

# Honi Soit



Week 2, Semester 1, 2014

HONI SOIT QUI GUACA MAL Y PENSE

p.12

*Feature:  
Opus Cray*

p.14

*Tourism in the  
Himalayas*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXANDRA MILDENHALL

## Consider the law school

*Emerging student networks reveal critical gaps in legal education, writes Justin Pen.*

The Sydney Law School is a jewel in the University's sandstone crown. It is ranked tenth in the world under the QS World University Rankings. It has produced five prime ministers, two judges of the International Court of Justice and is only one justice shy of laying a majority claim to the High Court. But in spite of all the pomp and prestige, it's worth considering: what does Sydney Law School actually teach its students?

Of the 'Priestley 11', an assortment of subjects that Australian students must cover to work as legal practitioners, only three courses taught at Sydney University (Criminal Law, The Legal Profession, and Civil and Criminal Procedure) explicitly assess the law's impact on marginal groups. Issues surrounding access to justice receive a fleeting glance in the

first subject every student studies, Foundations of Law, and are then chiefly ignored.

*“Hyper-competitive law students could be called conspicuous careerists.”*

Indigenous perspectives are sorely lacking in 'Real Property'. Subjects such as 'Torts', 'Contracts' and 'Torts and Contracts II' provide detailed scaffolding on the historic development of the law, comparisons to international jurisdictions, and the litany of rules, caveats and exceptions – but fail to inform students that legal

safeguards are accessible only to those that can afford them.

A potential panacea has arrived in the form of the Critical Legal Students Network (CLSN) and Radical Lawyers' Network (RLN). CLSN is a fortnightly discussion group established by fourth-year LLB students Oscar Monaghan, Jim Clifford, Judy Zhu and fifth-year student Ellen O'Brien. The group aims to create space for reflection, education, and networking with a focus on “transformative social change,” Monaghan tells me. Similarly, recent UTS law graduate Chris Gall informs me his vision for RLN is to “create decentralized groups of legal students and professionals” that will “organize around their own projects and draw upon support from other groups in the networks”.

CLSN and RLN draw strongly on

the intellectual and methodological traditions of the Critical Legal Studies movement. Challenging the basic assumptions of objectivity and equality before the law, they examine the power of race, class, gender, socioeconomic status, and sexuality in modern legal systems.

Both networks reject the orthodox 'black letter' approach adopted by mainstream law schools, which focuses on a technical understanding of the legal system and presents its rules as neutral or objective. Gall rebuts the framework, asserting that it fails to ask “who wins, who loses... and how we could do things better”. Monaghan, too, is sceptical of black letter pedagogy.

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 7

# Contents

## HONI SOIT ISSUE #2

3	Letters
4-5	News
6	The Manning Files
6	Faffing around with SSAF
7	Senate appointed USU Board Directors
8	Groups agitating for change in law schools
9	Soylent: the sludge food solution
10	Objectivity is dead (in sports judging)
10	International students' column
11	Tea with a guy who had tea with al-Assad
12	There's no 'I' in Opus Dei (except for in the actual spelling of the word)

14	Mountains and music
15	Pitting genius against genius: a review
16	Yes, In My Backyard
17	SRC Help
18-19	SRC Office Bearer Reports
20	Puzzling matters
21	What's On
22-23	Comedy
24	Yet another back page devoted to the NDA

We acknowledge that *Honi Soit's* office is located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

## Editorial

Student media is fluid. Each year, *Honi Soit* receives an editorial shake up, with seismic ramifications for the rag's ideology and aesthetic. The campus is littered with a litany of publications read, written and edited by students. It's hard to define it when it comes in zines, in journals, in almanacs and in newspapers.

The latest addition to the mix is Hijacked, an online, corporate-backed, content-distributor for struggling papers across the country. It's backed by Telstra, Officeworks and oOh!Media, a profit-making triumvirate which seeks to syndicate, and monetise, student journalism. It offers to circulate students' content to a national audience, but cut them out of the editorial process.

Hijacked has flown its banner from our website and stuck an ad in our paper.

Hijacked offers its authors cash for clicks. Students aren't remunerated for their words; they're paid to promote the brand. The outlet doles out dosh to its writers when they can draw 500 unique pairs of eyeballs to the page. What matters isn't an article's depth of research or originality of content, but how swiftly it can be shared, tweeted and foisted upon an aloof and frenetic demographic of 18-25 year olds.

But student journalists, and the scrappy packs of editors that represent them, should aspire to be so much more and to do so much more. The mainstream media has collapsed. Artefacts from the rubble reveal a press corps that is as confused as it is fragmented. The path forward is one of untried plodding, of alternative journalism and inventive financing. University, much the same as with all else, is not likely the place we'll figure it out.

It's tough, and perhaps a little trite, to define student media. At its best, it's independent from vested interests, it rewards its writers for content not clicks, and it's run by students, from the first draft to the final copy. It's bold, clever, funny and marginal. This paper pushed obscenity laws to their limits and challenged the draft during the Vietnam War. Whatever it is, it's the complete antithesis of the corporate, click-bait, hierarchical news conduit that is Hijacked.

We're not pretending we've figured it all out. We were born into the rubble with no special insight. We're aspirational plodders mucking around with bylines, headlines and InDesign in a windowless bunker with scant ventilation.

To paraphrase Dick Wolf: "These are our stories."

Honi Soit Editors

## Letter of the week

Dear *Honi*,

Frankly, I find this offensive (How to cover Christopher Pyne in bees', Week 1 Semester 1). It's like the writer hasn't even heard of 'Colony Collapse Disorder'. Bees are disappearing at an alarming rate and this will have an effect on ecosystems around the world, not to mention a severe lack of delicious honey. It is irresponsible to waste good bees on covering Christopher Pyne. All living things have an unbuilt instinct to attack Christopher Pyne, and in the case of the bees, this will kill them, which isn't fair.

We have numerous imported pests in Australia that would be more ecologically sound to cover Christopher Pyne in. Whilst Cane toads may be very difficult to cover Christopher Pyne in, at least he might be able to justify some of the insane statements he makes in that very whiny voice as a 'lick of the toad'. In keeping with the flying aspect, I'd encourage the author to look at how Christopher Pyne could be covered in a flying pest such as the European Wasp. It is an unwanted pest and it won't die when it is merely running a defensive genetic program that has been developed of millions of years of evolution.

From what I understand, only sweet, sticky foodstuffs need to be attached to Christopher Pyne to lure the wasps. I would encourage the author to be nicer to bees, but keep up the good work on trying to cover Christopher Pyne in living tissue, God knows he needs it.

Bruce Campbell

### RIP Ballsac 'Zac' Buggy



Ballsac 'Zac' Buggy, a wonderful dog, passed away last week. He was a pooch with a difficult early life who was adopted in his very old age by Mel, a caseworker at the SRC. He would spend some days strolling around the office, sniffing around in the *Honi* room and corridor. Zac will be sorely missed.

Ward, Steph White.

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## Crab lovin'

Dear Felicity Nelson and Monica Renn,

Thanks for writing and illustrating 'The crabs you want to have'! I enjoyed reading it and found it straightforward and easy to understand, with just enough technical detail. The drawing of the crab drew my attention and helped illustrate the strange creature described in the text. I also like the symmetry of the image and how the detailed style of illustration also suggests that the article is about science. I'd love to see more articles like this!

Warm regards,  
Lauren Black, IT III

## In Defence of Self-Defence

Dear *Honi*,

I am teaching autonomous wom\*n's self-defence classes with accompanying feminist discussion groups at the University of Sydney. Our flyers were funded by the SRC Wom\*n's Collective and the USYD Greens on Campus. The workshops are *free*. A group of wom\*n organised them because we are passionate feminists who want to empower willing wom\*n.

Self-defence does not prevent sexual assault. We explicitly state in our flyer: "Offenders bear sole responsibility for their assault." Self-*defence* by definition means an assault has occurred, that one is reacting to an *offense*. Giving wom\*n access to self-defence knowledge can still help wom\*n escape an assault more quickly and with less injury. It teaches wom\*n that they are powerful agents, with full control over their bodies. *Most importantly*, it gives wom\*n a new perspective on the passivity and physical disempowerment culturally conditioned into them since someone first pronounced them 'a little girl.' I. M. Young's 'Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility and Spatiality' illustrates that culturally conditioned 'femininity' manifests in girls' physicality. Girls do not use their "body's spatial and lateral potentialities" while boys "bring their whole bodies" into movements. The patriarchy stifled us into verbal and physical submission while "boys will be boys" played on a loop throughout our childhood. Wom\*n learning to assert themselves affects every interaction they have and impacts the gender binary's power-imbalance by directly subverting 'feminine-passive masculine-active' dichotomies. *This* is how wom\*n's self-defence addresses sexual violence. By empowering wom\*n

Additionally, our first discussion group focuses on victim-blaming and how opposed we are to this mentality. While we advocate wom\*n's physical empowerment and knowledge of self-defence (as wom\*n are disproportionately affected by sexual violence) this never places responsibility of their safety or past assaults on them. In the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the course (Week 10 of semester 1) we have scheduled 'Bring an Ally Day,' in which allies are invited to participate – to educate them through our discussion group. We aim to define consent and teach men how to have solidarity with wom\*n-identifying people.

I, as their instructor, am serving wom\*n who want to learn how to assert themselves, both physically and generally. I do not endorse victim-blaming. I do not see empowering

wom\*n and changing gender dynamics as victim-blaming. If I was a person who felt uncomfortable with these classes, I might message the organisers about how they are addressing such issues before accusing them of victim-blaming (*it was these arguments which inspired our classes in the first place*). I would not criticise and label other wom\*n's self-organised autonomous initiatives without engaging with the organisers, because that is not inclusive feminism.

If you still disagree with these workshops, please attend and talk us through your concerns. Alternatively, every wom\*n has the right to different forms of action: hold your own event! This would be particularly accessible if you were an executive member of the USYD Feminist Society, which has sadly not held one event since the Welcome Drinks six months ago. I would love more dialogue about gendered violence on campus, especially during the USU Sex and Consent Day in Semester 2, so if you have any interest please get involved.

Learning self-defence can be equated to learning how to swim. If someone pushes a non-swimmer into the water intending to drown them – it is *never* the non-swimmer's fault. Swimming can still be a useful and empowering skill. Let us destroy victim-blaming and work together to advance wom\*n's rights.

Sincerely,  
Bridget Harilaou, INGS/Law II  
USYD Wom\*n's Self-Defence Workshops  
Organiser 2014

## Manufacturing 'Funds'

Dear *Honi*,

I write in response to Nick Rowbotham's article in the Week One Edition titled 'Manufacturing Fun.' The article primarily attacked the University of Sydney Union for engaging too many corporate sponsors with Orientation Week and other festivals and events throughout the year.

Mr Rowbotham begins by asserting that the 'wrong people' are in control of the USU's events. It came as massive disappoint to me that Mr Rowbotham neglected to mention that O-Week was directed by two students studying law and that together they showcased 92 events – all student run.

Events like the Scavenger Hunt were made possible thanks to a chip-in from corporate sponsor Hijacked. And while the post-event photos, the bright colours or big smiles may have given Mr Rowbotham the impression of 'sanitised student fun.' I can assure Mr Rowbotham had he engaged with the O-Week activities he would have had some actual genuine fun. (I think the Scav Hunt may have clashed with his shift at the Access Tent)

I do not want Orientation Week to turn into an one big advertisement for Commbank or Officeworks. It makes me incredibly uncomfortable. However it is a practical reality that by letting some corporate sponsors hand out free mi-goreng, the O-Week budget is greatly expanded. And we have to make some concessions in this post-VSU world.

Some students aren't engaged. Some won't be engaged until they see something crazy on campus like a Mechanical Bull or Inflatable Slide (a la Engineering Parties) If a student has a go on a Mechanical Surfboard at an event like Campus Culture's FUNCH, then discovers the USU has a Surfing Society

and makes friends through the surfing lessons they run - the student leaders behind it are doing their job right.

There are issues within the USU that need to be addressed. We need to be constantly keeping USU departments to account and ensuring that students continue to be in those offices shaping events. But amongst the smear-pieces and critiques, we do need to reflect and celebrate the fact we are members of an organization that connects so many students and creates endless outlets for student creativity and expression.

I look forward to reading more pieces in *Honi* this year focused on the latest MUSE show or the amazing production work done by students on their own radio shows at SURG FM (*even* if they took a donation from Durex to make it happen.)

Alisha Aitken-Radburn, Arts (MECO) III  
USU Campus Culture Director 2014

## CROSS... words

Dear *Honi Soit*,

The past two years has seen me become an avid *Honi* crossword enthusiast. Each Wednesday, I pick up the *Honi* at *Taste*, flip to the back (to the puzzles section) and punch the air as I discover whether the crossword was the creation of Zplig or Janice. Now, I know your magazine doesn't aim to target puzzlers, but if you choose to include a puzzle section - do it right, or don't do it at all. The last two weeks' crosswords have not been up to scratch. First and foremost, there was no cryptic crossword this week. Waaa?? Secondly, with regards to this week's quick one, there was no creator identified. AND - it was riddled with mistakes: there was no sign of a clue for 25 down, there was a word in the crossword that wasn't even labelled (the 2-letter word from the ending of 20-across) and there were an incorrect number of letters in the brackets following a clue (31-down). I urge you to do a little bit of proof reading, and more importantly - to find crossword makers who are passionate about delivering cryptic (and other) crosswords of the highest standard! Bring on Zplig and Janice... pronto!

Anonymous

## In Defence of Self-Defence Mark 2

Dearest *Honi*,

I write in response to Kate Bullen's letter, published in last week's edition ("Victim Blaming?"), accusing the fliers advertising the Women's Self Defence classes and discussion group of perpetuating a victim-blaming rhetoric. Although I don't think the letter was written with malicious intent, I believe Bullen has missed the point. What rhetoric is Bullen referring to?

The group organising the classes consists entirely of wom\*n, as it is autonomous. I have a number of friends who are involved who are very progressive feminists. I can't think of anyone less likely to propagate victim-blaming rhetoric (that is, the deeply sexist idea that wom\*n should be more careful when they're on the street or alone and that they're solely responsible for their safety).

The intent is to create a space that empowers women.

Physical self defence is not the only issue here; the discussion component is crucial.

It's where participants can criticise victim-blaming discourse, which sadly permeates the majority of self-defence programs aimed at wom\*n.

I therefore contend Bullen's allegation that the fliers are promoting a victim-blaming rhetoric, particularly since they clearly state that "Offenders bear sole responsibility for their assaults, but they do not hold all the power". This will become clear to attendees of the classes and/or discussion groups. This was articulated in last week's Wom\*n's officers' report.

