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semester one  
2013

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# Why patriarchy is not enough (as a conceptual framework)

I have much more in common with male members of the working class than I do with Julia Gillard. I share not her politics nor her economic affluence. On some levels Gillard is still subjected to the oppression that all women in our society face, including the scrutiny of her image, and the delegitimisation of her political choices purely because of her gender. Yet, I would never consider her a comrade of mine in the feminist fight.

In fact, what of the millions of working women she allegedly represents?

What of the perpetually unaddressed devaluation of unpaid domestic labour and care work (nursing, childcare)? What of the high levels of casualisation of the Australian female workforce? Of single working mothers with inadequate welfare payments?

Industrial capitalism has always relied on the unpaid work of childbearing women in order to reproduce and maintain the next generation of workers, so the true root of women's oppression lies in the abhorrently unequal economic structure of the society in which it thrives. Believe it or not, it doesn't lie in the catcalls, the misogynistic dickheads, or the interruptions halfway through a sentence because a man has started speaking. All of these things are shit

and need to be fought against, but they are merely flames atop a giant bonfire that has long been burning. By failing to make significant reforms to improve the lives of the working and welfare classes and attain equality - for women, trans\* people and men alike - Gillard has failed us as a leader. But my beef doesn't lie solely with Gillard. The Prime Minister's gender is irrelevant when they are elected to protect the interests of capital (which structurally oppresses women). We need to look beyond bourgeois feminist frameworks that fail to consider the economic circumstances of people for whom the movement is inaccessible.

That being said, the ongoing struggle for women's liberation is by no means secondary to the struggle of the working class. In fact, the two things are inextricably connected. So in order to understand and challenge the nature of women's oppression, we have to challenge the idea that men, albeit benefactors of male privilege, are the problem. And that's that.

There's also some cool stuff happening in the world, like bees on caffeine, demons in cats and Chicks on Speed. In addition to female empowerment, the loose theme this week is the exploration of notions of our bodies in space and breaking down the barriers - whether

they be in art, media discourse or body-shape ideals - that constrict us to orthodoxies.

I await your angry letters with a Hole album playing in the background and a fierce determination to see change in my lifetime. In any case: kiss my fat arse.

Mariana Podesta-Diverio  
Editor-in-chief



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WOULD YOU RATHER...

ALWAYS SNEEZE FLOWERS?

OR

HAVE SKIN THAT TASTES LIKE  
NUTELLA WHEN LICKED?

FAQ:

**What type of flowers would I sneeze?**

*Blooms will be seasonal. Expect a lovely wattle in the winter, and a combination of chrysanthemums, gardenias and irises in the warmer months.*

**Does my skin have the calorie content of Nutella?**

*Yes, unfortunately. And you'd better start limiting those licks - you're getting a bit pimply there, buddy!*

# SOUND & FURY

## Fool full of fallacies

I'm writing in response to Laurence Jude's letter "dead wrong". Thank you for the comparison to John Stuart Mill. Since you were able to see his influence, I can only assume you are well versed in philosophy. I am therefore perplexed that you went on to construct a letter entirely out of logical fallacies. First up, the *ad hominem* attacks. The bulk of your letter consists of personal attacks directed at me. This is a poor way to argue, not addressing the actual points I made in my article but resorting to name calling. I could understand this if we had ever met and I had been rude to you, but I cannot recall ever speaking to you. I'm not sure what you are basing your hatred on. The other fallacy you use is to confuse the term "natural" with "good." You assert that necrophilia is "unnatural" and imply this is the reason it is morally wrong. In what way is it unnatural? It certainly occurs in nature, across a range of species including our own. Asserting that a behaviour is wrong because it is unnatural is an argument for people that have no argument, like religious zealots that assert homosexuality or stem cell research is "unnatural."

Thanks,  
Tom Raue (Arts IV)

## Smyth don't get Smith

I take objection to Lulu Smyth's review of Taylor Swift in last week's *Honi*. As I understand it, Ms Smith was of the opinion that Taylor Swift, at the age of 23, continues to behave immaturely and her most recent album is, allegedly, a reflection of that. Ms Smyth is mistaken. If she had bothered to acquire for herself a copy of *Red* then she would know that Taylor Swift has matured in both personality and music style. For example, in direct contrast to 'We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together' is 'All Too Well.' Were one not acquainted with Taylor Swift's biography one would not be likely to conclude that the lyrics "Time won't fly, it's like I'm paralyzed by it/ I'd like to be my old self again, but I'm still trying to find it/ After plaid shirt days and nights when you made me your own/ Now you mail back my things

and I walk home alone" are describing the same relationship. Then we have 'I Knew You Were Trouble' which showed Taylor Swift's ability to depart from her country roots and take an enjoyable foray into dubstep (done so well at the AMAs). Further, every one of Taylor Swift's critics seems to want her to write a song entitled 'Maybe I'm the Problem,' so Ms Smyth was hardly original in that respect. Allow me to answer Ms Smyth's jeer. She did write such a song, and she wrote it in 2010. It's called 'Back to December' and it's about her relationship with Taylor Lautner. There she sings "So this is me swallowing my pride/ Standing in front of you, saying I'm sorry for that night/ And I go back to December all the time." The lyrics speak for themselves. The great irony is actually that Ms Smyth thinks it somehow clever to suggest that Taylor Swift stop acting as if she were 15, probably in direct reference to her single, 'Fifteen' from her album *Fearless*. At the age of 19, Taylor Swift was able to inspire a generation of girls (and boys) with the message that though you might not know it at 15, in your life you will do greater things than dating the boy on the football team. I should hope Ms Smyth reconsiders her judgment in light of the evidence presented before her.

Regards,  
Nathan Li (Arts/Law V)

## Infiltration hath begun!

Dear Eds,  
I would like to personally congratulate you on your stunning and unprecedented infiltration of the Daily Telegraph. I may be a belligerent old undergraduate, but it warms the cold, dark recesses of my wizened heart to see your artistic flair and *joie de vivre* splattered across the pages of that once fine news stand standard. I should have known last August that the red, jammy terror would spread, and spread it has! How wonderful to see such paragons of dictatorial virtue adorning the pages of a nationally recognised 'news' outlet! This astonishing *coup d'etat* has truly made my day, for I know now that I can pick up a copy of the *Tele* and read some real goddamn journalism, for once. You will, undoubt-

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editors@honisoit.com

edly, lift the tone, tenor, and integrity of the 'newspaper' (or, as Campbell Reid would insist, 'tabloid,' but I know you Jammers would not sink so low). My kudos also to Dom Campbell, on his continued anagram virtuosity.

My very best regards,  
Sara Amorosi  
(Science/Arts VII [Hons])

## "Annoyed staffer" got it wrong

To "Annoyed Staffer" who was "looking on bemused" while hundreds of students rallied in support of the staff strike in week 1 and thousands more respected the strike by staying at home: you say that 90% of students understand higher education is a privilege, that demands to "protect our education" are nonsensical jingoism, and that this isn't the 60s anymore. Interesting argument, given that around 85% of students receive no government support whatsoever for that 'privilege', but almost a third of all jobs in Australia require a Bachelor Degree as a minimum qualification. Interesting argument, given that more underprivileged students are pumped through the University system than ever before, but it now takes 7.9 years to pay off our student debt (compared to just 8.5 months when HECS was first introduced). You scoff at the idea that "not being given a free place to live" is something to get riled up about, yet Sydney is the seventh most expensive city in the world and has the highest rental market in Australia. The fact is students are doing it tough – far tougher than the average student in the 60s. But the managers of universities are on the rampage cutting our courses, cutting jobs, casualising our staff, hitting us with more costs and fees at every turn, and stuffing our labs, tutorials and lecture theatres with more and more students. This has everything to do with why staff are striking. Casualised staff are easier to get rid of. Lecturers with no workload specifications may lose the opportunity to engage in research while they teach – is this 'higher' education or just more high school? Destroying the NTEU's bargaining rights means undermining the power of the Union which fought the job cuts last year. To students who are annoyed that staff are striking while you are paying obscene money for your education, I suggest you write a letter to the VC to ask, "how dare you charge me thousands of dollars for this degree, cut my staff and courses and pay yourself a \$167 000 bonus, then attack staff rights and refuse the NTEU's offer to resolve this dispute in 30 days or even sign a document (the Heads of Agree-

ment) outlining the principles on which you will negotiate?" But since I can guarantee your letter won't make an iota of difference to the opinion of this arrogant buffoon, think about who is really throwing your education to the dogs before you write off the next staff strike. Staff and students are on the same side here - so let's stand side-by-side in this fight for quality conditions and quality education.

Erima Dall (Arts V)  
Member of the Education  
Action Group

## Ooooooh Michael!

Heeeee's bat-tel-ling the Unions,  
Heeeee's fighting the damnable thugs!  
Heeeee's marching down Eastern  
Avenue,  
Crushing student dreams like bugs!

Chorus  
But ohhh, ohhh Michael! He's our  
Michael!  
Our dear beloved Spence!  
He's a terror who could be recycled,  
And given to UTS!

He barges through the pickets,  
Like a Rottweiler in heat,  
He buys no SUDS tickets,  
And sees students like cattle meat.

Chorus  
But ohhh, ohhh Michael! He's our  
Michael!  
Our dear beloved Spence!  
He's a terror who could be recycled,  
And given to UTS!

He's marching into classrooms,  
And turning tutes into 'seminars',  
But we all know, one thing's true,  
He'll never get our Manning Bar!

Chorus  
But ohhh, ohhh Michael! He's our  
Michael!  
Our dear beloved Spence!  
He's a terror who could be recycled,  
And given to UTS!

And when he is ancient history,  
We'll think of him fondly,  
Michael, you won't get your victory,  
For fighting us is folly!

Chorus  
But ohhh, ohhh Michael! He's our  
Michael!  
Our dear beloved Spence!  
He's a terror who could be recycled,  
And given to UTS!

Anonymous Liberal student

# HONI NEWS



FREE

Week Three Edition

"I'M JUST WAITING FOR A MATE"- JAMES



## College rejects queer group brochure

Georgia Kriz investigates the growing tension between colleges and their LGBTIQ residents

St John's College has refused to allow a brochure advertising the intercollegiate LGBT student network to be officially disseminated amongst its residents.

The Intercol Dragon Coalition, an organisation run for and by queer students living on campus, has had repeated requests to advertise within the College denied.

Edward McMahon, spokesperson for the Coalition and residential tutor at St John's, said that the group had originally been hoping to get a brochure distributed to first years during O-Week.

"We approached the college well before O-Week and had our request ignored," he said.

"At the first formal dinner of semester, I approached the Acting Rector Adrian Diethelm and asked to make an

announcement about the Coalition and leave the brochure at Reception. He said he 'wasn't sure' and that the brochure would have to undergo review by the College Council before it could be distributed."

"To my knowledge, it has still not been referred to the Council. It has been swept under the carpet and we have been ignored."

Acting Rector Diethelm said that he had made a decision to not allow the College crest to appear on the brochure, but denied having turned down any other requests from the group.

"We do not allow the crest to appear on anything other than official College documents," he said. "I have not heard anything else about the brochures."

"Edward did approach me at that for-

mal dinner and ask me something but, understandably, I could not hear him over the hubbub of over 200 students. I asked him to speak to me later, and he chose not to."

McMahon said he was "troubled" by the series of events. "Happily, the College culture of hazing that plagued the past has vanished, and it is a much more pleasant place to live," he said.

"Unfortunately, institutional oppressions continue to abound. O-Week has passed, and queer-identifying or questioning freshers were forced to navigate the cold sandstone halls of a heteronormative college alone."

A queer group at the Women's College has also had requests to advertise its events at St John's denied.

## NTEU to strike for 48 hours

Nick Rowbotham updates you on the NTEU's latest industrial action

Members of the University of Sydney branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) have voted almost unanimously in favour of a 48 hour strike on March 26 and 27.

According to branch President Michael Thomson, over 220 staff attended the NTEU's members' meeting last Thursday, with all but one voting for a 48 hour industrial action.

Picket lines will run from 7am on each of the two days, and there will be a rally at 4:30pm on the first day of the strike.

The 48 hour strike follows the Union's 24 hour strike in Week One, and looks set to be part of an ongoing industrial action, given the intransigence of university administration in negotiating with the union.

"I hope we don't need to take further industrial action," said Thomson.

But he told *Honi Soit* that the NTEU will continue to take industrial action unless the University signs the Union's Heads of Agreement document, which outlines the broad issues that the NTEU wants enshrined in the new Enterprise Agreement.

## Robots, lasers and USYD students

Ben Brooks reports on USYD's entry in the NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition

Nothing beats a space robot. Except a space robot with a laser.

In May, NASA will stage its fourth annual Lunabotics Mining Competition at the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. The contest requires teams to develop rovers capable of mining lunar regolith, while promoting interest in science, technology, and mathematics. A group of engineering virtuosos at the University of Sydney will compete this year with their 'Lunabot' – the first Australian team to do so.

Designed, tested, and built on campus, 'Lunabot' loosely resembles a no-frills version of NASA's *Curiosity* rover, with the raw functionality of a machine whose sole purpose is to shovel dust.

And, yes, it has a frickin' laser.

When *Honi* met with the Sydney Lunabotics team, they were assembled around a table strewn with wires and laptops. Equations were scribbled on the walls of their PNR Learning Hub pod, and take-away food containers littered the floor. It was a microcosmic Silicon Valley.

Predominantly third and fourth year students, the 16 undergraduates have worked almost full-time on the project since late last year, led by Daniel Linton and supervised by Dr Ali Goktogan.

To succeed in the test pit at Cape Canaveral, their 74kg rover must be able to drive over the temperamental quicksand that comprises the uneven lunar surface, navigate boulders, collect at



least 10kg of moon dust, and deposit it at a predetermined location. Points are awarded for the amount of regolith collected, and deducted for the weight of the robot. A substantial jackpot is also available for teams that field fully autonomous rovers. None of these have been successful, but the Sydney team hopes to be the first.

Reflecting on their chances against 50 other groups, from countries as diverse as Colombia, Tunisia and Bangladesh, Martin Cheung thinks Lunabotics is a "big contender." First prize – the \$5 000 aptly-named Joe Kosmo Award – would never recoup the \$15 000 cost of the robot. But for the team, the prize is in the process. "I've really come to respect the role of management," explains Felix Kong. He, Linton and Cheung agree that learning to coordinate different groups working on different sub-systems has been essential as they tune their final prototype.

The team has enthusiastically discharged its public outreach duties, with visits to high schools, representation at various space mining conferences, and an exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Asked why Australia has a near-invisible presence in the space technology industry, they cite an abundance of expertise but a lack of government incentives or public initiative. Outreach is a crucial part of the solution.

The competition is timely. The past year has seen personalities as varied as James Cameron, Larry Page and Eric Schmidt commit to space mining projects. Whatever the result, it is gratifying to see the University of Sydney visibly engage with institutions as exotic as NASA. Deep down, we all regret choosing essays, cases and accounting over extraterrestrial robotics.



