

O-Week
2013

It's a riot

Corporate ad
pg 2

The new
chancellor,
pg 4

STRIIIIKE!
pg 10

Matt Okine: a
funny guy
pg 13

Special O-Week Liftout inside!

SEX, DRUGS
AND NAZIS:
YOUR STUDENT PAPER
SINCE 1929



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Passion to Perform



Our mission statement for 2013

Lucy Watson
Editor-in-chief



Objectivity is dead. Just ask any media scholar. Journalists will try and tell you otherwise, but don't believe it. Everyone has an opinion, and they love nothing more than pushing their agenda on you. We're no different.

Welcome to *Honi Soit* for 2013. This year, we present you an honest, and honestly biased, paper. We're not hiding behind a veil of objectivity; we're presenting what we think. Just like everybody else. The difference here is that we're not pretending to be anything we're not. We have opinions, you have them too. Facts are not just facts, they are interpreted with natural bias. We pres-

ent you ours, unashamedly.

We don't expect you to take our word for everything. On the contrary, you should be critical of us. Everything you read should be scrutinised. You should look at what we think, and consider what you think. If you're on the same page as us, congratulations, you must be awesome. If you're not, tell us. We encourage contributors from all biases, unless your natural bias is racist, sexist, or hateful in any way. If it is, go back to 1960, we don't want you here.

Honi Soit has a long and radical past. We've been around since 1929, and we started as an alternative to mainstream

media, to provide a voice for the students the daily papers were so happily tearing to shreds. In 2013, we proudly live up to that tradition. I don't know if you've heard, but there's a federal election happening in September. An election that's outcome is all but decided, and it's an outcome that spells disaster for students. We're here to make some noise and get our voices heard. We won't stand for the deregulation of fees or cuts to student support. We may be small, but we can make a lot of racket.

Make a racket with us.

Objectivity is dead. Long live *Honi Soit*.

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|---|---|
| PAGE 4 | A strike is brewing at this here University - Samantha Jonscher walks you through the walk out |
| Science Vs Arts, a battle to the death - Mischa Vickas | PAGE 7 |
| PAGE 9 | Harvard reserach proves that grass before beer leaves you in the clear - Lachlan Munro |
| The history of a newspaper. This newspaper - Dom Bowes & Lucy Watson | PAGE 11 |
| PAGE 12 | Community life - Caitlin Still |
| Crosswords and puzzles page | PAGE 20 |
| PAGE 21 | THE SOIN |
| Plus a bonus 8 page O-Week liftout! | |

THE ONLY LETTER WE GOT OVER THE SUMMER – COME BACK NEXT WEEK FOR A WHOLE PAGE OF THEM!

Dear Counter Course team,
The 2013 Counter Course Handbook is undoubtedly a masterpiece, and I applaud you. However, I feel it is necessary for me to address certain claims made in the Medicine section.

It is worth noting that the Sydney Medical School introduced graduate-entry medicine in 1992, long before the fascist Howard Government decided it would be a good idea to charge exorbitant fees to students with a desire to heal the sick through a tiered HECS system.

Interestingly, you accuse the move by the University as one that was done to reduce the number of Commonwealth-supported places. However, the Sydney Medical Program provides more CSP places—both bonded and unbonded—to students than the undergraduate-entry

UNSW program.

Moreover, you have listed Macquarie University as a potential candidate for students who are seeking a 'real' medical education. I would like to respectfully inform you that Macquarie University does not in fact offer undergraduate medicine.

As for the wisdom of a graduate-entry program, I should point out that medicine is a life-long vocation. It is rare that high school leavers have absolute certainty in the career path they wish to pursue. A further three years of grounding in any subject area provides students with the maturity required to make that decision and the interpersonal and critical thinking skills that will serve them well in the study of medicine. In the words of our patron saint, Hippocrates, "inexperience is a bad treasure, and a bad fund to those who possess it."

In solidarity,
Fahad Ali
BMedSc/MBBS II

Obituary

It is with sadness that *Honi Soit* reports the death of Reverend Beth Spence. Beth is survived by her husband, University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Reverend Michael Spence, and their children James, Philippa, Oliver, Lucinda and Felicity.

St Mary's Anglican Church Waverly, where Beth served as supporting clergy, wrote: "Beth's faith and zeal for pastoral connection through the entire community earned her a special place in the hearts of all who met her."

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Honi Soit is published by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney, Level 1 Wentworth Building, City Road, University of Sydney, NSW, 2006. The SRC's operation costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney. The editors of *Honi Soit* and the SRC acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. *Honi Soit* is written, printed, and distributed on Aboriginal land. *Honi Soit* is printed under the auspices of the SRC's Directors of Student Publications: Clare

Auld, Adam Chalmers, Bebe D'Souza, Brigitte Garozzo, James O'Doherty, Lane Sainty. All expressions are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as the opinions of the SRC unless specifically stated. The Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained within this newspaper, nor does it endorse any of the advertisements and insertions. Printed by MPD, Unit E1 46-62 Maddox St. Alexandria NSW 2015.

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HONI NEWS

FREE

O-Week Edition

“BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOU CAN DO ANYTHING”

University presents a new type of chancellor

Max Chalmers reports on what the rise of Belinda Hutchinson means for the ‘billion-and-a-half dollar business’ that is Sydney University

The University of Sydney Senate has broken with tradition by appointing a Chancellor with an extensive corporate background. During the holidays the Senate announced it had voted to install Belinda Hutchinson as the University’s 18th Chancellor. She replaces the outgoing Marie Bashir and is just the third woman elected to the position since its advent in 1851.

the Senate has now reached critical mass.

National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) Sydney Branch President Michael Thompson said Hutchinson’s appointment showed a prejudice towards business methods over education sector experience.

“We would think a Chancellor would come from the [education] sector, or have some real connection with the sector. The

organisations. SRC president David Pink, USU president Astha Rajvanshi and SUPRA president Angelus Morningstar met with the Chancellor and were impressed by her eagerness to listen to student groups. Despite this, senior sources within these organisations have privately expressed concern about her corporate background.

Hutchinson’s connection to neoliberal think-tank the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) has also raised eyebrows. The think-tank lists economists Milton Friedman, Friedrich Hayek, and anarcho-capitalist Murray Rothbard among its influences. Having resigned from the organisation’s board, Hutchinson compared CIS to her other not-for-profit work.

“I have a substantial number of charitable and not-for-profit organisations that I support as a director. I do not see any of these organisations having a conflict with the University,” she wrote.

Those concerned by the increasingly corporate environment of the University Senate can hardly take comfort in the words of Hutchinson’s advocates. Alec Brennan, a fellow of the Senate, told the Sydney Morning Herald that the new Chancellor’s business experience would be useful in running the “billion-and-a-half dollar business”. By this, he meant the University of Sydney.

For more on the Chancellor see UniGate on page 5.

@maxchalmers90



Belinda Hutchinson. Photo courtesy of the University of Sydney

Unlike previous Chancellors, Hutchinson comes to the University via the world of business and philanthropy. She serves as chairman of the QBE Insurance board and as a director of AGL Energy, positions she will continue to hold during her term as Chancellor. She has also previously acted as the head of Macquarie Equity Capital Markets and had associations with Telstra, Coles, Tab, and Energy Australia.

Her appointment has raised questions about whether the corporate voice within

new Chancellor doesn’t appear to have that,” he said.

Corresponding with Honi Soit via email, Hutchinson acknowledged she had, “a lot to learn about the university and higher education and research,” but said she believed her work in the not-for-profit sector with St Vincent’s, the Salvation Army, and Chief Executive Women would help her navigate the transition.

The new Chancellor has been met with a cautious welcome by the major student

Okay, but what the fuck is...

The Chancellor: the position is largely ceremonial, however, as a member of the Senate the Chancellor presides over meetings and has voting rights. Though Marie Bashir was not a dominating Chancellor, it is possible that Belinda Hutchinson will take a more interventionist approach.

The Senate: The ultimate body for policy making within the University. The Senate is comprised of 22 fellows including the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor. There are just two elected students fellows, one undergraduate (Patrick Massarani) and one postgraduate (James Flynn).

The NTEU: The union that represents a range of tertiary education workers including academic staff.

An EBA: A contract between an employer and employees that stipulates pay rates and working conditions

The 40:40:20 provision: A requirement enshrined in previous Enterprise Agreements that mandated academics spend 40% of their time on research, 40% on teaching, and 20% on administrative duties.

And what does the NTEU object to in the new EBA?

- A weakening of the consultations that must be undertaken with staff before workplace changes (such as dismissing staff) can take place
- Abolition of the 40:40:20 provision
- Abolition of anti-discrimination clauses and dedications to hiring Indigenous employees
- Distancing of the NTEU from future Enterprise Agreement negotiations
- Pay rise below the rate of inflation

Staff set to strike in week one

Samantha Jonscher examines the big conflict brewing on campus

After months of negotiations over a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) University staff have voted to strike in week one.

As *Honi Soit* goes to print it appears likely the strike will take place on March 7, the first Thursday of classes.

Though the University has claimed strikes will hurt students, SRC President David Pink has pledged support.

“The EBA doesn’t just affect staff... we all benefit from good teachers with quality working conditions,” he said. Pink is organising a solidarity picket and, “welcomes any student or community member to join in.”

The National Tertiary Education Union

(NTEU) has objected to a number of changes proposed in a draft EBA put forward by University management (see pull-out box). Aside from disputes about conditions, the NTEU is calling for a pay increase of seven percent a year for each year the Agreement is in effect. The University is offering two percent.

The University has responded to the NTEU’s objections by claiming the draft Agreement is designed to allow greater workplace flexibility.

“The University’s priority is to reach a responsible Agreement which is in the best interests of all staff and students. To be a modern, competitive university ... we need

to make changes,” University spokesperson Andrew Potter said in an email to *Honi Soit*.

But the NTEU has already claimed victory in one of the skirmishes being fought around the EBA. The Vice-Chancellor has agreed to keep a clause in the Agreement that guarantees academics intellectual freedom and the right to criticise the University. The clause was initially dropped from the new Agreement on the grounds it was enshrined elsewhere in University policy.

Staff had been vocal in their opposition to the clause’s removal.

“It’s appalling to play with things that are so important,” said Dr Chris Murphy,

from the School of Medical Sciences.

In an email to all staff, Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence played down the backflip.

“I accept that [the clause’s] removal from the draft Agreement has caused unnecessary anxiety and suspicion among some staff and for that I apologise,” he wrote.

Among staff, 2012 is remembered as a year of staff cuts, departmental restructuring and continuous frustration with management.

“There is a lot of disenchantment amongst the troops,” Dr Murphy said.

@samanthajonscher

UNIGATE

All the rumours, heresay, and downright slander from the world of student politics and culture



Marriage of inconvenience

If the background of new Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson has rubbed some the wrong way, the recent history of her husband, Roger Massy-Greene, hasn't helped. When the Liberal state government created Networks NSW to manage three state-owned energy companies, Massy-Greene was installed as chairman. It was then revealed in Parliament that Massy-Greene's company Eureka Capital Partners had donated a total of \$15 000 to Mike Baird, the Liberal state Treasurer. The *Herald* reported that the three year, \$200 000 p/a contract would see Massy-Greene reporting directly to Baird.

Hutchinson defended her husband and pointed out that the pair pursued independent public lives.

"I'm proud of my Roger's work to contain future electricity price rises for the benefit of the people of NSW," she said.

Hutchinson told the *Gate* she had do-

nated \$2500 to her local Liberal member in 2011 but emphasised that neither she nor her husband had ever been a member of a political party.

The other candidates

In the game of Chancellors, you win or you keep your highly paid corporate job. While Hutchinson sits on the sandstone throne, rumours about the other names considered for the position have been flying. Ex-candidate numero uno appears to be Alan Cameron, a Senate member and favourite of VC Michael Spence. Word has it that Alan was rolled because he was seen as a potential stooge for Spence. James Strong, a former QANTAS CEO, was apparently also considered.

But it's the last name that has really got students dreaming: the *Gate* has been told that former High Court Justice Michael Kirby was also being pushed as a potential candidate by some members of the Senate. If this is

true, they cannot have come very close to securing his candidature. Evoking the poetry of Barney Gumble, Kirby told the *Gate* he was never approached for the position.

"Don't weep for me. I have lots to keep me off the street," he told us.

Unintelligent design

The Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning has reduced students' tutorial contact hours in the crucial Design Studies unit by a third in an attempt to cut costs. As a result, students will not have their first tutorial until week five of semester. The faculty has received significant attention in the last 12 months, particularly after Dean John Redmond wrote to architecture students at other universities to guarantee them admission if they applied to transfer to the University of Sydney. This led to the resignation of the Head of Architecture, who called for the Dean to resign or be sacked, neither of which eventuated.

McLean, or McDirty?

The University of Sydney Union is reputedly attempting to revoke the AC-

CESS membership of hard-right Liberal and 2011 SRC Presidential candidate James McLean. Mr McLean was involved in numerous attempts to stack annual general meetings of the Economics Society in 2012 in an effort to win the presidency. Such stacking was a significant factor in the decline of EcoSoc, which was previously an active and vibrant society. Sources within the Union refused to comment when approached by the *Gate* about the rumours.



Pictured: former High Court Justice Michael Kirby

Shame, staff cuts, and St. John's: USYD 2012

Adam Chalmers tuned his time machine to the disappointing recent year of 2012 and brought us back a comprehensive report of what made news at Sydney University.

It's been a rough year for Sydney University. Throughout 2012 our great university was rocked by scandal after scandal. Hardly a month went by without some Sydney University controversy hitting the front page of the papers. Let's take a quick look back at 2012: the year USYD decided there's no such thing as bad publicity.

Uni backs down on USU takeover

Just before O-Week, USYD students breathed a collective sigh of relief when Vice-Chancellor Spence announced he'd no longer be trying to take over the businesses run by the University of Sydney Union (USU). The Uni spent 2011 trying to take over the Union's cafes and bars, with the idea of improving their quality and profitability. While the USU lost control of venue management (which booked rooms like the Quad and Great Hall for weddings or conferences), they kept their food and booze services. Drink up!

Massive staff cuts revive student activism

In November 2011, Vice-Chancellor Spence announced the Uni would sack

100 lecturers and 150 general staff to cover a \$53 million budget hole. Students and staff protested heavily against the cuts, peaking in a protest on May 7 that saw campaigners clash with riot police. Three students were arrested and released without charge. The National Tertiary Education Union and Uni are still in talks with Fair Work Australia today. Amazingly, the staff cuts and protest action received wide media coverage for six months. This sort of protest action looks likely to continue when USYD staff strike on March 5 over contract renegotiations with the Uni.

Pro-Life club approved by University of Sydney Union

Controversy hit the USU in June 2011 when a controversial pro-life club was approved by the Union's Board of Directors. The Clubs and Societies Committee had previously rejected LifeChoice Sydney's application on the grounds that it focused too narrowly on one ideology. However, the 11 Union Board directors ruled that this was not fair grounds for rejection.

The ruling split a once-united Board of Directors and led to calls for a boycott by over 200 students. So far, LifeChoice have done nothing but hold private discussion groups for members. But with the LifeChoice brand spreading to other universities like UNSW, students wonder if we're witnessing the birth of a new anti-abortion lobby group.

Amazingly, the staff cuts and protest action received wide media coverage for six months

Alan Jones causes outrage as USYD Liberal Club visit

Everyone's least-favourite radio shock jock, Alan Jones, was invited to give the keynote speech at a USYD Liberal Club dinner in September 2011. During his speech, Jones said Julia Gillard's father "died of shame." These remarks were secretly recorded by a News Limited journalist. The subsequent outrage caused 2GB to remove Jones from air for a week. Big sponsors like Coles, ING Direct and Lexus pulled all advertising from his show. Sydney Uni's

own Liberal Club was embarrassed by the incident, with all their major figures claiming not to have heard that part of his speech.

St. John's...what even

You don't have to be clinically insane to enrol in St. John's, but it helps. In O-Week, a first-year St. John's woman was taken to hospital after being forced to drink a shampoo-laced cocktail during O-Week initiation ceremonies. Thirty-three students were suspended over the incident. But instead of repenting, they printed T-shirts celebrating the incident. Several of the men responsible were elected to the college council. By October, the college had become out of control. Windows were smashed, fires lit, common rooms routinely shat in. By November, all but one of the college council fellows had resigned, leaving college figurehead Cardinal George Pell to appoint a new board. *Honi* understands that St. John's has been having trouble filling enrolment quotas this year. As one would hope.

