

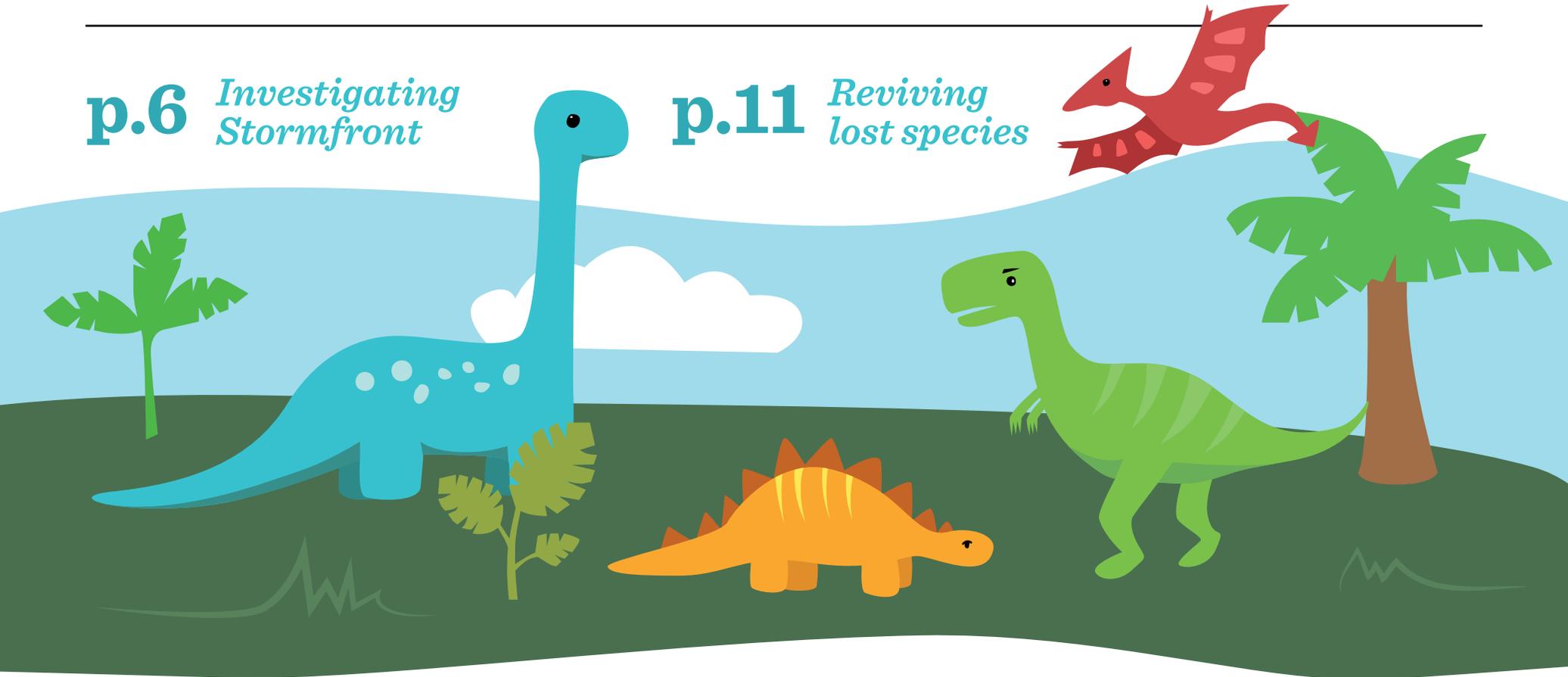
# Honi Soit

Week 4, Semester 1, 2014

HONI SOIT QUI MOLLY DANCE

**p.6** *Investigating Stormfront*

**p.11** *Reviving lost species*



## Court clears way for USU to sack VP

*Lane Sainty and John Gooding report on the NSW Supreme Court's ruling.*

The Supreme Court has paved the way for the University of Sydney Union (USU) Board of Directors to expel their own Vice President Tom Raue, ordering him to pay all legal costs.

Justice Geoffrey Bellew handed down a decision last Monday removing the injunction that has prevented the Board from voting to expel Raue since November last year.

USU President Hannah Morris, Honorary Treasurer Sophie Stanton and Honorary Secretary John Harding-Easson, who, with Raue, make up the Board Executive, moved to expel Raue in September 2013. They alleged

he had committed "serious misconduct" by the deliberate disclosure of information contained in a confidential report to *Honi Soit* regarding the police presence on campus during the 2013 staff strikes.

The move to expel Raue was not the first time he had been at loggerheads with the Board. In August 2012, Raue was censured for denouncing pro-life society LifeChoice and the USU-run Interfaith Week.

Justice Bellew found, contrary to the arguments presented by Raue's counsel, that the USU Constitution and Regulations both carry the power for the Board to remove a director. He also stated that the decision of whether or not

Raue ought to be removed was up to the Board, not the courts.

Raue said he was disappointed by the verdict, but not surprised. "It was always a long shot," he said. "I think it's important that although the judge ruled that the Board has the power to remove me, he did not say that I committed misconduct."

Hannah Morris said the USU was satisfied with the judgment and pleased the case had been concluded.

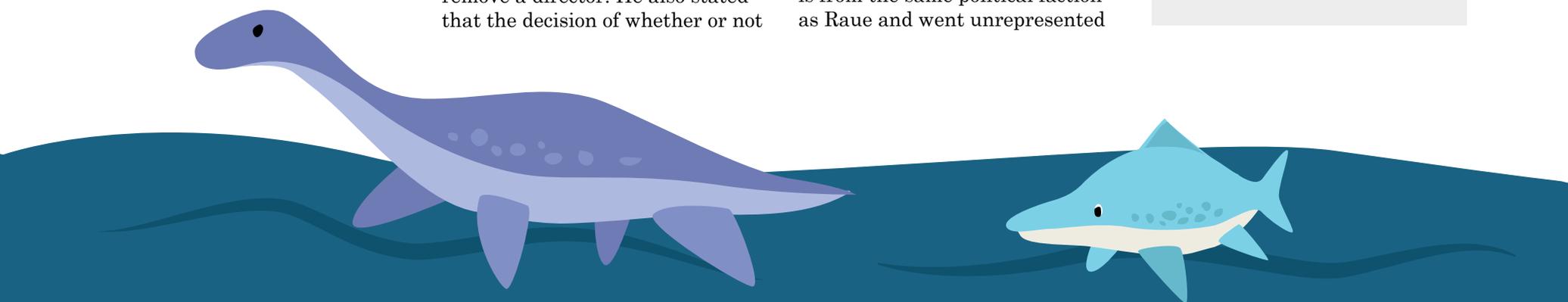
Justice Bellew also ordered Raue to pay courts costs for all the defendants with the exception of Board director Bebe D'Souza, who is from the same political faction as Raue and went unrepresented

for the duration of the case.

Morris declined to comment on what court costs would amount to and said the Board is yet to determine whether Raue will be required to pay as per the court's order. "The current USU Board is considering its options in this regard," she said.

