

Honi Soit



Week 3, Semester 1, 2014

HONI SOIT QUI MUNK Y PANTS



Library plans spark dispute

Georgia Behrens reports on growing tensions between unions and the university.

Staff unions have entered into a formal dispute with the University of Sydney over proposed changes to the university library system.

Both the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and Community & Public Sector Union (CPSU) lodged formal disputes on Friday, claiming that university management had failed to comply with obligations to staff in its management of various library reforms.

The proposed reforms, first reported by *Honi* last Monday, include plans to convert two satellite campus libraries into “self-access” libraries without permanent staff, and to adapt the Badham and Medical Libraries into postgraduate-only study facilities.

The Draft Change Proposal also suggests modifications to the university library staffing

structure, with fewer generalist positions and a greater number of specialist, technical, and managerial staff.

“We don’t know how many staff will be retained, and how many could be made redundant.”

Since the publication of the proposal in February, the CPSU and NTEU have stated their frustration at the “inadequate” levels of consultation they believe to have taken place between staff and the university.

Prior to lodging the formal dispute, USyd’s CPSU Branch

President Grant Wheeler said that library staff had been kept in the dark about how the changes would affect their employment.

“We don’t know how many staff will be retained, and how many could be made redundant. We don’t know what sort of retraining staff will have to undergo. We don’t know what sort of jobs people will be required to do once all these changes have been made,” he said.

“The university is very happy to talk about outcomes, and everything it’s going to achieve, but it’s extremely selective about the information it releases when it comes to the measures they’re going to take.”

Wheeler said the unions were formally entering dispute in the hope of getting more detailed information about the university’s plans and

the potential impact they would have on staff.

The university has insisted that these changes will not necessarily result in a reduction of overall numbers of permanent staff, but has conceded that some are likely to take voluntary redundancies in light of changes to their job descriptions.

“We’re anticipating that most of our changed needs can be met by re-distributing current staff and resources. We will be doing all we can to help our staff re-train and re-settle themselves in new positions if necessary,” university librarian Anne Bell said.

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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

Hello and welcome to week three. By now you've probably broken between seven and nine New Year's Resolutions, stopped attending lectures entirely, and resolved to sit in sullen silence during tutorials because fuck you who are you to tell me my contributions "aren't exactly what the reading was about"? You've also probably already resorted to using the word "hegemony" where it isn't really applicable, drunk more alcohol than you've eaten fruit, and pretended to discover god multiple times in order to snag a snag off the EU three times in one week. In short: it's week three and you're back into the swing of things. Only five weeks until midsem!

But don't let the drudgery and unbridled wankery and stress of university life get to you too much, hey. While that git in your tute might look like they have it all together with

their matching stationery and highlighted notes and praiseworthy contributions and general air of superiority - they don't. It's week three for everyone, the optimism of a new year is fading for everyone, and we're all wading through the shit together.

To ensure you get through to week four, we recommend you do all of the following this week: eat a cronut, watch some otter videos, engage in a pointless Facebook argument, wash your sheets (seriously mate), pat a pug, floss twice daily, have some bevs with fronds, unfriend and punch the next person who links or likes "20 Strangers Kiss For The First Time" and READ THIS PAPER. It's our gift to you - a machete with which to slash your way through the sweaty, slimy and riotous jungle that is week three. See you on the other side.



Letter of the week!

Dear Sir, or Madem,

I Hope you are very Fine,

After Compliments, I would like to take an opportunity to introduce our company with hopping our best future business relationships. Our Company is one of the best Companies in Pakistan, dealing:-

Weightlifting Gloves for women, Weightlifting Gloves for men, Cycling Gloves , Sailing Gloves, Police Gloves, Skydiving Gloves, Mechanic Gloves, PaintBall Gloves, Winter Gloves, Working Gloves, Welding Gloves, Baseball batting Gloves, Childern

Gloves, Dressing Gloves, Driving Gloves, Wheel Chair Gloves, Rugby Gloves, And All types of Sports Gloves.....

We assure our best quality as well as the best services, also in a very suitable rate.

Awaiting for your prompt reply for our long and healthy business terms. If given an opportunity we shall never let you down in any case.Hope to hear from you soon.

Best Regards

Muzammal Attari

Apologies

Mistakes in the Week 2 edition of the crossword occurred as a result of an editorial oversight. Sorry to crossword producers and readers for this mistake.

How to avoid a quarter semester crisis:

1. Join your 'friends' on the Law Lawns. Remember to bring: anecdotes about yachting in Croatia, your HSC results break-down, and a series of obnoxious ill-informed opinions.
2. If you often sleep with your housemate don't tell her husband. This is particularly true if you still live at home.
3. Buy your 'Men of Physics' calendar on Wednesday on Eastern Avenue. Full price: \$15. Jeans and Joggers discount: \$10.
4. The perks of an ACCESS card include: \$2.80 Moove at Wentworth, an instrument for cutting a line of coke, and an ill-advised butt-plug. Use yours wisely.
5. A reminder to Vet and Philosophy students that heavy-petting remains illegal in NSW.

Credits

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Do we really want nocturnal librarians?

Dear Honi,

A little article by Georgia Behrens notified me that Fisher would be trialling 24 hour access areas. Cute, but don't we already have the Carslaw Labs (amongst Engineering, Medical, and that-place-under-Fisher after hours facilities)?

Have these people (specifically, oft quoted University librarian Anne Bell) been to any of the 24 hour access labs on campus? Not only are they noisy and crowded, they also serve as an international student hostel, a snack bar, and the closest online gaming room this side of Broadway. Having the third floor of Fisher will allow it to befall the same fate.

As an ardent student, and one who has used campus libraries until 10pm more than anyone else on campus the past three, if not seven, years (challenge presented), I can assure Ms Bell and anyone else that 24 hour study spaces are cacophony to the eyes, ears, and nose, and the furthest thing conducive to effective study.

If anyone manages to get actual study done there, they can study in the middle of the Devonshire St tunnel so as long as they have WiFi, or, you know, at home.

The other major issue which is being kindly forgotten by most, including Jen Light and previous SRC campaigners before her for the same issue, is the outcome on student mental health of the idea of a 24 hour library. Sure, many world class universities have 24 hour libraries, but has anyone done a cross-cohort study about how the sleep times, moods, and depression scales are changing by the users of such libraries? Are these libraries at least staffed for the whole 24 hours (my bet is that they're probably more staffed than Sydney's libraries; *zing*)?

Increased self-imposed stress, a lack of sleep, and a non-conductive environment are negative factors all round. I think before student representatives start championing the idea of extending the Carslaw Labs to an extra 40 square metres on the third floor of Fisher, it

would be nonsensical to have some sort of evaluation process in place ready to go to see if this is an effective and successful idea, or whether Sydney's world beaters end up beating themselves the most.

Yours,

Arghya Gupta

MBBS IV

Dining in the land before time

Dear Honi,

Christina White's overview of campus food options (Too bad you can't eat sandstone, O-Week edition) leads this aged postgraduate to reminisce that, however bad things are today, they were far, far worse in my undergraduate years of 1999-2002.

Back then almost every food outlet on campus was Union run. The Union boards, secure in their annual compulsory student unionism income (\$408 a year per student in 1998, automatically directed to the Union no matter what the University wanted) firmly believed that private enterprise was evil.

Unfortunately they also seemed to think that freshness was the work of Satan and nutrition a capitalist plot. Considerable effort was expended on expunging all traces of imperialist tastiness whilst the serving staff were given the finest Soviet anti-customer-service training available.

Five of the six food outlets on campus (Wentworth cafeteria, old Manning cafeteria, Holme 'Buttery', Bosch and Engineering kiosks) were owned and run by the Union and they all served the same food. Literally.

Sausages that had aged three hours in a bain-marie, soggy chips and horrific catering trays of pasta/cheese melts (also aged under lights) were the mainstays. A weekly 'special' was offered for students who were on a budget. It was usually some unidentifiable meat in a bright yellow curry sauce squeezed from a big plastic catering bottle and then spooned onto over-cooked white rice. Soylent would have been an improvement.

The sole alternative was Ralph's

although, during a short period of Labor right control, a Pizza Hut opened in Wentworth. This led to endless attacks on the Union for allowing capitalistic oppression in the student safe space of Wentworth and, once control returned to the left, the lease expired and so did the Pizza Hut.

VSU wreaked havoc on many aspects of student life but trust me, campus food was not one of them.

Stuart Midgley

Some love for Opus

Dear Honi,

I found the 'expose' on Opus Dei by Andrew Bell in your most recent edition to be entertaining but fanciful.

Having spent nearly three years at the same Opus Dei schools that Mr Bell has written such a story about, I can't say my experience was anywhere nearly as dramatic. I am genuinely disappointed, as my geography class may have been slightly more interesting had the teacher walked around with blood streaming down her body from religious corporal-mortification, while whipping her back and chanting a secret Catholic mantra.

Mr Bell's assessment of religion being used as a precondition for socialising during his school years can be likened to the geeks joining the chess club to make friends. It is more of a reflection on your average awkward teen's self-confidence, than the 'luring and entrapping' nature of a religious group or chess club.

However what highlighted the

author's apparent taste for the theatrical was when he suggested it was somehow a grave scandal that a Catholic Mass was offered as an optional activity for students at what was essentially a Catholic Independent School. Quick, someone better call "Today Tonight!"

I would happily acknowledge the flaws of the Opus Dei movement and schools (there are numerous), but in the shadow of such a melodramatic account my criticisms wont make nearly as thrilling a read. I know it's sometimes hard to admit to how mediocre and undramatic our lives really are, but suggesting that secretive "cults" are invading our education system is a little far-fetched and paranoid, even for Honi Soit.

Yours Sincerely,

Brigid Meney

Masters Nursing II

Prices up 66%

Dearest Honi,

Congratulations on a great issue last week. Great except for one thing: in my General Secretary's Report I marvelled at Vegesoc's "\$3 lunches". It seems this was a one-off, and the regular price will be \$5 as per usual, which includes seconds.

My deepest apologies for this delicious mistake.

Sincerely,

Mariana Podesta-Diverio

Arts (Sociology Hons.)

Have a thought?
Just one?
Just a single one?

Write a letter to
editors
@honisoit.com

We'll print your
lone thought.

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Unions enter formal dispute

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Georgia Behrens has been hanging out in the stacks.

“But it is possible that there will be some staff members who do not feel that they are suited to the new models for whatever reasons, in which case that is a choice they are entitled to make.”

Wheeler said that morale remained extremely low amongst library staff despite these assurances.

“We all just have a huge cloud of uncertainty constantly hanging over our heads at the moment. Most staff have very little faith in the University to go about managing these changes in

the right way for them,” he said.

In a statement provided to *Honi* on Friday, a university spokesperson said:

“The university has been engaged in a very broad and extensive consultation process about the future shape of the library... We hope we will be able to resolve [the dispute] during a meeting next week. The university is committed to discussing this matter in good faith.”

The reforms have been proposed by Bell to address slipping

performance standards and “inherent diseconomies of scale” within the current system.

According to data from the Council of Australian University Librarians, the overall performance of USyd libraries relative to their Australian and New Zealand counterparts has drastically declined in the past 20 years. A recent survey of students’ perceptions of their university libraries placed USyd in the lowest quartile in four out of the five areas covered.

This the latest in a number

of reforms the university has proposed in the past few decades in an effort to rationalise the delivery of library services.

In 2011, Fisher Library removed almost 500,000 books and journals from its collection to make way for more student study spaces. Since 1990, more than ten university libraries have been closed and had their collections redistributed.

Bell said that, while there were currently no plans in place to close any further libraries, “nothing is ruled in, and nothing is ruled out”.

End is nigh for Raue case

The USU’s legal drama has reached its final chapter, write John Gooding and Justin Pen.

The NSW Supreme Court was expected to pass judgement this past Monday on *Raue v. Morris*, the case between University of Sydney Union (USU) Vice President Tom Raue and President Hannah Morris.

The timing of the judgment together with *Honi Soit’s* printing schedule means we are unable to cover it this week, but check the website (honisoit.com) or next week’s issue for the latest.

The case is a result of an injunction in October of last year brought against Morris by Raue after the

board announced a meeting where it would vote to expel him. The move to expel Raue was prompted by him providing *Honi Soit* with a quote from a confidential report.

Morris stated last Friday that the USU is “looking forward to the hearing being over”.

“I don’t regret the decision that the executive made. The removal of a Director was never going to be an easy process, and I was under no apprehension that it would be,” she said.

“It is unfortunate that Tom made the decision to litigate this matter, but that is a decision he made and is out of the Board’s control.”

Morris stated that after the judgement she will meet with the other executive members of the Board and discuss how to move forward from there.

Raue was more specific when discussing his prospects following the delivery of the judgement.