# UNIGATE



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

## It begins... Union Board elections

The *Gate* can reveal the people most likely to run for Union Board this year and their campaign managers. For the Independents (the Voice bloc), Young National Kade Denton will be run by USU Campus Culture Director Penina Su, Tara Waniganayaka by current Board Director Hannah Morris, and Tim Matthews will be run by rising Indie star Liv Ronan. Tim is probably the most high-profile member of this group, having come nail-bitingly close to snatching the SRC presidency from NLS (Labor Left) in 2011.

Interestingly, Sydney University Liberal Club member Alexandra Brown looks set to run with the support of current Indie Board Director Karen Chau. The Libs may also select another candidate in the coming week.

NLS are yet to officially select their candidate(s), but the *Gate* understands that former SRC Women's Officer Annabel Osborn is the overwhelming favourite. The right faction of the Labor Party on campus, Student Unity, are likely to run Robby Magyar, one of this year's O-Week Directors, with backing from current Unity Board Director, John Harding-Easson.

Grassroots (a left wing group on campus) are likely to support Patrick Ward, as well as former *Honi* editor Bebe D'Souza. (Disclaimer: Bebe was the campaign manager for the current *Honi* editors.)

## SUMSA separates men and women

Last Wednesday the Sydney University Muslim Students Association held a barbecue near Manning with designated seating areas for men and women, which may conflict with Union and C&S policy on gender discrimination. The pricing structure and the promotional fliers indicate that SUMSA planned to apply for Union funding for the event (no member of the SUMSA executive responded to requests for clarification or comment). The C&S regulations stipulate that funding applications will not be processed for "any activities that discriminate based on sex." A member of the Union Board told the *Gate* the issue was "tricky," and that the Union would be looking into the matter.

Hannah Smith, Women's Officer for the SRC, said that they would not take a stance until they had contacted the women involved. While expressing personal disappointment, SRC Interfaith Officer Nathan Li said that "as long as this designation was not to the detriment of any members who attended and this designation did not prevent anyone who would have otherwise attended from attending," the problem did not warrant the SRC's attention. Travis McKenna, President of the Atheist Society, told the *Gate* that segregated seating "veils more subtle types of gender disparity with a discourse of 'modesty'. We should not be content for the USU to fund events that clearly contravene its policies," he said.

## *honi* advocates

*Honi Advocates* is a new section of the paper in which the editorial team pick one issue to focus on for an extended period of time. Our aim is to help shed light on a particular policy or problem that we believe has been under-examined by the mainstream media. The first issue we would like to explore is international students' rights.

When international students move to Australia to study they face a range of disadvantages. Those who receive only limited monetary assistance from home are left to finance their upfront fees, rent, and living expenses while studying. It is these unsubsidised fees that help pay for the rest of us to study. One of the greatest problems they face is finding affordable and appropriate accommodation.

Colleges remain woefully unaffordable for such students. After hundreds of dollars of application fees, membership, and bonds, the University of Sydney's International House still charges \$425 a week for its cheapest rooms. Because of visa restrictions, international students cannot work more than 20 hours a week, rent of that magnitude is often far beyond their means.

Locked out of the colleges and the other accommodation universities offer, students are forced to enter a rental market they have no experience with, in a city they don't know. Most end up taking this plunge.

Overcrowding and negligent (or outright abusive) landlords are a common problem. When Stephen moved from Indonesia to study in Sydney at ACL College, he couldn't afford the accom-

modation the college offered. Instead, he was forced to move into a two-bedroom apartment crowded with eight students. Research done on international students living conditions indicates Stephen's is a common experience. According to a study of Chinese international students studying at UNSW: "[a] common experience was living in a partitioned space or common area rather than a proper bedroom....More than half (55%) of survey respondents self-reported having lived in accommodation in Sydney that they perceived to be shared by too many people."

For others, affordable accommodation comes in the form of homestays. According to Jay Ng, University of Sydney SRC International Student Officer, this option is problematic. "Some families don't really care about the student, they just want the money," she said. On top of this, Jay said, cultural misunderstandings can cause tensions and homestayors often complain of intolerance on the part of their hosts.

With universities struggling to provide enough affordable accommodation for domestic students, it's a problem that will need serious time and resources to solve.

## OPINION

# Arts vs Science: Interfaculty Sport edition

Josh Tassell encourages SciSoc and SASS Sports Executives to give 110%

In stark juxtaposition to the good ol' Aussie sporting culture, USYD's own interfaculty sport, and indeed the wider on-campus sporting regimen, has been underpromoted in previous years. Interfaculty sport treads the fine line between being an SUSF promotion and a Clubs and Societies (C & S) initiative. This year sees a huge range of sports contested; from touch footy to tennis, ultimate frisbee, rock climbing, and a 5km run to wrap up the year.

Sports are managed under SUSF rules for gender quotas, as well as segregating sports where it's deemed necessary. SUSF provide the organisation of events, including bookings, equipment, and officials to keep the competition running smoothly. C&S, meanwhile, provide a structure and participants, that vital glue of any competition.

Linking the two are the Sports Executives from any given faculty society. To find out the plans for this year, we contacted the newly-elected Sports Execu-

tives from both SASS (Julian Hollis) and SciSoc (Mike Crawford and Alannah Craig). As Sports Executives, their roles are predominantly geared towards encouraging participation in interfaculty sport.

Hollis is an upbeat dude. The right kind of person to encourage people to have a go, someone who ran for his position because, very simply, "fun is good." He wants Arts students more involved and vying for the interfaculty title.

Furthermore, in a drastic improvement over the last year, he plans to take an active role as a Sports Director. +1. He's also hinted at the possibility of Quidditch events. +2.

SciSoc has their stuff together too. Crawford ran for the position under a genuine commitment that "sports could be a bigger part of the society." Events are to be expanded beyond weekly interfaculty sport, with the organisation of an intervarsity sports day with the science societies of other universities,

alongside casual SciSoc sporting events.

However, details, including dates for the expanded event list, are scarce. One of SciSoc's 'innovations' was to promote their events through the SciSoc newsletter and Facebook, rather than word of mouth and the ever-present SUSF posters advertising the camaraderie of interfaculty sport.

What I question is that while these promotional techniques have been commonplace for drinking events, why not sport? Is getting pissed on a Tuesday night more worthy of advertisement than lunchtime activity? Don't get me wrong, SciSoc's publicity progression is certainly desirable over stagnation, but there's something more that needs to be addressed here.

There's a massive amount of evidence supporting the inclusion of regular exercise, mixed with learning, to aid in the connection of synapses and retention of information. Perhaps advertising these types of events that can



Photo: Emily Hartman

promote learning, rather than just getting catatonic and forgetting everything you've just read about Heidegger, would be a great idea.

The Sports Executives combine the positives of gung-ho student positivity whilst trying to build up sport from a pretty lowly position within the university students' psyche. The rhetoric is what anyone involved in a club executive has heard time and time again – grand plans for greater involvement and a wider scope. Nonetheless, it's an encouraging step forward to see the Sports Executives committed to an expansion of their duties. Now it's a question of whether these plans will materialise.

NEWS IN REVUE

Caitlin Still is tuned in to the news

Combies in Canberra

The Reds are under the beds again,  
And Julia's hair is aflame,  
How will Gina R be  
The new Media Queen  
In the face of our national  
Bespectacled shame?

She's out to destroy  
Our media monarchy,  
With old Steven Conroy  
To spearhead the team,  
But on the question of bias,  
It's Labor to blame,  
Not Kimmy the King  
Or St. Rupert's fame

Just Juliar, in bed  
With her communist darlin',  
Steve's been delightin' her  
Dressed up as Stalin.

Pull your head in, PM!  
You won't get that far:  
Behind those thick glasses  
Can't you see who we are?  
You'd best kiss our arses  
And show some respect,  
We're tired of your ethics  
And callous neglect.

For what do we get?  
Just another red threat!  
Restrictions, reforms  
And a Soviet tsar!  
The country's gone commie,  
The plot's getting suss,  
In Soviet 'Straya,  
The news could read us.

Yes We Vati-Can  
Hark, hear, however!  
Here's a glimmer of hope,  
A billow of smoke,  
And we've got a new pope.  
(Again.)

Who cooks his own food,  
And catches the bus,  
And sans pointy hat,  
He could be one of us!  
(Excepting, solely,  
He's far more holy.)

Don't cry Argentina,  
Though he's going away,  
He'll bring our dear church  
Into these modern days,  
His ethnicity might give  
Our profile a raise,  
With a big-ass stick,  
To fight off the gays.

Oh Francis, please say  
That you'll stay for a while,  
You're the first to be named  
For our favourite zoophile.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Stephen Conroy isn't actually Stalin, discovers Madeleine King

*The Herald* switches to tabloid, *The Daily Telegraph* goes even more tabloid.

Last Tuesday the *Telegraph* sank below all precedents, adorning their front page with the announcement that Communications Minister Stephen Conroy had joined the ranks of the world's harshest dictators: Stalin, Castro, Mao, Kim Jong-Un, Mugabe, and Ahmadinejad.

This was apparently what *Telegraph* reporters had taken from a press conference held by the Minister, giving details about the Government's response to last year's media ethics inquiries (the Convergence Review and Finkelstein Inquiry).

When the straws were drawn to front up to an interview with 7:30, News Ltd Director Campbell Reid must have drawn short. Unblinking in the face of a classic Leigh Sales performance, Reid defended the front page as deliberately 'provocative', in keeping with the paper's tabloid style.

"You can be provocative and interesting, you just can't be unfair [and inaccurate]," Sales replied. "Stalin didn't pop up legislative packages for people to pass through parliament; he just rounded up people with opposing views and executed them."

*The Telegraph's* delicate sensibilities have been offended by legislation that would, among other things, appoint a Public Interest Media Advocate (PIMA). The advocate would apply a public interest test to proposed media business mergers and monitor the effective functioning of self-regulating print standards bodies.

"The advocate would oversee the

Press Council, the main vehicle for complaints about the print media, and could take back exemptions from privacy laws afforded to journalists to report valid news stories," their front page read.

Well, not quite. While the Press Council would have to declare itself to the advocate (government), it would only be to ensure functionality: that it reflected community standards of news and current affairs, had an appropriate complaints handling system, arrangements to publish decisions and apologies, and operated with a sustainable funding model.

Conroy has unequivocally denied the claims of second world censorship. "[The legislation] keeps the government out of print regulation, and the government will not fund or oversee press standards bodies. They will be run, funded and overseen by the industry itself." While it's no guarantee of absolute separation from media regulation, it probably couldn't have been more transparent: this is not an attack on 'free' (read: journalists') speech.

Yet *Telegraph* reporters conveniently missed Conroy's quote in their copy, and his assertion that exemptions from the privacy laws would still be available.

The real teeth of the PIMA would be in the approval of media mergers to ensure diversity of news voices and mitigate the tendencies of certain parent news companies to monopolise multiple media platforms. Something *The Telegraph* should know all about, with Daddy (News Ltd.) owning what is thought to be around 70% of newspapers produced in cities across Australia.

The Daily Telegraph



Even more biased than Honi Soit

Self interest aside, Reid did raise an interesting point: "I challenge the Prime Minister to give a specific example ... of where free regulation and self-regulation [has] broken down." And it's true: Australia's regulatory system has not shown the same level of incompetence as the British *News of the World* / Jimmy Saville ethics scandal which prompted last year's media inquiries.

This aside, the proposed legislation appears tokenistic; a nod toward the previous year's attempts to localise the issues brought up with *News of the World*. Conroy has given parliament just two weeks to push through the legislation, a move most have interpreted as revealing the government's lack of confidence in it passing. So *The Tele* can breathe easy: 'valid' news stories will remain untouched, and hyperbole—the refuge of the ignorant—will remain firmly in the paper's daily repertoire.

Seymour Centre gets seedy

Samantha Jonscher won't be enrolling her daughter in RG Dance

In a corner of the Seymour Centre last November, a mother pinches her child's nose while she bathes her in a mist of industrial-strength hairspray. "Okay, honey, go get 'em," she says as her child disappears into a crowd of eager theatre patrons.

She re-emerges seconds later, waist-high, in front of a gentleman waiting at the bar. "Hi! My name is Haley. I'm seven. Will you follow me on Facebook?"

I watch as, without hesitation, Haley jerks her seven-year-old leg up into the air, swivels it, and rests it behind the crook of her neck. The man is suitably impressed and takes down her name, presumably to 'like' her on Facebook later.

This all took place in the twenty-minute interval of the RG Dance spectacular, RGXLR8. I had just witnessed the courting ritual that Haley and the

50 other dancers are all too well-versed in. RG Dance promises to turn these little girls into stars by not only rendering them hyper-flexible and toned, but also by making them into social media climbers.

I'm informed later by a self-proclaimed "dance mum" that the girls with the most followers on Instagram and the most 'likes' on Facebook by Christmas will secure themselves the opportunity—for a fee—to tour the US with the dance company. Competition is fierce. The leading dancer, she tells me, has over 3 000 Facebook 'likes'.

While neither you nor I may have ever heard of them, RG Dance have a devoted web following of over 33 000 people in the US and Australia. Though they are outsiders to the professional dance industry in Australia, the dancers believe that they are truly stars in the making.

Tickets to the performances are not cheap, ranging from \$30-\$60 each. For \$60, the V.I.P. package gets you premium seats, along with the coveted opportunity to meet the 'stars' after the show, take photos with them, and grab their autographs. The demand for these tickets is high. After the show, 30 odd people are led to stage door as "V.I.P.s". Many are mums with their children, totting plastic cameras, but some of the excited fans are older men and women who are there alone, clasping photos of their favorite starlets for autographs in eager excitement.

RG Dance is relatively new and is breaking into a market full of well-established and world-renowned names. To their credit, the dancers love the attention, the 'fame' and when asked, they offer only earnest praise of the studio. But what happens after RG? There is only so much room at the top.



## The Pope of new hope?

Andrew Bell makes his predictions for the new papacy

Pope Francis I has ascended to his position in a time of child abuse scandals, declining church membership, and factional infighting among Cardinals petulantly discrediting each other by fuelling allegations relating to these exact scandals. He is the first Pope to be elected from outside Europe in an extremely long time and to many he represents the face of church reform.

But it is safe to say that most people reading this will not care. And you're not supposed to. Most of the people that do are on the next continent. Latin America has 43.1% of the world's Catholic population, and has been fairly unlucky in not claiming the papacy earlier than this.

There, the Catholic Church is reported on without the (seemingly mandatory) vocabulary of abuse and scandal.

This is the point of the rebranding. Francis is supposed to consolidate power in a supporter base that is more about the golden age of charity and piety than the modern tangle with corruption and disgrace.