@adam_chal

NUS: Power without glory

Rafi Alam ran from the National Conference with flailing arms

Aside from the wonderful meals, bountiful drinks, and a final night party hosted by DJ LEB XTC, National Union of Students' (NUS) National Conference 2013 was a traumatic experience for most involved.

Here is a brief rundown on the chaos:

- Grassroots Left and Socialist Alternative walked out of a night's conference due to what they saw as severe practices by the organising committee, dominated by NLS and Student Unity, and an avoidance of discussing policy. The Indies refused to turn up too.
- NLS was on the verge of breakdown as various delegates defected and they ended up endorsing a candidate for National Women's Officer from Student Unity, a position NLS normally pursues but was unable to due to record low numbers, in exchange for National Queer.
- The 'breakdown' was also related to their snubbing of two Independent candidates for Women's, Bec Doyle from UWA and Brigid Dixon from USYD, currently Vice President of the USU, who both gave heartfelt candidate speeches, a testament to NUS's ability to stamp out dreams.
- The National Independents seemed very different from their USYD counterpart, the Voice group; while Voice are a motley crew of individuals including moderate Liberals, the West-Coast

Independents ('Windies') seemed fairly radical and liked to 'caucus', often noting how much they despise Liberals. - ALSF (Liberals), who are normally the rowdiest faction, hellbent on destroying NUS, were relatively well behaved. Some more conservative Young Greens members sat with the ALSF to the displeasure of more progressive Greens in the Grassroots Left.

However, what was most interesting about NUS was also what doomed it. There was an odd tension between camaraderie and conflict at National Conference.

"NUS seemed like a place where activism hit a dead end."

I thought friendship would suppress some of the usual vitriol associated with student politics. Unfortunately this resulted in a lack of desire to seriously contest ideas. How could you, when you were living together, would be seeing them at lunch and dinner, parties; would always – inevitably – make eye contact? This meant that negotiations were often fraught with a confused mixture of courteous rapport and the crucial venom of adver-



sarial politics. I could see this when it became inappropriate or uncomfortable to hang out with friends from different factions. Even if we got along at university, in a national union friendships are distorted along factional lines. Or, when the majority of the Independents supported NLS Clare Keyes-Liley for Education Officer, friendship trumped factions.

But when someone yelled "cunts" at the Grassroots Left at the post-conference party for not voting for Clare, it became clear that factions and friendships weren't always oppositional – under the lure of power and influence of alcohol they converge into tribalism, lacking the ideology of the former and the grace of the latter.

What this also means is that the NLS-Student Unity stranglehold of NUS is unlikely to be broken anytime soon – it's hard to breakdown familial ties between groups who date each other, drink together, and do politics together

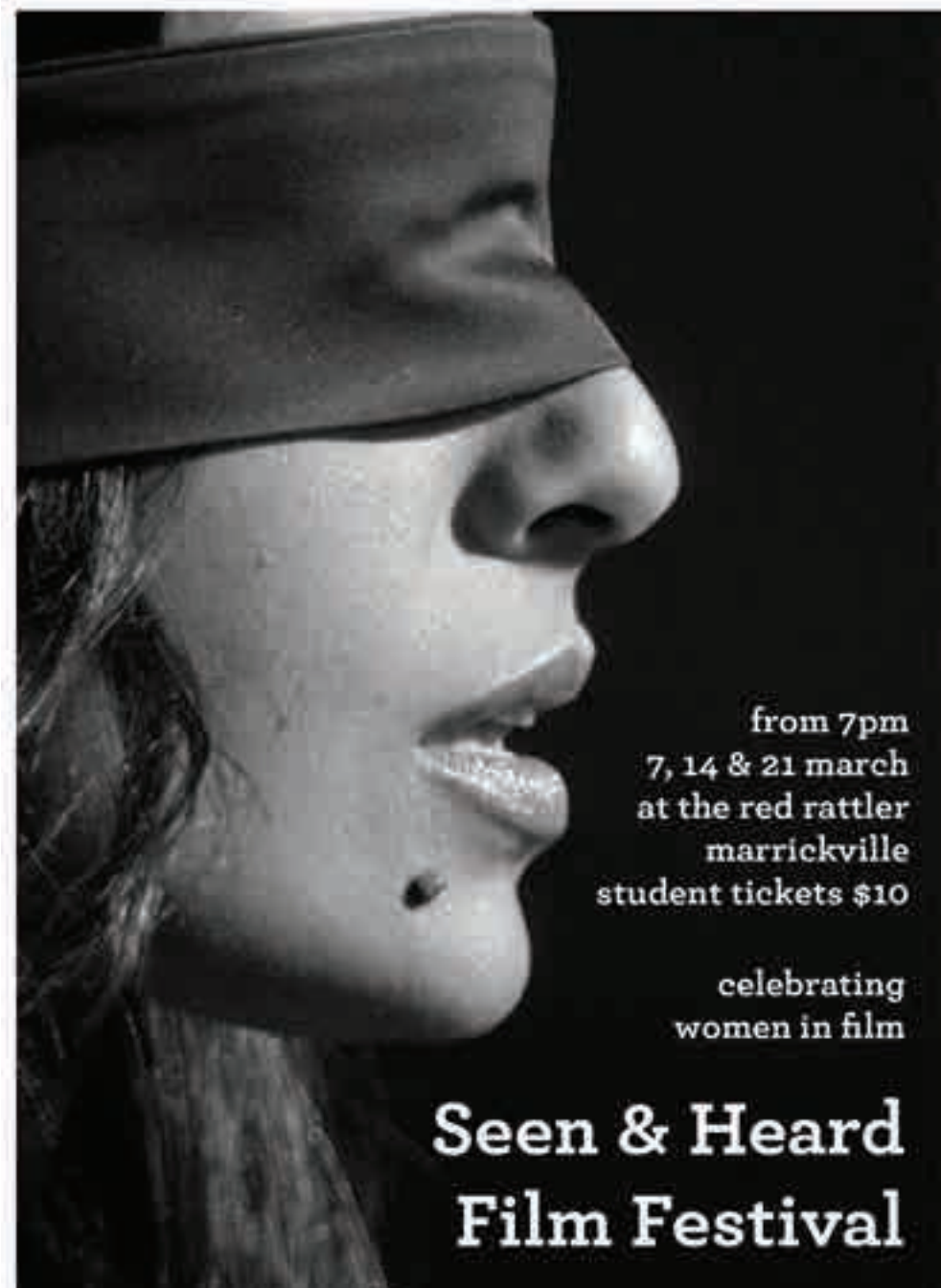
in their other playground: Young Labor.

NUS was traumatic for many reasons. The reasons above would suffice, but unfortunately, it wasn't all. NUS seemed like a place where activism hit a dead end. NUS is always Labor and will always refuse to contest a Labor government. It feels like a place where student politicians test drive a future parliamentary life – speeches, voting, caucusing, negotiating, and the networking of the political class.

It was a place that was antithetical to 'student', one alien to the images of student activism, not only in countercultural nostalgia, but seen today in places like the UK, Chile, and Quebec. It was a sickly potion of slick branding, flippancy, and futility; of wasted money and deserted goals.

It's a place I would not revisit.

Rafi Alam is an editor of *Honi Soit*, and is on Twitter @rafialarm



La Trobe activists face expulsion

Three Victorian students are facing a secret trial, reports Tom Raue

Three students at La Trobe University face expulsion for protesting against staff cuts last year. One of the students is accused of breaking a security guard's ribs. Rather than taking these serious accusations to court, the University is dealing with the charges internally. The students may be accompanied by a "support person" but this person is not allowed to have a law degree.

Last year the University announced it was cutting hundreds of humanities subjects and dozens of staff. Students responded by staging increasingly large nonviolent protests including the occupation of faculty offices. John Dewar, the Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe, has said conflicting things to students and the public. To the outside world he supports the protests, saying, "I think it adds colour and movement to life on campus. I think it's fantastic." But while he was sending this message of free speech and open debate to the public, he was condemning students and demanding that they submit any plans for a protest to the University administration 24 hours in advance.

The cuts at La Trobe are similar to proposals by management at Sydney University and the Australian National University last year. Less profitable humanities faculties are being downsized across the country, and academics are being let go or forced into teaching-only roles. Universities have traditionally been about pursuing knowledge for its own sake, but this is changing. The increasing push to privatise every sphere of public life has led to university administrators always being on the lookout for ways to cut costs.

The secret trial of La Trobe students who are not allowed legal representation is a worrying sign of where the university has gone wrong. An institution that once valued free speech sent in dozens of security guards to break up a peaceful protest, and is threatening to expel three students over dubious charges. Transparency and intellectual freedom are values of the old system. In the new neoliberal university model, generations of aspiring intellectuals will only learn about profit and conformity.

Arts vs. Science: por qué no los dos?

OPINION

Mischa Vickas philosophises about the eternal battle between the disciplines

"But we're Science students: they don't make us think!" Such was the objection of a fellow Science student confronted with the task of writing an essay. I'm afraid to say it was said without irony. This student was the victim of a constructed battle between the Arts and Sciences. Though it may be comforting to specialise in one of the two, it may also be narrowing the range of thought processes we take out of university.

By my second year, I began to question the divide between Arts and Sciences and thought, "Why not both?" Enter the Philosophy of Science. It's not an oxymoron; there is a School of the Philosophy of Science. Stumbling upon it in the faculty handbook, I was confused, intrigued, and signed up.

I walked hesitantly into the lecture. I was expecting a battlefield; blood dripping from a protractor-induced wound in an Arts student's neck; a Science student crushed under the weight of Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Not so. Instead, I found perfect harmony: students of all academic creeds engaged in lively conversation on subjects of Science and its Philosophy: Karl Popper and falsificationism, realism and empiricism, scientific paradigms, and so on. Both sides could pit their knowledge against a common subject. I had found what I was looking for.

It is amazing what good can be done by taking a short stroll from your familiar academic grounds. Science students venturing into the Arts will be given the chance to articulate their opinions, form unique ideas



and construct arguments. On the other side, an Arts student taking a Science subject will be trained in logic and problem solving, and begin to see the world more clearly in terms of cause and effect. So, a call to arms. To the Arts student: dig out that scientific calculator with the

missing lid. Men and women of Science: open that *Complete Works of Shakespeare* currently holding your bedroom door open. On second thoughts, this is not so much a call to arms as a call for a ceasefire in this battle of Arts vs. Science.

Superannuation: silent but deadly

Angus Reoch wants his money and he wants it now

After a year of unemployment, I was pleased to pick up a decent job at my local pub. However, receiving my first pay packet, I was shocked to discover how much went into superannuation (or 'super') – a good week's pay had been cut by 9%, the national minimum super rate for all Australian workers. While there is a good rationale behind the concept of superannuation, it was disturbing that I did not receive payment for 2.5 hours of my 26 hour week. After all, what does superannuation really represent to a 21-year-old?

The notion of superannuation is the most common of common sense; forced retirement savings so that senior citizens may have money to retire comfortably. This isn't simply to save the government from giving money to elderly citizens, but in reality ensures that more retirees don't have to suffer the indignity of living from paycheck to paycheck. While superannuation is taxed regressively and provides for immense tax breaks for the wealthier (as self-funded contributions are taxed at 15% across the board, although Labor has introduced a tax-break for low-income earners), the

rationale behind the programme is sound. One must ask: why do students and other young workers pay into a superannuation account?

Instead of being funded towards necessary rent payments, costs of living or simple expenditures (it is your money after all), it is legally untouchable, except for the ability to direct which superannuation company may control your funds.

"Why do students and other young workers pay into a superannuation account?"

For the privilege of charging some nameless corporation with control of 9% (soon to be 12%) of your money, to be invested (soundly or otherwise) into the stock market, the superfund will pocket a fee for a service which you were incapable of avoiding. While already troubling, what is worse is that few casual workers have any control over which super company they join – many employers man-

date one specific company. If you work in different areas, you likely have several different superannuation accounts, which if not consolidated into one account after another will likely end up in a multitude of fees being charged.

Yes, in many cases, these fees don't add up to very much when it comes to university students, but there still remains \$150 here, \$200 there that was at least once yours. Moreover, it is disturbing that one of Australia's four most powerful industries (according to a recent Australia Institute study) draws much of its wealth from the income of lower-income workers.

ABC Economist Stephen Long has concluded that in many cases individuals would be much off if their money were stored in a bank or as risk-free treasury bonds. Unfortunately, the only prudential management of money that most superannuation funds seem to achieve is that of lining their own pockets: a parasite on all workers, particularly the young.

NETIQUETTE

Facebook "friends"

[Add Friend](#)

Nathan Oliveri explores the validity of our hasty online relationships

It's almost a subconscious reaction to an ordinary chain of events. Meet, chat, leave, friend-request. People feel strangely compelled to add someone on Facebook within hours of meeting them for the first time. It seems normal, right? I mean, how else do you stay in contact? And if you don't add them, you risk being perceived as rude, snobbish or, God forbid, not particularly enamoured with that person in the first place.

The reality of the matter, though, is that every single chance encounter does not beget a lifetime friendship, yet we still feel the need to add them just in case. Long-term, this leaves everyone's friends list with a substantial portion of one-timers, who in ordinary life would simply peter away, but in the Facebook realm continue to make unwanted newsfeed cameos. It's one of the many great Facebook ironies that the site is now drawing us closer than ever to people that we may not really care about.

O-Week is the ideal time to see this phenomenon play out, with the aim to meet as many like-minded individuals as humanly possible. Chances are you will, and chances are you'll seek to friend them in an effort to stay in contact and be besties for life. Chances are this won't happen.

The unfortunate reality of the situation is that you will get caught up in a little thing called life, and inevitably this contact will fall by the wayside. What remains, though, is the awkward, lingering online connection whereby you continue to learn everything about their life: their fervent political trashing of the Tories, their insatiable fascination with *Two And A Half Men* GIFs, or the conglomerate of annoyingly vague statuses about their partners ("So sick of all this bullshit. Wish you would just be a man about it" – just no).

Of course, no-one is holding a cyber-gun to your head. You can still ignore the request, after all. However, not only has it become such an unconscious reaction to accept, but the fact we arbitrarily measure someone's social capital against the number of Facebook friends they have means we capitalise on any chance we have to boost this total. And, of course, there's that monumentally awkward moment where you run into them and have to hastily explain why you never added them to begin with. There's always something that forces your hand, or your mouse.

That said, if you can personally account for every member of your Facebook friends list, I take my hat off to you.

NEWS IN
REVUE

Harry Stratton is well-versed in the news events of this summer

I

“New Labor needs a new direction” -
The shutters click and cameras zoom -
“I won’t be seeking re-election.”
On *Lateline*, Tony’s voice will boom
“Tonight, we’ve lost another Minister.”
As usual, Tony thinks it’s sinister -
Rudd plotting and so forth; but we
Need not indulge conspiracy.
Yet three is no coincidence.
Nic Roxon, Chris, and now Christine -
A bloodletting of red and green
Too regular an incidence.
What makes a Minister resign?
Could they not bear the party line?

II

Yet Ministers need not have whips.
The Joe that was, then Benedictus
Could scarce pronounce with ancient lips
The ancient ailments that afflict us.
Tired of the endless, pointless praying
Tired of the past, and sorry saying
(Though not, it seems, of pomp, and awe
And being exempt from federal law) -
Imagine him, after matins -
Describing his discord, ennui
While making noun and verb agree.
(Camus could not have written Latin.)
The Pope himself’s in despair’s throes -
What hope, then, for more fallible Joes?

III

For circumstances have resigned us
To fear, and hate, and No New Tax
And daily now the polls remind us
Of leaky boats they want turned back.
(For with those boats our hopes are sinking.)
If hopes are merely wishful thinking,
If there’s no more that we can do,
Should we not end our own reigns, too?
How easy would be sweet surrender
To Tony, Geert, and laissez-faire.
How much more pleasant not to care
To quash the hope, however slender
Of worlds instead built on *agape*.
Yet still it seems the coward’s escape.