“If it does go my way, I will continue to do my job and try not to let the unpleasantness of my fellow

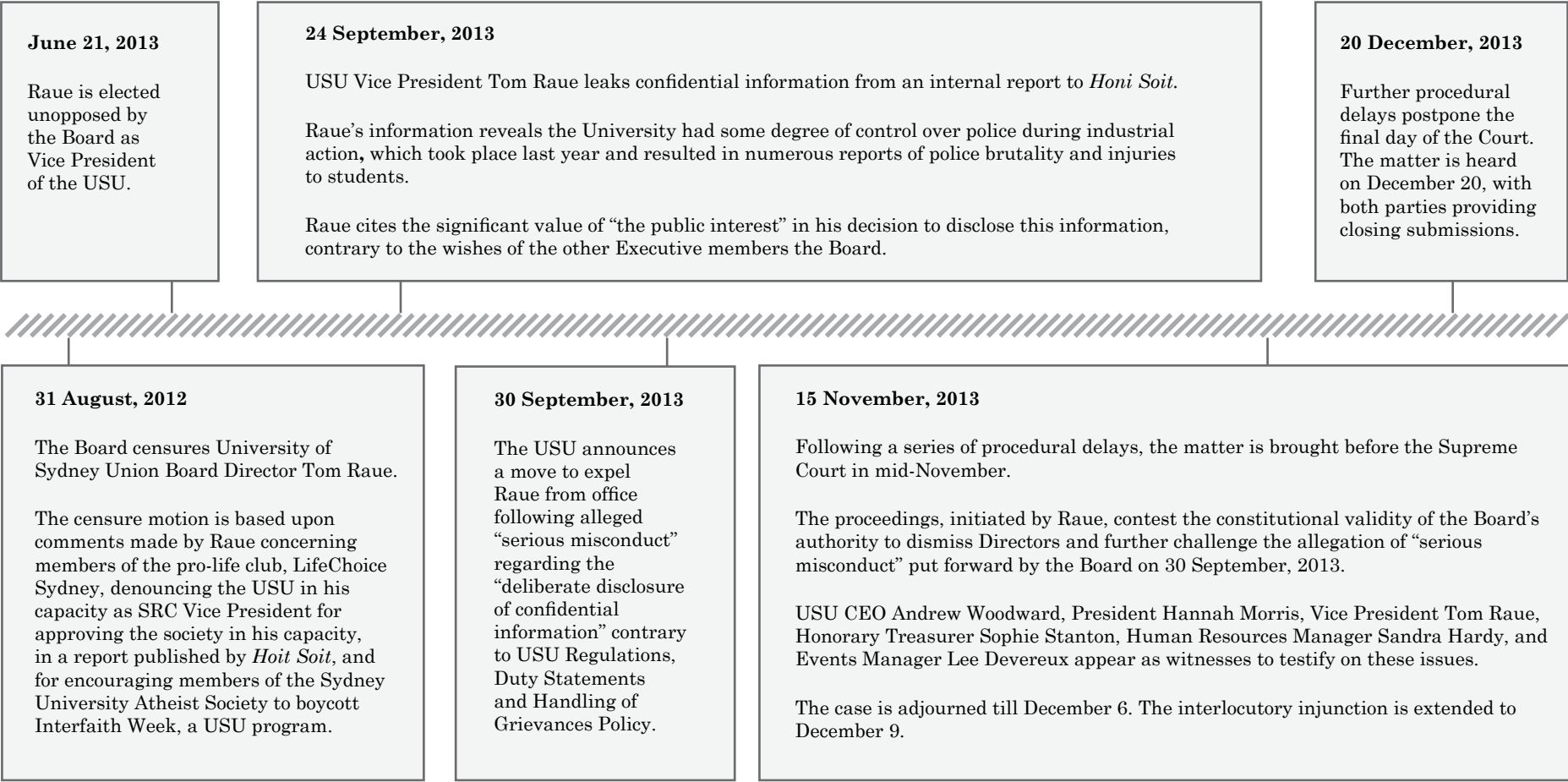
directors trying to roll me affect my work,” said Raue.

“If it doesn’t go my way, I will do my best to convince the board that removing me is bad for the union regardless of whether they are legally allowed to do so.

“[The case] has been a very isolating experience and involved a lot of hard work all because of one sentence which seems a bit trivial. Sometimes I wonder whether I should have taken the easy path, but in the end I think that I did what was best for the members of the USU.”

THANKS TO MAX CHALMERS, ADAM CHALMERS AND XIAORAN SHI.

[T I M E L I N E] From the boardroom to the courtroom



Unis lobby to deregulate fees

The Group of Eight submission reveals a push for revenue, writes Nick Gowland.

Sydney University Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence stated that it would be “not unfair” to both scrap the Commonwealth-supported places in and uncap tuition for courses like Law, Economics, Commerce and Accounting.

The comment was made in relation to a submission to the Federal Government’s ongoing review of demand-driven university funding made by the Group of Eight (Go8), a lobby group composed of the Vice-Chancellors from the leading eight Australian universities. The review is being conducted by economist Andrew Norton, and former Liberal Minister for Education Dr David Kemp.

The submission, made in December 2013 but released to the public last week, argues that research quality in Australian universities declined after the influx of students to uncapped university places was not adequately met by increases in funding. The submission contains a slew of recommendations aimed at balancing funding by deregulating tertiary education.

The most controversial proposal is to allow universities the option to forgo Commonwealth-supported

places (CSPs) and uncap tuition fees for courses in law, commerce, economics and accounting where graduates “generally enjoy high private returns”.

Under the current demand-driven funding regime, the Government subsidises fees for all domestic students enrolled in undergraduate bachelor degrees. In the case of the ‘Band 1’ subjects named in the submission, the Commonwealth subsidises 16 per cent of tuition fees. Student foot the rest of the bill either up-front or under the HECS-HELP deferred debt scheme.

However, if CSPs were to be removed, this private contribution would rise by around \$2000 a year. Further, the result of uncapping tuition fees would be a 30-40 per cent increase in base course fees, the submission projects. If Band 1 courses were to be effectively privatised as suggested, the HECS debt for a three-year Bachelor of Commerce degree would increase by 53 per cent, from \$29,934 to \$45,750.

Although Spence maintained any increase in private contributions would require Senate approval,

he indicated that he endorsed the “broad thrust” of the Go8 recommendations.

University of Sydney SRC Education Officer Ridah Hassan has slammed the submissions as further evidence of universities prioritising dividends over quality of education.

“I think it’s clear that universities these days operate as businesses and view their degrees as commodities to be sold. If they get away with privatising some degrees, it will give them confidence to start privatising others so it’s pretty bad for all students,” she said.

Echoing the argument of an SRC submission to the review last year, Hassan cautioned that any increase in deferred debt would be a disincentive for lower socioeconomic status students to study particular courses. She also rejected the Go8’s suggestion that privatisation would increase the quality and accessibility of tertiary education.

“The people who run the Go8 universities get millions of dollars a year collectively. There is plenty of money to make all degrees in

the university accessible, but it’s not being distributed in an equitable way,” she said.

Sydney University Law Society Equity Officer Natalie Czapski criticised the Go8’s assumption that graduates of Band 1 courses will earn more and thus be in a position to pay off increased debt. She claimed that the current job market for law graduates was poor, and the “damaging” Go8 recommendations would “box people into going after high paid corporate careers” at the expense of community justice and law reform.

Czapski said that the assumption was especially problematic considering most high-earning law graduates put hours of unpaid work into clerkships, which are simply not an option for many low SES students.

“I think it would be a shame if accessibility to the justice system and the people actually working in it came from higher means or a particular background,” she said.

Dr Kemp and Mr Norton’s report on demand driven funding will be released to the public later this year.

Plagiarism, schmagiarism

Lane Sainty attended the first SRC meeting of the year and all she got was this lousy article.

Factional fighting dominated the first Students’ Representative Council meeting of 2014, with a motion passed condemning the Education Officers for plagiarising sections of this year’s Counter Course handbook.

The motion, moved by Julia Robins of Sydney Labor Students (a Labor Left faction), asked Education Officers Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley, both of Socialist Alternative (SAlt), to publicly apologise in *Honi Soit* for recycling work without attribution and promoting SAlt in the handbook.

In the 2014 Counter Course handbook, aimed at providing a students’ view of the courses offered at USyd, the Ancient History and Geography articles were identical to those found in 2013. Further articles quoted

at length from the 2013 edition included Political Economy, Vet Science, Sociology, Economics and the Sydney College of the Arts. The re-using of articles caused out-of-date information to appear in the handbook, including reviews of courses that are no longer taught.

The handbook also mentioned Socialist Alternative on pages two and three, and on page five included a paragraph spruiking the Marxism 2014 conference to be held in Melbourne.

Julia Robins said the SAlt references set a “dangerous precedent,” and that future use of SRC resources for political advertising could jeopardize the Students Services and Amenities Fee funding received by the SRC.

The controversial motion did not pass smoothly, causing heated discussion and accusations of factional pettiness. Both Eleanor Morley and Ridah Hassan expressed a belief that the motion was a matter of political point scoring.

“The point of this motion is to hang us out to dry,” said Hassan. The pair also offered their poor handover as a defence, saying that they had worked hard on the handbook.

However, Julia Robins denied the motion was politically motivated. “It was not supposed to be ‘political point scoring,’ it was supposed to be correcting a wrong that had been done,” she said.

Several SAlt members spoke against the motion, opting to

downplay the importance of plagiarism rather than defend the actions of Hassan and Morley.

“Plagiarism is not the biggest thing in the world,” said Anna Sanders-Robinson, SAlt member and an SRC Global Solidarity Officer. “This obsession with plagiarism...whatever,” said Omar Hassan, SAlt member and an SRC Mature Age Students Officer. “There was no malicious intent.”

After lengthy discussion of the motion, an SLS member requested the vote be carried out via secret ballot, at which point Hassan and Morley exited the room in protest, along with all other SAlt members in attendance.

The motion passed 21 to three, with four abstentions.

THE MANNING FILES

SO IT TURNS OUT THEY DON'T HATE EACH OTHER THESE DAYS

The Evangelical Union seemingly made an ecumenical faux pas after holding a Week One welcoming BBQ on Ash Wednesday, a day on which Catholics are unable to eat meat. In doing so, the EU - which describes itself as "a student-run Christian group" - appeared to have excluded 36 per cent of Australia's Christian population from their Sunken Lawns celebration.

We thought that this might be a great meaty story, but no. Apparently Catholics on campus didn't mind missing out on the non-denominational

(literal) sausage-fest. "We had no problem with what the EU did," Vice President of the Catholic Society of St Peter Christopher Pinto.

"We by no means take offence and we don't think they had any malice; they were just trying to build up new members."

EU President Matthew Hill said that the society had not received any complaints about the event. While the majority of EU members identify as Protestant, Hill said that the non-denominational society had "a range of EU members from Catholics to Protestants and all the denominations within those groups".

HEY, MIND YOUR OWN RACISM!

Last week, the University of Sydney Business School joined the ranks of the University of Sydney Union and St. Paul's with an all-caps display of racial insensitivity.

"Keen to knock off a 6 credit point subject during Uni break from a DUSTY INDIAN VILLAGE?" read an announcement on the School's Blackboard. Closer inspection of the 40K website, the program's chief sponsor, reveals the "DUSTY INDIAN VILLAGE" in question is, in fact, an ostensibly nameless "village right next to Bangalore!"

Oh my god that's like so exotic! Also, is India really dustier than Australia? That seems unlikely.

CLIMBING THE STAIRWAY TO SWOLE

The Manning Files have received word that Led Zeppelin's enthralling epic *Stairway to Heaven* has made it onto the Sydney University Gym playlist.

Whilst this song is a classic, Manning Files is of the opinion that it's fairly unsuited to smashing cardio or grinding out some reps. Unless you're on the StairMaster, of course.

Well, we tried

Letter from the USU Board

We write in response to an article published in last week's edition titled, "The Democratic Deficit".

The University of Sydney Union Board is comprised of 11 Directors elected by popular student vote, 2 Senate-appointed Directors and the Immediate Past President of the Union. In the past, the Union Board has sought suitable candidates to fill vacancies for the 2 Senate-appointed Directors. Candidates are selected on merit, experience and independence.

The assertion that these 2 Senate-appointed Directors wield "disproportionate influence over the direction of the USU" is a spurious claim at best. Senate-appointed Directors play a commensurate, rather than disproportionate, role on the Union Board. They are bound by the same Constitution, Regulations, Duty Statements, fiduciary duties and legal liability as other members of the Board.

The article included a contract addressed to 6 Directors regarding the role of Senate-appointed Directors in upcoming Executive Elections.

Restrictions on the voting rights of Board Directors are contained in 7.4 of the USU Constitution. There are several avenues open to members seeking to make alterations to the Constitution. (1) A resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting; (2) a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting at a General Meeting, or; (3) a resolution passed by a simple majority of at least 4,000 Members voting in a referendum.

Though a Big Mac would have been nice, in the interests of an informed readership we would appreciate Honi

Soit publishing these democratic avenues open to USU members. We also hope that in future, editors and reporters of this paper seek comment from the Board when naming individual directors.

As always, the Board welcomes and encourages member feedback. This can be directed to the President's email (h.morris@usu.usyd.edu.au), or to the Board directly at our monthly members forums.

Yours (non)contractually,

Board Directors
University of Sydney Union

We want to thank the Board Directors for their letter and for engaging in public debate about the way that our student union is run. It is a debate not about the use of power in an abstract way, but about how best a student organisation worth \$22m annually can spend that wealth to enrich the student experience at this university.

If you missed it, last week we expressed concern about the Senate-appointed directors voting in the election of the USU executive. It frightens us that the vote of these directors, neither elected nor students, could swing a close election. We think this would be anti-democratic: taking control of the student union out of student hands.

Our student directors, in their letter above, seek to shirk responsibility for ensuring that the student union is student-run.

They advise us to turn up to the USU AGM in with some like-minded mates, or get 4000 of our mates to vote in a referendum. These avenues are important, but in almost every other decision that the Union makes we

trust our elected representatives to act on our behalf.

In voting for them, we determined that they would serve our interests. In electing them, we decided that we wanted them to be in the room on our behalf, calling the shots for the Union that we pay for the pleasure of being a part of.

They are right to remind us of the avenues that exist for us to change the constitution. But they should not be blind to the easiest avenue available: to use the power we gave them to act in the student interest.

They are correct that section 7.4 of the USU Constitution puts restrictions on the voting rights of Board Directors. This section merely prevents the CEO and the Immediate Past President from voting in executive elections. That section does not compel the directors to seek the votes of the unelected colleagues who sit beside them on Board, nor even does the section stop them from asking those unelected colleagues not to vote in the election. The Constitution gives the unelected directors the power to vote;

it says nothing of the conversations that can be had between elected and unelected directors.

We certainly could try and stack out the AGM at the end of the year and demand constitutional change. We hope, however, that we won't

need to; we hope that we can trust that the people we elected to represent us will fight for a student-run student union.

We're also kind of worried we don't have enough mates. Please don't pass the buck on this one.

Once upon a time...



"I believe that the passion and creativity of student control will be the driving energy of growth in the coming years."
Tim Matthews, USU Board Director



"I want to heighten transparency in USU governance, and create a progressive and inclusive organisation that empowers student decision-making."
Bebe D'Souza, USU Board Director



"At USyd, we have one awfully beautiful university - I mean, just look at the Quad!"
Kade Denton, USU Board Director

Straight from the 'art

Asylum seekers should be empowered not pitied, writes Anjali Vishwanathan.

"What's this?"

