go higher and fall faster than ever before. It is as if an ordinary skydive, which would frighten me out of my wits, just isn't extreme enough for "Fearless Felix". Why would you free fall for half a minute when you could skydive for over nine minutes?

Baumgartner told the reporters afterwards, "Let me tell you - when I was standing there on top of the world, you become so humble. You don't think about breaking records anymore, you don't think about gaining scientific data - the only thing that you want is to come back alive."

We can only imagine his thoughts as he fell at an epic 1342 km/h. It must have been something like this: "weeee!" and nine minutes later... "weeee!" For Hitchhiker's fans such drama brings to mind images of falling whales and disappointed, high-velocity bowls of petunias.

But in all seriousness, it is genuinely inspiring to see a fellow human being succeed so spectacularly in breaking the limits of human achievement.

FREAKS OF NATURE

Pistol shrimps

Lane Sainty has discovered the animal kingdom's most feared water blower



Easily distracted as we are, humans tend to only pay attention to the animal kingdom when it is macabre, dramatic, or both. Sadly, when it comes to the ocean, that often manifests in the form of unjustified shark attack hysteria.

Convinced that smaller sea creatures are simply less interesting, we would never turn to, say, the humble shrimp in pursuit of a heroic story or even a tale of thuggery. Instead, these tasty crustaceans are constantly relegated to perch on the edge of cocktail glasses, while the word 'shrimp' is thrown around as an informal synonym for 'small' or 'weak'.

This is half true: shrimp are indeed small, but they are not weak. The pistol shrimp of the Alpheidae family is characterised by one disproportionately large claw, which is approximately half its body size. This claw can lock open and then snap together again with a truly unbelievable force.

The strength of the snap shoots out a jet of water, which travels at approximately 100km per hour. In the low-pressure area behind the jet, a bubble forms, and then implodes. However, as this happens, the imploding bubble produces a flash of light (a phenomenon known as sonoluminescence) and reaches an extremely high temperature, close to that of the surface of the sun. In case that didn't sink in the first time: the surface of the fucking sun.

If that isn't epic enough for you, the implosion of the bubble has two effects. Firstly, it creates the incredibly loud cracking sound the pistol shrimp is famous for (in marine biological circles, that is), so loud that it can interfere with sonar. Secondly, the resulting shock wave is so strong that it can either knock out or kill innocent passers-by, for instance, genuinely uninteresting types of shrimp or small fish.

Only one reasonable conclusion can be drawn from all this: the pistol shrimp is the underwater equivalent of a human who has machine guns instead of hands. A shock wave created by a simple snap of a claw has to be one of the coolest hunting strategies of all time. So when you next consider the shrimp, don't jump to conclusions. Remember: strength can come from the most unlikely of places.

SPORT OPINION

A-league winning its battles, but can it survive the war?

Nick Rowbotham takes a look at the league's sustainability



Australia's burgeoning professional football league, the A-League, is now into its eighth season. This season sees the addition of a new Sydney club, the

Western Sydney Wanderers. The introduction of a Western Sydney team marks an important milestone in the A-League's expansion; Western Sydney has traditionally been the footballing heartland of Sydney and has thus long been regarded as crucial to the A-League's ongoing success.

Last season was a tumultuous one in the league's development. In many ways, the on-field action was overshadowed by a public stoush between mining magnate and Gold Coast United owner Clive

Palmer and Football Federation Australia. The conflict ultimately resulted in the FFA revoking Gold Coast's license, and caused many to question the league's future. North Queensland Fury also had their license revoked for financial reasons at the end of the 2010-11 season.

But in spite of a number of hiccups in recent years, the A-League has continued to grow steadily, with crowd and membership numbers increasing each year. This season, most clubs expect to match their membership figures from last season, and some are expecting 20 to 30 percent increases.

The concept of a 'marquee player' has arguably been central to the A-League's growth over its first eight seasons. Each club has a salary cap of around \$2.5 million, but clubs are allowed one player who is exempt from the cap. This season, Sydney FC signed Italian and Juventus star Alessandro Del Piero as its marquee

player. Undoubtedly, players of Del Piero's calibre attract fans, and the signing has immediately paid off for Sydney FC, with Del Piero scoring a spectacular goal in his first home game and the winner in last Saturday's inaugural Sydney derby.

The A-League faces significant challenges in the years to come, notably in retaining as much of Australia's best young talent in the league as possible. But recent seasons seem to suggest that the league is doing well in this respect; Brisbane Roar, in particular, have played a consistently high standard of football over the last two seasons, and recent Socceroos squads have included a majority of A-League players. Perhaps the league's biggest challenge will be to continue to increase its exposure, and to this end an eventual free-to-air TV rights deal will be important. But the A-League is most certainly heading in the right direction.

They're picking on me

What should you do if you feel you are being harassed or discriminated against?

The University is bound by state and federal laws, to protect you against harassment and discrimination. But what should you do if you feel you are being harassed or discriminated against?