The SRC logo is on the fliers because the Wom\*n's Officers endorse the classes and the USU logo is on them because printing was partially funded by the Greens On Campus, a USU club.

I appreciate the underlying sentiment in Bullen's letter and look forward to building USYD's feminist community through activities such as the Wom\*n's Self Defence classes. Perhaps the organisers of the classes would be open to suggestions of how the fliers could be improved or clarified to convey that these classes aren't about making wom\*n out to be the victims – although I think this is made clear. They're about constructively changing the discourse of wom\*n's issues on campus to empower ourselves, educate ourselves, and engage in self-reflexion within the community.

Sincerely,  
Mariana Podesta-Diverio  
Arts (Sociology Hons.)

## Consistency is all I ask!

Dear *Honi*,

In 2012, the USU Board censured Tom Raue for publicly criticising Interfaith Week and LifeChoice. The former event was dished on a Facebook thread, in a comment from Raue's personal account.

This week, a current board director called LifeChoice, the same society Raue criticised, "pro-life propaganda" and repeatedly criticised a new initiative partly funded by the USU because of its alienation of some of the USU member base. Raue essentially did the same about Interfaith week, labelling it a "slap in the face to secularism".

Does anyone else see the similarities here?

I am definitely not arguing that this current board director be censured. I think the comments (as Raue's were) were made from a personal position, in a forum that does little to affect the USU as an organisation. I am merely pointing out the ridiculousness of Raue's current situation, where he faces being removed from Board as a result of a second censuring, the first of which was tantamount to him having a whinge on Facebook.

The USU started this ridiculous trend with Raue's censuring in 2012. If they want to maintain any sense of uniform standard, this director must be censured. If they want to retain any shred of credibility as a student organisation, they won't censure this director for having an opinion, and they won't fire Raue for sharing his.

Lucy Watson  
Arts (MECO) VI

## Compromise on SSAF hard to find

*Alexi Polden keeps receiving emails saying “no comment”.*

Negotiations between student bodies and the University regarding the allocation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) have stalled and are not expected to conclude until at least May.

This delay has hampered the ability of student organisations to determine their budgets for the coming year.

The SSAF allocation is determined yearly by the Student Consultative Committee, and in 2013 represented a funding pool of \$12,203,401. In 2013 they had reached a decision by March.

Notably, the Committee is student in name only. Neither SUSF President Bruce Ross nor USU CEO Andrew Woodward are students, but both have played a major role in the negotiations.

The inability of student groups to budget until they reach an

agreement raises questions about how they will manage the provision of services in the short term.

USU President Hannah Morris said the existing January-April funding round would keep the Union afloat for the forthcoming period, though ideally the USU would want to reach an agreement well before April. This currently appears unlikely.

SUPRA president Joanne Gad said that SUPRA was put in a difficult position by the delay. The postgraduate organisation “can’t just hope for funding and budget on those terms”, she said.

SSAF funding will not be allocated until the Student Consultative Committee comes to a consensus decision.

The organisations, which responded to *Honi*, indicated an interest to work with other student

### The Student Consultative Committee

Organisations seeking funding include: the Student Representative Council (SRC), the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA), the Cumberland Student Guild (CSG), Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF), and the University of Sydney Union (USU). Part of the SSAF is also allocated to Student Support Services and the Capital Sinking Fund.

groups, in order to secure adequate funding and provide a holistic student experience.

This goodwill has evidently not been enough to force a decision. The inability of the Committee to agree will likely harm the activities of all student organisations.

A source close to the Union Board, who wishes to remain anonymous, has told *Honi* the USU is facing a potential budget deficit. “A reduction in the current SSAF request would necessitate reconsideration of the Union’s finances over the coming year,” the source revealed.

A separate anonymous source has provided similar, unverifiable allegations regarding SUSF to *Honi*.

Sydney University Sport and Fitness refused comment to a number of questions or on anything regarding SSAF negotiations.

The SRC declined to give further comment on the negotiations for fear of disadvantaging their bargaining position.

The Cumberland Student Guild did not respond to *Honi*’s repeated requests for comment.

## New mental health unit to blend treatment and research

*Tim Asimakis reports on a new centre slated to improve mental health care in NSW.*

The University of Sydney has partnered with Sydney Local Health District to construct a mental health unit in Camperdown, attached to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The project, envisioned as a centre for research, teaching, and specialised treatment, is currently under construction on Missenden Road.

The Missenden Mental Health Unit (MMHU), expected to cost \$67 million, will be paid for in part by the University, which has committed \$10 million to the venture in addition to the entirety of a \$25 million government grant that was secured in 2009.

Designed with a capacity for 53 beds, the MMHU will house seven research beds under the auspices of the University’s Brain and Mind Research Institute (BMRI), with

additional access to be provided to the Centre for Eating and Dietary Disorders.

The rest of the hospital will exist to provide in-patient care and mental health services to the Sydney, Leichardt and Marrickville local government areas, which in 2013 were home to more than 60,000 sufferers of mental health issues.

In a statement to *Honi*, the University stressed the novel aspects of the MMHU, which, it is hoped, will change the nature of mental health care in New South Wales and move patients away from general treatments and into specialised facilities.

Professor Ian Hickie, Executive Director of the BMRI, recognized that the project represents an important shift away from what

he described as “previous, generic models of care for 18-65 year olds, where the care you receive in mental health is entirely dependent on who your GP is and where you live.”

“The new Missenden Mental Health Unit will be focused on providing care based on patient needs. We’re adapting the model of care to provide personalised early intervention based on patient age and stage of illness.”

The MMHU’s community influence will be strengthened by linking hospital care to existing mental health programs like Headspace, and by providing regional outreach specialist consultation services to all of NSW.

Students have welcomed the venture, but have also expressed concern over the MMHU’s

potential interaction with student services. Fahad Ali, founder of the Mental Health Action Group on campus commented that “Integrating education, research and training in one facility is core to providing high quality care to people who suffer from mental illness.”

Ali went on to question whether the MMHU will provide tangible benefits to students. “We boast some of the most prominent psychiatrists in the country, but we don’t see any of that excellence contribute to improving student mental health through Counseling and Psychological Services and the University Health Service,” he said.

Construction on the MMHU is slated for completion by the end of 2014.

## AIME-ing high in world of finance

*Steph White reports on the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience.*

A KPMG report released in December 2013 has found the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) produced a net benefit of \$38 million for the Australian economy in 2012.

The report also found AIME’s return on investment is approximately \$7 in benefits for every \$1 spent, with most investment coming from universities and corporate partners.

The reported 700% return is based upon the projected value of education and employment to the Australian economy. An AIME student who completes a university degree can be expected to earn up to \$332,000 more over their lifetime compared to an Indigenous person who does not complete high school.

KPMG’s findings were based on the likely schooling pathways for students who participated in the program in 2012 compared to the average Indigenous student in the country.

The report calculated that the total lifetime earnings of the

2012 AIME cohort are expected to be \$59 million higher than the lifetime earnings of a same-sized population of Indigenous students around the country. AIME students were also found to be more likely to complete year 12 than the average non-Indigenous student.

AIME is a not-for profit that runs mentoring programs for Indigenous students. Jack Manning Bancroft, an alumnus of the University of Sydney, founded the organisation. He started the program when he was 19, and is now one of Australia’s youngest CEOs at 26.

Sydney University students have been active in the program since its inception, according to Adam Linforth, AIME’s Director of Finance and Partnering.

“Much of the thanks has to go to University of Sydney students and the contributions they have made since we started the program back in 2005,” he said.

“The time and effort that those students have put in over the years has helped AIME to expand

around Australia, and supported the next generation of Indigenous kids to finish school and head to Uni, employment or further education.”

What started as a small program of 25 students and 25 mentors in a single Redfern school is now a large countrywide operation. Last year 1,000 university students from nine universities volunteered to assist 2,000 high school students from 121 schools through a variety of programs. On top of this, AIME employs 100 staff and has partnered with companies such as Google, Virgin Australia and Coca-Cola.

“It’s pretty humbling to see what AIME has done for a lot of different people,” Bancroft said in an interview with *Australian Story*. “Personally, I think that it doesn’t make sense today that an Australian kid who is Indigenous doesn’t have the same chances that every other Australian kid has. And until I can see an Australia where that happens, I don’t think I’ll be happy or satisfied.”

## A Pyne in time sacks five

*Tom Gardner became entangled in red tape while investigating this piece.*

The role of the national university regulator will be overhauled and its five Commissioners sacked if Parliament passes legislation introduced by Education Minister Christopher Pyne.

This week, Parliament debated a bill that sought to diminish the role of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), established in 2011 with bipartisan support to accredit universities and courses.

One of TEQSA’s functions is to undertake reviews of the higher education sector in order to monitor university quality. Under the proposed changes, these reviews would not be allowed.

Although no reviews have been completed to date, the agency intends to complete two investigations in the near future: one into English language proficiency among students and another into higher education providers, which outsource teaching to third parties.

A Department of Education spokesperson said the internal and external checks carried out by universities render TEQSA’s

reviewing capacity unnecessary. “Such assessments can be undertaken through other, better means,” they said.

In the past, university managers including the Dean of UNSW Law School have expressed their disdain for TEQSA. Last week Coalition frontbencher Paul Fletcher said that TEQSA imposed “excessive” regulatory burdens on universities.

“It is no exaggeration to say that TEQSA created enormous frustration in the tertiary sector in the way it was operating, with an extraordinary degree of bureaucratic interventionism,” he said.

Pyne argued that students would benefit if TEQSA focused more on timely accreditation, as delays in rejecting course or institution accreditation could lead students to enrol in a course or university that may not exist in a few months.

But narrow oversight also risks reducing education quality and disadvantaging students, as the primary mechanism for monitoring tertiary education

issues would be removed. The University of Sydney is cautiously supporting the reforms, which it believes could be beneficial for students.

“We believe the best outcome for students is for universities to reduce their red tape so they can direct resources towards teaching and research while still ensuring the system provides students with a quality education,” a University spokesperson said.

However, SRC Education Officer Ridah Hassan is opposed to the proposed amendment, saying universities should not be allowed to self-regulate.

“The TEQSA amendment bill follows the general trend towards the deregulation of the higher education system, which gives individual higher education providers free reign to charge students more while education quality declines due to a lack of funding,” she said.

The ALP has raised doubts about the reforms, criticising the dramatic dismissal of the Commissioners.

## Australian universities now more shit: report

*Nick Gowland shares the depressing news.*

Sydney University has dropped significantly in this year’s Times Higher Education World Reputation Ranking, possibly due to concern for the Abbott Government’s planned cuts to tertiary education spending.

Despite being ranked the world’s 49th best university in the 2013 survey, this year Sydney University only made the 61-70 bracket in the popular annual ranking of the world’s top universities.

The other four Australian institutions on the list also lost ground since last year, with Melbourne University, the highest ranked institution, dropping from 39 to 43.

The United States took out the top three spots with Harvard, MIT and Stanford, with the UK’s Cambridge and Oxford taking fourth and fifth respectively.

The order of universities is determined by a survey of over 10,000 international academics concerning their opinions on institutions operating within their disciplines.

Although these rankings are a reflection of aggregate subjective opinion, they are considered vital by large competitive universities seeking to attract valuable international student fees, which are worth over \$14 billion a year to Australian education institutions.

Phil Baty, editor of the 2014 Times Higher Education ranking, suggested to ABC News that the drop in confidence in Australian universities could be the result of \$2.3 billion in university spending cuts announced by the former Labor Government in April last year.

“We’re seeing huge amounts of money being put into universities to make them remain world class. But in Australia the funding cuts that are coming could hurt for years to come,” he said.

Although initially intending to finance the now-uncertain Gonski School funding reforms, the Coalition has signalled that it is looking to go ahead with the cuts to tertiary education.



# NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

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- Spying on your girlfriend’s Facebook messages: bit of a laugh.
- Trolling friends by deleting their E-mails: strong LOLs.
- Violating the Privacy of every internet-using citizen: Priceless.
- For criminal suspects, there’s search warrants. For everyone else, there’s PRISM.

THE MANNING FILES

ET TU USU?

The USU has once again been dragged before the Supreme Court. This time it wasn't Tom Raue, the Board's resident bearded Anarchist and Vice President-at-large who faced the chopping block earlier this February, joining them. Instead, the plaintiff du jour is Mark Anthony, the Union's former photographer and graduation portrait specialist.

Marky Mark has held a license to occupy a room in the Holme Bulding since 1991. When the latest agreement expired in March 2012, the USU let Anthony stay on, on a casual month-to-month basis.

Following refurbishments to Holme, the USU moved to kick Anthony out with one month's notice, which the court said

was "unreasonable and oppressive."

As such, the USU was prohibited from evicting him. Both parties will reconvene in the gladiatorial pit of the Supreme Court (Equity Division) at a later date.

It looks like the USU is likely to bleed money for an indeterminate amount of time. Anyone looking for a Board campaign slogan might consider this suggestion:

"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to evict you, one by one, cya 18r."

THE MUNGING FILES

As if the free publicity of their mention in last week's Manning Files wasn't enough,

the Sydney University Liberal Club's new newspaper *Mon Droit* managed to snag some sneaky coverage in *The Australian's* daily blog 'High Wired'. The anonymous journalist praises *Mon Droit's* invitation for readers to send in any examples of lecturer bias, but saves their highest praise for the name Ignatius P. Wentorth (hereafter "Iggy-Paw") whose crew is described as "rascally rascals".

You might be tempted to wonder why a national newspaper finds the founding of a campus publication worthy of reporting, but don't fret. It's clearly just some inter-print camaraderie (aka some casual right wing loving).

The editors of *Honi Soit* also rated a mention. We were

hailed as "those obnoxious, smelly, hairy, loud, mung-bean chomping lefties who run Sydney University student rag *Honi Soit*".

We would recommend that *The Australian* should actually read the publication they're attempting to cover. Even *Mon Droit* was aware that these stereotypes about the left are woefully out of date. Iggy-Paw conceded that "the stench of socialism is dispersing as the latte-sippers, liberals, useless lefties, chattering classes and twitterati replace the shampoo adverse Trotskyists".

High Wired, get your pejoratives in order. And for the record, at least six of us used shampoo since last week's slander.

## Distributive injustice: the problem with SSAF

Harry Stratton supports the SSAF but questions its allocation.

I support compulsory student unionism. That means I support every student paying their taxes so that the Students Representative Council (SRC) can oppose education-funding cuts that hurt us all and give help to the students who need it most.

The problem, however, with the implementation of Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) at this university is that only a small fraction of it goes towards these things. Instead, the SSAF has become a regressive tax system where huge sums are transferred from students on the poverty line to those who can afford to get involved in clubs and societies.

