

week one
semester one
2013

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DRACONIAN POLITICS

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Last week's cover courtesy of Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW
This week's cover by Bryant Apolonio

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WOULD YOU RATHER...

HAVE YOUR EYEBROWS SHAVED OFF BY A BLIND MONKEY ARMED WITH A SERRATED GARDEN HOSE? *OR*

GET A PICTURE OF A CANOEING PINK PUG TATTOOED ACROSS YOUR CHIN?

FAQ

Why is the pug canoeing?

#yolo

Can I keep the monkey as a pet after the eyebrow shaving is complete?

No. He will take your eyebrows back to his eyebrow-shaped den, where he will add them to his eyebrow nest made entirely out of eyebrows.

Who Wore it Better?!?!?!?



Geert Wilders: internationally famed Islamophobe

VS



Goat Wilders: just a goat.

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SOUND & FURY

A LIBERAL USAGE OF
FONT SIZE BY THE
EDITORS OF THIS
PAPER, SORRY GRACE

Dear *Honi*,

As Sydney Uni students we pride ourselves on our intellectual prowess, but after yesterday's Labor vs. Liberal debate is there much to be proud of?

It's unfortunate how quickly the calibre of the (intentionally facetious) debate deteriorated. The ALP team's performance coupled with the embarrassing behaviour of their followers did nothing to elevate the discourse.

Though equally guilty of obloquy, I remain proud of the Liberal

Now, this is awkward. We received one letter this week. One. Oh, two, if you include the one from the guy who may have used a fake name. Letters are the best part of *Honi*, and stop us from going overboard with batshit insane long editorials like the one below. Letters are due by Friday midnight and should be around 150 words. You should do it. We will publish anything basically, except super illegal stuff. Maybe. Go for it.

editors@honisoit.com

team and of our civil and gracious supporters. I hope that in future that the political minds of this university will display greater commitment to discussion and truly value 'policy over politics'.

Yours truly,
Grace O'Brien.
Young Liberal

Shit, still some empty space.
Damn. - Eds

WHY YOU SHOULD STRIKE



Rafi Alam
Editor-in-chief

At O-Week, the Future Music Festival stall had a longer line than any student club, and someone holding a copy of *Cosmo Campus* refused a copy of *Honi*, their student-run, student-funded paper. I can say without exaggeration that without C&S I wouldn't be where I am now, and the USU does some very good things – but then who do I blame for this apathy?

And who do I blame when people consider the issue of strikebreakers a 'right or wrong' issue, not a 'right or left' issue? Who do I blame when people refuse to acknowledge that their convictions on the 'dangers' of marijuana are based on political prejudices,

and not medical science?

It becomes starker, as life at university goes on, that, not only is the personal political, but that the political is personal.

The backlash against 'politics' is dangerous, and apolitical sophistry will condemn us to being ignorant of the things that affect our lives. Being political doesn't mean being a hack; it means engaging with society, recognising power and powerlessness, and building a better future.

Being political means contesting ideas.

Being apolitical means allowing others – 'politicians' – to dictate your life. What happens in Canberra is 'statecraft', not politics. Statecraft allows others to command our lives from an untouchable distance; politics is personal, and visceral.

This is why *Honi* is political. Not because we just want to preach to you about what we think is right, or lie to you or distort the facts. The former is dogmatic, and the latter is a tactic used by the right-wing media to sustain the status quo. No, we want to be political because we feel it is liberating. We think it is liberating when we expose corruption or unethical practices; we think it is liberating when students get a voice; we think it is liberating when we can defend your rights and your lives with-

out authorities intervening. This is what being political means.

The story of *Romeo & Juliet* is political in that their personal lives are controlled by the powers that be. The fatal ending has tragic parallels in the LGBTIQ community in Australia, but unlike fiction, there is no redemption: the Montagues and Capulets tried to wipe the blood off their hands – when will Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott?

We can't let those in power get away with what they do; we must pay attention to the man behind the curtain, and we must gleefully point out that the emperor's wearing no clothes. Politicians won't wash their hands until they've been called up on it.

Which brings me to the title – "why you should strike". We know why you should strike: because the SRC, the NTEU, and the University have all made their cases, and the student and staff seem to have the grander, fairer, and ethical agenda. The issue isn't "why", but "you". Why should *you* strike?

You should strike because, no matter what we say, nothing is more liberating than being there, than engaging with the process, than change. *Honi* is political, but nothing is more political than the personal, and nothing is more personal than the political. You should strike

because the story of *Romeo & Juliet* isn't fiction, because we see tragedy every day in poverty, depression, war, and suicide.

You should be in the strike because you should refuse to remain silent, and you should show it.

That's why we must fight apathy too: being apolitical is being apathetic, while the political is pathos – we must appeal to emotions to stir people out of comfortable ignorance, and into an agitated, conscious discomfort with the world around them.

Honi may be uncomfortable, but hopefully it'll wake you up. Is Mardi Gras bad for gays? Ask Evan Van Zigl on page 7. Is *hip hop* bad for gays? Ask Jeremy Elphick, page 12. Avani and myself look at the relationship between the economy and music on page 13, while Anita Maritz considers how activism changes through time on page 9; Justin Pen ponders on the political-technological evolution of teaching on page 11, while Tom Raue looks at necrophilia – as in, the issue of necrophilia, on page 6.

You may not agree with every viewpoint in this paper. We certainly don't. But no disclaimer is needed:

All views are your own.

HONI NEWS



FREE

Week One Edition

"IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, GIVE UP COMPLETELY"

New library system treads fine line

Hannah Ryan explains why losers shouldn't borrow books



While you were alternately lying on beaches and sheltering under umbrellas over summer, USYD's libraries were busy overhauling their fines system. The changes, which came into effect on January 7, followed a 2012 review of loan and fine conditions. According to University Librarian, Anne Bell, the main aim of the changes was to eliminate fines for items that were not in high demand.

The new system will generally ease the library squeeze on students and improve access to high-demand material. Users may now borrow general collection items for a period of twelve weeks, up from eight weeks, and then

renew the item even if it is overdue. If it is overdue, there are now no fines for 32 days unless a fellow library user has recalled it.

The bad news is that where fines are now due, they are much higher. If a recalled item is not returned within ten days, the fine is \$10 per day (up from \$2). If a 2 Hour Collection item is returned late, the fine is similarly \$10 per hour (up from \$2.50). The rationale, Bell explained, was to discourage borrowers from not returning items required by others.

The real trouble is if you lose a book. Before the changes, the minimum lost item charge was an intimidating \$160,

including a \$30 processing and administration fee. The minimum charge has now doubled to \$320. The equivalent fee is \$155 at UNSW and a measly \$73 at UTS.

USYD's version includes a \$200 replacement fee and a \$120 processing fee. Bell described the processing fee as covering some of the costs of staff time involved in processing and replacing lost items. She wrote to *Honi*: "Even when the client chooses to replace the item, an extensive range of processes have to be carried out to ensure our records are accurate." The \$200 figure was apparently based on average book prices in 2011. *Honi Soit* wagers that the libraries have not yet discovered The Book Depository.

SRC President David Pink expressed general support for the changes. However, he expressed "enormous caution" regarding the newly inflated replacement fee for lost books, and said the SRC would suggest that "the fee be brought into line with other universities like UTS and UNSW."

Although the surviving fines are certainly high, cries of revenue-raising are probably misplaced. Based on historic data, Bell expects fines revenue to decrease.

@hannahd15

ACCESS becomes more accessible

The University and USU have agreed to provide Access cards to those in need, writes Jonathan Mimo.

The University of Sydney Union (USU) and Sydney University have reached an agreement for the University to provide up to 200 Access cards for students from a lower SES (socio-economic status) and those with an Indigenous background.

According to USU President Astha Rajvanshi, there was "no large financial incentive borne out of these agreements." The move, she explained, simply provides more students an opportunity to get involved with the Union "who may not have otherwise had the chance."

The Student Recruitment Unit and Social Inclusion Unit have been extensively involved in organising and funding the initiative.



Manager of the Student Recruitment Unit, Kaveb Ghezal, explained that the purpose of this initiative is that these students will "get the whole university experience...as the Union does such a great job outside the classroom".

"We hope this is a solution for them to be able to be more involved in the community, to get the support they need, as well as make friends...which can be difficult for those with differing backgrounds at times" Ghezal said.

Such a move could be considered indicative of a strengthened relationship between the USU and the University following their bitter battle in 2011 over the University's attempt to take control of all Union-run cafes and bars around campus. Rajvanshi believes it is a sign of a more positive, and more productive, relationship between the two organisations.

Questions still remain on whether the University and USU will reach an agreement whereby the Students Services & Amenities Fee will help finance universal Access for all students in the future, meaning USU membership for all students.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST MAIL



DA FAQ?

Samantha Jonscher investigates a case of mistaken addresses

Dr. Henry Walton Jones Jr, a.k.a. Indiana Jones of the film franchise of the same name, is still receiving mail addressed to his alma mater.

Last December, The University of Chicago posted on Tumblr that they had received a mysterious, brown paper package addressed to none other than the archeologist/action hero himself. Inside the package was a dusty notebook, letters, postcards and pictures from Jones' love interest Marion Ravenwood. Also included in the package were antique bills and maps sent by the supposedly fictitious University of Chicago pro-

fessor Dr Abner Ravenwood, who was Jones' mentor in the franchise.

Assuring the public that this was "not a hoax, at least not on our end," a cyber-hunt was launched to solve the mystery. At first it was believed to be a desperate student's attempt to earn one of the prestigious university's very competitive undergraduate spots, but no one came forward.

"[I]ruly baffled," the university probed all "nerdly [sic] social media sites" for information, trending on Reddit, Tumblr and 4chan alike. After a month of attempting to raid the lost ark of the In-

ternet, it was finally announced that the university had found the answer to its meta-fictional delivery.

Apparently, an eBay seller based in Guam had put together the package of memorabilia and mailed it to a buyer in Italy. The outer packing came off en route and was passed on to the fake mailing address written on the memorabilia package. The U.S. Postal service had no problem accepting the fake, decades-old postage stamps.

@samanthajonscher

UNIGATE



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

Howard cut-out stolen

O-Week turned violent last Wednesday as students got into fisticuffs over a cardboard cutout of John Howard. Witnesses described that the altercation began when three left wing activists kidnapped the cutout from the Young Liberals stall, shouting “fuck off you fascists!” Two representatives from the stall gave chase, including Young Liberals President and 2010 Liberal candidate for Grayndler, Alex Dore.

Dore eventually confronted the man carrying the cutout at the Carslaw entrance to the Law School, demanding its return, but the cutout thief refused. Independent witness Jack Gow described the resulting tussle, in which John Howard’s head was ripped off, the lefty’s shirt was torn and Dore sustained minor bruises to his arm and a scratch to his neck. While two witnesses have stated that Dore grabbed the thief’s shirt causing it to tear, Dore maintains the man ripped his own shirt while attempting to attack him. Dore has contacted campus security to obtain CCTV footage of the incident in order to verify his own account. One of the witnesses and Greens on Campus member, Tom Raue retorted, “that’s not going to be good for him.”

LifeChoice stall vandalised

During O-Week the controversial society LifeChoice had its stall vandalised. In their official press release, the anti-abortion society told the *Gate* their stall was “torn down” and “stickers and graffiti had also been scrawled across the stall”. The stickers in question were the ‘pro-choice’ stickers the SRC Women’s Collective had been distributing throughout O-Week. As a result, LifeChoice appeared to implicate the Collective, with president Rebecca Elias stating, “It’s terrible to think that the perpetrators could be members of our own Women’s Collective – given that half of LifeChoice’s membership are women who have now been victimised for expressing their ethical views.”

When pressed about this point by the *Gate*, the society backed away from this accusation, stating “we in no way believe that the Women’s Collective orchestrated the vandalism”. When asked to respond, the Women’s Officers released this statement: “The women’s officers would like to state that although we have distributed pro-choice stickers during O-Week, we do not condone the vandalism of the LifeChoice stall and have absolutely no reason to believe the individuals re-

sponsible are a part of our collective. We stand up for the safety of ALL women on campus, and behaviour that causes women students to feel threatened is never acceptable.”

Sources have indicated to the *Gate* that the perpetrators were left wing students with links to the University of Sydney SRC. The *Gate* is unable to give any further details because of defamation concerns raised by the SRC President David Pink. The incident has been reported to the University and the USU.

Cory Bernardi takes student bait

Several campus activists scored themselves a scolding in the federal Senate this week from Liberal Senator Cory Bernardi. Having recently defended Dutch Islamophobe Geert Wilders, Bernardi named and shamed Brigitte Garozzo, Kieran Adair, and Timothy Scriven (who older students will remember ran for Union Board back in 2010) for their support of polyamory. Bernardi sought to tie the students named to the Greens and attack the party by association.

While the *Gate* condemns the Senator’s attacks on these students we find it particularly despicable that he unfairly threw them in with common scoundrel and *Honi Soit* editor Rafi Alam. The Senator also referenced Alam’s public support of polyamorous rights. We just hope next time Bernardi addresses the highest elected body in the country he can also find the bravery to denounce Alam’s tendency to leave half eaten noodles in the *Honi Soit* office and constantly play Taylor Swift on Spotify.



A headless cardboard cutout of John Howard holding a headless cardboard cutout of John Howard. Photo courtesy of Alex Dore.

Bad turnout at Board meeting

The University of Sydney Union appears set to offer limited support to the NTEU and striking academics. Director Tom Raue put forward a series of motions at the Board’s last meeting, the most dramatic of which proposed a full shutdown of Union services for the day to help broaden the impact of the strike. While this proposal was never likely to fly with the other directors, Raue does appear to have secured some concessions. These include a proposal of in-principal support and, more substantively, another proposal allowing the Union’s extensive PR resources to help promote the strike. Due to poor attendance by Board Directors, neither of these motions were settled during the meeting. Board directors Sophie Stanton, Karen Chau (who was sick), and Zachary Thompson all failed to attend the meeting while Mina Nada arrived late and left before votes on the strike motions could be cast. Failing to meet quorum, the board was left to vote ‘in circular’. While this process was ongoing at the time the *Gate* went to print, it appears certain that the in-principal and PR measures will pass. For the first time in Jesus-knows-how-long, the USU and teachers’ union will be, in a small way, working together to resist University policy.