Interestingly, Francis (formerly Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio) was the runner up in the last papal elections, and was reported to have been glad that he'd missed out because he wouldn't have to deal with the internal machinations of the Curia. That's the difficulty of being an outsider in Italy – he is less likely to

be able to deal with internal politics despite looking like a fresh face that can change global perceptions.

It is unlikely that he will be able to change the Vatican. People who will appreciate the slightly unorthodox shows of humility that he made in his first public appearance are likely to be the people who were strong Catholics in the first place. It is clear that he holds a pivotal role in public relations for the next decade, but if the Church becomes complacent, or rests on the assumption that he can bear the brunt of the scandals without institutional reform, this papacy will very much resemble the last.



Avoiding the impacts of erosion will be a major concern for the new Pope

## Architecture faculty has structural problems

Cuts to key courses hurt students and faculties alike, writes Samuel Small

In late February, the Faculty of Architecture, Design, and Planning abandoned a promise made to students to maintain the number of scheduled class contact hours in the Bachelor of Design in Architecture.

'Studio' is the affected unit of study. It is also the core creative design subject in every undergraduate architecture course in Australia. It is understood that lecturers were allowed to choose which weeks to omit from their teaching schedule. Third year students have drawn the short straw and lost the first four weeks of semester, meaning students will not work face to face with their tutors until April 12. While different year groups have lost contact hours at different stages throughout the semester, more than 20 hours have been cut out of each year of the degree.

The cut backs are just the most recent problem to have besieged the depart-

ment. *The Sydney Morning Herald* revealed last year that Faculty Dean, Professor John Redmond, had guaranteed admission to students from other universities if they opted to study at the University of Sydney. This was in breach of the University Admissions Centre's ethics guidelines. The move was followed by the resignations of senior academics, including the Head of Architecture, who claimed that the Dean's position had become untenable, and demanded his resignation or dismissal. Neither were forthcoming.

At the end of 2012, the Faculty Board approved changes to the Design Studio unit structure. This was in the form of an optional elective extension unit that effectively doubles the unit's fees and credit points without increasing contact hours or resources. The suite of art electives was also thinned. Both were done without student consultation, demonstrating a flagrant disregard for univer-

sity policies like the Academic Board Policy on Consultation with Students.

Student opposition to these changes led to a town hall style meeting on December 4 for faculty executive to address students' concerns about non-adherence to student consultation policies.

The meeting produced an FAQ document, published on the faculty website on December 17, stating that, "in Semester 1 of 2013 ... your contact hours with teaching staff will not be reduced" and that the faculty would consult with students prior to any "major amendments" to units of study. These promises were either undertaken without real commitment, or very quickly forgotten.

The faculty claims that these reductions are in the spirit of the FAQ document and assurances given to the faculty society, the Sydney University Designers' Association, at the end of 2012. Stu-

dents expect that the faculty will argue that the changes do not constitute a major amendment to the course. SUDA undergraduate representative Michael Baker said that, "the loss of one third of contact hours in our most important design subject cannot be treated so lightly," emphasising that the faculty has an obligation to adhere to the intent of student consultation policies.

It has been suggested that the tutorial cutbacks are a consequence of the faculty's lack of academic research, which is relatively low compared to the rest of the university, and that the 20 contact hours students will be denied can be set aside for the production of publishable work by academics within the faculty.

If this proves to be the case, the faculty would do well to remember that their prestige is indebted to the quality of the education they provide as much as the quantity of research.

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## DA FUQ?

## Pet exorcisms

Jaimie Summerfield wants to hug every cat - unless it's possessed

Even Jesus can't hug every cat. According to exorcist and rising reality star Brother Carlos, some cats "got demon!" Yep, even our furriest of friends can become possessed by demonic spirits. While this might explain the ungodly evil that is the Nyan cat, I'm not totally convinced. I mean my cat - living with her sin-loving, sabbath-working, leavened-bread-eating owners - should be fit to burst with demonic badness. But she seems perfectly normal. Her head doesn't spin. Her fur-balls aren't green. She doesn't even play piano with the puppet arms I made. Is pet possession just another example of religious alarmism in our oh-so paranoid age? Meow once for 'yes'.

Surely kooky cat antics, captured on video and spread on the internet, are a force for good. There's a subtle yet pervasive power in the hilarity of a cat riding a robotic vacuum cleaner. But Brother Carlos seeks to destroy this. To spread suspicion. To topple the Rumba Cat and all his motorised brethren. In his own YouTube Cat video, Brother Carlos explains how we can check our cats for "demonisation." If a whiff of anointed frankincense sends sylvester a-twitching you've got yourself a possessed pet. Yet, with cats ranking somewhere between meth addicts and Michael J Fox when it comes to twitchiness, I can't see any cat passing the "do not react while I make you smell oil" test.



This cat got demon

The internet is now being flooded with non-funny cat videos, as paranoid cat-owners proclaim the possession of their pets. And all from the religious instruction of a guy, who despite the outfit, isn't even a priest. Picture Father Ted with a bad spray tan and a hair transplant from Simon Cowell. Now that's unholy! Twenty years from now, in the end times of the cat-pocalypse, as you're standing knee deep in tiny cat skeletons, surveying the post-nuclear wasteland - remember Brother Carlos. Corrupter of man and denier of cat love.

You weren't there, man

## Shedding light on Mormonism

Avani Dias writes about her experience of the religion



Brigham Young University Campus in Utah

Mormonism is Christianity's ultra conservative baby cousin. It was created in Illinois in 1830 by Joseph Smith, the quintessential white guy. He was arrested thirty times due to his beliefs and was once tarred and feathered. Smith was shot to death in 1844 and became a martyr. The initial persecution of Mormons is reminiscent of Islamophobia today. The Mormon faith is beautifully American, "we believe that... Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent," states the tenth article of the Mormon faith. After Smith's death, Brigham Young made an executive decision to move the religion to the American West. When I drove through the primeval state earlier this year, it really did feel like Zion: trickling streams, boulders perfectly balanced on top of one another and eroded rock formations that seemed simply unbelievable. A redneck man with a long beard and top hat or a woman with an ankle length skirt and twelve kids would have fit in perfectly. But I didn't see any of the caricatures of Mormons that I expected to see. On the second day of our trip, we drove past Brigham Young University, the largest religious university in the USA. You can imagine how alien this campus must be to an Australian student. Upon my return to Sydney, I decided to put my thoughtless assumptions of the religion to the test. I spoke to my Mormon equivalent, Rebecca Lane, who is in her senior year at BYU and edits the student newspaper, *The Universe*. After speaking to a real Mormon for half an hour, it became evident that as illogical and ridiculous as this religion may appear to be, the people that it produces aren't as crazy as I once thought.

Rebecca started the conversation by telling me how she ended up at BYU. "People in my hometown of Colorado

thought it was odd that I only wear skirts that fall below the knee and that I refuse to wear tank tops and tight clothes." I had previously heard that even skinny leg jeans were banned at the college, but that was not officially the case. A specific type of underwear, the temple garment, helps remind Mormons of the promises that they have made to God.

BYU's equivalent of Manning or Hermanns is 'The Wall'. It prides itself on its 'stone bar,' where all drinks are non-alcoholic. You can buy standard soft drinks - although caffeinated energy drinks are frowned upon - and you can even try some fruit slushies and ice cream floats!

For someone that values the freedom of expression and choice that I have had by attending Sydney University, I was interested to see if Rebecca felt like she was missing out on anything in life by attending such a strictly religious educational institution. "You miss out on pop culture, I guess you could say. But no I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything really. You learn to have fun without alcohol encouraging us to in our systems... I'm fine with myself to the extent that I can jump around with people and just laugh and have a good time." She had a confidence that conveyed an acceptance of who she was instead of an expression of delusion.

I was also interested in the missionary service that is central to the religion. At BYU, over 46% of the student population travel to a foreign country as "messengers of the Lord." It is not as essential for women as it is for men, but Rebecca decided to participate at the age of 21. This has been a vital feature of Mormonism since it was created. Seven years after the church was set up, it was sending missionaries all over the world. Rebecca was called to St Petersburg, Russia. Her only previous knowledge of the

country was from the movie *Anastasia* and her knowledge of the language was limited to the word 'dasvidanya' (good-bye). "You get three months in what's called the Missionary Training Centre where you learn the lessons you'll teach and they give you three months of Russian instruction," she told me. Rebecca was thrown into the deep end, having to teach in Russian from the moment she stepped off the plane. "That was a very hard time. There's a lot of hostility. A lot of people don't want you there and tell you to go home, and you're like, 'well okay, but I'm going to stay.'" Well, you get what you give, right? I would have previously viewed this as Rebecca's own doing - what did she expect when she was spreading the words of an absurd piece of fiction? Instead, I found myself empathising with her and feeling glad that her 18 months overseas were not completely worthless. "I've seen people that have had incredible drinking problems and they've been able to give that up and have a better family life and a better life in general because of learning to believe in God," she said.

Rebecca was shocked by the level of cultural diversity at USYD and genuinely asked me if I have a kangaroo as a pet. I didn't really represent anything that her religion would condemn, and maybe that's why we could have a really interesting and pleasant conversation. But as bizarre as it may be, with 13 million followers and counting, Mormonism remains one of the fastest growing religions in the world. In Rebecca's words, "the thing is that Mormonism, well it's not very well known. There have been a lot of questions with people that haven't found answers and they don't actually ask Mormons when they seek these answers. The biggest thing that I think we encounter is misunderstanding."

# A Silver Lining to mental health discourse

Anita Maritz looks at the depiction of mental illness in film

'Excelsior!' is exactly the way I feel about *Silver Linings Playbook*. Nominated for 8 Academy awards, is all the approbation merited?

Media is a prime supplier of simple views, and mental illness is a notoriously biased and misrepresented subject within it. Film is especially powerful in crystallising stereotypes due to its ability to appeal to intellect and emotion simultaneously. Although *Silver Linings* gives a more accurate and approachable account of mental health, we still require more information and education around a most pressing and rife condition in modern society.

Mental illness is common. According to the World Health Organisation, one in four people suffer from a mental illness. It is broad. From autism, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse, to bipolar mood disorder, trauma, eating disorders and dementia, mental illness comes in varying degrees. Pause for a moment and notice what feelings are evoked when you read the words: crazy, mental, illness, insane. Perhaps your stomach turns when these two words are placed together: mental and illness.

It is an irony, that you can be physically ill and approachable, yet mentally ill and not. If you told your friends you had the flu you'd have a very different reaction to telling them you're experiencing depression.

What is so fantastic about *Silver Linings Playbook* is that it creates a new frame in which to unpack the conversations that we should be having as families, friends, and communities. It also offers us some really attractive role models: Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Chris Tucker, and Robert De Niro. This might seem small in consequence, or superficial, but it is true. Christian Bale is hot, but did you want to be, or know him, in *American Psycho*? The cast was the linchpin in this film. The audience's ability to affiliate with these characters is the very turn needed to redefine our relations with mental health.

The story itself is quite simple. Unlike *Psycho* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, the film doesn't use mental illness to create drama. Still emotional and troubling as much as it is funny and romantic, the film tells the every day story about mental illness, poignantly. Potentially an antidote to *Cuckoo's Nest* – one of the greatest cinematic stigmas on mental illness – it offers an honest and entirely necessary message about the prevalence and more nuanced reality of mental health.

We follow Pat (Bradley Cooper) who has just returned from eight months in a psychiatric ward. Occasionally in denial of his bipolar disorder, we quickly learn that Pat is no less "crazy" than his OCD father (Robert De Niro),

enabling mother (Jacki Weaver), and amongst others his best friend Ronnie (John Ortiz) who likes to play Metallica and beat his fists against the basement wall. At times uncomfortable in their outbursts, without removing any severity from the subject, the film elegantly weaves mental illness through the storyline.

The illnesses don't define the characters, a huge progression in this genre, nor are they the main point of the film. Rather, the film highlights individual's abilities to assume responsibility – physical, medical and emotional support – and tells the very real story of how these individuals cope, connect with one another, and redirect their lives in a more constructive way.

Faced with the option of telling an interesting story or educating, mass media finds itself in a strait jacket. Drama is not difficult; sensationalism is much easier than giving an honest account. Audiences renounce the banal. They want to be entertained. Which perhaps is why mental health oscillates between drama and comedy. In comparison to last year's horrendously dimwitted *Mental* to the extremes of *Psycho*, *Silver Linings Playbook* sits neat in the middle of entertainment rich with the ability to begin to dismantle a historically powerful stigma.

We need new role models. We need

new frameworks and storylines that elucidate what it means to be human in modern society. We all experience varying degrees of illness: a disease or period of sickness affecting the body or mind.

When I teach yoga, ever so often I will ask students to close their eyes. With your eyes closed, I say, point to you. Without fail every person in the room points to their chest, where their heart is. Not one person ever points to their head. It is puzzling. It is obvious that our thoughts and actions are in some way severely misaligned.

As a society we place enormous value on mental faculty, which perhaps accounts for why mental illness is ridiculed, dismissed, feared, marginalised and ignored. "We desperately need a compassionate reality check against our exaggerated fears of people with mental illness," Dr. Jeffrey Lieberman, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry at Columbia University, told CNN. It takes courage for people to admit that they need help and healing.

Although it still falls into the 'make light of rom-com category' *Silver Linings Playbook* plays an important role in liberating mental health. It shows the prevalence as well as the practicality available in dealing with this every day disease, a major feat in the portrayal of mental health in film, and for that reason is every bit deserving of all its accolades. It's crazy good.

## "Sluts" and Sunrise

Hannah Smith looks at the sexist narratives that continue to plague media commentary

Last Wednesday morning, I happened to click on a video link posted on the *Sunrise* Facebook page: "Father stands up to drunk girls." The video shows two young, drunk women at McDonalds, throwing food around and laughing. Next, a man enters and pulls both women away from the counter, making one girl fall to the floor. He loudly tells them to "stop behaving like sluts" and continues to drag them back to their seats where he berates them for at least a few more minutes.

After this, it cuts back to Kochie and the rest of the presenters who congratulate 'John' on his bravery in standing up to these dangerous and menacing characters. Kochie references 'terrible' new statistics, which say that incidences of binge drinking are increasing amongst young women. To finish, Samantha Armytage cautions the 'girls' watching against getting drunk: "girls, look at that video, it's not attractive."

This clip is reflective of larger social

narratives about women, violence and alcohol. Consider the title of the clip: "Father stands up to drunken girls." Why do we need to know that he is a father? Does this carry more weight than 'person'? Using 'stands up' implies that there is something dangerous about women being drunk, and referring to them as girls implies that drunkenness strips them of their womanhood.

By congratulating John on national television, Kochie is sending a message to men that it is okay to act aggressively toward women who are behaving in a disorderly way. It sends a message that paternalistic acts of violence are good in defense of 'proper behaviour'.

There also exists a harmful double-standard in this presentation. John admits that he wouldn't have intervened had the disruptive young people been men. This sends a message to young women that only they should be reprimanded and shamed for their drunkenness. By calling them 'sluts' he implies

WELL BEHAVED WOMEN,  
RARELY MAKE SUNRISE.