It gets worse when the University uses that allocation to control student organisations that need independence to fight for students' rights.

I support the SSAF. What I don't support is the way this university distributes it.

Over the last two years, the University has given over \$20 million to student organisations. Close to \$14 million of that went

to the USU and the SUSF alone.

The University is allocating millions of dollars to the USU's Clubs and Societies program and the SUSF's Elite Athletes program. The people with sufficient free time and money to get involved in clubs and societies are overwhelmingly not the students struggling to meet last week's rent. Accordingly, students on Youth Allowance or international students toughing it out trying to pay their way are totally locked out of these activities. Not to mention the students at satellite campuses who are lucky to see a cent's return on their SSAF.

Much as I love the Trotskyist-inspired chants of Sydney University's debaters, they ring rather hollow when only a small fraction of the singers went to a comprehensive school, compared to two-thirds of the state.

Even more troubling is when this money isn't, in fact, going to students at all. Sources inside the SUSF estimate that about 20 per cent of all athlete scholarships go to non-students. Even more is spent on cross-subsidising

SUSF facilities that are totally inaccessible to the average student - unless, that is, you can fork out \$350 for a pool membership, with an additional \$150 a year if you want to set foot inside the gym.

Every cent of this money comes at the expense of the vital services that the SRC and Union could instead be providing to all students, like affordable housing, food subsidies for students on Youth Allowance, and childcare for every student who needs it - regardless of whether they can afford an ACCESS card.

SUSF can pretend that these aren't 'SSAF dollars' all they like, but when this University used SSAF's introduction to increase SUSF's expenditure and leave welfare services stagnant, they increased the tax burden on the student working poor.

But that's not the only problem with this University's SSAF allocation. The SSAF is reallocated from scratch every year, which means at any moment your Vice Chancellor could decide to cut off funding entirely.

That would be a disaster for

the SRC or *Honi Soit*, which are almost completely reliant on the SSAF. This results in a huge chilling effect that's felt everywhere from the Council chamber to the *Honi* editorial room, limiting the ability to student organisations to fight for students' rights.

The University and Union could solve these problems. The University could guarantee SSAF funding to the SRC and *Honi*. They could reserve 50 per cent of the SSAF for welfare services. Your Union could institute affirmative action for low SES students, so that their voices could be heard on Board and they could have the opportunity to take part in club executives and teams. It could demand that the SUSF - run by two good Old Boys who might generously be described as middle-aged - be actually student-controlled before it receives students' money.

But while SSAF allows Michael Spence to reign in the SRC, while it enables the SUSF to keep opening new facilities nobody but their executive can afford to attend, I won't hold my breath.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## "The fringes of legal education"

"Divorcing the study of law from the study of power provides only the veneer of understanding," he says. Rather, CLSN and RLN both advocate for holistic understandings of the law and its intersection with race, class, gender and ability.

Indeed, the Law School remains silent on the implications that entrenched maldistribution has on the already dispossessed. What capacity does the legal system actually have for providing real or transformative justice when access and expertise is so stacked against the most vulnerable? What is the value of a legal system that effectively protects the economic and property rights of the 'Haves' to the detriment of the 'Have Nots'?

These are questions that are either side-stepped - "I'm sorry, that's not within the scope of this course" - or answered with a cold, albeit honest, shrug - "whoever has the deepest pockets wins."

Associate Dean Fiona Burns defends the Law School's curriculum. "The central role and duty of the Law School is to equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills and qualities for accreditation to practise law," she tells me.

She further contends that social justice work is available through optional, extra-curricular avenues. "The Law School offers a wide range of electives and other student focused activities (such as internships and participation in moots) to enable reflection on social and economic issues."

That law schools diminish progressive outcomes is, unfortunately, inevitable.

It follows the trend of universities succumbing to financial pressures, and of students becoming C.V. slates. Following successive cuts to higher education, university administrators have mobilised staff and students to conform to

Sociologists refer to status-hungry shoppers as 'conspicuous consumers'. Correspondingly, hyper-competitive law students could be called conspicuous careerists.

the University of Melbourne's eponymous 'Melbourne Model' further stratifies enrolment on financial capacity. In a controversial move in 2008, Vice Chancellor Glyn Davies compressed the university's 96 undergraduate courses into just six programs, placing a greater emphasis on expensive post-graduate education.

At Melbourne, a law degree is offered only through the cost-prohibitive Juris Doctor (JD) program. The JD requires students to complete and finance prior studies; the three-year course costs \$110,162. By comparison, Sydney Law School's most expensive undergraduate program, the five-year B. Economics/B. Law, costs \$50,425. In 2011, only half of Melbourne University's JD students held Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) leaving the other half to pay full fees.

Dean Spade, a Seattle-based lawyer and activist, asserts that even the work of the noblest legal practitioners ultimately amounts to little more than bureaucratic muckraking. In his essay *For Those Considering Law School*, Spade contends that social change "doesn't come from the top - from elites granting change through legislation or courts." On a practical level, he suggests that students "need to form [their] own reading groups and other support spaces to learn what is not taught."

Certainly, the emergence of student networks like CLSN and RLN demonstrate that top-tier law schools have a lot to learn and to teach.

*'Spade contends that social change "doesn't come from the top - from elites granting change through legislation or courts."*

Sydney University Law Society (SULS) President James Higgins agrees with the contention that the Law School's black letter approach is insufficient. "Most law schools aren't necessarily in the business of producing reformist lawyers," he observes. "Sydney, in particular, has a history of its graduates taking the commercial law path."

"Change is often slow in large institutions, but I think Sydney is moving in the right direction and will continue to do so with the involvement of passionate students and staff," he adds.

The intransigence of Sydney Law School is not an exceptional phenomenon. Gall is similarly critical of UTS Law. Subjects that carry critical perspectives are relegated to "the fringes of legal education, usually taught as optional electives," he says, "and usually [cover] too much content in too little time."

The content of a legal education is not its sole limitation. Down south,

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# A more perfect Union

An open letter from the *Honi Soit* editorial team.

## The USU: A Briefing Paper

### What is the USU?

The University of Sydney Union (USU) is a \$22 million operation.

The USU runs a variety of programs on campus, including O-Week, the Clubs and Societies program, and the food outlets in Manning House and the Wentworth Building.

In 2013 \$3.1 million of USyd's compulsory Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) revenue was given to the Union. This means that each USyd student paid \$83 to the Union per semester last year.

Students also fund the USU via the purchase of ACCESS cards.

This provides membership to the Union and the entire breadth of its services.

### What is the Board of Directors?

The USU's Board of Directors holds control of the Union and its programs.

It is composed of 11 elected student directors, professional CEO Andrew Woodward, and two Senate-appointed directors.

The CEO, in cooperation with the Board, appoints the Union's heads of departments and conducts its day-to-day operations.

Each May, the USyd student body elects a new crop of

student directors.

Each June, the members of the Board elect their Executive, which is made up of the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer. These are some of the highest positions of student political office at Sydney University.

### Who are the Senate-appointed directors?

Senate-appointed directors hold the same powers as their elected counterparts, including the right to vote in Executive elections.

They tend not to be University of Sydney students, and are not elected by the student body.

They are often previous Board directors, or hold other positions of influence within the University.

There are no official pre-requisites for the positions, nor official selection processes. Appointments to the position of Senate-appointed director must simply be approved by the University Senate.

In the past, candidates for the position of Senate-appointed director have often been shortlisted and selected by other members of the Board before being presented to the Senate for approval. The Senate has, however, occasionally recommended candidates for the position to the Union Board.

## The Democratic Deficit

### The improper place of non-students in student democracy

At the University of Sydney, opportunities for genuine student representation and leadership are limited. In one of the few powerful student political organisations of this university, students should have an exclusive say in those who lead them.

The University of Sydney Union Board, and especially its Executive, has enormous sway over the direction of the largest student organization on campus. It controls a \$22 million budget, and determines the staffing of the Union. It makes decisions about its funding priorities, events, programs and politics. It decides the nature and extent of the role the union can play in student life.

Students must make these decisions. It is their organisation, and it exists to serve them. But, currently, two unelected, Senate-appointed directors are wielding disproportionate influence over the direction of the USU.

Senate-appointed directors have the capacity to vote in USU Executive elections and, in the last Presidential election, Emma McDonald did so.

Although they only fill two of the 13 seats at the Board's table, the appointed directors still play a significant role come executive election time. In 2012, the presidential election was decided by one vote. Last year, it was decided by two. The implication of these narrow margins is obvious: the appointed directors

could have cast votes that would have changed the outcome of either election, and, by extension, the direction of the Union at large.

The Senate-appointed representatives are often incredibly capable and experienced people. This newspaper does not begrudge their success. We merely question whether they should have the power to shape a student organisation.

### An accountability deficit

In May this year, McDonald will become the longest-serving current Board Director. She was chosen in early 2012, by a group of directors who have since been replaced by a new generation of elected representatives. By May this year, none of the students who consented to furnishing her with the same powers that they had been democratically granted will remain on the Board. It is very possible that McDonald will vote in the executive election of student directors who never had the opportunity to accept her place on the Board.

This, to us, hints at the existence of a democratic gap.

Senate-appointed directors are not accountable to the student body and ordinary USU members to the same extent that their elected, student colleagues are. The appointed directors are not directly elected by students, are very rarely students themselves, and are chosen by the Board and the Senate in a process not transparent to the student population.

Where the term of elected directors ends after two years, there exists no constitutional limit on the term of appointed directors. They routinely sit on Board for double the time – and more – of the elected directors who put them there.

And, to aggravate the problem further, there is limited ability for the elected directors – including those who had no say in the original appointment – to remove the unelected directors from the Board. They may only be removed from board where they have committed a serious violation of the Constitution, USU Regulations or Duty Statements, and a two-third majority of the Board votes to remove them. Bluntly, this is just too high a bar for the removal of a nonelected representative.

### What needs to change

We recognize that candidates for the upcoming USU executive election are presented with a prisoner's dilemma. They may believe in the value of student democracy and the right of student representatives to choose their own executive. But, in acting according to that principle, they risk their chance of winning an executive position. While they may abstain from courting the votes of the appointed directors, their competitors may not be so ethical. Without the guarantee that no one will seek the vote of the appointed directors, everyone does.

That needs to change. Below we are publishing a document with two conditions on it. Board directors: if you agree that students should run their own

Union, that the votes of unelected and unaccountable non-student directors should not decide who leads the student union, please sign your name to it. Get in contact with us and we will provide you with a copy of it. We'll bring it to your house with a Big Mac if it means you'll sign it.

The USU should be a democratic student organisation. This, we hope, moves us closer to that ideal.

### ATTENTION:

**Bebe D'Souza, Kade Denton, Robby Magyar, Tim Matthews, Eve Radunz, Tara Waniganayaka.**

### Please sign if you agree.

1. That I will not seek the vote of a Senate-appointed director in the upcoming USU Executive election.
2. That I will actively discourage other candidates for executive positions from seeking the votes of Senate-appointed directors in the upcoming Executive elections.

Name:

.....

Signature:

.....

## Never eat again | Science

Sophie Gallagher knows Soylent Green isn't people.

A year ago, Rob Rhinehart decided he never wanted to eat again. It was too much effort to cook food, the cost of eating was too high, and he deplored the fact that our digitally forward society has managed to streamline everything but our meals. The only small issue was that he still needed some sort of intake to survive.

Introducing Soylent: the thick, light beige sludge that he would end up eating exclusively for 30 days, and sporadically ever since.

If you're having horrific flashbacks to the wafer made from human flesh of the same name, from the 1973 film *Soylent Green*, don't worry. "My Soylent is human-free," Rhinehart said.

Created by reading up on nutrients in a physiological chemistry textbook, he built Soylent in his own home. "My kitchen soon looked like a chemistry lab and I had every unknown substance in a glass in front of me," Rhinehart said.

The elements of this futuristic food substitute are what make

it most interesting, but least appealing. A powdered drink mix that just needs water, it has the same amount of nutrients as an entire meal for a balanced diet. It's a cocktail of highly processed foodstuffs and scores of vitamins and minerals, containing everything the body needs.

His blog that documented the birth of Soylent gained substantial traction online. It gathered the attention of big investors, and became the latest crowd funding success story raising \$1.5 million, with preorders making their way across America this month.

At the cost of around \$3 a meal, it's being seen as an attractive money saver that could give many the benefits of healthy, cheap food. University students with \$200 textbooks to buy may finally be able to receive food with the vitamins and nutrients which Pad See Ew and two-minute noodles just don't have.

However, there have been some concerns that Rhinehart's claims are overstated. "I think the

nutrition that consumption of one formula that contains absolutely everything is unlikely to fulfill expectations," senior CSIRO research scientist Professor Manny Noakes said.

Nutritional needs vary throughout everyone, depending on personal growth and development, genetic makeup, and a range of other factors. Indeed, nutrients in their raw chemical form lack the same biological effects of those organically grown. A 'one size fits all' approach to food would negate the benefits of a diverse, balanced diet.

On a more basic level, food is not just fuel. The social aspects of eating, with family and friends, or as part of a cultural institution are elements that cannot be replicated by this quick-fix alternative.

However, Soylent is part of the trend of bio-hacking, which rallies against the opinion that natural is always best. Building on this technology in places where food is scarce, Soylent may be king.

"Being able to produce calories

very cheaply at scale, in a form that is shelf-stable and comparatively easy to store and transport, alleviates many issues around food aid and security," Rhinehart said. He hopes to make the company profitable enough to begin to turn his attention to regions where Soylent could be most useful.

But this seemingly utopian vision has stirred controversy. According to Mario Ferruzzi, a food scientist at Purdue University, the bland food substitute would not be a suitable solution to poverty and famine.

"Just because people are poor doesn't mean they aren't picky eaters. You have to think about the context of how people live and how they eat," he said.

It remains to be seen which prediction will prove correct. Soylent could be the saviour of the global food crisis, but the unpalatable sludge could also take a less noble route, remaining a niche nutrition option for the Rob Rhineharts among us.

### SUPRA Elections

Notice is hereby given of the election of 23 ordinary Councillors to the Council of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association for the 2014-15 term.

**Nominations open:**  
Monday 17th March 2014  
**Nominations close:**  
Monday 31st March 2014.

Nomination forms and copies of the Electoral Regulations which govern this election may be obtained in person at the SUPRA Offices or online from the SUPRA website at [www.supra.usyd.edu.au](http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au).

Any postgraduate student who is also a SUPRA member is eligible to nominate and vote in this election. SUPRA membership is free and available to postgraduate students by subscribing in person at the SUPRA Offices, or online (<http://www.supra.usyd.edu.au/subscribe.html>).