Pro-choice stickers on the LifeChoice stall. Photo: Rebecca Elias

Boot camp

Ben Brooks reports on members of the Defence Force marching in the Mardi Gras

When the Defence Force gave its blessing for uniformed members to march in Mardi Gras, Facebook commenters were not happy. “WAT A DISGRASE,” wrote one on the official Air Force page, with that misspelt fury characteristic of entrenched intellectual poverty. Others questioned whether the muted khaki, blue, and white dress uniforms were suited to such a feather-vested rainbow spectacle, their prejudices masquerading as heartfelt concern for visual aesthetics.

But others still, servicemen among them, were warmly supportive. Twenty years after homosexuals were first

permitted to serve, and five years after they first marched in plain clothes, the Defence Force was finally ready to acknowledge – if cautiously – the diversity inexorably rolling its way. And so last Saturday, a hundred Army, Navy, and Air Force members paraded in formation, alongside the police, fire brigade and State Emergency Service.

The original directive was explained to the media in clinical, corporate language: “Diversity is a strength and asset for today’s employers. Workplace inclusion... is a high priority for the organisation as it undergoes cultural change.” But this belies the significance of the gesture.

On one hand, it marks an aggressive attempt to reform an institution beset by allegations of systemic misogyny and homophobia – the result of a few mismanaged scandals, but also, occasionally, of a criminally discriminatory esprit de corps. On the other hand, that our most potent symbol of virility has thrown itself behind Mardi Gras might, at last, discredit the humiliating association of homosexuality with emasculation, femininity, or inferiority.

In Full Metal Jacket, Kubrick’s obnoxious Gunnery Sergeant Hartman remarked that ‘only steers and queers come from Texas, Private Cowboy. And

you don’t look much like a steer to me, so that kinda narrows it down.’ Defence leadership now understand that this crude dichotomy is irrelevant in determining whether someone can fire a weapon, operate a radar, or refuel a jet – and irrelevant in determining their commitment to their country.

As for the bristling naysayers: when the military is more progressive than you, you are probably on the wrong side of history. Our most destructive, intractable myth is that venerable institutions must be socially conservative and resistant to change. In the face of change, the Defence Force has chosen to advance and not retreat.

Drop dead gorgeous **OPINION**

Tom Raue gets morbid

I am an organ donor because when I die, I won't be using my body anymore. Doctors might as well cut into my flesh and pull out the useful bits. I would be upset if something like that happened while I was alive, but when I'm dead, I can no longer be harmed. That's why I also wouldn't mind somebody having sex with my corpse.

Necrophilia is one of the most taboo sexualities in almost every society. In Australia it is illegal, and is classified as "interfering with a corpse". Although it may not be everyone's cup of tea, necrophilia in and of itself is harmless and should be allowed.

Laws are designed to prevent harm. It's hard to see this justification when applied to sexual activity with a corpse. Killing somebody in order to have sex with their body would of course be

wrong, but that's why we have a law against murder.

If having sex with a body is so offensive that it upsets people, that's not a good enough reason to make it illegal. If it upsets the family of the deceased person, that's a different issue – one of property rights. I don't believe in private property when it comes to important resources, but it's fine for objects of sentimental value. Corpses have extreme sen-

"I ... wouldn't mind somebody having sex with my corpse."

timental value and thus should belong to the family, friends or partner of the deceased. How to determine this in a fair

way would require complex legal arguments that do not belong in this article.

Whoever ends up "owning" the corpse should have a say in how it is used. They should be able to decide if the organs are donated or if they want to allow somebody to have sex with the body. This should be overruled if the deceased person specified what they wanted before they died. If they stated that they did not want their corpse interfered with, that should be respected.

Necrophilia is classified as a paraphilia, meaning that it is a sexuality which deviates from the norm. Homosexuality was once considered a paraphilia, but it was decided that it was close enough to normal sexuality not to be a disorder.

I don't think it's the business of psychologists to define normality and stigmatise behaviours simply because they



Just resting in peace, ladies.

are unusual. If a person gives permission for their corpse to be used for sex, and the family has no issue with it, then what's the harm? Fuck it.

CRITIQUE

Neighbours

No, Prime Minister

The ratings are in, and they're not looking good, writes **Neha Kasbekar**

It's no *Neighbours*, but *Australian Politics*, or *Auspol* to its die-hard fans, is the one soap that viewers just can't seem to quit.

Now in its 112th season, *Auspol* first debuted in 1901 as a slavish Australian adaptation of the genre-defining classic, *British Politics*. It took an alarming 50-something seasons until *Auspol* came into its own. Standard soap opera scandals — illegitimate children, workplace corruption, frenemies and nemeses — now have some unique local twists, as stand-out episodes like 'Governor-General's 15 Minutes of Fame' and 'Prime Ministerial Knifing' richly prove.

Like all soaps, *Auspol* would do well to learn about the law of diminishing returns. Recent episode, 'Prime Ministerial Knifing' (retitled in certain post-codes as 'Knifed! That Guy We Didn't Actually Care For Got Massively Knifed and Now Just Look at Our Disingenuous Sorrow') made for riveting viewing in 2010. Audiences were far less impressed when the same storyline was lazily recycled in 2012. And let's not even mention the number of times I have sat through variations of that Platonic ideal of tedium, 'Cabinet Reshuffle'.

Perhaps the greatest problem with *Auspol* though, to borrow from Chekhov, is its repeated willingness to introduce a gun in the first act and just refuse to fire it by the third. Time and time again, *Auspol* invests its audience in story arcs that never lead anywhere. Take the infamous launch of the 'carbon tax'. It's been half

a season since it launched, so just where the fuck is the disemboweling on an apocalyptic scale I was promised when it did? And when will resident eccentric, Bob Katter, finally reveal that the sentence "my obsession with bananas is non-sexual" is just not something that he can utter with any real conviction?

Then there's *Auspol*'s diversity issues. Despite widespread critical acclaim on its debut, early *Auspol* skewed poorly across many key demographics, with large numbers of women, ethnic and sexual minorities reportedly left totally alienated. *Auspol* has made some creditable nods towards improving casting diversity, if at times oddly choosing to shower screen-time on rather niche groups like faceless men and lawyers who "just want to give something back". Yet sadly, producers continue to ignore the audience's raging interest in no-nonsense lesbians of Asian origin.

These days, *Auspol* is struggling with dwindling ratings, with many baying for a swift axing of controversial lead, Julia Gillard. (Gillard fans might be comforted by the thought that characters in a soap never really die, they just scheme silently in the wings.) However, the juggernaut that is *Auspol* shows precious little sign of network cancellation. Well, not until they air that episode of "Climate Change: A Failure of Meaningful Action" they keep previewing.



Time to face the music

Georgia Behrens reports on dissonant reforms at the ANU School of Music

Against a backdrop of student disillusionment, staff resentment and administrative confusion, first-year enrolments at the competitive ANU School of Music have dropped from almost 100 to 40 this year. The announcement of drastic budget cuts and a major restructure in May 2012 has tarnished the School's reputation, with student numbers in other years also falling by about 20%.

The \$1.5 million cutback is one of a raft of reforms implemented to restore the University's budget surplus to what Vice-Chancellor Ian Young described as an "operable" \$35 million per annum. The School of Music, which has been losing almost \$2.7 million every year, has undergone a major curriculum overhaul and suffered 13 staff redundancies.

Starting this year, the School will transition from a conservatorium model — with primary emphasis on practical performance tuition — to a "university-style" program, where students will receive instruction in vocational subjects such as musicology, music teaching, journalism and administration. ANU Head of Musicology Jonathan Powell said that the vast majority of music

graduates do not become performers, and must therefore cultivate a broad range of relevant skills.

"[A music student] needs to understand the shifting nature of the music business [which requires them] to ... play the role of performer, educator, entrepreneur, and producer, and take advantage of music-making opportunities far beyond the concert hall," he told *The Canberra Times*.

But a School of Music student, who asked to remain anonymous, has identified widespread concern among ANU students that they will graduate as "a jack of all trades, but master of none." She said that a vocational degree is not what she and her peers signed up for and that they feel "very betrayed."

With music programs consistently receiving the lowest amount of Commonwealth financial support across the tertiary sector, all seven of the nation's conservatoriums are currently operating with major budget deficits. And, with each Australian music student estimated to lose their university between \$2,000-5,000 each year, cuts at ANU might only be the tip of a very large iceberg.

It's not always sunny over the rainbow

Let it rain on my parade, says **Evan Van Zijl**

It's hard to imagine that Mardi Gras began as a protest in 1978, organised by anarchists, Trotskyists and radical feminists who wanted to challenge the status quo and make real change. If you look at video recordings of the organising collective for the protest at the time, they debated whether we should even recognise the legitimacy of the law. The result of their efforts was a protest march with 2 000 people who demanded an end to discrimination in housing, employment, and police harassment and called for the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Now, Mardi Gras is a glamorous tourist attraction where we dance to Madonna in hot pants in order to make \$30 000 000 per year for governments that encourage waves of police to target and arrest us at our own events.

At the Mardi Gras Harbour Party over the weekend, the poorly attended event was crawling with police striving for arrests with the help of sniffer dogs. With a failure rate of approximately 80%, this inevitably led to many unnecessary and humiliating public strip searches.



The "pretty but useless rainbow road" in Taylor Square. Photo courtesy of Victoria Baldwin.

This moving away from an act of dissent would be less galling if the exact issues the original Mardi Gras protesters fought for were not still on the agenda and as pressing than ever.

In recent years, there have been severe cuts to public housing that queers often depend on, de-funding of LGBT health and welfare services, and a proposal from Julia Gillard to allow religious or-

ganisations the right to discriminate. All these important issues are increasingly swept under the rug as we clamour to support a parade that features delegates from the military, the anti-worker ANZ, and the Liberal Party who are responsible for violating our rights.

This is nothing if not selling out. Our desire to speak out and stand up has been drowned out by a desire to drape

OPINION

ourselves in colour and be visible in the eyes of the wealthy. A telling example of this, perhaps, is the way segments of the queer community have organised in support of Clover Moore's pretty but useless rainbow road.

A look at the minutes of the City of Sydney Council meeting show that the road, which was organised by a Mayor who declined to comprehensively support public housing in her election, costs \$110 000 in total.

That Clover Moore, the Liberal Party, the ALP, and organisations like ANZ support queer events when it's beneficial for them, means nothing for the advancement of queer rights.

Applauding such a superficial push for queer rights is nothing if not counter-productive. It distracts our community from the real and frightening challenges that actually exist.

If we as a queer community do care about our rights then we need to open our eyes, get out of the bars and onto the streets, and protest more than just once a year.

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NETIQUETTE Internet rating is totally okay

Georgia Kriz gives it a six and a half, maybe a seven

What makes a good mullet? A question that's right up there with the big, mind boggling, existentially angsty ones; the classics that countless generations before us have grappled with. And while we might never be able to answer the big ones (who am I, what is my purpose, what is the meaning of life, etc. etc.), the good news for all of humanity is that the weird and wonderful World Wide Web has finally come up with an answer to the age-old mullet query. Enter ratemullet.com.

For the uninitiated, this is a website that allows visitors to upload pictures of their mullets, which other visitors then rate on a scale of one to ten. High marks are awarded for fluffy and voluptuous mullets, lower marks for short and flaccid dos. It's pretty much as high-tech and high-brow as that.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Recently, a plethora of similar sites have sprung up, as more and more people have seemingly developed a taste for mass-validation and approval of their body parts, possessions, and excre-

tions. A quick Google search of 'ratemy' turns up scores of sites - ranging from the curious to the plain repulsive. Although ratemykitten.com and ratemypuppy.com can provide hours of spine-tinglingly cute entertainment, 'ratemyrack' and 'ratemyboner' are, at best, low-budget porn sites, while just one glimpse of 'ratemyvomit' and 'ratemypoo' makes me want to dig my eyes out with a spoon. And way out in the middle of nowhere-near-normal, 'ratemyvajazzle' is possibly the most terrifying thing I have ever seen.

Recent years have also seen some 'ratemy' sites develop a utilitarian purpose. Although they are still mostly US-based, sites such as 'ratemyprofessor' and 'ratemyteachers' provide a forum for students to discuss their experiences of education professionals. Obviously, at their worst, ratemy sites can be foul, derogatory and probably illegal. At their best, however, they can provide a nice, cute or amusing interlude in one's day, or, surprisingly, even serve a proper, tangible purpose. The trick is sorting

the cute from the crude, the funny from the filthy, and vowing to never, ever, *ever* go anywhere near anything to do with vajazzling.

@georgiakriz



A good stool: 8/10

TREATISE On Eating Pork

Alex Christie tackles a kosher conundrum

Having recently been quizzed about my dietary requirements yet again, I was compelled to ask myself why I, as a young reform Jewish woman in the 21st century, have chosen to define my diet and in turn myself, by this ancient tribal practice.

As any Jew who abides by this law will know, it's only a matter of time before the subject comes up, whether it be at work or with friends. I'm socially defined by my unwillingness to eat bacon. Most often, friends are confused by my rejection of pork above the restrictions of other Jewish dietary laws. What is it about pork that makes it so taboo? Is it worth sticking to?

Firstly, let me address the pork problem from its origins. In Leviticus, God told the Israelites that they might eat any animal that has a cleft hoof and chews cud. The pig however does not fulfill this criterion, "it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud," and is thus "is unclean for you." To add to that, philosopher Maimonides maintained the pig was a disease-carrying animal, laying the foundations for common speculation around trichinosis. But is my abstinence really a nuanced understanding of hygiene passed down by the tribes?

I found a more sinister explanation for the hatred and stigma Jews have exhibited towards this animal in Christopher Hitchens' 2007 book, *God is Not Great*. He argues that it stems from the uneasy similarities between human and pig DNA, the uncanny resemblance of pig skin to human skin, and the smell and

similar look of suckling pig and roasting human infants (according, of course, to those who have had the misfortune of smelling and seeing both). Hitchens says that if the pig was recognised to resemble human beings, the prohibition on killing and eating them is quickly explained. Whether or not this is true, I'm not convinced it's the reasoning behind my personal choice.

When taking these reasons at face value I feel it's important to give a voice to those Jews who do eat pork. On the extreme end of the scale, some teenagers who come from deeply religious backgrounds have resorted to eating pork as a means of denouncing their upbringing. Three New Yorkers have taken their rejection of the kosher commandment to a whole new level, opening a restaurant (aptly christened '*Traif*') that is something of an homage to the pig. They serve pork (or shellfish, or both) with every meal.

"Many Jews I know do not feel the command of God as an imperative."