STATE POLITICS

Zoe’s Law

Lucia Osborne-Crowley reports on a bill that would grant greater legal protection to the foetus

On Christmas Day of 2009, Brodie Donegan was hit by a car and lost her unborn baby, Zoe. In October of last year, a husband and wife were involved in a car accident that resulted in the death of the woman’s unborn child. Most recently in this string of tragedies, this year in South Australia a pregnant woman and her unborn child were killed in a car accident. These cases are all connected by their link to the ongoing debate about whether or not an ‘unborn child’ should be recognised as having legal personhood. Can a foetus be considered a person? If so, to what extent should a mother, or any other individual, be held legally and criminally responsible for the life and health of the unborn child?

“Fred Nile is trying to make this a test case against abortion.”

Current NSW law does not recognise the existence of a life until a person has been born and has taken their first breath, and thus the negligent driver who caused the death of Brodie Donegan’s unborn child was not criminally charged in relation to its death. As a result, Christian Democratic MP Fred Nile has proposed the Crimes Amendment (Zoe’s Law) Bill 2013 in order to ensure that unborn children are legally recognised by the law in such cases. It is the third time Mr Nile has proposed a version of the law in the last four years alongside more wide-reaching restrictions on abortion. It is this version of the law, however, which has seemed to gain the most traction in public debate. The government is yet to state its official position on the bill.

The bill provides for a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment for those who recklessly cause serious harm to, or the destruction of, a ‘child’ in utero. The use of the term ‘child’, defined only as the “prena-



tal offspring of a woman”, is itself controversial, as seen in the debates surrounding the personhood of a foetus in the US. The NSW bill, however, specifically protects women from prosecution in cases where they themselves harm, or consent to the harm of the foetus. In this way, the present bill can be distinguished from US cases that afford the foetus personhood. Bei Bei Shuai for example, was pregnant and recently abandoned by her husband when she ingested rat poison in a suicide attempt in early 2011 and, following treatment and recovery, was charged with murder by Indiana prosecutors. A similar case saw a 15-year-old Mississippi girl charged with the murder of her unborn child because she was found to have been suffering from a cocaine addiction during the pregnancy.

The issue is further problematised by its inextricable links to the ongoing debates surrounding the regulation of abortion in Australia. Associate Professor Thomas Crofts of the University of Sydney expressed concerns about the possible dangerous implications of Zoe’s Law, and also noted that it seemed out of line with legal frameworks in other Australian jurisdictions. He suggested that an appropriate alternative to these reforms might be “to create a new offence to specifically deal

with this issue, such as child destruction, as exists in WA,” rather than reform existing statute law.

Brodie Donegan herself also expressed concerns about the possible implications of Zoe’s Law on the abortion debate. “What we want has nothing to do with abortion... We just want Zoe’s Law to be as practical and logical as possible without religion at all coming into it.” Donegan, 33, told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Reverend Gordon Moyes, a member of the Legislative Council at the time the bill was proposed, also expressed strong concerns about the use of Zoe’s Law to reignite debates about the legality of abortion when speaking to *Honi Soit*. Moyes commented: “Fred Nile is trying to make this a test case against abortion. Doing that is totally wrong... Zoe’s Law should not be mixed up with that.”

Of course, even if a solution such as this is decided upon, we are still left with the unanswered question, both legal and philosophical, of how to define when a person becomes legally recognised as such, while avoiding the accusation of this definition being arbitrary and therefore unhelpful. As these debates continue, it is clear that there will be several issues - legal, ethical and practical - to be considered in relation to any such reform.

ASTROLOGY

Honi’s predictions for 2013

- The Occupy movement will continue to die down around the world, except perhaps, in the West Bank.
- Happy ending: Craig Thomson will put the HSU saga to bed by accepting golden handjob.
- The entire Essendon team will come forward and blame Shane Warne’s mum for doping.
- USYD smoking areas will now also contain pokies and SportsBet monitors.
- Young Libs will invite an awful speaker to speak at an awful event and will act surprised when they say something awful.
- Former Katter’s Australia Party member and outspoken homo-

phobe, Bernard Gaynor, will realise the irony of his name and promptly explodes into a rainbow.

- Tasmania will secede. No one will notice until 2014.
- NLS will win the SRC elections for the 14th year in a row. They will then start bipartisan discussions with the PAP in Singapore.
- An infectious pop song will cause a rash of deaths.
- Abbott will blame the Greens and Labor split on the decline of traditional marriage. Also the carbon tax.
- The Catholic Church will appoint a 12-year-old as Pope, finally solving *that* problem.
- The Mayans forgot to carry the one. Surprise!



SCIENCE

Harvard researchers get high... then drunk

Lachlan Munro has never smoked grass, before or after beer, because it's against the law

Beer before grass, you're on your arse; grass before beer, you're in the clear. It's a helpful little rhyme to keep in mind when you're nearly finished a six-pack and you see a joint coming your way. It's a good piece of wisdom to pass on to a friend as they're hurling up their guts and weeping over a toilet bowl after following tequila shots with a cone or two. And it's backed up by serious research done at Harvard.

A study from Harvard Medical School confirmed what seasoned party animals had been saying for years; you're more likely to end up dangerously wasted if you smoke weed when you're already drunk. The scientists conducting the experiment did this by getting a group of volunteers to various levels of drunkenness, giving them joints, and then testing their blood.

They found that the drunk groups absorbed the active ingredient in pot smoke, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a hell of a lot faster and at much higher levels than the sober group. So while the non-drinkers were getting a chilled-out buzz going, the group with alcohol on board were getting a Snoopy level dose of dank sticky icky.

The researchers believe the effect is probably due to the alcohol causing relaxation and dilation of the blood vessels in the lungs. As the vessels widen, more blood flows through your lungs, which absorbs

and carries more THC through your body.

Keep in mind that once these unusually high levels of THC reach your brain, your mental functions have already taken a fair beating from the booze. It's no surprise that you can go from being five beers deep and raging on the dance floor to wondering how to stop the room spinning in a couple of puffs.

As for the second half of that saying 'grass before beer, you're in the clear', the same research group did basically an identical study in reverse. They found that giving people joints before they drank reduced the absorption of alcohol.

So there you have it, confirmation of the crucial rule for mixing alcohol and pot.



Cartoon by Rose McEwen

Science is cooler than you

Science did heaps of cool shit over summer, writes **Mischa Vickas**

Scientists began their summer in a place close to its absolute antithesis: a subglacial lake 800 metres below the surface of Antarctica. In January, a team of US researchers drilled a hole through the Antarctic ice sheet to see if the lake harbours life.

And it does. A "large wetland ecosystem" to be precise, complete with about 1 000 bacteria for every drop of water sampled, all of them having not seen the light of day in millions of years.

Not that they need it. The bacteria are non-photosynthetic, and likely get their energy fix from minerals extracted from the lake's rocks.

Finding life in such an extreme environment may hint at the possibility of its existence outside of Earth, perhaps in underground oceans on the moons Jupiter.

Feeling that Jupiter was too far, NASA's *Curiosity* rover settled for the planet Mars in its search for extraterrestrial life. The probe landed on our neighbour last August, but has only recently started using its instruments.

Throughout November and December, *Curiosity* heated a soil sample to see what would boil off. A higher than anticipated amount of water surprised researchers,



but there was an absence of the carbon-containing compounds needed for life as we know it.

Equally curious is James Cameron, who earlier in 2012 felt inclined to sink 11 km in a submarine to the deepest point on Earth: the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean.

But the scientific results from his expedition were not revealed until December. Cameron, fittingly the director of both *Titanic* and *Avatar*, found potential new species of sea cucumber that may contain medicinal chemicals, cracks in the seafloor where life may have originated, and communities of microorganisms feeding off methane.

Back home, Australian researchers were looking at something else from the microscopic world: HIV. HIV is well-known as the precursor to AIDS, but the research-

ers from Queensland and Victoria essentially found a way to incapacitate the virus.

They made a genetic change to a protein normally found in HIV and introduced the mutant protein to human cells. When the cells were infected with HIV, the protein stopped the virus from replicating. A proven treatment, however, is still distant.

And from the micro to the macro, astronomers using NASA's Kepler space telescope have estimated that our galaxy is home to at least 17 billion planets the size of Earth. Multiply that by the hundreds of billions of other galaxies the universe contains and you get...a lot of other planets we could fuck up.

So, what did you do over summer?

Is your sunscreen trying to kill you?

Kate McDonnell investigates the possibilities and risks of nanotechnology

The year is 2020 and the world is controlled by swarms of roving nanobots...

...while that is never going to be a reality nanotechnology is already all around us. It is part of the food we eat (if it's genetically modified), in our computers and even in your sunscreen. The nanotechnological revolution won't be ending any time soon. Recently, scientists created a material lighter than air which will have a significant impact on electronics.

Part of this interest lies in material properties at nanoscale ('nano' being one billionth of a metre) being significantly different from those on a larger scale. This small size also poses some legitimate health concerns. With so much economic potential, in a race for end products, how well are benefits and risks being balanced? Will regulation stifle scientific and commercial freedoms? The risks posed by nanomaterials have been acknowledged as unknown by the World Health Organisation.

There isn't a simple answer. Carbon nanotubes, which are shaped like a straw and are 1/60000th of the diameter of a human hair, have been shown to produce similar symptoms to those of asbestos exposure in the lungs of mice. Nanotubes are one of the strongest materials on earth and potential applications range from light sabre batteries to space elevator cables and even body armour.

Nanomaterials can also be used in medicine as they are so small they can travel through the bloodstream. This means more targeted drug delivery and better imaging for things like cancer. But we don't know what happens to them once they get there.

Kathleen Eggleston, a research scientist at the Center for Nano Science and Technology at the University of Notre Dame (USA) said in the *Chicago Tribune* "we haven't characterised these materials very well in terms of what the potential impacts on living organisms could be."

For researchers, this means using a precautionary principle – assume the worst and cover all bases. For the average consumer, there's no need to panic. Not all nanomaterials are hazardous to health; if you are concerned about what you're using look at the product warnings.

Hopefully, sometime soon, I'll be putting my order in for a teleportation device and a hoverboard.

Walking off the job

Nick Rowbotham explores the NTEU's history of industrial action



Students and staff march down City Rd during the staff cut protests of 2012. Photo courtesy of Greens on Campus

It has been almost a decade since members of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) last went on strike at Sydney University.

In 2009, the NTEU threatened to strike on two occasions, only to cancel strike action at the eleventh hour when the University's administration agreed to back down on proposed changes to pay and working conditions. At that time, the union's key point of contention with University management pertained to the introduction of 'teaching only' positions for academics - an idea that perhaps belies the fixation on research output that led management to attempt to cut over 300 staff in 2012. But the administration's proposed amendments to the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) are arguably the most draconian in

over a decade.

The 2013-2015 EBA is at the heart of the NTEU's current dispute with the university. The new EBA will dictate the conditions of employment for staff for the next four years, and stipulates things such as pay increases, working hours and leave entitlements. Recent enterprise agreements have offered staff pay increases of 15-20% over three or four years. The new EBA offers only 2% per annum, an increase that fails to even keep up with inflation, meaning staff would be taking a real wage cut.

In addition, and amongst many other changes, it proposes to reduce sick leave entitlements by 60%, remove restrictions to increased casualisation, and abolish the so-called 40:40:20 provision, which states that 40% of academics' time is to be spent

on research, 40% on teaching, and 20% on administration.

While these changes undoubtedly reflect a University management that is hostile to its own academic staff to an almost unprecedented degree, they are also emblematic of the direction of tertiary education in recent decades. The Dawkins reforms of the late 1980s exposed Australia's public education system to market forces by making government funding contingent on extensive metric-based reporting on research and courses. This led to the modern phenomenon of endless management plans, 'key performance indicators' and a general corporatisation of the university. The consequences for both students and staff have been obvious: students have become private consumers of education, while staff

are increasingly at the mercy of fickle management policies, particularly in an age of deregulated labour markets.

Indeed, the last academic strike at the University of Sydney, in 2003, was not so much about the contents of the University's proposed EBA as it was about the Howard government's attempt to force universities to offer staff individual contracts, rather than have all staff covered under a collective enterprise agreement. And despite the repeal of the worst elements of John Howard's industrial relations policy, the trend towards a more casualised and deunionised academic workforce has continued. With a Coalition victory in this year's election now appearing inevitable, education and industrial relations policies are unlikely to improve in the interests of students and academics.

The NTEU's week one strike is significant in that it signals that the union is willing and able to take industrial action in the face of severe attacks on the rights of arguably the most important workers in the modern economy - our educators. But it will also highlight some of the more fundamental, structural issues in the Australian tertiary education system, which are not given nearly enough attention by our politicians and the mainstream media. The strike may inconvenience some students and staff on the first few days of the teaching semester, but that's the point. We all have a stake in the quality of our higher education system. The strike is primarily about a more equitable EBA for staff, but one would hope that it also provokes some meaningful discussion about the future of higher education in this country.

TOP 5...

Peaceful Protests

Neha Kasbekar prefers tranquil discussions to bellowed chants



- 5 **The Peruvian Flag Laundry** Opposition movements around the world could learn a lot about attention-grabbing from Peru. In 2000, Peruvian protesters met daily in Lima's main square for months and washed the Peruvian flag over and over with soap water to cleanse the flag of then-President Alberto Fujimori's "dirty" brand of politics. Seeing his critics express their dissatisfaction in a fairly moderate way, Fujimori took a good look at himself and then invited everyone around the discussion table to redress grievances in a transparent and reasonable manner. Hah, are you new here? Fujimori stayed in power until a video implicating him in a dodgy deal surfaced. Still, plaudits are due for a truly PETA-worthy demonstration by protesters.
- 4 **Canadian Road Maintenance** When the government authority responsible for roadworks in Saskatchewan ignored the worsening potholes in Highway 32, residents of a neighbouring town, Leader, logically decided a nude calendar was in order. The calendar featured twelve locals each photographed in their birthday suits next to particularly noteworthy examples of the potholes. You may laugh, but the calendar made roughly \$40,000, and shortly after its release in 2007, the provincial government committed itself to a big-budget highway renovation project. Ball's in your court, people who complain about CityRail.
- 3 **SlutWalk** Now a global protest march, SlutWalk originated in Canada when, in 2011, Toronto Police Constable Michael Sanguinetti suggested that a good safeguard against rape would be if women didn't dress like sluts. But why stop there? For the full rape deterrence package, why not consider upgrading to a muumuu or sleeved-blanket? Choosing not to support the muumuu- and/or slanket-producing industry, Toronto feminists instead organised a protest march in support of women wearing whatever they choose to wear without being harassed, which, fine, seems like a better way of dealing with things on reflection.
- 2 **SOPA/PIPA** To prevent two bills with grave consequences for internet freedom being passed in the US Congress, thousands of websites, including Wikipedia, Reddit and Google, went on a blackout for 24 hours in 2012, either by restricting access to content or posting information about the bills and encouraging users to contact their government representatives or friends and family in the US. The protest was wildly successful, with members of Congress folding within a matter of days. Having sworn only to use the word in its defined semantic capacity, I am unable to conclude, "EPIC," but never have I been more sorely tempted.
- 1 **Rosa Parks** Today's 'did you know': did you know that before Rosa Parks was a punchline for your less-than-impressive life struggles, like how you're "the Rosa Parks of the buffet line/Boxing Day sales queue", she was an inspiring symbol of non-violent resistance in the civil rights movement? At the time, some suggested that the real reason that Parks refused to vacate her seat for white bus passengers was that her long working hours had left her tired. This might seem like the kind of wilful stupidity that could be spotted by anyone whose primary writing implements are crayons. And having to deal with the pointless parsing of her motives in addition to racial injustice sets Parks apart from all the protests in this Top 5, elevating her to a very worthy first.

HONI SOIT: A HISTORY

Dom Bowes and Lucy Watson delve into the archives to explore *Honi*'s sordid past.

THE BEGINNING!

Honi Soit began in 1929, after Commemoration Day pranks led to a severe backlash against students in mainstream media. These *Telegraph* headlines from May 1929 recommend students march for penance after "desecrating" the cenotaph in Martin Place. *Honi* aimed to present the student perspective in the media.