Having now cleared the legal hurdle to expelling Raue from the Board, the next step for Morris, Stanton and Harding-Easson is likely to be proposing a motion for his removal.

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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

Right now, we're probably the only publication that gives a fuck about Tom Raue.

As the only editors in the world covering the ongoing saga of his potential expulsion from the USU Board in depth, we find ourselves questioning what exactly it is we're supposed to be doing.

First and foremost, we recount facts, describe perspectives, and try to make sense of unfolding events. We do that with no claim to a capital-t Truth, but with the hope and belief that, imperfectly, we can disassociate our own values from the events and opinions before us. A journalist's intention should be to gather and disseminate information, and to represent, as closely as possible, the issues that most affect their readers.

So we went to court and we read its judgment. We talked to Tom and we talked to Hannah. We sought to find and report facts. At every point, we tried to describe what actually happened, because, as journalists, we have an obligation to at the very least try to tell "the truth".

But, beyond the idea of the journalists-as-truth-tellers, we aspire to the idea of journalists-as-activists. It is not a commitment to objectivity that motivates us, but a belief that searching and reporting is a means to an end. For us, that end is holding power to account. We are compelled to monitor power critically, to test its justifications vigorously, and to watch its actions closely. If an activist must have a cause, ours is this: to keep the bastards honest.

Power, more than anything, explains human events. Behind the actions of individuals and the laws of institutions sits power. Without monitoring power we are impotent in deciding what matters, who we should talk to, why events occur.

Stories of power and oppression litter history. The power animating this particular story is that of an institution: the USU, the omnipresent \$22 million student organisation. As a recipient of SSAF funds, the USU gets your money each year even if you are not a member. Moreover, it dominates campus life. Decisions of USU management affect the

buildings you walk through, your food options and how clubs and societies are funded.

To understand the events of the last week and the events of the next month, we must conceive of them as events driven by the power relations that exist within the USU. We must see them not only as the interactions of the individuals quoted in our news pieces, but also as the interactions of the positions those people hold.

Information kept confidential in the interests of the institution was leaked by a member of that institution who was censured by the executive of that institution. Facing removal for threatening that institution, he may be forced into bankruptcy to protect the bottom line of that institution.

The implication should be clear: the power of the USU joins the dots of the facts and characters of this story. Now, go back to the front page and read between the lines.

### Honi Soit Editors\*

## Kade has a Quadgasm

I would like to thank the editors of Honi for drawing student attention to my (healthy) Quad obsession (Honi, Page 6, Week 3, 2014).

In light of this I would like to share my 5 favourite fun facts about the USYD Quad.

1. The quad took over one hundred years to build. Construction was delayed multiple times due to World War One and sandstone shortages in New South Wales.

2. The Clock tower is home to the only grotesque\* in the world to be in the style of a Kangaroo.

3. In 1989 a fire broke out in the south-east corner of the Quad damaging roof timbers in both the south and east ranges. The damaged roof was later restored.

4. The jacaranda tree was originally planted in 1927 in preparation for a visit to the university by the Duke and Duchess of York. However, the original tree was repeatedly pulled out by students until one was planted too large to be pulled out.

5. The quad is home to one of only two Carillons in Australia. The other being on Aspen Island in Canberra.

I trust that these facts will be well received and hope that one day all on campus will look upon the quad with as much love as I do.

Kade Denton

USU Board director  
*\*A style of decorative painting or sculpture consisting of the interweaving of human and animal forms with flowers and foliage.*

## Liberté, Egalité, Raué

Dear Honi,

I am writing regarding the Supreme Court decision that was handed down to Union Board Director Tom Raue last Monday. By removing the injunction that Tom placed against the Board last November, this decision allows the other directors to vote to expel Tom as they originally attempted to in September last year.

I find it absurd that Tom could be democratically, directly elected by hundreds of students, and yet a group of only ten now have the ability to dismiss him. Not to mention many of the board directors may also stand to profit in removing Tom, particularly since his position as Vice President would also be vacated.

As someone who voted for Tom back in 2012 and as a highly involved member of the Union through its Clubs and Societies program, I feel that a move to dismiss him flies in the face of the idea that ordinary members are given

a legitimate say in the goings on of their student union, and I urge board members who feel the same to keep Tom on board.

Tom ran on a platform of reform and transparency and, if anything, has honoured his election promises better than any other candidate of his year. This commitment to transparency is the same reason he could now face dismissal; the very same thing which students voted him in for he can now be voted out for, only this time it's only by a handful of students.

I would also like to commend Honi's efforts in stopping student elected Union Board Directors from seeking the votes of the two senate-appointed Board Directors in the upcoming executive election; I believe that maintaining student democracy is integral to a student-run organisation.

Sincerely,  
Georgia Carr  
President, French Society  
Vice President, Labor Club

## Well, we fucked up (again)

Dear Honi,

Not being a crossword fanatic, I read your apology in Week 3's Honi to cruciverbalists with disinterest; however when I eventually flipped my way to the puzzle page I found myself puzzled by the quality of the fact-checking.

For instance, in the quiz, as anyone who understood high school science could tell you, the first five elements (in order!) are not helium, hydrogen, lithium, beryllium, and boron; but are instead hydrogen, helium, lithium, beryllium, and boron. Additionally, 'walrus' (26 across, cryptic) neither contains 7 letters nor the letter 'h'.

I know the SRC (and thus Honi) are a bit cash- and time-strapped and thus may not make editing the puzzle pages a priority, which is fine, but is it too hard for someone, somewhere, to check some sort of reference book before printing?

Best wishes,  
Helen Tong  
BSc/BA II

## Pope-po shut us down

Dear Honi,

Teasing and ridiculing someone based on the colour of their skin, the way they speak or for an impoverished upbringing ought to be universally condemned by all respectable and reasonable people in our egalitarian society. Yet, modern, 'tolerant' Sydney University is descending to the bigotry of a bygone era. Teasing and plainly ridiculing someone's religious beliefs are perfectly acceptable at this university. You need not look further

than Week 2 of Honi Soit. No, not the Opus Dei feature article spread on a neat looking, coloured double page – something subtler, on the Honi Soit emblem. It featured the standard Ibis, but with a Papal tiara (not used by Pope's since the 1960s), and a crucifix with a stick figure nailed to it, imitating Jesus. For some this might seem amusing, like the high school brat laughing at the new kid from overseas whose stuttering in their pronunciation of words. But for that kid, and for any Christian who viewed that material, it was tantamount to mocking, and a insolent lack of respect to that person's dignity. More so, it was a violation of trust by the editorial team, who promised "an Honi that brings people together" (SEX for Honi Facebook page, September 2013). Society has changed from the days of sectarianism and racism, but the few people who cling to these ideologies have learnt the art of subtlety. I commend the editors for their mastery of this art as well.