A SERCO guard picks up one of the notebooks that emerge from the security screening belt and begins to slowly leaf through it. Its pages are filled with delicate and haunting Manga-style ink illustrations. She looks at me, her brow furrowed.

"Did you do these?"

"Uh yeah. I-I was just taking them in"

The guard seems unconvinced but she gives it back and my heart gradually begins to dislodge from my throat.

The drawings are the work of a 15-year-old refugee, living in Villawood's Immigration Detention Centre. This is the first time in my experience that guards have paid such close attention and this woman, who bears a Southern Cross tattoo, is notoriously temperamental.

Cameras, phones and journalists are generally prohibited inside detention centres. So it is unsurprising that the Refugee

Art Project, which facilitates a platform for asylum seekers to express their despairs, hopes, and fears, has been banned from entering Villawood as a volunteer organisation. Their website is blocked from computers and a service provider notice announces that it bears 'suspicious' content.

The Project was instituted in 2010 by a collective of academics and artists concerned by the inhumanity of Australia's detention policies. It has since grown to occupy a unique position amidst Sydney's activist enclaves as it operates in direct collaboration with refugees.

Inside the detention centre, the process of creating artworks provides a therapeutic outlet for creative expression. The refugee activist movement has a tendency to be a little self-indulgent. It often emphasises the activists' own ire and nudges asylum seekers' perspectives to the periphery. However, through art, men and women behind barbed wire are enabled to enter the public discourse on their own terms. As we sit together and draw, we build friendships and exchange

stories. "When my drawings are clean, I feel that my heart is clean," one refugee says.

Beyond Villawood, the artworks are printed in zines or feature in local exhibitions. They tell a very different story from dry, intimidating statistics or the rhetoric that prevails in the mainstream media which keeps asylum seekers anonymous and inhuman in the public mind. Such constricted flows of information mean that even among those dedicated to advocating for their rights, asylum seekers are reduced to the abject tragedies of their past. They are romanticised as hapless victims of our policies; not only disempowered but even weak or necessitous. The Refugee Art Project's zines are reliant on autonomous and creative expression. They combat the tendency for refugees to be anonymised by well-meaning activists as well as opportunistic politicians.

Examining these comics opens a window to their lived realities. We see that suffering is typically manifested in smaller fragments of memory. We're invited to share tender moments of friendship between two men amidst the grim surroundings of the detention centre. A child illustrates her fright at the discovery of giant crabs one night on Christmas Island; later, her consternation at the adults who won't take her story seriously. Another poignant zine is dedicated to the memory of our friend Ahmad Ali Jafari, a detainee who passed away in detention last year due to guards' negligence. Art provides a medium to create an enduring tribute to his memory. This takes on particular significance when the details of SERCO's misconduct are not reported in the media.

The refugee activist community was recently jolted by a statement written by Liz Thompson, a former migration agent who leaked the recent events on Manus Island. Among other things, Thompson accused the refugee movement of excluding the voices of refugees. However, she fails to note the root of the problem: that public rallies, the dominant mode of protest, are



inherently exclusionary of people in tenuous and vulnerable situations. Most refugees staunchly guard their social media presence with pseudonyms and profile pictures of flowers or cloying babies. To insist that they agitate through the city's main streets while flanked by antagonistic policemen is an unreasonable demand.

This does not signify that asylum seekers must be clambered over and spoken for. It highlights the need for advocates of refugee rights to adopt diverse and creative approaches to their advocacy; to be contemplative and be reflective of the spaces they have opened up.

The decision to actively pursue the dream of safety and embark on its journey is a brave one. It reveals a fierce independence; that asylum seekers are not victims but fighters with temerity. They should not evoke pity in the advocates for their rights.

To relegate refugees to passive recipients, as we often do, imposes a double-oppression. It strips them of the basic agency that they came here to claim over their lives. Refugees should not be merely included in the protest. It is theirs.

ILLUSTRATION BY
MURTAZA AND
MOHAMMAD. IMAGES
FROM THE RAP FACEBOOK.

Spoiled for choice | Tech

The very foundations of modern video games are questioned by *The Stanley Parable*, writes **Jeff Wong**.

The reader's eyes were drawn to the article about *The Stanley Parable*, curious as to what this was all about. They had heard whispers about this particular video-game, and decided it was finally time to see it for themselves. Or had the reader known about the game for some time, and in fact come here to see if this article held opinions similar to their own? The reader grinned at the clever introduction and continued reading.

Apologies - sadly, I'm not as well-spoken or as witty as the narrator in *The Stanley Parable*, which in October 2013 found its way onto PC and Mac. Hopefully, however, I will be able to guide you as the narrator did Stanley, and illuminate several points of intrigue about the game.

Stanley, the game's protagonist, arrives at work to find his office building empty. All of his co-workers have disappeared, and for the first time in his life, Stanley

is left to the machinations of his own free will – or so it seems. A disembodied narrator speaks to Stanley and, by extension the player, guiding both through the office in search of explanation for the mysterious events within.

One of the first places the narrator takes you is a room with two doors, where he instructs you to enter one of them. A few players may listen to such commands, but many would be beset by the nagging curiosity of defying the narrator and choosing the other door, if only to *see what happens*. The desire for independence and explanation, fuelled by the mischievous possibility of defying the narrator, is what makes *The Stanley Parable* one of the most impressively written and creative indie games of recent times. One of its central themes, however, speaks fathoms about the game itself. It's a core theme that plagues a great proportion of video games - choice, free-will and pre-determinism.

Many games punish the player for straying too far from pre-determined paths, physically disabling them from traversing as they please. The Stanley Parable on the other hand appears to offer every possible path to the player, so long as the player can actually comply with, or defy, the narrator. Davey Wreden, developer and writer of *The Stanley Parable* stated that the game came from “a desire to do something that hadn't really been done before”. He wanted to produce “a kind of game that broke player expectations.”

However, in *The Stanley Parable*, every action has been pre-conceived. The player is ultimately still being guided to recite a story already written for them. The game effectively only provides an illusion of free-will. Can *The Stanley Parable* really be considered a game, rather than a digital choose-your-own adventure novel? Is the true theme conveyed actually the lack of free-will and choice?

In spite of the negative press surrounding linearity and the lack of freedom in video games, some games favour closed narratives because it allows for a story to be told that compliments the provided gameplay. A game's ability to provide a sense of free-will must be entirely reliant on player choice, and not upon pre-determined outcomes. Wreden himself states that “it's the kind of thing that seems to emerge naturally from open inquiry rather than being consciously programmed into the game.”

The Stanley Parable is a spark of creativity and ingenuity in the increasingly cynical medium of video games. The ability for such a simple game, once an amateur hobby project, to spark conversation and thought-provoking debate should not be taken lightly, leaving it to advance the artistic medium of video games.

Five matches worth of anti-Semitism | Sport

The length of football bans sends a bizarre moral message, writes **Naaman Zhou**.

It's lunchtime in East London and Nicolas Anelka is running through the last line of defenders, everyone arrayed messily like the quivering dots on an LED football display. The 34 year-old striker shrugs off his marker and clips the ball, like a suited executive sinking a putt with the faintest of taps, into the far corner of the goal.

In celebration the Frenchman pins one arm to his side, lifts the other across his chest and presses his hand to his shoulder. He looks like a medical mannequin in a sling, or a man singing the national anthem with his shoulder standing in for his heart. Those in the stands think nothing of it but across the Channel, French fans have just sat up, perhaps pressed the rewind button, raised an eyebrow or two. Some are on the phone to the press.

Anelka has just performed a gesture known as the “quenelle”. Invented by controversial French “comedian” Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, it is widely seen as having anti-Semitic or racist connotations. It has been performed in front of Holocaust memorials, synagogues and the Toulouse primary school where two Jewish children were killed in 2012. Most English media outlets describe it with the same three-word phrase: it resembles,

they say, a “reverse Nazi salute”.

Anelka has denied the anti-Semitism charge, claiming it was “just a special dedication” to his friend Dieudonne, who was watching the game. The problem is that Dieudonne has been convicted of hate speech eight times, and in a 2013 show, said of Franco-Jewish radio presenter Patrick Cohen: “When I hear him speak, I think to myself: ‘Gas chambers...too bad they no longer exist.’”

Anelka has since been banned for five matches and fined £80,000 by the English Football Association (FA). Two weeks later, the FA handed out a comparable ban, this time to the manager of Newcastle United, Alan Pardew, who headbutted a player as he rushed into the technical area for a throw-in.

While Anelka will miss five matches, Pardew will be gone for seven, having been charged last Wednesday with violent conduct. But the violence tag is a bit of a misnomer. Pardew's headbutt was ugly, pig-brained and reeking of foul machismo, but it was less a Zidane-style charge and more a brief nod in the general direction of someone else's ear. It seems this is worse than repeating a gesture

that has been performed outside schools where Jewish children have been gunned down.

The FA have a track record with this unique brand of self-contradiction. In October 2011, the Liverpool striker Luis Suarez was given an eight-game ban for racial abuse. Suarez (who has in the past deliberately handled the ball, bitten opponents, and deliberately bitten the hands of opponents), had called another player “negrito”. Weeks later, the then England captain, John Terry, was similarly charged, this time for calling compatriot Anton Ferdinand a “fucking black cunt”. His punishment? A four-match ban. Compare this to Suarez's eight, Pardew's seven and the five the FA gave a 14-year old who, as a joke, told the referee his name was “Santa Claus”.

On Sunday, Anelka was officially released by his club for “gross misconduct” and his career looks all but extinguished. After thirteen years in the Premier League, it seems he will never play in England again. Terry, meanwhile, has remained captain of Chelsea FC every year since his conviction. He retains this position of power over his racially-diverse teammates

week in, week out, wholly pardoned it seems, by virtue of being white, English, and good at placing his foot conveniently between other players and the goal. Unlike the bite-happy Suarez, the FA look comically toothless. Why is a manager's idiocy valued at seven matches, an anti-Semitic gesture at five and racist abuse from the captain of England only four? The numbers simply do not add up.



Worth its weight | Science

Harry Stratton explores the role of genetic modification in preventing Vitamin A deficiency.

Here are some depressing facts. This year, Vitamin A deficiency is estimated to kill 700,000 children. It's also on track to send another 370,000 kids irreversibly blind.

Here are some even more depressing facts. There is a solution to Vitamin A deficiency. The American Society for Nutrition, leading anti-blindness NGO Helen Keller International, and the CSIRO have all endorsed it. When it was trialled in parts of the Philippines, mortality due to VAD was reduced by 20 per cent within a year. But a baffling coalition of far-left environmentalists and far-right religious extremists has thus far kept this solution out of the hands of those who need it most.

Golden Rice is a strain of rice genetically modified to include beta-carotene, the chemical precursor to Vitamin A. There's nothing particularly exciting about beta-carotene in and of itself - it's the same ingredient that's in foods we eat every day, like carrots, spinach and, if you live in Newtown, kale.

The reason that Golden Rice has researchers and health advocates so intrigued is the efficiency with

which it delivers that Vitamin A and the ease with which it can be integrated into local food supply chains. A single cup of rice, the staple crop in the parts of the developing world where Vitamin A deficiency is most acute, promises to deliver up to 50 per cent of the average person's daily Vitamin A requirements. Best of all, because the patent on Golden Rice is controlled by a humanitarian trust rather than a private corporation, modified seeds are distributed free of charge to farmers in developing countries, thanks in part to the humanitarian programs of biotechnology giants Syngenta and Monsanto. Contrary to the “terminator seed” myths of dystopian fiction, these farmers are actively encouraged to save and propagate these seeds.

In regions where governments have introduced Golden Rice programs, rice prices have remained stable without the need for state subsidies that developing world governments struggle to fund. According to the International Rice Institute, if there was ever an efficient method to get nutrients to those who need them the most, but are unable to afford them, this is it.

However, Golden Rice has proven to be very controversial. Last year, far-left guerilla organisation Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas posed as local farmers to attack the Filipino government's trial rice crop. Closer to home, a related CSIRO fibre-enriched wheat project was destroyed by two Greenpeace eco-vandals.

Both the global scientific community and former Greenpeace kingpins Patrick Moore and Mark Lynas condemned these attacks, but not before controversial Indian nationalist and “Deep Ecologist” Vandana Shiva alleged that allowing Golden Rice in India was “like saying rapists should have the freedom to rape”. Ms Shiva is best known for calling on the government of India to withdraw food aid from cyclone-ravaged areas on the grounds that some of it might contain genetically modified wheat.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXANDRA MILDENHALL

This led to panicked scenes of starving people besieging delivery convoys, desperate for something to eat.

It's incredibly easy for first-world environmentalists and religious radicals to tell the developing world that they should just buy Vitamin A supplements. But telling starving people that they should just plant more carrots is like telling them to eat cake.

I say let them eat rice.

A not so bygone era | Media

The battle for reproductive rights is not yet won, writes **Sarah Armstrong**.

Events in Channel 9's *Love Child* seem a world away, with episodes punctuated by the Apollo moon landing and anti-Vietnam war protests. The show, set in the late 1960s, focuses on how forced adoption affects the lives of people involved in a Kings Cross home for unwed mothers, reminiscent of a reform school. While based on true events, the show implies that challenges to reproductive autonomy are being a thing of the past and nothing for us to worry about.

The house matron (played by Manda McElhinney, who is far less likeable in this role than when playing Rhonda in AAMI ads) embodies the conservatism of older generations. She requires penitence from the young women in the house and enjoys the authority she holds over them.

Love Child addresses sexual politics through the eyes of lively young women – hidden away by their families to prevent embarrassment – and a young midwife, Joan, who empathetically works as their advocate in a system stacked against them. Through a collection of fairly standard character tropes the show highlights the pain felt by the mothers of the Senate-

estimated 150,000 children forcibly removed between 1951 and 1975 in Australia. It's an important story to tell, but cannot be seen as the end of the story of reproductive rights, a final chapter in some definitively finished past.

Though television shows often focus on individuals in order to illustrate larger societal issues, the use of the matron as a stand-in for the entire system of oppression detracts from the reality of the situation. In Australian society reports of anything vaguely discriminatory are met with a chorus of voices assuring us that

there isn't really a problem these days, and that these incidences are just the product of a few 'bad eggs'.