STUDENT SPORT CANCELLED BY WAR
The advent of the European war and its subsequent developments has caused the cessation of all inter-university sport. One of the University's most commendable features has been the participation in it of all inter-university students. The University Council has decided to suspend the inter-university sports for the duration of the war.

SPORT! AND WAR!

Despite its rebellious foundations, *Honi* was pretty boring for a while there. During that big event - known to most as WWII - all they reported on was the fact that their precious sport was cancelled.

SEXISM!

"Miss University" pageants were held in the 50s and 60s. Originally founded by the Women's Union and the Aboriginal Scholarship Scheme (ASS - eep) as a fundraiser, the quests sought to find the most beautiful female students, including this Miss Science who "included her phone number but listed no hobbies". Women, right?!



NAZIS!

In 1964, *Honi* editor Michael McDermott published a shit tonne of Nazi propaganda in the name of free speech, including this poster reading "The Great Lie of the 6,000,000" in reference to the Holocaust. Shiiiiit. Unsurprisingly, there was a major backlash against the paper, with letters condemning the editor flooding in. McDermott published these under the heading "The Jewish Line", and was promptly fired the next week. SRC President, the man we now call Justice, Michael Kirby pushed for his removal, while notorious former *Honi* editor and current sexist prick Bob Ellis fought for the anti-Semite.



THE FORMULA

Fig. 4-hydroxy acid hydrazide is converted to the acid, dissolved in 800cc ether. Six NREs, (diethylamine) added, and the mixture allowed to stand in the dark 24 hours. Evaporation in vacuum of the ether leaves a residue that on rubbing with 50cc water and filtering gives a dark amorphous product. (a.p. 100° (in pyridine). This is dissolved in CHCl₃-EtOH (98.5 to 1.5) (chloroform-ethyl alcohol) and poured onto a column of Al₂O₃. A broad zone appearing blue in ultraviolet light contains the diethylamide of 4-hydroxy acid (yield 1.8-2g), gummy from benzene. m.p. 50° (in pyridine).



DRUGS!

Conservative historian Keith Windschuttle really liked drugs in 1967. He wrote in defence of LSD's legality when NSW was trying to ban it, and published a recipe for how to manufacture the drug. More than 40 years later, he claimed that the recipe and passages that praise the effects of LSD were written by a shifty American spy, sent by the CIA to promote hallucinogens and therefore deter the anti-war movement. Sure, Keith.



SEX!

By the 1970s, *Honi* was into sex as much as everyone else. Look, a guy with boobs instead of a face!



Poor ECOP, it's always been fucked.

SOLIDARITY!

Honi has been a voice of student activism since the first fighting statements in 1929. In 1995, the editors, along with six other editorial teams around Australia, republished a piece from La Trobe's newspaper, *Rabelais*, on how to shoplift. The editors at La Trobe were facing up to six years jail time, but the charges against them were eventually dropped.

In 1976, the "homosexual edition" was written by the lesbian feminists, at a time when almost the entire gay movement was run by men.



muahaha

honi soit

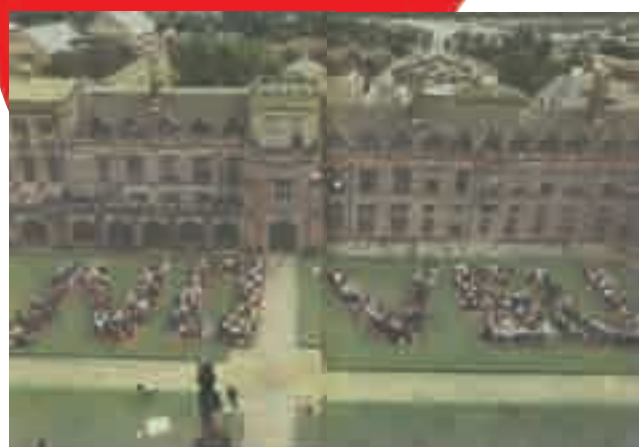


help!!

THE FUTURE!

Don't worry guys, we've got this covered.

xoxo, *Honi* 2013.



In 1999, *Honi* made their stance on VSU public (and pretty)

FUNNY STUFF!

Some funny people have edited *Honi*, including folk from the Chaser, who produced this in 1995.



Wait, this 1999 ad isn't actually a joke. Oops.

ARTS & CULTURE

In praise of community

Caitlin Still investigates why community isn't just for youth groups and baby boomers.

Community. The word always used to trigger a vaguely nauseated feeling in me. Having grown up on an insular peninsula north of the bridge, this suburban c-bomb of a word only brought to mind the parochial pride of over functioning P&C parents, or holier-than-thou Sunday mass attendees.

That was, of course, until I found community for myself in the back courtyard of a tiny gallery at the end of King Street. I had two pages of poetry crumpled in my sweaty hands and I was, according to the lingo, a slam virgin. It was the very first Caravan Slam, a travelling poetry event in the St Peters and Newtown area. That night, fifteen spoken word poets stepped up to introduce themselves in a three-minute burst of poetic flair, and in this small, tucked away art space, the atmosphere soon became electric. I had come knowing no one, but the creative energy and positivity filled up the whole space. People introduced themselves freely, bonding over a common appreciation of the performance. By the time the poetry had finished, no one among that motley and fiercely individual crew felt like a stranger. My love affair with community had begun.

“A colourful, motley crew of hundreds danced to the beat of a wheelie bin sound system”

Fast-forward two years from that day. Jade Oldfield, performance poet, artist, and monthly host of Caravan Slam, is proud of the community that she has helped to initiate. Her first foray into organising community events took the form of Chess Club, a monthly night of drinks and chess (think milk crates and tealights for mood) that began at an anarchist bookstore in

Newtown and went strong for four years in studio spaces and venues around Newtown and Marrickville. “It began as a really small thing amongst friends,” says Oldfield, “but it turned into an amazing community event that brought so many different people together.”

Like Chess Club, Caravan Slam began as an event dominated by the Newtown-Marrickville set. However, the ‘caravan’ aspect of the monthly night, which travels each month to different venues all over Sydney, has meant that this particular community has transcended its beginnings as a child of the creative underbelly of the inner west and become a monthly meeting place for people from all areas of Sydney and beyond. “There are people of all ages and walks of life,” says Oldfield, who plays MC to the event. “Some really strong friendships have developed. Even if I only see these people once a month, they’re my good friends. When you hear someone’s poetry, it’s like knowing them before you’ve even met.” She says that the most important basis for a community is a common interest. “It’s not about the Inner West,” she says, “It’s not about anywhere. It’s about forming bonds between people of a common interest and a similar worldview.”

Reclaim the Lanes is another example of how an individual with a bright idea can bring together a diverse crowd of like-minded people. Organised by local Newtown artist Chris Lego, the event had its fifth and final instalment earlier this month. Meeting at Peace Park, Newtown, in the early afternoon, the crowd of hundreds enjoyed a laneway festival that moved between three different backstreets and continued into the night. More meaningful than a simple street party, Lego’s vision was for an event to celebrate reclaiming public space and rediscovering some of Newtown’s forgotten laneways. A colour-

ful, motley crew of hundreds danced to the beat of a wheelie bin sound system under banners with slogans such as ‘COMMUNITY SPIRIT’ and ‘HOORAY FOR EVERYTHING’. Through hula hoops and glitter, chalk and facepaint, locals and their friends celebrated the creative culture and diversity of the local area. “You could even call it a bit tribal,” says Jade, making reference to the festival goers, face painting and dancing in the mud.



Photo: Don Pezzano

Even if it exists as a world detached from Sydney’s broader society I suggest to Oldfield that in this cynical and isolated world, it’s crucial for us all to reclaim and redefine the c-word.

“It’s amazing seeing the Caravan Slam community grow, and the new events that have come out of that to allow people to come together... Creative communities will survive anywhere, people find each other.”

Watch This Face...

Jack Gow tells you why you'll regret missing this guy on Thursday night.

Being totes Gen Y 'n' that, before I interviewed comedian Matt Okine I posted on Facebook to see if there was anything people would like to me to ask him. Aside from the usual pseudo-witticisms of social media, one question stood out: "ask him who the fuck he is". Winner of the prestigious Best Newcomer Award at last year's Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF), Okine is a rising star of Australian comedy. However, his imminent ascendancy has not been without its setbacks.

As a nineteen-year-old novice he burst onto the scene in 2004, reaching the national final of the MICF Raw Comedy Competition. "That was my fourth gig; the first three being the heat that I won, the semi-final that I also won and the state final where I came runner-up," Okine explains. Having launched the careers of the likes of Wil Anderson, Josh Thomas, Tom Ballard and Chris Lilley, performing at the national final is often the impetus needed to elevate a comedian from open mic nights to sell-out shows, radio, and television. "It was a great intro into the scene, but I didn't do very well... a guy called Nick Sun came on, he ended up winning that year, and he had this great act about making fun of ethnic comedy," Okine says. "Basically [he was] shutting it down, which I couldn't hear from backstage, and it's my fourth gig, I'm a half-African dude, so that was a lot of my gear at the time," he laughs. "So I went out there, did my best, and came off going: 'why didn't anyone laugh?'" Then four months later I got the tape from Raw and I saw Nick Sun demolish it... and then I came on afterwards and did pretty much everything he'd just made fun of."

The disappointment of failing to impress the comedy institution is still fresh in Okine's mind. "That probably set me back a year or two... I mean it's one thing to make it to the Raw final, it's another thing to make it and then bomb in front of all the important people who are watching."

So, instead of throwing himself headfirst

into the comedy circuit, Okine returned to Brisbane to complete his acting degree. "We were there every single day for eight hours... pretending to be a tree," Okine recalls, "like genuinely pretending to be a tree or a bee or a sloth." From there, he continued to follow his thespian calling: "I finished the degree, stayed in Brisbane... did a couple of awful ads. I did a McDonalds ad," he says. "I had to go out to the meat factory and get shown that it's all natural beef or whatever and then at the end the lady goes: 'so it's all 100% beef', and I'm like: 'no bull?', and she goes: 'nah mate, no bull', we all have a little chuckle and then I shoot myself in the face."

"It's one thing to make it to the Raw final, it's another thing to make it and then bomb in front of all the important people who are watching."

Despite these dalliances with advertising, comedy was still in the forefront of Okine's mind. After yet another setback in 2007 involving a disappointing *Rove* appearance, Okine was desperate to silence his critics. So, he wrote his debut solo show and took it to Melbourne, determined to win Best Newcomer. "Fuck man, that was so stressful," he recalls. "I cannot tell you how intense that entire festival was for me. Because I had one shot to win that award right? Because of the *Rove* thing I felt that I needed to earn back respect from the industry," he says. "I'd wake up and spend the whole day just stressing, being like: 'how can I make this show better?'... It took me up until the very final week... to accept that what I wanted to say in the show wasn't what I was saying and that I needed to trim the fat, stop being indulgent... [stop] skating over the top of it because I was too scared to commit to the whole point of what I was saying," he explains. "Expressing the whole experience



PROFILE

of my mum dying, and the circumstances in which it happened. Making it so that it wasn't just story of someone dying, you know 'this happened and oh isn't it sad,' but more about the various points along the way that made me who I am today."

A Best Newcomer award on the mantelpiece, having opened for *Parks and Recreation's* Aziz Ansari at the Opera House, and with regular guest appearances on Triple J and *Can of Worms*, the future looks bright for Okine. "Hopefully TV this year... having a regular spot, be it in a sketch show or a live panel show capacity," he forecasts. "I

think at least one of those things will happen this year."

He has learnt from his past mistakes though: "I'm hoping, but you never know... I never believe anything until I'm sitting on my couch and watching myself, otherwise there's too many variables that can get fucked up along the way."

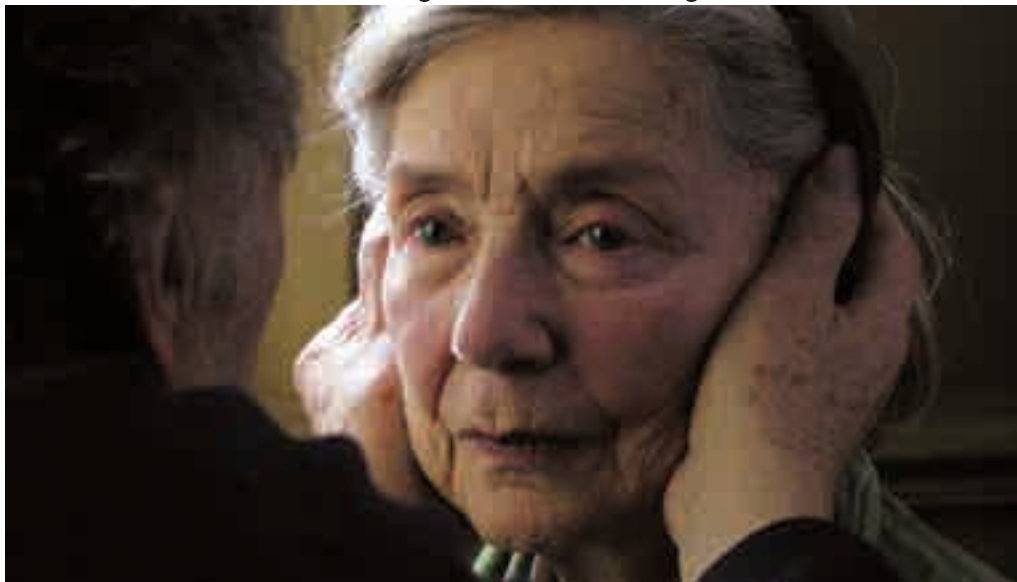
So to answer that first question: Matt Okine's the next big thing in Australian comedy, that's who the fuck he is.

Catch Matt Okine this Thursday at the Pack of Jokers comedy night in the Maclaurin Hall.

Amour

FILM REVIEW

Brad Mariano reviews the film *Amour* and David both gave five stars.



Austrian writer-director Michael Haneke's *Amour* has a very late release here. When it arrives however, it does so with quite a reputation after winning the Palme d'Or at Cannes last year and having built as strong an Oscar campaign as a foreign film ever

has. The plot to *Amour* is brutally and deceptively simple – a retired octogenarian couple has their comfortable existence and titular love put to the test when the wife suffers a stroke and, under the dutiful care of her devoted husband, her mental and

physical condition rapidly deteriorate. It's not about what happens to the wife (this is given away in the startling opening scene), but the process itself of how a couple in love after fifty years deals against hope with a tragedy neither could have prevented happening. We see photos and hear memories of their long, happy lives and there's the bittersweet underlying message that despite the tragedy and indignity of what befalls the couple over the course of the film, they couldn't have asked for a fate any better.