What is Unlawful Harassment?

The University's Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy and Resolution Procedure defines "Unlawful harassment" as "any type of behaviour that:

- the other person does not want; and
- offends, insults, humiliates or intimidates them; and is either
- sexual, or
- targets them because of their race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, transgender, sexual preference or orientation (including homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality and heterosexuality), disability, age, carers' responsibility, political belief, lack of a political belief, lack of a particular political belief (including trade union activity or lack of it, and student association activity or lack of it), religious belief, lack of a religious belief, and/or lack of a particular religious belief; and
- that, in the circumstances, a reasonable person should have expected would offend, insult, humiliate, or intimidate."

It then goes on to define Unlawful Discrimination. "Unlawful discrimination is any practice that

makes an unlawful distinction between individuals or groups, so as to disadvantage some people and advantage others."

What can you do if you feel you are being harassed or discriminated against?

Contact an SRCHelp caseworker. They can gather your information and act as an advocate for you to place a complaint with the Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit.

What if the bad treatment you receive is not technically harassment or discrimination?



The definition of harassment and discrimination is very specific. If you are being treated badly in another sense perhaps it is more like bullying or just unprofessional behaviour. This does not mean that it doesn't count. It just means that your complaint would be framed in different terms to suit a different policy. SRC Help is still a good point of contact.

Who does this protect from?

Students are protected from other students, teachers (permanent, casual and contract), placement supervisors, and other contractors on campus.

Ask Abe



Hello Abe,

My friend told me that I can get back the superannuation payments that my boss made while I was working here. I am going home to my country in December. What do I need to do?

Overseas Money

Hello Overseas Money,

The news on this is great for international students. If you worked here your boss could have paid money into a Superannuation fund for you. This is meant to be a savings for your retirement, however, since it is unlikely that you will be here then, you can usually have it now. Of course there are conditions like your visa has expired or been cancelled and you have to be out of the country to apply. You'll need all of the details of your Superannuation fund so keep copies of the statements that they send you. Go online to apply – www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads. Normally you will get your money about a month later.

Remember also, that you can fill out a tax refund from any wages you earned. Do this before you leave Australia. Again ask the Australian Tax Office for the forms you need.

Abe

Abe is the SRC's welfare dog.

If you would like to ask Abe a question send an email to help@src.usyd.edu.au. Abe gathers his answers from experts in a number of areas. Coupled with his own expertise on dealing with people, living on a low income and being a dog, Abe's answers can provide you excellent insight.



SRC Legal Service

The Students' Representative Council (SRC) Legal Service has a solicitor on Darlington campus to provide FREE legal advice, representation in court and a referral service to Undergraduate Students at Sydney University.

We can assist you with a wide range of legal issues such as:

- Immigration Advice
- Tenancy law
- Motor vehicle accident claims
- Discrimination & harassment
- Traffic offences
- Criminal law
- Employment law
- Credit, debt and fines
- Administrative (gov) law
- Victims compensation
- Consumer complaints
- Domestic violence
- Insurance law
- University complaints
- and more ... *please ask us*



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



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
Level 1 Wentworth Building, Uni of Sydney
02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au



Appointments

phone 02 9660 5222

Drop-in sessions Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-3pm (no need for an appointment)

Location Level 1, Wentworth Building G01 (under the footbridge on City Rd), Darlington Campus

NEED a Justice of the Peace on campus:
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/staff/directories/jps.shtml>

Postgraduate students contact SUPRA:
www.supra.usyd.edu.au
or phone 02 9351 3715



Have you liked us on Facebook?

www.facebook.com/SrcHelp

President's Report: So long and thanks for all the fish

president@src.usyd.edu.au

Phoebe Drake will be writing an awful lot of Christmas cards

It feels a little strange writing my last *Honi* report for the year. After four years of being involved in the SRC, it's quite possible I won't know what to do with my time next year!

As many of you know, I ran for the SRC because I'm passionate about making sure all students at Sydney University, no matter their background, are effectively represented. As a kid from country NSW, I also wanted to make sure rural and regional students had a voice on campus and nationally.

This year has been such a fantastic opportunity, and the SRC has had many great wins!

Some of the issues we've campaigned around this year include travel concession for all students, an increase in base funding to universities, improved wireless, retention of Honours, adequate shuttle bus services at Cumberland, no staff cuts and, of course, students' money to students.

As you know, in many of these areas (and more) we have been successful, and that is testimony to my hard working team this year (whom I will embarrass later in this report!).

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been instrumental in making this year successful- I honestly could not have done it without you!

First, and foremost, thank you to absolutely every single person who campaigned or voted for me - I hope I have made you proud! I never imagined when I started university, that as someone from a small town, I could ever become SRC President and, without your faith in me, it would not have happened. I truly have valued this opportunity!