In the first episode a young pregnant woman named Vivian is sedated by her father and taken to the home. She later tells Joan that her mother found her in the process of unsuccessfully attempting to induce miscarriage using several dubious methods.

Even though those days have been largely left behind, abortion isn't freely available in New South Wales. The *Crimes Act* continues to penalise obtaining or providing an unlawful abortion, and provides for a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail. Court cases in the 1970s clarified that for abortion to be lawful, pregnant people had to satisfy doctors that continuing the pregnancy would cause significant mental or physical harm, and the liberal enforcement of this law has allowed some freedom.

However, the passing of 'Zoe's Law' in the lower house and the rightward shift of the abortion debate in recent years could undermine this progress and limit the freedom of judges to interpret laws in favour of bodily autonomy. With a senator recently describing abortion as a “death industry” and bills importing inflammatory but locally negligible aspects of global abortion debate (such as sex-selective abortions), the issue is far from safely resolved.

Assurances that we're no longer in the 'bad old days' of 1960s abortion rackets and so don't need to worry at all fail to take into account the less evident, but still very real issues of today. Love Child displays a difficult and astoundingly recent part of Australia's history of reproductive rights, but it is important that the debate over these rights is not now dismissed as a vestige of last century.

We Want You, Inc.

Eleanor Gordon-Smith examines the recruitment of young people by the Australian military.

The army needs recruits. In Australia, we outsource this in part to the Manpower Services Inc. They're a private sector, civilian corporation who find part time and full time 'talent' for a spectrum of industries including grain harvesting and interior design administration.

The collaboration between the ADF and Manpower Services has yielded a series of campaigns that feel like an unlikely allegiance of Contiki, GTA and Tough Mudder. Don't be a soldier; start a Defence Career. Don't join the army; challenge yourself.

Daniel, a UTS student who moonlights in the reserves, is unimpressed by the people this sort of advertising is attracting. He's a stocky guy, unsurprisingly, and is mostly monosyllables and refills until we start to talk Kapooka.

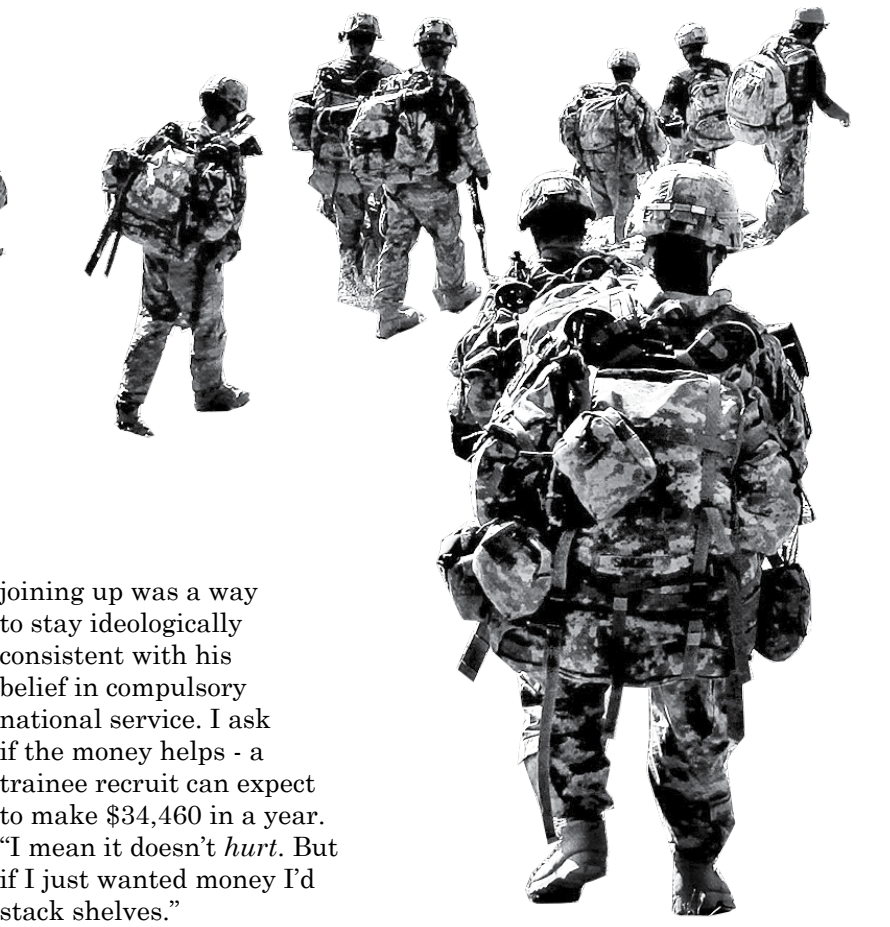
Kapooka is the training site just outside Wagga where new recruits get turned into soldiers, whether for the Reserve or what Daniel calls the 'real army'. "They should show these fuckwits crying into their phones on - what day are they allowed a phone? Day 15? - to all their girlfriends about

oh I can't do this oh I want to come home. That'd keep the noobs out." Noobs? "Guys who put 'lol' in their application. They see this shit and think it's for misfits who love guns. They get chewed up fast. It's not a fucking gap year."

It doesn't seem the moment to point out that the ADF does in fact run a gap year program.

Manpower joins a rising tide of corporations including Serco and GFS now managing civilian-control mechanisms that have typically been the dominion of the state. Manpower Services thinks of potential recruits as players in a job market full of competing internships, placements and part time work.

By far the biggest influx of recruits happens over summer, when school leavers and tertiary studiers are looking for any number of combinations of money, something to do during the day, a way to get fit, and a way to give back to the community. For Tim,



“Guys who put ‘lol’ in their application. They see this shit and think it’s for misfits who love guns. They get chewed up fast.”

Manpower has three years left in its contract with Defence, which is worth \$500 million to the company. It is tasked with two things: ADFA recruitment and retention. The potential for alliteration was not lost on the military boffins who dubbed the strategy 'R2'.

The ADF has allocated \$3.1 billion to recruitment and retention since 2007. That's 117 M1 Abrams tanks. When I told Daniel about Manpower Services' involvement in recruitment, he's bemused in an almost curmudgeonly way. "I had no idea they were managing it. It's weird that they're not... that they don't have military experience. You'd think they'd want more than just a civvie advertising company."

Perhaps this explains the ways recruitment drives have targeted young Australians in the last few years. The era of army personnel standing in shopping centres and bookstores is long since passed. If the ADF wants to compete with other employers who want a part of the young, fit, mobile workforce, it knows it has to out-advertise them. Joe, a 22 year old with his sights set on being a clearance diver, was bemused by a recent series of recruitment ads run in cinemas nationwide for Navy, that a few years ago made like Zuckerberg and dropped the 'the'. "They had a guy on a tuk tuk somewhere in south east Asia. They didn't show the hours you spend every day on mindless cleaning".

The second part of the R2 strategy, Retention, is simple enough. Once people are in the army, don't lose them. Australian retention focuses on trying to "establish and maintain the ADF as an employer of choice, by providing contemporary rewards for a competitive marketplace". This doesn't seem to rattle Daniel and co so much. "No I get that's all fair. Some guys get 182K as a base rate, but they do a hard job. Pay them. But the people they're attracting with this entry-level bullshit... we need young people, not people with nothing better to do."

The survival of the fittest

Tom Joyner speaks to The Saturday Paper’s Erik Jensen.

Even over the phone, Erik Jensen has the weary air of a man whose crusade against print media's slow decay has taken an early toll.

At 25, the hair of the editor of the newly launched *The Saturday Paper* may be slightly unkempt, but his words are handsomely articulate. Jensen exudes experience and intelligence that would otherwise belong to someone much older and probably more jaded. But then again, Jensen is no stranger to print – he began writing music reviews for the *Sydney Morning Herald* at 16, before joining its ranks as a reporter upon finishing school.

Speaking from his Melbourne office, Jensen laughs nervously when I bring up his age, a topic impossible to ignore in an industry mostly governed by men sometimes three times his senior. I ask him if it's realistic to imagine his editorial team ever being as young as he is. "It's not really a criterion on which I look in commissioning [someone]," he says. "A young person who writes well is just as an attractive proposition to an editor as an older person."

It's a genuine worry for those aspiring to work in his field, and Jensen has certainly set himself apart not only on his own merit, but also among the last of a dying breed in an ailing medium.

The Saturday Paper, a 32-page tabloid-sized edition published weekly and printed on a dense, white stock, leaps out on newsstands beside the dusty mastheads of the *Herald* and *Daily Telegraph*. Meticulously designed from front to back, its black, white and red colour scheme lends new meaning to the old joke.

Speaking of his accomplishments - among them a 2010 Walkley for Young Journalist of the Year and a 2009 UNAA Media Peace Award for an investigative piece on the exploitation of international students - Jensen is impatient, if humble. "I won one of those..." he hesitates, "what are they called?" An award momentarily escapes him.

It is rare for a publisher to appoint an editor so untested, even on top of Jensen's lauded achievements, especially when such a seasoned vanguard of journalists and critics assemble beneath him, including the likes of David Marr, Martin Mackenzie-Murray, Hamish McDonald and Christos Tsiolkas,

making up for a truly stellar billing. In sport, Jensen would be a wildcard, in politics a maverick, or in the arts, a rising star. But survival in print is a harder test than most, and Jensen has yet to prove himself.

Since departing from his post as summer editor of *The Herald*, Jensen has spent the last 18 months working closely with publisher Morry Schwartz. The two have been busy approaching advertisers and mustering a crack team of around 10 full-time staffers to produce their new edition. It's no surprise that Jensen is about as sanguine and collected as his exhaustion might betray over the phone.

“His vision for The Saturday Paper: to provide quality long-form journalism for a discerning crowd of ‘Twitter users’”

Jensen's words echo rehearsal. "We're launching a newspaper because we believe there is a significant market for people who want to read long-form journalism in print, and aren't being satisfied elsewhere."

But this proposed 'market' has drawn skepticism from both conservative and progressive pundits. When an advertising pitch in the launch's media-kit outlined the paper's target demographic as being specifically a social elite, a "well-educated people living in the inner-suburbs," it sparked online criticism. Targeting an audience between 35-49 years old, members are seen to be "image-conscious" and "socially-aware" with "a high disposable income". Jensen dismisses my suggestion that this is problematic. "I certainly am not pitching a newspaper to that audience," he tells me, "whether a person is rich or well-educated, or ill-educated doesn't really bother me."

Though, this is contentious in light of the paper's launch distribution structure. For now at least, *The Saturday Paper* will only be sold in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, urban areas in which Jensen and Schwartz have an established readership with *The Monthly* and *The Quarterly Essay* (published by Schwartz's company Black Inc.), where, arguably, their "environmentally-aware" 'lighthouse consumers' are to be found.

With only 30 per cent of the paper's subscriber base residing outside of its three launch cities, and with limited newsroom resources, it seems ambitious that Jensen should claim *The Saturday Paper* will have a nationwide purview on par with that of News Limited's national daily, *The Australian* – a paper whose criticism has been swift and vociferous since launch. "Well yeah," Jensen hastens to add, "I don't think you should confuse our distribution footprint with our editorial aspirations."

But Jensen's ambition, along with Schwartz', is precisely the expedient for the entire project to date, something that Fairfax, his old

media", which an audience like his consumes fervently throughout the week. This perhaps goes to explain why he is working within a weekly print cycle rather than a daily one, although print cycles, he says, are "inherently arbitrary" – possibly part of the reason why online media has succeeded in the first instance. He seems unmoved by the prospect that almost all of the paper's operational costs would be in printing and distribution.

Even if he doesn't admit it openly, Jensen is well aware of print media's seemingly marked time, but remains singular in his vision for *The Saturday Paper*: to provide quality long-form journalism for a discerning crowd of "Twitter

users"; turning to its pages for greater depth of the 'how' and 'why' of any story that has already been chewed through what he calls the "incredible and unhelpful grind of a 24-hours news cycle".

For the paper, Jensen proclaims no great reach for in-depth international coverage, nor do his resources appear to allow for truly comprehensive nationwide reporting. But then again, this is not his focus.

On this, I ask Jensen how much of a semblance *The Saturday Paper's* format shares with periodicals like Schwartz's own *The Monthly*: its focus on long-form journalism, its eschewance of online-only content, its indignance of a 24-hour news cycle, its weekly print structure with a slim middle-class target demographic – would it be fair to say it is a magazine stuck inside a newspaper's body?

"Because we're tapped more heavily into the news cycle than what a magazine is, I think that warrants that we produce our paper every week."

It remains to be seen if or how *The Saturday Paper* will develop. It is a project borne from a love for newspapers shared by both editor and publisher, but it's almost as if it has to consciously be a paper for its premise to work. Jensen assures me he isn't worried, but it will take some time. Against my better judgment I am inclined to believe him.



Newtown Social Club's new "lease on life"

Samantha Jonscher looks at the plan to bring a Melbourne touch to Newtown's live music scene

When I meet General Manager Jack Martin at the Newtown Social Club, I can feel change in the air. It's mid-week when we catch up and the pub, once the site of the infamous Sandringham Hotel, is closed for renovations. Wooden pads protect the floor, plastic sheeting covers the bar area and Triple J blares over the speakers, punctuated occasionally by the roar of construction equipment.

Newtown Social opened its doors last April. The final round of renovations are set to finish in early May and will boast a 300-person capacity band room.

Looking around, the Sando is gone, but not entirely forgotten. The aesthetic is firmly modern – exposed brick, plywood and industrial furnishings – but remnants from the former venue linger. Old tiles pepper the walls and the old steel truss work has been painted black to frame the new pub. Outside, the Sando's logo and iconic pink facade have also been left intact above the new street level entrance. "The old pub had reached a point and it was run down. We really

wanted to give it a new lease on life," Martin says. Martin comes from the Melbourne team behind live music institutions Northcote Social Club and The Corner. Newtown Social Club is the group's first venture north of the border.

Martin seems intent on bringing Melbourne's music philosophy to Sydney. "Melbourne has pubs where you can go, meet up with your mates, see a gig, and afterwards it's just a pub again. Sydney lacks a bit of that, you tend to go to venues and then to another pub."