Cartoon: Rose McEwen

that girls who are not sitting at home, knitting and in bed by 10 are somehow less worthy of respect.

When Samantha says "it's not attractive," she is telling young women that their sole objective should be gaining the attention of men.

This type of incident happens all the time. Women are regularly reprimanded

for acting in ways which are not considered adequately dainty. What is notable about this incident is its implications and its message to young women: If you are drunk it's okay for you to be called a slut, thrown around and shamed on national television.

# Scoping the landscape

FIRST PERSON

Hal Conyngham did so, and she didn't look back

There is a small park near Redfern station that I almost always stop by on my way to university. It lies between two townhouses and bears the same shape as them; there are three or four wooden steps leading up to the grass and a large, overgrown tree before the fence.

"It's a church garden," a friend announced when I first took him there. "It has exactly the same dimensions as a church - the trees behind us an archway, the ferns and fence the stained-glass windows, and the tree - why, the tree is an altar."

At the time the sky was overflowing with grey and the altar-leaves were straining against the wind. We stood in the centre of the garden and held hands. I had never felt closer to god, nor farther away from religion.

I fell for Australia when I was sixteen. My family and I were driving out of the city to Penrith - the land still scarred from the bushfires that had razed my aunt's house to the ground and melted her belongings (I still own a Dali-esque wine bottle) - and as we moved through the bleak landscape I saw a dead tree to the left of the car. Its branches, devoid of leaves or life, were splayed like veins across the deep blue of the sky and for the first time in my life I didn't want to move to Europe.

I came to it late - I had already loved France and Greece and the British Isles most all my life with what I thought was passion and verve; now that feels young and immature. I don't believe it to be false, but in comparison to what I feel for this country they were high school crushes.

We caught a train to Circular Quay, still under a sky greyer and more passionate than England. It never rained

but it should have. I caught the clouded sun behind an unlit street lamp and watched the illusion until my eyes forced me to turn away. The landmarks looked like ancient cracked porcelain beneath the lack of brightness.

I have always held love for old things. My favourite body parts - ribs aside - are elderly fingers and the wrinkled skin around old men's eyes. And this land holds it too. For while in terms of Western society Australia is young, it feels incredibly old. Already almost dead; the imagery is all of death. The eucalyptus trees are white bones sticking the body of the soil, the desert is oblivion and the sunsets are the bushfires that so often blight the landscape.

I find it difficult to agree with my friend about the garden. I am not religious; I have never worshipped a god and have been to church only twice in my lifetime - this construct could hardly have entered my subconscious so entirely. That is not why I feel at peace here. As an adolescent I believed that worship could not exist without love, and to a point I believe that still; I feel something akin to both for this country.

After the step through the tree-arch I feel behind closed doors; as if I could sleep, or scream, or perform the most intimate and secret acts without interruption. And yet open. And yet closed. I draw my eyes closed and breath in, and with breath enters strength. It fills me and grounds me - an internal stability; unmanic, earthy. I fear one day it will pass through me - that I will turn to air, or the cracks will grow so big they cannot hold, or the garden will turn to something fire and immaterial. But until then I set these worries to rest, and I sit and read aloud.



Photos: Patrick Horton

## Coffee Beans

Lachlan Munro drinks from the sweet nectar of science



Cartoon: Mikaela Bartels

A paper published in the journal *Science* last week has found that caffeine in the nectar of some flowers can improve bee's memories.

As anyone who has ended up all jittery after abusing the free Rockstars at O-Week can tell you, too much caffeine is toxic. Normally plants have caffeine in their leaves and seeds as a way to paralyse and/or kill parasitic insects. However scientists have also discovered low levels of caffeine in the nectar of some flowers.

In case memorizing your timetable for this semester has led you to delete high school biology from your memory bank, here's a quick refresher. Nectar is a sweet juice that flowers make to attract insects carrying pollen, which is the way they fertilise each other. This is why the discovery of caffeine in nectar is so puzzling: why would plants poison their helpful little sex surrogates?

Scientists believe the levels of caffeine in nectar are low enough to only

be giving the bees a bit of a buzz (sorry). The researchers gave bees a mixture of sugar with a particular floral scent, with or without caffeine. They then tested how well the bees could remember the smell in the mixture. They found that the bees jacked up on nature's Red Bull were much better at recalling the scent than those who weren't. The advantage to the flowers is that the better bees are at remembering where to find them, the better their chances of getting some pollen all up in dat.

The same scientists also conducted an experiment on how bees feel about the taste of caffeine. They found that plants have evolved over millions of years to brew the caffeine hit into irresistible deliciousness. Like most humans, bees find drinks with too much caffeine bitter and won't drink them. The research found that nectar had caffeine at doses high enough to give the bees a bit of a kick, but still kept it as tasty as possible. Kind of like what Campos does.



## ROUGH SLEEPERS

Jeremy Elphick is lying in the gutter, looking at the stars.

“I’m not homeless, I’m just down here to have a smoke,” says a forty-something man, with uneven stubble, refusing to make eye contact throughout most of the conversation.

My partner for the Street Count was on a first name basis with the man, and they cheerfully bantered for a couple of minutes. He seemed aware that neither of us believed him when he said he had a place to sleep, but at the same time, he was reluctant to discuss the matter any further.

There was something else that was evident throughout the short chat we had: he wasn’t stupid, and far from it, just “troubled”, as my partner put it after we moved further down George Street. He wasn’t lacking wit by any measure, making humorous jibes at me and my partner for doing volunteer work at 2am.

“I’m fine, though, I’ll go upstairs after my cigarette”.

When we walked back up the street an hour later, the man was asleep on a mattress half a block up the road.

While there are hundreds of rough sleepers in Sydney, the reality of the number of those in a permanent state of uncertainty is barely visible throughout the day, and even most hours of the night.

There’s a myriad of organisations that offer rough sleepers a place to have daily showers as well as utilities to wash their clothes with. When you walk through the CBD, chances are you’ll see less than ten homeless people – hardly representative of the real issue.

Although the latest street count showed the number of rough sleepers having fallen from 310 last February to 269 this February, the City of Sydney results posit that “the number is expected to rise this winter as two of the main ‘street-to-home’ housing initiatives reach capacity.”

The numbers are hard to picture because chances are, when you walk through the CBD you don’t notice anywhere near 250 homeless people. You’d probably be hard pressed to see more than 10.

In a way, this pushes the issue of homelessness to the backs of the collective mind of most Sydney citizens. There are charities and organisations that exist to combat it, but there isn’t the bulk of volunteering and government aid to reduce and eventually eliminate those without a place to sleep in Sydney.

On a hypothetical level, if a person were to walk through the city and see the amount of rough sleepers that inhabit it in the early hours of the morning, the resolve for community action would be far greater and significantly more constant.

The issue is also ignored for a reason that exists simultaneously with the invisibility of homelessness, present on a more psychological level.

In reality, a single person can’t give money to every homeless person they see, and in response, many enter a state of forced ignorance, pushing the issue of homelessness to the back of their mind. You might convince yourself that “they’ll just spend it on drugs or alcohol” or that “they’re unable to change their

circumstances with a dollar”.

This isn’t consistent with reality. The highest cause of homelessness is domestic and family violence, followed by financial and housing stress, with drug abuse and alcoholism often being a result rather than a cause.

In 2012, the Homeless Persons Information Centre (HPIC), which caters to approximately 160 people a day seeking urgent accommodation, received 58 664 calls for assistance. Out of this, 45 448 were unable to find anywhere to sleep, and were calling in regards to that. Over 6 000 of these calls came from single parents with children.

On a quantitative level alone, the HPIC data shows that homelessness continues to be a severe issue in Sydney. The widely perpetuated view of homelessness as a temporary issue, along with a perception of the homeless as ‘addicts’ or ‘low life’ characters unable to change their circumstances, is far from reality and exists as one of the major barriers to combating one of Sydney’s most pressing issues.

## Smells like the spirit of fascism

OPINION

Is this shit natural? asks **Brigitte Garozzo**

Don’t lie. There’s been that one person you’re into, and you’re into them so much that you don’t really mind the smell they have after 10 hours of intense exercise. But then they go and screw that up with the sweet smelling goo that is deodorant.

Well, that’s what deodorant does. It ruins lives. It ruins the beautiful, intense relationship you have with that special someone’s sweat glands.

But seriously, deodorant is weird. When I wear it, I feel like I’m adding to the layers of policing that are already being placed onto my body, not only by myself and the people around me, but by society at large.



Hours and hours of time dedicated to: putting on make-up, swishing deodorant, spraying perfume, rubbing-

in moisturiser, plucking hairs, shaving underarms/legs/vagina; it’s enough to push you to the brink.

Take a step back and think about it: you spend hundreds or thousands of dollars over a lifetime on a sickly sweet gunk that you slop on yourself in the vain hope that you might make a slightly better impression on your fellow commuters or friends.

Some days, I just wake up and feel like having a day off. Fuck it. My smell is natural so why should I suppress it? But then, the other side of my brain is saying “but, is what is ‘natural’ always the best thing for us?” Similarly, when I’m sitting on the bus, next to some-

one with incredibly pungent body odour, I’m often praying that they would just jump out of the bus window and leave my nose alone.

“... that’s what deodorant does. It ruins lives.”

So, is our hate of body odour socialised or biologically predetermined? Take a moment to be critical of the notion of what is ‘natural’ and move beyond your burning nose hairs.

Regardless of what the answer is (socialisation, you idiot) it won’t stop me from rolling on the Rexona now and then.

# ARTS & CULTURE

## CHICKS ON SPEED: DIGITAL RIOT GRRRL

### REVIEW

Mariana Podesta-Diverio wishes she had a fluorescent guitar shoe

Few bands have the ability to successfully merge genres and artistic mediums in order to fuck with their audience's understanding of what music, particularly live shows, can achieve. Chicks on Speed, formed in Munich in 1997, is one such ensemble. The multi-disciplinary group's penchant for combining textiles, music, art, and a DIY performance ethic serves to sculpt a multi-media aesthetic that embodies riot grrrl culture in the digital epoch of the 21st century.

Mere days after performing a sold-out show at the Red Rattler Theatre, their latest exhibition, *SCREAM*, opened last Wednesday at Artspace in Woolloomooloo. *SCREAM*'s opening night featured a number of different channels that allowed the audience to interact with installations. Instead of a conventional stage, a multi-layered platform with ropes and moveable objects was littered with a combination of orthodox and DIY musical paraphernalia. The amount of meticulous effort that Chicks on Speed put into crafting unique 'objekt instruments', a series of homemade musical objects which includes brightly coloured stilettos with guitar strings, was evident. Their employment of both acoustic and electronic percussion filled the space with punchy rhythm as they played a short set to an audience surrounding the multi-sided stage. The set opened with a spoken-word reading that rapidly dove into a sea of dual vocals and electronically produced distortion.

However, the band's set wasn't the

most exciting part of the opening. Roving 'lycra ladies', clad in bright colour explosions and body paint, were employing the Chicks on Speed iPad app which includes a feature that captures live footage of gallery-goers and projects it onto a wall, therefore making the audience a part of the exhibition itself. One wall, featuring a colourful mixed-media tapestry covering touch-sensitive panels, produced different musical notes and sound samples when activated.

Before attending this opening I thought that I was somewhat cultured, but I was wrong. I know nothing about art or what it is capable of achieving, even after undergoing one of the biggest and most mind-opening brainfucks I've ever experienced at the hands of multidisciplinary art. Australian art has a long way to go before it is remotely capable of being on par with the work of ensembles like Chicks on Speed, who identify not as artists, but rather as "multidisciplinary workers in the field of culture." There is nothing that makes contemporary art more intriguing than a continued breakdown of disciplinary barriers. Chicks on Speed do this with a flawless virtuosity.

*SCREAM* is open until April 21 and is not to be missed.

*Chicks on Speed* have just been commissioned to write a performance piece for the Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, Germany. The exhibition will take up residency at Carriage-works in 2014. Their album, *SCREAM*, is due for release later this year.

The Bridge of No Return: connects North and South Korea at the DMZ.  
Photo: Hamish Macdonald

# hontiki

PHOTO OPS for OBNOXIOUS 18-35's

*Recommends...*

## NORTH KOREA

Thomas O'Brien encourages the tourist who's seen it all, and blogged about it, to take on North Korea

Done the Europe gap-yah? Want something more extreme to upload to Facebook than pictures of yourself building an orphanage in Africa? Desperately seeking an experience that'll make you deeper and more worldly? If you're like so many annoying young tourists who travel as much for the experience as they do for the opportunity to bore their friends with photos and tales about said experience, then I offer you the trip to end all trips. What I give you is a trip so extreme, so unusual, that you will automatically trump all of your friends' banter about how they really connected to the French countryside in the one day they spent there on their latest Contiki holiday.

Presenting: North Korea.

there. I can log on to Facebook right now and easily find photos of 30 different friends posing in front of the Eiffel Tower, admittedly including myself. But imagine yourself posing in front of Ryugyong Hotel, also known as the Hotel of Doom, due to the fact it has been in construction since 1987 and the elevators are supposedly architecturally unaligned. Now that's alternative! The pyramid shaped hotel is currently the largest uninhabited structure in the world, and so, safety concerns aside, it would be ten times cooler than the Spanish Steps (seriously, they're just stairs. I don't get it).

The Pyongyang Metro boasts an incredible art deco display in many of its stations, with socialist murals and grand

stories you could tell at 21sts would definitely appeal. I can almost guarantee that the uniqueness of this trip will result in someone finding you more interesting. The boring, the vain and the lonely; take note.

But for all the treasures North Korea offers, there are also a lot of restrictions, which arguably adds elements of danger and intrigue to the all important post travel blog/tweets/statuses/stories. You'll sound a bit like James Bond, except probably with a lot less sex and violence.

The first restriction to greet you is your guide, who you will have to have with you at all times, literally everywhere except within your hotel grounds. These

enough reputation in the love and run department overseas.

A final word of advice: read the FAQs of your tour company's website before departing. In response to the question 'Will I be Spied On?', Koyro Tours reassuringly answers that it doesn't know for sure, but "...Nevertheless, as in all places in North Korea, it is best to restrain any criticism until having left the country". Depending on how you look at it, that advice is either hilarious or terrifying or even a warped combination of both.

So there you have it: North Korea. It's the trip for those who enjoy talking and Facebooking about their trip as much, if not more, than the actual the trip itself. I can't promise you that you'll be the life of every party, although I can

I kid you not. It's actually a perfectly plausible, interesting and safe trip. Between 2006 and 2011, 430 Australians died in Thailand. Not one Australian died in North Korea, so you're already one step closer to convincing your parents. To go, you'll need to apply for a visa well in advance and visit with one of their state-owned tourism bureaus. Koyro Tours and UriTours currently are the most popular with Westerners, as well as the most economical. UriTours offers an 8 day tour of North Korea for around \$2600, departing from Beijing and not including flights.