A huge thank you to my family as well! First, thanks to my parents for ceasing to ask me when I plan on finishing my degree! I promise this will happen

- hopefully by the end of next year. But seriously, thank you for teaching me that hard work pays off, instilling in me the values and beliefs I hold today, and thank you for always being there every single time I have needed you.

To all my brothers; Hamish - I am thinking of you in your HSC - best of luck! Deckle-freckle (Declan), thanks for all your political text messages, they always brighten up my day! Callum, thanks so much for helping me with the campaign last year, and being a constant source of support this year through coffee/dinner/drinks etc- you have kept me happy and healthy! Thanks also to Clare; it's been so good having you around this year!

To the 2012 SRC team- you have all been amazing, and it's been a pleasure getting to know you! A huge thanks to Tim- we've survived the SSAF budgeting process (twice). I will also never forget seeing my Vice-President Tom removed from campus in handcuffs - thank you for showing us all how to fight the good fight. Your passion for the SRC and students in general is inspiring. To Sam - thank you for always being so willing to come along to meetings, events etc, you will go on to do great things, and your commitment to fighting for a high standard of teaching and learning is admirable.

To Rafi and Brigitte, you have been fantastic Welfare Officers and I'm so excited about getting the Breakfast Bar up and running.

To Annabel and Kate (and the entire Women's Collective), you are all so so amazing. Thank you for all your hard work this year.

To everyone else - Jay, Ronny, Nathan and all those I haven't mentioned, the SRC is nothing without its team. We've had an interesting and eventful year together!

Thanks also to the *Honi* Eds - you've been a great team this year!

To all the SRC staff, thank you for your passion, your commitment, and your love for student welfare and student run organisations.

Thank you also to Astha from the USU. Not only have we brought our organisations closer, but through our coffees, meetings, random nights out, I've also been lucky enough to make a friend in you. Good luck for the rest of your term - you'll do great things.

To the other student organisations, SUPRA and CSG, it's been a pleasure working alongside you this year. The road ahead will not be an easy one, but with our commitment for student run organisations, passion for the students we represent, and enthusiasm for broadening our horizons, I'm sure things will end up just fine.

Thank you also to those in the University I've worked with this year! Thank you to Peter McCallum and Simon Barrie, for always listening to my ideas, and showing me how I can improve them.

Thank you to Michael Spence, for making the time to meet with me every time I have asked. We have often disagreed, but you have always answered my questions and listened to my concerns. Likewise, thank you also to Derrick and David.

To all the amazing activists I've worked with on campus this year - Annabel, Max, Julia, Casey, Harry, Bowie, Jay, Hannah, Eve, Eliza, James, James, and James, and everyone else who has been involved along the way - thank you!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the past presidents, who have given me support and pearls of wisdom along the way- Dee, Elly, Noah, Kate, Rose and Jo. Your past achievements and campaigns decorate the walls of my office and remind me every day of the hard work that has gone before me.

To the NUS team- Dee, Rosa, Noni and Neha- thank you all so much for

your hard work this year. Dee in particular, for answering all my questions, for also answering all my calls- I could not have achieved any of this without you!

Thanks also to Jade, my fellow Broadway President at UTS, we've become amazing friends over the last year, and I'm so proud of all your hard work and everything you have accomplished for students on your campus.

Thanks also to all my friends - Rach, Amy, Rosie, Jack, Huw, Penny, Anna, and Pip, you have been to my aid in various ways over the past year! From forcing me to take the time to eat dinner, to taking me out shopping and for coffee, to putting up with all my bad moods, you have made such a difference in my life this year- thank you so much!

Thanks also to the Sancta Seven - Gaby (my housemate), Izzy, Kathleen, Emily, Lauren, and Sarah. You have supported me since day one of university, and I hope we will always stay in touch!

A huge thank you and hug to my boyfriend, Dom - you have been amazing, and your support has meant the world to me.

Thank you to everyone else who I haven't mentioned, but who have been part of making this all happen - I appreciate it so much!

Lastly, thank you to David! As I said to you in person, you've done everything I've ever asked of you, and exceeded it. Thanks for being such a brilliant activist and Education Officer this year. You have been an instrumental part of my team and your passion is simply inspiring. Best of luck in your Presidency next year: I know you will do a fantastic job!!!!



General Secretary's Report: How great is the SRC?!

general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

Tim Matthews will always love you

Three years ago, wandering around my first O-Week, I remember being struck by the immensity of services offered by the SRC. Having spoken to the office bearers at the stall, picked up a copy of the Counter Course handbook and read all about my prospective courses, and considered all of the things that the SRC promised to help me with, I was already convinced of the merits of our robust student representation.

Three years later, and I am still struck by the immensity of those services, and more convinced than ever that the University of Sydney SRC provides amazing services in advocacy, representation, casework, legal advice, student welfare and much more. After two years as an SRC office bearer, I want to take this (vaguely self-indulgent) opportunity to reflect on the previous two years of my involvement with this amazing organisation.