Geography also plays a part. "In Melbourne, the music scene is very much above ground, and easy to find, but I think in Sydney by the nature of its geography, it's a bit more fractured and split up". This fracturing, Martin believes, changes the way that Sydneysiders interact with live music. "There is less spontaneity, it tends to be your entire night not just part of your night."

He posits that this has a big impact on who goes to see what. "People that are

really into live music support it whole heartedly, but people that are on the edge really need to be excited about an act to choose to go and see it".

It is this "social aspect" of Melbourne that the team is trying to recreate – a culture where live music is part

of the pub you go to, not something completely separate from the pub experience. In line with this "social club" philosophy, there are no pokies in sight. The food is cheap and cheerful - \$20 is enough for two or three drinks and a pizza.

The day the Sandringham closed its doors was an emotional one for the Sydney music community. When it was announced, there was an outcry of sadness and nostalgia.

However a few people did admit it was time, including Sydney musician and Triple J presenter Brendan Maclean. In an editorial for *Faster Louder*, titled "Why I won't miss the Sando", Maclean pointed to poor sound mixing, lacking amenities and fines for artists who couldn't pull enough patrons.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY NG

The Sando may be gone, but live music has a bright future in Newtown.

Feminist fisting films

Isabelle Youssef watches feminist pornography with her mother.

There are some things that mothers and daughters should not do together. Watching pornography on a cinema-sized screen in Marrickville's Red Rattler Theatre may well be one of them.

It was an experience my own mother and I awkwardly shared at the Seen and Heard Film Festival (SHFF), an annual festival showcasing the work of exclusively female directors and celebrating a diverse range of female issues and experiences. Festival Director Lucy Randall began the festival in 2009 in an attempt to combat the bias of distributors against female directors and producers in the mainstream film industry.

We were there that evening to see a discussion with Zahra Stardust, a self-professed feminist queer pornographer with a Masters in Gender and Cultural Studies, currently undertaking a PhD in the area of pornography laws. Stardust spoke to her personal experiences as a stripper and a porn star, and also made reference to extensive academic literature about pornography and feminism.

Several video excerpts produced by Stardust were screened, including a ten-minute film with a poem recital on politics and pornography overlaid with a video of her masturbating with a dildo and a vibrator; and a 15-minute film juxtaposing scenes of Stardust and her real-life girlfriend getting ready for their respective jobs (sex worker and gardener), with Stardust getting fisted by her girlfriend.

The audience reaction was mixed. Watching pornography in a communal setting, on a big screen, with loud audio was surreal. Some people looked away and then to the screen then away again, others watched on relaxed, a few went to the bar or the bathroom. As Stardust sat facing the audience, seemingly unfazed, it felt as if we were intruding on an intimate moment. At the end of the fisting film, Stardust puts on a pair of ripped black tights – the same tights that she was wearing at SHFF.

Stardust defended the legitimacy of sex work, arguing that women are able to choose when, where

and how they are seen sexually. For her, the job is about control and boundaries. She spoke of camaraderie in the profession; talking about knowledge sharing in dressing rooms and the push to improve Occupational Health and Safety in the industry.

Stardust resisted the traditional feminist idea that all porn objectifies women by describing her work as "performing femininity", which suggests performativity in all sexual encounters, whether on-screen or not.

Stardust's first film shows how feminist pornography can cater to female fantasies. She talked about the power of receiving (as opposed to penetration) and the strength of women as they allow someone *into* their body. She argued that pornography is another arena in which to push for the representation of diversity; in physical appearances, race, sexual orientations, abilities, and so on. Due to the enormous body of pornography being produced, such a movement still seems to be in embryonic stages, meaning

it will be a slow change.

As compelling as Stardust's arguments were, I questioned where I stood on the issue. I, like a large part of society, do not know much about the industry and its potential to subvert heteronormative attitudes towards sexuality. You can't help but consider Stardust a special case: a highly educated woman, she was pole dancing and stripping alongside a job in corporate law.

My hesitations aside, the political potential of pornography is exciting. Being directed and produced by women, it challenges negative representations of female sexuality. In this way, Stardust's aims align perfectly with Randall's as they both stress the need for diversity in representation: from body types and race, to sexual orientation and disability.

Both women face the same challenge: as long as male-directed films dominate the industry, it is difficult to reach a wide audience.

Chasing funnier pastures?

The strangest thing about watching re-runs of *CNNNN* is seeing Julian Morrow with hair. The Chaser team has grown up and grown old. From USyd Arts Revue to fifteen years of pranks, biting political satire, and ridiculous costumes, the once unparalleled team is dropping back to the pack. Maturity, fatigue, and scars from the infamous 'Make a Realistic Wish Foundation' sketch have conspired to create a predictable decline. Nothing as funny as The Chaser at their peak can last: even *The Simpsons* descended from a sharp satirical parody to meaningless one-liners and slapstick.

Chris Taylor and Andrew Hanson's *One Man Show (OMS)*, which previewed at the Factory Theatre on 21 and 22 February, was at

times very funny, but isn't in the same league as earlier works. The sketches frequently picked on easy targets—the Department of Immigration, Internet trolls, banal Coles ads—without developing ideas or challenging boundaries the way they once did. The best *War on Everything* sketches, from the invasion of *Today Tonight* or the hilarious parody of Detective Superintendent Clive Pugh's police-speak often used humour to advance more meaningful commentary. The reprisal of Pugh, who came out with his love for Constable Hugh, was undoubtedly the highlight of *OMS*. Aside from

excellent wordplay, there was the wonderful tension of two policemen whose passion is restricted by the same laws they strive to uphold.

Skits of this quality are few and far between for The Chaser these days. After a decade and a half of churning out jokes, middle-age is setting in. There are striking similarities to the rise and fall of Rob Sitch, Santo Cilauro, and several others of the Chaser's most direct predecessors. Their own fifteen years of great success with *The D-Generation* (1986-9), *The Castle* (1997), and *The Panel* (1997-2004), eventually faded with less frequent, less biting shows like *The Hollowmen* (2008). *Fawlty Towers* could only achieve such unadulterated comedy genius because it ran for just twelve episodes.

"After a decade and a half of churning out jokes, middle-age is setting in."

In their *War On Everything* days, The Chaser was far more prepared to make the audience, themselves, and unsuspecting onlookers uncomfortable. The Grim Reaper's job application at James Hardie, The Eulogy song, and the fake weapons sale outside a Bulldogs NRL game all made us laugh and squirm, and it's crucial that there is comedy that does this. None was present at *OMS*, a long-term

reaction to the backlash after the Realistic Wish Foundation sketch (which parodied the Make a Wish Foundation with the punch-line: "Why go to any trouble when they're going to die anyway?"). The team's popularity and talent went horribly against them. Public outcry went as high as then-PM Kevin Rudd. The vehemence of the public reaction seems to have left a lasting impression on the group: they have rarely shocked us since.

The most notable feature of the group's evolution was the way they broadened their range. They progressed from a newspaper, *The Chaser*, to a larger parody of news broadcasters in *CNNNN* before peaking at *War on Everything*, a variety show that enabled their humour to penetrate deeper into society and opened up far more targets. Since then, they have limited themselves both in style and substance. Single issue shows like *The Chaser Decides* and *The Hamster Wheel* have reduced the range of their commentary and undermined their appeal to large audiences. The heavy reliance on highly successful elements of previous shows, such as the much-loved *CNNNN* newsbar ("Thai restaurant has pun in its name") now manifested in 'live tweets', highlights their stagnation.

Audience ratings are testament to this decline. *War On Everything* averaged 1.5 million viewers in Seasons 2 and 3 (2007-9), the APEC episode generating an incredible 2.9 million. *The Hamster Wheel* (2011-12) averaged barely half that - 840 thousand - with no audience reaching a million.

Rupert Coy asks if The Chaser have lost touch.

Previous stage shows *Cirque du Chaser* and *Age of Terror Variety Era* had highly successful, often sell-out national tours. By comparison, *OMS* will have just two shows in Sydney (1st, 2nd May) and four in Melbourne.

To some extent, the Chaser boys are limited by stage productions because their best work relies on stirring up mischief amongst an unsuspecting public. Nothing will ever match their APEC stunt, but the reactions provoked by Chris' 'divorce' on *Sunrise* and Clive the slightly-too-loud commuter showed the Chaser in its element. They can't do this on stage, and in *OMS* the one attempt at audience participation—the 'iPhones in the air' finale—was largely ineffective.

Again, their popularity betrayed them. As relative newcomers in the mid-2000s, they were in the perfect position to prank almost whomever they wanted. As their notoriety grew, fewer people—particularly politicians and celebrities—took their bait or found themselves caught unawares. Their ambushes of John Howard's morning walks fell flat, Mr. Ten Questions was increasingly treated with tolerance rather than surprise, and Jaymes Diaz, who a few years earlier would've been running for cover, was glad to be on their show. One suspects that even bin Laden grew tired of having his speeches sub-titled.

The Chaser is still funny, and *OMS* is worth watching. But the team that once declared they didn't want to grow up has finally succumbed. That youthful invincibility has gone.



The lost graduates

Felix Donovan speaks to two Sydney graduates about the AusAID dream they lost.

Just 48 hours before Australians would make him their Treasurer, Joe Hockey went on national television to announce a \$4.5bn cut to the foreign aid budget.

It was necessary short-term pain, he said. Reducing aid spending would allow the government to limit the ballooning national debt. “The stronger the Australian economy, the more generous we can be in the future.”

Prime Minister-in-waiting Tony Abbott was not as stony-faced about the cuts. “We will build the roads of the 21st century rather than shovel money abroad,” he said.

The announcement sent AusAID, the organisation that administers Australia’s aid budget, reeling. It called into question the future of aid programs all over the world. And, although none of them realised it at the time, the cuts also made uncertain the futures of 35 recent graduates who had received employment offers from AusAID just two months prior.

* * *

Christine D’Rozario still remembers where she was when she got the call telling her she’d been accepted into AusAID’s graduate program. Her phone had not left her sight for weeks. “I took it with me into the shower,” she said. “I’d spend meetings at work thinking of excuses to leave the room if I got a call.”

Finally Christine missed a call from an unknown number. In the voicemail message, they said they were from AusAID, could Christine get back to them soon? She remembers sweating as she called back, her hand shaking so much as she put the phone to her ear that she had to use two. The woman asked her where she was. At work. “So Christine, how would you feel about changing jobs?”

Christine first applied to AusAID in her final year of university, a Bachelor of International and Global Studies at the University

of Sydney. Her expectations were low. It’s an incredibly competitive program, with close to 2000 graduates applying for just 35 positions every year.

Christine didn’t get an interview the year she finished her degree. “If you’re passionate about working for an organisation, you keep trying,” she told herself. Over the next two years she took internships, volunteered for the Red Cross and moved to Geneva for a month to work for the United Nations Human Rights Council. Christine chalked up enough unpaid experience to get hired as a community organiser by the Justice and Peace Office of the Catholic Archdiocese.

After a year there, Christine reapplied to AusAID. This time, she was offered an interview in Canberra. She flew down and stayed with her brother. Immediately after the interview they nervously debriefed, dissecting the body language of the panel, talking through her answers. Then she waited, phone always in sight. When the call finally came she had to hold back tears.

Darian Naidoo was in his ninth year of university when he first applied for a place in the AusAID graduate program. He was close to finishing a PhD in Agricultural Economics, focussing on the education and employment choices of young South Africans.

His expertise in international economic development persuaded the application panel to give him an offer. He decided to wait a year, finish his PhD, and then reapply. That was at the end of 2012.

“Lots of people said I shouldn’t turn down this offer, I may not get it twice,” he said. But he applied again last year, and again AusAID sent him an employment contract. He signed it this time around.

Darian had been working at the World Bank as a consultant on development issues in Papua New Guinea. Darian told them

he wouldn’t be working for them next year after he got the call from AusAID. It was the only place he applied to in the final year of his PhD, and he’d got the job.

Darian did not start organising the specifics of moving to Canberra straight away. He had vague ideas, but nothing concrete, no signatures on paper just yet. “I’m a bit lazy, I was putting all of that off until January.”

Christine was not. She wrote handover documents and started interviewing replacements at work. She bought a car so she could drive back to Sydney on weekends and see her family. Her relatives were checking Canberra real estate websites daily.

Both Christine and Darian were making these relocation plans and completing security clearances and other civil service paperwork when Hockey announced the foreign aid cuts on 5 September.

Christine had bought the car by the time a sentence smuggled into the end of a press release from the Prime Minister’s office revealed the abolition of AusAID as an independent agency. The first the graduates heard of all of this, if they weren’t combing the newspapers, was in early October in a strange email from AusAID Human Resources.

“On 18 September 2013 an announcement was made to merge AusAID into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT),” the email read.

“We understand you will be wondering what this means for you and the 2014 AusAID Graduate Development Program.

”Whilst we cannot confirm details at this stage we would like to reassure you that we will keep you informed of any further announcements and decisions in relation to your employment.”

Despite having read about the foreign aid cuts and AusAID being merged into DFAT, Darian

hadn’t been concerned about his job. Now he was. He got friends and colleagues to give him their interpretations of these HR ambiguities. They wondered if the name or structure of the graduate program would change. Or was DFAT going to include the graduates signed by AusAID into their own graduate program?

Nobody floated the possibility of the program being abolished altogether.

Eric Abetz, the Minister for Employment, broke the uncertainty on October 31 in a televised press conference. The Coalition government was promising to downsize the public service by 12,000 jobs in a deficit reduction effort. They would do so, Abetz made clear at the press conference, “through natural attrition”. No one was to be forced out of their job.

He also reassured public employees that the Government “will continue to support targeted recruitment programmes for Graduate and Indigenous employees”.

Reading the Minister’s remarks later that day, Darian felt secure again. He couldn’t know or even suspect it then, but exactly a week later Abetz’s statement would become a lie.

* * *

Christine had decided in her first year of university that one day she would work for AusAID. In the summer holidays she went to Bangladesh, where her parents grew up. She visited villages and was appalled by the conditions that people lived in. “It’s a bit clichéd, really, but poverty really pulled at my heart-strings,” she said.

Feeling a sense of duty – that she was lucky enough to be born in Australia, that she owed something to those who the birth lottery had not smiled upon – Christine read about AusAID.