Further information on the election can be found here: [http://supra.net.au/assets/file/Elections/notice\\_of\\_election.pdf](http://supra.net.au/assets/file/Elections/notice_of_election.pdf).



### YOUR Postgraduate Representative Association

SUPRA membership is free and available to all Postgrads at Sydney Uni. Becoming a member of your postgraduate representative association allows you to:

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- Vote or run in the SUPRA Council elections
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### WHERE IS SUPRA?

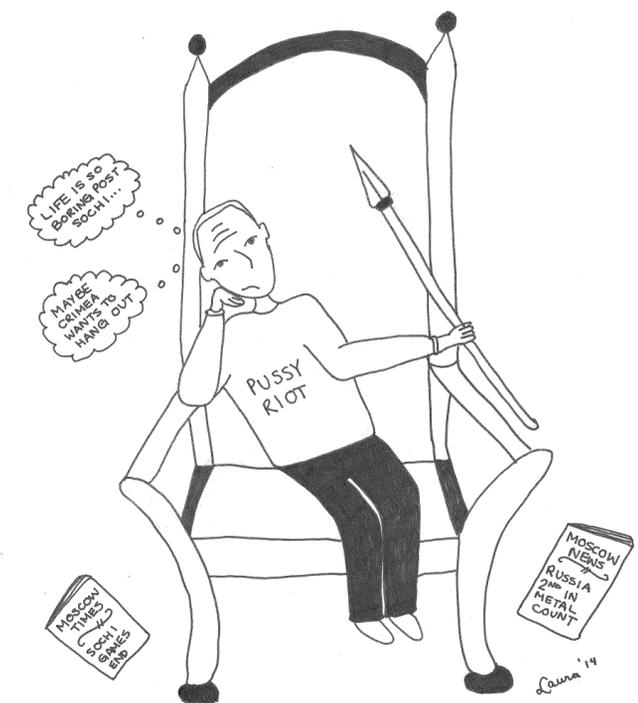
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ph: 02 9351 3715. Authorised by Joanne Gad, SUPRA President. 6th March 2014

## Lazy Afternoons At The Kremlin

ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA PRECUP



# When two tribes go to war | Sport

Objectivity is dead (in sport), writes **Joshua Tassell**. ILLUSTRATION BY MONICA RENN

Nothing inflames the passions of patriotism quite like sport. Such is the power of international athletic pursuit – rivalries are built and tempers escalate in these shows of modern day tribalism. As an unfortunate side effect officiating can fall victim to this nepotism along the way.

The Winter Olympics in Sochi did not pass without a major judging outrage. In the women's figure skating event, controversy erupted when Russian Adelina Sotnikova beat South Korean favourite Yuna Kim in a match many thought Kim should have won. Both amateur and professional commentators vented their vexations with the judging system as Sotnikova received the gold. The result and ensuing discussion drew attention to the ugly strains of suspicious refereeing that run through almost all sports.

Figure skating is judged by a panel of 14 officials, from which nine are selected on any given day to guard against patriotic bias. However, four of those 14 were Russia, and for the free program, four of nine judges hailed from the former Soviet bloc.

Two judges have also stirred controversy for reasons other than their nationality. Ukrainian Yuri Balkov was previously banned for only one year after telling a Canadian judge what order the skaters should come in at the Nagano Winter Olympics in 1998. Another, Alla Shekovtseva, is married to the head of the Figure Skating Federation of Russia,

which governs the sport on a national level.

Contrast this practice with modern officiating in cricket, a sport continuously tarred with allegations of match fixing. The International Cricket Council (ICC) decided to reform the way that international cricket was umpired in 2002, leading to the establishment of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires. Now, both umpires in a Test match must be independent of the competing nations, and at least one in a One Day international (ODI) game. Previously, only one Test umpire was independent and both umpires in an ODI were from the home nation.

The ICC has made broad strides towards eradicating patriotic bias. Sure, there have been subsequent match fixing scandals and some have decried the quality of refereeing, but nationalistic prejudice is now a much rarer phenomenon, and is a much harder accusation to make.

Cricket and figure-skating utilise fundamentally different scoring systems. The rules of the former are, by design, more objective than those of the latter. If a delivery is hit for six, then it's quite clearly hit for six. If you're caught or bowled, you're out. Other sports such as sprinting or speed-skating offer an even more stringently refereed final result – as the adage goes, the clock doesn't lie.

These sports are a model of clarity compared with figure skating.



The judging method and composition of a panel is similar to diving – the top and bottom scores from the nine judges get knocked off, and there are points for both difficulty and execution of skill. Combine this all together and you've got a clusterfuck.

Whilst cricket has attempted to remove as much room for bias from their game as possible, the subjective scoring systems and judging panels of figure skating will always be wide open to manipulation unless the governing body actively and thoroughly calls out instances of corruption. Handing Balkov a one year ban is ludicrous, and his return to judging taints the events he officiates with, at the very least, the perception of bias and

dishonesty. Allowing Shekovtseva to officiate also begs this question, even if she acts in total good faith.

In the case of the International Olympic Committee, a review of this nature needs to take place sooner rather than later, lest these sports crush themselves under the weight of potentially biased refereeing. Changes in favour of objectivity must be made in order to ensure a sport devoid of as much unnecessary scandal as possible. By adjusting the requirements for nationalities of judges and offering more stringent criteria for skill-based scoring, the governing bodies of figure skating and similar sports can make efforts to tackle the dual challenges of patriotic bias and the perceived subjectivity of the points awarded.

# From the lectern to the front page

Felix Donovan and Michael Rees speak to Tim Anderson.



Academics often do too good a job of staying out of the news, especially in this country. Our public intellectuals are more likely to be former AFL ruckmen and ideologically bankrupt think-tank directors than professors and lecturers.

Sometimes, however, they stray from the ivory tower and into the news. After being photographed next to Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad late last year, Tim Anderson from Sydney University started reading his name in *The Australian* a little more than a lecturer in political economy would consider normal.

Just days after leaving Syria, Chris Kenny wrote for our national daily that Anderson, an “extremist boffin”, was an Assad sympathiser. Liberal Party backbenchers, and our esteemed Education Minister, joined in. They demanded that the University of Sydney, where Anderson teaches political economy, have more business sense and cull some of their more outspoken activist-academics.

Stephen Garton, the university's provost, then delivered him a backhander. He wrote an op-ed for *The Australian* defending the academic's right to the “cardinal principle of free and open enquiry” before distancing himself from Anderson's “naïve, even wrong-headed” views.

Anderson describes the criticism as unfair, but not unsurprising. He had gone to Syria on a fact-finding mission, not with the intention of absolving Assad of accused war crimes.

But he didn't expect *The Australian* or Garton to appreciate

that. Anderson says Garton didn't speak to him about his trip to Syria or its intentions before publishing an op-ed on the subject. The journalist from *The Australian* asked him one question over the phone before hanging up and sending the article to his editor.

“I didn't expect anything else from them.

“Discourse in this country is very narrow.”

\* \* \*

It was a bit strange to sit in a café with someone who has had tea with Bashar al-Assad. An hour into our discussion, it is hard to believe that Anderson chaired a meeting at which the Syrian President was present.

He had restructured the space we were sitting in. He reached behind him for chairs to rest his arms on. Speaking thoughtfully, but never directly, he talks off a point, rather than on one. A question about development in Papua New Guinea becomes, if you give it five minutes and a bit of space, an answer on corporate corruption in South America.

\* \* \*

“I became an academic by chance.”

Anderson has been teaching at the University for over a decade now. But it didn't seem likely that he'd end up teaching in an academic institution after flunking subjects and dropping out in the early 1970s.

He had arrived at the University of Melbourne while Australian soldiers were still stationed in Hanoi. And like so many students of that era, Vietnam awakened his social consciousness. He was involved in hiding fellow students who had been conscripted in the offices of the student union.

It was also in Melbourne that he had his first interactions with the police. At a small student demonstration, Anderson remembers, “cops beat the crap out of us.” That arm of the state would, tragically, come to define much of the next decade of his life.

Arrested and charged for suspected involvement in the bombing of the Hilton Hotel in Sydney in 1978, Anderson spent seven years in prison before, after a lengthy appeals process, the state apologised and let him out.

The idea of the ‘justice system’ is somewhat ironic, Anderson wrote upon his release: “the police don't believe in justice: they believe in goodies and baddies. The judges and lawyers don't believe in justice: they believe in the protection and adoration of the wonderful system they are so proud to be a part of.”

“I mean it was a political education - the whole thing”, he told us.

He did not want to allow himself to become another casualty of the system. He completed his degree in prison, wrote an honours thesis and, after his release, became a doctoral candidate.

And yet, even after seven years of false imprisonment, after seeing people beaten and broken by jail, Anderson did not go quietly into the academy. In 1985, the year he walked free, he was arrested twice - both times at anti-Apartheid rallies and sit-ins.

His academic pursuits have never precluded or discouraged him from activist fights. Receiving his Arts degree while sitting in a cell is an instructive image as Liberal backbenchers queue up to slander Anderson's Syria trip.

\* \* \*

Anderson's roles as an educator and an intellectual were of limited interest to *The Australian*. Critical perspectives rarely sell conservative newspapers. If they had bothered to ask, they would have discovered that Tim is vocal critic of the “autistic” nature of Western education systems. He contends that the strong vocational emphasis of tertiary institutions ignores the importance of an education based on values. The outcome of which, he warns, would be a generation of uncritical graduates.

Perhaps, he suggests, we have forgotten “the difference between being instructed and educated”.

This position speaks to Anderson's broader worldview. He resents the monopoly which the Western world claims on ‘civilisation’. “There's a lot to learn from other cultures,” he seems to say every few

minutes in our interview without any loss of sincerity.

This worldview is, however, coloured by an unceasing dissatisfaction with Western, and in particular American, paradigms. And that is how he understands the world - in the broad brush strokes of ideas and cultures.

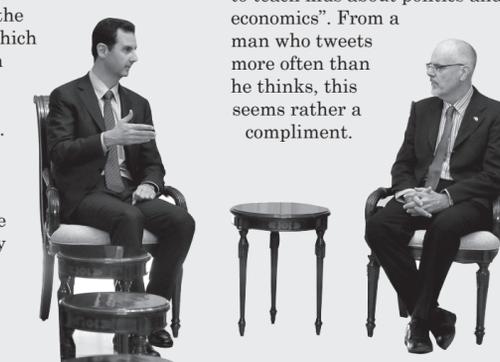
In our interview he rarely talks about people unless we mention them specifically. He is fascinated by cultural discourse and global political currents, but not by individuals.

Anderson has spent much of his academic career learning from parts of the world which have escaped the Western gaze. His research interests range from customary land tenure in Melanesia to the Cuban-East Timorese Doctors exchange program.

Wherever he goes, however, Anderson clearly feels a strong moral obligation to pursue the praxis of his ideas. Last year, he weighed into the debate about the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney with an article written for *Honi*. He penned an open letter to Kevin Rudd about aid to East Timor in 2008. And - daily, it would seem - his articles on military interventions and the myopia of the media appear in niche newspapers around the world.

When we ask him about whether other academics should be more politically active, he is adamant that they should. An activist, he suggests, is simply “a responsible citizen”. He notes, however, that fears for job security often make it difficult for untenured academics to “stick their necks out.”

This is the position of a man who is unashamedly political. He is boldly critical in a way that conservatives loathe. *The Australian's* Chris Kenny considered it “scary to think Tim Anderson is paid by taxpayers to teach kids about politics and economics”. From a man who tweets more often than he thinks, this seems rather a compliment.



# NSW international student travel concession doesn't get you very far

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' COLUMN

Emma Liu and Jay Ng find the small concession leaves NSW behind other Australian states.

Last Thursday the Victorian government announced that from 2015 international students in Victoria will be entitled to a 50% discount on annual Myki passes, which cost \$2200 at full price. While worthy of applause, we find it necessary to question the usefulness of this scheme.

In NSW, international students enjoy discounts of between 24 per cent to 35% for a 90-day or yearly MyMulti 2 or 3. The costs of these tickets, after discount, start at \$425. To purchase discounted tickets, students need to contact

their education provider for a one-time code, which they then use when ordering the tickets. But in Victoria, tickets are restricted to annual passes, while only students with education providers who have opted in are eligible. Education providers must subsidise part of the cost.

Victoria and NSW are still the only two states that do not offer international students the same travel concession as local students. Despite the concession schemes introduced in both states, the benefits of both schemes are

extremely limited. The prices are too high – with discounted tickets costing hundreds or even over a thousand dollars, single full price tickets end up more affordable.

NSW Transport reports that only 8056 travel passes were issued between February – September in 2013, out of approximately 160,000 international students in NSW. With most international students choosing to live near campus and leaving the country during holidays, this small take-up is no surprise.

Reports have shown that Australia is becoming a less favourable destination for international students in comparison to competitors like the UK, US and Canada. ABC reports there has been a decline of 18.9% in the number of foreign students coming since peaking in June 2009. Such damage to the nation's largest service export is due to Australia being known as the most expensive option. Yes, there will always be international students coming in Australia to study but the government should try to be competitive on the global stage.

# The cult of Opus Dei

*Andrew Bell got out.*

When I was sixteen I asked one of my priests in a religious centre whether my church condoned the use of self-mutilating devices.

I was following up on schoolyard rumours: apparently a book had been released which made some claims about the organisation that had run a huge part of my life since kindergarten. That book was *The Da Vinci Code*. The rumour was that Opus Dei members strap spiked chains around their legs to cleanse themselves of their sins.

\* \* \*

The Spanish priest Josemaría Escrivá founded Opus Dei in 1928. It is a prelature – a pope-sanctioned substructure – within the Catholic Church. Its focus is the ‘sanctification of daily life’, to live normally for the glory of God.

*“Opus Dei is a cult, with walls not made of wire but of intensive social patterns and groups.”*

Ordinary members of Opus Dei are called ‘supernumeraries’. It’s not all-consuming: they can marry and lead relatively normal lives. Those most involved often are called ‘numeraries’, celibate laypersons who live in gender-segregated centres. They are either university students themselves or employed in everyday professions.

In addition to these centres, Opus Dei runs a small number of schools on the outskirts of two major Australian cities that are staffed by numeraries. Although it positions itself as merely a more personal way of living your faith, Opus Dei is the hard right of the Catholic Church.

I attended an Opus Dei school from kindergarten to year ten, and an Opus Dei centre from year seven. There are aspects of the

organisation that draw it well away from just another group of Catholics, and towards the status of cult.