That the husband and wife are played by legends of the French cinema Jean-Louis Trintignant and Emmanuelle Béart is particularly relevant to cinephiles – these are actors that we have seen age over a half-century, barely recognisable from their screen beauty and grace in classics like *Hiroshima*, *Mon Amour* and *And God Created Woman*. Béart rightfully earned a Best Actress nomination as the suffering wife, playing a very brave and difficult role – films on ageing have been made before, but it's not exactly *The Bucket List* – her mental and physical decline is something that is extremely con-

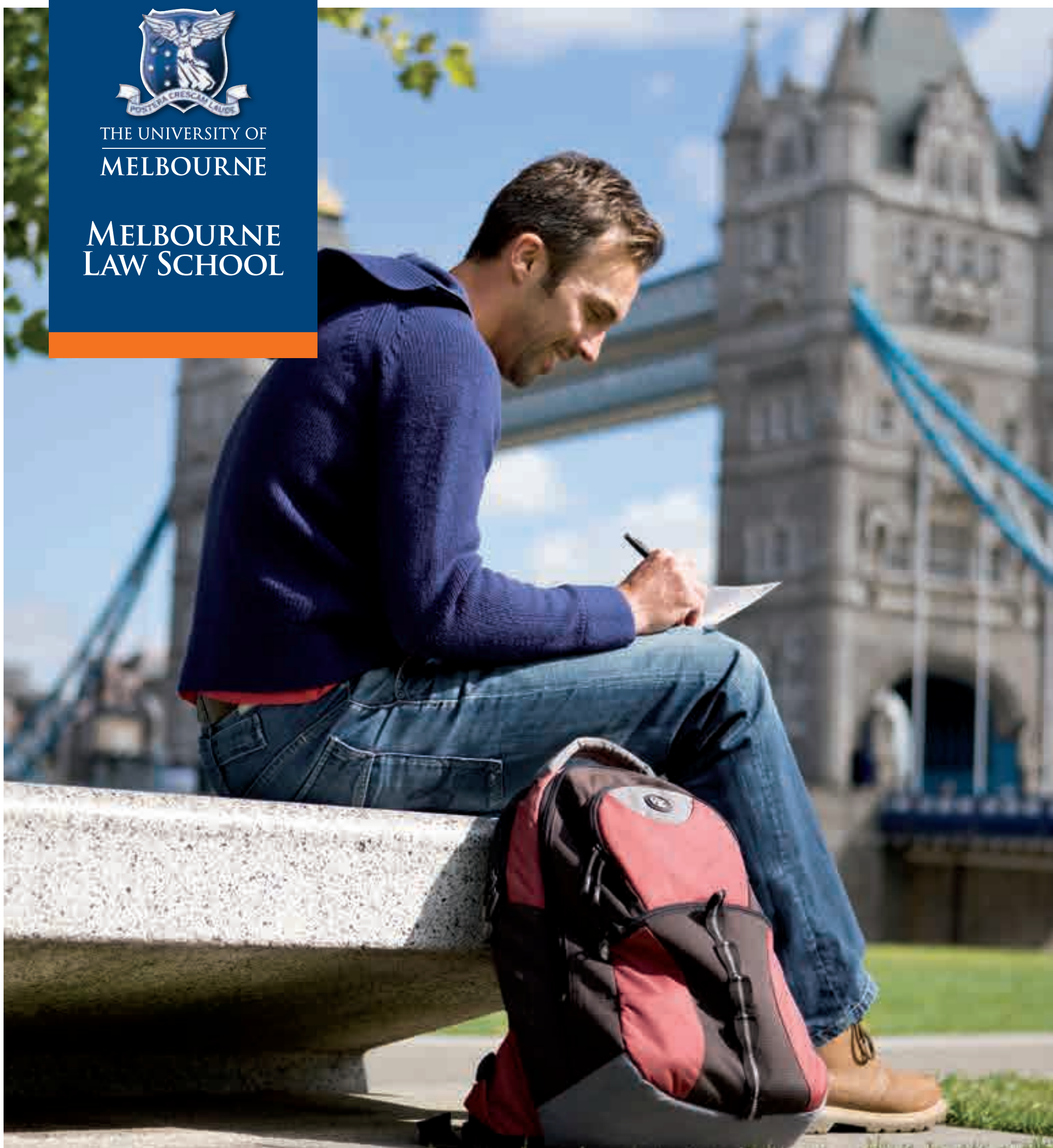
fronting and heartbreaking to watch, and told with an unflinching honesty that is near unprecedented in film. Trintignant is brilliant in his first film role in 14 years, as the husband conflicted with love, despair, and above all, frustration and helplessness.

While this film is unmistakably Haneke – filmed with immaculately framed interiors and long static takes, and dealing with previous thematic concerns, particularly class and ethnic isolation in contemporary Europe – it lacks the detached, nihilistic outlook of something like his brilliant *Funny Games* or *The Piano Teacher*. Rather, there's a warmth and compassion that his detractors had always found lacking and Haneke, now 70, has openly talked about his own marriage and the personal significance of this film, suggesting that one of the world's foremost artists is still evolving and developing a new level of self-expression. In short, this is a must-see – you'll be unlikely to see a more emotionally engaging, provocative or quite simply, better, film this year.



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FIRST PERSON

From here to fraternity

Sam Murray engages in subterfuge and swordplay in the States

Fraternities. They're a big deal in America. Everyone cool is in them and they throw the best parties, complete with sorority girls. However, as an exchange student at the University of Pennsylvania, I'm not actually eligible to join any fraternities. But there was no way in hell I was going to let my temporal visa status get in the way of enjoying this critical part of Americana.

Suddenly I became Sam, the junior transfer student from Australia, due to graduate in three years. Americans love Australians, and so my cunning deception managed to win me an invitation to pledge with a fraternity, which the brothers of the fraternity offered only after ambushing me with a bursting champagne bottle outside my dorm room.

I joined seven other pledges at our first event on a Saturday evening at 7.45pm. Unfortunately, we were supposed to arrive at 7.44 pm, and we were punished accordingly. A shattered wine glass and eight vodka shots later, the brothers shut us in a room for hours, our watches and phones confiscated so

that we could only guess at how long we were stuck in that cell based on celestial time-keeping. Brothers would come in, assign us arbitrary tasks and force us to take shots if we failed at a spread of heroic acts, such as coming up with a 'brotherly' synchronised dance in thirty seconds. In between such visits, they forbade us from speaking, and saddled us with other poorly defined rules. This led to hilarious situations of us gesticulating widely, trying to use crude sign language to argue over the exact interpretation of specifically what was included in rule three: "don't touch anything behind the counter".

After one of the pledges collapsed from too many shots, and another was evacuated from the room for reasons that still remain unclear, Brother Butters marched the remaining six of us through a sequence of rooms where we, now all completely smashed, were given memory tests on film clips about brotherhood, played a game of Chinese Communist monopoly and were asked what animal we would screw to save our family (goat was the popular option). They gave us a set of band-aids, which they advised us in the strongest possible terms to hold onto. Then they marched us into the main initiation room, a run-down lounge, with the symbols of the fraternity hastily painted on plastic tables, as the brothers surrounded us like a herd of territorial elk. The brothers stripped us of our shirts and readied

fraternity pins to jab into our exposed flesh. After watching the more nervous of our pledge class freak the hell out, the brothers withdrew the pins at the last minute. After that traumatic test, my memory starts to get a little shaky, although it's probably safe to say that we embarked on more drinking games. Also, I'm pretty sure a sword was involved at some point in the evening.

A few days later, as the indentured elements of servitude that also happen to afflict pledging surfaced, I came clean. Considering that I had managed to get a lot of free stuff, and had gained access to their sacred ceremonies, they were pretty chill about it. Apparently they're one of the more laid-back fraternities on campus...



Getting blind drunk with a pothead. Cartoon by Erin Rooney.

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Bieber, the Larkin of our generation?

high brow
Low Brow

Lulu Smyth explores love, sex and misogyny in the works of the two poets

"He has produced the most [...] resonantly beautiful, disturbing yet appealing and approachable, body of verse of any poet in the last twenty five years," wrote Alan Brownjohn in 1975, speaking of Philip Larkin. Had Brownjohn been writing today, it is not too fanciful to imagine him applying a similar description to Justin Bieber – the prodigy whose clarity, wit and profound insight have led him to be crowned the voice of our generation.

Despite the different eras that they inhabited, Bieber and Larkin came from similar family backgrounds (both being only children with difficult or non-existent paternal relationships) and shared, or share, a cynical attitude to fame. Larkin once observed: "I think writing about unhappiness is probably the source of my popularity, if I have any." Likewise, Bieber concisely remarked: "I dunno... uh...it [fame] is special. But I ... uh... don't want people to just think of me as, like, a teen sensation."

If this weren't enough (it often is),

Larkin and Bieber also share several poetic characteristics: deceptively limpid language, a flair for the controversial, and subtle yet striking imagery. Consider, for example, these lines from Bieber's erotic oeuvre 'Boyfriend':

Swag, swag, swag, on you

Chillin by the fire while we eatin' fondue

The act of "chillin" (here meaning relaxing) is cleverly juxtaposed with the lovers' position by the fire. Things between the narrator and his Dark Lady are not literally or even metaphorically "chillin" – they are heating up, in all senses of the phrase.

We are also presented with a visual contradiction: the orange of the fire beside the pale cheese fondue. This paleness leads us to associate the fondue with "chillin" and not with "fire" – forgetting, of course, that the cheese must also be hot, or it wouldn't be melted. (NB: The inclusion of cheese may also be a veiled reference to Bieber's musical genre). Bieber's masterful manipulation of words shows us that though they may seem incompatible – like

the notion of chilling near fire – both he and his muse fit perfectly together. They make sense. Love makes sense of them. And things are about to get saucy.

While Larkin also uses this technique, it is for the opposite effect. Rather than something glamorous, sex is squalid and strained – as depicted in these lines from 'Toads':

[...] folk live up lanes

With fires in a bucket,

Eat windfalls and tinned sardines-

They seem to like it.

Again, fire and eating are metaphors for sex. But rather than blend together, the windfalls contrast with, or even put out the fires, and the folk 'seem' to like it, rather than being utterly engrossed, as Bieber is with his lady: "If I was your boyfriend, I'd never let you go".

Saying this, there is also a darker side to Bieber's depictions of sexuality. Academics have frequently analysed misogynist undertones in Larkin, but few would dare to take a similar approach to Bieber. To

fail to do this is to ignore his blatantly condescending attitude towards women. Though superficially idolised, the opinions of women are repeatedly dismissed or assumed: "I know you love me, I know you care" ('Baby'), "I don't know about me but I know about you" ('Boyfriend'). Even the eponymous nickname 'baby', repeated 55 times throughout his magnum opus, is heavily laden with possessive and literally patronising implications. It might even be tempting to draw an oedipal interpretation from this: the baby is not a reference to his former lover, but a wish to return to a childlike state alone with his doting mother, protected from "shawties" and their "eenie meenie ways". (Here I might refer to Larkin: "They fuck you up your mum and dad".)

In light of the similarities between these two great poets, it is surprising that up until now no critic has ventured to make such an obvious, vital comparison.

Tarantino champions gun rights in *Django*

Sam Murray is Right, trust us

Django Unchained is not the cathartic racial revenge fantasy that the trailers promised. Rather, this surprisingly conservative film is, at its essence, about the role of the individual in righting wrongs that the government is either unwilling or unable to fix. The first half of the film concerns the titular character (Jamie Foxx) and his mentor Dr Schultz (Christoph Waltz) as they act as bounty hunters in the southern United States, reflecting how when the government is unable to apprehend certain criminals, some of whom are hiding in plain sight, the onus falls on private individuals to bring them to justice, for a cost. Yes, really, the film glorifies the privatisation of crime enforcement.

The film goes further in its implicit praise of gun rights. Django's skill with a pistol is his only source of status and power in a world, which due to government, laws and social structures, otherwise condemns him. His gun allows him to not only rise above his allotted position in life, and fulfill his potential, but proves critical in the righting of wrongs. The revolver is the great equaliser, as it allows him to take vengeance on his former overseers, and rescue his wife in the latter half of the film, instead of relying on the state to achieve true justice.

Finally, the climax of race in the film is surprisingly not between the black Django and the black house slave Samuel (Samuel L. Jackson). They represent two different ways of approaching being part of a minority; Django representing an

active willingness to achieve one's potential regardless of sufferings, and the rejection of narratives of weakness and misfortune. All the 'white man' does in this film to help Django is literally unchain him and give him a gun, and he does the rest. By contrast, Samuel represents passivity, and a willingness to buy into narratives of inferiority, preferring to despise those of his own kind who have the ambition and pride in themselves to rise above what they have been given in life, and seek something greater. It is Django's triumph over the narrative of voluntary servitude, and his ascension to almighty heights as an individual (with his trusty gun, of course) in spite of society and culture telling him otherwise, and the failures of government, that gives the film its conservative edge.



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For every step you take forward in life, reach your hand back and take someone with you.

Will you walk with us?

Welcome to the Big House... (well not in a prison kind of way)

It doesn't matter how big your school was, it was not as big as this place. This place has its own postcode, which makes it even bigger than Rooty Hill RSL. Even the satellite campuses are many times bigger than most high schools. So adjusting to this change can be exciting, challenging and down right horrifying.

The workload here is significantly higher than for most high schools. There is less individual direction and increasingly larger class sizes. The onus really is on you to stay focused and do lots of work to learn all of the required information. Most students will tell you that you don't have to do the readings before tutorials or read all the resources you list in your assignments. What they won't tell you is that this is an extremely stressful way of not doing very well at uni. Being full time at uni is definitely more work than being a full time worker.

Studies have shown that if you don't make some sort of attachment to the uni by about week six you'll find it very difficult to be successful in your degree. Your attachment may be that you've met some other people who like the same hobbies as you, so check out all of the different clubs and societies available through the Union. If you get the chance to go through the O-Week stalls then you can meet them face to face and join straight away. If not, you can find them online and go along to a meeting.

Your attachment may be your love for the subject material. Take the time to complete at least the required readings so that the lectures make sense to you. Attending classes is compulsory for a



reason, so save the socialising for another time.

Your attachment may be as simple as meeting a new friend or potential new partner. This is always exciting. Remember to have fun, but don't neglect the main reason you are here.

Remember that most people feel just as nervous and out of place as you do – even the ones that have friends here from high school. Try to be yourself, so that you avoid huge surprises to them and to you.

Another area of difference to high school is the increase to your own personal freedom. The University prefers to treat you as an adult. You are free to make your own decisions about alcohol and other drugs, and sexual activity. If you have questions about anything to do with these feel free to contact the

SRC. We can always point you in the direction of reliable and non-judgemental information.

Living in Sydney is increasingly difficult for anyone on a limited budget. It needs to be affordable so you're not spending more than 10 – 15 hours a week working (for a full time student) to be able to support yourself. It needs to be stable, so you are not worrying about whether you'll have somewhere to live next week, or whether your flatmates are going to pay their rent. It needs to be appropriate. Some students we have met were sleeping on a balcony in the middle of winter and not getting very much sleep. Being constantly sick will not help you pass your course.

You're not alone here. There are lots of people willing to help you settle in. The trick is to ask for help.

Ask Abe



Dear Abe,

I've attended all of the sessions and stalls available at O week. I was wondering if there was anything else I needed to know to be able to do well at this degree.

Just a Little Bit

Dear Just a Little Bit,

I've seen lots of different types of people go through uni and I reckon there's a bit of a recipe for success.

Attend all of your classes and do all of your readings. This sounds like more work than just bluffing your way through tutorials, but you'll actually pick things up much quicker and have a better understanding of the material. Assessments and exams will also be easier to prepare for and you will score better marks. Most importantly you are less likely to fail anything, meaning you won't have to repeat a subject.

Check out the Learning Centre courses as soon as you can. Some people say they have no time to do these extra courses, but actually putting in the time for them now, will save you heaps of time later. Generally speaking people who get help from the learning centre will improve their marks by one grade. That is, if you would have got a pass for that assignment you'd probably get a credit with the Learning Centre's help. Check out their website too. They have great modules on referencing properly and time management.

Deal with any problems you have during the semester WHEN THEY HAPPEN. Talk to SRC HELP or someone in the Faculty to get whatever it is you need.

Most of all allow yourself to have fun. This should be an awesome time of your life.

Abe

Abe is the SRC's welfare dog. This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything. This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as a question on the state of the world. Send your questions 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

NEW VISA ARRANGEMENT: no more points test and at least 2 years of unrestricted work visa!

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has currently announced new Post-Study Work Arrangements – this will be incorporated into the existing Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa.

You might be eligible for this visa if you meet all of the following:

- Be under 50 years of age
- Apply for this visa in Australia
- Score minimum of 6 in each of the four components of IELTS or can demonstrate competent English level

- Completed at least a Bachelor degree level or above in Australia
- Held a qualifying student visa including subclass 572, 573 or 574
- previously applied for your first student visa after 5 November 2011

The biggest benefit of this new arrangement is that you no longer need to nominate an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) or satisfy any points test in order to qualify! This will allow some students to complete their professional year or obtain the required

work experience to apply for a further visa later.

If you wish to read more about this new visa arrangement, you can either visit the DIAC website, or contact Ms Annie Zeng, a registered migration agent from SRC Legal Service. We can discuss your particular circumstances to see whether you are eligible for this new arrangement, completely free of cost! Call the SRC on 02 9660 5222 and we are happy to help you with all immigration or visa related questions.

President's Report

David Pink is your President

Hello students, my name is David Pink and I am your President.

Sydney University SRC is the hub of student activism in Australia. We are the strongest student union in the country, with thousands of students participating in our campaigns; we are the rock of the National Union of Students, and during the Anzac Day long weekend we will be hosting EduFactory!, the biggest activist conference of the year.