The organisation has an impressive CV. Across its forty-year history AusAID has immunised millions of children and educated millions more. People have been pulled from floods and fires by planes whose pilots received a cheque from AusAID; deaths in childbirth have been prevented by the army of midwives trained and employed by AusAID; villages and towns across South East Asia now drink clean water because AusAID paid construction workers and water companies to provide it.

Critics of AusAID say that it needs to be more cost-effective, and that it needs to focus more Australia’s immediate region, and that it needs to be more blind to Australia’s national interest – but even they have to admit that the more money it has, the more lives it is capable of improving. Whatever it’s efficiency score, that much is true.

Which is why Christine was so surprised to hear about the cuts that will cripple many of AusAID’s programs. “I understood that the government was committed to deficit reduction. That’s fair enough. But AusAID’s budget is small and it saves lives.”

“I never thought the cuts would land there.”

In early November, while researching for his PhD at the Agricultural Faculty’s building in Redfern, Darian got a call from AusAID.

Because of the cuts to its budget and the merger with DFAT you are going to have your employment with AusAID terminated, he was told. You will get an email with more details tomorrow. I am so sorry.

The email came from HR at DFAT the next day. The closest it came to an apology was “regrettably”. There was no offer of compensation for the application process or the other opportunities that the graduates denied when they signed with AusAID. There was no mention of another option that the graduates could pursue. All that was provided in the way of explanation was this:

“Given the changed circumstances, the Department has made the preliminary decision to terminate your employment pursuant to Section 29 (3) (a) of the Public Service Act 1999 on the grounds that you are now excess to requirements.”

* * *

After she bought her car, Christine took her parents to Canberra. She wanted to show them where she’d be working. Her mum took

a photo of her hugging the AusAID sign that sits outside the front entrance.

“It’s embarrassing how much I love that organisation,” Christine said. “I imagine the way I feel about AusAID is how a One Direction fan feels at one of their concerts.”

“There were a few additional things I wanted to say.”

In it he wrote, “I honestly had no idea that I could be given an offer and then be made ‘excess to requirements’. I do hope that I am the only foolish graduate that put all his eggs in the AusAID basket.”

“I do hope that I am the only foolish graduate that put all his eggs in the AusAID basket.”

- Darian Naidoo

Like Darian, Christine was at work – at the job that she had planned to leave to go to Canberra - when she got the call from a woman in HR at AusAID telling her she no longer had a job there.

“She was really nice. I knew it must have been awful for her to have to call everyone, so I said I was sorry,” she said. Christine’s first reaction was to apologise to the woman who was firing her.

“I know it’s strange, but I felt guilty for the other grads. It’s really not as bad for me. I’m young. I don’t have a partner or kids. I hadn’t bought a home in Canberra.”

Finally, she considered herself. Overwhelmed, she left work and went to sit in Hyde Park, where she called her dad and mum and brother to tell them what had happened.

She had been made “excess to requirements”.

* * *

The graduates had been told that their employment with AusAID would be officially terminated in December. They got in contact with one another and speedily cobbled together a collective response.

Darian was heavily involved in it from the start. He joined the Community and Public Sector Union and began drafting a letter to DFAT. Fifteen graduates signed their names to it. It was legalistic in parts, appealing to certain conditions of the Public Service Act of 1999 that the graduates believed AusAID and DFAT had breached. It was moral in others, describing the relocations and missed opportunities of some and the stress and anxiety of all.

Darian wrote his own letter to accompany the collective response.

Nevertheless, job offers came to some of the graduates in late December and early January. Public sector agencies, desperate to fill vacated positions, could only take on people already employed by the government due to the hiring freeze – and while the graduates were nearing termination date, they were still listed as Australian Public Sector employees.

The National Mental Health Commission, a tiny 12-person organisation, said it would create a graduate program just for Darian. He got offers from 11 agencies in total and decided to take a position with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. There is a hope that he can work on the statistical side of various aid projects in South East Asia. But, he said, “I have only ever applied to one government agency”, and the ABS is not it.

Darian is still in touch with the other graduates, some of who have also received job offers from public service agencies.

“But I’m not sure how many of them have taken those offers. Or whether they got offers at all. We were told there would be no guarantee.”

* * *

Christine was on her way to Christmas lunch with her family when the Department of Human Services got in contact with her to offer her a position there. She had spent a month in the dark, not knowing what to do with the next year – years – of her life.

She read about DHS and its work with rural areas, refugees, people with disabilities. It was doing good, and seemed a natural follow-on from her community work with the Peace and Justice Office. She accepted the offer, and began working there in mid-January. Still, Christine sees it as a stepping-stone, another entry path into AusAID.

Christine grew up Catholic, and considers that to have driven her towards organisations like AusAID and DHS. “It’s about helping people who are less fortunate than I am. I feel as though I have a responsibility as a Christian and as a person to do good work.”

“I’d like to think everything happens for a reason. And with this, I can say I was one of those grads. I still have the photos of me in front me of the AusAID building, hugging that sign. It’s nice to know that I did achieve my dream, however fleetingly.”

“Even if it was only for a month, I’m happy about that.”

Pens down, brains down

Zeb Holmes doesn't want to study, he wants to learn.

It seemed like only yesterday that I was stumbling through O-week as a fresh-faced first year with a comically oversized campus map in my hands and a sense of awe-inspired fear in my heart. It was a simpler time, a time before *The Wolverine* and slightly after *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. But now, years removed from these naive bright-eyed beginnings, I trudge through campus echoing the call of the uni student: "Will this be on the test?"

While this may seem like a cynical approach to education, it is a mindset that is well and truly taught. From our NAPLAN-like beginnings to the repeated regurgitation of pre-prepared answers known as the HSC, our learning is stilted. So when we walk through those Hogwarts gates, your typical working, time-poor, student will realise the effort-reward equations of their study pretty quickly, and learn to exclusively focus on readings directly related to their assignments.

We know that we can force people to study, but we also know we cannot force them to learn. A ranking system that rewards study cheapens the effort of learning, diminishing the value we place on the information or the educational systems that disgorge it.

To this end, many activist professors have begun to implement non-graded courses.

Although recent research is unavailable, Barbara Pavan's review of 64 studies between 1968 and 1991 showed 91 per cent of the time, non-graded groups perform better or as well as graded groups in academic achievement.

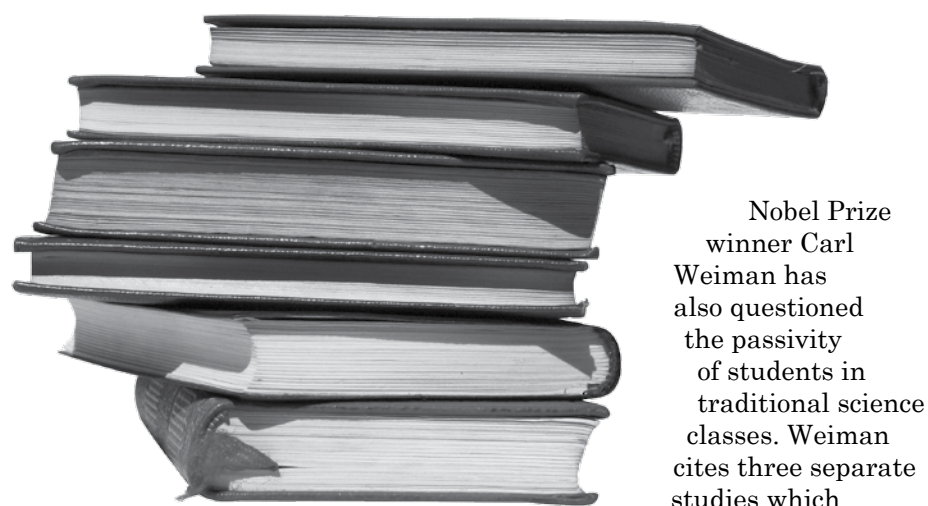
While non-grading has been consigned to 'radical' teachers, it is merely the logical extension of the current slide towards the pass/fail format, now offered in a majority of courses within competitive Ivy League schools as well as

employer to weed out the best and brightest, students would theoretically be coming to them with a resonate knowledge base, rather than one which disappears on the call of "pens down". Future employers could take on the task of implementing a standardised test within the interview process, and for the university, final exams could still test a student's grasp of course material to calculate the quality of the course without bearing on the individual student's record.

We are passively force-fed much more information than our short term memory can retain, and without active engagement, we never process these ideas at a deeper level. In contrast, students in an interactive class achieve higher complex comprehension – 74 per cent compared to 41 per cent in a non-interactive class – and have a 20 per cent higher attendance rate. The university sector rightly emphasises the importance of tutorials in encouraging learning, but the existing system of grading bastardises their usefulness, as few students engage with non-assessed material.

As to why these passive systems continue to exist at all, it may be wise to latch on to the wisdom of Howard Zinn and Jeff Schmidt. They see the professional educator as someone tasked with reproducing an "endlessly pliable" worker, able to conform to any ideology with which they are presented.

Unfortunately, the answers to the catastrophic problems of the near-future won't be found at the bottom of a reading list by a begrudging, but admirably pliable, third year. Although non-grading is dismissed as radical, to borrow an adage from Einstein, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used to create them."



Nobel Prize winner Carl Weiman has also questioned the passivity of students in traditional science classes. Weiman cites three separate studies which demonstrate that

important degrees at USyd with clear vocational pathways, such as the Masters of Teaching. The common criticism of non-grading-the inability of employers to differentiate between applicants-would similarly apply to judging the vast field of passing students.

most students only recall lectures in vague generalities immediately afterwards. When quizzed on a specific non-obvious fact, only 10 per cent of the graduate audience remembered the fact just 15 minutes after the lecture. Throughout an entire introductory physics course, students will generally master no more than 30 per cent of the key concepts.

However, if these processes were flipped and the onus placed on the

Student Politicians Continue to Change the World

Alex McKinnon went to the first SRC meeting horrendously drunk.

On Wednesday night a bunch of students gathered in a room in the Quad and spent about four hours shouting at each other. At the end, they went out drinking with their friends and reassured themselves that it was time well spent, and that they were very talented and important. In a month's time they will do it again.

For those who don't know (which is most of you), it was the first meeting of the Student's Representative Council (SRC). On paper, it is an organisation that lobbies the university, the government and whoever else will listen, to try and improve services for students – opposing staff and funding cuts, getting affordable student housing, and cheaper travel concessions. Though, if the meetings are held to discuss

these valuable initiatives, the counsellors (student politicians) usually do a piss-poor job at doing that.

Still, with a small glimmer of hope, I went along to report on its findings for *Honi Soit*. To prepare myself, I had consumed around seven standard drinks beforehand. It was not nearly enough and admittedly, I didn't last long enough at the meeting.

The meeting's 'big issue' was an allegation that the two Education Officers, Eleanor Morley and Ridah Hassan, plagiarised the work of their predecessors while putting together this year's Counter Course Handbook. The Handbook is the SRC's largest publication besides *Honi Soit*, and is meant to provide students with

a more honest guide to courses, subjects and the uni experience than the undergraduate marketing pap the University churns out. This year's edition, which was distributed at O-Week, apparently contained descriptions of courses that aren't taught anymore, as well as lecturers who no longer work at the university, because that's what happens when you copy-and-paste other people's shit.

The two Officers spent much of the meeting pointing out minor flaws in the motion, reprimanding them and claiming there was no "malicious intent" in the plagiarism, which totes makes it okay. When the motion was put to a vote, they loudly stormed out of the room, followed by the other two members of Socialist Alternative, the faction to which they both

belong. The motion passed eventually, having taken a solid hour to be voted on.

You know that footage of wankstains like Christopher Pyne sneering childishly in Parliament? Remember how it makes you depressed and angry, and turns you off politics entirely? Well they learnt to act like that in SRC meetings in universities around the country. Tony Abbott learnt it when he was President of the SRC in 1979; so did Joe Hockey when he was President in 1987. And of course, future Prime Ministers and Cabinet members are learning how to do it now, in the Quad Refectory every month. But I got well munted after, so whatevs, kids.

It's Not Always Fair

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



What is Unlawful Harassment?

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

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

This includes actual, potential and perceived (imputed) race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, etc.

Some types of harassment, such as sexual harassment and other forms of physical assault and/or stalking, are also illegal under criminal law. These types of harassment may result in criminal prosecution.

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

What is Unlawful Discrimination?

The University defines unlawful discrimination as any practice that makes an unlawful distinction between individuals or groups, so as to disadvantage some people and advantage others. Discrimination may be 'direct' (specifically acting against someone) or 'indirect' (inadvertently acting against someone who has a particular characteristic).

What should you do?

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

Contact us

on help@src.usyd.edu.au or call to make an appointment on 9660 5222. We can arrange to meet with you on any campus.



Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

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

Changeable

Dear Changeable,

You cannot enroll in new classes after 14th March. In fact it's probably not a good idea to enroll past week one mainly because you would have missed out on vital information in the first week of classes.

You can however 'withdraw' before the "HECS census date". This will give you no academic penalty and no financial penalty if you are a local student or little financial penalty for International students.

If you drop a subject after the census date, but before the end of week 7 (17th April – remember, the 18th is a public holiday so the end of the week is Thursday not Friday) you will receive a Discontinue Not Fail (DNF). A DNF does not count as a fail on your transcript, however you are liable for fees.

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

Abe

Abe is the SRC's welfare dog. This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything. This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as a question on the state of the world. Send your questions to help@src.usyd.edu.au. Abe's answers can provide you excellent insight.

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President’s Report

Jen Light



In mid January the Group of Eight (a collection of Australia’s supposed top eight universities, of which Sydney

University is) made a submission to the Federal Government’s review of the demand driven funding of Higher Education. The submission called for the first step in the ever-pressing push by some universities in Australia to fully deregulate fees and the sector.

The submission suggested that Australian Universities should be able to opt out of Government funding and in exchange charge fully deregulated fees for particular courses. The G08 proposal was to deregulate law, economics, accounting, and commerce. The submission argued that these specific courses traditionally award with high paying jobs and therefore student’s long-term benefits would

allow a higher fee. The proposed fees would be three times the current rate.