\* \* \*

I had always known about penance. It’s a transaction: a self-imposed punishment used to gain forgiveness for sins committed. For the vast majority of Catholics, the priest in the confessional dictates the type and amount of penance after hearing your sins. For the 1.2 billion non-Opus Dei Catholics around the world, penance involves a few minutes of prayer or recitation, which was true as well of my personal confessions.

That day I was asking about something very different. Technically, the cilice can be any item worn to cause discomfort. But the rumour was that this cilice was made up of a chain with interlocking spikes that was wound around the thigh, digging into flesh as mortification for sins.

I asked my priest if he used the cilice. He told me that he did, and that there was actually little to be excited about. He said that it only caused mild discomfort and that he would wear it for extended periods while working. I remember being told that it drew blood. Then he retrieved one and handed it to me.

It wasn’t razor-sharp, but I imagined it being extremely painful if applied with pressure. The points of chain were extended, and seemed to interlock over any malleable skin it was pulled over. The diameter of the cilice seemed far smaller than the priest’s thigh. I handed it back a few moments later.

\* \* \*

Four years later I spoke to the priest in question about this episode. He apologised: “I only meant to be open and frank, and I only showed it to you because you asked”. He tells me that it did not draw blood, but I don’t remember it like that.

I asked about the ‘discipline’, a corded multi-tailed whip used to self-flagellate. “It is used, but it is a matter of personal spiritual direction...an intimate thing,” he

said. He qualified that it is “not unique to Opus Dei and is used by other Catholics”, and is “not the focus of the organisation”.

I was never tempted to use the device, but the casual ease with which it was displayed was eerie. Presenting it as something normal, an object without shame, made a powerful case for accepting it. I can envisage another student being drawn to using the cilice and going further with it than I did, especially when endorsed without reservation of health or safety.

Our relationship was not one of equal power. I was a young student in his home. He had a degree in theology and a massive amount of influence within the church. Considered outside this cloistered existence, giving a cilice to a child is a particularly horrific example of religious indoctrination.

These interactions are not necessarily what people sending their children to Opus Dei schools are signing up for. My parents don’t condone this form of penance and would be shocked if I had ever told them about it.

It is difficult to gauge how widespread the use of the cilice is, and how many students are exposed to it. We can’t know how many parents have sent their children into these situations without ever knowing of its use. So many discussions at these sorts of institutions occur in private – in small offices or the confessional. “That was the only time I showed it to a student,” my former chaplain said, before mentioning another one of my classmates to whom he had also shown it.

Opus Dei do not dispute the existence of cilices. Their publicity material suggests that it is standard practice.

“Members of Opus Dei also attempt to respond generously to Christ’s invitation to take up the Cross by traditional Christian practices of self-denial, including, in some cases, use of the disciplines and the cilice. These practices of Christian asceticism are no more harmful to health than are athletic training or the diets followed by many to improve

their health or appearance,” the official website argues.

The analogy to the cross is clear. The practice seeks to mirror the physical harm that Christ underwent while being crucified. The marketed analogy is less so; whilst an athlete’s body is tried and tested in the process of athleticism, it ultimately emerges improved in some way, even if the goal is not met. When it doesn’t, like NFL players receiving concussions or long-term brain damage from brutal tackles, we should scrutinise it as equally as we should the use of the cilice.

\* \* \*

Opus Dei is a cult, with walls not made of wire but of intensive social patterns and groups. In addition to extreme forms of penance, the sect is on a subtle level geared towards both precluding access to non-Catholics and to gather potential candidates for the prelature.

Throughout my time at this school I was reasonably pious. I attended mass six times a week - there was an entire period in school that was used for mass instead of teaching the state curriculum - and would

regularly visit the Opus Dei centres to pray and study. That zeal evaporated when I made the transition to a secular institution for my final two years of schooling.

The system suited me greatly for most of secondary school. I wasn’t naturally popular, and the rhythm and open invite to study and socialise while attending ‘circles’ - small prayer and discussion groups - was very reassuring. There would be study days, bushwalking, ski camps, movie nights and backyard cricket that made it very easy to slip into a routine of school study and socialising. I had no friends from outside Opus Dei before until year nine, despite living 20 kilometres away from the centre and 30 kilometres away from the school.

This school-centre combination functioned as a form of social engineering that limited our access to non-Catholic ideas and people. It was extraordinarily easy to travel from school, to the centre, and home without actually acknowledging or interacting with the world outside Opus Dei.

I spoke to Richard Vella, a numerary and spokesperson

for Opus Dei in Sydney. He was defensive, contending that isolation is not the purpose of the centres. “People should go because they want to, and in no way does the centre aim to be the only part of their life,” he said.

These arguments may be true of some individual students, but definitely not for all. Many are strongly encouraged to attend by their parents. Many are reliant on the centre for sport and socialising. This is where the problem lies; there was an underlying dishonesty about the purpose of the centre. Supernumeraries explicitly expressed their disappointment to students who wanted to opt out of benedictions and circles after attending sport or study. I was reliant on the centre to be able to socialise outside of school. Religious enthusiasm was a precondition for my social life.

In this area, transport infrastructure was limited; library services even more so, which made a study centre with a comfortable social setting too alluring to pass up. The connection between the school and the centre was never formally acknowledged, despite the fact that they were run and inhabited by the exact same people. The centres fabricated a rich, multi-dimensional life for us.

\* \* \*

As we became older, the centre became substantially more accessible. Students in year seven had a single designated day, year eight students had two and, by the end of their high school lives, students had nearly unfettered access. At the start of high school the numeraries might take groups to McDonalds on a Saturday night; they are soon eating in the private dining room.

Our progression through high school mirrored a progression of normalising the lifestyle of a supernumerary. For some, this constructed comfort-zone lingers long enough to make a life in the centre more attractive than the real world.

Vella disputes this effect. “That is not the reality. That perception is wrong. People want to live fully in society, not to withdraw into some

safe enclave,” he told me. He links this to the sanctification of daily life; “it is all about participating fully in society.”

It was difficult to reconcile Vella’s statements with the reality that I saw. If the organisation is supportive of you playing sport in the community, why would it replace that with sport within the centre? If Vella is to be believed, there is an inherent tension in the purpose of the centres. They provide all the facets of the real world within a closed environment, and yet expects their members to still search for those facets elsewhere. The centre organisers remove a need for life outside Opus Dei institutions, and then feign surprise when kids build entire lives within them.

The walls aren’t made of wire, you can leave if you want. But why would you?

*“This cilice was made up of a chain with spikes that wound around the thigh, digging into flesh.”*

\* \* \*

The freedoms of the supernumeraries themselves are limited. It is standard practice to donate income to the centre - which ends up with a large number of people studying for a long time, becoming lawyers or teachers within the school, and then having little ability to leave.

Vella doesn’t see a problem. “I’m not compelled to do anything. People join Opus Dei because they want to, and it’s up to them,” he said.

When asked about the average amount of money given, he was vague; “most people are generous.”

He was even vaguer when asking about people leaving the organisation without any money; “it depends on the situation ... it’s not about getting it back. We’re not going to leave them destitute.”

Rooms are not private within the centre, and the environment raises questions about the autonomy of numeraries. “In a centre, they live like a family. They have meals together, they spend time together ... people don’t move into the centres to have an independent life but they have an autonomous life.”

\* \* \*

The supernumeraries are celibate, and talk to the opposite gender as little as possible based on the logic that by doing so they will be less tempted to sin. The male centre is serviced by a female cooking and cleaning staff, who work in sections of the centre that are locked off in rotation so that they are never seen by the male inhabitants. In my time at the centre I never actually saw a single female employee despite them making every one of my meals.

I was told that those who undergo gender reassignment are selfish and inconsiderate of their families. Not a single person is openly gay in the entire school network.

While progressive politics are playing out in the rest of the world, Opus Dei relieves itself of vulnerability to rational arguments. There is little opportunity for its doctrine to be challenged, and the all-encompassing environment of the centres is so self-affirming it is difficult to imagine change coming any time soon.

\* \* \*

In many responses, Vella stresses that this life is “the path that [Opus Dei members] have chosen”. In a strict sense, this is true: people choose to attend the schools and work at the centres. They choose to strap spikes to their thigh until it doesn’t bleed.

But I know better.



# Tourist trail blends mountains with modernity

Lucy Connell experienced a clash of old and new in Nepal.

I am sitting in a tiny, remote village in the Himalayas, 4000m above sea level. And, bizarrely, 'Gangnam Style' is pumping.

To my left, nestled amongst a ring of colossal siblings, is Mount Everest. It tumbles upward in craggy folds, its peak misshapen under a thick blanket of white. A few tiny cottages stud the slopes, but there are no other signs of human life.

To my right, two Nepalese guys are huddled over iTunes, carefully contemplating a switch to Pitbull.

These are the mountains of modern Nepal: a place of disorienting paradoxes.

Life here is fiercely tied to the rhythms of the past. Yaks and donkeys bear sacks of rice along trading paths worn over hundreds of years, and motorised transport is non-existent. Everywhere, signs of a resilient and vibrant culture are tucked into the foothills. Prayer stones and flags gaily

bedeck the trails, and traditionally dressed Sherpa women tend patchwork fields.

The remoteness of this place both beckons and holds modernity at bay. The steep icy trails that make these villages so inaccessible have also brought an influx of adventurers, new money, and destabilising changes.

Last year Nepal welcomed 600,000 tourists. The vast majority come for 'mountain tourism', drawn by the mythology of the Himalayas and the challenge of the slopes. In a poor and unstable country with 45% unemployment, the tourism sector provides 750,000 jobs and 3% of GDP. It has long been Nepal's largest industry, and is the largest foreign income earner after worker remittances.

This windfall, however, has not come without cost. The national parks of Nepal face severe erosion problems, associated with rising demands for fuel. Pollution of water supplies and reserves is

also of increasing concern, as tourists discard pieces of rubbish in the thousands. Locals complain wearily of disrespectful and brash tourists who have little understanding of the customs governing village life.

Even more seriously, rapid economic change has exacerbated Nepal's political instability. A simmering, decade-long Maoist insurgency ended in 2006, after 11,000 deaths. But tensions surrounding Nepal's rigid caste system and unequal distribution of wealth remain sore points in a country divided along sectarian and religious lines.

Despite the uneasy peace, Nepal remains politically deadlocked. Following the bloody zenith of the civil war when King Gyanendra dismissed the parliament, the main political parties reached an accord with Maoist forces. These major parties then subsequently deposed the monarchy in 2008, drawing

upon public anger at the Royal massacre committed by Crown Prince Dipendra in 2001. The country has remained politically paralysed since. No new constitution has been written, and repeated elections have failed to resolve the stalemate.

Such unrest feels far removed from the slow rhythms of mountain life. Here, a blossoming prosperity is increasingly visible. Gleaming teahouses line the paths, promising WiFi and Snickers bars. Government health clinics are being rebuilt after decades of absence, and rosy-cheeked children bound along newly cobbled paths.

For the people of these mountains, tourism is extending a fragile, golden lifeline out of poverty and conflict. It remains to be seen whether it will be enough to smooth over Nepal's fissures in the long term. Without political stability to reassure visitors of their safety, the golden goose may well vanish once more.

# Barry, booze and some positive news

Milly Ellen chats to zombie-apocalypse rock group, Darth Vegas, about recent legislative change.

It's easy to be hypercritical. However, the threat of descending into narrow-mindedness lingers around all who take up arms within the safety of a crowd. This phenomenon was most recently witnessed within the group of vocal protestors currently lamenting the alcohol and licensing changes in Sydney's CBD. The laws have obvious flaws: the inevitable economic losses to businesses and employees, the loss of atmosphere, and the condescension that young people continue to receive from greying, conservative politicians. However, when the blinkers are removed, it could be argued that the majority of Gen Y simply doesn't care.

Club music doesn't appeal to everyone. Despite the astronomical rise in popularity of electronica and dance, the prospect of a night out involving copious quantities of alcohol, stamina, money, and, occasionally, illicit drugs, can damage the appeal of clubbing until 3am. With the added risk of sexual assault, serious injury or even death as a result of a single punch, it's easy to see why people like Michael Lira of Sydney band Darth Vegas are predicting that "gypsy swing will be the next big thing."

As the CBD faces an inexorable decline in patronage, the hordes of young people who enjoy Sydney's nightlife will not discover an appreciation for logical bedtimes, responsible drinking habits or diligent studying. Instead, they may head towards a night with cheaper venues, local bands and emerging businesses outside the CBD. Gypsy swing may not be the next music craze, but tough lockdown laws could actually lead to diversification in the music market.

Lira's band, Darth Vegas, operate as an eight-member rock/ vaudeville/circus/metal/zombie apocalypse group. They create some of the most audibly complex and layered pieces of arena worthy soundscapes, and think the Australian music scene could do with a revival.

"There's not enough support for Australian bands. There's too much of a focus on international bands, especially with the direction most festivals are going in now," Lira said.

The demand for authentic live performances by local musicians in Australia is certainly evident, but the supply fails to match the market. Right now, dance music saturates every festival and Friday night. It is ironic that a mini-revolution to the music scene could be caused by the intervention of a stodgy politician angling for re-election and little care for music fans' interests. This potential decline in dance music should be welcomed, because the endless stream of 'doof doof' hits continues to demean artists with years of training and evocative lyrics.

Lira is capable of playing the guitar, bass, double bass, percussion, keyboard, trumpet, violin glockenspiel and probably a cowbell and kazoo to boot. In contrast, DJs just manipulate beats with computer software to match the vibe of the crowd. This vibe can generally be observed as a sweaty tangle of testosterone, primal desire and blatant idiocy that typically results in some form of regret. The fact that blind inebriation is often required to enjoy a night out is

perhaps indicative of a damaging musical trend.

On Triple J's 'Hack' program with Tom Tilley, the discussion regarding Barry's rapid-fire response to alcohol-fuelled violence, as well as the need for reflection on our drinking culture, turned to the success of Newcastle and the methods of adaptation that young people have adopted to accommodate for strict licensing regulations. By going out earlier, drinking less, seeing some good entertainment, supporting local bands and businesses, as well as a 30% drop in assault, it seems that everyone wins in the equation.

Perhaps Sydney's identity as a hot spot for the bass-heavy club scene, however, is unprepared for change. The 'live fast, die young, drink lots' mentality is firmly embedded in youth culture and the club scene, with its brash music, suits this disparaging life motto. It's hard to take the 'YOLO' out of youth, but maybe the battle between Barry and booze can lead to some positive developments and a local music revolution. If we stopped harking about negative impacts, the little voice representing Sydney's alternative live music scene might be heard.