The earnestness of New York's restaurateurs had me readily convinced to drop the act. But not wanting to be felled so easily I did what any good Jew would do when questioning their beliefs and consulted my rabbi. Rabbi Jacqueline Ninnio, the only female Australian rabbi, is a woman after my own heart. Having been brought up in a non-kosher household, she made a deliberate decision to adopt a kosher lifestyle. While she was uncer-

tain on the significance of the biblical laws, her views were clear: "it's just one of those things Jews do," she said. Rabbi Ninnio succinctly denounced the theories of hygiene and disgust as I put them to her saying "that is not why Jews follow the laws of *kasbrut*, rather it is because it is commanded in the Torah." When I questioned her further on why I, a mere lay-person should continue not to consume pork, she sympathised. "Many Jews I know do not feel the command of God as an imperative and for those Jews I believe that not eating pork is part of the connection to community, the past and Jews throughout the world. It is a practical expression of Judaism."

There are ways of shutting down most of the reasons to abstain but is it really the product itself or is it something else? I guess what I am really questioning when I ask 'why not eat pork?' is not whether it makes sense in a modern world but how much do I want to define myself by my religion. Ironically, that makes the choice easy. As my Jewish ancestors have faced persecution around the world for centuries and died for my beliefs, who would I be to give up my only outwardly definitive Jewish characteristic just to fit in? Yes, banning pork doesn't really make sense now. Yes, bacon is delicious. But with the exception of an alcohol-induced ham tasting last New Year's, I haven't eaten pork since the age of eight and I'm not planning on eating it again anytime soon.

@alexachri

HONI HOW-TO

Starting a secret society

If Joel Einstein were in one, he definitely wouldn't tell you

1. Pick a name. Make sure the name has an animal in it. All good secret societies have animal names. Translate the name into Latin once you're done.
2. Get a bunch of rings made with your seal. The worse they look the better.
3. Pick about 12 first years to be members. It's better if they don't know each other. Make sure they have a wide range of skills and interests. This way they're less likely to question their involvement.
4. Explain the society's long history to them. Ideally it should date back to 1908. That sounds like a good year. People love 1908. 1887 or 1932 are also good years if you want to shake things up. Throw in some names of powerful alumni. Make sure to include at least one head of state.
5. Then begin explaining the purpose of the society. Something along the lines of "To foster strong connections between members who are already shaping the world and those who are about to embark on their journey." You can change this as much as you like, as long as it implies that it has a powerful alumni network that will further their professional goals.
6. Then you tell them the rules of the society:
 - They can't tell anyone about it (they will tell people almost immediately)
 - Explain the hazing process. What this is depends on how awful you are.
 - After they have been a member for one year they must do their part to expand the society, which means that they must recruit their own members.
7. At this point you're all done. In 10 years you should have 120 members. In 50 years you should have 600 members and if you're an awful person and made them pay membership fees each year then you'll have enough to build an actual HQ.
8. Reconsider the need to create a secret society and reevaluate your awful life decisions and need to belong. Listen to Adele.

One billion rise for V-Day

Non-violent protest is the future of activism, writes **Anita Maritz**

Artists have long put their creative powers in the service of initiatives for peace and justice. In 1994, a play called *The Vagina Monologues*, written by playwright and activist Eve Ensler, broke ground by offering the world a piece of art that addressed women's sexuality, and the social stigma surrounding rape and abuse. Upon its success, Ensler saw how the performances could inspire people to end violence and thus created V-Day.

Celebrated on Valentine's Day, V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. Marking their 15th anniversary, this year V-day organized the biggest mass global action to end violence against women in the history of humanity. Urged on by UNICEF's figures that one in three women will be beaten or raped in her lifetime, V-day invited one billion women, and those who love them, to rise up and dance, flash-mob style, to demand an end to violence.

A non-violent movement against violence, the V-Day's One Billion Rising is not the first of its kind. Some of non-violence's most esteemed luminaries include Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, although their protests didn't consist of chanting the wisdom of Whitney Houston and shaking their 'booties' like Beyonce.

Other than peace and reconciliation, the real movement that creative efforts like One Billion Rising inspires is a paradigm shift. By combining performance, peace, playfulness and protest with her prominence and media leverage, Ensler is stirring a pot of pretty potent



panacea. Historically, media coverage of non-violent movements tends to fall silent. Ensler has wielded her media savvy to change that.

The event generated a mass of worldwide dance videos that cannot be ignored, from Chicago to the Congo. Although the event did not end violence against women, it did reveal a certain truth. Violent resistance and non-violent resistance share one important thing in common: they are both powerful forms of theatre seeking an audience for their cause. If only violent actors get attention and attract international acclaim, it becomes increasingly difficult for non-violent movements and leaders to convince communities that theirs is a viable option in addressing civil disobedience.

Every parent knows that the sure fire way to run into ruin is to give unruly tantrums attention, yet we do not exercise the same restraint on a global scale. We reward violence with extensive me-

dia coverage. We need to examine what kinds of dysfunctional behaviour we endorse and reward by advocating ignorance rather than fairness. We, like the One Billion Rising, need to transform non-violence into a functional behavior and continue to create movements that are effective in their ability to unite people through a cause that empowers, rather than victimises.

International Women's Day is on the 8th of March and you should celebrate it.



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

John Gooding doesn't think God did it

Despite questionable levels of influence, it is common practice these days for newspapers to proclaim their opinion on topical debates and current affairs. For example, observe *The Australian's* official declaration that the Greens are "bad for the nation ... [and] they should be destroyed at the ballot box." Rarely is it the case, however, that newspapers affirm or deny the truth of religious beliefs. Such territory is obviously fraught with danger and few papers are willing to risk the loss of readers which would follow such a move.

Not so the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which braved a new editorial frontier on the February 13 by revealing the existence of God and scooping cross-city

rivals *The Daily Telegraph* in the process. The paper started a front-page story about a girl who had been blessed by the Pope and then survived being run over by a bus with the following sentence: "When Claire Hill was given the Pope's blessing, her family didn't realise she would need it."

If the *Sydney Morning Herald* believes Ms Hill needed the Pope's blessing to survive the aforementioned bus, the paper must also surely believe blessings by the Pope have some tangible affect and therefore that the holy authority to which he directs his prayers whilst doing his blessing must exist. Speculation abounds as to whether the paper endorses papal supremacy and thus Cath-

olic doctrine in particular or just the general notion of a theistic God who responds to prayer.

Either way, the revelation that there is indeed some greater and more noble power in the universe comes in a time of need at Fairfax and will no doubt bolster subscription numbers significantly.

@JohnMGooding



FIRST PERSON

The 57th Presidential Inauguration

Lane Sainty waited for six hours to see Obama for six seconds.

I arrived in Washington DC the night before the 57th Presidential Inauguration to find a city in chaos. DC had been overrun by inauguration tourists sporting tacky Obama hoodies, and it showed. Thanks to inauguration roadblocks, the supposedly quick trip to my accommodation took two hours, three buses, a two-mile (3.2 km) walk and a lecture about the importance of reading the Bible. Classic America.

We battled the crowds early in the morning on Inauguration Day, staking out a spot on the parade route and getting ready for a long day ahead. It was not, for the most part, a fun day. We literally couldn't move for six hours. I had to throw out my drink bottle at the gate, lest I hurl it at Obama's head, so we had no water. The temperature in DC that day was above zero but below five; in any event, far too cold for a pair of whinging Australians in insufficient coats.

In fact, no one was having much fun. The people behind us grew restless as they realized they weren't going to be able to see anything. The seven-foot man to my right informed me that all five-foot four of me was "getting in his grill". The parade was delayed for over an hour, and the entire crowd wanted to collectively murder whoever had put together the six-song music playlist and decided to play it on loop over the speakers for six hours.

But once the news that Obama was en route travelled through the crowd, everybody calmed the fuck down. We were here for one reason: to see him. And as he walked past the crowd it erupted, thousands upon thousands of cold and hungry and cranky people united in their simple enthusiasm for the POTUS. The grumpy man to my right literally had tears in his eyes as he yelled "There he is! There's our president!" and pumped his fist.

We all strained for a look until Obama was well and truly out of sight, and then smiled at each other awkwardly and inspected blurry photographs. Biden came by next, got a big cheer, and then people started to leave, much to the dismay of the various troupes of high school baton twirlers who followed.

@lanesainty

KORMA POLICE

Case Number: HS2013PADTHAI

Reporting Officer: Junior Detective Alisha Aitken-Radburn

Suspect(s): Newtown Thai Restaurants

Offense: Confronting innocent students with too many delicious choices

Incident Report: The initial stages of the University year confronts students with a number of difficult decisions – what subjects to choose, whether to go to lectures or not and whether to eat at Thai La-Ong or Thai La-Ong 2? *Honi* sanctions this special investigation to conclusively determine the best Thai in Newtown. This report is motivated by a number of victim impact statements, each citing severe trauma triggered by the extensive choice along King St.

At approximately 1300 hours Monday-Friday during semester, Newtown's Thai restaurants fill with innocent students seeking a cheap lunch special. The major perpetrators in this Beef Pad Khi Mao circulating ring have been identified as Thai La Ong and Thai La Ong 2.

Thai La Ong is the busiest of the offenders with spaces sometimes sparse, however the service is excellent and free prawn chips are available on request. Thai La-Ong is currently under investigation for a number of indecent assaults reported through Instagram hashtags - "#foodgasm #foodporn #yolo". Additionally, Thai La-Ong has been charged with crimes against the bank accounts of students, as the lunch special has inflated from \$6.00 to \$7.00

since 2010. When *Honi* questioned the Thai La Ong delivery boy about these price rises, it was uncovered that Thai La Ong used to in fact own Thai La Ong 2, however, the second restaurant has since been sold to another family. Thai La Ong's delivery boy refused to comment on tension between the owners.

We speculate that the owners of Thai La-Ong may be bitter due to Thai La Ong 2's evidently superior décor, which successfully draws the cheapskate date demographic. However, Thai La Ong 2 is under fire for the reckless endangerment of undergraduates due to forcing students who have taken full advantage of their BYO policy to serve themselves their own water.

Investigations are still underway.

Quantum physics takes a breather

Kate McDonnell reports on the temporary shutdown of the Large Hadron Collider

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), in which subatomic particles collide at high energy to recreate the first moments after the big bang, has been turned off for two years. The LHC is the world's largest particle accelerator, with a circumference of 27km that straddles France and Switzerland. The LHC will restart in late 2014 with experiments recommencing in early 2015 following its period of closure, known as 'Long Shutdown One'.

The shutdown is intended to increase the operating energy of the particle beam. The LHC has been running experiments at half the energy for which it was designed. One of the key activities during the shutdown will be to repair connections between sections of magnets that run along the circumference of the LHC. When the connections are replaced, the magnets will be able to operate at higher energies.

Theoretical physicists will be taking a second look at the data that detected the existence of the Higgs Boson.

The higher operating energy is required to confirm the presence of the Higgs Boson. At the moment, scientists are only 99.9% certain of its existence. When the LHC is turned on again, it will also be looking into the nature of dark energy and dark matter that make up the vast majority of the universe. This is the sort of matter that we know very little about.

In the meantime, scientists and engineers will be poring through mountains of data. Since the LHC was turned on, 700 years of HD video worth of data has been created. Theoretical physicists will also be taking a second look at the the data that detected the existence of Higgs Boson. "The experiments went for the low-hanging fruit," said John Ellis, a theoretical physicist at King's College London in an interview with science journal *Nature*. "There may be signals of something new hidden in the data."

Fish abuse prescription meds

Lachlan Munro knows it.

You might think that when you take a prescription, it deals with your anxiety/depression/fertility and that's the end of the story. But many drugs survive the traumatic trip through your body and find their way into the sewage system and, eventually, the waterways. Most of these aren't filtered and end up wherever the sewage lets out. And when they get there, they seriously fuck with the fish.

Oxazepam, an anti-anxiety drug similar to Valium, has been recently detected in rivers and streams. Research out of Sweden has found that even low

concentrations of this drug in water systems can zonk fish out, making them less sociable and prone to overeating. It basically gives them the 'last days of STUVAC' experience.

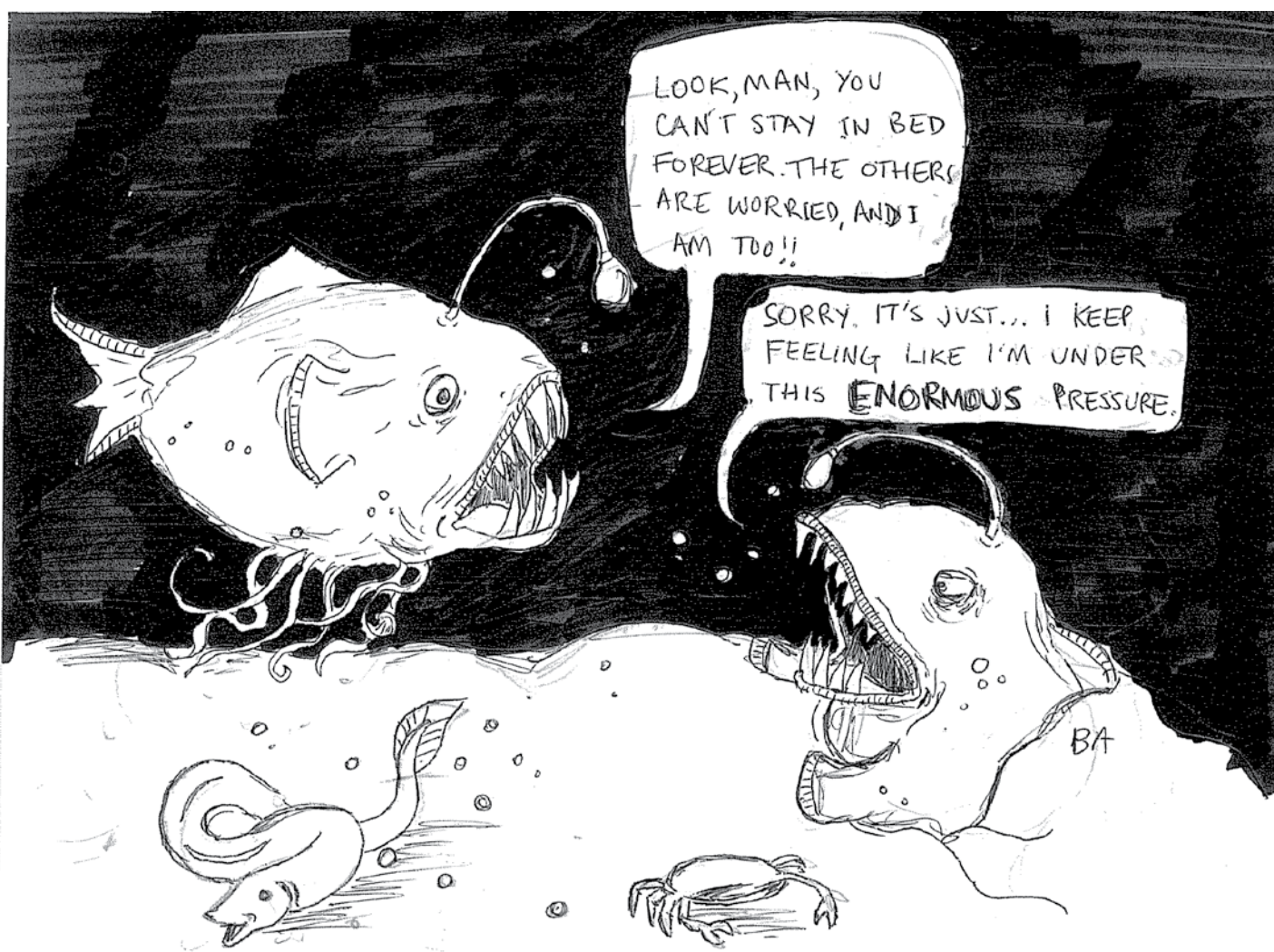
It's not just anxiety pills that are making their way into rivers and leaving fish angsty and antisocial. Earlier research has found antidepressants like Prozac both in waterways and fish brains, and these drugs have some pretty serious effects.