The deregulation of fees is an incredibly dangerous road to go on and one that the SRC is firmly against. Allowing Universities to choose the rate in which they charge, will evidently lead to fee increases and create a greater socio economic gap. It will encourage a culture in which those who will be completing high return courses such as law and commerce will be the students who can afford it. The push over the last decade for Universities to increase the amount of students from low socio economic backgrounds and create a more inclusive acceptance system is counter

acted by this push for deregulation of fees.

Although this proposal was submitted without knowledge from the VC Michael Spence, and has not been approved by the Sydney University Senate therefore not an official policy of the University of Sydney it is still a policy endorsed by the group of eight.

On the 26th of March the SRC will be Marching with students all across the state and the country for the National Day of Action against Abbott and Pine’s Education cuts. Join us at Fisher Library at 12pm to fight against any further cuts to your education.

General Secretary’s Report

James Leeder discusses what happens when the government raises course costs and student debt.



It is clear to anyone who has seen the QS university rankings over the last few years that Australian higher education has a funding problem. This problem has not only meant that we have seen higher education cuts repeatedly over the last few years, but also that a clear principle over how

education should be funded has now cemented itself; that the cost of education should be borne by the individual.

At the moment we know that the federal government is considering moves to reduce direct funding of courses, as well as funding of universities as a whole. The removing of subsidies for courses (which means higher course costs for students), which has recently been proposed by the Group of 8 universities themselves (this includes Sydney) for law, economics and business degrees, has also been lauded as an optimal solution. Ultimately, changes that raise course costs only have negative impacts to students and to society, and this has been seen clearly when similar proposals have been implemented in other countries.

A research briefing on the effect of the 2010 higher education reforms

in England was published by the British parliament in February this year. It details in clear statistics the impact that removing subsidies and uncapping fees had on students. It found that within two years of implementation, large reductions to student numbers occurred with a 12% reduction in domestic and international undergraduates and a 9% reduction in postgraduates by 2012. These drops where serious enough to warrant a response from the Governments’ Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) which described them as “significant”. Considering what the reforms did, it is not hard to see why. Students are not interested in graduating with crippling debt and for many potential students, particularly those who are less fortunate, raising fees shifts the balance in their consideration of whether or not to go to university. Making university more costly and placing the burden of fees directly

onto students drastically affects the accessibility of tertiary education. For a country that prides itself on high social mobility and a deeply egalitarian culture, moves to reduce the accessibility of university should be stopped at all costs.

Unfortunately, it is clear that the government does not care what the impacts of its changes are. They have already reformed the start-up scholarship, a scholarship for students who receive centrelink, to change it into a HECS-style loan, meaning poorer students will now be graduating with more debt than their wealthier counterparts. If you care about what these changes may do, I encourage you to get involved with the SRC and I hope to see you at the National Day of Action against the proposed cuts on March 26.

Education Officers’ Report

Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley.



The Education Action Group has been really busy the last couple of weeks trying to build for the national day of action on March 26th. We have been contacting clubs, societies and collectives to participate, putting up

posters, leafleting, chalking, making lecture announcements, and setting up stalls to get the word out. Hopefully you have heard it’s happening by now. If not, well, shit.

Next Wednesday March 19th, exactly one week out from the NDA, we’ve planned a blitz day. The Abbott government isn’t going to fight itself and we want to try bring as many students as possible to scream against our scummy PM and his snake-like crony Christopher Pyne (eurgh). We’re going to start the day leafleting Redfern station at 8am, before setting up on Eastern Ave for a day of banner painting, placard making, and photo petitioning. Stop by if you see us!

March 26th is shaping up to be a really important day for students.

Last year proved that protests can win. By hitting the streets we turned education into an election issue, and forced the Labor party to back-flip and oppose the cuts they introduced, when they took opposition. Just recently, the Senate also rejected legislation that would turn Start-Up Scholarships into loans, another victory for the campaign. But we’re not in the clear, and need to keep up the fight.

Politicians aren’t interested in meeting us and reasonably discussing our issues, they’re not interested in well articulated letters or argument. We can only force them to change their minds through mass action. March 26th is our first chance to do just that.

If you think Abbott and Pyne are fucking bastards, if you are sick

of your tutorials packed to the brim, if you are frustrated by course cuts, if you want to support staff wages and conditions, if you want to demand more student welfare not less, if you want to support international student rights, if you want quality and free higher education – you need to be at the rally on March 26th, 12pm outside Fisher library. See you there!

The education officers apologise for any content included in the 2014 Counter Course Handbook that was not attributed to its author. There was content we included from previous handbooks, and unfortunately we forgot to seek out their authors and add them to our thank-you list at the end. We apologise for this mistake.

Wom*n’s Officers’ Report

Georgia Cranko, Phoebe Moloney and Julia Readett.



We are very excited to be a part of the SRC this year and continue the great tradition that the Wom*n’s Department has held over the years. Over the summer we had a great time

organising our annual publication Growing Strong. Developing new skills such as InDesign and Photoshop thanks to our publications managers was fantastic, as well as working with other wom*n students on producing a beautiful celebration of wom*n’s writing.

The publication was officially launched ay O-Week and was a huge success, with new students and old students really enjoying what we all came up with. We’re really excited for our launch which will be held at the Newsagency in Marrickville and will feature slam poetry, tea and

the chance to meet new students and catch up with old students. Our O-Week experience was nothing but positive with over 120 sign ups and lots of enthusiasm and passion from students all round. We loved selling our consent undies which featured embroidered phrases that raised awareness about consent in a fun and informative way.

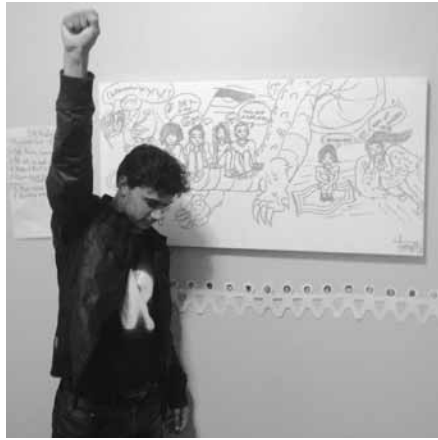
We also attached a leaflet that further explained the complexities of consent and provided services and access to further resources. We were also very excited to promote the Wom*n’s Self Defence workshops that we’ll

be running this semester. Lots of students were really receptive to the idea and many felt that should never be the sole solution to ending violence against wom*n, but is an important part of developing confidence and empowerment.

We would like to thank all those students and staff who have helped us throughout the summer and helped prepare us for the year ahead. We are really looking forward to working more with staff and students of the SRC and feel that the summer and O-Week have prepared us with the experience we need to start the year.

Indigenous Officer’s Report

Kyol Blakeney, Crystal Dempsey, Madison McIvor and Brad Hanson.



Last year, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students spent a majority of the year increasing awareness on Indigenous issues within the University and also gained attention from the wider community from down the road at Redfern to Alice Springs radio. Attention was drawn to the Koori Mail and the Indigenous

Times with the controversial question, “What is happening to the Koori Centre?”

Here is the truth. After negotiations between students and management, the Koori Centre has remained a space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students so far. It is equipped with a study area, library, and a common room. While these are the bare essentials, there has been major staff shortage in the space and most of the rooms that used to be offices are empty. The Koori subjects are now being amalgamated into the Education and Social Work Faculty.

As far as we know, there is a five-year plan to build another space within the University known as *The National Centre of Cultural Competence*. While there have been many questions and concerns regarding the changes in the Koori Centre, we cannot make a

judgment on this strategy yet. One legitimate worry, however, is the fact that there has still been no immediate improvement to the conditions of the support network for the students.

The remainder of the year was about increasing the awareness of Indigenous issues and presence in the University. The collective made history this year by having the first Aboriginal student councilor to be elected by the students and the first Aboriginal Vice-President of the SRC. To further achieve this goal, the Indigenous students founded the Wirriga Society. This society is open to all students of the University and encourages the coming together of cultures to gain understanding between them. Wirriga has also been given the opportunity to co-ordinate the Indigenous Festival in 2014.

This year, we will be pushing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to be permanently flown on campus along with some physical changes to our space in Old Teachers’ College to promote our culture. We will continue with our aim to work collaboratively with staff and management and hold regular autonomous BBQs and lunches across campus for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The Indigenous Office Bearers for 2014 are Crystal Dempsey, Madison McIvor, Brad Hanson, and Kyol Blakeney.

You can contact them at indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Vice Presidents’ Report

Your Vice President’s Max Hall and Laura Webster are not above getting their hands dirty...



We’ve always thought it was slightly unfair that Sydney Uni management do little else but treat students as nothing more than numbers on a page. In order to celebrate the release of the new Veronica Mars movie (which one of your VPs watched at 3 in the morning) we decided to do some not-so-subtle sleuthing to find those dirty facts the Uni doesn’t want you to know.

You, dear reader, are likely a non-Indigenous, Australian wom*n who was raised in the affluent Inner West... you’re also studying a BA. The numbers don’t lie and the numbers paint an interesting picture of the people that populate your lecture theatres, dictatorially dominate your tutes and get between you and a meat box after a hard days study at the neoliberal factory.

Inside these sandstone walls, 57% of 53 000 students are female, just ahead of the national average of 56%. International students comprise 22%, while regional and Indigenous students make up only 5.6% and 0.8% of the populace respectively.

This places USyd behind the national average in intake of both regional (6.5%) and Indigenous students (1.1%). These shortcomings, whilst embarrassing, don’t come close to the extraordinary underrepresentation

of people from a low socio-economic background.

Nationally, 17% of students come from a low SES area. At USyd, that number halves to 8.6%.

These statistics are damning to a University that claims to be “founded on principles of diversity and equity”. If Spence continues to run with this people pleasing line, he should closely follow it up with “but if you have the dollars, I have your acceptance letter!”. No brochure filled with buzzwords can apologise for the inequitable reality that this number represents, no matter how much money the university throws at ‘media consultants’ to cover it up. If education remains the silver bullet that improves the livelihood of all who receive it, then our University is failing abysmally to share this.

It goes without saying that an attachment to traditional

demographics and tuition cheques should never be allowed to stand in the way of an inclusive and socially conscious admissions policy; yet if recent alterations to housing scholarships are anything to go by it seems as though the university could care less. These changes will leave students in need of accommodation unsure whether they will receive assistance until well into the semester - long after they have signed a lease and begun paying rent (which is also ridiculously high). Students in need of help = not Spence’s division.

Management and admin must stop thinking about their ludicrous pay checks and realise that education is a privilege owed and deserved by all who seek it, rather than a commodity exchanged with those who can afford it.

kings-crosswords

quick

ACROSS

- 1. Endeavour (7)
- 5. Helter-skelter (7)
- 9. Filch (7)
- 10. Element associated with milk, bones (7)
- 11. Wager; “pre-“ (4)
- 12. Imprudent (3-7)
- 13. Rubble (6)
- 15. Exotic; erotic (8)
- 18. Malleable, rolling with the punches (8)
- 19. Probe; quest (6)
- 22. Curtailed (10)
- 24. Low-pitched instrument (4)
- 26. Shock; resentment (7)
- 27. Understanding between people (7)
- 28. Cover, envelop (7)
- 29. Fulfil needs (7)

DOWN

- 1. Express approval (7)
- 2. Rotating disk for records or trains (9)
- 3. Temperament (4)
- 4. Confuse; knot (6)
- 5. Member of the parrot family known for its crest (8)
- 6. Ease, remove burden (9)
- 7. Small branches good for kindling (5)
- 8. Amusing (7)
- 14. Nomadic, wondering (9)
- 16. Excruciating (9)
- 17. Facial bruising; bad name (5,3)
- 18. Stormy; vehement (7)
- 20. In good condition (7)
- 21. Organs; cores; suit (6)
- 23. Name; Ms, Dr, etc. (5)
- 25. Oral discharge (4)

time: _____
PB: _____

cryptic

ACROSS

- 1. Moist-eyed rip recovers flu (7)
- 5. No Spring Chicken retired (7)
- 9. Warrior of the working class (7)
- 10. Commence in NSW, for instance (7)
- 11. Consistently veer inconsistently (4)
- 12. Belittled beneath broken tread (10)
- 13. Erroneous French street follows naked runts (6)
- 15. Coil division toward the breeze (8)
- 18. Cite testimony... (8)
- 19. ... affixes the middle of nowhere (6)
- 22. Dawn, in a Promethean sense (5,5)
- 24. Locality appears rather extreme at first (4)
- 26. L'ah Wran recoils at long-toothed sea mammal (7)
- 27. Polish & rub shin (7)
- 28. Hide ride disparaged (7)
- 29. Yoko's opening earned, then desired (7)

DOWN

- 1. Chart gold illustration (7)
- 2. Illegitimate tuna ethic is legitimate (9)
- 3. Loud, ancient crease (4)
- 4. Windpipe of wildcat reveals Argentina (6)
- 5. Mice pide is infectious (8)
- 6. Drip secure ends into odd slander (9)
- 7. Pick the brains of Sunday's meal? (5)
- 8. Harvested & abandoned (7)
- 14. Math dunce solved without equal (9)
- 16. Concertina made from coco rind (9)
- 17. Incognito combined 50 tonnes (8)
- 18. Characterized as unpenalised, perhaps? (7)
- 20. Intoxicated in pieces (7)
- 21. Carol's first husband was plump (6)
- 23. Less cooked, more scarce (5)
- 25. Killer whale, or Canada (4)

time: _____
PB: _____



FUNCH's 3rd Birthday Party

Odds are it's been a while since you last attended a 3rd birthday party - which is a pity, because they're bloody good fun. FUNCH (the USU's fortnightly “fun lunch” program) is having its third birthday this week, and everyone's invited to the party. They want to help you get back in touch with your inner three-year-old, and are providing inflatable rides, fairy floss, balloon animals and face-painting.

March 19 @ USyd Quad Front Lawns. Free. usu.edu.au

RAW Comedy Festival NSW Finals

Since its inception in 1996, RAW Comedy has become Australia's biggest and most prestigious open mic comedy competition. This is in large part thanks to its stellar list of past winners and finalists, including the likes of Chris Lilley, Josh Thomas, Hannah Gadsby, Tom Ballard, and Claire Hooper. The NSW Finals is set to be a showcase of the best up-and-coming live comedy talent in the state. Go and get your funny bone tickled!