IMAGE SOURCED FROM ONLINE

# Review: The Genius

Dominic Ellis discovers a little-known reality TV gem.



the size of one's alliance usually proves to be a decisive factor. If the player ends up at the bottom of the pack, they will be forced to compete in a death match dual with another player of their choosing, excluding the winner.

While alliance-based games aren't unusual on Western television, the sheer desperation of the contestants in *The Genius* is compelling itself, as they frantically try to charm others to save their own skin. Given the time-

based nature of the challenges, these interactions make for seriously engaging television. I confess: I am a long-time fan of *Survivor* in all its camp glory and am no stranger to the world of reality TV, but what makes *The Genius* distinct from anything else is recognition of its form. It never takes itself too seriously, but at the

*"The sheer desperation of the contestants in The Genius is compelling itself..."*

same time, it doesn't assume the worst of its audience. It really is a benchmark for the capacity of the medium: it's intellectually challenging and presents likable characters and scenarios.

The brilliance of *The Genius* also lies in the challenges themselves, which leave other game shows for dead in their sheer complexity. Some tasks make for interesting social experiments,

while others require superb lateral thinking. In the second episode a challenge entitled 'The Election Game' requires players to participate as either a candidate or a voter. The candidates' goal is to acquire as many votes as they can, while the voter can attain garnets and try to back a winner. This works well for the most part, with candidates making lifelike pleas for votes when their situations get dire.

In comparison, the show requires more deductive instincts in a later episode. In another task, contestants are each secretly given a single clue to the result of a 'Rigged Horse Race' which they then bet on. The players require two things: firstly, to get as many of the others to reveal their clues as possible, and secondly, to compile, deduce and bet on the result of the race. It gradually turns into a chaotic battle of wits to the extent that players are simply just lying to one another. All of this is a bit complex, but that is largely the point, as the producers challenge you to work it all out for yourself. And you do, you go along with it - stopping periodically to jot everything down in hope of working the winner out first.

While the premise of the show makes for fantastic television in and of itself, the execution and production is equally effective. The most immediate point of difference from the Australian roster of oafish reality shows is the host. Rather than a washed-out pseudo-celebrity, we're greeted by a terrifying bandaged man resembling *Watchmen's* Rorschach. The production design is also impressive, with the players sealed and monitored within a creepy Orwellian mansion. Editing is used to great effect keeping the

show tense yet relatively fast pace. The music is largely outsourced. Baz Lurhman's *The Great Gatsby* soundtrack occasionally features in the final dramatic moments of an episode. I often found myself close to tears towards the end of the season as Lana Del Rey's *Young and Beautiful* reached a crescendo when likable contestants departed the house.

*"Rather than a washed out pseudo-celebrity, we're greeted by a terrifying bandaged man resembling Watchmen's Rorschach."*

In all, *The Genius* makes for a pretty geek-ish experience, and by no means is it for everyone. The sheer difficulty of getting a hold of the show makes sure of this, especially if you don't speak Korean\*. But ultimately it sets a pretty high bar for elimination reality shows. It actually tries to get both the contestants and the viewers thinking on a few different levels. If you're a board game geek who wants to match the thrill of a good game of Catan or Ticket To Ride, *The Genius* will appeal to those same competitive instincts.

\**The Genius* is produced by Korean cable company tvN, but most of the first season, with English subtitles, can be found on Youtube.



김구라 자기도 방송 몇 번 해봤다고 또 뒤투수를 칠거라고 I'm waiting for them to make their move.

# Finding beauty in Brutal-ity

Patricia Arcilla defends the Wilkinson Building. ILLUSTRATION BY AIMY NGUYEN

You can only use one utensil for the rest of your life, and the options are a smooth, coloured, FroYo spoon, and a heavy, sharp, 500-creative-ways-to-injure-yourself Swiss Army Knife. Which do you choose?

Why, you ask, is *Honi* posing such a thought experiment? While the answer is regrettably not 'a sponsorship deal with Victorinox', it is related to two unfortunately common questions.

*"Why is the Wilkinson building so ugly?"*

*"Isn't it ironic that the architecture building is the ugliest on campus?"*

Responses— delivered in sighs and brittle tones by architecture students wearied of these very questions— generally fall into one of two categories: denial, or a vague defence of, "Well... it's Brutalist." Neither of these is particularly helpful in dispelling the mischaracterisation of Wilkinson as the campus eyesore, nor do they do any service to the reality of its character.

Just as the spoon— undeniably aesthetically approachable— is disposable and one-note, the Swiss Army

Knife is multifunctional and virtually indestructible, qualities which undoubtedly atone for any aesthetic shortcomings.

Such, in short, is Brutalism.

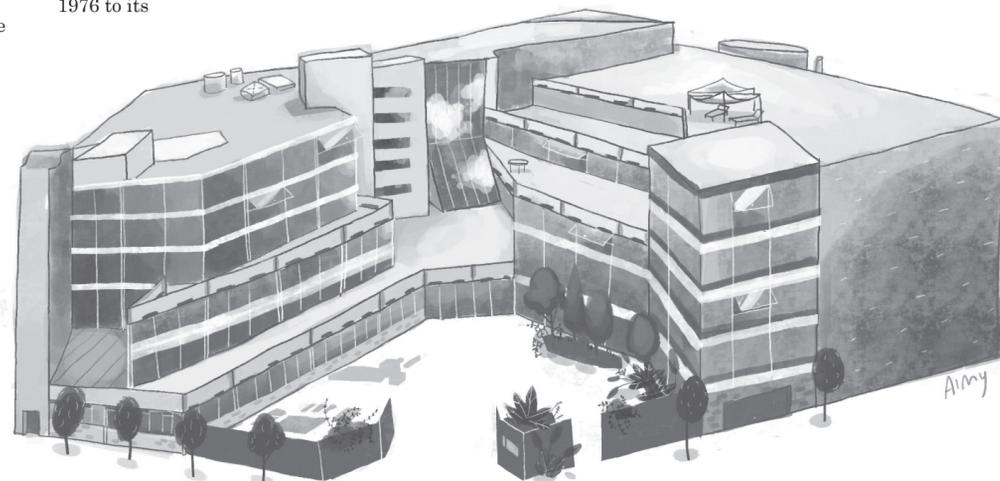
The angularity of Wilkinson's concrete facade is axiomatically Brutal(ist), making neither attempt at conformity nor apology for this fact. In achieving the Brutalist triumvirate of strength, functionality, and frugality, Wilkinson is, on campus, nonpareil. The building has stood since 1960 and subsequently produced successive classes of architecture graduates. It endured largely untouched, barring its expansion in 1976 to its

current state. Brutalist buildings outlive the time of their construction and amble indefinitely into the future. In an era of environmental and economic sustainability, Wilkinson's flat concrete exterior requires little maintenance and accords a pleasant interior climate with minimal air conditioning intervention (functional windows installed in abundance).

It is in exemplifying functionality, however, that Wilkinson holds its major drawback: equipped— not unlike the Swiss Army Knife— with an almost alarming range of functionalities. Wood workshops,

darkroom, computer labs, printers, art gallery, popup bar, lecture theatres, and studios— the list goes on. There's even a well-stocked coffee kiosk for those weighing the #cleaneating cool points of Pressed Juices against those of gluten-free snacks.

Returning thus to the question of spoon or Swiss Army Knife, the answer is incontrovertibly the latter. 314 functions and counting, bottle opener reassuringly constant between incarnations; this is more than the alternative can say. For once the sweetness of the FroYo is gone, all you're really left with is a sour aftertaste and a spoon.



# Bored arts student finds big gay unicorn

Alex McKinnon saved a mythical milk crate creature and lived to write about it.

There are a few moments in the course of every life that transcend the confines of existence and become part of something bigger. Moments where, for the briefest time, you peer into a sliver of the infinite and touch the face of God. At other times, you just happen to find a giant unicorn and turn it into a half-arsed social media exercise.

Last Monday, I found one such giant unicorn made entirely out of milk crates with a traffic cone for a horn, complete with rainbow tail and mane, sitting happily on the City Road footbridge.

I mistakenly assumed it had been abandoned by some legends from Mardi Gras who had marched with it in the parade the night before. Much to my dismay, however, I later discovered photos of it chilling on Eastern Avenue earlier in the day, with a banner featuring the words "Anything Is Possible", an Anarchy symbol, and a graphic rendering of the unicorn spearing a cop in the chest.

By the time I found the unicorn, campus security had removed it. In this context, "campus security" consists of two bemused blokes wondering what to do with their new giant milk-crate unicorn,

maybe wishing they'd taken up horticulture instead. They were on the phone to Maintenance, trying to find someone to come break the thing up with a pair of scissors. They gave me twenty minutes to move it, with assurances that they didn't give a shit where I put it as long as it was off campus. They suggested Victoria Park.

The rest is history. After a few calls to politicians and Twitter shout-outs to media outlets and gay celebrities, word had gotten out enough for a delightful-sounding young lady named Charlotte, who happened to live across the road, to offer to take the

beast off our hands. It now resides at her place, and will live out its days as a mascot for the lesbian club night aptly titled 'Unicorns'.

I'm still not sure why I saved the unicorn. It may have something to do with the fact that I'm not a huge fan of campus security, or that I'm a 23-year-old, fifth-year Arts student, and thus increasingly desperate for proof that I haven't become irrelevant. Mostly, though, unicorns are fucking great, and no one should ever destroy one. Carpe YOLO, friends.

# Tips for living on little money

Many students are forced to live on very little money while they are studying. Here are some ideas that might help you get by.



## LOANS, BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIPS

University Financial Assistance Office: 9351 2416

Loans are interest free and bursaries do not need to be repaid. Talk to them about your situation and they'll guide you to the most suitable option.

Scholarships Office (University & Government scholarships) 8627 8450

There is range of different ways to qualify for a scholarship. Talk to the University about which ones you're eligible for and how to apply. There are also some competitions you could enter that have cash prizes.

SRC Emergency loans up to \$50 are good to fill that gap the day before payday or if you forget your wallet. 9660 5222

## MANAGING MONEY

When you don't have enough money to make little mistakes it is a good idea to have a budget plan. Write down how you are going to spend money each week, including putting some aside for unforeseen expenses if you can. Look for "leaks" that can help you to save a bit more. Look at: [www.moneyminded.com.au](http://www.moneyminded.com.au) [www.wesleymission.org.au/centres/creditline](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/centres/creditline) "budget planner".

## DEALING WITH DEBTS

The SRC Legal Service will work with you to clear your debts. This service is free to undergraduate students.

If you have a problem with gambling, free, confidential help is available at the University. Call 9351 6346 for more information.

## HAPPY HOUSING

Cheap quality accommodation is hard to get. Most of the cheap options go very quickly, so you'll have to be patient and flexible. If you are in urgent need of housing ask an SRC Caseworker about emergency accommodation.

If you are about to move into a home or if you are behind in rent and are on the lease you might be eligible for Rentstart through Housing Pathways (Housing NSW).

## PHONE

Pre-paid accounts allow you to give yourself a fixed budget for phonecalls. Encourage your friends to call you or text to make a skype date. Viber and Whatsapp also allow you to make free texts or calls. However, be aware that you are using your internet for this.

## FREE FOOD, CHEAP FOOD

There is no reason to be hungry if you live in Sydney. There are many places around Sydney that offer free meals and a few that may do food parcel. [http://www.newtowncentre.org/\\_pdfs/meals.pdf](http://www.newtowncentre.org/_pdfs/meals.pdf)

## HEALTH

Bulk billing (or direct billing) doctors means that you will not be charged for the appointment. This is covered on Medicare and Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). eg University Health Service in Wentworth and Holme buildings.

Safer sex is important. You can pick up free condoms from the SRC office, Level 1 Wentworth Building.

Clean needles and injecting packs are available from the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS). Call their 24 hour confidential telephone service on 9361 8000 or 1800 422 599. Some chemists do needle and syringe exchange. In Newtown this includes Chemist on King, Ford's Pharmacy and Rainbow Chemist. In Auburn there's Alpha Pharmacy and Rite Aid Pharmacy. There's also Camden Pharmacy and Adore Pharmacy Rozelle.

Dentists can be super expensive on a student budget. But your teeth are important. There are some limited services you may be able to access for free. Speak to SRC HELP caseworkers.

Australian citizens and permanent residents can apply for a Low Income Health Card Card if you earn \$501 a week or less, or get a Centrelink student payment. This gives you a reduced price on prescription drugs, free ambulance cover etc.

[help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au) | (02) 9660 5222 [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)



# Ask Abe

Hi Abe,

I moved into a place in Stanmore at the beginning of February. I paid my bond and 4 weeks rent in advance. Now that I've lived there a while I really hate it and want to move out. The house itself is dark and gloomy and I don't really like my neighbourhood. I told my landlord but she said I had to stay until the end of my contract. This is a real problem because I've already signed a lease for another room in a different house. Please help me.

Doubled Up

Dear Doubled Up,

There are 2 types of renters: tenants and borders/lodgers. Tenants are covered by the Residential Tenancy Act (2010). It sets down rules for both you and your landlord. In the situation you have described you want to "break your lease early". As a tenant you would have to pay a penalty of between 4 and 6 weeks rent in addition to rent up on till the day you move out. If you have maintained your room in good order you should receive a refund of your bond. You may be able to convince your landlord to let you find someone else to take over your lease in exchange for no or a reduced penalty. They are under no obligation to do this.

If you are a border/lodger you are covered by the contract that you signed. There is usually some clause in there about how to break the contract early. Again, you may be able to convince your landlord to allow you to find someone to take over your contract. If this doesn't work you might like to speak to the SRC Lawyer about breaking your contract with as little financial penalty as possible.

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.*

## President's Report

*Jen Light wants you to know about International Women's Day.*



Last Saturday marked International women's day, with the annual international women's day march. It therefore seems an appropriate time to reflect on how far the equality movement has, or hasn't come.

It's 2014, It's been 111 years since Emmeline Pankhurst founded a new organisation, the Women's Social and Political Union, which sparked further radical feminists fighting for equality. It has been 102 years since the first International Women's Day, and 97 years since the Russian revolution which was sparked on March 8, 1917 by women protesting against bread shortages in St. Petersburg, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March is recognised as International Women's Day.

By 1923 all women in Australia had the right to vote, in 1961 the pill became public accessible empowering women to have the rights over their own bodily autonomy, women account for over 50% of University graduates in Australia. In the last 10 years the Sydney Uni SRC has seen 7 female

Presidents, and I was fortunate to be one of 3 female candidates running for Presidency last year.

However as a 21 year old woman I feel incredibly disappointed and increasingly afraid of what the future holds for women and the seemingly distant future of equality.