Alessandro Cowley  
Arts/Law III  
President of the Catholic Society

## Consider the science students

My thanks, Honi, for once again enabling the self importance of a vocal minority of law students by publishing "Consider the law school" on the front page. The self proclaimed jewels of this institution, heading for lofty heights unthinkable to the broader doldrums, the plebian unwashed masses who so cruelly clutter their pristine palace. By devoting this sort of page space to this opinion article, the editorial team are presenting what they consider to be the most important issue facing Sydney uni - the content of a few junior law subjects. Quoting from SEX's own promotional material 'more space for issues you really care about'. To the other nine tenths of the university, this is beginning to ring hollow.

Unfortunately for the author of this piece, students are not divided into law and law-nots. Pandering to these tropes is not stimulating, and it certainly does not make for interesting reading - the minutiae of a Sydney law degree is hardly of any importance to virtually anybody outside that system. A senior science student could bemoan of the lack of coverage of pharmacogenomics, or an INGS student may complain of the lack of focus upon Polynesian tribal law and its applications to the prevailing hegemony of the current United Nations. However there are very few within these narrow fields who would consider it of any broader interest at all - the arrogance required seems select to a few put upon legal slaves.

This exceptionalism displayed by an alarming proportion of legal students is astounding. They seem to consider their area of study to be so fundamentally important that anybody outside must at least want to know what's going on inside, if not aching with a need to be included in this exclusive club. It's very convenient

for them to forget the physics and engineering that powers their little MacBooks, and the architecture that allows their shining symbol of corporate donorship to stand.

Reading of the stresses put upon aspiring Justices and great members must melt even the coldest of hearts. Pretending anyone within a vast majority of this place is anything other than grossly lucky is already churlish, however to make news out of the fact students under pressure are often distressed the reeks of a terribly fractured worldview. As for one Mr Spade, he and Pen may keep their alleged social change. There are still rich people and poor people - and many of the rich happen to have studied law.

Regards,  
Alexander Gillis  
Science II

## “We, too, have chalked on walls”

Serious allegations have been made against a member of our august body.

One of our number stands accused of assaults against a mild and meek feature wall - innocent of all matters. In doing so they violated that most important of codes for which we all feel reverence, the Advertising on Campus Policy- thus breaching Chapter 8 of the University of Sydney By-Law.

We could not, in good conscience, stand by and allow a fellow student to face grievous sanctions from the university's most senior disciplinary tribunals without baring our own corruption. It is with leaden hearts and trembling throats that we must declare our mea culpa, should the university be washed of sins.

We too, have chalked on walls.

We throw ourselves on the just cruelty of this most ancient and terrible institution and implore others guilty of such transgressions to join us in facing whatever sharp corrections may be visited upon us.

If though, in its most dread majesty, the university decides to grant us benevolence, we ask to that such bountiful mercy be extended to the accused.

Micaela Pattison (PhD candidate, history) & Timothy Scriven (MPhil candidate, philosophy)

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*com*

## USU conducts review on transparency

The University of Sydney Union will consult its members on accountability, writes **Tim Asimakis**.

The University of Sydney Union will host a members' forum on Wednesday 26 March to discuss the organisation's transparency and existing accountability mechanisms. This forum will form part of a broader consultation process as Board Directors Bebe D'Souza and Tara Waniganayaka author a review of the relationship between the Union and its members.

The review coincides with a critical juncture in the USU's campaign to present a transparent image to students. This image has been the subject of intense inspection in the wake of a protracted legal battle between the Board of Directors and Tom Raue, its Vice President. Raue faces possible removal for his decision to leak allegedly confidential USU information.

Waniganayaka and D'Souza, while acknowledging the relevance of such recent events, claimed they were not the primary motivation behind the transparency review. "This forum, and the review that it is part of, has been in the works since last year," said Waniganayaka.

D'Souza pointed to ongoing debate about tweeting during board meetings as evidence that transparency concerns have been a longstanding point of discussion amongst the USU and its members.

The USU has released both a discussion paper and an agenda in advance of the forum. These documents highlight perceived

deficiencies and areas of concern with the USU's existing accountability mechanisms, such as recent failures to follow the official practice of publicising the minutes of board meetings. The discussion paper notes that, despite Board meetings being held monthly, "as of 3 March 2014 the only minutes available were those for October, September and August 2013". D'Souza and Waniganayaka stated that an examination of transparency values and an inspection of methods for generating genuine dialogue between the Board of Directors and USU members will form a basis for Wednesday's discourse.

However, the discussion paper itself points out that attendance at members' forums is poor, and members who attend "are more likely than not to come from a selective and informed group of people who are already heavily involved in student life and politics, and thus the board is concerned that we are not hearing from a diverse spread of opinion."

The results of the review will lead to policy recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider.

Both D'Souza and Waniganayaka were non-committal when asked for a deadline for the final recommendations. However, while both stressed that they wouldn't take shortcuts during consultation, they were hopeful that the review and its recommendations would be completed by the end of the semester.

## Staff super funding detention centre contractors

USyd staff unions have called for investment in detention centre contractors to cease, writes **Ada Lee**.

Last Wednesday, the University of Sydney branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) unanimously passed a motion calling on UniSuper to withdraw its investments in companies linked to asylum seeker detention.

UniSuper are the superannuation fund for the majority of USyd's 7500 staff. Staff super contributions are part of Australia's detention supply chain, with UniSuper investing in companies such as Transfield Services, Serco and Decmil Group Ltd, who build and operate Australia's detention centres.

The NTEU's USyd branch has asked the NTEU to pressure UniSuper to reveal any further connections to the detention network and to withdraw all investment.

Michael Thomson, NTEU USyd branch President, was adamant that UniSuper divest from these companies and that Manus Island be shut down.

"Transfield is playing a role in jailing people who are fleeing poverty and persecution and Transfield is making profits from it. As far as I'm concerned, we want to take as much social action as we can to stop them from doing this," he said.

In February, Transfield Services entered a \$1.22 billion contract with the federal government to operate both the Manus Island and Nauru offshore detention centres. UniSuper also has almost

780,000 shares in Decmil, a mining contractor awarded nearly \$200 million worth of government contracts to build and expand the Manus Island detention facilities.

The motion, passed at the NTEU USyd general meeting of 50-80 people, calls mandatory detention "wrong and harmful", and points to UniSuper's investment profile as a "major point of influence for the NTEU".

"A decision by UniSuper not to invest in firms that collaborate with the Australian Government in the mandatory detention regime can make a significant difference to the capacity and willingness of those firms to participate in this abusive regime, as well as the capacity of Government to find commercial partners through which to implement the policy," the motion stated.

The union branch's move comes after the Sydney Biennale severed ties with Transfield earlier this month due to pressure from artists pulling out. "We have listened to the artists who are the heart of the Biennale and have decided to end our partnership with Transfield effective immediately," Biennale organisers said in a statement.

The NTEU has one representative on UniSuper's board. The campaign is only in its early stages, with Michael Thomson holding discussions with NTEU members across NSW and Australia. As to the sway NTEU holds over UniSuper, Thomson says we will have to wait and see.

## Religious facilities lacking, says Hindu leader

A Hindu prayer room is notably absent from campus, reports **Astha Rajvanshi**.