March 19 @ The Comedy Store, Moore Park. \$25.00. comedystore.com.au

SUDS present: Quack

Ian Wilding's kooky and kinda creepy *Quack* comes to life this week at the hands of the very capable and creative SUDS team. Ol' m8 Kevin Rudd described this as “a slap in the face for Australia” after first seeing it performed in 2010. Expect plenty of offbeat laughs, blood, Occa draws and...zombies.

Until March 22 @ USyd Studio B, \$7 ACCESS/\$10 concession. sudsusyd.wordpress.com

Quidditch Society Harry Potter Trivia Night

What is Dumbledore's full name? What is the core of Harry's wand? What dragon did Victor Krum battle in the Triwizard Tournament? If you know the answer to any (or all) of these questions, now is your chance to cash in. The University of Sydney's high-flying Quidditch Society invites you to join them for an evening of Harry Potter trivia of Wednesday- witches, wizards and muggles are all welcome.

March 19 @ USyd Manning Bar. \$12 ACCESS/ \$15 general.

Art Month Sydney Art Cycle

While artists and art-lovers aren't typically renowned for their athleticism, cycling tours of local art hotspots have become surprisingly popular in Sydney over the last few years. This Saturday, Art Month Sydney is giving you the chance to do something good for you body *and* your mind, with a free cycling tour of Chippendale's many artistic hubs. You'll hear talks from gallerists and artists at each stop throughout the tour. BYO bike and helmet.

March 22 @ DNA Projects, Chippendale. Free. artmonthsydney.com.au



World Poetry Day Multilingual Poetry Slam

The only thing cooler than a poetry slam is a multi-lingual poetry slam. With authors from all ages and backgrounds, this evening is sure to be a rich, engaging exploration of race, culture, ideology and heritage. You may not understand everything that everyone says, but odds are that you'll learn something new about another person's life and culture, and be inspired to go and learn even more.

March 21 @ Customs House, Circular Quay. Free. wordtravels.info

Short + Sweet Gala Final

Short + Sweet - “the biggest little theatre festival in the world”- has been happening since January, with more than 160 new plays performed over the course of the festival. The very best plays of this year's festival will be on show this weekend at the Seymour Centre. It's an ideal night of for those with a short attention span- none of the plays go for longer than ten minutes.

March 21 @ Seymour Centre, Chippendale. \$37.50. seymour.usyd.edu.au

Anarchist Book Fair

Anarchist book fairs have been popular around the world since the 1980s, but have only recently reached Australian shores. This is the first ever Sydney Anarchist Book Fair, and will provide seasoned anarchists and newbies alike to opportunity to learn more about libertarian ideas, history, and politics. The festival will host dozens of stalls, including zine producers, radical t-shirt designers, and local anarchist groups. You'll be raring to smash the state in no time.

March 22 @ Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville. Free. syndeyanarchistbookfair.com

Lost Picnic Festival

On the off-chance that you have a spare \$100-\$150 lying around that you'd like to spend on a boutique music festival-cum-gourmet picnic, we thought we'd tell you all about the Lost Picnic Festival. It's a brand new festival that aims to support local music

talent and local restaurants by offering gourmet hampers along with your festival ticket. If you're feeling a bit bourgeois and/or are sick of greasy, sloppy festival food, head along. Megan Washington and The Rubens are headlining, with other acts including Emma Louise, Sons of the East and Dustin Tebbutt.

March 23 @ Centennial Park, Woollahra. \$99.00. lostpicnic.net

MUSE presents: Anything Goes

Anything Goes is the eighth annual major production from MUSE, the University's ever-expanding musical theatre society. The nautical-themed musical is an all-time theatrical classic, and you'll probably find yourself singing along to a bunch of songs you never realised you knew before. The original production won six Tony Awards - go see for yourself if you think your fellow students have done Cole Porter justice.

Until March 29 @ Seymour Centre, Chippendale. \$20 ACCESS/ \$26 concession. seymourcentre.com

quiz

- 1. Which famous novel begins: “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife”?
- 2. Where might I find a carburetor?
- 3. How many times has Arnold Schwarzenegger won the Mr. Olympia bodybuilding competition?
- 4. Name two countries whose names

- are five letters long and begin with the letter C.
- 5. In which profession might an anvil routinely be used?
- 6. Which city is the capital of the Andalusian autonomous region of Spain?
- 7. Were all of the members of the Beatles still alive, who would be the oldest? Hint: In this case,

- age inversely proportional to musical talent.
- 8. Name the first five elements on the periodic table in order.
- 9. Christine Lagarde is the managing director of which major international organisation?
- 10. In which country was tennis player Novak Djokovic born?



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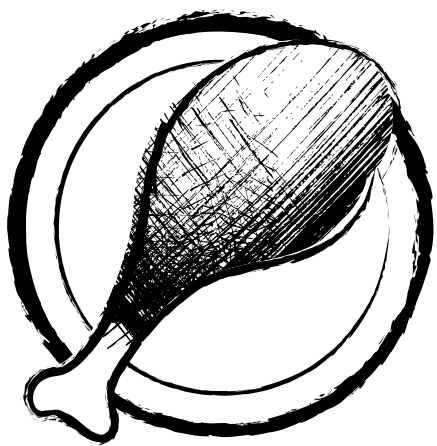


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Honey Soy



500g chicken breast fillets, trimmed, cut into strips across the grain, 60mls (1/4 cup) salt-reduced soy sauce, 2 tablespoons honey, 2 teaspoons peanut oil, 2 garlic cloves, peeled, thinly sliced, 4cm piece fresh ginger, peeled, cut into thin strips, 2 medium carrots, cut into batons1 medium leek, trimmed, cut into thin 5cm strips, washed, dried 2 x200g pkts Udon noodles (Trident brand.) Combine the chicken, soy sauce and honey in a medium bowl. Stand for 5 minutes to marinate. Drain chicken and reserve the marinade. Heat 1/2 the oil in a large wok or frying pan over high heat. Add 1/2 the chicken to the wok and stir-fry for 2 minutes or until just cooked. Remove from wok. Repeat with the remaining oil and chicken. Add the garlic, ginger and carrots to the wok and stir-fry, tossing occasionally, for 3-4 minutes. Add the leek and stir-fry for a further two minutes.Add the noodles and reserved marinade and toss to combine. Cover and cook for 2 minutes or until the noodles are softened. Add a little water if the noodles begin to stick. Remove the lid and return the chicken to the wok. Toss until well combined and heated through. Serve.

Kim Jong-Un Celebrates Surprise Election Win With Over 130% Of Vote

Cameron Smith hails The Great Leader.

The Democratic Republic of Korea truly lived up to its name last night as the country’s citizens flocked to the polls to exercise their democratic right to vote for President Kim Jong-un. This year’s election has turned out to be the largest electoral win yet for the long running Kim dynasty, and is the first election to be held since Jong-un democratically inherited the presidency from his father Kim Jong-Il three years ago.

Jong-un’s camp had initially looked to be in for a beating, with state media reporting the Dear Leader’s approval rating had dropped to a crushing 110% in the weeks leading up to the election. However in a last minute surprise move the opposition party were declared enemies of the state and executed by the Jong-un camp, helping to secure Jong-un’s

victory from the jaws of a slightly lesser victory. Preceding this election-winning twist, the Jong-un campaign had largely stuck to the tried and tested communist platform of promising fairer taxes, better roads, and promising to break the legs of anyone who dares to vote for the opposition.

Polling booth inspectors have stated they were pleased with the orderly outcome of this year’s election, having barely had to arrest any imperialist allies whose pencils strayed towards the opposition’s box this year.

Jong-un is said to be holding a small private election celebration tonight with friends and family, before their impending execution as dissidents early tomorrow morning.

Vice Chancellor Replaces Quad Lawn With Minefield

Elliott Brennan got blown into a million little pieces.

USyd Vice Chancellor Michael Spence has again sent shockwaves through the student body, this time with the installation of a minefield in the lawns of the iconic Quadrangle over the weekend.

Dr Spence says the minefield is a purely precautionary action - rumours of further strikes from the NTEU and their supporters arose late last week. “This is not an aggressive tactic; the minefields are clearly labelled,” Spence insisted, before adding: “However, I wouldn’t put it past those degenerates.”

The President of the USYD branch of the NTEU, Michael Thomson, was perplexed, asking only: “Is he serious?”

The new hazard has had a polarising impact on social media users and couples on campus. Second year Arts student Sally O’Neill lamented her plans for Monday: “a summer dress, some old books from Fisher, gym-junkie boyfriend and the perfect #study gram in front of the quad...”

But third year Business/Law student and St John’s resident, Dave Broman, was excited by the news, stating his intention to make freshers go viral on his new Tumblr account: *Quadbams*.

Perhaps the hardest hit by this development in USYD community has been the campus’s ibis populace, with 43 birds already reported dead this week.

Hodor comes out (as literate)

Dominic Ellis Hodor Hodor Hodor Hodor.

To the surprise of many fans of the HBO series Game of Thrones, pop culture icon and UK disk jockey Hodor has come out as an adept speaker, uttering remarks that weren’t simply his name.

The news broke yesterday when Hodor, in an interview with *winteriscoming.net*, used several different words that, when put together, formed a cohesive sentence.

The contents of the interview seemed to be of a personal yet ultimately inconsequential subject matter, as the baffled interviewer focused on Hodor’s aptitude for communication.

“I’ve never hidden my vocabulary from anyone, my whole life in fact, and I’ve been waiting for someone to ask about it,” responded a chatty Hodor when asked why he took so long to come out. “I’ve tried to lead the questions a few times, to no avail!”



Starving Children in Africa Actually Not Interested in What Mum Cooked

Patrick Morrow is just thinking of the children.

After Mosman housewife Sarah Calders wielded the threat that “the starving children in Africa would love to have something like that for dinner” to her quite full children over a family meal on Saturday night, sources in Nairobi have revealed that at least one nation’s poor and hungry have no interest in receiving the unwanted leftovers of upper-middle class Australians.

Kipkemboi Langat, a Kenyan local, stated that “even if the idea was a logistical possibility (and by the time you’ve shipped it you’re inflicting a *grossly* disproportionate cost on at least one party), the notion that the remnants of a five-year-old’s picked at mash potato and sausages (not likely to survive such a trip anyway) would meaningfully mitigate the malnourishment of even the smallest impoverished family

– of any nationality – is mostly just insulting.”

“Frankly, if you have children who are consistently struggling with portion sizes, what would be more helpful is scaling down dinners, and directly donating any savings to a reputable aid agency. Stereotyping an entire continent is a pretty lazy way of instilling gratefulness in your kids.”

“There are hungry kids in Australia, too... In fact, now that I think of it, it’s probably more equitable to get it to them anyway,” Langat continued.

At press time, it was revealed that Calders usually passed the homeless in her own city without acknowledgement, declaring “I don’t carry small change” if pressed for charity.

Woman Actually Tries Cosmo Sex Moves, Accidentally Breaks Partner’s Penis

Sarah Mourney sometimes utilises staplers in her sex life.

Last Monday a man was sent to hospital for severe injuries sustained from sexual intercourse. When trying to explain how a donut was involved in the incident he accused the magazine Cosmopolitan, saying: “Ask the f--ing editors at that f--ing poor excuse of print media that propagates ridiculous beauty and sex standards”.

From what his partner Alicia* revealed, it appears things went sour after attempting a “shark attacking” where the man crawls on all-fours but with his belly up, “his erect ‘dorsal fin’ navigating the way to sexual nirvana” (description from Cosmo).

They somehow avoided injury during the “erotic accordion”, Alicia attributed her

success to spin class as “it gave me killer thighs”. The danger escalated as the couple progressed to the “torrid tug-of-war”. The pair decided to add a chocolate donut into the mix, and in the crumbed confusion, a penis was snapped due to excessive tugging.

The National Health Advisory Board is now warning all people to avoid any Cosmo sex moves “that look like a training exercise for contortionists”. Cosmo’s only response to the incident was to wish the man a full recovery, and to recommend using a cinnamon glazed donut next time.

**Name changed for privacy reasons.*

Apple Crisis: CEO Realises He Is Still Not Steve Jobs

Cameron Caccamo is also not Steve Jobs.

Shares in Apple are in freefall as an expected product announcement from CEO Tim Cook instead became a glimpse into Apple’s current existential crisis.

Just moments before announcing the iPhone 6, as well as the slightly more expensive but ultimately very similar cousin the 6S, Cook was seen to be shaking before falling to his knees.

Before security could escort him off stage, Cook sobbed and loudly bemoaned the state of the company since founder Steve Jobs died in 2011. Mutterings such as “we just release the same thing over and over” and

“we can’t think of anything new to make” were clearly heard by a shocked audience. His last utterance was an unseemly scream, which sounded like “I COULD NEVER BE LIKE STEVE”.

The worrying series of events haven’t deterred Apple fans however, as lines have already formed at Apple stores across America. The iPhone 6 is due in stores in May.

Not to be outdone, it is widely expected that current rival Samsung will have a similar crisis of faith shortly before releasing their own Galaxy S6 next year.

Classifieds

LOST:

Cause. If found contact Warren Drugs.

The remote, oh, wait nevermind it was under this cushion.

At sea: one fishing partner. I swear I didn’t eat him. Contact Jose Alvarenga.

By Frank Ocean. Five Stars [please move this to the music reviews Jenny].

Voice. So I will be communicating through the medium of classifieds for the nextweek. I hope there isn’t a character limi

My way. If found contact J. Bieber.

MISSING:

spacebariffoundpleasecontact

PeterWallace
Cromosome, if found, contact Henry Turner

FOR LEASE:

Homosexual with option to bi.

House. Contact H. Laurie.

WANTED:

Blood, contact Dr Acula.

Delicious six-legged insects. Contact Ann Teater.

SERVICES:

Got Termites? Our palliative care services will see that they live out the rest of their lives in dignified luxury.

Glenaeon Elderly Care. We can eradicate these annoying pests so you can get on with living your life.

[Jenny, are these in the right order?]

ABBOTT & PYNE HANDS OFF OUR EDUCATION



NATIONAL RALLY FOR EDUCATION RIGHTS

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MARCH

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12PM

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FISHER LIBRARY

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Authorised by
Deanna Taylor