The Marie Claire #demandbetter video that went viral in the last week demonstrates the devastating statistics and the inequality to the treatment of women. The pay gap between men and women is 17.1%, women are constantly judged on their appearance and superficial characteristics.

80% of women who considered a career in politics now say that the treatment of Julia Gillard

has put them off.

Women are better represented in the Afghan Government than in Australia's federal Cabinet. With the only Minister being Julie Bishop and Tony Abbott disturbingly appointing himself Minister for Women.

It seems that the feminist movement has been paused. That's not to say that there are no longer active feminists fighting, but the size of the movement has shrunk not grown, and the three steps forward that women are taking are simultaneously taking one step back.

It is up to young women to make a fuss, and not be shut down, now is the time to re-energise the movement and fight for women's rights and equality.

## General Secretary's Report

*Mariana Podestá-Diverio misspelt her OWN name three times when writing this byline.*



Look, these reports are here to keep office bearers accountable to the student body and let you know what's happening in the SRC's various departments. James and I promise to do that with important issues, as we have previously done, like SRC staffing changes

and campus activism. But as the occupants of the most bureaucratic position on campus, there's only so much we can tell you without mimicking the broken-record babble of general secretaries past before you're driven to the point of desperation and are compelled to gouge out your own eyeballs with a dried vanilla pod or some other delicious kitchen spice. At least if our writing provokes a bout of explosive dysentery you'll now have access to *Mon Droit* in the likely case your nearest lavatory is out of toilet paper.

So anyway, here's something that 5% of you might find vaguely useful: a run down of the best

vegan eats on campus – something in which I have a vested interest.

1: Vegesoc – also know as The Magnum Opus of Meals. Vegesoc is back on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this semester from 12-2 on the manning sunken lawns and for \$3 you get a solid serving of rice, veggies and halva. THREE DOLLARS.

2: Crispy tofu baguette from Taste without mayo. A more expensive option that is still a pretty good deal with an access card, this delightful morsel of a sandwich comes with the fillings that make salad rolls brilliant (like coriander and carrots) with the added bonus

of TOFU. As delectable as the night is dark! Rejoice.

3: Salads from Raw in the Wentworth building. Clocking in at around the \$5 mark, the best part about getting a salad from this joint is the option of mixing two salads together, maximising your potential for the simultaneous ingestion of quinoa and shallots.

4. Lastly, if all else fails, bring your own half-watermelon, like the one pictured here. They're juicy and double as superb weapons. Or hollow one out and make your own helmet!

Till next we speak.

## Education Officers' Report

*Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley*



Our first EAG meeting this semester was a real success! After a busy O-week where dozens of students signed up to the EAG, it was great to see so many new faces along to the first collective meeting. We've got big plans for the national day of action for

education on Wednesday March 26th. The day will begin with a Clubs Carnival to Save Student Life from the potential attacks on student organizations by the Liberal govt. We invite all students to come along to the carnival, check out the clubs, enjoy some food and lefty sing-a-longs before we all march to UTS to join the main demonstration.

For anyone who couldn't make the first meeting, they are being held every Tuesday at 2pm on the New Law Lawn, look out for the red banner!

The next big event the EAG is holding is a forum on the radical history of Sydney Uni. Terry Irving and Rowan Cahill, authors of *Radical Sydney*, and Diane

Fieldes will be sharing stories from the good old days when flares were cool, beads were long, and occupations of the Vice Chancellor's office were not a rare occurrence.

Last week also saw International Women's Day, a day started by socialists in 1910 to challenge sexism, and the system that breeds it. Unfortunately the radical traditions of IWD have been buried. These days attendees of IWD breakfasts try not to choke on their pancakes as our misogynist PM Tony Abbott declares himself a feminist and equality achieved. We've obviously got a long way to go in the fight for women's liberation. So for a couple of months we've been involved in organizing a rally for IWD,

held last Saturday March 8th to demand equal pay for women and no to Zoe's Law no 2. (foetal personhood laws currently before NSW parliament).

For any Abbott haters, the March in March is this weekend starting on Sunday at 1pm in Belmore Park. If you support any of the following: unions and workers' rights, the environment, refugee rights, women's and LGBTI rights, free and accessible education, and/or Medicare, you've got a reason to be pissed off at the Government and need to join the rally! Thousands will march this weekend to voice opposition to the government, all decent lefty students need to be there!

## Wom\*n's Officers' Report

*Georgia Cranko, Phoebe Moloney and Julia Readett*



We started the week off with a slam to celebrate the publication of our annual journal *Growing Strong* at the ever-charming and intimate

Newsagency in Marrickville. We were so excited to see so many new students coming along to the event and were really grateful to the old is that supported us. It was a fantastic evening that showcased the sheer emotional power of words and poetry as an inexpensive and accessible mode of expression. Keep your eyes peeled for our next poetry slam - we can't wait to hold more!

If you've been keeping up to date with Honi and the Wom\*n's Report

you might have seen that the three of us are involved in organising Autonomous Self Defence Classes open to non-cis people and wom\*n identifying students. We feel that there is no one way to tackle this horrific beast, Rape Culture, that pervades our airwaves, television screens and lives. It has been designed to be a space where wom\*n can feel comfortable learning some assertive moves. Although these moves might not be put into practical use, they can give us confidence in a society,

where we are often taught that we shouldn't be proud of our bodies, let alone take up as much space as cis-male people. Next week, we'll confer with the collective as to whether WoCo wants to endorse it as a whole, however, we, as officers look forward to continuing our support because we believe it is an important venture.

Thank you to all those who attended our first meeting on Wednesday and we look forward to seeing you next week.

## Welfare Officers' Report

*Chiara Angeloni, Oliver Plunkett, Philippa Specker, and Brendan Wylie*



Hiya! We're Philippa, Chiara, Brendan and Oliver - your Welfare Officers for 2014.

There's more to the student experience than what goes on within the four walls of a lecture theatre. The stressful reality many students currently face involves juggling work and study while subsisting on measly Centrelink payments, sacrificing meals in order to pay for textbooks and rent instead. On top of all this, welfare

is in danger of becoming (yet another) casualty of the 'Abbottoir' – but not if we can help it.

A strong and united student voice is now imperative to ensure that fairness and accessibility are prioritised by both the University and Government alike. It's simple: every student should be able to make the most of their University experience. Your SRC recognises this, and is here to ensure that your rights, wellbeing and safety come first.

When life starts to become more thorny than rosy, our free legal service and wonderful caseworker team are able to offer advice on everything from Centrelink to academic concerns to tenancy rights. If you have any problems at all, drop in for a visit (we're located on City Rd, below the Wentworth building), or send a messenger pigeon over the interwebs (otherwise conventionally

known as an 'email') to help@src.usyd.edu.au.

In 2014, we're very excited to work in collaboration with students, collectives and fellow OBs to ensure that no student's University experience is adversely affected by any issue on campus or beyond.

Over the holidays, we were active in supporting the fight to save Medicare against the Liberals' proposed \$6 fee for GP visits. We have also been working with other groups to radically overhaul the newly introduced scholarship for low-income housing, which supports poor students in name only.

This year, we will especially focus on mental health (particularly the improvement of existing services and practical advocacy), student housing, unpaid internships, scholarships, expansion of free

education resources for students at the SRC (such as lab coats and dissection kits), and drug safety.

Last but not least, the National Day of Action is on March 26. We condemn the proposed conversion of Start-Up Scholarships into a loan system, as it will only further bar financially disadvantaged students from being able to pursue their studies. Join us at Fisher Library at 12pm for a march down to UTS to fight the cuts to education and demand a more affordable and accessible education system for all!

We're passionate about a wide range of issues and would love to hear from the very students we're here for. Should you ever have any comments, questions or concerns, or if you'd like to get involved with our campaigns, shoot us an email at welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au or swing by the SRC for a chat.

## ACAR Officer's Report

*Tabitha Prado-Richardson*



This is Tabitha Prado-Richardson, an Ethnic Affairs officer at the SRC and one of four office bearers running ACAR, the Autonomous Collective Against Racism. Our first week as an official SRC collective has been both exciting and daunting as we begin to form a concrete presence on campus, starting with our stall at O-Week.

Turns out a few people have issues with the fundamental idea of our collective. Though analogies to Women's Collective and Queer Collective usually sufficed, sitting behind a sign that said "Autonomous Collective Against Racism" opens one up to vague gratuitous statements about race, bringing up our favourite questions like "Is Australia racist?" and our favourite concepts like "reverse racism". Times like this we hold Aamer Rahman's sentiments close to our heart and remember that no, we can't be racist toward white people – some of our best friends are white. Despite these fruitful discussions, the rain was insurmountable and I apologise for anyone who tried to find us towards the end of O-Week. I'm optimistic though that as we grow as a collective, the USYD community as a whole will begin

to navigate the full and complex realities of racism: that it's not about being a good or bad person, it's about the connections between history and identity.

While a separate body to our collective, we're helping run a Race 101 workshop on Monday the 17th of March through the Critical Race Discussion Group. Running since second semester last year, this group aims to give a non-autonomous space in which people could learn about race and racism, centring around different topics. The Race 101 workshop gives a brief introduction to ideas around identity, privilege, and structures, drawing on both theory and sharing experiences to learn about race and racism. Anyone can come along and no previous knowledge is required!

Later on this semester we also hope to run our first Autonomous Honi Against Racism — an edition of Honi Soit produced only by people who self-identify as a person of colour, a person from an ethnocultural background, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, or someone marginalised by white supremacy.

If you're interested in joining and you didn't have a chance to at O-Week, please send us an email at acar.officers@src.usyd.edu.au! If you support our cause you can also like our Facebook page: search for "Sydney Uni Autonomous Collective Against Racism". The ACAR officers are Oscar Monaghan, Bridget Harilaou, Shiran Mario Illanperuma and Tabitha Prado-Richardson.

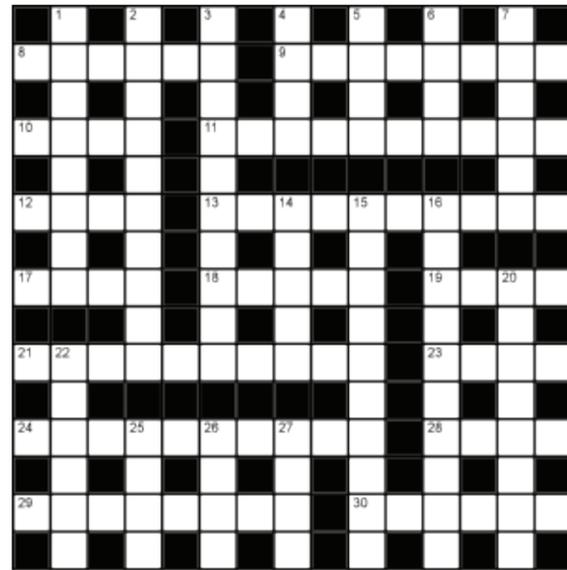
# time for a quickie?

**ACROSS**

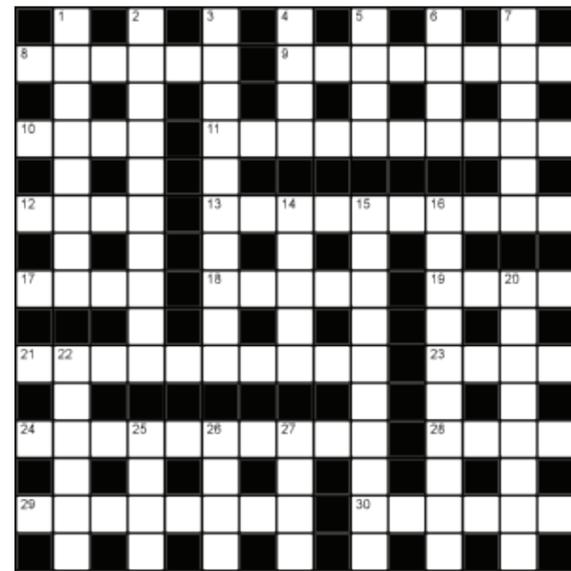
- 8 Photographic equipment (6)
- 9 Protection from planes (3,5)
- 10 Kids climb these; slightly older kids crawl through these? (4)
- 11 Gossip (4,3,3)
- 12 \_\_\_: Pig in the city (4)
- 13 The UN, for example (10)
- 17 Basil, e.g. (4)
- 18 Graphic symbols on a computer (5)
- 19 Wine holder (4)
- 21 Written evidence (5,5)
- 23 Union foe (4)
- 24 Behind the \_\_\_\_\_ (10)
- 28 Quote (4)
- 29 Keep (8)
- 30 Lots (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Children's clapping game (3-1-4)
- 2 Put together again (10)
- 3 40-0 : 6-0, 6-0, 5-0 (5,5)
- 4 Proposed an amount (4)
- 5 Troublesome child (4)
- 6 Of the highest quality (steak sauce) (1-3)
- 7 Seize (6)
- 14 Hello or goodbye (5)
- 15 Republic in Central America (2,8)
- 16 Password, or your union number? (6,4)
- 20 Brown furred marine animal (3,5)
- 22 Online store (6)
- 25 Enterprise android (4)
- 26 In \_\_\_ of (4)
- 27 Top (4)



# here's your kryptonite



**ACROSS**

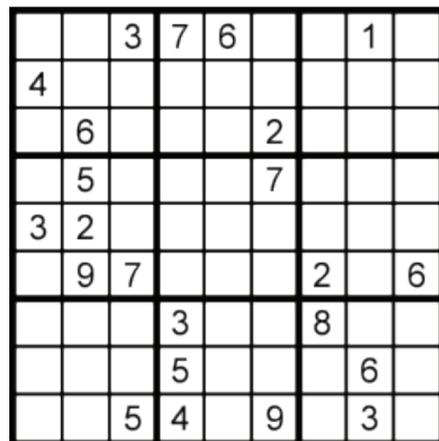
- 8 Cereal murderer's start lies with mum's heart in tatters (6)
- 9 Pansies arranged in obtuse UQ organisation (8)
- 10 Place in stead? (4)
- 11 Feline thief in strange brutal arc about Greg's beginning (3,7)
- 12 Sounds like a pleasing diet! (4)
- 13 Billet doux to O. Zeta perhaps? (4,6)
- 17 Model in charge of a big bash... (4)
- 18 ...lectures about last grand (5)
- 19 Nasty! He left huge lefty sides (4)
- 21 Perhaps John Gooding worsened it? - odd (4,6)
- 23 Beat a devotee (4)
- 24 Large wine bottles consume pompous regular members - Great work! (6,4)
- 28 Kind of mobile lumber a man leaves behind (4)
- 29 Families' hold send back well-meant behavior (8)
- 30 Revolutionary ran let property? (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Verbal form of injury results in ultimate reconstruction (8)
- 2 Cunning (messy) of me to leave after a new student dropped the 'D' (10)
- 3 Distributed a fake clear-cut ID (10)
- 4 Be against an objection? (4)
- 5 Wise leader hid back in Uruguay (4)
- 6 Star measurement unit divulged secrets (4)
- 7 Attack by plane - it's strangely faster (6)
- 14 Jeeves, for example, rewind TV while consuming beer (5)
- 15 Desperate expedient to the final hotel (4,6)
- 16 Tiny girl's bailment used around Honolulu's borders (10)
- 20 Lie about the leader of France's boast - she initially escaped from a safety vessel (8)
- 22 Crotchless technocrat '99' is maternal (6)
- 25 Immunodeficiency conceals a lymph bump (4)
- 26 Encounter an alien after me (4)
- 27 Introduce a party as 'empty'? (4)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5  
... everybody  
in the car  
so come on  
let's ride

Nb: don't forget 6, 7, 8 and 9



## impress your m8s

1. What colloquial term is commonly used to refer to the human body part called the coccyx?
2. On which continent was the world's first moveable-type printing technology invented?
3. What is the capital city of Canada?
4. How many times did Katharine Hepburn win the Oscar for best actress?
5. Did Bill Clinton have sex with that woman?
6. When was the last recorded spider-bite death in Australia?
7. Who is the current Thai Prime Minister?
8. Who invented the mercury thermometer?