I am proud of the incredible growth in

your SRC this year. We have expanded our legal service, spent more on advocacy and representation than in recent memory, hired additional caseworkers to meet your demands, extended our work at satellite campuses, published more student journalism in *Honi Soit*, sold more second handbooks at our book store. Into the future, and with your assistance, the SRC will only continue to expand and improve upon these services.

Over the past year, I have used many words in my *Honi Soit* column to persuade you of the merits of being involved in the SRC. Honestly, the work that you can get involved in with the SRC is in equal measures challenging, rewarding, frustrating, important and a whole lot of fun. The SRC can only ever be as strong as the passion and skills of the student representatives who run it. I look forward to watching the SRC reach even greater heights in 2013 and beyond.

And briefly, some thank yous (I prom-

ised this report was self indulgent):

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the SRC staff members who put in an incredible amount of work to support the work of the organisation.

I would like to thank both of the immensely passionate and dedicated Presidents that I have had the pleasure of working with. Donherra and Phoebe have both fiercely pursued their vision of the undergraduate student experience on this campus. I have had the pleasure to work with too many amazing student advocates over the last two years to name. I am floored by the work that many of them have done all around the year to represent your needs and concerns on campus.

Thank you to all of my friends who have supported me and my craziness through education campaigns, awful meetings with the university, tense SSAF negotiations and the like.

Finally, thank you to each and every

student who involves themselves in the SRC, no matter how extensive that involvement, for helping to grow and shape the most robust advocacy and representation organisation in the country.



Vice President's Report: Destroy the Joint!

vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au

Tom Raue will fight them on the beaches, in the trenches, and in the parliament

The SRC isn't doing enough to fight capitalism and the state. We humans are fallible, and nobody is justified in restricting another person's liberty. The SRC must fight for the absolute freedom of each individual to do what they want so long as it doesn't harm others. The rigid hierarchy of state bureaucracy is inconsistent with individual autonomy. The state means the tyranny of the majority, the separation of citizens from actual decision making. Power should be decentralised into direct democracies in communities and residential communities to allow each individual maximum control of their own lives.

Freedom is hindered by the existence of government, but that does not mean leaving things up to the market would

be any better. The tyranny of capital is even less accountable than our current government. Nepotism and corruption are encouraged in the corporate sector, with managers being appointed by those higher up rather than elected by the workers. What freedom does a working mother have? The choice between double shifts as a cleaner or working in a factory? There is no meaningful freedom for the vast majority of people under capitalism, especially those in developing countries whom we turn into slaves so that we may consume more.

For the individual to flourish and society to prosper, we must do away with the government and the market together. We must create new economies and ways of organising without hierarchy. Eventually,

goods could be produced and distributed through a gift economy. Each person would give what they are able, and take what they need. Enlightened self interest would encourage people to produce even without immediate tangible reward. The evidence for this urge in human nature can be seen in game theory experiments like the oft-iterated prisoner's dilemma, or economies like Wikipedia or file sharing networks where production and consumption take place without central planning or a market.

Violent revolutions rarely do any good, and in any case the population in Australia is not ready for such a quick transition into statelessness. We must first use the existing structures of the government to eliminate economic domination while

at the same time reducing state power in every other sphere. We must open our borders to refugees, nationalise all industries, end paternalistic treatment of Indigenous people and welfare recipients, drastically increase taxes on the wealthy, legalise drugs, increase foreign aid and boycott countries that abuse human rights. At the same time we should slowly devolve economic power away from the state apparatus, instead empowering the workers that run the power station, rail networks, farms and factories.

The SRC should be leading the charge towards anarchy. We should be both an example of non-hierarchical organising and vocal warriors for a better society.

Have a lovely summer holiday everybody.

Women's Collective Report: A year of kicking arse

usydwomenscollective@gmail.com

A successful year will be capped off by reclaiming the night, writes Kate O'Brien

It's certainly been a fantastic year for feminism to be embraced by women students across the University of Sydney, nay, Australia! Between Alan Jones' misogynistic comments, Gillard's parliamentary speech, the tragic death of Jill Meagher and the questionable notion that Toby Abbott himself is a feminist, actual feminist voices have been propelled into the spotlight to call out sexism, discrimination and injustices. Feminism is not dead, but rather alive and kicking arse! The Women's Collective are a fantastic bunch of intelligent and inspiring women whose bond – and numbers – has grown over the year

Earlier on in the year we celebrated International Women's Day by hosting a breakfast where women students had an opportunity to reflect on the past achievements of feminism and look towards the social, cultural and economic shifts that need to occur to make Australia a truly equitable society. Alicia Pierce and Fran Hayes spoke on the

gender pay gap which has remained at around 17 per cent consistently for the past 15 years.

The Women's Collective have advocated and lobbied for women's rights to bodily autonomy and agency. Members of collective participated in NOWSA (Network of Women Students Australia), an annual week-long conference which addressed difficult topics this year via workshops and speakers, from sexual assault, consent and pornography to women in the media and women's diversity.