The intrigue of North Korean tourism very much comes from the fact that none of your mates will have gone

chandeliers definitely a sight to behold. And then there's the Mass Games, which Koryo Tours promotes as a "synchronised socialist-realist spectacular, featuring over 100 000 participants in a 90 minute display of gymnastics, dance, acrobatics, and dramatic performance." It's a spectacle of Olympic Opening Ceremony proportions, except with a side of propaganda. UriTours even promises to organise family reunions for travellers with family residing and/or trapped in North Korea. Poignancy in Pyongyang? Sign me up!

To travel to North Korea is to visit a world that is so often reported on, yet so little understood. With less than 3500 Western tourists going every year, the

guides will accompany you to a selected list of government approved locations, and you're either going to love them or hate them by the end of the trip.

You can't go to North Korea between December 15th to January 15th, so Christmas in Chilbo (a UNESCO World Heritage mountain range) is out of the question. Camera lens over 150mm? That's also a no go. And you'll have to wait until you're out of North Korea before you can boast about your adventure, because internet access is strictly prohibited for tourists. I'd also advise against trying to bring some love to a country sorely in need of a big hug. North Koreans cannot marry foreigners and Australians already have a bad

pretty much guarantee you cult-like status in every GOVT tutorial you have. Say hello to those participation marks you've never particularly cared about.

But look, I hear you reading this in my smug tone and thinking to yourself, have you ever gone to North Korea, Thomas? What the hell do you know?

Well, no I haven't. But in my defence, both journalists and South Koreans are not permitted to travel to North Korea, and while I'm neither of those, I'll be showing my solidarity to my journalist brothers and Korean sisters by instead spending the Semester break on a Contiki tour in Europe, Facebooking obnoxious selfies of myself at Yacht Week.

## Fat-bottomed swimmers

Cleo Gardiner is swimming in a sea of fatphobia

Last week, I met with Kelli Jean Drinkwater (KJD) to discuss 'fatness' and the release of her enchanting documentary, *Aquaporko!*, which follows the story of a group of fat and fabulous synchronised swimmers in Melbourne. It has already won the Audience Choice Award at the Mardi Gras Film Festival after its debut screening and deservedly so: it is a beautiful, engaging, optimistic, and empowering film.

Fatphobia, or 'size politics', is very real, but often overlooked. For the uninitiated, anyone who makes assumptions about, ridicules, judges or marginalises a person because of their body size is being fatphobic. Fatphobia is an incredibly powerful social tool used to control and police fat people's bodies. This behaviour does not exist in a vacuum: it is systemically legitimised by institutions and dominant discourses (think medicine, the media, fashion, education, sports). It is pervasive and probably the last form of discrimination that is still widely socially acceptable.

Issues relating to our body shape or size, when positioned within the western world's view of 'fat', are never socially or morally neutral. I asked KJD about her thoughts on the moral impacts that are enacted upon fatness. "I think it relates to health and this idea that fat people cannot live in healthy fat bodies and are inevitably part of an

'obesity epidemic,'" she says. "There are two sides to the moralising of fatness: firstly, people have been taught the idea that fatness is aesthetically unacceptable. So, you have that socialised aspect of what's attractive but you also have this higher moral ground around health where people assume that it is impossible to live a healthy, fulfilled life as a fat person, which is completely untrue."

KJD chooses not to dwell in an oppressive, fatphobic frame, nor does she allow the narrative of *Aquaporko!* to

go down that path. She has a different concept of what 'living fat' means. "Fat is a huge part of my identity. It means abundant, strong, fierce, overflowing and powerful. Fat is also much more than the body I inhabit, it is a politic that I live my life by."

KJD is unapologetic about being fat and tells me her body politics are partly an attitude. "I present this idea that there is absolutely no reason why me being in a fat body should have any impact on my life being as fabulous or full as it can be," she says. "My attitude of happiness and embodiment has gotten me far in my life and people are often

left with their assumptions on fatness when they meet me, because I do have a very healthy confidence in all areas of my life."

In a patriarchal, sexist and fatphobic western world, one of the challenges for many people, but particularly for fat women, is putting on a swimsuit and confidently accepting their physicality in public. This is why so many people can, at a very deep level, relate to this film. A large part of *Aquaporko!* is about visibility and the idea of body positivity in all shapes and sizes. The stark contrast of this film's synchronised swimming and body politics, compared to mainstream media's sexist portrayals of a size eight in a bikini to sell anything, is clever - but you quickly learn it is not just a film about babes in swimsuits. As KJD puts it: "There's a whole politic behind this very camp activity. It is a radical and beautiful reclamation of our bodies."

*Aquaporko!* is a triumphant, uplifting and accessible documentary that emerges amidst the media saturation of a photoshopped fiction of the 'perfect' sized body and fear mongering around 'obesity'. It is delightful to see a film where 'fatties' are confidently fat, visible and three-dimensional. The representation of fat bodies on the big screen is wondrous enough but when you see them doing their thing with their floral caps on wiggling their fat asses in the water it's nothing short of gorgeous.



### TOP 5...

## Top 5 female-fronted bands

Xiaoran Shi thinks she knows a thing or two about women who rock

- 5 **Young Marble Giants** Second only to veganism or perhaps a dogmatic pursuit of astrology, ranking this overlooked Welsh trio above Elizabeth Fraser's acrobatic soprano is assuredly the most efficient method of losing friends and alienating people. *Colossal Youth*, their sole album, is itself well-informed by loss and alienation. Alison Stratton's hushed laments are sung so matter-of-factly that it is difficult to resist the glimpse of female history she offers. The echoes and analogue hisses haunting this sparse record are just as telling as the 4/4 signature (lent by cassette tapes of a homemade drum machine) that pulses through the narrative landscape of the album, sometimes with ferocity, and at other times, like the dull throb of a migraine.
- 4 **Crystal Castles** Despite owing much to the producer/female vocalist formula patented by the likes of Portishead (a combination which Grimes, among others, is attempting to dissolve), this Toronto duo is liberated from the pathos of their forebears. Although the band, and Alice Glass in particular, have become icons of youthful recklessness and hedonism, their aesthetic belies a wealth of technical intricacy. Their debut is a pastiche of obnoxious 8-bit sampling and superfluous 808s. Unsurprisingly, the result is something approximating an Atari game on Ritalin. Glass' cries take on the metallic sheen of her musical environment, so subsumed is her feminine energy in the pursuit of a serotonin high, a hypnagogic state. It's a clever distillation of nostalgia and atavism; we are at once repelled and entranced by their ability to gut culture and lay it bare.
- 3 **Portishead** As trip hop blended into the popular consciousness, the repertoire of the female voice warmed to a discourse that hinted at a subterranean richness. It was a genre borne of sensuality, although the compositions were often caught in a tug-of-war between polarities: vibrato strings and grainy blues samples, precise percussive loops and Beth Gibbons' fragile instrument (which is capable of cautious interrogation to near-triumphant scorn and everywhere else in between). In many ways, she internalised feminist rhetoric in order to disclose the minutiae of human feeling. Gibbons is not concerned with political explication, but rather the explication of an emotional order, and *Dummy*, the album that started it all, is an articulate motif - a life-like mannequin with painted mouth, a pacifier - for the lived reality and the felt reality which habitually act at cross-purposes.
- 2 **The Slits** Before there was Bikini Kill, or Sleater-Kinney, or photocopied zines about Bikini Kill or Sleater-Kinney there was The Slits. The band had its origins in the incestuous London punk scene of the late '70s and was derived from members of The Castrators, and The Flowers of Romance, famous for its inclusion of Sid Vicious, as well as the fact the band never played live or released any recorded material whatsoever. The Slits quickly improved upon this, supporting The Clash on two consecutive tours. Merging the reggae influence of The Clash, and the abrasive chaos of The Sex Pistols, The Slits were among the first to present the female voice in a parody of masculine aggression that occasionally bordered on violence. It was this power which riot grrl sought to reclaim.
- 1 **7 Year Bitch** Responsible for 'M.I.A.', a song that was both a eulogy and a call for vigilante justice, 7 Year Bitch crafted an anthem for a generation of women empowered to work, to strike, to wear lipstick or not wear lipstick, to marry or not marry, yet who remained powerless in the face of fundamental structural inequalities. When Selene Vigil demands in a snare whether "society has justice for you?", we listen.

## A walk to remember

Lane Saintry reviews the daily trek from Redfern Station

Every weekday morning, thousands of students catch the train to Redfern Station and walk the well-worn track to Sydney University. A constant stream of students runs all the way from the station to Cadigal Green, with a variety of walking speeds ranging from dawdlers, to power-walkers, to texters (the most erratic of all).

The first leg of the journey runs down Lawson St, lined with cute terrace houses and, from time to time, pieces of street art. Periodic trees and the occasional bin along Lawson impede those running late for class, sometimes even forcing students onto the road in their quest to overtake a dawdler.

Next comes Abercrombie St, a veritable hive of activity, with fine hipster specimens often found lurking in the three cafés on the south side of the street. Oz Turk Junior and the Chippendale Takeaway face off across the Lawson and Abercrombie junction, with signs that are an identical shade of red.

Abercrombie St presents us with the biggest dilemma of the walk: where to cross the road? It's a question that's been asked time and time again, but only ever resulted in ambiguous answers. Perhaps the biggest faux pas one can commit on Abercrombie is to step out onto the road intending to sneak across, but

misjudge the flow of traffic and have to retreat to the gutter, or worse, rejoin the stream of students, having wasted several seconds.

On the other hand, sticking it out until the Shepherd St crossing is also a risky business. I wouldn't go so far as to say that crossing at the final lights marks

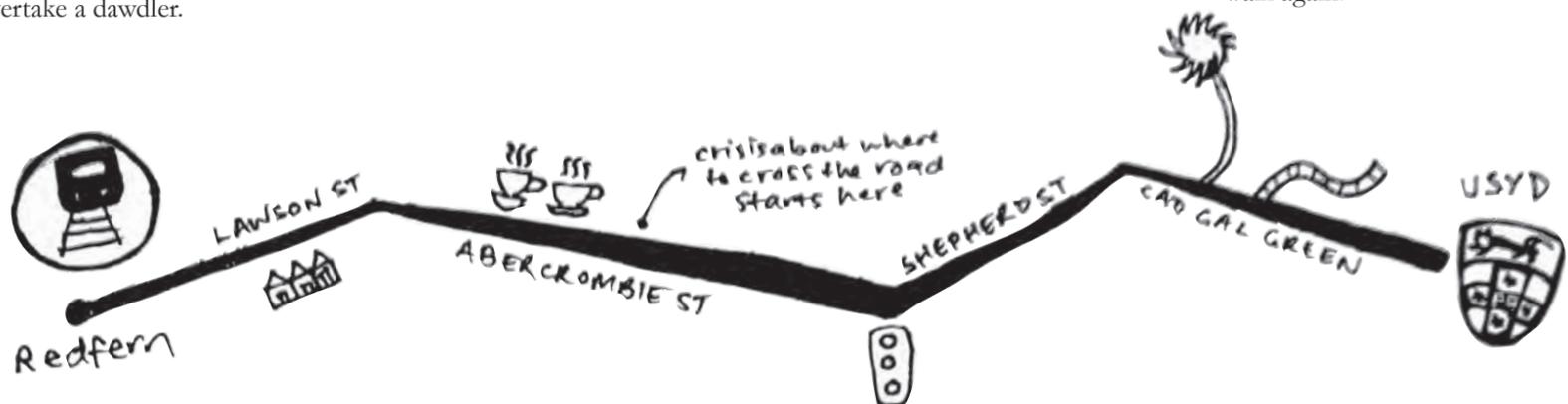
"Abercrombie St presents us with the biggest dilemma of the walk: where to cross the road?"

a failure of character, but it certainly marks a failure of strategy. The humiliation is completed by having to stand across the street from the boardwalk—

so close, and yet so far—and watch students flood into the university while you wait, despondent and depressed, for the lights to change.

The Redfern walk draws to a dramatic finish as you pass under the canopy at the end of the boardwalk and emerge onto the picturesque Cadigal Green, complete with curved chairs and tall skinny trees that are reminiscent of the Truffula Trees in Dr Seuss's *The Lorax*.

The Redfern walk is a true Sydney University classic. It loses points for being too short to legitimately complain about, yet still long enough to leave you sweaty on a summer's day if you're rushing to class. That aside, it's a largely pleasant stroll if you're not in a hurry and a quintessential Sydney University experience. Seven out of ten; would walk again.



## Die Hard goes soft

Sam Murray has hard it up to here with the franchise

The fifth instalment of the *Die Hard* action series screwed up badly. Really, really badly. That's not because it's a bad action film (which it is, with heavy-handed dialogue, a forgettable plot-line and generic action sequences), but because it so fundamentally misunderstands the basic pillars of the action series it comes from. To be fair, the fourth instalment ignored the fundamentals as well, and was also terrible for exactly the same reasons, making this film's failure all the more exasperating.

So, why did the first few *Die Hard* films work, and why doesn't this one? The original *Die Hard* concerned a hostage situation of an office Christmas party. Protagonist John McClane, is only in the building to see his estranged wife, is left as the only one capable



Look into my eyes, look into my eyes, the eyes, the eyes, not around the eyes, look into my eyes, you're under.

of stopping them; an off-duty NYPD cop going up against trained ex-military veterans. The film's success is all about how the woefully outmatched and out-gunned average American McClane needs to outsmart a group of enemies who he has no hope of beating with the traditional 'action-guy' shooting rampage. That's why the initial film cast Bruce Willis, who at the time was known for being a comic actor, to help this idea of the average-guy-in-the-wrong-place-at-the-wrong-time.

*Die Hards* 2 and 3 adopted a similar structure, with McClane being out-matched again against different terrorists in an airport and New York City respectively. This is why the films work as original action films: because they don't portray the protagonist as some unstoppable Schwarzeneggeresque 1980s action hero, but rather as an average Joe way out of his league who somehow triumphs.

Fast-forward to *Die Hard* 5, where McClane has evolved into James Bond, and has to assist a CIA mission in Moscow to prevent a nuclear weapons heist. Obviously, something has changed from his original "let's save my wife from being taken hostage" schtick. Compare the first film, where the terrorists immobilise McClane for half an hour by shooting windows around him, so that he has to cripple himself by walking barefoot on broken glass, to the fourth film where he launches a car into a helicopter with nonchalant ease, or the fifth film where he dukes it out with an attack helicopter in Chernobyl of all places. This ridiculous and absurd evolution of action sequences in a series that never had them to begin with, reveals how the series has gone terribly, terribly wrong.