Experiments done on minnow larvae swimming in water laced with antidepressants found they were slower at

responding to vibrations simulating a predator. The big fish eat the little fish, the sober eat the stoned.

However, the most dramatic effect is produced by the traces of contraceptive pills left in urine. Scientists think that excreted oestrogen, the hormone in the pill, is to blame for some male fish developing female ovum in their testes, where there should only be fish sperm.

The serious side effects these drugs can produce in humans are somewhat put in perspective by the prospect of an undesired sex-change.



Cartoon by Bryant Apolonio

A LECTURE ON LECTURES

Early in our interview, Professor Stilwell muses, “Good teachers can determine the trajectories of [our] lives.” Stacks of manila folders occupy his impressive wooden desk. These pillars stand as monuments to a lifetime of research. It’s a weighty – if not ironic – statement, given the growing malaise towards traditional educational models.

Universities have long faced threats from within: the 2011 attempt by the Dean of Arts to amalgamate and dissolve the department of Political Economy, the tumult of staff cuts in 2012 and its consequent backlash in 2013, are only recent examples of a university torn between crisis and profit. But is there really a crisis dwelling within the way learning and teaching are currently operated?

Having lectured through the wholly subsidised summer of Whitlam, the autumnal period of Hawke and HECS, through Keating and Howard and Rudd and Gillard, Stilwell agrees that changing economic conditions hold a greater impact on lecture attendance than technological developments. “Attending lectures,” he tells me, “is no longer the primary focus of students’ lives.” Part-time, or even full-time, employment has placed greater stress on undergraduates. Where a student’s absence may barely arch a lecturer’s eyebrow, an irate employer may give them the sack.

While it may be convenient to blame the oft-reported cultural apathy of our generation, one cannot ignore the transformed socio-economic climate of 2013. The balmy 1970s era of free tuition has passed, and with it the professional, idle student.

While technology often outpaces social mentalities in medical and legal spheres, the recurrent pedagogical debates between populism and elitism, and inclusivity and exclusivity, deftly inform nascent technological advancements.

Technology has long disrupted traditional teacher-student dynamics through the development of ‘lecture capture’ infrastructure. Find a student who hasn’t accessed online lecture recordings at least once in their tertiary studies; then, find one who has never missed a lecture. It is guaranteed to be a futile endeavour.

Accessing lecture material – days, weeks, sometimes months – after the fact, and then binging on online content prior to an exam, results in a process Dr Anna

Boucher calls ‘purged learning’. This is a deleterious process that corrodes holistic information retention.

The phenomenon will be abjectly familiar to most students. It’s a simple cycle of cramming for an exam, followed by ‘purging’ during the test – discharging all the information out. It is as timeworn a tradition as the notion of finals themselves.

Stilwell posits that students hold “less respect for the opinions of other students.” While undergraduates often offer deeply prescient perspectives and incisive opinions, ultimately, he argues, student-student and student-teacher dialogues should be reserved for the tutorial room.

But such a model is the ideological antithesis of the Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs. They are free, require no registration, and have an exponentially larger ratio of students to teachers – a ‘massive’ number of students.

Certain online platforms such as ‘edX’ and ‘Coursera’ are funded and supported by traditional learning institutions. edX, for example, is a collaboration between MIT and Harvard University. Concurrently, other popular MOOCs such as the ‘Khan Academy’ and the ‘University of Reddit’ were founded by individuals or loosely organised online communities. Remarkably, the MOOC phenomenon is an educational innovation advanced by extremely disparate forces; traditional, well-established, and powerful universities like Harvard and MIT on the one hand, and anonymous, upstart individuals on the other.

This is best demonstrated by how their respective courses and organisations are run. Platforms like edX and Coursera have traditional course structures, with dedicated tutors teaching subjects, which, in some cases, provide certified accreditation upon completion. Meanwhile, the University of Reddit allows any user to apply and run their own subject in their area of expertise – all under their anonymous e-handle.

In spite of the nominal populism and inclusivity of these digital academies, their enduring viability remains uncertain. As an economic agent, universities act as a powerful filter for prospective employers. Such a service is built primarily

upon long-standing reputations and relationships. Moreover, MOOCs offered by elite universities such as Harvard provide concurrent challenges to academic integrity. As a global export, the institutional prestige of a crimson-coloured online course has the potential to quash scholastic diversity. It could result in the mass production of “the same stuff,” Stilwell tells me, “an orthodox, standardised product.” ‘Communicative’, ‘collaborative’ and ‘participative’ are all laudatory buzzwords used to describe these digital experiences, perhaps in lieu of real learning.

Online enterprises generally take a social constructivist stance on educational structures. As such, virtual learning spaces do not play host to authority, no omniscient and venerable senior academic. The virtual classroom more closely resembles a tutorial than a lecture theatre – all the while accommodating for hundreds of students at a time.

Not all academics, however, are resisting these nascent learning formats.

Boucher’s office is austere, sparse and unreservedly modern – nothing like Stilwell’s. Gone is the great, thick desk of wood; in its place, a demure and utilitarian, flat round top with skinny metal legs. A thin, stapled booklet rests on a miniature lectern. It’s an arrangement as hip as it is ergonomic.

Her lectures are peppered with videos, music, and interactive periods of question and answer. In addition to keeping abreast of the current literature on immigration, gender and the welfare state, she subscribes to podcasts from the New York Public Library and iTunes U. Perfect harmony between her style and her pedagogy.

“Blended learning,” Boucher tells me, “is better.”

Defined by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council, or ALTC, ‘blended learning’ refers to “an integration of both face-to-face and online delivery methods.” A 2011 report from the ALTC suggests online-offline pedagogies pay manifold dividends. By placing course material online, lecturers can save time, money, and reduce their carbon footprint by

shunning the printer.

Students, moreover, have greater flexibility with regards to informational engagement, and can access course content off-campus and in their own time. Perhaps most saliently, the report notes consistent improvement in academic achievement: one study quoted found learning “improved... in twenty of thirty projects,” while the remaining ten projects displayed no significant difference.

But despite the manifold advancements of the last forty years, perhaps the alleged radical distinctions between technologically evolved forms of teaching and orthodox education are less radical than we thought. Stilwell himself informs me, “99% of things have remained the same.” Technology, in all its varied and noisy iterations, has not incited revolution. It has, however, fostered reform for an impoverished art form.

In a piece titled, “Is the lecture dead?” Richard Gunderman writes that a lecture should “show the mind and heart of the lecturer at work” and “engage the minds and hearts of learners.” Regardless of your course or creed, whether you’re speaking to a dozen students in an airless tutorial room, an audience of hundreds in a renovated amphitheatre, or thousands dotted around the world in office cubicles and public libraries and bedrooms and on buses commuting home from work, educators have to crank it to eleven if they really want to make an impact – an impression that may change the trajectory of someone’s life.

In the twilight of our interview, Stilwell relays he’s a long standing fan of rock music. Whether it’s punk, blues, alt, or just the rock n’ roll life of a lecturer, “it’s all about the energy that goes into it.”

@justipen

Justin Pen missed a lecture, but it’s ok. Also, something something pun on pen.



NO HOMOPHOBIA

ARTS &

CULTURE



Jeremy Elphick writes on the turning tide ... and it isn't just Frank Ocean

“Come take a stab at it faggot, I pre-ordered your casket” doesn’t really paint a very welcoming image... under, well, any circumstances whatsoever. The Odd Future collective, particularly their de facto leader, Tyler the Creator, have been lambasted for the use of such blatant homophobia in their music (fun fact: Tyler’s album, *Goblin*, contains a good old 213 anti-gay lyrics), and have never really put too much effort into playing this down publicly. In a way, they haven’t had to. While they’ve been decried by G.L.A.A.D (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) and various other gay rights groups, there hasn’t been an extensive social pressure for them to change their style.

One of the key reasons for this is the expectation (within the popular sphere, at least) that hip-hop will be explicit. Despite the genre emerging from a desire for change, it was simultaneously bogged down in a context of anger and frustration from current inaction towards such change.

Artists like Ocean have always been slightly separate from the rest of the collective. For one, his music tends to lean a lot closer to neo-soul than generic hip-hop, with an overt preference for singing instead of rapping. Ocean has never really kept his sexuality a secret. For instance, “We All Try,” one of the stronger tracks on Frank Ocean’s debut, featured the line, “I believe that marriage isn’t between a man and woman but between love and love.” It’s a bit of a contrast to lyrics off Eminem’s critically lauded *Marshall Mathers LP* of thirteen years ago: “I’ll knock you fuckin’ faggots the fuck out.” Thanks for that contribution, Marshall.

Although popular hip-hop artists like Eminem are largely responsible

for establishing the bigotry-infused style of hip-hop many people believe to be its only incarnation, groups including OutKast, the Wu-Tang Clan, Common and the Roots have existed on the fringes of popular hip-hop without falling prey to sexism and homophobia in their lyricism. The difference between these groups and Ocean, however, is twofold. Firstly, Ocean’s context amidst the Odd Future collective, and secondly, the fact that Ocean is openly queer.

His Grammy performance of “Forest Gump,” a metaphorical love song revolving around Ocean’s thoughts about another man, was a milestone for several reasons—the most pertinent being that Ocean refused to perform any song besides it. In essence, the Grammys made the decision that the listeners of popular music would be ready for an openly queer artist in hip-hop to perform a song deeply-linked to his own sexuality. While it doesn’t prove homophobia is no longer an issue in hip-hop, the performance demonstrates an important shift in the popular perception of the genre. This shift is magnified when viewed in relation to other popular artists within the genre.

In 2012, Jay-Z came out in favour of gay marriage, Lil B declared himself a supporter of G.L.A.A.D, 50 Cent stated support for Obama’s pro-gay marriage stance, while older hip-hop icons Russel Simmons, Snoop Dogg and D.M.C all came out in praise of Ocean’s “brave statement,” and decision. More than a decade ago, Brother Ali’s music used slurs including “faggot” yet when reflecting on this recently Ali stated it was “the reckless abandon of a young man lacking the empathetic sensitivity that only manifests through life-altering interactions

and experiences.” In a sense, the homophobic history of hip-hop is a sign of a genre in a stage of immaturity.

The presence of Frank Ocean in Odd Future and their reaction to his official coming out hints that a great deal of rappers like Tyler aren’t so much homophobic as stuck in a maladjusted tradition of shock-based performance, established by a former, more volatile, era of hip-hop. Tyler’s twitter reaction to @frank_ocean supports this conclusion. “My Big Brother Finally Fucking Did That. Proud Of That Nigga Cause I Know That Shit Is Difficult Or Whatever. Anyway. Im A Toilet,” he tweeted. The last part says it all. Frank Ocean has proven that commercial and critical success is possible without rehashing the same clichés. In doing so he challenges his contemporaries to follow suit. Because although Ocean’s success, and the support of Jay-Z, A\$AP Rocky, Lil B, and Russell Simmons are boons for the genre, the real challenge for popular hip-hop is to see more reluctant artists like Lil Wayne and Chris Brown do the same.

NB. *Want news to ruin your day? While editing this feature, we found an unreleased song – done in 1991 by beloved hip hop outfit A Tribe Called Quest featuring not-as-beloved but still-pretty-good Brand Nubian – called “Georgie Porgie.” Calling it homophobic would be an understatement, since any song that begins with “Listen up money / Or should I say honey” and “In the beginning there was Adam and Eve / But some trying to make it look like Adam and Steve” is probably bound to get worse. It does. Oh, and just to emphasise how heartbreaking this was when it was discovered, the two top comments on the YouTube video are “This hurts my heart a little” and “One of the rare times where a record company stepping in is a good thing.” Ouch. The Low End Theory will just never be the same. - Eds*

BANDING TOGETHER

Avani Dias and Rafi Alam explore el Spanish underground music scene.

An economic downturn has hit the music industry concert tickets are unaffordable, Spotify is growing by the day, and illegal downloading is less a pandemic and more of a habit. In Australia, the music industry allows for independent musicians to make a meagre income, but things are looking worse in Spain.

“Spain faces its deepest recession in half a century,” the Spanish Finance Minister says. This accusation regrettably eschews hyperbole. Over half of those under 25 are unemployed and one third of these people cannot receive welfare benefits. As in most recessions, cultural institutions were the first hit in the inevitable slaughter. Museums have had major budget cuts - two-thirds in just four years- and the Fundación Caja Madrid, a savings bank that previously funded over 48 cultural centres and a number of music programs, has been forced to slash donations.

It becomes clearer why Spain’s music scene is going through a crisis, delineated by a class division that has widened in the current economic climate. There is no middle class in Spain’s music scene – there are multinational labels and small independents. There is little opportunity for mobility when there is little opportunity to produce music in the first place.

Musicians are looking to a new kind of scene to survive – artistically, financially, and politically. So amongst what seems like chaos and disaster, musicians

are coming together to support each other in spite of money problems. The founder of record label La Castanya, Joan Guàrdia, told Pitchfork that “the DIY scene doesn’t wait for public funds to make things happen.” La Castanya is a small independent booking agency and in austerity Spain, manifests the DIY culture of the Spanish music underground that refuses to disappear as its public funding does.

This attitude is more profound than simply one of a will to live. The musical camaraderie prevalent among bands and artists, and the DIY attitude that is a prime mover of their music is rooted in the political and cultural history of Spain. For those in the Barcelona music community however, mutual support in times of crisis is not necessarily new.