The idea of having a second feminist outlet, one which was inclusive of all genders, was central to the Women's Collectives' plan to progress feminist engagement in the student body. Thus, the Feminist Society was born this year by the Women's Collective who recognised the important value of having spaces for both autonomous and open feminist organising collectives on-campus. The feminist movement is positively swelling

with an increasing number of students taking up the cause.

During the beginning of Semester 2, the Women's Collective joined forces with the USU Women's Convenor, Christina Mikhael, to host an all-women performance evening at Manning bar. The profits made from Knightess went to Lou's Place, a women's refuge which has long assisted women in the Sydney community.

As young women who are outraged by gender-based violence and sexual harassment, we have been developing a new campaign to be launched early next year in response to the Talk About It Survey (a nation-wide study which gathers information about women student's experiences of harassment and assault). The NUS Women's department are currently re-doing the TAI survey. I encourage all women-students to complete it so that we gather more accurate data on women students' experiences (you can find it here: www.surveymonkey.com/s/

talkaboutit2012).

Women are subjected to harassment and abuse every day. The high rates and frequency of violence (psychological, physical and emotional) perpetrated against women have motivated us to revive and strengthen Reclaim the Night for 2012. Reclaim the Night will be held on Sunday 28 October in Hyde Park. Beginning at 4pm with a family-friendly picnic and live music, the event will progress into the evening where a traditional march will take place at 7pm. Speakers include Afghan refugee Najeeba Wazefadost who will speak out against street harassment, sixteen year old Lily Eldestein who will speak out about online harassment and Lani Brennan who will speak out against domestic violence. This event is open to everyone; we hope you will join us in reclaiming the night, reclaiming women's rights!

As always, please feel free to get in touch and get involved: usydwomenscollective@gmail.com

Education Officers' Report: Declaring victory

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David Pink will never stop stopping the cuts

Wow, what a year it's been – I figure there's nothing better to do in a final report than rattle off a self-congratulatory list of the Education Department's achievements this year:

Freya, Tom and I convened the Education Action Group for the first time in two years – at its height we had meetings with over 70 people.

The Staff Cuts campaign was a massive success through our direct militant tactics.

In an incredibly effective alliance between students and workers, the EAG and the NTEU organised a rally of over 2,000 people, which marched on the Quad and presented a list of demands to the Vice-Chancellor.

We occupied the Dean of Arts' office for four hours and shut down the Faculty of Arts Administration office for an entire day.

We generated massive publicity for our cause when three of our activists were dragged away and arrested by

police after our attempt to occupy Senate negotiations. Undeterred, 200 students blockaded the building and prevented ratification of the Final Change Plan.

A referendum on the staff cuts outstripped SRC voter turn out, and demonstrated that 97 per cent of 5000 students opposed the sacking of their teachers. Hundreds of students told me that this made them see their SRC as relevant and active in a way unprecedented over the past five years.

All in all, the effect of our fortnightly rallies, occupations and walkouts was to force the university to spend their entire annual security budget for the year in the space of three weeks. That's how we won – we made it more expensive for the university to continue with their cuts, than to simply back down to student demands.

Fewer than 40 staff have now taken out voluntary redundancies, out of an original plan to sack 350.

We succeeded in getting bread and



butter student issues addressed: we rolled out lecture recordings in multiple new faculties, got plagiarism and special consideration policy uniformly enforced across faculties, and made major headway in securing international students travel concession on public transport.

Now the thank yous: I'd like to thank Phoebe Drake for being an amazing President, and the voice of reason in all my activism; thank you to Tom Raue and Timothy Scriven for being phenomenal education activists to work with

this year, thank you to Freya, Erima and the rest of the Solidarity crew (we had our differences this year, but the amount of work you guys put in is frightening), thank you to Dee and Rosa from the National Union of Students for fighting the good fight against the Labor Government, and thank you to Casey, Harry, James, the other James, Max, the other Max, Annabel, Hannah, Callum, Clare, Pete, Leon, Sam and my other comrades from National Labor Students – you guys are the heart and soul of the SRC, and without you socialism, feminism, unionism and democracy would be dead in student activism.

Also, thank you to Sam Farrell for being a great co-Education Officer - it was great to write the Counter Course handbook with you. Many hilarious times were had.

Thank you to the student body for entrusting me with the 85th Presidency of the SRC. Time to fuck Abbott up.

College Cultcha with Damo 'Donger' Thomson



This. Is. Fucked.

I have given so much of myself to col-col this year. I have given them blood, sweat and vomit – not tears but, ‘cos only faggots cry. I have played in every single Rawson team (every team lost – Eds.), I hold the record for bein’ kicked out of the college pub the most, I even won the ‘fResher fuck-up’ award after I hospitalised myself and two of me mates while riding my dirt bike through the corridors! In short, I am a fucking legend. And now these cunts who run the college think they can ban me from coming back next year?