1. The tallbone 2. Asia (Bo Xilai) 3. Ottawa 4. Four 5. Answer Redacted 6. 1979 7. Yingluck Shinawatra 8. Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit

## University of Sydney Musical Society presents: Songs of the Sea(change)

The cast of the upcoming MUSE production 'Anything Goes' have put together a sideshow of sorts, performing a bunch of nautical and water-themed songs for one night only this week. Using a variety of instruments and genres, they promise to "put oceanic music back on the map" and put on a bloody great. All profits from the evening will go towards covering the production costs of "Anything Goes".

7pm, March 12, \$5. [museatusyd.com](http://museatusyd.com)



## Seen & Heard Film Festival at the Red Rattler

More than a third of all films produced each year employ no women in any major production role. Seen & Heard is an indie inner west film festival that wants to change that. Over the past five years, its directors have been working to showcase

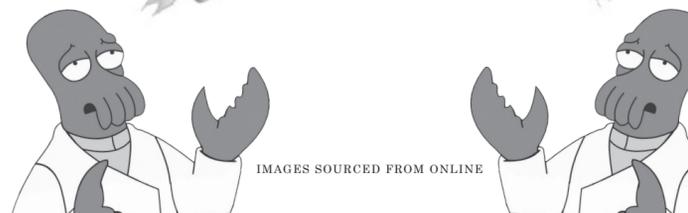
new films made by women from across the globe. Their message? That films made by women are not just for women, but are films that should be seen by everyone.

March 13 & 20, \$10 ACCESS/\$15 general. [seenandheardfilms.com](http://seenandheardfilms.com)

## Reformation at White Rabbit Gallery

White Rabbit Gallery houses one of the largest collections of contemporary Chinese art in the world- right in USyd's backyard, Chippendale. Reformation is White Rabbit's tenth exhibition, and its biggest yet. The exhibition has been curated to reflect the seismic shifts underway in post-millennium China, which are currently inspiring a new generation of Chinese artists. Art critics have called China "the most experimental country in the world"; see if the diverse collection of paintings, sculptures, mechanical art, videos and installations take your fancy.

Until August 3, free. [whiterabbitcollection.org](http://whiterabbitcollection.org)



IMAGES SOURCED FROM ONLINE

## Chance at Carriageworks

Innovative and internationally renowned French artist, Christian Boltanski, is treating Sydneysiders to a major installation exhibition for the first time ever. Held in the beautiful emptiness of the Carriageworks in Redfern, Chance explores themes of memory, loss, death and birth. Lose yourself in it, and enjoy.

Until March 23, free. [carriageworks.com.au](http://carriageworks.com.au)

## SUDS presents Quack at Studio B

Ian Wilding's kooky and kinda creepy Quack comes to life at the hands of the very capable and creative SUDS team. Expect plenty of offbeat laughs, blood, Occa drawls and...zombies.

March 19-22, \$7 ACCESS/\$10 concession. [sudsusyd.wordpress.com](http://sudsusyd.wordpress.com)

## Sydney University SHADES presents: 'Mobsters vs Lobsters' at the Imperial Hotel

This is clearly the best theme for a party anyone has ever thought of ever (like holy shit SHADES needs to win some award or something because this is completely off chops I am losing my mind WHAT ARE THIS AND WHO CAN I KISS TO THANK FOR ITS EXISTENCE). Dig out your old crustacean clothing or MRA-appropriate fedoras, down some bevs, and boogie with the biggest queer and queer-friendly society on campus. Bonus points to SHADES for picking a venue outside of O'Farrell's lockout zone - sea creatures and criminals alike can party all night!

March 14, \$10. [shades.org.au](http://shades.org.au)



# WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

If You Have A Legal Problem?  
We Can Help For FREE!



 SRC Legal Service  
FOR SYDNEY UNI UNDERGRADUATES

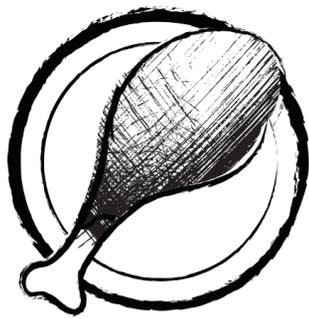
We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

法律諮詢  
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02 9660 5222 | [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)  
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# Honey Soy



*Honey Soy Mustard Marinade recipe: 125ml (1/2 cup) soy sauce, 60ml (1/4 cup) honey, 1 1/2 tablespoons wholegrain mustard, 1 garlic clove, crushed. Whisk all ingredients in a bowl until well combined. Place the kebabs in a glass or ceramic dish and pour over the marinade. Cover and place in the fridge for 4 hours to marinate.*

## Sarah Palin Wins 2019 Nobel Prize For Being Political Genius Of Her Generation

*Sarah Mournery can see Papua New Guinea from her house.*

Sarah Palin, President of the United States, is being heralded as the most misunderstood political genius of her generation. Back in 2008 Palin predicted the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which went on to occur in 2014 as Palin watched the event first-hand from her house in Alaska. Since then she has been right at every turn.

Palin became President in 2015 when she toppled Obama in a bloodless coup after Obamacare led to the abortion of 30% of America's population. At the Nobel Prize Awards ceremony, Palin was commended for her "innovative policy of stopping mass shootings by providing vouchers for guns for all school children".

Palin also pre-emptively stopped the United States from going to war with Canada by delivering the ultimatum "Join the States, or be nuked". Tony Abbott reportedly asked

if Australia could also join the US, but was politely turned down because Palin thought he "seemed a bit desperate".

The award presenters also commended Palin for predicting the Iran War.

"In 2008, Palin was mocked for saying the US was at war with Iran, but now it is well understood that Palin's prescience was correct as the US *did* go to war with Iran just six years later!" The war allegedly began when Palin bombed Tehran during a game of chicken with Senator Rush Limbaugh.

When asked however, Palin said her proudest achievement was coining the word "refudiate", saying the word's induction into the Oxford dictionary last year definitively proved that she was the Shakespeare of our generation as well.

## St Ives Man Posts Least Retweeted Photo Of All Time

*Peter Walsh is a spambot.*

In the days that followed Ellen's 'oscar selfie' being retweeted by 2.5 million people, it came to light that Michael Feeney of St. Ives (B. Sci, '56) had, three days previously, posted the least retweeted photo of all time. The picture, taken first on Instagram and then posted to Twitter, captures the corner of Feeney's dining room table, a plate stained by the remains of a runny egg, and a half-open window through which grey clouds can be seen.

He had not always been so notably unnotable. On a bi-yearly visit to their father in February, Feeney's three sons explained how "tired" they were of Feeney's "technophobia" (knowing full well that an email a month would save them the trouble driving from San Souci) and bought him a desktop computer and a refurbished

second-generation iPhone. "It would give him something to do," said the slightly resentful middle child, Andrew (no doubt embellishing his memory of Feeney beating him for breaking a window in '86) before unnecessarily reminding the other two of "how lonely he's been" after their mother's death last Spring.

After a week of futzing around with the new technology, Feeney took this photo on his phone and posted it to Twitter. His twelve followers, all spambots, saw but couldn't meaningfully register his post. Instead, they continued to send him spam, which he cheerfully received, enjoying the ostensibly human contact and the promises of penis enhancement pills for cheap.

## Law Student Recognises She Won't Be Going Into Environmental Law

*Lucy Connell wants to simultaneously make it rain \$\$\$ and save the children.*

It took Gemma\*, 20, a long time to speak openly to family and friends about wanting to be a corporate lawyer.

"It was really difficult," she admitted. "All of my peers pretend to care about human rights and stuff."

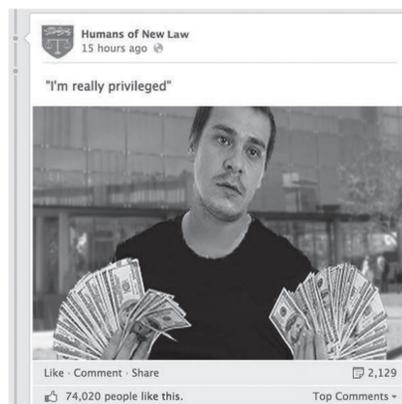
Several other students we spoke to described similar stigma after stating they wished to make a lot of money in tutorial icebreakers. However, all refused to go on the record for fear of jeopardising their SULS positions.

The latest figures reveal 97.5 per cent of first year Sydney Law students plan to work pro bono for the UN on animal rights after they graduate.

"Animal rights law is obviously my long term goal," said Edward, 21. "I'm just clerking part time for Allens until I get there."

Experts remain unsure as to the cause of this widespread 'Pro-Bono' effect. Professor Hilarum of the Social Psychology Department could only suggest that "it may be something to do with trying to sleep with arts students".

*\*name changed to protect privacy*



## Students Disqualified From My Kitchen Rules After Kitchen Exposed As Bathroom

*Mary Ward's article rules.*

Two university students have been disqualified from My Kitchen Rules after it was uncovered that the room they had put forward as their "kitchen" did not meet the competition's hygienic standards.

19-year-old Joseph Smith and his housemate 20-year-old Brendan Walsh had appeared as contestants on Channel Seven's top-rating reality TV show. However, their run was cut short before the pair's 'instant restaurant' round, as the premises they had nominated to host the round were deemed too dirty to be a kitchen.

The room – which appears on the Sydney University Village unit's floor plan as a kitchen – was instead determined to be a rather unkempt and heavily soiled bathroom.

A representative from Channel Seven told *Honi Soit* that there were various problems

with the boys' alleged kitchen, including a carton of milk that had solidified to closely resemble a bar of soap.

"The faecal matter in found in the drain of the pairs' alleged sink forced us to make the tough call to classify that apparatus as a toilet and, thus, determine that the room they had provided was not in compliance with the show's code of conduct," he said.

"Often it's a fine line between a kitchen and a bathroom, but we think it's important for the integrity of the show that we make that call as early and as clearly as possible."

Smith admitted that the presence of faecal matter in his drain was likely, "because university".

## Bitter Twitter Feud Continues Between #TeamKaty, #TeamGaga and #TeamRimsky-Korsakov

*Thomas Murphy is on #TeamCulture.*

The fan wars between supporters of the popular artists Katy Perry and Lady Gaga, and also those of 19th century Russian composer Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov have been reignited. It comes in the wake of all three artists' latest releases: Prism, ARTPOP and The Best of Classical Composer Rimsky-Korsakov, respectively.

User @gagarules2244 had tweeted yesterday that "ARTPOP is a new genre in music - luv Donatella! #teamkaty just like dumb pop music!!", with @teamkaty54 hitting back saying "#teamgaga dont no wat their sayin - PRISM is so much moer fun!! Luv Dark Horse!!". Fergus MacLeod, conductor of the London Symphonic Orchestra responded "One of the most prolific composers of Russian orchestral work in the 19th century, Rimsky-Korsakov's sweeping and versatile pieces such as *Capriccio Espanol* and *Scheherezade* infused orientalism into the Romantic tradition seamlessly - he has truly earned his place as one of the greatest classical composers of all time. I love The Maid of Pskov!"

While fans of Gaga may claim that her five Grammys clearly outshines Perry's zero, Rimsky-Korsakov fans have defended his

lack of Grammy wins with the fact that he fathered Russia's nationalistic style of composition in being part of the country's 'Mighty Five', known for his mastery of orchestration and progressive eschewing of traditional Western-styles of composition. Furthermore, the Grammys did not exist from March 1844 to June 1908, the entire span of Rimsky-Korsakov's life.

However, this feud between fans is nothing new. Tension between fans began in 2012 when Katy subtweeted Gaga about how disrespectful the 'blasphemy' in her music was, and further escalated in August 2013 when Katy appeared to wear a mermaid outfit that was allegedly 'derivative' of Gaga. The feud finally broke out in full in September 2013, when the Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov Saint Petersburg Conservatory, the oldest music teaching institution in Russia, honoured the 125th year since the composition of *Scheherezade*, completely overlooking the works of both Perry and Gaga.

PHOTOSHOPPED IMAGES BY PETER WALSH, DOMINIC ELLIS, CAMERON SMITH

## classifieds

**WANTED:** Contributors  
**CONTACT:** BULL Magazine (I'm asking for a friend)

**WANTED:** Self-aware host to insult celebrities but only sort of.  
**CONTACT:** The Academy Awards.

**WANTED:** Roommate to share apartment in Camperdown, must pay own half of rent and be discreet about the fact my parents pay mine.  
**CONTACT:** Ostensibly Underprivileged Student

**WANTED:** Scab labour for next year's O-Week. You'll be distributing access cards, assisting in the USU tent, and digging a mass grave for the unionised workers we'll be burying on the day.  
**CONTACT:** The USU

**WANTED:** Female cast members (minor roles only)  
**CONTACT:** HBO's True Detective

**LOST:** Giant Goon Bag  
**CONTACT:** St John's College

**FOR SALE:** My vote for C&S leadership or SUDS proposals  
**CONTACT:** Unprincipled stack-voter

**FOR SALE:** Day old pâté (still good)  
**CONTACT:** Cafe Azzuri

**COMMUNITY:** Wom\*n's self-defense cla... you know what, never mind.

**DEATHS:** Subjectivity

## Students Continue To Deface Richard H. Graffiti Memorial Tunnel



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Authorised by  
Deanna Taylor