*A Good Day to Die Hard* will hit cinemas on March 21

## Toulouse Canons

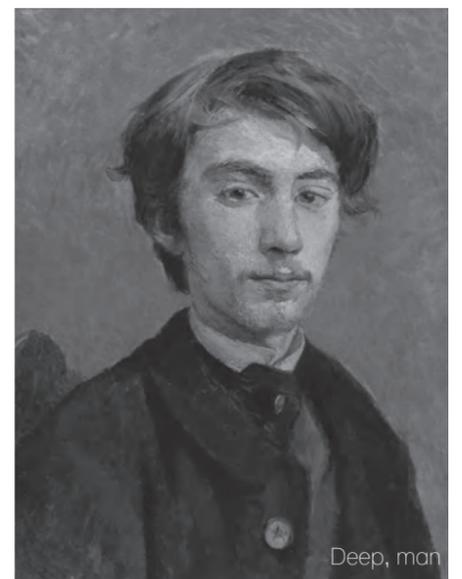
Lawrence Muskitta made the Lau-trec to Canberra to write this review

There's a line in *Blade Runner* that goes something like: "A candle that burns twice as bright, burns half as long." Henri Toulouse Lautrec's life, however, was less of a candle and more like a magnesium strip. He died aged 36 from complications around alcoholism and syphilis (my sort of guy!) but left in his wake over 7 000 known works (and many others which have since been lost) including paintings, etchings, posters, and ceramics. The dude was an art-making machine and the National Gallery has begged, borrowed and acquired the most comprehensive collection of his work that Australia will see in a very very long time.

Considering this, the exhibition is somewhat underwhelming. The works are phenomenal, obviously. His sketches are hilariously unflattering and chronicle the gritty and colourful characters of the Parisian underbelly. His bold, towering posters embody the optimism at the turn of the century. And seeing his paintings up close is the peak experience of this exhibition because his genius, I think, lies in the way he makes every perfectly placed brushstroke look effortless.

No, it's the curation that leaves much to be desired: it's uninspiringly chronological and omits many of his more notable works including *At the Moulin Rouge*, *Two Women Waltzing* and, my personal favourite, *In Bed*. It would

## LAST CHANCE



Deep, man

have also been a treat to have seen his portraits of Oscar Wilde or Van Gogh.

But all galleries of course have their limitations, even national galleries, and trying to curate a definitive exhibition for someone as prolific as Toulouse Lautrec is a mountain of a task. Either way, it's definitely worth the trip down. It'll be the last time in our lifetimes that so many of his works will be down under and, you know, Canberra's actually not that far away, compared to Europe.

Toulouse Lautrec:  
Paris & the Moulin Rouge  
National Gallery of Australia  
Exhibition open until April 2

# 'Like' inflation

Georgia Kriz investigates the devaluation of the ol' reliable thumbs-up

Like any good Gen-Y kid, I spend most of my spare time watching YouTube videos of pugs, Googling myself and refreshing Facebook. And although each week new puggy goodness pops up and the Google results change their order slightly, recently, Facebook hasn't been giving me as much pleasure as it usually does. Instead, each new mindless scrolling session has left me increasingly bewildered, frustrated and angry. The reason for my angst? Like inflation.

It began in early 2012. Odd shit started to get lots of likes. We're talking pictures of cappuccinos, 14 year olds in leather shorts sucking invisible spaghetti and cats doing nothing. Then the epidemic

began to spread: stuff that already had likes, stuff that deserved a few likes, began to attract even more likes. Puppy and owners snaps, couple selfies, pretty sunsets – you name it, the likes increased exponentially on it. Fast-forward (not very far) to 2013, and it seems like every picture floating around has a minimum of 40 likes, with the most popular raking in literally hundreds.

The whole manner in which we approach liking has changed. Where once we clicked that little thumbs up symbol in order to show that we literally liked or enjoyed what we were seeing, now it is almost an acknowledgment: yes, I have seen this picture of your

organic-vegan-soy-wheat-free-halal-pure-bred-culturally-sensitive-not-heteronormative salad. The result is a drop in the value of a like; as a currency, they have all but lost their worth. Next stop: a Zimbabwean state of affairs – perhaps a picture will only be deemed popular if it has a trillion likes? We are living in a

drastically inflated like-economy, and as self-elected Treasurer of the world, I say it has to stop, and soon.

So please, for the good of Facebook and all who sail in her, next time you're doing your daily trawl and you see a picture of someone's lamb chop or sock, ask yourself: do I actually care?

## KORMA POLICE:

### COFFEE ON CAMPUS

CASE NUMBER: HS2013COFFEE

SUSPECT(S): CAFES ON CAMPUS

Detective Justin Pen followed a trail of aromatic beans

**Offense:**

Possession, distribution and sale of highly-addictive stimulant 'coffee' across the Camperdown campus, targeting vulnerable, 'at-risk' first years.

**Incident Report:**

Jittery, caffeine-addled bodies have been discovered across campus. Increasing in both frequency and quantity, detailed investigations undertaken by Honi indicate that 'coffee,' synthesised en masse from the 'Coffee' plant lay at the root of the growing epidemic.

The coffee game's Big Players include the well-known Taste syndicate, a subsidiary and supplier of the 'Campos' crew, the Coffee Cart cartel, a low-tier organisation that employs over half a dozen pushers on the Camperdown campus alone, as well as premium cafés, Azzuri's, Parma, and Ralph's who employ 'purer' blends.

Sources report that coffee baron Ralph, of Ralph's Cafe, brews the most effective bean in the game. The den's Facebook page, moreover, advertises 'codewords' for special deals from the notorious caffeine dealer.

Due to threats of litigation dating back to early 2012, Honi is reticent to divulge too much regarding the distributors and their respective purities – but also, coffee is a Bad Drug and a Moral Vice, and would not promote its consumption, regardless.

Reminiscent of the student-run marijuana markets underneath the Footbridge Theatre in the 1980s,

sources indicate that the University of Sydney Union is complicit in pushing this unsafe substance on to students.

Further investigations are currently underway into any financial or commercial links between the Union and the aforementioned Coffee Cart cartel.

Surveys, and interrogations, of first years reveal that a majority had not ever sampled coffee prior to entering university. "I'd experimented with No Doz in high school," one user admitted, "But only at parties or raves."

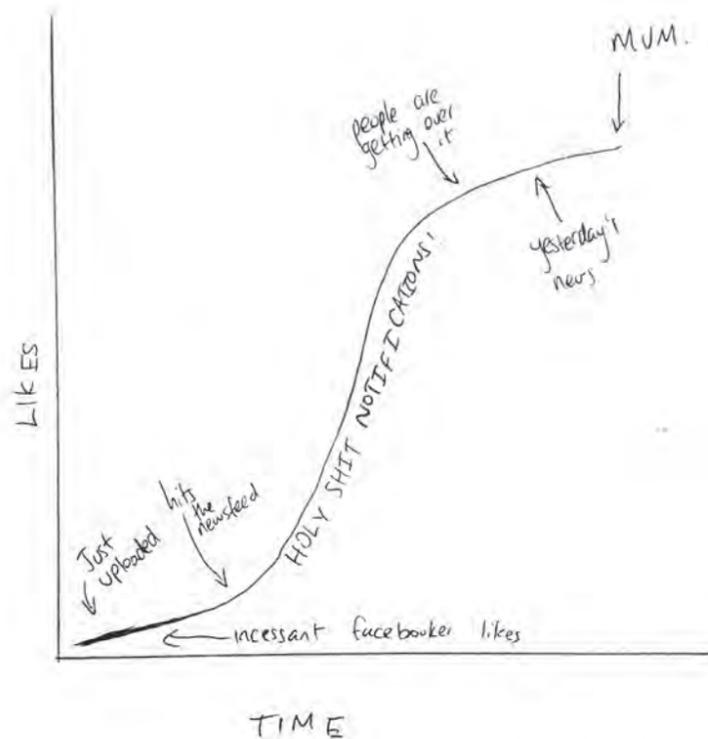
It is believed that the effects of 'stress', a desire to appear more 'adult' and 'edgy', and the 'liberal' nature of campus culture have contributed to experimentation with the dark bean of Arabica.

Outside consultant, Clive Pugh warned that "it [coffee] can be considered, or considereds, a gateway drug, or gateways drugs for future, or futures, criminal activity, or criminals activities."

Coffee-related property crime has also risen. More and more students are resorting to 'borrowing' – street jargon for appropriating loose change without intention of recompensation – money from their colleagues to fund their caffeine fix.

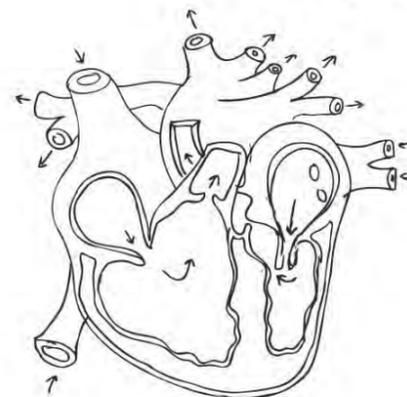
Economists estimate that such 'borrowings' total to "perhaps twenty, maybe thirty, dollars per week."

Harry Stratton, Welfare Officer and founder of 2012's controversial "Legalise It!" ticket, failed to comment, following Honi's failure to contact him.



Graphic: Lucy Watson

## CARTOON



I CAN'T LET YOU OUT NOW  
BECAUSE I'M TOLD MY HEART  
FLOWS ONLY IN ONE DIRECTION.  
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT.

ANDREW KIM



## It's Not Always Fair

"All staff, students and affiliates at the University have a right to work or study in an environment that is free from unlawful harassment and discrimination, and to be treated with dignity and respect, irrespective of their background, beliefs or culture."\*

### What is Unlawful Harassment?

The University defines unlawful harassment as any type of behaviour that:

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

humiliate, or intimidate.

- This includes actual, potential and perceived (imputed) race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, etc.
- Some types of harassment, such as sexual harassment and other forms of physical assault and/or stalking, are also illegal under criminal law. These types of harassment may result in criminal prosecution.

Other types of harassment may not be 'unlawful' under anti-discrimination legislation, but may nonetheless contravene the University's staff and student Codes of Conduct or the University's Workplace Bullying Prevention Policy and Resolution Procedure.

### What is Unlawful Discrimination?

The University defines unlawful discrimination as any practice that makes an unlawful distinction between individuals or groups, so as to disadvantage some people and advantage others. Discrimination may be 'direct' (specifically

acting against someone) or 'indirect' (inadvertently acting against someone who has a particular characteristic).

### What should you do?

If you think you are being discriminated against or harassed make detailed notes about days and times of the incidents noting any potential witnesses. Your safety is an immediate concern. Talk to an SRC caseworker about how to make a complaint and what possible outcomes there are. Remember that a caseworker can give you an idea of what you can expect without forcing you to take action unless you want to.

Contact us on [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au) or call to make an appointment on 9660 5222. We can arrange to meet with you on any campus.

\*The University of Sydney (2010). Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy and Resolution Procedure. Retrieved 3rd February, 2012 from <http://fmweb01.ucc.usyd.edu.au/pol/>.

## Ask Abe



Dear Abe,

Is it true that I can change all of my subject choices before the end of March? The Faculty says that I could only do that in week one. What is the real story?

*Changeable*

Dear Changeable,

Unfortunately, you cannot enroll in new classes after 15 March.

You can however 'withdraw' from subjects without having to pay for the course before the "HECs census date". This is the 31 March, but this is a Sunday this year, so we recommend withdrawing by Thursday 28 March (the Friday is a public holiday). A withdraw is not a bad thing on your academic transcript.

If you need to drop a subject after the census date, you will not receive a fail if you do this before or on the 26 April. You will receive a Discontinue Not Fail (DNF). A DNF does not count as a fail on your transcript. You are liable for fees if you withdraw after 31 March.

There are occasions where you have extraordinary circumstances that mean you have to discontinue from studies at a later date. Come and see SRC HELP caseworkers for advice about late DNF applications and possible fee refund applications.

*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](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au). Abe gathers his answers from experts in a number of areas. Coupled with his own expertise on dealing with people, living on a low income and being a dog, Abe's answers can provide you excellent insight.



SRC Legal Service

## Be aware of accommodation scam!

SRC Legal Service has received several cases concerning an accommodation scam.

In a typical scenario, the scam targets international students or those who are too busy or unable to have a look at the advertised accommodation in person before renting. These students were usually asked to pay a 'holding fee' or a 'deposit' in order to secure the property before they even get to meet the landlord or see the place for rent. In the end, the unlucky ones usually discovered that the scammer just disappeared completely after the payment has been received.

### How to avoid this situation if you

are really unable to see the place before you have to move?

**Do not** transfer money by Western Union if you were asked to pay a holding fee. This is because money transferred through Western Union is not recoverable.

Try to arrange a friend or someone you can trust to meet with the landlord and also check out the property for you. Get this person to ask to see the landlord's proper ID and record the landlord's details as much as possible such as full name, contact address, driver's licence number etc. This is to ensure that you know exactly the identity of the person you are dealing with, so that if this person later disappeared,

you may contact the police for help with this information.

Please also make sure that you obtain a written receipt immediately for all money paid to the landlord and that you should only be required to pay a holding fee which is equivalent to one week's rent.

You can also find an accommodation renting check list and a template of residential tenancy lease on the SRC website at [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au).

If you have any questions or have come over any issues in relation to renting a place, you are welcome to come speak to our solicitor at the SRC Legal Service by contacting 9660 5222 to make an appointment.



FREE

SEMESTER 1 SRC WALL PLANNER

IN THIS WEEKS HONI!

STICK IT ON YOUR WALL!

Includes important Uni dates and contact information, study breaks, exam periods, holidays, SRC Collective meeting times, Honi publication dates and more!

Long pants in winter = 10. Long pants in summer = 20. Long pants when naked = 50.

## President's Report

David Pink likes the NTEU

A lot of the propaganda that management has been putting forth about the strike has focused on wage claims. I think that this is a distortion. The majority of staff objections to the EBA claims are unrelated to pay. They relate to staff conditions that directly affect our education. I thought I'd reproduce the NTEU's summary of management's proposed changes in full, to help counter this PR:

### 1. MANAGING CHANGE

- Reduction in the obligations for managers to consult with staff about workplace change.

- Removal of processes that require managers to produce formal change documents.

### 2. REVIEWS COMMITTEES

- Abolition of ALL review committees from the Enterprise Agreement including those that deal with unsatisfactory performance, misconduct and redundancy.

### 3. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

- Abolition of ALL commitments to prevent and eliminate discriminatory employment practices.

### 4. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

- Abolition of ALL Intellectual Freedom protections from the Enterprise Agreement including staff rights to participate in and criticise the governance of the University free from harassment, vilification and intimidation.

### 5. GENERAL STAFF CLASSIFICATIONS AND WORKLOADS

- Abolition of the right for general staff to be correctly classified.

- Abolition of the joint Union and management Classification Monitoring Panel, the right to bring classification disputes and the right of staff to seek reassessment of their classification.

- Refusal to provide restrictions on general staff being forced to regularly and systematically perform over time.