During the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s, anarchist communes sprung out of the wreckage caused by fascists, republicans, and socialists fighting for control, and developed a system of ‘mutual aid’, ensuring their own collective survival. They would share food, skills, and the workload, creating a distinct personality in Catalonian culture that became anti-government, anti-centralisation, and pro-civil society. Consider that even their football team, Barcelona FC, is still owned by its members, not sponsors, and only started placing advertisements on their jerseys a few years ago, after more than a hundred years of independence.

Barcelona is no longer in a constant state of anarchist unrest, but you can see

the legacy of DIY and mutual aid ethic in the undercurrents. Bands tour the country on a bare minimum, sleeping on the couch

of one band and playing a gig with another, even if their styles are dissimilar. Spanish music is flourishing in small venues such as Sidecar Factory Club, a small and sweaty space that regularly hosts independent bands; the good ones rise to the surface and are assisted by committed listeners, almost as if they have a ‘democratic mandate’ from their audience. The anti-capitalism of the 1930s might be gone, but the strong sense of solidarity and community remains.

Mujeres hail from Barcelona, but you’d be forgiven for thinking they were born and raised in San Francisco. Their lo-fi sound and garage rock tendencies recall The Black Keys, but it’s really Bay Area vibes you get when you listen to tunes painted with touches of Ty Segall, Thee Oh Sees, and sixties up-tempo acts like The Beau Brummels. But their chilled out beer-in-a-park songs stands in contrast to their overwhelming popularity. They have a dedicated fan base, they are signed to an independent label and their bassist owns a much-loved record store in Barcelona, Luchador Records. Their popularity isn’t tied to clever marketing backed by money; bands like Mujeres would barely exist in Spain’s current economic climate if not for a strong love of music – and a strong love of *their* music – that sustains their momentum.

Despite their hometowns’ rivalry, the Madrid band Cosmen Adelaida share the same approach to music as Mujeres. Their music may have a more chilled vibe about it – think Yo La Tengo meets twee – but there is the same love for



Mujeres not on a siesta; walking down a street

their art. A distinct darkness resonates in their music. One track, ‘Miss Wisconsin’, captures the feelings of despair and resentment amongst Spanish youth in the current crisis. Their drummer, Elisa Perez, says it could be translated

as a song about resignation. Despite this, the fortitude of the band through troubling times for the music industry is a testament to the innovative and impassioned way independent Spanish bands survive.

Learn Spanish fluently, forget the lush accent and there’s not much dissimilarity between the emergent independent Spanish music scene and alternative acts in Anglophone nations. The distinction lies behind-the-scenes, on the worn out couches of band mates, the road trips, and in shared meals. The fervent DIY attitude that nurtured their music may mean small stages, but it confirms big audiences. An economic crisis may have been the catalyst for the collaborative spirit within the music scene, but a uniquely Spanish culture – interlaced with solidarity and self-reliance – nourishes it into the passionate art form it is.

@avanidias
@rafialarm



Cosmen Adelaida on a siesta.



Anna Karenina

Nick Richardson wants to sit in the cinema for five hours.



Joe Wright's *Anna Karenina* is an outstanding adaptation of the Wikipedia plot synopsis of Tolstoy's classic epic. It is a beautifully shot and beautifully constructed perfume ad that happens to follow the plot of *Anna Karenina*. This is a shame, really, because all of the ingredients should have made a classic. It is a visual triumph and the use of the stage as a narrative device is a very clever way of compressing a lot of material (the edition of *Anna Karenina* I read was 862 pages long) into a short timeframe.

Unfortunately, it is compressed to the extent that every single character is an empty, underwritten sack. Keira Knightley is solid as Anna and does as much as she can without a lot of substance. Matthew Macfadyen is irritating as Oblonsky and Domhnall Gleeson is miscast as Levin, the greatest casualty in this adaptation. Aaron Taylor-Johnson

and Jude Law are the shining lights. The former, rocking a killer moustache and dressed resplendently like a creamy vanilla cupcake, captures Vronsky's shift from grand-standing youth to vulnerable, naïve little boy, whilst the latter injects a cold defiance into jilted-husband, Karenin.

Cleverness aside, Tom Stoppard's screenplay tries to fit too much in and pages of passionate dialogue become empty one-liners. This means that instead of characters that make rational decisions, we have cardboard cut-outs doing things that make no sense. Anna's decision to jump under the train seems like a brain-snap made on a whim, not the product of forty pages of exquisitely written angst.

Anna Karenina deserved filmmakers with the balls to make a five hour movie. This film is such an ambitious endeavor, but it lacks ambition where it needs it most. Wright has created a narcissistic arsehole of a movie that delights in admiring how attractive it is whilst ignoring its impotence.

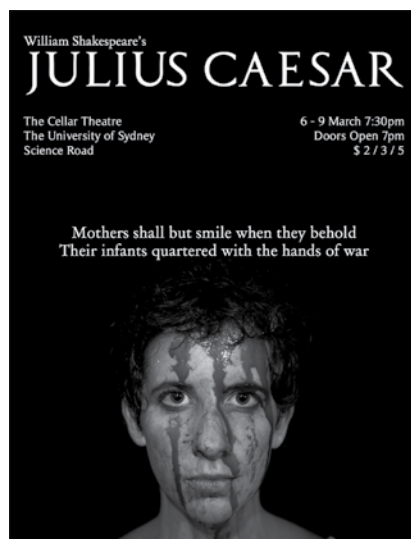
Julius Caesar

Nick Rowbotham previews SUDS' latest offering

Shakespeare's political tragedy *Julius Caesar* has been reimagined countless times over the centuries. The 2012 Royal Shakespeare production employed an entirely black cast and relocated the play to Africa to provide commentary on despotism and corruption. Bell Shakespeare's 2011 production transposed the play into the modern political context of backroom dealings and leadership challenges, paralleling the tussle for power between Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard. SUDS' production won't seek to transform *Caesar* on such

a grand scale, but it will nonetheless attempt to breathe new life into the classic political drama.

In order to achieve that, director Nathaniel Pemberton has cross-gender cast the play's central characters. His intent in doing so is not to make a statement on gender politics, but rather to compel the audience to view *Caesar* in a new light. "The aim is simply to renew the audience's experience of a familiar play, to tell the story freshly and put the focus on the universal issues at the heart of the play," he says. Pemberton believes that the play is at its core about moral perspectives and "how our inescapable prejudices dictate our choices and the consequences that follow." To convey these timeless themes, Pemberton feels that a priority is making Shakespearean language accessible. Many productions of Shakespeare - particularly in Australia - are incomprehensible, he says, but "this is not because of the age of the language, but the manner and mastery of its delivery."

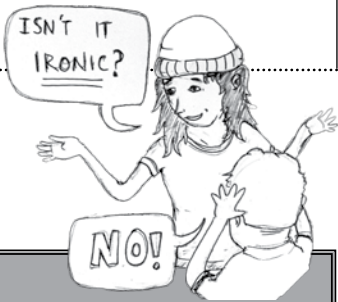


Julius Caesar opens 7:30pm Wednesday at the Cellar Theatre.

TOP 5...

Ironic covers

Matt Clarke's got it covered.



- 5 Tubthumping – Angus and Julia Stone**
 For those of us who remember dancing to this at their year six disco, this song will always belong to Chumbawamba. That being said, Angus and Julia Stone's rendition comes in a very close second. They give the originally manic song a mellow, jazzy vibe that fits perfectly with Julia's smoky voice. Also, the trumpet solo is boss. What more can you ask for?
- 4 Hit Me Baby One More Time - Travis**
 No one really knows what happened to Travis, or let's be honest, who they were to begin with. The one thing they should be remembered for however, is producing this almost perfect cover of Britney's breakout single. The raspy vocals, coupled with a stripped-back acoustic arrangement, turn what was once a teen-pop anthem into something much more disturbing. Where Britney's song was about simple teenage heartache, Travis' rendition sounds like something sung by a man standing over his girlfriend's dead body. It's creepy, but brilliant.
- 3 Tik Tok - Alison Williams**
 Yes, *that* Alison Williams, the one from *Girls*. Before she was Marnie however, Williams recorded this amazing version of Ke\$ha's 'Tik Tok' for the good people of Youtube. The best bit is the strangely awkward film clip that features some of the best "I'm-not-sure-what-to-do-with-my-hands" moments you'll ever see.
- 2 Hips Don't Lie - The Fray**
 So close to the number one position, this song encapsulates everything that the ironic cover should be. Admittedly, 'Hips Don't Lie' is a pretty fantastic song to begin with, but if it's possible, The Fray have managed to make it even better than the original. The whole song is almost unbearably cool, including the gloriously deadpan delivery of the song's ridiculous lyrics.
- 1 My Humps - Alanis Morissette**
 Alanis has had her problems in the past when it comes to irony, but she absolutely nails it with this hilarious parody of 'The Black Eyed Peas' oh-so-terrible hit song. By some amazing feat, she's transformed 2005's sleaziest track about "lovely lady lumps" into a melancholic piano ballad that sounds more like a rendition of 'We Shall Overcome'. As she wails her way through that eternal question of "what you gonna do with all that junk / all that junk inside your trunk," you can only marvel at how far she's come. Redemption Alanis, redemption.

Students' Representative Council, University Of Sydney

NOTICE OF SRC COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 85TH STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

LOCATION: New Law School Annexe SR 440
TIME: 6pm
DATE: Wednesday 6th March

Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney
 Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au

The Oscars

Brad Mariano loves movies so much that he actually hates them

The 85th Academy Awards came and went. This year, and the film that gets an extended theatrical release and slight boost in DVD sales because of the prestigious Oscar brand on the cover is Ben Affleck's *Argo*. I'm sorry if I sound cynical, but I'll start by citing the alarming statistics that a survey in the *Los Angeles Times* brought to light a few years ago. Of the 6000 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 94% are Caucasian and 77% are male. The median age is 62. So essentially an old conservative voter base decides the primary awards for a medium that should be cutting edge by nature. For example, Martin Scorsese was only awarded a major award in 2006, over two decades after he was more culturally relevant and simply better with *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*.

Historically the Academy rewards films that are of limited artistic merit (*Titanic*), are politically and ideologically offensive/naïve (*Driving Miss Daisy*) or too often, both (*Crash*, *Forrest Gump*). In short, no-one was under the illusion that this year's Best Picture would go to, well, the best picture. Many of the most ambitious artistic achievements were snubbed at the nominations - not just the foreign (*Holy Motors*) but American



Brad is pretty *grumpy* about the Oscars... get it? as well (*The Master*).

The Oscars is not about celebrating an artform, but instead is a gathering of Hollywood heavyweights patting themselves on the back, promoting the homogeneity and commerce of mainstream film culture within the parameters of strong internal politics— in other words, the combined antithesis of everything art should aspire to.

To be fair, *Argo* isn't terrible. It has

skewed history to be favourable to the US but is a competent, well-made thriller. It's a shame that outside *Lincoln* it was the only film that really had a shot.

Oscar campaign followers realise that speculation means looking out for the factors which made some awards predictable, despite the absolute lack of transparency in voting (e.g it's impossible to find out what comes second in any award).

Zero Dark Thirty was a film with Oscar pedigree, but garnered a lot of controversy for its depiction and inferred (by some) approval of torture used in interrogation processes - a taboo that struck a nerve in a country where Dick Cheney's rhetoric still sits uncomfortably in the public consciousness. This doomed the film from ever having a chance since the eternal debate over aesthetics versus morality in art is not one the Academy wants to engage in.

The Academy promotes the celebration of the status quo of mainstream filmmaking without ruffling any feathers. This isn't new, mind you - this is the same Academy that let tycoon William Randolph Hearst bully them out of awarding anything to *Citizen Kane*, the film that shaped the future of cinema.

Amour had the misfortune of being a

high brow
Low Brow

foreign film; it's no coincidence that the only foreign film to win the top award was last year's *The Artist*, a film full of nothing but sincere and nostalgic love and adulation for Hollywood. *Silver Linings Playbook* and *Django Unchained* received nods for Best Actress and Original Screenplay, respectively, but auteur projects aren't generally given the same love as bigger productions.

There are other storylines too, such as this year's supposed success story of Affleck's transition from mocked actor to revered director, but at the end of the day, *Argo* fit the bill. Aesthetically bland but competent, with a slightly patriotic tinge, the film was generally inoffensive but like the last ten winners (with the possible exception of *No Country For Old Men*) will be forgotten completely when the history of film is written.

As always, this year's race didn't provide much excitement or satisfaction but hey, Oscars gonna Oscar - the films and hosts change, but the same inherent problems surface every year, to the point where it becomes worthwhile viewing the whole affair as a perversely cynical and masochistic game of predicting which unremarkable film will win and why.

Well, only a few months 'til Cannes.

For future reference only

Lane Saintry went tumblr-in' among the Social Justice Warriors.

You don't know social justice until you've been on tumblr. Although Facebook has the odd viral post railing against racial injustice, and #destroythejoint was trending on Twitter for quite some time, the real, radical, crusading Social Justice Warriors reside in the depths of blogging site tumblr.com.

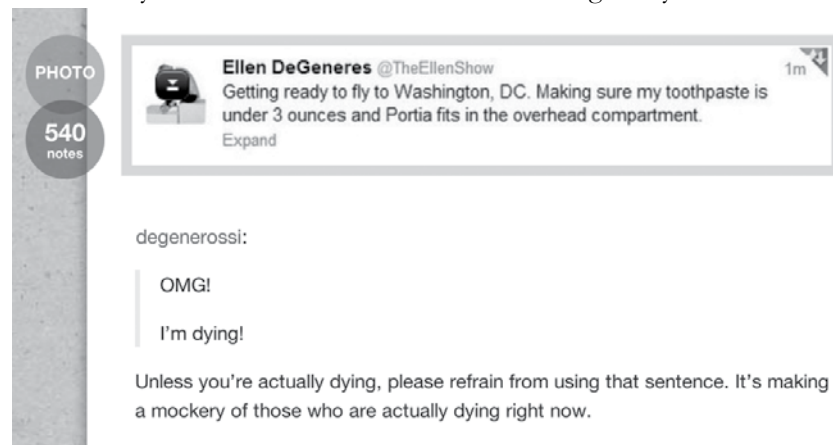
This is where I stumbled upon blogger forfuturereferenceonly. Her bio reads 'Tammi/Androgyne/Proud Environmental Vegan/Born with two X chromosomes'. She became notorious on tumblr for her endorsement of controversial concepts like 'otherkin' (google it) and the phrase 'die cis scum' (google it), among others. She was also known for pouncing on posts by other tumblr users, accusing them of being offensive and not 'checking their privilege'.