Prominent Hindu leader and President of the Universal Society of Hinduism Rajan Zed has called on all Australian universities to provide permanent Hindu prayer rooms, which are currently lacking at the University of Sydney.

The President of Ekansh (the Sydney University Indian Cultural Society) Minal Bhagwat said that a designated prayer room on campus would help to create a comfortable environment necessary for Hindu students.

"From a student's perspective, in particular those that live on campus, the travel to the closest

temples and places of worship is both long and time consuming," she explains. "Having a campus prayer room will allow such students to follow their religion comfortably."

The University's Multifaith Chaplaincy Centre caters to various faiths, including Christian, Jewish and Buddhist communities, by giving Chaplains access to offices, common worship space, counseling, and prayer and study groups to assist their ministries.

The lack of Hindu facilities at the Centre predominantly comes down to the fact that "there

hasn't been a [Hindu] Chaplain who has applied in the past," said the convener of the Centre and Anglican Chaplain Carolyn Andrews.

"A Hindu student or staff member would need to speak to the Hindu faith community to appoint a Hindu faith representative," she says. Whilst the university provides services for spiritual support, the Chaplains themselves are employed and paid by their own religious denomination.

"It would be helpful to have a Hindu Chaplain to support student needs in conversations with the

university," she added.

Whilst the University of Sydney Union's Interfaith Festival allows faith-based and religious clubs and societies to promote awareness and understanding of their faith, there is currently no Hindu students' club or society.

"It is a little surprising that this is the case," says the festival's director, Anisha Sara Thomas. "The needs of Hindu students on campus are underrepresented, and we fully support any student initiative to form a Hindu club or society."

## OBITUARY: Fred Phelps

ILLUSTRATION BY MIKAELA BARTELS



### THE MANNING FILES

#### POLICY, HYPOCRISY AND ONESIES: A CHAT WITH JEREMY ELPHICK

If the Board elects to remove Tom Raue, it is set to open a Pandora's Box of barely-democratic problems: Jeremy Elphick will be catapulted to the position of Board Director. The Manning Files crew sat down with Raue's heir apparent to chat policy, hypocrisy and onesies.

Though he may face the sack, Raue's policy legacy may live on. "I definitely want to continue a lot of the things that Raue was working towards in terms of having a more transparent, environmentally-friendly Union," Elphick said.

In addition, Elphick noted he would honour his campaign pledge "to implement music policies on campus" and advocate for "extra rehearsal spaces on campus and instruments that could be rented out by students". His political positions, however, have not all been so steadfast: "I'm not really too keen on the puppy room," he said.

He made a point of the Board's bad behaviour at last year's Education Revue (*Waiting for Gonski*), in which USU Board President Hannah Morris and a slew of other directors, sans Raue, were accused of heckling.

Elphick also slammed the Board's current "cliquey, completely beige party culture that's currently held by the Union". He did not comment on whether he would attend the upcoming Union 90s party.

#### I WONDER WHAT OUR BACK PAGE AD WILL BE AFTER THIS

On Wednesday 26 March the National Union of Students will hold the National Day of Protest, an Australia-wide demonstration against a proposed \$2.3 billion cut to tertiary education.

"[The protest] is about opposing their proposed funding cuts, which represent the biggest attack on university funding in almost two decades," said Sarah Garnham, NUS Education Officer.

Addressing Vice-Chancellors last

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## USU Vice-President now eminently sackable: Court

**John Gooding and Lane Sainty report.**

A number of students have mobilised to support Raue, planning to attend the scheduled Board meeting this Friday at which the motion may be put.

Morris was circumspect when asked about the predicted outcome of such a vote, and did not respond when asked how she personally would vote. "Board Directors are afforded the right to independently vote on any motions put before them and I cannot presume what their decisions will be," she said.

Raue said he could not predict what his chances of remaining on Board are. "I just hope that people see the senselessness of firing me for doing what I was elected to do," he said.

All student Board directors who responded to requests for comment declined to say whether they would vote to expel Raue or not. Senate-appointed director Emma McDonald did not comment on whether she would vote at all.

If the Board does vote to remove Raue, he will retain a potential channel of appeal via the Sydney University Senate. According to USU Regulations, directors removed under Special Resolution carry the right to

appeal the decision to the Sydney University Senate, who can then override the Board.

However, Raue is uncertain about whether this is an avenue of appeal he would pursue. "I have to consider all possibilities, but I am wary of involving the Senate since they already have too much influence over the USU," he said.

If Raue is removed from Board, Jeremy Elphick, who was the highest ranked candidate to miss out on a director position in the 2013 election, will be offered Raue's place on Board. Elphick has confirmed to *Honi Soit* that he will accept the position and has strongly denounced the move to expel Raue,

"[The Board] would essentially be getting someone with fairly similar political beliefs as Raue after having spent an inordinate amount of time removing or at least attempting to remove him in an action that has given the Union a significantly worse reputation than anything that he has ever done to it," Elphick said. "Raue has been a very effective Board Director who has been working well towards a lot of his promises in terms of transparency."

new scenario after we raised the allegations last Thursday.

The moot, ostensibly written by law student and successful mooter Thomas Farmakis, required competitors to debate an international dispute about an ambiguous border and a contested treaty. The original problem question was substantially identical to problem questions published in Stephen Hall's book *Principles of International Law*. Except for changes to the dates and names of parties, and a new *Game of Thrones* theme to the question, the sentences were almost word-for-word the same as the scenario in the book.

The SULL document failed to acknowledge Hall, but featured "Author: Thomas Farmakis" on every page. *Principles of International Law* included "suggested answers" for the problem questions, which could give an unfair advantage to any student who happened to find the book. The Law Library has nine copies of the book; all copies available for normal borrowing are currently on loan.

#### SHAKING IN YOUR MOOTS

The Sydney University Law Society has been left red-faced after it was revealed that the scenario for its international law moot was plagiarised from a textbook. The society apologised, postponed the moot and issued a

# Investigating Stormfront: Whiteness, demography and politics

*Matilda Surtees and Geordie Crawford investigate Australian white supremacy organisations.*

White supremacist posters, which depicted the Celtic cross, and exclaimed “White Pride Worldwide”, were last week plastered on a bus stop outside Wentworth Building.

The logo on the posters was very similar to that of the white supremacist discussion forum Stormfront, an organisation established by former Ku Klux Klansman and convicted terrorist Don Black.

The posters were spotted a day after the ‘White Man March’, a global event intended to publicise white supremacy and combat multiculturalism.

Whilst one would think it easy to determine how many white supremacist groups there are in Australia, some ostensibly racist organisations reject the label. The Australia First Party (AFP), for example, prefers to consider themselves a “united patriotic front”.

These organisations hold in common a desire for racial separation, but are divided on what constitutes a white nation. Some white supremacists, such as Tom Metzger, the founder of White Aryan Resistance (WAR), believe in white nationalism, or a global community of white people.

Others, like the Southern Cross Hammerskins (SCHS) and the AFP place a specific emphasis on state-based white nationalism, through their use of the Eureka flag and warnings of the “chaos of globalism”.