Last year, I was Education Officer – that means I've been writing these reports every week for over a year, so I thought I'd make a change from the clichéd 'welcome to students' that Presidents always make and instead give you an idea of what the student movement is fighting for your education to look like.

This is what we and the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts fight for:

- The abolition of all fees in higher and further education and the abolition of all student debt owed.
- The reversal of all budget cuts to education and research.
- An adequate maintenance grant to allow every student over 16 to live independently, out of poverty.
- Free care services and additional maintenance support for every student

with one or more dependents.

- A living wage, a safe workplace, a live-able pension, holiday pay, sick pay and a maximum 35 hour week for every education and research worker, every apprentice and every intern, with an end to privatisation and outsourcing in our institutions.
- Recognition of research students as workers as well as students, with associated rights to limited hours, minimum pay, healthy and safe workplaces, holidays, sick leave, academic freedom, and protection from harassment and unfair dismissal.
- An end to racist, xenophobic and discriminatory treatment of international students. Abolish international fees, open the borders and end surveillance.
- An academic environment that is feminist, pro-LGBTIQ, anti-racist and anti-ableist, and that actively works against oppression and for inclusion.
- Campuses safe from surveillance and harassment on grounds of religious and political beliefs. Police off our campuses, and an end to the use of education workers to enforce police and immigration controls and surveillance.
- Academic freedom for all – freedom to teach, learn, enquire and publish

must not be limited by, or subject to, the goals of the state or those of the owners of industry.

- All schools, colleges and universities to be run not-for-profit under the full and democratic control of their staff, students and communities, including all currently private and profit-making institutions. The abolition of unelected, unaccountable management.
- Knowledge open to all – our lectures, museums, books and journals must be accessible to all, free of charge, to create truly open, common and public educational institutions.
- An end to investment in and links with exploitative, unsustainable and violent industries, including the arms trade – education must not be founded on the suffering of others.
- These are to be funded using the wealth of those who can afford it: we demand progressive and fully enforced taxation of business and the rich, and the socialisation, under democratic student and staff control, of currently privatised elements of the education system.
- Sustainable education and research – our institutions must function in an environmentally sustainable way, and their activity must contribute in theory and in

president@src.usyd.edu.au



practice to forward-thinking, socially just solutions to local and global threats and crises such as climate change.

Solidarity with staff in the Week 1 strike. Their fight is our fight.

General Secretary's Report

Dylan Parker says hey



Hey,

If you're reading this it means it's O-Week. Welcome to USYD or welcome back *shudder*. Either way an introduction is probably in order, I'm Dylan Parker and I'm your SRC General Secretary for 2013.

The SRC is your student association and it fights for your rights as a student. In short, it's the place you go if you've got your back to the wall. We provide academic and welfare caseworkers, a FREE legal service, a secondhand bookstore, \$50 emergency loans and, the only weekly student newspaper in the country, Honi Soit, just

to name a few.

As an intro to my role as General Secretary, my job is to make sure that the budget is in the black, the lights stay on and you get to keep the life-saving SRC services that students rely on year after year. In 2013, I'll fight to make sure we don't get distracted by ideological frivolities on either end of the spectrum. Not the sexiest of roles but it's important considering Howard (wows-er) tried to shut this whole "supporting students" operation down with Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU). Thankfully, the Gillard Government took us a step forward after 2 steps back under Howard with the

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SSAF. Anyway, that's my job and that's your SRC.

As an aside, get involved. Come up to the SRC O-Week stall and sign up, chat to a caseworker or our free lawyers, or grab a copy of SRC Orientation or Counter-Course handbooks for advice about your courses and uni life. Also, with cross-student organisation love in mind, join a club. Actually, join ten. Look, after a while the magic of the sandstone and overcrowded tutorials wears off and only the student life will keep you here.

Education Officers' Report

Tenaya Alaitas educates you on her role

The first time student enrolling in Sydney University is subjected to a barrage of information about degrees, courses, libraries, cafes, clubs, societies, sports and newspapers. For the newly enrolled student it becomes quickly apparent that tertiary education means something more than a pathway to employment. However, one thing is often missing from the plethora of universities' self-promotion; and that is a sense of tertiary education as a political arena. This exclusion is deliberate; universities would like to see themselves as apolitical. Higher education is a controversial area, and the political agenda of both the federal government and the university's management, in turn greatly affects students at Sydney University.

In 2012, the education officers and the

education action group fought hard to defeat the university management whose manifesto included dismissing 340 staff, whilst simultaneously committing \$385 million to non-essential infrastructure projects. This decision however was met with overwhelming opposition including: 10,000 signatures collected by the SRC, a crime scene stunt outside the VC's office, a 1500+ staff/student rally in week 5 followed by 150 students occupying the Dean of Arts office and an EAG staged referendum which allowed 97 percent of the 4000 students to vote against the cuts. The result was saving almost 300 academic and general staff jobs.

In 2013, our role will be just as important as we continue to fight the government and university administration on these and other



issues. With the Labor party already deregulating course places and the possibility of an Abbott-headed Coalition government at the next federal election; deregulation, further staff, course cuts and the privatization of HECS are increasingly possible threats. Our fight is not limited to government issues. We also come up against the Univer-

sity Administration over their treatment of students and staff as well. Some areas of concern this year will be the proposed cuts to Honours, the reduction of Koori Centre services and the changes in the staff Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA).

You can get involved! The Education Action Group meets weekly during semester at 1pm on Thursdays in the New Law Annex to discuss and plan campaigns around education issues. Our role as Education officers is only secondary to yours. Without the support and activism of students on a grass-roots level our struggle for a quality of education wouldn't be possible! This is your chance to shape and determine the education system around you.

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Vice President's Report

Amelie Vanderstock gives you a tour of O-Week

Welcome to USYD O-Week 2013! Whether you've attended six before; each time searching for a club that might tempt your return post free welcome drink, or you're fresh out of school/travels /the real world, we all know uni education and experiences occur between classes- so this is possibly a better indicator than the first week back.

Along with joining every club in sight at my first O-Week, I found myself searching for an on-campus environmental justice group. I found rows of stalls for clubs, faculty societies, sports and charities but could not seem to find a likeminded group active on issues in the world - mirrored at university, even school - that I was passionate about. University has historically been the place where students show the world the change we wish to see - so where were these students?

It wasn't until I tripped over a 'Green Campus Now' banner on my confused path

to the Kopy Stop that I found the crew I had been looking for. But in all honesty I must have been walking with my eyes wide shut for whether you're active (or want to be!) on feminism, refugee rights, queer politics, there's likely a collective stall for you. And for issues that are under-represented on campus- such as indigenous affairs and disabilities, there are SRC office bearers who'd love to collaborate!

'Collectives' (differing from USU 'clubs') are run through the Student Representative Council as a means for like-minded students to organise and socialise together - bringing about fantastic campaigns on and off campus. Their 'non-hierarchical' structure means that there is no president or secretary, but instead, an opportunity for everyone to be equally involved. Meeting weekly, collectives also host events such as discussion groups, marches, stalls, conferences, dinners, working bees, picnics and



general fun times. Many are connected to a broader university network, so participation in a USYD collective could help foster friendships around the country! Collectives are also a great place to share useful skills; from fixing bikes to graphic design. In fact, in the first few weeks of semester, the SRC will be conducting a cross depart-

ment skill share. So if you've got the skills or even if you just want to meet some really rad people, come and check it out. (PS. Collectives are 'SRC' so you don't even need moolah or an access card to be involved!)

Be sure to have a chat with the collective stalls near the SRC tent at O-Week. Anti-racism (ARC), Education (EAG), Environment (SEAC), Queer (QUAC) and Women's all have some superb campaigns planned and are always looking for new ideas. And if you're reading Honi on the train home? Not to worry- contact me at vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au or visit us in the Wentworth building basement to get involved.

Involvement in student life, working towards the changes we wish to see in the world and making friends - that's what uni's about right? Chatting to a collective this O-Week is a great place to begin.

vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au

Women's Report

Hannah Smith and Emily Rayers are calling all women-identifying students

Hello to new and old students of Sydney University! If you are picking up Honi Soit for the first time you are on the right track towards an engaged, thought-provoking university life. The production and distribution of Honi is one of the many great services provided by the SRC. The SRC is also the centre of activism on campus.

One of the largest and most active departments of the SRC is the Women's Department. The Women's Department is served by the Women's Officers (who, for this year are Hannah and Emily) and directed by the Women's Collective. The Women's Collective meets every Wednesday at 1pm in the Women's Room, Level 1, Manning House. The collective is open to all Women-Identifying students or those students who have lived in part or in-full as women. There is no prior knowledge or experience of feminism needed to attend, and you are most welcome to sit back and listen until you feel

ready to participate.

The Women's Collective has been responsible for a number of important campaigns and events on campus and in the community. Last year, we hosted a women's performance night, put together a response to the National Union of Students' Talk About It Survey, and were central in the organisation of the massively successful Reclaim the Night rally. In addition to this, the collective also has a social side. We host dinners, film nights, and attend relevant events together.

The Collective is looking forward to another great year in 2013. In January, we produced and launched our annual publication; Growing Strong (pick one up from the Women's Room if you are interested in having a read!), we also launched our Twitter account (@SRCwomens) and raised awareness about issues of consent and reproductive rights during O-Week. There is

a lot more to look forward to throughout the year, including the NOWSA (Network of Women Students of Australia) conference in Melbourne and more work on Talk About It.

In the coming months, we are looking forward to participating in the USU's International Women's Day Festival (March 7th on Eastern Ave). We are also very excited to attend the march in Sydney CBD on 9th as a collective, and hope to meet beforehand and share breakfast together in the park.

We are also very excited to be involved in the launch of a cross-campus women's network! The inaugural event will be on the 21st of March. Watch this space for more details as they become available.

We encourage every woman-identifying student to contact the Women's Collective, whether it is through Facebook, email (usyd womens collective@gmail.com),



Twitter, in person or over the phone (9660 5222) and have your say in how the Women's Collective should be run! 2013 is such an important year to get involved, being an election year in which women's rights are a central policy focus, and with possible challenges to women's reproductive rights on federal, state and even campus levels.

We at the Women's Department look forward to providing support and encouragement throughout a challenging year for both students and women!

usyd womens collective@gmail.com

Queer Officer's Report

Fahad Ali knows his way around the queer spaces at uni

The queer community at Sydney Uni has always been diverse, exciting, and colourful, but it can sometimes be difficult to get involved. There are a few different queer groups on campus, and if you're a new student (or even an old one) you might find this small guide useful.



Queer Revue 2012

First off, there's SHADES. It's a society in the University of Sydney Union, so you'll need to be an Access member to join, but it's definitely worth it! SHADES throws the best parties in town, as well as speaker nights, social drinks, and a whole range of great events for queer students and their friends.

If you're keen on theatre, creativity, and having a great time, you should join Queer Revue. Queer Revue is an annual comedic theatrical production completely written and directed by queer and queer-friendly students. It's a great way to have fun and meet new friends. Even if theatre isn't your thing, I highly recommend that you get involved. You won't regret it!

The Queer Action Collective (QuAC), supported by the Students' Representative

Council, is another great group on campus. It's inclusive, friendly, and welcoming, and it's a great place to relax and make some good friends. Unlike SHADES and Queer Revue, you can join QuAC for free. It has weekly meetings and great events, like games nights, queer trivia teams, and just general FUN.

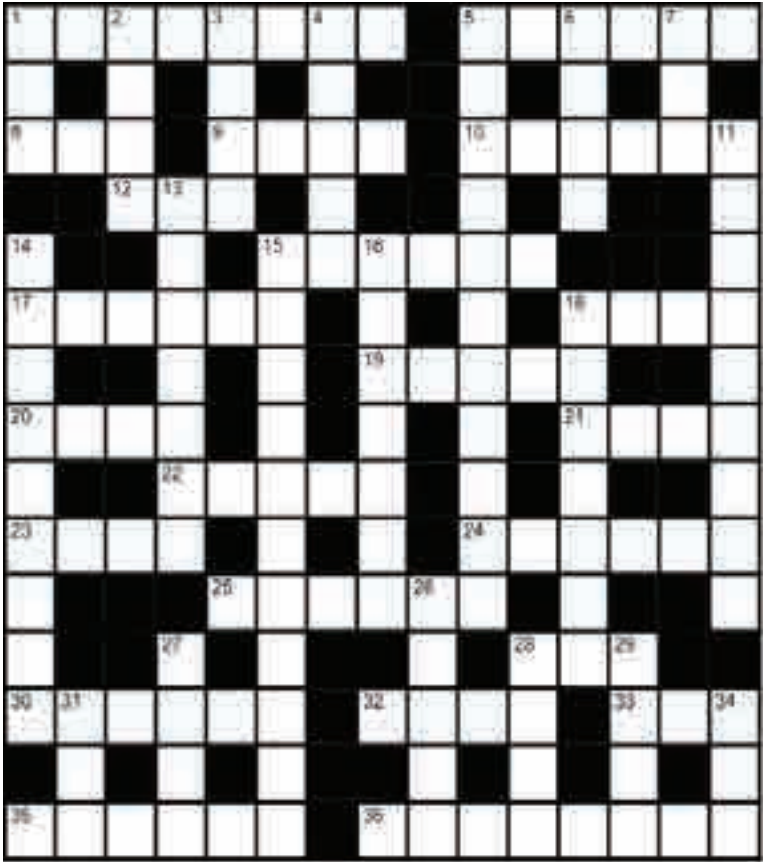
You should definitely join all three! If you have any questions, or want more information, feel free to get in touch with me! My email is queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au and I'd be more than happy to help you out or answer any of your questions.

Hope to see you soon!



queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

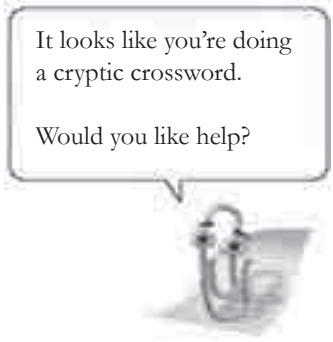


ACROSS

- 1. Stimulant: Intestine: subsection: soft-drink (4, 4)
- 5. Parent insect disemboweled an Eider (6)
- 8. Regular section removed from plaid bolster (3)
- 9. Two objective is toward a cultural unit (4)
- 10. SA run attack towards a distant planet (6)
- 12. The time it's guessed to take for a type of testing not to start? (3)
- 15. Pit cave has no physical end, it 'finished' spiritually (6)
- 17. Spanish in Galapagos outskirts is contained inside, god forbid (6)
- 18. Ice (drug) stashed under lip (4)
- 19. Alice crazed on Soft Drink (2,3)
- 20. Wisconsin Energy's website (4)
- 21. Many die from foreign pedicures (excluding Peru's) (4)
- 22. Devotee has appreciation for soft drink (5)
- 23. Ruth Park's first is put on computers electronically, at last (4)
- 24. A commercial-free decent match (6)
- 25. Contribute to the greatest expression of pain (6)
- 28. Cunning insect beheaded after initial success (3)
- 30. Fairy's drink (6)
- 32. Doctorate with relation to Iced Coffee (4)
- 33. A near finishing achievement leads to self-importance (3)
- 35. Complimentary gravity instrument caused reversal? (6)
- 36. Vet season for an American soft drink (2, 6)

DOWN

- 1. Hidden within an occupant's container ... (3)
- 2. ... is Mark Holden's penultimate response to a wind up (4)
- 3. A state of deep unconsciousness when in company with mother (4)
- 4. A subsidiary proposition for a problem where only 2/7ths has been ruled out (5)
- 5. Soft drink win amounted to be lunacy (8, 3)
- 6. Leader put Arts in disarray (4)
- 7. Large bird contained in Adelaide Museum
- 11. Angelic Descartes reviewed what is found in 27-down, 1-across (9)
- 13. Examine if initial yes-men take the stand (7)
- 14. Most of Bosch endlessly wept for the odd poets company (9)
- 15. Coronate a Hebrew with Ellis's odd favoured assets (5, 6)
- 16. Heroic Latvian at war (7)
- 18. Spooner's turn in regulation energy drink (3, 4)
- 26. Very happily broadcast after Love Knight (2, 3)
- 27. Drop dead model's eating regiment (4)
- 28. Withered oracle speaks ... (4)
- 29. ... a cry in an ancient word, underneath the boundless Alps (4)
- 31. Revolutionary speech for equality (3)
- 34. Belonging to US, or outside UN's moiety? (3)



DA CRYPTIC CODE

Jim Fishwick opens Pandora's Box.