Sometimes this was pretty fair, calling out people who shared memes or gifs that promoted racism or sexism. At other times, it was a whole new batshit level of political correctness.

One unsuspecting tumblr user posted the following: "If you don't come home and immediately either take off your pants or change into pyjamas then I'm sorry but you're living life wrong." Tammi reblogged the post, adding "A

friendly reminder that not everyone has the privilege of owning a home, pants or pyjamas. Enjoy living in luxury."

Another person who had posted a photo of milk was warned that they were being offensive to lactose intolerant people and to vegans. Tammi's character is perhaps summed up best by the tumblr user who posted "On a scale of one to forfuturereferenceonly, how offended are you?"



All those dying people are really offended right now.

Then, a few weeks ago, came a surprising— to some— revelation. Tammi wrote a post titled "It has been wonderful experimenting with Tumblr's userbase again." Oh? "This entire blog was a social experiment/satirical take on

the vegan and social justice blogging clique of tumblr. As some of you have already guessed, Tammi's not a real person. This blog was operated as a social experiment on how tumblr's userbase would react to an 'extremist, inconsistent, rude, hypocritical, social justice blogger'."

The main finding of the so-called social experiment was that "most people reacted negatively". No duh. The discern-

ible trolling spanned a five month period and ran for over 156 tumblr pages. That's a lot of time devoted to cultivating the wholly unlikeable Tammi.

Her 'outing' shocked some, gladdened others, and made many resort to caps

lock. User imaldris had seen it coming: "I don't believe it... I FUCKING TOLD YOU THAT THIS WASN'T REAL AND SHOWED YOU EXAMPLES OF MINOR BREAKS IN CHARACTER. AND NONE OF YOU BELIEVED ME." User soundsofambition was less than impressed: "I CREATED A WHOLE OTHER BLOG BASED ON POINTING OUT HOW FUCKING STUPID SHE WAS. I ONLY THOUGHT ONCE THAT IT WAS SATIRICAL. I FEEL SO FUCKING STUPID."

A couple of posts after the big reveal, the blogger behind Tammi admitted that their main motivation was just a love of roleplaying: "It was fun playing her character. I am nothing like Tammi. I actually hate social justice bloggers and vegans... I am a roleplay blogger at heart and it's a hobby of mine IRL [in real life]."

The reverse meaning of this acknowledgment— that the den of the Social Justice Warriors is not 'real life'— is perhaps the most telling part of all.

@lanesaintry

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS A NERD'S TALE

Aleck Prees is a 35-year-old man who recently lost his wife and two children. Originally a farmer, he had been drafted into military service and forced to travel to a strange land for seemingly no purpose. He deserted, and has been a mercenary ever since. He tries to do the right thing but increasingly feels depressed, seeing all of his actions as futile. A week ago, he had a complete mental breakdown and has had a total shift in personality. Yesterday, he delved into a buried city and fought an undead dragon. Perhaps luckily for Aleck, he doesn't really exist. He is a character in Dungeons and Dragons.

Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) is a tabletop role-playing game. It is played without a computer, but is very different from a traditional board game. One player, the Dungeon Master, constructs scenarios in a fantasy world, much like the author of a book. The other players each role-play as a specific character of their own creation. The players interact to create a story far more interactive and engaging than any computer game could offer, with manoeuvres unlimited by compute programming. As veteran player Harry puts it: "No computer game lets you bite your own knee."

For the most part, D&D is more like a group writing session or improvised acting than a game. Rules only come into it when a player's character attempts to do something that requires skill: attack somebody, perform a trick, or cast a spell, for example. The success of these actions depends on the attributes of the character (rogues are good at sneaking; clerics are good at healing), and dice rolls.

I started playing with my school friends when I was thirteen. I was already into Warhammer, Magic Cards and computer games, so it was a natural descent into the pits of geekdom. One night a week, I would hang out with four of my friends and pretend to be a sorcerer. Contrary to popular belief, we did not dress up. Other kids at school knew we were a bit weird, but had no idea what D&D actually was. That was fine by me. The nerd subculture was so opaque and inaccessible that it created a bond of shared understanding with my friends that nobody else could replicate. The game itself was fun, but it was mostly about community. When asked what he enjoys the most about D&D, my friend responds, "I enjoy getting to hang out with my friends once a week."

The original version of D&D was released in 1974. The game has remained popular within the nerd subculture ever since. It has evolved through four editions with major rules changes, but has



Tom Raue almost skipped D&D to write this article

stayed true to the original concept. Other role-playing games have sprung up, but D&D remains the most popular, with over 20 million people having played it at some point.

D&D has often been misunderstood or hated by people unfamiliar with it. In the 1980s, moral panic set in when the game was linked to Satanism and witchcraft by concerned Christian parents. This baseless hysteria led to calls for censorship and ostracism, and bullying of players. The moral panic has died down, but D&D is still perceived as weird and nerdy. Video games have successfully made the transition into mainstream popular culture, but the tabletop varieties of role-playing games have been left behind.

D&D has had a huge impact on popular culture, but these days is rarely spoken about directly. Modern computer role-playing games use the concepts of character class, levelling, experience, damage, and equipment developed through D&D. Aside from the basic mechanics and theme, these computer games have little in common with the infinitely flexible D&D.

Just like other art forms, D&D can be used to explore complex issues, but its interactive nature gives it the added advantage of being more engaging. My friends and I have explored concepts like duty, gender, suicide, entropy, corruption, and religion. A game of D&D can last for hundreds or thousands of hours spread over a long period, allowing for a more complex and meaningful story than a book or film can offer. The characters in the game can be fleshed out to a point where they seem like real people. Ben, the player who created Aleck, explains that he values "the ability to build a genuine person, to evolve and develop their traits, both good and bad."

Role-playing can be cathartic. Real-world issues can be worked out by the actions of your fantasy alter-ego, creating an intensely introspective, eye-opening experience. It's also really fun to kill stuff. There are endless varieties of enemies for the heroes to explode or chop to bits. It's a worrying sign that, given a world of endless possibilities, the most popular activity in D&D is violence.

The regular slaughter of orcs and giants is fun, but the best moments are when violence has dramatic meaning in the story. When one character betrays and murders a friend, or a long-standing villain dies, it can be a truly emotional experience, either triumphant or traumatic.

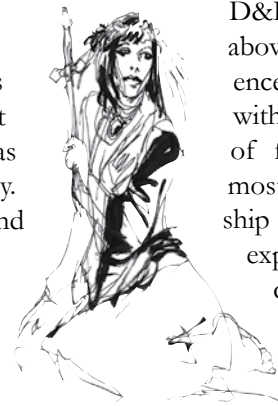
For all its potential, D&D is a deeply flawed game. Human error accounts for most problems. Intense concentration is required for a game without graphics. The narrative can easily be de-

railed by players lacking the energy to use their imagination and getting distracted.

The mechanics of the game can also break the

flow. A bar brawl in D&D might take an hour to work out using the complex system of die rolls, while a computer game could run the event in real time. The main issue is one of talent – most Dungeon Masters do not measure up to Tolkien, and the narrative can suffer as a result.

D&D is not escapism. It is, above all else, a social experience. I have played the game with a roughly consistent group of friends every week for almost ten years, and our friendship is built upon the shared experiences in the worlds we create. This is not a review, but I give Dungeons and Dragons four and a half stars anyway.



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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?

International Students & Transport Concessions

In 1989 the NSW government withdrew access to transport concessions for International Students. Since then international students have had to pay full price to use public transport. The SRC has always opposed this discrimination.

As a result of students' vocal opposition to this discrimination a small victory has been won. While international students still do not have the same transport concessions as local students, they can now get some discounts, but need to take care to buy the best ticket for them.

A MyMulti 3 pass is for unlimited travel on buses, Sydney Ferries, CityRail

and light rail in Greater Sydney, the Hunter and the Illawarra.

The MyMulti 2 pass is for unlimited travel on buses, Sydney Ferries and light rail in Greater Sydney, the Hunter and the Illawarra, as well as some CityRail services. (See www.131500.com.au/tickets/fares/myzone for more information.)

These are not necessarily the best tickets for all students however. Students need to consider how many months of the year they will be in Sydney and how many days and times a day they will use public transport, and then do their calculations in order to work out what ticket is best for them.



e.g. If a student only uses public transport to come to university and only uses the bus, e.g. from the City to university, it is cheaper to buy a MyBus2 Travel 10 (\$28.80). If a student has class 5 days a week that is 10 trips per week. If there are 13 weeks in a 90 day period that's 13 x \$28.80 or \$374.40. Cheaper than the 90 Day MyMulti tickets.

International students using these discounted tickets will not be required to apply for or carry a concession card.

How can students purchase tickets?

Students can purchase tickets online via the university.

Go to: www.bit.ly/12eS01Y

Students cannot purchase discounted tickets directly from Transport for NSW ticket outlets or railway stations. The University of Sydney must order tickets on your behalf and confirm you are an enrolled international student.

The SRC will continue to fight to international students to have the same rights to transport concessions as local students.

Ask Abe

Hi Abe,

I'm from a bit of a poor family and I need some financial help. I already get Youth Allowance but it's not really enough to buy all my textbooks and living costs. I'm worried about the pressure that I'm putting on my parents and younger brother and sister. Can you tell me if there's some other way I can get some financial help?

Poor Family



Hi Poor Family,

I'm sorry to hear about your struggle. It is certainly not uncommon. There are a few things you can do. Look for secondhand textbooks – start at the SRC secondhand bookshop on level 4 of the Wentworth Building. If you lecturer tells you to buy the latest edition ask what the differences are, because you may be able to get away with an older edition.

The University has a Scholarships office that may be able to help you. There are scholarships for a wide range of students, with an equally wide range of awards, literally ranging from a couple of hundred dollars to many thousands of dollars. The University also has a Financial Assistance Service. They can lend you money in an emergency – and there is no interest on the loan. They also sometimes have bursaries, which are like loans you don't have to pay back. Both of these are on level 5 of the Jane Foss Russell Building (where the student centre is).

There are lots of places to get free food. For example, lots of students get food from the Hare Krishnas in front of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre every evening between 6 and 7:30pm. If you need other help with more specific things contact the SRC case-workers. We can give you other ideas on where else to go.

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.

International students can now buy the following tickets at discounted rates:

Travel Pass	Normal price	International student discount	Discount
MyMulti3 Annual	\$2,367	\$1,540	35%
MyMulti2 Annual	\$1,976	\$1,500	24%
MyMulti3 90 Day	\$654	\$440	33%
MyMulti2 90 Day	\$546	\$410	25%



Are you paying rent?

As a result of important changes under the new tenancy law, many people who live in a share housing arrangement would fall outside the protection of the new law.

Residential Tenancy Act 2010 (NSW) ('the Act')

This act came into force on 31st January 2011, so it is still relatively new and needs to be gradually interpreted by the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal or the Courts. The Act covers people who are classified as 'tenants' under the relevant provisions and gives tenants many legal rights when a dispute arises under the share housing arrangement.

Unfortunately, many people would not be classified as 'tenants' under this new Act. This means even though you are paying rent just like other people in the house, you might not have the same legal rights as they do. This might not ring a bell to you now, but it could be devastating if something goes wrong in the future.

So what if you are not a 'tenant' under the Act?

Potentially, at best you are known as 'boarders or lodgers' and the landlord/

other tenants could:

- kick you out of the property without early notice;
- forfeit your rental bond or other deposit you paid in advance;
- raise the rent at any time without your agreement;
- interrupt your peaceful and quiet enjoyment of the room;
- restrict your movement and use of common property in the property;
- refuse to provide agreed services to you such as working power points;
- enter your room without getting your consent;
- engage in other unfair conducts against you

How do I make sure that I am protected under the Act?

Before you move in, you need to make sure that:

- you have entered a written tenancy agreement. We have prepared and uploaded a template on the SRC website for your reference. Make sure that the agreement has at least the essential clauses as those on the template provided;
- you have asked every question you



have and you understand what is required of you;

- you have included all oral agreements into the written agreement;
- you have a written receipt of everything you paid;
- you have not paid anything you are not suppose to pay; i.e. if you should only pay either a deposit or a bond, but not both, and the amount should be limited.

If in doubt, make an appointment with the SRC solicitor and we are more than happy to assist you.

President's Report

David Pink is still your President

So I thought I'd talk to you guys about why building a fighting student movement matters.

Australia used to have one of the most vibrant cultures of student activism in the Western world, with strong student unions at almost every campus, and huge national demonstrations (in the order of tens of thousands) being organised by the National Union of Students (NUS) twice a year.

One of the major factors contributing to our strength and success was the availability of funds for our activism. Student unions were funded by compulsory subscriptions from every student, which in turn encouraged a culture of mass participation and engagement because students had ownership over their unions. Even students at smaller universities, less well off than the metropolitan institutions like USYD and UNSW, were able to acquire funds for campaigns through compulsory student unionism.

That all changed six years ago. The Howard government became scared by the student movement after the Iraq War protests (where one million of us

hit the streets and nearly brought down the Liberal administration), and so he pushed Voluntary Student Unionism legislation through federal parliament which ripped the heart out of student unions and the NUS.

The result was the collapse of student organisations around the country. Regional campuses, especially, saw the complete breakdown in student representation and amenities – and in many ways universities were happy to see these critical voices silenced.

Sydney University still has strong student organisations, but around the country we are almost unique. The once-mighty NUS closed down its regional and campus offices, cut the pay for the majority of its student employees, and consequently hemorrhaged its grassroots. Since about 2007 it has transformed itself into a lobby group with a small office in Melbourne.

It's popular now to move away from bureaucratic, money-heavy, ways of organising – and instead embrace dehierarchalised networks

and collectives. That means, instead of having an officebearer or an elected committee attached to a student union have responsibility for putting together a campaign, anyone can turn up and have equal say over the direction of an action. This means you give ownership over a campaign to the greatest number of people, and in turn empower them to bring more people in and put a lot of time and effort into building it. Contrast that with the NUS, where the national officebearers sit in a room and unilaterally determine the direction of a campaign.

The NUS's 'campaigns' have degenerated into farce. Its largest campaign action in recent memory involved thousands of students mobilising together to simultaneously consume noodles (to defeat student hunger!!!). This was followed by a slightly less successful barbecue in 2011. The days of the NUS being a fighting and campaigning union have probably passed, with people pretty comfortable now with its role as a lobby group, so student activists around the country are

looking towards alternative ways of organising a fightback.