*“Such views suggest that Islamophobia has indeed become a point of convergence for mainstream racism.”*

“Almost all users on Stormfront Down Under [Stormfront’s Australian branch] would describe themselves as patriotic and animated by a love of country,” said Andy Fleming, a journalist who has written extensively on the subject.

This sense of race-based patriotism unites many Australian white supremacists. To this end, the AFP claim to be fighting a “yellow peril” by endorsing a traditional, patriarchal family structure, while Blood and Honour claim their promotion of racist music to be an act of resistance to non-white cultural influences.

While Australian white supremacist ideology can be pluralistic, it is often marked by a simultaneous and incoherent embrace of the myth of biological race, as well as a cultural definition of whiteness.

As multiculturalism has become embedded in both Australian policy and society in past decades, white supremacists have increasingly refocused their attentions on the perceived erosion of “White Australia”.

\* \* \*

According to one supporter, two of the most prominent groups, Blood & Honour and the SCHS, “work in brotherhood” but are not formally affiliated.

Both have their own subsidiary groups, replicating the structures of their overseas predecessors. Combat 18 is an affiliate group of Blood and Honour and bizarrely the SCHS have their own “supporter’s club”, Crew 38.

The tiered relationship between SCHS and Crew 38 is reflective of a tightly hierarchical culture in white supremacist organizations. A spokesperson for Exit White

Power, an anti-white supremacist project, stated that there are “a lot of rules about where you sit in that hierarchy, who you answer to, and what’s involved in different stages.”

*“The typical demographic for such groups is young men, aged 14-25.”*

The typical demographic for such groups is young men, aged 14-25, who are often socially alienated and lack other commitments – work, mortgages, marriage, children – which may interfere with their dedication to the group.

“There are not many happy, stable young people joining white supremacist groups,” the EWP spokesperson notes. The appeal is often social, not ideological, and the prevalence of music concerts in the white supremacist community seeks to capitalise on this.

However, the manager of grassroots watchdog project The Anti Bogan observes that different white supremacist organizations attract different demographics.

Members of the AFP, he says, are far more likely to be part of the “over-fifties age group, who would have grown up in the era of the White Australia Policy,” and have seen the demise of “their imagined white Australia.”

\* \* \*

The Australia First Party retains an official headquarters in Tempe, in Sydney’s Inner West. It was at these headquarters that an AFP supporter was shot and killed by another in 1991.

Violence within white supremacist groups is common and is a powerful deterrent to leaving these organisations. “They can be very insular, and they tend to bash each other up quite a lot,” said the EWP spokesperson.

The external activities of white supremacist groups are more likely to be disseminating hate speech in the form of flyers and stickers than to be physically violent.

In January this year, four Perth men were convicted for spreading “racially motivated material”.

However, one of the convicted, Combat 18 member Jacob Marshall Holt, also pled guilty to firing gunshots at a Perth mosque in 2010.

Another group, the Australian Defence League, held a rally to oppose the construction of a mosque in Bendigo, Victoria on March 22. They describe Islam as a “meddling enemy” and “Australia’s biggest threat”.

Writing for New Matilda, Fleming stated that there has been a “political reorientation” of the far right and white supremacist groups, with Islamophobia now the “chief attractor”.

EWP’s spokesperson concurred and pointed to online forums in particular as a site for burgeoning anti-Islam sentiment.

One supporter of the ADL told us he believes that “all races usually get along” in Australia. His support for the organisation, however, originates in “the fact people come here and try to push there [sic] Islamic views upon Australians in an aggressive way.” Such views suggest that Islamophobia has indeed become a point of convergence for mainstream racism and extremism.

It can be difficult to ascertain the extent to which extremist activity manifests itself offline. EWP’s spokesperson acknowledged that there is a lot of activity online, but describes the majority of those belonging to white supremacist groups as “keyboard warriors,” reiterating her earlier point that these groups “exist mainly for themselves”.

She points out the humorous contradiction that “one of the things they always talk about is how no one wants to meet up.” The content of Stormfront’s Down Under forums certainly supports her assertion.

And as for the “White Pride Worldwide” posters, she points out that there was no call to action involved, and no group claimed responsibility.

“They were likely just some kids who read about the White Man’s March online,” she said.

## Delusions of confidentiality

*Raue was in the right, argues Alexi Polden.*

Last week’s decision from the Supreme Court was not about Tom Raue’s choice to leak information to *Honi Soit*. It was a technical decision merely allowing the University of Sydney Union (USU) Board to hold a meeting to vote on whether they consider Raue guilty of “serious misconduct”. If that vote is conducted, and two thirds of the 13 directors vote against Raue, he will be expelled from the Board and the USU.

In deciding that motion, there are two elements that each Board Director should consider. First, was the information Raue leaked actually confidential? But second, even if the Board think it was confidential, it is important they remember they are not compelled to expel him. They can and should consider whether he was otherwise justified in his actions.

The small excerpt Raue leaked was not necessarily made confidential by virtue of being in a human resources report. To be confidential, information has to have some necessary “quality of confidence” about it. That bar is typically set quite high; for instance, the identity of a complainant in a sexual

harassment claim would certainly be considered confidential.

What was the material here? Something said by a cop at a public protest.

That comment was given freely, and the officer could have repeated it to anyone, or, indeed, been overheard by anyone. Lee Devereux, the USU staff member who the officer was speaking to didn’t seem too concerned about confidentiality either, at least not concerned enough that it stopped her sharing the information with her husband. She was apparently unable to recall whether she had shared it with anyone else as well.

But beyond that, Raue asked Devereux whether he could release the information. She said she would prefer if he didn’t, but if he had to she would like her name to be kept out of his release, a condition he met.

Even if being included in the report did somehow render the information confidential, in certain circumstances confidentiality can still be trumped by the public interest. It may well be that the public interest in exposing the

tension between the University’s publicly stated policy and the view apparently taken by police (namely that they were acting under University instruction) meets that test.

Merely being embarrassed by the release of information is not enough to make it confidential. If the Board claims it is, that signals a concerning shift for an organisation which claims it is on the path towards transparency.

*“If the Board Directors do vote to expel Raue, whose interests do they think they are serving?”*

In attempting to expel Raue, the message that the USU’s Executive is trying to send is that secrecy is always sacrosanct and that whistle-blowing is always punished.

Even if you believe that the information he released was confidential, I still do not think you can call Raue guilty of serious misconduct. It is important that our Board Directors stand up for what they believe in and the

platforms they were elected on, even when it goes against the wishes of their Executive.

The very motion expelling Raue hints at that responsibility. The claimed grounds for his expulsion are a breach of his fiduciary duties. What does that actually mean?

The fiduciary duty that Raue allegedly breached was his duty to act in the interests of the USU as an institution. The thing is,

the duties that bind the Board Directors are not that narrow or simple. Directors also have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of their members. Even if you buy that it was in the USU’s interest to keep the information secret, it is impossible to say that USU members did not benefit from knowing it. This begs the question, if the Board Directors do vote to expel Raue, whose interests do they think they are serving?