What, so just ‘cos I put a little shampoo in some random chick’s drink in O-Week, which was fuckin’ hilarious by the way just ask Ripper or Scrot or any of the boys – it was fuckin’ funny. Just ‘cos

I was taken to court for getting me dick out in a tute, which they decided to see as an alleged sexual assault as opposed to being psyched that I was even at class. Just ‘cos I punched that cab driver in the back of the head when I was wasted on the pub-crawl. And just ‘cos I called some Indian kid a cunt on Facey and got us in The Herald – fuckin’ free publicity, you’re welcome! – they reckon that my “actions and behaviour this year have reflected terribly on the college”. Are they fucking kiddin’? I am college!

I am literally the living embodiment of col-col. My parents didn’t send me to boarding school for twelve years for me to get kicked out after just on year – they sent me because they’re emotionally unavailable and married for money and sex, respectively. I did everything I was supposed to! I played First XV for three years and I never told anyone about the coach’s wandering hands. I was spoon-fed information by my teachers so I could get a high enough mark to get into Sydney Uni. Once I got in, I never went to class. I always got hammered with the boys. I rooted more than me fair share of chicks – let’s be honest, some were bush pigs but after a bottle of Bundy anything with a pulse is fair game. I noticed the

weird homo-erotic tension in our rugby team and just went with it – shower’s will never be the same... I have only worn a combination of Canterbury trackpants, polo shirts and footy shorts all year! Where the fuck did I go wrong? Yeah I may have absent failed every subject this year, but in my defense: I don’t even fuckin’ know where Cumbo is!

This is total bullshit. I cannot believe that the institution I care so much about has just turfed me out without so much as a warning like some fuckin’ povrat public school kid. Did they not see me being a legend at the formal when I shat in the chocolate fountain? Did they not see me start the food fight that ended up blinding one of the help when a glass broke and went everywhere? Do they not remember that I am the heart and soul of this sandstone citadel?

I lived for college. I only went to university so that I could go to college.



Not a word...

Since before I can even remember I have wanted to go to college. And now, because I did it properly, it’s gone, just like that. And what does that leave me with? Nothing. Absolutely fuckin’ nothing.

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Another Day, Another Drink with Dr Rupert Thorogood



November is the cruelest month, breeding regret from empty bottles, mixing memory and despair, stirring fallow skin with the spring sun. In Winter I kept warm, the brandy covered my senses in a delightful haze, and the oil heater in my Redfern apartment hadn’t given up the ghost.

The axe has fallen; Spence finally won the war. Alea iacta est. Now I sit here, flask in hand, and wonder: this is the end, there can’t possibly be more.

I miss my taupe-walled office, the dirty carpet, and the smell. I miss the refreshing Quadrangle breeze, bringing the subtle hint of exposed chest and the glimpse of nubile upper thigh. Even that behemoth Belinda is a better option than the flat-chested mail-order brides at the local massage parlour. My only human contact is with their calloused hands on my nether regions, begging the overwhelming question: could I ever enjoy a wristy from a tradesman? The answer, I am sorry to say, is no.

The Spring evening settles down with

smell of six dollar Pad Thai.

Six o’clock.

The woolen-headed ends of boozy days. And now an ice-cold shower wraps the grimy scraps of withered skin about my feet while newspapers line my vacant floor. The morning sun beats on broken bottles and the crooked door. And at the corner of the street a lonely corner whore, she suggests a rub.

And then the night’s trek to the pub.

I resolved to give Spence a parting volley, and unleash thirty years of pent up scholastic rage while I congratulated with a whiskey sour under the jacaranda. I was foiled. I entered my office in my most resplendent tweed to see the fuckers who robbed me of my livelihood, taking my only love – those cretins emptied my dry bar, too!

I watched as some steroid-addled, muscle-bound twats from campus security muster their entire collective brainpower to pour an African fortune of liquid gold, frankincense and myrrh into the garden outside my office. It seems they

didn’t have enough power in those uneducated synapses to consider drinking the stuff; that, at least, would provide some consolation. I hope my Glenfiddich poisons those fucking azaleas.

At least I can take comfort from the fact that Belinda saw the whole spectacle. Quite a crowd had gathered, and Belinda was at the head of the group, moaning her bovine groans as my office was emptied of all it was worth. That taut little honours student from last semester was there, crying as a hundred shredded copies of her thesis were carted away. That’ll teach her. When I said she’d have to blow me away in order to get a better grade, I meant it.

The morning comes to consciousness of faint stale smells of beer from my sawdust-trampled office with the muddy feet that press to early coffee-stands, at Taste.

With my other masquerades that time can’t resume, I think of my fallow hands that once raised dingy shades in the dusty Fisher rooms.

I tossed my blanket from the bed, I lay down and I contemplated. I drank, and watched the night revealing the thousand sordid images of which my soul was constituted. A wine glass reflected on the ceiling and when the world came back, and the light crept up into my eyelids, I remembered my nap down in the gutters.