### 6. DIGNITY AND RESPECT

- Refusal to provide staff with enforceable rights in relation to bullying and harassment in the Enterprise Agreement.

### 7. UNION REPRESENTATION OF MEMBERS

- Removal of the NTEU as a party to the Enterprise Agreement.

- Removal of the NTEU's rights to

challenge Management decisions and take disputes.

- Removal of the NTEU's rights to hold Members meetings.

- Removal of obligations that require the Management to consult the NTEU and the Management and Staff Consultative Committee in relation to University policies.

- Removal of rights that allow the NTEU to be physically present on campus including the loss of commitments by Management to provide the NTEU office space, access to internal University systems, authorised payroll deductions of union dues and time release for the Branch President, which enables them to represent staff.

### 8. ACADEMIC WORKLOADS

- Removal of the right of academic staff to a research allocation in their workload through the abolition of the 40/40/20 workload model.

- Abolition of work hours restrictions including the removal of clauses requiring that work duties be able to be performed within a 37.5 hour week and the annual work hours cap of 1725 hours.

- Removal of the right of academic staff to dispute their workload through the Central Workload Monitoring Com-

president@src.usyd.edu.au



mittee.

### 9. CASUAL EMPLOYMENT

- Removal of restrictions on Management increasing casual employment.

- Removal of provisions that allowed casual staff to apply for conversion.

### 10. LEAVE PROVISIONS

- Reduction in Personal (sick) Leave entitlements for all staff to 20 days.

- Expansion of management rights to require a medical certificate for absences of 3 days or more; it is currently 5 days or more.

- Abolition of the separate entitlement to Partner Leave (currently 5 days) and its inclusion in Personal (sick) Leave.

## General Secretary's Report

Dylan Parker knows the SRC has got his back

### The SRC's got your back.

So its week 3 and classes are in full swing, textbooks have been bought and ignored, and some of us have assignments already (Eughh). Hopefully, you're killing it and your biggest problem is choosing between Manning or Hermann's.

However, it's probably worth knowing where to go if shit hits the fan and you need somebody to help. That's why the SRC provides a free casework service catering for all of your academic and welfare needs as well a FREE legal service.

### Come see a Caseworker!

Providing information, advice and advocacy, the casework department is

arguably a core reason the University continues to fund the SRC. We have at your call 5 caseworkers, including one dedicated to satellites worker. You can either drop in or book an appointment.

What's great about the casework service is they'll help you with almost anything matters to a student. Just to name a few, academically whether its an unfair mark, getting help with appeals, special considerations or even an exclusion we'll provide advice and even represent you. Another great thing is that our caseworkers fight for your welfare as well, helping break down the daunting bureaucracy of Centrelink, getting tenancy rights advice so your landlord doesn't screw you, or even help with

international student concessions to figure out if your actually any better off. We also have a dedicated satellite worker that regularly visits Cumberland, the Con, Westmead, SCA, Mallet St, and at Camden campus so if your not at Camperdown your not out in the cold.

### Yup, a FREE Legal Service!

You read it correctly, we provide a FREE legal service for Usyd students. Whether its help with a fine, debt issues, or just generally need advice the SRC has two solicitors who can provide help from even the most initial consultation to representing you in court.

The craziest bit is, it doesn't cost you a cent. Hopefully you won't need our solicitors but hell shit happens.

general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au



## Vice-President's Report

Amelle Vanderstock cares about the environment

University. For me? Research. Usyd! Apply. Accepted. Registration. Complete. O week. Free stuff. Too much guarana. Timetable? Workable. First class? Found and attended! Congratulations, our university education begins. But let's back track a second. What was it that made us choose Sydney University in the first place?

Is it the 160 year old sandstone buildings that makes us feel as close to Hogwarts as we can be without a wand? Is it the 'student life' so sought after? Is it the abundance of lecturers with

academic freedom for quality teaching? Is it USYD's forward research into a sustainable future? Is it the social justice initiatives that such an internationally renowned institution has the capacity for, which makes us as students feel a part of something worthwhile?

While USYD does carry a certain rep for historically derived prestige and bustling student life, I'm willing to guess it wasn't the later justifications. Perhaps these aren't always at the forefront of our minds- after all its arguable that the connection between research, invest-

ment, education and the outside world is intentionally mystified. But as we witness the cutting of staff on financial grounds alongside a little research into where this capital goes, academia, sustainability or social justice cannot be why we chose USYD. Simply because these reasons would be inaccurate.

We as students are implicated in an institution who's 'Investment and Capital management' (ICM) department's objective is to "enhance the overall wealth and fiscal capacity of the University through the adoption and implementation of investment and

vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au



capital management best practice.” No mention of ethical or sustainable ventures in USYD finance. So what are our investments and who are the investors? These speak loudly to the interests of our institution. To name three;

- ANZ, the bank on our student cards, is also the funder of \$20 million to companies expanding the coal industry in NSW and QLD. Companies including Rio Tinto, Xstrata, BHP Billiton, Whitehaven which are remembered for oil spills and encroachment on farms and state forests. Surely an ethical investor would reconsider partnerships with socially and environmentally unsustainable fossil fuel projects?

- BHP Billiton donates a subsequent slice of the \$13 million pie to finishing bio-molecular/chemical engineering students. While these grants give futures in the work force, isn't our university constraining our opportunities for development in sustainable industries?

- Nuclear weapons - Sydney University invests \$2 million into 15 companies that manufacture and manipulate nuclear weaponry. On what grounds can we justify an education institution funding nuclear warfare?

USYD investments don't stop financially. Our new chancellor, Belinda Hutchinson, is the current director of AGL (known for its propagation of coal

seam gas, a socially and environmentally unsound fossil fuel). She is also the former director of the conservative think tank, The Centre for Independent Studies, known for libertarian views on education as a business rather than a quality learning experience. Appointment of leaders with such vested interests again question what USYD really is invested in.

We, as students, are implicated in this system. This is where our fees and SSAF are pooled. But more importantly, these interests fuel our education. This feeds into the centers established, the direction of research, and the scholarships/grant options we receive for our hard

earned years of study.

So although it may not be at the forefront of our minds when we choose our institution, our courses or our timetable... maybe it should be?

Want more information? Lock the Campus is a nation-wide campaign looking into investment relationships between university and the Coal/CSG industry. Visit [lockthecampus.org.au](http://lockthecampus.org.au) to find out more

## Education Officers' Report

[education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)

Tenaya Alaitas pick(et)s scabs

A scab is a dry, rough incrustation of matted blood, debris, clot, and pus that forms over a wound or sore. A scab is also a derogatory term for a dislikeable or contemptible person, especially one who is unreliable: a scoundrel. Within the trade union movement the pejorative label for a strike-breaker is a scab; to describe those who refuse to join, break or work in place of others on strike. A scab is, in summary, a person that some students/staff will find deeply offensive during the 48-hour strike next week.

The offence the scab causes is not for the individual act or crime against the rule of law. In fact, every major victory relating to your rights surrounding work were achieved with direct actions that were, in their time, illegal and subject to police repression. In the US for ex-

ample, up until the 1930s.

The laws surrounding labor unions and strikes were simple—there were none. Thereby the scorn afforded to scabs goes far deeper than breaking the law.

Rather, the offense of scabbing is to undermine the idea, purpose and effect of the workers on strike. The idea behind strike action is simple and powerful: if the terms and conditions of work are not acceptable to workers then no work shall be done. More than a protest, a stunt or a means to draw attention to a cause, the purpose of a strike is to cause a disruption. And while it may often disrupt people who didn't really cause the problem, it's the very disruption that produces an effect. That is by disrupting management and employers; a strike

costs them money and time.

To scab is to bolster the economic and moral position of the employer. Management will say they do not have enough money to afford staff better pay and conditions, arguing that the NTEU and CPSU are “greedy” with “gold plated” conditions. However one must only look at the million dollar salaries of management who are crying poor to see this is not a question of there not being enough money - but rather question of power. Striking shifts the balance of power towards the general/academic staff to enable maximum leverage in negotiations for better terms, conditions and wages. So if you don't want to be called a scab next week, don't go to class or cross the picket line.



## Women's Report

Emily Rayers reports on the happenings of the Women's Collective

[usydwomenscollective@gmail.com](mailto:usydwomenscollective@gmail.com)

In 2010, for the first time ever, the Academy Award for best direction was won by a woman (Kathryn Bigelow). In the history of the awards, over 80 years, only 3 women had ever been nominated for best director - that's a representation of 0.75% of nominations, despite 16% of directors being women.

Women are under-represented both in the media workforce and in media awards. In feature films, women make up 29% of producers, 20% of writers and 16% of directors. While this participation rate is low, and the reasons behind it ought to be examined, far more distressing is the comparative recognition women receive for their work: of the top 250 grossing box office films in 2011 only 5% were directed by women, and fewer than that received any awards or even nominations.

If you're reading this column, we

can probably agree that this discrepancy is not a result of women being inherently worse at directing or producing films. The low representation and recognition of women in media is a reflection of the society we live in. During collective this week we discussed the portrayal of women in the media, and many great points were made about the shallow stereotypes put forward: women are either bitchy or sickly sweet, innocent virgins or 'sluts'. With a traditional media representation like that, how many women would want to work in the industry?

Other issues involve a lack of women mentors within the industry and poor financial compensation for women. True to common trends in all careers, a study from 2011 showed women in film were on significantly lower salaries than men both in production and other roles, and regardless of whether it was

free-to-air or subscription TV channels.

When faced with huge imbalances such as this it can be difficult to know how to make a difference. As women, and men, we can support and encourage women in the industry by acknowledging their unrecognized work - you can start this week by attending the Seen & Heard festival's final night on Thursday 21st March at the Red Rattler, Marrickville. Tickets \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

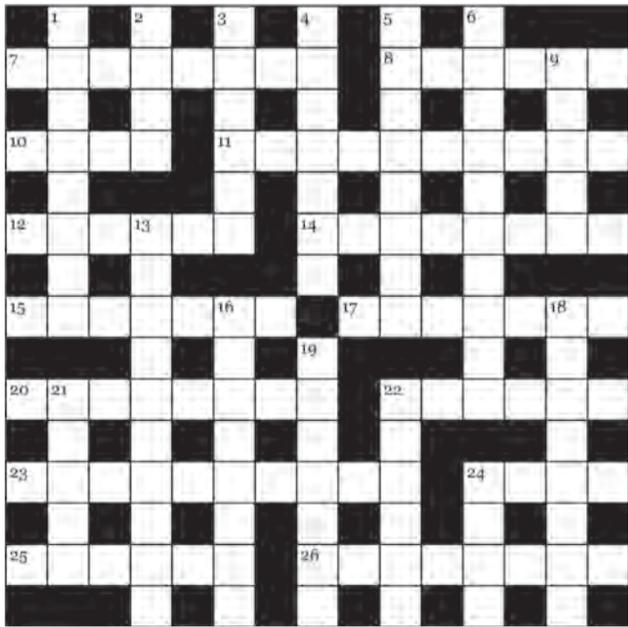
Seen & Heard aims to showcase films with women involved in major production roles (writing, producing and directing). The festival is back for it's fourth year and is bigger and better than ever, showing some incredible short films and celebrating diversity and intersectionality. This Thursday is the third and final night and promises to be something pretty special, with fictional and documentary films



from across the globe including Australia, UK, Germany and Puerto Rico.

If you are interesting in joining the Women's Collective in attending Seen & Heard, or would like to be a part of the collective feel free to come along to our meetings at 1pm Wednesdays in the Women's Room, Manning House. You can also email [usydwomenscollective@gmail.com](mailto:usydwomenscollective@gmail.com), search for 'Usyd Women's Collective' on Facebook or send us a tweet - @SRCwomens. Have a great week!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



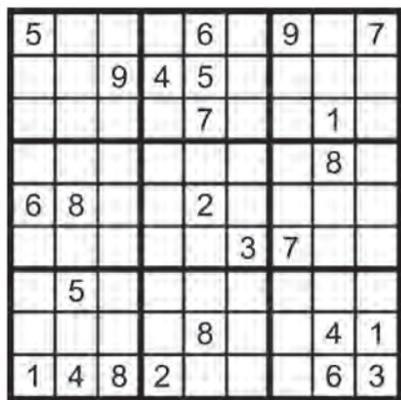
Ghoti

ACROSS

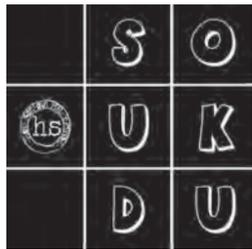
- 7. Praise Aloe Blacc remix swapping pound for penny (8)
- 8. Stupid card game doesn't start, it's said (6)
- 10. Stop evolution of 2 (4)
- 11. To ruin crop, and literally so! (10)
- 12. Pass the Spanish end of a church (6)
- 14. Shrunken article in technology magazine (8)
- 15. Syncopation is to wank in reverse? (7)
- 17. Get rid of mistakes, as standard (7)
- 20. Register 2's companion with phone (4,4)
- 22. Fanning state (6)
- 23. Larger 13, you say? Nonsense! (10)
- 24. Web address gets clean start for kinkiness (4)
- 25. Waste thrown from planes before morning (6)
- 26. Job gets headhunted, so allow employee to start being redundant (8)

DOWN

- 1, 2. Geology department starring Jack Black? (6,2,4)
- 2. See 1.
- 3. Socially awkward and left in Paris (6)
- 4. Centre of tree (wrong, wrong) is increased again (7)
- 5. Lettuce said to be little 2? (8)
- 6. Alter Heff at 2, without alterations (3,3,4)
- 9, 24-dn. Chide about sound of sobriety (5,4)
- 13. Plaster for small, fast 2? (10)
- 16. Sam rang a... a man's rag? (8)
- 18. Educated rodent follows garbage, we hear (8)
- 19. An eel or, perhaps, Rigby (7)
- 21. To speak from a projector at exhibiton (5)
- 22. Remove the shell in the evening, when he comes back inside (6)
- 24. See 9.

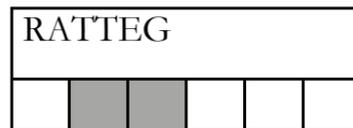
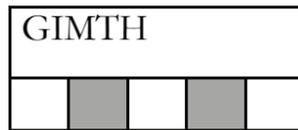


Easy



Hard

WHAM, BAM,  
ANAGRAM!



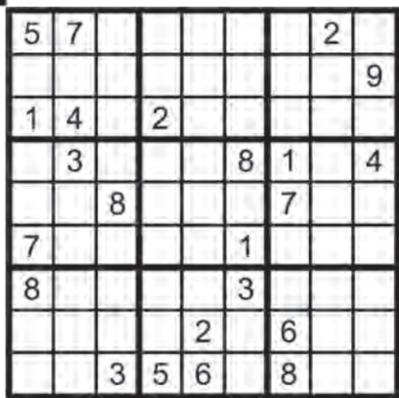
The shaded letters form another anagram. Use them to answer the riddle.