## Expensive words: the true cost of offence

*Subeta Vimalrajah examines the effects of increased sanctions for offensive language crimes.*

\$500 could buy you 185 regular-sized Taste coffees (with Access) or 0.840 Hermes scarves, or perhaps you could use it to pay off a fine for saying “fuck you cunt” at the local library.

As if Barry O’Farrell wasn’t draconian enough with his response to the “king hit” fiasco, changes to offensive language penalties have been added to the mix. Section 4A (1) of the Summary Offences Act holds that if caught swearing in a public place or near a school, a police officer can issue you an on-the-spot fine. That fine used to be an unjustifiable \$150. It is now triple that, amounting to the highest national fine for the offence – double that of Victoria and five times that of Queensland.

As identified by critics, this change will disproportionately affect Indigenous Australians, amongst other minority groups. These groups are always targeted by selective enforcement and over

policing (a white male’s “fuck you” sounds very different to that of a person of colour), but offensive language laws raise the bar for inequality.

Current trends show that the two Local Government Areas with the highest incidence rate of offensive language charges, nearly ten times the state average, are Walgett and Bourke. Unsurprisingly, the Indigenous population is 30 per

*“Policing language is policing morality..”*

cent in these areas, accompanied by high poverty levels. The areas with close to no incidence rate are Mosman and Lane Cove with a corresponding 0.1 per cent Indigenous population and average household income thrice that of Bourke.

As these statistics are spouted there is a conservative cry that

the poor and Indigenous commit most crime anyway. Not only is the correlation between socio-economic status and offensive language crime more pronounced than broader crime rates, this trend is easily justified by interrogating the nature of language. Policing language is policing morality to protect the sensibilities of the most privileged, as all language is culturally constructed. Offensive language targets the poor and

the language of the white oppressor, as the terms ‘slut’ and ‘nigger’ have similarly been claimed by women and African Americans. The difference in conditioning applies to those for whom English is a second language. For first generation migrants like myself, taboos toward swearing were only introduced at school. My parents had no swear jar because they would not have known what to punish in the first place.

Given the politics of language, Section 4A always targeted the most vulnerable people in society, as they simply swear more. The now heftier \$500 is just a bonus in the game of furthering oppression. It is unfortunate that our politicians are neither diverse nor intelligent enough to recognise the complexities of language. It is even more unfortunate that their laws target the poor and entrench such social conditions through excessive financial penalties.

# Cooking the books

*Vestiges of protectionism hurt the students of today, writes Sam Murray.*

Parallel Import Restrictions (PIRs) are government regulations ostensibly designed to protect copyright and trademarks. In reality, however, they protect distributors from competition and facilitate price-gouging, with students paying more as a result.

In technical terms, PIRs limit the importation of goods from overseas without the consent of the authorised local distributor. Due to the free-trade value of removing restrictions, Australia has over the past few decades stripped back these restrictions on most overseas products ... except for books.

In order to protect Australian publishers from having their prices undercut by overseas competition (particularly from Asian distributors), Australian bookstores

and suppliers are legally unable to import books if the Australian publisher refuses. This drives up the cost of books domestically due to a lack of competition. Besides making access to books more difficult, the prices flow on to bookstores. Unable to import cheaper books, they are forced to sell at prices unpalatable to local customers, driving them away (and, often, to overseas internet resellers).

The Australian Productivity Commission in 2009 produced a report on the book PIRs, and wholeheartedly recommended removing them. This was ignored by the Labor Government of the time, which argued that the government had a duty to protect Australian publishers (if not Australian consumers).

But the report, most interestingly, noted that English-language

textbooks sold in Asia are generally half the Australian price, and that the removal of PIRs would almost certainly lead to a dramatic fall in price of textbooks as international publishers can now compete with domestic publishers for the small, but profitable Australian market of students. Of course, some subjects with a local context such as Law or Government might only have an Australian publisher and therefore not benefit, but subjects covering more general topics, like the sciences, engineering, medicine and economics, would have far cheaper textbooks available for students.

The purchasers of textbooks also have far less choice than usual consumers in a market system anyway. The Productivity Commission noted that students are often required to get a specific textbook as dictated by the unit

coordinator, on pain of academic penalties (or at least inconvenience). Coordinators are concerned about the academic value of the textbook, not the price or affordability. Students, saddled by a lack of competition, are consequently unable to seek other, more competitively priced products. Forced to pay artificially high Australian prices, it's no wonder that buying a semester worth of textbooks is a traumatic experience.

“Stop Parallel Import Restrictions” may not be the catchiest slogan in the world, but the reality of this well-meaning but fundamentally repressive trade restriction is that it disproportionately hurts low SES students, for whom even a few hundred dollars a semester can make a world of difference.

# Bowling out the bourgeoisie

*Dom Ellis examines who goes in to bat.* ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ZHU WEI

For a lot of people, cricket offers little more than a visual supplement to the blokes-and-beer culture of the Australian summer. When I was growing up though, it was pretty serious business. Kids like me would put aside three or four afternoons a week for some variation of training.

Nevertheless, private-schooled as I was, there were constant reminders that if I really wanted to “make it” I’d need to ditch the trite school system and play for a local club.

There are certain expectations that come with every sport. If you play rugby union, you surely attended a private school. If you fancy AFL (or aerial ping-pong), you’re probably in the wrong state. And if you want to make it in cricket in Australia, you grew up working class.

For the most part, this expectation of cricket derived from the defining Australian players of the past decade, with Waugh, Clarke, Lee, McGrath and Ponting — who left school at the end of year 10 so he could work as a groundsman at a private school — all growing up in relatively low-to-middle class families.

It’s become increasingly apparent that there’s a dichotomy between the backgrounds of these immensely talented players, and the financial base and elite in cricket. Interestingly, there is also an equalising presence in the game.

For all the vast wealth funneled into North Shore private schools like mine, and for all their comprehensive

sporting programs, these elite institutions have spat out no more than a handful of Australian test cricketers in the last decade. As an example of this, Sydney GPS private schools have produced just 10 Test cricketers since 1877, compared to 132 Wallabies.

And this theory isn’t limited to schools either. On the international stage, cricket has proven an avenue for war-torn and developing nations. A few weeks ago Afghanistan beat Australia’s side in the Under-19 Cricket World Cup. The up-and-coming stars of Australia’s favourite summer sport came up short against a ragtag team with a fraction of the funding and resources, and who had only ever won four matches together previously.

And the Afghan team would win again, qualifying for the quarterfinals where they lost to eventual champions South Africa. Though the Australian loss was undoubtedly a tragedy among cricket devotees like myself, it fits nicely into the social paradox of the sport.

Afghanistan’s involvement in the game is no fluke though. For years now cricket has been an avenue for tolerance and opportunity amongst what the annual Afghan Cricket Report admits is a “traditional, conservative state”, offering opportunities for persecuted minorities, children living on the street, and the disabled. Without spruiking the game too much, it offers both a viable avenue and something of a social shelter.

However, this relationship between cricket and class is by no means ubiquitous. In England the trend is very much the opposite. Only 10.2 per cent of England’s runs in 2012 were scored by batsmen who came from state schools, compared to the 80.5 per cent a decade earlier.