Not much worse than this dingy piece of shit I call home. My rent is in arrears, and now the landlord, too, is after me.

Sitting along the bed’s edge, wiping traces of vomit from my hair. I clasp the bottle of Campari in the palms of both soiled hands.

There is nothing left for us here. It is a world of pencil-pushers, depressing women and fucking taxes on cask wine.

I rescue the bottle of Grange I had been saving for my still non-existent daughter’s marriage from the attic. (I was hopeful once, and it was on special at Dan Murphy’s).

Let us go then, down to Victoria Park: that old haunting ground of paper bagged shame.

Let us go then, you and I, when the evening is spread out against the sky, like last night’s merlot etherized upon the pavement.

Let us go, through certain half-deserted beats, the muttering retreats of restless nights with Wyndam’s cheap pinot and sawdust hangovers with regret, and headaches, to go.

Beats that follow like a tedious argument of insidious intent, to lead you to the overwhelming question:

The shiraz, or duriff?

It’s a question not for tonight. Both bottles are empty and fucking Broadway Cellars cut me off months ago. More pressing, then, is my final home – the pond, or the road?

I grow old... I grow old... I shall drink the last of my champagne cold.

Shall I drink some vodka, one more time? Do I dare drink before nine? I shall drink straight gin martinis, with a hint of lime.

I have heard the first years singing, each to each.

I do not think they will sing to me.

I have seen them strut to Manning from the Law Café.

Combing the blonde hair off their breasts and back, when the metho turns my vision white and black.

I linger by the pond too long, first years call me with their song.

Their nubile voices haunt me, so then I drowned.

THE 2012 HONILEAKS AWARDS

Hack of the Year

Todd Pinkerton

Pinkerton helped end the three year exile of Student Unity (Labor Right) from Union Board as campaign manager for successful Union Board candidate John Harding-Easson. Pinkerton has worked the numbers throughout the year at Sydney University campuses and other across Australia to ensure he is well placed to take the coveted position of General Secretary of the National Union of Students. An executive of the SRC, Pinkerton's movements this year are sure to pay off in the field of national student politics.

The Niccollo Machiavelli Award for Political Puppet Master of the Year

Tim Matthews

The influence of Tim Matthews on Sydney University is so great that some have nicknamed his independent/centre-right pseudo-faction the 'Timdependents', while Labor caucus members have reportedly been caught screaming his name in the middle of the night. He was the brains behind three Board campaigns and countless preference deals in Semester One, and in Semester Two the outgoing SRC General Secretary threatened to end a Labor dynasty as the Campaign Manager/Commander-in-Chief of the recent "VOICE/Sam for President" SRC campaign.

The George Speight Award for Biggest Political Coup

Closed Campus & Rajvanshi becoming President

For the first time ever, a combined force of independents and Greens saw legislation removed that allowed groups or individuals to bring in campaigners from other campuses. The obvious beneficiaries of the old legislation were the Labor factions and whilst they survived this year, it seems a matter of time before someone rallies enough organic support to topple the machine. A coup for democracy at Sydney Uni.

The other major political triumph this year was the unlikely appointment of Astha Rajvanshi as President of the University of Sydney Union. We never dreamed the director who ran for Board "because (she) wanted to get more involved with the Union" would actually get voted in. It seems standing for little can go a long way.

The Andrew Wilkie Award for Independent Most Likely to be Screwed Over

Cameron Caccamo

It wasn't the first time a member of a faction defected to the Indies seeking glory. The Caccs made Council this year, but his 2013 USU Board bid is unlikely to generate the backing he craves. With Tim Matthews and Kade Denton rumoured to be making a tilt, Voice's resources are likely to be stretched.

Best New Hack

Penina Su & Isabelle Youssef

Whilst her achievements may seem modest on paper (Su acquired a minor SULS position and a seat on the SRC this year), the hard work she did for the K'Chau USU and VOICE SRC campaigns has firmly established the Law first-year within the Independent camp.

Second year student Isabelle Youssef shares the title for her unexpected rise to President of the Sydney University Law Society. Youssef managed to run unopposed, despite having far fewer meaningless CV lines than a SULS presidential candidate usually requires.

The Little Engine That Could Award for Electoral Perseverance

Patrick Massarani

It's safe to say everyone had consigned Massarani to the annals of university electoral failure. Despite promising a six-pack for each vote Paul's vote for Union Board, Postman Pat copped a shellacking. Ever hopeful, he ran for Senate last year, only for the election to be annulled because of allegations of rampant electoral fraud. But this year he defiantly proved that being a factional hack eventually leads to success upon being anointed undergraduate Fellow of the Senate.

The Paul Henry Award for Racial Sensitivity

St Paul's College

What's left to say? This group of (overwhelmingly) privileged white guys held a racist party, got called out on it, and then didn't like that the plebs had the audacity to admonish this, and we quote, "group of future leaders". We recognise them for their breath-taking hubris, utter lack of self-awareness, and complete detachment from regular society.