Every cryptic clue has a definition and an explanation. The definition is a synonym for, or a description of, the solution. The explanation describes the word in another way.

Firstly, work out which part is the definition, and which is the explanation. The definition can be at the start or the end of the clue, but never the middle. Secondly, work out how the explanation works.

Synonym

At its simplest, explanations can be another definition. The "of" just makes the sentence grammatically correct. It's STAPLE, geddit?

Anagram

Anagrams are also commonly employed in cryptic clues, and are indicated by a word relating to change or disorder, such as smashed, confused, new, perhaps, arranged, or disguised. For example, the word "broken" in a clue like "World of broken heart (5)" signals an anagram, which means you need to find an anagram of "heart" that means "world". EARTH!

Charade

Like a game of charades, sometimes the solution is spelled out bit by bit. Take "Furniture will annoy insect (6)": Furniture (BED) will annoy (BUG) insect (BEDBUG). Or, "Head of state overtakes hits (5)": Head of state (S - words like "head", "start" or "chief" often refer to the first letter of a word)

overtakes (LAPS) hits (SLAPS).

Reversal

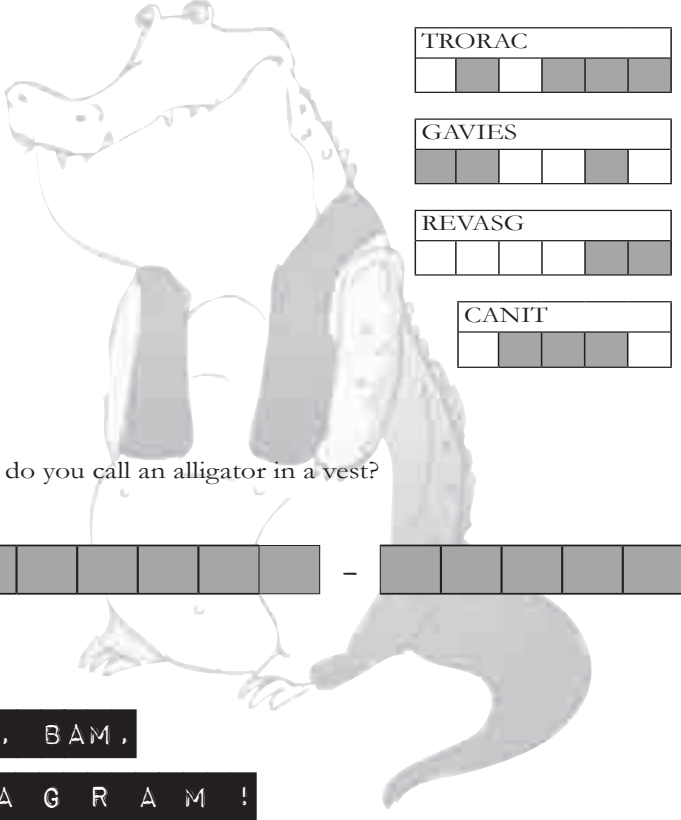
Exactly what the subheading says, e.g. "Satan has lived up (5)": "up" signals reversing the word "lived" to get a synonym for "Satan".

Homophones

Homophones are words that sound like each other, which are indicated in clues by phrases such as "sounds like", "we hear" or "audibly". For example, "Girl said to be in a book (4)" can be interpreted as a girl's name that sounds like part of a book, i.e. PAIGE/PAGE. You know it's the second one because the answer is four letters.

Puns

Constructors can be loose with grammar, or how they define things. Yes, this means puns. These types of clues are indicated with a question mark, e.g. "Quickly appreciate the audience? (4, 3, 8)" makes LIKE THE CLAPPERS.

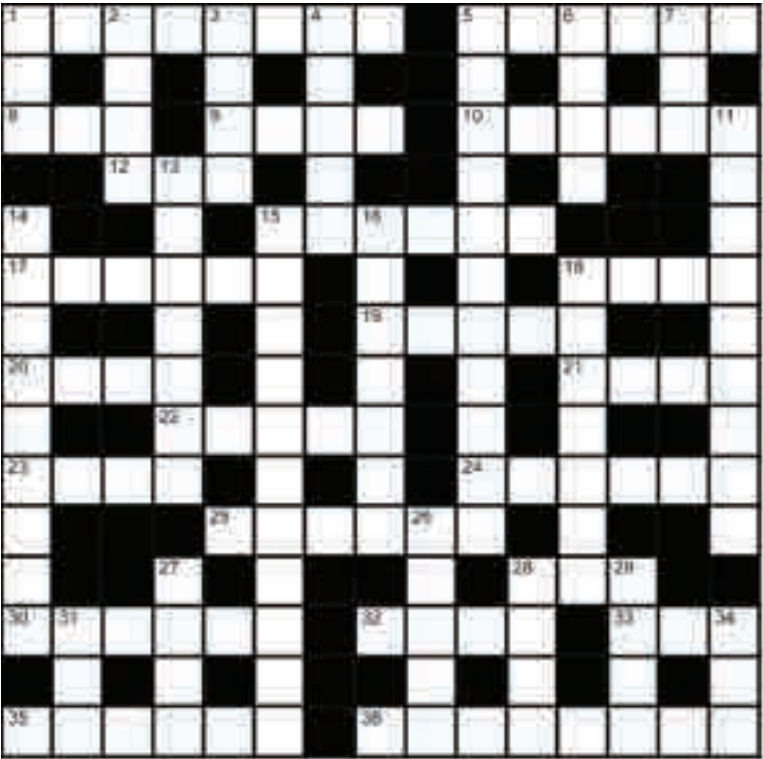


ACROSS

- 1. Without smoke (8)
- 5. A fancy dock (6)
- 8. Select as an alternative over another (3)
- 9. Babylonian god of wisdom (4)
- 10. Book in the new testament (6)
- 12. Possess in the past (3)
- 15. Hawaiian greetings (6)
- 17. Celebration of the resurrection of Christ (6)
- 18. Hindu god of fire (4)
- 19. Protest song writer (5)
- 20. Maori war dance (4)
- 21. Small urban area (4)
- 22. Took in solid food (5)
- 23. Nihilistic art movement (4)
- 24. Chronological accounts of events (6)
- 25. Creased crown hat (6)
- 28. New music that appeals to teens (3)
- 30. Dull; dejected (6)
- 32. Brother of Thor (4)
- 33. A metric unit of measure (3)
- 35. Leader of the Trojans (6)
- 36. Dependent by virtue of youth (8)

DOWN

- 1. From; away (3)
- 2. Nocturnal insect (4)
- 3. Come to rest (4)
- 4. A woman who tells fortunes (5)
- 5. Half-sister of King Arthur (6, 2, 3)
- 6. Avatar of Vishnu (4)
- 7. Female member of a religious order (5)
- 11. A trait of dignified seriousness (9)
- 13. A genus of about 6 perennial herbs (7)
- 14. Type of Protestantism (9)
- 15. Ancient Greek grammarian (11)
- 16. Relating to a taxonomic order (7)
- 18. Vivaldi's first name (7)
- 26. American University on Rhode Island (5)
- 27. English statesman who opposed a royal divorce (4)
- 28. A sharp point (4)
- 29. Informal term for father (4)
- 31. Lyric poem (3)
- 34. The day before (3)



QUICK CROSSWORD



THE LIDCOMBE SOLUTION

In a major coup for the university, amateur cricketer and former prime minister of Australia, John Howard, has been appointed to head the timetabling centre as it processes student enrolments for 2013. However, when students logged in to access their timetables last week, many were shocked to find that the units displayed were not the ones they had registered for. Asked to comment, Howard declared, "We will decide what students are enrolled in and the circumstances in which they are enrolled."

Steps are being taken to move timetable processing off campus to the grounds of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Cumberland as part of a policy known as the Lidcombe Solution. Howard insisted the move was necessary to prevent the university from being overrun by boat-shoe-wearing people. He said they would be intercepted as they came up City Road and housed in the International Student Lounge until they could be removed to Cumberland.

An SRC spokesperson has condemned the policy as inhumane, "Many of these boat-shoe-wearing people have never been west of Bondi. How do you expect them to survive in Lidcombe?" But Howard remained firm saying, "We are a generous and open hearted university. On a per capita basis, we take on more boat-shoe-wearing people than any other tertiary institution. But if we are to retain enough room for full fee paying international students, we must insist on our fundamental right to protect our sandstone borders."



FIRST YEAR MISPRONOUNCES 'HONI SOIT', SHITS PANTS

SOIN EXCLUSIVE

In a rare double-dipping of social embarrassment, reports are emerging that Sydney University first year Jarred Baker allegedly mispronounced the name of university newspaper *Honi Soit* while simultaneously shitting himself uncontrollably.

"It's a difficult name. I don't speak French. I shouldn't be expected to know these things,"

commented Baker, refusing to change his pungent attire. "It's my first day, everybody. I think I should be given a second chance."

Baker, who considers himself to be more of a *Bull* reader, evacuated his bowels with such intense force that few heard him mispronounce the final syllable of the university paper's name. Some believe this might be his only reprieve from what

would be a disastrous first impression at a new university.

"Thank God no one actually looks at this shit," he said, tossing aside his copy of *Honi Soit* and proudly walking home in his shit-stained jorts.

WORK WANTED



WORK EXPERIENCE:

1927: Born?

1939-1945: ██████████

1951-2004: General involvement in Catholic Church

2005-2013: POPE!

2013: Not Pope anymore.

Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger

SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

- First Pope to resign in 600 years since the dude that ended the biggest schism of the Catholic Church
- Youth organising in Germany
- Good with children
- Missed the opportunity to basically end AIDS :)

"Lacks commitment but decent guy" - God



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MEET THE NEW CHANCELLOR: MITT ROMNEY

Former US Presidential candidate Mitt Romney has recently been voted in as the new Chancellor of the University. The Senate recognised his wealth of corporate experience, his wealth, and his positive engagement with strikebreakers as essential skills for his position as the head of an academic organisation.

LATEST NEWS

RESEARCH

STUDY

INDIGENOUS

EVENTS

WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY!

Dear first years:

You have no friends: if you know anyone at this university, they're your friends from school, and you'll soon realise you don't like them all that much, or maybe they'll ditch you first.

You effectively know nothing: everything you learnt at school was for an arbitrary hoop through which the Board of Studies wanted you to jump.

You have no plans: anything you want to do with the rest of your life depends on the next three years.

Welcome to University.

Don't worry, Honi Soit will be your friend and helper for the next few weeks, making you smile and keeping you informed. That is, until you finally strike up a conversation in a tutorial, go to Hermanns with your new pal, and start the pattern of alcoholism and casual sex that will define your student days.

Remember: honi soit qui mal y pense, sidere mens eadem mutato, #YOLO.



THINGS I WISH I KNEW...

You were probably still in your mother's wombs back in 2008 when I was a first year. Now that I'm wrinkly and old, it's time to cast my feeble mind back and recall my salad days. The sheer depth of what I did not know astounds me, and I imagine that if I knew what I still do not know, I'd probably die. Here are some thoughts:

The safety bus

This is Sydney Uni's version of the Knight Bus. Muggles are allowed on board. It runs from 4:30pm to 9:30pm, Monday to Friday during semester, for free. It departs from Fisher Library and passes along Manning and Physics Rd towards Redfern Station. The timetable is online. Similar services operate at SCA, Mallett St and Cumberland. If you're really cautious or lazy you can also get a security officer to take you to your transport.

Lunchtime

Fellow students frequently screenshot their timetables and then tag all their friends on Facebook, imagining a brilliant communal lunch date on the Law Lawns. Now, when I started university, Facebook wasn't really a big deal and the Law Lawns did not yet exist (I'm a geriatric, recall). However, I do know that there is nothing more annoying than having someone you don't really like that much hound you every Monday at 1pm because they know that's when you have a break. Keep your cards close to your chest. Tell only those you trust. And remember, it's legitimate to eat by yourself.



Clubs and societies

Quite often, it seems, clubs and societies are really just groups of people with one thing in common (a love of ancient history, an affinity

for skiing hangover) having sex with each other. It seems to be the case with debating, circus, and those involved in student politics, but I would wager it is true of all C&S, except the EU (Evangelical Union). Choose your club wisely, and use condoms.

Libraries

The concept of a 'due date' for library books is nebulous. If nobody else requests your treasured tome, you can effectively keep it forever by clicking 'renew' every now and then. So, if you have niche enough taste, you can do all your interior decoration for free with loans from Fisher Library. And then if you do chance to bring it back late, the concept of a 'fine' is also rather shady. This year there are no fines, or any consequences at all, if you return a book late (except if it's been recalled, in which case you are an Unethical Library User). If you do rack up some fines, don't worry about it until you hit \$30, because you still have the full suite of library rights and they'll be waived come December.



Internet

Sydney Uni's wireless offers unlimited downloads for all of us. Now go make your own (clean) fun.

Fitness

If you are naïve enough (and of course you are, you're a first year) to think you will combine study and fitness during your time at university, sign up at Victoria Park Pool rather than a Sydney Uni gym. VPP is \$20/fortnight for gym, pool and classes, and Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness is a conglomeration of bizarre fee structures unified only by one blanket (and extra) \$55 payment which appears to go absolutely nowhere.

Hannah Ryan



It hardly needs to be said that your experience at university can vary greatly based on your socioeconomic background. Unfortunately, most of us will never be privileged enough to get colossally trashed during O-Week, whilst being forced to wear academic gowns and carry a pet brick around. But never fear, your parents don't have to be investment bankers in order for you to survive at university.

Nick Rowbotham.

\$5



The problem: you live in the Blue Mountains, and are thus geographically disadvantaged. To add insult to injury, you're in 'zone three' of the New South Wales public transport network, so your weekly MyMulti costs \$10 more than it does for your friends in Glebe.

The solution: fare evasion. You couldn't even afford a travel ticket with your entire weekly budget, so it's a no-brainer. Besides, Barry O'Farrell sacked all of Cityrail's transit officers anyway... You'll now at least have enough money for lunch every day, or alternatively, a beer every afternoon.

\$10



The problem: you don't have money to buy a coffee and a baguette from Taste, that would require \$11. In other words, you're thoroughly middle-class.

The solution: get your parents to buy you an ACCESS card, you're precisely the USU's target demographic. Now you'll get a 15 cent discount on your coffee and a \$1 discount on your baguette, pushing you below the \$10 mark. Your parents also buy your train ticket, so you're in the clear.

\$50



The problem: there's money left at the end of the day. You drive your dad's BMW to uni and park under the law building - obviously, you've also got a permit, he bought that for you.

The solution: don't bother eating on campus. There are any number of classy restaurants in Newtown where you can have a sit-down lunch and a chardonnay. Then if you're feeling up to it, you can meet up with your Paul's mates for a few beers at the Grose in the evening.



Sport has really copped it over the last month - Lance Armstrong's admission to drug use, ASA-DA's criminal investigation into Australian sport, and the Pistorius shooting. Thankfully none of these startling developments have anything to do with the extensive range of sporting opportunities available at USYD. If you're planning on remaining active whilst lectures melt your brain, here's our tips for involvement in campus sport.

Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness (SUSF):

Catering for anywhere on the sporting spectrum from elite athletes to complete beginners, SUSF offers a range of channels for involvement. If you're keen on playing competitive sport for USYD, SUSF membership is vital. The most expensive of the campus sporting options, membership costs \$55. If you wish to gaze upon the wondrously awful lifting technique of the Arena Gym's resident powerlifters, SUSF offers 10 Vis-it, three, six and 12 month passes beginning at \$10 a week for students. The facilities are excellent when compared to off-campus gyms, with a noticeable deficiency of steroid-sucking sasquatches. Just never visit while the rugby players are there. The testosterone is... pungent.

Clubs & Societies:

Involvement through USYD's Clubs & Societies Program can take many forms. Clubs focus on everything from extreme athletic endeavor (Triathlon Club), to the more peculiar pursuits such as SURCAS (Sydney University Recreational Circus Arts Society) or the brilliantly named Celtic Culture Entertainment and Sports Society (SUC-CESS). If you're into sports but don't want to break a sweat, you can also write for the monthly sports journal KICKS.