One of the Australian private school test cricketers is batsman Ed Cowan, who, when he originally edged his way into the team, was perceived by the media as something of a breakthrough for Australian cricket.

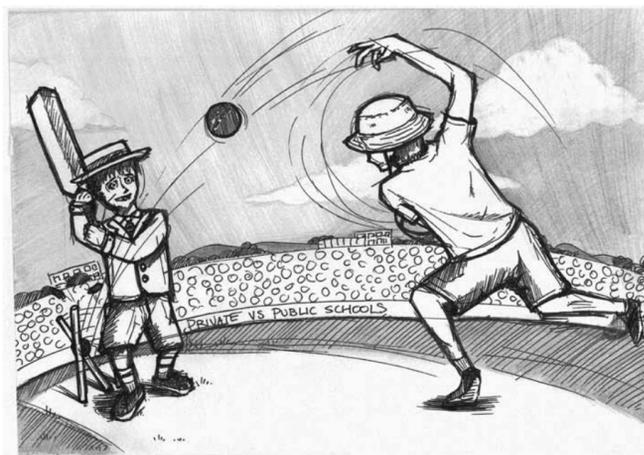
Cowan not only went to a prestigious private school in the Eastern Suburbs, but he also studied at Sydney University where he attended everyone’s favourite den of privilege, St Paul’s College.

The Australian had no trouble shaping him as the second coming:

“University educated, articulate, cultured even, Cowan is without doubt one of the most well-rounded cricketers to come into the Australian team in decades.”

And yet, for all the snobbery and bourgeois bias of the Australian media, there’s no indication that this is a trend, but rather the opposite. Australia’s middle class cricketers continue to dominate their private school rivals.

SCG membership may cost a small fortune, but cricket—the sport, not the institution—has proven a force that rewards commitment rather than capital.



# Personalising the political | *First Person*

*Remembering the story of individuals counters harsh refugee policy, writes Bernadette Anvia.*

Many Australians find it hard to understand why someone would travel here on a boat with no guarantee of survival and a high likelihood of indefinite detention.

It’s a trade-off many of us regard as unacceptable, especially when tragic cases like that of Reza Barati come to the fore. For me, it took an extended visit from a relative living in Iran to understand why sometimes risking everything for a new life in another country is completely worth it.

Up until the end of 2013, I had never laid eyes on my uncle, the sole member of my family still living in Iran. As a citizen of one of the supposed “Axis of Evil” nations, it took three unsuccessful attempts and a guaranteed payment of \$15,000 to approve his application for an Australian holiday visa.

Last year, when then-Foreign Minister Bob Carr informed us that all illegal Iranian boat people were economic refugees, he sought to draw a line between people who fled life-threatening situations and Iranians who merely sought a better economic lifestyle. However, it wasn’t until my uncle’s visit that I finally understood the line between the two wasn’t that clear cut, and economic factors should not be dismissed as illegitimate.

At the heart of this issue lays one inescapable fact: Australia has helped to create an international situation in which Iranian asylum seekers are the eventual product. First we enforced harsh sanctions on Iran for its suspected nuclear weapons program, and then we tried to disassociate ourselves by refusing to help its people. And now, to justify this behaviour, we tell ourselves that Iranians are hampered by economic problems rather than persecution.

One dinnertime, my mother had cooked roast beef, a culinary staple in most Aussie households, but my uncle was taken aback by the amount of red meat we had for a single meal. He told us that Iranian sanctions have classified various food groups such as meat and poultry as luxury items, often foregone by the poorer classes in Iran, with mushrooms consumed as a nutritional alternative.

He was frequently amazed by what he perceived as overabundance in Australia. Often compelled to speak out about our wastefulness, he would even advise my sisters and I to buy smaller drinks at McDonalds if we were going to throw half of it away.

Some might call this rude, others cheap, but at the heart of those very few words was a fear so deeply engrained in a man approaching the

most difficult years of his life on a pension rate so meagre that he was basically living on a week-by-week basis. His enforced perspective cast a harsh light on our lifestyle, often taken for granted where much of what we buy gets thrown away.

My uncle wasn’t just afraid of running out of food. He mentioned being scared of a time when medications and operations would be necessary to keep him in good health in old age, but that he wouldn’t be able to afford them because of their exorbitant prices.

At the end of all this stands my family, living in a prosperous country with a strong dollar that could buy much in Iran, but helpless to provide my uncle with any major monetary relief. International sanctions imposed on Iran mean that major banking institutions no longer allow transfers of money to the country.

For all intents and purposes, Iranian citizens are on their own. For many, the only way to remedy this helplessness is to get on a boat and pray to their God to get them safely to Australia.

I never knew Reza Barati and cannot claim to have known his motives in coming to Australia. But over two months, I came to know another who had seen the

troubles that Iran is currently experiencing, fearful of what the future may hold. It overturned everything that I thought I knew about Iranian asylum seekers.

His story reminded me of a fundamentally human element that lies behind Operation Sovereign Borders. Australians tend to regard boat people as an anonymous mass of the unfortunate; a tactic that allows us to separate the personal from the political in the most callous of ways. The publicized death of Reza Barati was an exception to this trend, as the 23-year-old Iranian became a temporary face for the faceless in utterly tragic circumstances.

Now, the media hype surrounding Barati is slipping away, but we mustn’t let our concern fade with it. Individual stories are important in the refugee debate, as they work against government efforts to dehumanise those who seek safety here. My uncle’s story, and Reza Barati’s too, promote compassion and understanding among Australians. They should not be forgotten.

# Pass that Dutch | *Law*

*Kate Clinnick reports from the Netherlands, where marijuana is illegal ... but not really.*

It doesn’t take a Missy Elliott song for one to know that the Dutch are famous for their, well, Dutch. The image of the Netherlands as a liberal minded, sexually progressive, pro-drugs nation is firmly held the world over. Imagine my surprise on learning, while on exchange in the Netherlands, that by law marijuana and other soft drugs are actually still illegal.

Since an amendment to the Dutch Opium Act in 1953, cannabis has been listed as an illegal substance. Attitudes began to change in the 1970s when, plagued by a violent heroin market, the Dutch government established a new policy distinguishing ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ drugs in order to protect individuals from organized crime. The 1976 Amendments to the Opium Act established two classes of drugs: Schedule I, “hard” drugs like heroin, which are deemed an unacceptable risk to Dutch society; and Schedule II, “soft” drugs like marijuana.

The result of all this is a policy that can seem baffling and inconsistent.

Professor of General Law Studies and Director of the Centre for Public Order and Security at Groningen University Jan Brouwer explains the law “prohibits all actions - growing marijuana, selling marijuana, buying, cutting, preparing. It is a criminal act to do anything with marijuana except for using it.” Marijuana is illegal, but individuals can legally possess up to five plants or grams at any one time, and police do not prosecute the possession of anything less than 30 grams. People are allowed to use marijuana in specially licensed coffee shops, but their suppliers are technically not allowed to grow, import, or sell it. As the saying goes over here: “The front door is open, but the back door is illegal.”