The Lest We Forget Memorial Award for Most Missed Campus Food Outlet

Donut King

The donuts shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not stale them, nor food safety standards condemn. At the closing of Wentworth and in the morning We will remember them. Lest we digest.

The R. Kelly 'Ignition' Award for Starting A Media Shitstorm

Mason McCann

His one letter about the Paul's Raj Party set off a chain of events that saw the story make it into the most read English language newspaper in the world: *The Times of India!*

The Richard Burbage award for Oratorical Excellence

Nathan Li

Li frequently invoked Shakespeare soliloquies in speaking to SRC motions. Self-explanatory.

The Cory Bernardi Award for Most Controversial Campus Personality

Tom Raue

Tom 'The Maverick' Raue got censored by his own Union board for speaking out against LifeChoices, he's anti-capitalism, pro-drug legalisation, and pro-consensual bestiality... Oh and he got arrested for protesting staff cuts. Plus, we're still not convinced that he isn't a double-agent working to tear down the Union from within. Finally, Nathan Li has decided to wage a one-man war of words from his position as Chair of the Standing Legal Committee.

The Regina George 'She Doesn't Even Go Here' Award

Sydney University Sport and Fitness & Paul Ellis

SUSF received the largest portion of this year's Student Services and Amenities Fee, despite catering to many not enrolled at Sydney. Now, we get that a lot of students play sport but if this wasn't so blatantly about the Old Boys club ensuring we produce another crop of Wallabies they would've at least lowered their exorbitant membership fees.

Although he finished his extended Arts Degree in Semester One, current *Honi* Editor Ellis couldn't stay away from involving himself in yet another SRC Election campaign (Jam for *Honi*). We only hope that 2013 sees Ellis do something more productive with his time... like getting Foxtel... or a job.

The WWE SmackDown Award

Eleanor Gordon-Smith

Eleanor's eloquent savaging of Vice Chancellor Michael Spence in the annual Alumni vs Students Comedy Debate was more brutal than a vertical suplex chokeslam. Students won the debate for the first time in recent memory and if the hype is to be believed this was largely down to EGS' performance. Not even debating demi-god Adam Spencer could stem the tide of verbal admonishment.

The Love's Labours Won Award for Best Unpublished Honi Segment

The Gonzo Files with Munter S. Thompson

The idea was that each week an anonymous writer would take a different drug and write about the experience of said drug whilst under its influence. Gonzo journalism, amirite? Genius! Unfortunately, once we realised the SRC wouldn't reimburse us for drugs we had to shelve the whole operation. Oh, what could have been!

The Alan Jones Memorial Chaff-Bag

Alex Dore

For his repeated, yet useless, attempts at saving a lost cause, rather than throwing himself out to sea.

The Pantene Pro-V Award for Peer Pressure

St John's College

C'mon, a bunch of older guys forcing an impressionable, intoxicated teenage girl into drinking a chemical cocktail is all just a bit of fun! It's O-Week, crazy things happen, so let's not treat this as a case of poisoning someone rather just a bit of harmless fun. To their credit the college Rector did try and expel the boys responsible but the Old Boys club aka the college council over-ruled him. Repeatedly. After all, boys will be socially maladjusted fuckwits. Besides she didn't tell anyone about her stomach bleeding condition so how where they to know that making her drink a mix of shampoo, dog food, sour milk, Tabasco sauce and alcohol would make her sick? Plus they're good blokes, they did take her to the hospital, eventually...

The Billy Goat's Gruff Award for Biggest Facebook Troll

Rafi Alam & Tom Russell

In the red corner, infamous campus firebrand and shit-stirring supremo, 'The Leftist Livewire', Rafi Alam! In the blue corner, pseudonymous psycho and Edgar Allen Poe fan, 'The Neo-Liberal Nut-Case', Tom Russell! Between the two of them these guys have wreaked more online havoc than when Marc Antony let slip the dogs of war. Picture them, sitting alone in the dark, cackling with misanthropic glee, as their comment threads explode.

Ones to watch in 2013:

The Grassroots. Tim Matthews. Annabel Osborn, and Sean O'Grady

The Grassroots surprised everyone when their candidate Tom Raue broke quota in the USU Board elections. They maintained momentum with a strong SRC result. With added experience and a rapidly swelling caucus, expect another strong showing from the Grassroots next year as they seek to get Raue a position on the USU executive.

Matthews is rumored to be running for Board next year. If so, he is a shoe-in. The more pertinent question is whether he would be comfortable on the relative backbench that is being a first-year Board Director, and whether he might be better off running for a Senate spot.

Having established credentials as a feminist leader, NLS member and SRC Women's Officer Annabel Osborn is another likely Board candidate. If elected, expect NLS to target USU President in coming years.

One of this year's most prodigious *Honi* reporters, O'Grady is a likely candidate for election next year after playing a prominent role in the successful 'Jam for *Honi*' campaign.



Honi

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