Student activists last year held the EduFactory! Conference in Canberra, with a view to challenging the able-bodied, gendered and racial nature of the educational institution. The second EduFactory Conference is being held on Gadigal country at the University of Sydney over the ANZAC day long weekend (25 – 28 April) in 2013.

More than ever before, Australian students require a national education activism network so that we can fight the neoliberal degree factory that is the modern tertiary institution.

This will also be a great opportunity to meet like-minded education activists, challenge your conceptions about the way the system works, and challenge those of other peoples'.

Come along for a stimulating weekend of discussion, network-building and political organisation.

Check out the facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Edufactory-Disassembling-the-Neoliberal-University/371196946303266>

General Secretary's Report

Dylan Parker outlines the important dates for the year

Hot dates are great, forgetting semester dates slightly less so.

O-Week was awesome, definitely my kind of date. Hot, wet, boozy and slightly over stimulating. OK enough of that.

So, first week of uni is nothing like O-Week. You've got lectures to miss, tutorials to be late to and textbooks to buy that you won't read. There is the awkward introduction game, timetables to sort out, and the realisation that nobody cares how big your ATAR is.

In all the rush of first semester (the new names, courses, assignments, figuring out which Azzuri is which etc. etc.), you'll probably forget that you have some important dates to keep. Sadly not the romantic kind, but ones worth paying attention to so uni doesn't turn into an awkward nightmare that texts you 17

times a day and breathes into your phone late at night.

March 15 is the last date to add a unit of study.

So you've already enrolled in all your units? What if one is a dud? Well Friday March 15 is the last day you can pick up something else. Look, nobody proposes on the first date. Well, nobody normal anyway. It's the same with subjects. I like to shop around and rock up to lectures I'm not enrolled in just to get a taste. Like a photoshopped profile pic or a sucked in gut, sometimes units don't come as advertised, so March 15 is great because it's your get out of jail free card. Just make sure to do your research before you buy your books.

March 31 is the census date.

Look, it's a bad look to skip out on dinner without paying, but the census date is your get out of jail free card if you are a domestic student. If you drop a subject before the census date then you're not on the hook for the HECS pricetag. For international students you may have to pay an admin fee, which is shit. You'll get a withdraw grade that doesn't count to your weighted average mark (WAM).

March 26 is the last date to Discontinue Not Fail (DNF).

No matter how cute, charming, or cuddly they are, sometimes things just don't work out. Going into my fourth year, I can tell you from experience shit happens and probably will happen repeatedly. DNFing isn't ideal be-



cause you are still on the hook for the cost of the unit, but your WAM isn't impacted. But hey, if you need to transfer or are just gunning it for the grades, then a DNF sure is a lot better than going down the track only to get a Fail or an Absent Fail. You might have to pay for the bastards but at least you get to keep the proverbial kids rather than ending up at the end of semester with nothing but a big fat F.

Environment Report

Elyse Weatherby explains how you can help the environment in the coming month

Hello and welcome to Week One!

The Student Environment Action Collective (SEAC) are the environmental group on campus dedicated to learning about and taking action on a number of environmental and social justice issues.

The month ahead is definitely a busy one for enviro action, so you are sure to find an event that gets your tree-loving heart pumping.

On March 8-10, the Leard Forest Listen Up will host a weekend of inspiring

music and performances opposing the destruction of the old growth Leard Forest for coal mining. Check the Facebook event for more details.

March 10 will mark two years since the Fukushima nuclear disaster. With large areas of land still contaminated by radiation, we are reminded of the devastating effects of nuclear energy. From 5pm to 7pm, Face to Face with Fukushima will be held at the NSW Teachers Federation Auditorium, Surry

Hills.

Interested in a sustainable and kale-giving community garden on campus? On Friday March 15, a Community Garden kick-start strategy session will be held at 11:00am in the SRC meeting room, Level 1, Wentworth Building (access from City Rd, walk down the staircase to basement level). Come and plant your ideas to help this project grow!

Already the world's largest coal export port, Newcastle is facing plans for

a massive new coal terminal which will mean even greater health, economic and environmental impacts for the community. Join us on March 16 at the Stop T4 Rally, starting at 10:00am at Customs House, Newcastle.

SEAC holds weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 12:00pm, Manning Sunken Lawns, so come and join us!

For more information, or if you want to talk about cats, call Elyse (0439 286 123).

Education Officers' Report

Casey Thompson educates you about the upcoming strike.

STRIKE back!

Towards the end of 2012, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and university management entered into their Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) negotiation period. Management's proposed EBA plans to:

- cut sick leave and superannuation
- abolish the 37.5 hour week
- abolish the 40/40/20 (research/ teaching/ administration) workload provisions
- introduce a real pay cut (when the university has a budgetary surplus of \$93 million)
- abolish review and bullying committees
- increase the number of casual staff, and so on.

Such an agreement would lead to larger lectures and tutorials, less student support, a decreased quality of teaching and learning and academics that can no

longer allocate the required amount of time to stay at the cutting-edge of their field. Overall, the EBA as it currently stands will result in students receiving far below the quality of education that they deserve.

The NTEU has had over seven consultation meetings with the university, however only the clause to abolish academic freedom has been removed. The university refuses to introduce any of the other proposals by the union. As a result staff will be taking industrial action, in the form of a strike and picket line, starting at 7am on Thursday March 7. The six pickets will then converge into a rally around midday. The Education Action Group (EAG), the education collective of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), is encouraging students to join their staff on the pickets at 7am. Only if both students and staff participate in this industrial action will it be successful and

force the university to introduce a fair, and respectable, EBA. Students should come out in solidarity with their teachers because quality education requires quality working conditions for staff. The average undergraduate leaves university with a HECS debt that will take them ten years to repay. As we are increasingly paying more for our degrees we must, at the very least, demand that we receive high quality teaching in return.

Student support for the strike has already begun. On the first day of O-Week, Wednesday February 27, the EAG held a rally on Eastern Avenue, drawing attention from vast numbers of new students. The rally was a fantastic success, with many students and staff speaking. Many different perspectives were offered on the University's most recent attack on our education. Speakers drew attention to the systemic nature of the current nation-wide attack on tertiary education. Several speakers

also pointed out the way in which the current approach to education is informed by the ideology of neoliberal capitalism and how this is reflected in the proposed EBA.

As was mentioned at the O-Week rally, the 2012 'Staff Cuts' campaign demonstrated the power of students when they mobilise together through collective organising. Last year the Vice Chancellor, Michael Spence, attempted to fire over 340 academic and general staff. Thousands of students rallied against the cuts and Spence realised he had to back down. The majority of the positions were saved. The campaign proved the power of direct action in defending our education. We must do this again in 2013 when demanding a fair EBA.

Come join your staff on Thursday March 7 and show university management that we value our education and will defend the high quality that we deserve.

education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Women's Report

Hannah Smith and Emily Rayers invite you to get involved in International Women's Day

Hello and welcome to Week 1! We hope your first week has been positive and engaging! The Women's Department has had a very busy O-Week and first week back!

We had incredibly positive responses during O-Week and lots of sign ups, despite being rained out on Friday! We got to talk to lots of students about what feminism and women's issues mean to them on campus, and our badges and consent underwear were a huge success!

The Women's Collective was so excited to participate in the USU-run mural painting event on Thursday, which has provided the Women's Room with a bright new appeal. The Women's Room is on Level 1 of Manning House if you are interested in checking it out!

We also launched our annual publication, *Growing Strong* on Friday evening.

We were lucky enough to host the immediate past-president of the SRC, Phoebe Drake, as a speaker. She spoke about the importance of women's voices in publishing as a way to tackle the rise in sexism in public discourse. It was a great way to end an exciting O-Week and launch into the first semester!

In the first week back, we are looking forward to celebrating International Women's Day. International Women's Day (IWD) continues to be an important day on the feminist calendar. IWD originated from socialist women in the US and was formalised as an international celebration by German women in 1909. Since 1931, Sydney has hosted IWD marches. Historically, it has been a great way to grab attention for relevant feminist causes. During the years of the Second World War, Women used the

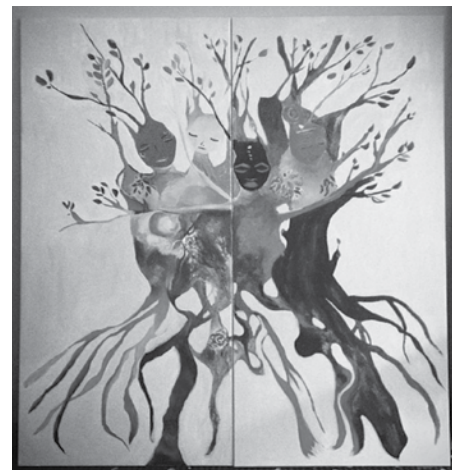
celebration as a way to push for equal pay for equal work. This year, the Sydney march will be pushing for an end to violence and discrimination, especially against breastfeeding mothers.

On Friday the 8th of March, the USU Women's Convenor will be hosting a International Women's Day festival on Eastern Avenue. Women's Collective will be hosting a stall at the festival! Please come by and say hello (and sign up if you missed out during O-Week).

We will also be attending the International Women's Day March on Saturday March 9. Our Collective will be meeting beforehand and sharing brunch together, if you are interested in attending send us an email at usydwomenscollective@gmail.com.

As always, if you are interested in getting involved in women's collective,

usydwomenscollective@gmail.com



come along to the meeting at 1pm on Wednesdays in the Women's Room at Manning House. Otherwise, join the facebook group "usyd womens collective" or get in touch via email or through twitter (@SRCwomens).

Happy International Women's Day!

Welfare Officers' Report

Harry Stratton is concerned about your welfare

Hi team! My name's Harry, and together the wonderful Elly Morley and I are your Student Welfare team for 2013.

At its best, student life is a delirious combination of new friends, new experiences, and heavily subsidised alcohol. Unfortunately, not everyone's "university experience" is as glossy as the brochure. Frankly, throughout the next however many years, lots of people in power will try to use your youth as an excuse to try and walk all over you, from the boss who underpays you, to the landlord who tries to turf you out, to the lecturer who gives you an absent fail in your lab assessment because you forgot your safety glasses. Your SRC's job is to put the balance of power back

in your favour. Whatever your problem is, we've got your back. Just shoot our crack team of lawyers and caseworkers an email at help@src.usyd.edu.au and we'll help you get your student life back on track, whether by fighting for special consideration on an exam, making angry phone calls to your boss, or hooking you up with an emergency loan if your budget's overstretched.

The other part of our job is campaigning to make student life more livable, whether it be fighting for more childcare services on campus, better mental health care or (my personal policy dream) USU-subsidised meals for lower SES students. If you are a bit skeptical about the ability of a bunch of twenty-

some things to change the world, you wouldn't be the first. On the other hand, student activism has a terrifyingly effective record. Last year, your SRC stopped massive cuts to staff and subjects at this university, preserving the quality of your education. In fact, literally just two weeks ago, our brothers and sisters down the road at UTS won travel concession cards for EVERY domestic student in NSW, regardless of whether they're employed.

The important thing about these victories, though, is that we can't win them on our own. We need your help – your ideas, your commitment, and your passion. So, if there's an issue that's troubling you or something that makes you



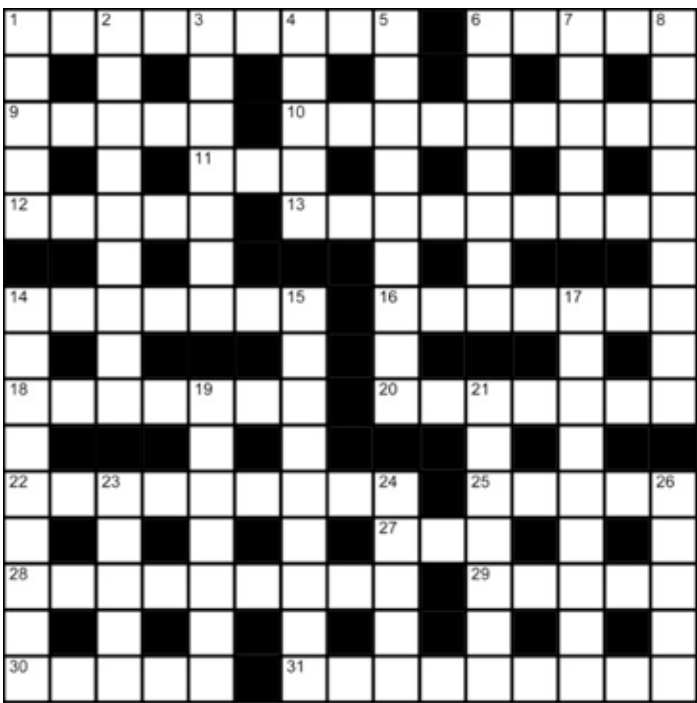
angry, or you'd just like to help out in the fight for a fairer student life (and against the menace of an Abbott government), shoot us an email at welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au or a text on 0438 141 869, or pop down to the SRC Bunker (bottom of the Wentworth building) for a chat. Depending on our collective mood there may even be cookies waiting for you.