Q: What kind of horses go out after dark?



Easy

Hard

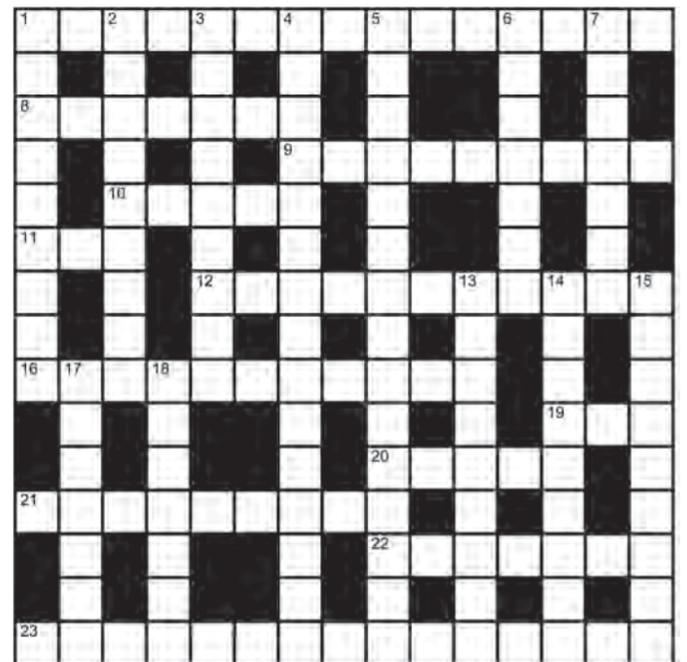


ACROSS

- 1. A place which one leaps into the region beyond (7-3,5)
- 8. Not equal to the additive identity (3-4)
- 9. Brooch, for example (9)
- 10. Arising from error (5)
- 11. A card which often takes the trick (3)
- 12. A stone coffin (11)
- 16. Large fish with jaws like weapons (11)
- 19. Stew vegetable (3)
- 20. Hanging cloth (5)
- 21. Relating to a type of sub-kingdom (9)
- 22. To remove an electron, partly or completely, from an atom or molecule (7)
- 23. The quality of provoking disbelief (15)

DOWN

- 1. Places full of discarded waste (9)
- 2. SCUM, for example (9)
- 3. To have been represented in best form (9)
- 4. Mediterranean thistle-like plant (5,10)
- 5. Dis-entangler with teeth close together (4-7,4)
- 6. A flowering evergreen shrub (7)
- 7. Deer with antlers (7)
- 13. Nitrogen compound involved in immune responses (9)
- 14. Marvin Gaye heard it through this (9)
- 15. Those who make loud grating cries (9)
- 17. Command centre (3,4)
- 18. Species of American hawk (7)



Janice

QUICK CROSSWORD

# THE SOIN

**KOCHIE: WHAT GOOGLE SEARCHING 'FATHER TELLS OFF MISBEHAVING SLUT' TELLS US ABOUT YOUNG GIRLS IN SYDNEY AND WHAT US AUSSIE BLOKES CAN DO ABOUT IT**



## These monsters were unmasked as evil men



MONSTER #1



MONSTER #2



MONSTER #3



MONSTER #4



MONSTER #5



MONSTER #6



# CONROY JOINS THEM

The group of adolescent detectives discovered that Stephen Conroy was actually the alter-ego of News Ltd., News Corp, and News International owner Rupert Murdoch.

Rupert Murdoch is also infamous for his ownership of *The Daily Telegraph*.

*The Soin* is currently investigating whether Stephen Conroy was always a secret identity for Murdoch or whether he was 'taken over' by the media tycoon.

This is one of many recent discoveries by this unnamed vigilante group. Some previous cases include unmasking Beelzebub as Margaret Thatcher, the Yowie as Rolf Harris on bathsalts, the Bunyip as Margaret Thatcher again, and Eddie Obeid as Michael Costa as Eddie Obeid on bathsalts.

Some commentators have noted

this comes at no surprise.

"Stephen 'Stalin' Conroy was adamant in his goals to control the media for authoritarian purposes and right-wing ideology," media commentator Cheeter Pen told *The Soin*. "Haven't we been saying that about Rupert Murdoch for decades?"

Others were more shocked.

"When I think of Murdoch, I think

of someone who was competent in his totalitarian endeavours and adamantly principled in his evil ... 'competent' and 'adamantly principled' aren't words I think of when I think of Stephen Conroy," Harold Morley, my next door neighbour, said.

*The Soin* attempted to contact Senator Conroy for a comment but remembered he did not actually exist anymore.

# ALP WINS PAPAL ELECTION



## PRESS RELEASE: MENZIES HOUSE MERGES WITH STORMFRONT.ORG

Dear Soin readers,

We are pleased to announce our merger with long-term partner Stormfront.org. Despite working together in the past on issues including white separatism, anti-rationalism, and Islamophobia, this is the first time the two organisations have worked together on financial matters such as server space and our fund for a white autonomous community.

The need for a strong Aryan libertarian organisation became evident when, as a young child at the National Union of Students National Conference, I realised that it wasn't enough to chant "we're racist, we're sexist, we're homophobic!" – we had to do something about it!

I hope you are as excited about this as I am. Menzies House believes in honest reporting, and nothing is more honest than the need for a pure race.

Yours sincerely,  
Tim Andrews  
Publisher & Managing Editor



Tim Andrews organising his libertarian utopia

NB: Our friends at the *Tele* have assured us that this kind of unfair comparison is simply in the "provocative" nature of "tabloid media".

## PULITZER RECOGNISES THE POOR QUALITY OF AUSTRALIAN MEDIA

The latest round of Pulitzers has seen a sweep for Australian journalism, picking up the most awards ever in an amazing effort from the Aussie writing scene. Notably, *mX* received a medal this year in the 'plain mediocre' category, bumping itself up from the 'absolutely shit' slot, in which it is usually a strong competitor. The editors, speaking in their press release, praise the deadset average performance of their writers in revealing the shocking reality that people complain about trains and are in a generally shit mood at the end of the day. They didn't reply to *The Soin's* calls, but their secretary assured us they would call us back after they were done transcribing their features from their Facebook news feed.

Following the shock resignation of Pope Francis, the second longest serving Pope of 2013, the ALP has been collectively appointed as the new head of the Roman Catholic Church.

This comes after the ALP's landslide loss at the WA state election, and makes the Holy See the only government other than South Australia to be controlled by the ALP without support from The Greens.

Analysts have commented on the dominance of the Catholic Right faction, the anti-abortion views of Labor head kicker Joe de Bruyn, the antipathy towards same-sex marriage by leader Julia Gillard, and the majority of conservative white males in the

voting College of Cardinals, as reasons for their victory.

The Liberal Party immediately spoke out against the ALP, citing their lack of experience in communicating the will of the Holy Trinity. On the other side, The Greens have demanded the ALP cut tax exemptions for the Catholic Church in the Vatican.

"We need to fund protest chains and nature reserves, not the world's oldest existing religious institution."

Scandal has rocked the election, however, after Kevin Rudd took over leadership by default due to canon law against female papacy and female priesthood. In the new administration, Rudd

has declared that he will demote Gillard to "just a nun."

The future of the ALP in the 2013 Federal Election is unclear, but pundits have noted that it is unlikely that the Catholic 25% of Australia will vote against God.

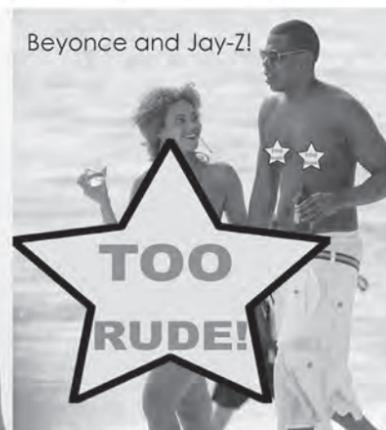
"But it really depends on whether or not Rudd stays leader, to be honest," one analyst noted.

There has been a notable consensus in the Australian priest community for the choice.

"At least they won't investigate the ... thing anymore," one anonymous priest noted from his locked confessional booth.

"Not that they really were, eh?"

# Oops! Celebrities forget to wear clothes!





TRANSCRIPT

**KOCH:** Just days after our latest Aussie hero called a few drunk teenage girls "sluts" comes another ... unexpected hero.

**MEL:** Yep, the man from Maccas might have competition for Father of the Year, Koch!

**KOCH:** A father of three from Sydney, Ross Childes, stood up for himself and his mates on a crowded train just yesterday when a group of rowdy high school girls started playing R&B songs on their smartphones.

**MEL:** Despicable! Shitheads!

**KOCH:** Well, our mate Ross wouldn't have any of that - he stood up, knocked the first girl out with his fist, roundhouse kicked another across the face, and dragged the other one off the train when it stopped and threw her onto the tracks.

**MEL:** What happened to these girls after they were justice'd by the Pater?

**KOCH:** Well, as happens with sluts who deserve what they get, two are in hospital and one is dead.

**MEL:** Oh, thank god! I think people have just had enough of this kind of misbehaviour from these sluts, don't you think?

**KOCH:** Definitely. What's the reaction been on the soapbox?

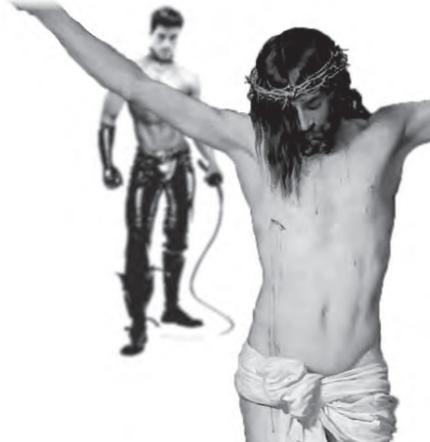
**MARK:** Our viewers have responded overwhelmingly positive to Ross, Kochie! 86% of viewers said he did the right thing, 12% of viewers said he should've finished them all off, and only 2% were indifferent.

**MEL:** Just goes to show that true Aussie blokes aren't just going to sit back and let ugly sluts get away with destroying the joint, right? I mean, considering the danger posed to this father by the gang of hideously unattractive skanks, it's good to know we still have some brave Aussie battlers and diggers in this country.

**KOCH:** Indeed. Up next, celebrating the proud history of drunken Aussie male larrikinism!



Sex Advice  
from...  
**JESUS CHRIST**



Let's face it, we are *all* looking for our next good nailing. Whether you're in it for the whip-play or to be adorned with floral wreaths, know that with pleasure there is always immense pain.

I don't usually get hung up about things, but I am most concerned about a certain practice, which in my experience can be fatal. I feel, though, I have transcended this traumatic experience and must now get the message out to every man with a beard.



I shall be as blunt as the nails embedded in my extremities; DON'T engage in BDSM, even with those you trust, otherwise you might find yourself in public, scantily dressed, and nailed to a vertically wooden bed. You'll also find yourself calling out for your father, and frankly any immediate familial references turns sex off immediately.

Now, if you do engage in BDSM, agree on a personal safety word. And remember it is surprisingly painful and deliberately slow, but BDSM allows you time to practice *pranayama* (the transcendent breath) as you increase the time of your breath outwards rather than in, as you scream in ungodly agony.

My final flaccid note: arousal will wear off after three days.

*Agony Aunt*

Hey Soin,

This totally geeky guy from my Anthro tute keeps hitting on me, and it's like, "get real, loser, I'd never date you." Any advice for staking the vampire in the heart?

Sayonara,  
Bella x

TS: Look, geeky guys have feelings too. And university is all about experiments and challenging preconceived notions. Why not hang out with him for a few weeks and see how things go? Then, sex up his best friend at a well-attended party. In *Soin's* experience, you're unlikely to ever speak again.

Good luck.

What's up, Soin?

There's a girl in my English class that I have a huge crush on. I'm too shy to approach her directly so I want to impress her with what I do in class. What'll it take to impress her?

Waiting patiently,  
Petrified

TS: Dear Petrified,

We've all been in this pickle before. If a passive approach is more your style, show off with what you say and do. Whenever your tutor asks a question, pose another, more difficult question. Sit at the back and chuckle softly at everything. Be nonchalant: last to arrive, first to leave. And if she doesn't respond well to these: self-immolation.

#yolo

Advice for first years from a fifth year who believes one day she will shatter the glass ceiling but will instead be suppressed by it



LETTERS  
TO THE  
EDITORS



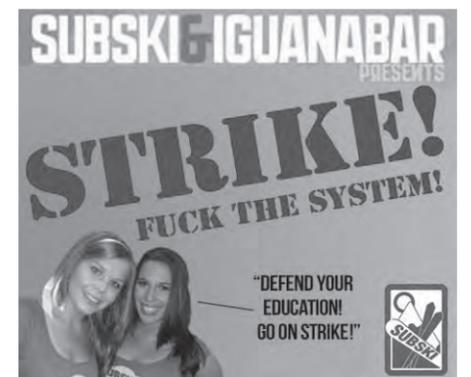
Dear fuckheads,

Fuck you and your article of Subski. We're already standing on thin ice, and this is what you do to us?

Yours in hell,  
Subski

Dear Subski,

Enjoy.



- Eds

Dear editors,

Criticise our parties if you want, but we saw you smashed at the Thrift Shop Party. We also noticed you stealing our chips from the grill - don't think we'll let you get away with this. We've squeezed every cent out of our patrons before, and we'll do it again.

Fuck ya,  
The USU



**HER BOOBS  
ARE BIGGER  
THAN HER  
FACE!**

The Perils of  
Chronic Mastitis

# WHY YOU SHOULDN'T GO TO CLASS ON A STRIKE DAY

The NTEU & CPSU have called a 48 hour strike for the 26th and 27th of March. It's in your interests not to go to class on those days. By not going to class, and joining the picket if you can, you help empty the campus and send a clear message to management.

The university wants to make this debate about wages. While it is true that the university is pushing for a real wage cut, there's a lot more that's worrying in the university's proposal, for example, staff casualisation.

The university is pushing for a casual workforce. When your teachers are casual you can't just pop by their office. Casual staff also have less time to prepare lesson plans and less time to research. Numerous studies show all these things reduce the quality of teaching. Casualisation makes it easier for the university to cram more and more students into fewer and fewer tutorials and lectures; a bigger workload and fewer staff means less quality.

Students are powerful. Just a few weeks ago students and staff shut down the university through a very successful strike action. Last year students protected the jobs of hundreds of staff; this saved many subjects and courses and prevented even more overcrowding. By combining our power with the staff we can do it again and make a real difference to the quality of our education.

We understand some students might worry about missing lectures, but in the long run it's best for all of us. Do your bit for the strike, and defend public education – join the pickets or stay home.

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## GET ACTIVE!

*March 26th & 27th:* Strike picket starting from 7am

*March 26th:* At 9.30AM, converge at Eastern Avenue for student march and roaming picket