Interfaculty Sport:

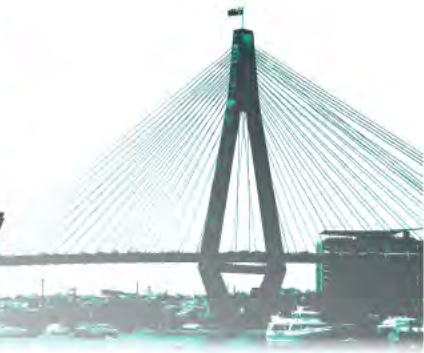
Interfaculty sport began in 1939 to prove once and for all that English professors can't kick to save their lives. Thankfully for Arts students, more than ball sports are contested - ultimate frisbee and rockclimbing also grace the interfac program. Points are accrued throughout the year, and the winning faculty is awarded the Emily Small Shield. Participation is free for undergrads, postgrads and staff, but register soon as places fill quickly.

Lunchtime social sport:

Beating your classmates into submission not enough? There's a way to get others to literally cower under your cleats. Competitions are open to both students and the general public. Registrations for mixed netball, soccer and touch footy are open from O-Week until the end of Week 2 to allow competition to begin the following week. Registrations cost \$250 per team - a minor deterrent unless you're really keen on bludgeoning some businesspeople.

Josh Tassell

INNER WEST SIDE STORY



Transient Building

As its rather haunting name suggests, this building (made of tin and asbestos - yep, asbestos - during the Second World War) was not intended to be a permanent structure. This helps explain why the underwhelming façade resembles a giant, shoddy-looking demountable that few students willingly enter. It is rumoured to be the oldest temporary building in the Southern Hemisphere, although some shantytowns in South America might dispute this claim. One rumour that can definitely be dispelled is the claim that it is Heritage listed; in fact, it is due to be removed by 2020, under the Campus 2020 plan.



Footbridge Theatre

Though seemingly innocuous, the rooms below footbridge once housed a for-students, by-students enterprise concerning the sale of marijuana. The organisers aimed to cut out the nasty middlemen and give students a good deal on quality weed. It was eventually shut down, much to the sellers' and buyers' indignation: "But we had measuring scales!"



Manning House

Manning House started life in 1920 as a union building for women students (the men had Holme Building). Though still the location of the autonomous women's room, the building now

also houses dubiously named fast food outlets (*cough Miso Honi cough*) and the previously ascendant Manning Bar. Though the bar could once boast its own beer (the manningbräu) and \$7 jugs of sweet, sweet Tooheys New, students have abandoned it in recent years as prices have risen and burger quality has fallen.



Culinary issues aside, the bar has played host to the likes of The Vines, Josh Pyke, Tim Freedman, Cloud Control and the Jezabels before they got their big breaks. The Sydney Uni Band Comp still offers a buffet of student music talent.

The Quadrangle

Oh the Quad! Hark all ye Sandstone snobs! The Quad is Sydney University's first and most iconic building and the reason many students choose Sydney Uni, though most will never actually have a class there. The Quad has played host to many of the most momentous events in the University's history. In 1975 students agitating for the creation of an independent Department of Political Economy occupied the Vice-Chancellor's office (their goal was eventually achieved in 2008). The Quad has also played host to mass-gatherings including the Vietnam War moratorium in 1970 and, more recently, rallies against Voluntary Student Unionism in 2005 and staff cuts in 2012. But most days the Quad's well-kept lawns are occupied by frolicking tourists, snoozing students and enterprising undergrads poaching free food from graduation ceremonies.



Sydney College of the Arts (SCA)

Formerly a mental asylum, and now the location of St. Jerome's Laneway Festival, Sydney Uni's Rozelle campus attracts some of Sydney's most imaginative and creative people. This includes the paranormal-seeking groups that frequent the premises at night. Their conclusion: "Paranormal activity present, case remains open."

In a very literal evocation of the site's past, Ricki-Lee's music video for her song 'Crazy' was filmed at the hospital in 2012. Perhaps this explains the shrieking recent paranormal groups have reported. The Graffiti Tunnel



A legal graffiti tunnel between Manning and Holme building, the graffiti tunnel was created by chance as buildings sprung up around it. Every available surface, apart from the roof, is covered in scrawls and images of diverse colour and design. Coats of paint and aerosol have built up over time giving the walls and floor a unique tactile feel. As for the 'rules', according to Campus security, anything can be put up as long as it isn't 'offensive' and nothing on the door handles.



Lovelle D'Souza

Credit to University Historian Julia Horne for her assistance

DRINK REAL COFFEE



You need only be on campus for an hour in order to pick up, through a mix of osmosis and observation of student migration patterns, the best places to eat and imbibe: for the only respectable coffee, sandwiches or baked goods, head to Taste Baguette, Azzuri, or Ralph's. That's basically it.

Other, more obscure gems of wisdom may come to you slowly over the course of your protracted Masters degree until, like Methuselah before the Flood, you can solemnly advise freshmen that the camel burger special at Ralph's is actually quite nice.

But to truly immerse yourself in the culinary landscape of Sydney University, you have to leave it. Though the tide towards Fair Trade fare on campus is turning, aspiring hipsterites – anyone who knows what "kombucha" is, or sports a kitchen interiors moodboard on Pinterest – will scoot straight off to Glebe as soon as their GCST2604: Sex, Violence and Transgression lecture ends. So, if you want to impress the girl with Etsy brooches made from egg cartons but are still too afraid to venture into Forest Lodge, here's a rough guide to off-campus, "on-trend" dining:

Lucy Bradshaw

The usual haunts of Glebe Point Rd – think **Clipper Café**, old-school **Badde Manors**, or moody, vegan-friendly **Sappho Books** – are dependable as ever, but try **Two Peas** (198-206 St John's Rd) for ethical and excellent nosh. They use recycled paper tablecloths, sulphur-free apricots, and whiskey-cured salmon. They're licensed, but if you fancy a tippie don't miss **The Little Guy** (87 Glebe Point Rd).



For something simpler, try **Wedge Espresso** (Cnr Glebe Point Rd and Cowper St), which serves solid coffee and nice things on bread. Or head across Victoria Park to **The House Specialty Coffee** (9 Knox St) for smooth brews, scrummy toast toppings, and awkward stools.

A little way down Parramatta Rd but worth the legwork is the excellent **Runcible Spoon** (27 Barr St), with lots of pork belly, fun things involving egg, and a scrumptious strawberry, lychee, and mint frappe. If it's full up, **Deus ex Machina** (98-104 Parramatta Rd) is good, though a tad exxy.



If you've ever meandered up from Redfern Station, you will have passed **The Shortlist** (258 Abercrombie St). Head inside for the hipster staples of baked beans or avocado on sourdough. But if you're feeling adventurous, journey back past the station to **Milk Bar by Café Ish** (105 Regent St): much-lauded fried chicken, \$5 burgers, a panoply of exotic milkshakes (miso caramel, anyone?) and a spiffing kara-age soft-shell crab omelette.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

a serious piece for a serious publication

If you're a first year starting at USYD this year, this article will briefly outline to you the whats, whys and hows of student Clubs and Societies (C&S), which in short provide some of the best opportunities to meet friends and like-minded individuals and have fun outside of the classroom at the uni which has the top-rated student experience in the country. Clubs and Societies are something you'll see a misrepresentative amount of during O-Week, and you'd be forgiven for thinking that your years at USYD will be nothing more than laughs, drinks, no work and plenty of free handouts. In reality, that only pertains to Arts degrees.

For the most part, O-Week is intense and in tents, as the Quad lawns and Eastern Avenue lie before you covered by brightly coloured stalls of clubs wanting your membership. It can be confusing and overwhelming at first, and the exact role these clubs play or how they operate remain a mystery even to most older students. The simple part of it is self-evident – C&S are designed to put on events to bring together like-minded individuals. Some are interest-based (Photography, Lego), some are subject/faculty based (Sydney Uni Law Society, Linguistics Society) and some are both (Italian/French Society, etc). There are also sporting societies, as well as a great number of political, charity-based and ethnic, cultural or religious societies. There are over 200 all up, and chances are you'll find several that pique your interest. Each stall has students in garish t-shirts that will be more than happy to explain what they do. Exactly how they work is a little more involved.



Firstly, the entire programme of Clubs and Societies is not actually run by the University itself, but by the independent University of Sydney Union (USU). Similarly, O-Week is put on by the USU, and primarily exists to showcase the student life it offers. For this reason, uni administration, enrolment bureaucracy and classes themselves take a backseat. The clubs themselves are more than just amateur hand-painted signs and suspiciously old undergraduates. They're effectively institutions that you are joining; they all have their own bank accounts and have their financial records audited every year.

Hell, some even have an ABN. They have a Constitution and a team of executives (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and other positions as set out in said constitution, all volunteer students) who are voted in at an Annual General Meeting and run the society for the year. These clubs put on events for their members that are subsidised by the USU – drinks, film screenings, outings etc., all of which are cheap or free.

If you play your (membership) cards right and join enough clubs this week, you'll be privy to free drinks every afternoon for the rest of semester. You'll find these events and others listed monthly in the USU's Bull magazine, and at www.usuonline.com.



UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

For you to be one of these members, there is one condition: you need an Access card. This can't be stressed enough: you cannot be a member of any club unless you have a valid Access card. If any club tells you differently, they're lying. Buying an Access card makes you a member of the USU (and gets you discounts on food and drink at just about every outlet on campus). It's \$99, but you'll most likely make back every cent and more, so pro tip: just get it. The C&S events themselves depend on members who are Access card holders, since for every Access holder a club records to have attended their event, the USU subsidises up to \$4-6 (depending on whether or not its on campus) or for Major Events, up to \$10 per head.

E.g. if a club puts on a drinks night at Manning with 20 members attending, it can be reimbursed by the C&S office for up to \$120 for drinks, pizza etc, and this basic formula essentially is the backbone for all C&S events. The money behind this comes from the income from Access cards as well as Union-run services (think Manning and Hermann's Bar), so there's a cyclical relationship between your Access card and C&S fun times.



One thing not to be confused with your Access membership is the \$250 SSAF fee. While they have a similar goal on the surface (student services/experience), SSAF goes to the University who can spend it at their own discretion; Access is strictly for the USU.

So while you should have a basic knowledge of how clubs work, the finer logistics and complications aren't your prerogative just yet. Join clubs that interest you and go along to events. The standard first year advice applies here – put yourself out there, you only get out what you put in, etc. Later on, try running for an exec position to have a say in how a society is run. It's a very rewarding experience (and looks good on a CV, if that's your thing).

Brad Mariano

SPOTLIGHT: QUIDDITCH SOCIETY

Quidditch. It's played in Harry Potter books, but it's also sport now, and given the Hogwarts-esque nature of the University of Sydney, it feels very apt that students at USYD should be playing it. Of course, the obvious questions arise, "but Harry Potter is a magical world, how on earth do you play a magical sport in real life?". Easy. You put a broom between your legs and you run around.

All the balls from the book are still in play. The Quaffle is a slightly deflated volleyball that is thrown through hoops at either end of the pitch. Dodgeballs are used for the Bludgers, and being hit by one means you have to run back to your own set of hoops and touch them before returning to play. Gameplay is mostly limited to the oval where the game is being played, with the exception of the most famous ball: the Golden Snitch. The Snitch is a tennis ball, put into a sock, and tucked into the back of someone's shorts. This 'Snitch runner' then runs around the campus being chased by the seekers. Like the books, catching the Snitch does end the game, but is only worth 30 points.

The University of Sydney Unspeakables are the most recent team on the Quidditch Australia circuit, only being formed earlier this year, with many members of 1st grade only just joining prior to QUAFL (Quidditch Universities of Australia Federation League), a tournament in which the Unspeakables went far better than anybody had expected thanks to the captaincy of Declan Waddell, and coaching by club president, Liv Ronan.

If you're interested in playing, you can sign up for the Quidditch Society at O-week, where several demonstration matches will be taking place, otherwise email quidditchsoc@gmail.com!

Luke Dassakalis



HONI DICTIONARY

Students' Representative Council (SRC):

The SRC is concerned with students' rights and organises political campaigns, academic appeals, and provides legal advice, amongst other services. The SRC holds elections in the middle of second semester.

University of Sydney Union (USU):

The Union is responsible for campus culture and runs Clubs and Societies, events like O-Week, and food outlets at Manning and Wentworth. The USU Board of Directors includes 11 positions elected by students in semester one, the immediate past President and two Senate appointed positions.

Vice-Chancellor: Don't let the prefix fool you, the Vice-Chancellor is atop the University's complex power pyramid. The current VC, the Reverend Dr Michael Spence, has proved a controversial figure in recent years having attempted to take over the commercial operations of the USU in 2011 and cut staff levels in 2012. To his credit, Spence has inspired some of the catchiest chants on campus including the all time number one activist hit "Who is Michael Spence? Michael Spence is the 1%."



University Senate: The Senate is the peak governing body of the University. A combination of alumni, staff, students, the Chancellor, and Vice-Chancellor decide the direction of the University. This includes financial, staffing, and disciplinary matters.

Hack: The term used to describe those who live and breathe student politics. You'll see them donning colourful shirts for USU and SRC elections and diligently pretending to be nice for the two weeks of the campaign. You laugh at them now, but in 20 years you'll be putting a tick next to their name during a federal election. No friends at high school? No viable talents? Painfully socially awkward? Become a hack!

Indie: From 'Independent,' the Indies are a

broad coalition of students who are generally dissatisfied with the continued dominance of Labor students in campus politics over the last 14 years. Some are left-ish and some are right-ish.

Student Unity: The student arm of Centre Unity, the right faction of the ALP. Though they are currently the largest faction in the National Union of Students, they are relatively small on campus and have campaigned with NLS in SRC elections for the last two years. Given NLS' dominance of the SRC presidency and council, Unity have traditionally focused on winning delegates to the National Union of Students, and in recent years they have also turned their attention to Union Board and Senate elections.

National Labor Students (NLS): The left faction of the student ALP. NLS are a national organisation and one of the two dominant factions in the National Union of Students, along with Student Unity. On campus, they are highly organised and electorally driven, which has allowed them to win the last 13 SRC Presidential elections.

Grassroots: A coalition of left-wing students to the left of the two ALP factions. They comprise Greens, anarchists, socialists and other miscellaneous left groups. They resurfaced in 2011 and have grown significantly since.

Liberal: Liberals on campus have undergone something of a resurgence over the last few years. Their most recent campaign, 'Rise,' awkwardly foreshadowed the new ultra-right Rise Up Australia Party.



Rhodes Chaser/CV stacker: Unfortunately, at some point in the University's past, the secret got out that to secure a good job upon graduation you need a CV with a little more than a distinction

average. CEOs smile on extra-curricular activities and students keen to get the best clerkships flock to take positions at clubs, societies and charity groups. It's always easy to pick the CV stacker; the FilmSoc exec who thinks James Cameron is the best director in the world, the ever absent high school friend who works 13 internships simultaneously, the non-ideological student politician who runs for every position, every year.

Trot: Colloquial reference to Trotskyites; Marxist campus politicians. The term is used to describe the most hard left student politicians. It's also used by the Liberal Club to describe anyone who believes in taxation, climate change or Compulsory Student Unionism. The noisiest activists on campus, they also come up with the best chants.



Stack: Clubs and societies hold elections to determine their leadership. But on campus, hacks and CV stackers find a way to bypass democracy at every opportunity. Bring your friends along to an Annual General Meeting and you too can be treasurer of a society you've never been to before.

Cumbo: After a year on greener pastures, health sciences students are sent to Sydney's Lidcombe based Cumberland campus. They have their own version of the USU, the Cumberland Guild. And that's about all they have.

Honi Die Eds

Amount of your SSAF
that goes to SUSF per
year:

\$95

Amount it costs to
become a member of
SUSF per year:

\$55

Amount it costs to pay
for full access to the
gym per year:

\$748

Being an elite athlete
from another university
who gets access to your
“student” organisation:

Priceless

There's some
things money
can't buy. SUSF
wants all of
your money
anyway.



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ENJOY O-WEEK!