Hope to see y'all soon!

welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Janice

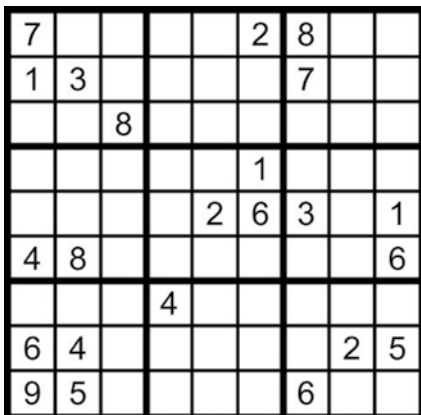


ACROSS

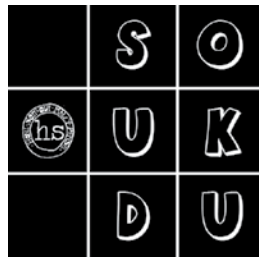
1. Ambiguous quail cove (9)
6. Screw opinion, back AC/DC! (5)
9. Ex-president pursues brief revolutionary respite (5)
10. Breast exam shows unordered giant mass (9)
11. Greek letter taunted without Adams' Arthur Philip (3)
12. A positive repeat (5)
13. Raised when payout insured (9)
14. Ms. Ice is vibrational (7)
16. Spooner sends Clover Moore lager par avion (3,4)
18. Farah number before long reversing wind (7)
20. Attempted a report, Mr Miliband? (7)
22. Set particles first and fourth (9)
25. Fast-wrap ideology transfusion (5)
27. Alien transport back in tofu dish (1.1.1)
28. Twitchy self-evident truth in a twitch self-evidently true (9)
29. Total Recall out of fish (5)
30. English racecourse like smelling salts (5)
31. Dell's front lacking paper for undisturbed rest (9)

DOWN

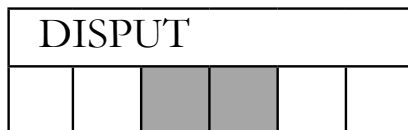
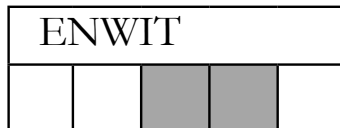
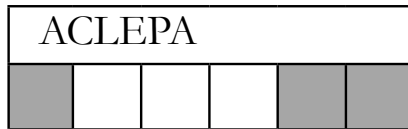
1. Additional gum (5)
2. Howl, from Uluru mostly, and apply tan oil (9)
3. Naive trademark blitzed in war (7)
4. Opossum accelerated westward and penned outsider (5)
5. Light restrictor source of light and darkness (9)
6. Electronics company on the frontier (7)
7. Had Marvell but time and this enough? (5)
8. Deed or elm, elder Dome? (9)
14. Detonate bomb in comfort here or there (9)
15. Twisted like a drumstick admitting wrong (9)
17. Disruptive yeasty moist lip (noisily) and just can't touch the curve! (9)
19. Best pick one and keep quiet (7)
21. Balls overtime in scrum (7)
23. Southern pastries given for bonds (5)
24. Parisian Sugar coin (5)
26. Is extremely fond of, and has nothing against, cures (5)



Medium



Hard



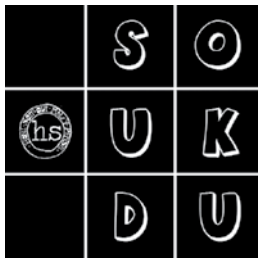
WHAM, BAM,
ANAGRAM!

Q: A name for a spiky tree?

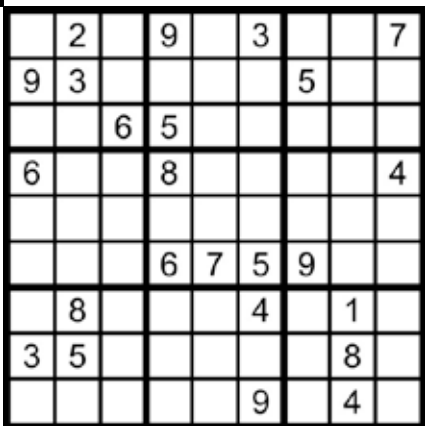
A: A



Medium



Hard



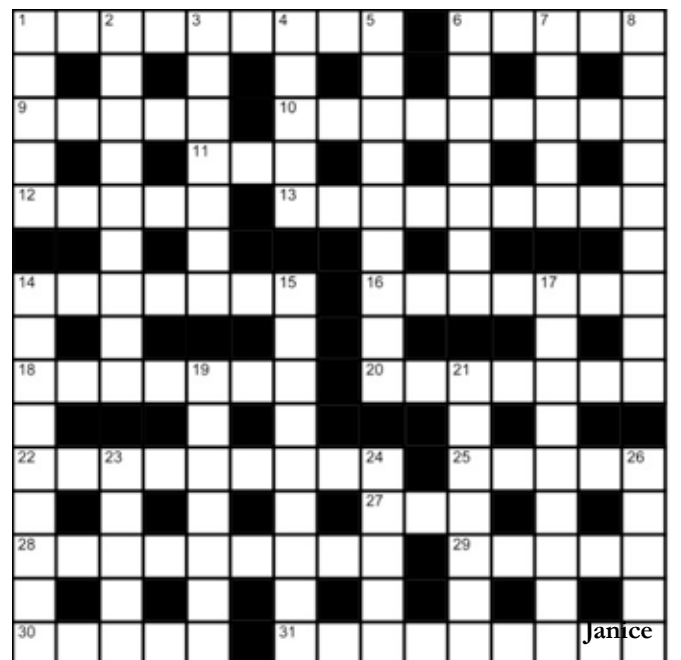
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Flues and stops of organs (9)
6. Eucharist disk (5)
9. 1 down's character in NBC comedy (5)
10. Colloquy with three participants (9)
11. Mrs. Bounderby, WC (3)
12. Citizen of Baku (5)
13. Becomes conscious again (9)
14. Shocks (7)
16. Lithuania, to a Lithuanian (3,4)
18. French lyrical poem (7)
20. Consumes (7)
22. City in the Volga River Delta (9)
25. Domain (5)
27. Goal (3)
28. Boating competition (9)
29. Defensive evidence (5)
30. Illustrious (5)
31. Crucial apices (9)

DOWN

1. Square (5)
2. Hard ceramic (9)
- 3, 6. Gibson-portrayed Scottish warrior (7,7)
4. Spinning mechanism (5)
5. Rose/fell with steady acceleration (9)
6. See 3-down.
7. Polyphonic composition (5)
8. Electrical resistors used to regulate current (9)
14. House residing on Dragonstone (9)
15. London borough (9)
17. Long emotional utterance (9)
19. Demanded payment or performance (7)
21. Green (7)
23. Unspoken (5)
24. The impoverished (5)
26. Source of electricity (5)



Janice

THE SOIN

INTERNATIONAL
MEN'S DAY, IT'S TIME
TO GIVE IT A GO:
PIERS ACKER-"THE
MAN"-MAN



POLL: "POLLS", POLLS

Today's *Soin* poll on the latest preferred prime minister News-poll poll shows that the public's support for polls is dropping, in the wake of a spate of insipid, unconstructive and entirely irrelevant polls.

Results of today's poll show that voter satisfaction with constantly being polled and then incessantly informed of the results of polls is at an all-time low.

Up to 47% of respondents said that they felt negatively about polling, with a further 51% stating that they disagreed with polling on polling.

Confidence in the results of polls is also at an all-time low, with over 60% of respondents declaring that they wouldn't trust a poll if they were polled on it, and only 23% of respondents claiming that they felt confident that they understood what they were being polled on in that previous poll. A further 48% said they felt the drop in the primary vote for polls could be attributed to bad polling.

Support for polls on a two-poll preferred basis, however, has risen slightly, up nine points on yesterday's poll.

Despite these poor results, polling is expected to continue on an incessant basis for the next seven months.



Next week: Polish pole vaulters



**FUCK! ANIMALS
ARE BEING KILLED
FOR MEAT.**

SOIN EXCLUSIVE

Last week, the United Kingdom's Food Standards Agency (FSA) detected an "unacceptable" level of horse meat in popular microwaveable lasagne, spaghetti bolognese, and frozen pie brands. In many cases, it was found that more than half of each dish was of equine origin. The other half does not bear repeating.

Doris Gray, 62, a long-time patron of the Bird's Eye frozen foods range, was appalled. "I couldn't believe it at first," she said, "I thought I was eating the minced flesh of cows. Not this." When pressed on the topic, she confessed that she never suspected the meat in her lasagne

was beef to begin with, but she would certainly consider joining a class action law suit. "I can literally think of nothing worse than what just happened to me," she told *The Soin*.

Horse enthusiasts disagree. Bernard Ludd, president of the World Horse Connoisseurs League (WHCL), consumes the meat regularly and believes it to be a healthier alternative to beef, pork, and lamb. "Horse was eaten by my father," Ludd said, "And my father's father before him. First the heart, then the flesh, then we burn the bones. This was how we crushed our enemies." The FSA declined to comment on his prac-

tices and asked *The Soin* not to call them by that number again.

The supermarket chains Tesco and Aldi are seeking new suppliers following the controversy. Apologising to their customers, a spokesperson for Tesco UK said: "We've taken every possible measure to ensure that something like this never happens again. We would also like to inform our customers that their favourite meals will be back on the shelves by the end of the month. For now, avoid the tuna, wash all your olives, and pour your juice through a sieve before drinking."

UNCENSORED GILLARD DOES GLENFIELD

In a last ditch attempt to woo Aussie battlers in Sydney's west, Julia Gillard has made like John Howard and donned a Wallabies tracksuit in her tour of six key federal electorates.

The move comes after members of the federal Labor caucus had become increasingly uncomfortable about Ms Gillard's new glasses, which were thought to be alienating voters in marginal seats.

But voters in all six western suburbs electorates are reported to be fuming about the Prime Minister's apparent enthusiasm for the "other" rugby code.

"She just doesn't fucking get it," said one Blaxland resident.

Sources close to the PM have pinned the blame on her Scottish communications director, who they say has not yet mastered Sydney's geography.

"The plan was for her to have a stroll along the harbour foreshore and mingle with the masses. Brian thought The Lodge and Rooty Hill RSL were in the same suburb. He was quite taken aback when he realised that the only foreshore within

cooe was Paramatta River."

It only got worse when Gillard's staff tried to salvage the situation by adorning her in a Penrith Panthers jersey.

Eels supporters are now said to be deserting Labor in droves, and another round of leadership speculation appears inevitable.



ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING COMPANIES DEFINITELY NOT LINKED TO ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING PROBLEMS, SAYS NRL

The standing down of superstar Bulldogs fullback Ben Barba for gambling- and alcohol-related issues should in no way reflect poorly on the fine people at Victoria Bitter and TomWaterhouse.com, two of the NRL's primary sponsors, Bulldogs CEO Todd Greenberg announced on Monday. "Ben has some problems that stem from the recent dissolution of a personal relationship," Greenberg stated in a press conference. "These problems were not exacerbated by the smooth, crisp taste of Victoria Bitter and the bettor's paradise that is TomWaterhouse.com, but by inferior companies that don't have the money to sponsor the NRL."

Barba separated from his partner, Ainslie Currie, towards the end of last year and is known to have been associated with the Epic Bender Crew, a group dedicated to constant inebriation. An NRL insider confirmed to *The Soin* that the EBC's standard drink of choice is XXXX Gold, and it is strongly believed around the League that Barba would still be playing had he stuck to the delectable, nourishing taste of a VB longneck.

Barba released a statement announcing regret over the behaviour that led to his suspension. "Amongst other things, I was foolish to think that I could make a profit

from gambling," Barba's statement read. "Though it would be equally foolish for you not to take advantage of Sportsbet's special Monday Money-Back Guarantee."

Tom Waterhouse informed *The Soin* that he had personally contacted Barba since his suspension and had immediately offered him unlimited access to gambling counselling services. Waterhouse then announced that his website was offering odds of 5/1 on whether Barba would actually use these services.

Australian Rugby League Commission CEO Dave Smith said that whilst the NRL was saddened to see Barba, the face of the league, succumb to the destructive powers of gambling and alcohol, Waterhouse's decision to lengthen the Bulldogs' premiership odds from \$4.50 to \$10 demonstrated that, "every cloud has a silver lining."

When questioned whether the NRL's ties to the gambling and alcohol industries were partially to blame for Barba's fall from grace, Smith paused for thought before draining his can of VB and belching loudly into the microphone. "Seriously, have you tried VB?" Smith rhetorically asked the press pack. "It's the absolute shit."



Tom Waterhouse is a giant cunt

GREENS SPLIT FROM LABOR, STILL FUCK BUDDIES

Greens leader Christine Milne announced last week that the Greens would be splitting from their long-standing alliance with the Australian Labor Party, but would essentially still remain fuck buddies.

The Greens, who have opposed Labor's handling of several major issues, including the recent mining tax mishandling, say they will still support Labor against votes of no confidence and "do all the other relationship things," they just totally won't still be together.

"We just need some space and the best way to do that is to give them everything they want while removing the pressure of any kind of commitment." Milne said.



FIRST YEAR EXPECTS TO HAVE SEX IN FISHER STACKS UNLIKELY TO HAVE SEX ANYWHERE

Despite confidently proclaiming that he'd have sex in the Fisher stacks before the week was out, Sydney University first year Eric Haste is unlikely to ever have sex with anyone, anywhere, ever.

"We'll probably do it on the sixth floor. That's where I like it," proclaimed Haste, who will probably die a virgin, crushed under old copies of mX.

"Yeah. The sixth floor is where it's at."

Classmates of Haste have claimed he has spent every break between lessons since first arriving on campus wandering from section to section of the Fisher stacks loudly proclaiming: "This would be a good place for me to use my penis."

Haste is currently banned from entering both the library and another human being.



Fisher Library: an artist's impression

"This is a library, not a sex factory," said head librarian Margaret Wallace, squirming uncomfortably. "If we wanted to have people to have sex whenever they pleased in this institution, why, I would be being pleased under this desk right now."

This statement was reiterated by head of security Martin Scrase once he had emerged from beneath the counter.

Haste was unavailable to take *The Soin's* calls but was adamant that he was "definitely not jerking it in the Carlaw Bathrooms."

Page 8
Interview
with
Australia's
own
Harlem
Sheikh



Agony Aunt

Advice for first years from a fifth year whose dysfunctional family mean she has a baby nephew and two nieces.



'Sup Soin,

Now that I've started uni, how can I tell my high school girlfriend that it's time for us to move on? Uni is filled with babes, and I just don't want to hurt her feelings by telling her that she's a 5 to the 10s that roam Sydney Uni. ;)

TS: Playa! *The Soin* admires your complete absence of self-awareness to the point where *The Soin* will simply assume that your inner voice has developed laryngitis. *The Soin* suggests you show your girlfriend the following sentence and nod regretfully as she reads it: 'your shitty boyfriend is breaking up with you'. Personally, *The Soin* hopes you're ashamed of yourself for using that emotion in the context in which you've chosen to deploy it.

Have a great semester!

Hola Soin,

What's your pick when it comes to clubs and societies? Also, if a train is travelling at 60km per hour and leaves Central at 9am...who would win in a fight: my friend Gareth, or an underfed bear? Steven

TS: Good grief. To answer your first question, just read our O-Week edition on this very subject. *The Soin* has little patience for time-wasters. As for your second question, great stuff. *The Soin* is sure you probably went to a selective or top-notch private school; a question of this philosophical magnitude rarely troubles those who have low ATARs. *The Soin* will answer your question with another question. If a yellow bucket of water can hold seven litres of water and a yellow bucket is three times as heavy as a blue bucket, will your mother ever love you?

Hope that helps.

DEFEND OUR EDUCATION

**DEFEND ACADEMIC FREEDOM
AND STAFF RIGHTS**



**STUDENTS
SUPPORT
THE STAFF
STRIKE**

CLASSES ARE CANCELLED!

PICKET FROM 7AM
Thurs 7 March

FOLLOWED BY SPEAKOUT

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