Confused? You’re not the only one. This Dutch doublethink is often mistaken for hypocrisy by outsiders. Take the time to question a local, however, and they will explain that it is simply ‘gedogen’. There is no exact translation for the phrase, but it falls somewhere between ‘tolerance’ and ‘turning a blind eye’.

In the Netherlands, matters such as prostitution, drugs, and euthanasia are all broadly treated as gedogen - in other words, illegal, but not really.

Philosophically, gedogen is based on a rejection of the view that law enforcement should prevail in all cases. In the Netherlands, it is broadly preferred that controversial issues or minor infractions be solved through non-judicial measures. Individual self-regulation is highly valued. Rules are only enforced if the overall effects can be considered positive. This result is gedoepolicy, a policy wherein complex issues like drugs, prostitution, and euthanasia are handled by the state with a feather-light touch. This is a well-established Dutch tradition. Examples of gedogen in law can be found as far back as the 17th century, when strict Calvinist laws were regularly disregarded in order to appease religious minorities.

But does gedoepolicy work? During our interview, Brouwer asked me for an Australian perspective. I had to

admit that I thought Dutch students at Groningen University actually smoked less pot than Australian students. According to the 2013 World Drugs Report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), my impression was accurate. UNDOC did a country-by-country comparison on the percentage of the youth and adult population, who have consumed the drug at least once in the past survey year. 10.6 per cent of Australians had used marijuana; in the Netherlands only 5.4 per cent had consumed the drug. These statistics seem to support the gedogen logic that certain behaviours will happen regardless of their legality, and that it is better to tolerate these actions in order to better regulate them.

As the Dutch sociologist Hans Adriaansens wrote, “some countries are corrupt, others have a proper Mafia, the Netherlands has gedogen”.

# Beware the ides of March

*Edwin Zorrilla marched in March for not much.*

For a protest that inspired over 100,000 people to converge around the country, March in March has received very little mainstream media coverage, an oversight that betrays the Liberal tendencies of editors across Australia. I attended the march and saw the families, the climate activists, the academics, and the socialists wielding anti-Abbott placards. No doubt it was diverse and chaotic; no doubt it was immense. Comparisons with the extensive coverage given to the Convoy of No Confidence, which attracted a couple of hundred people, are well-founded.

But what kind of coverage did the march deserve, and what kind of message was sent? If there is a litmus test of the success of such protests with no unified legislative agenda, it is that they should create power. They should bring diverse groups together and embody power by strengthening relationships and alliances around common causes.

This particular crowd was brought together by the maxim “my enemy’s enemy is my friend”. Many organisers and leaders credited the march with engaging the otherwise politically apathetic to rally together in opposition to the current government. Yet is

there pride in empowering people who care little when Labor enacts rather similar policies, paving the way for this conservative onslaught? Without a unified structural critique of the problems in our entire political system, such a gesture merely reinforces the brokenness of the left, not its values.

To be fair, the forces of neoliberalism are too diffuse to conceptualise; it is difficult to identify, let alone rally against, a singular target in such

## “March in March never rallied around a common identity.”

a campaign. One cannot, therefore, expect those disempowered by this ideology to have a clear platform or to articulate the totality of their oppression. Rarely is oppressive ideology as evident as when Gina Rinehart claims that we should follow in Thatcher’s footsteps, a statement that Billy Bragg, the embattled English artist and activist who attended the Sydney March, made short work of when comparing it to his own struggles and experiences under the Iron Lady.

How should the left react to

such diffuse oppression? Greens Senator Scott Ludlam, in his recent adjournment speech, defended Western Australia’s diverse and progressive history with great dignity. The Occupy Movement proclaimed, “We Are The 99%”. Such protests challenge ideology by re-imagining the disempowered as the powerful, by using a collective identity that simultaneously creates solidarity among the masses and challenges the authority of those in power.

Conversely, one of the march’s most popular slogans was “Not In My Name”. Yet what name is that? March in March never rallied around a common identity. Instead it focused on spiteful and negative jabs, which suggested that our Prime Minister’s authority is illegitimate, and offered no critique of the system that put him there.

The MC at the Sydney march pointed to and lionised the students from Newtown High School who had grilled the Prime Minister with embarrassing questions in

Canberra. Perhaps these students best embody the movement’s powerlessness. While such ridicule can be a good mask for our anger, the embarrassment matters little as long as the frame remains the same — the Prime Minister spoke down to some idealist kids, but his power base lay elsewhere.

Like it or not, Tony Abbott is Prime Minister, and will probably continue to be so for a few years. I say this because, in coming to understand how such a man became our legitimate leader, the left will have to look at its own identity and values. Harder still, it will have to look at how it has failed. To face how words such as “humanity, decency, fairness, social justice, and equity”, the March’s proclaimed principles, have failed to unite communities in a way that makes them powerful.

“Our greatest enemy is not capitalism or conservatism, it is cynicism,” said Billy Bragg at the march. It is cynicism that makes the left disavow its connection with the current state of politics while doing little to create a credible alternative other than a somewhat more palatable Labor Prime Minister. The participants of March in March would do well to heed his words.

# 2014: A Microsoft Odyssey | Science

*Oscar Coleman puts down his controller and picks up his tin-foil hat.*

You’ve probably been inside the Microsoft Tech Lounge. You can’t really miss it. It’s next to Subway, it has nice sofas, new laptops, and the all-important strong Wi-Fi signal. It’s also where the latest and greatest Microsoft products are unleashed to be tested out by students. It’s where they showcased the Xbox Kinect camera at launch and, as of this semester, the new Xbox One.

Last July, the Snowden leaks revealed Microsoft had allowed the US National Security Agency (NSA) and the UK equivalent, the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), a backdoor to spy on its users. Journalists found that, in the months immediately following Microsoft’s takeover of Skype, this new capability had tripled the amount of Skype calls being collected through the NSA’s PRISM surveillance system.

In February, *The Guardian* reported further collaboration between Microsoft and the NSA. It alleged that a GCHQ program called Optic Nerve targeted 1.8 million Yahoo users as part of an effort to collect

webcam images in bulk. As well as revealing that a “surprising number of people use webcam conversations to show intimate parts of their body to the other person”, internal GCHQ documents showed that Kinect was part of a wider program of webcam surveillance. Previous reports showed the Xbox Live network itself had been targeted by the NSA.

Every Xbox One has a Kinect packed in. If you’re a cynic like me, this means that every Xbox is potentially the NSA’s window into your university lounge, your living room, or even more saucily, your bedroom.

Among the giant trove of documents released by Edward Snowden, one describes how the government can character assassinate those it deems a threat to national security. Consider the fact that successive US governments have targeted surveillance against political enemies of the day: African-American civil rights leaders, student radicals, queer and peace activists. It’s also worth noting claims by one-time Wikileaks spokesperson and hacktivist Jacob Appelbaum; that the NSA can

secretly turn on your computer microphone at will.

Microsoft denies they’ve allowed vulnerabilities, which invite blanket surveillance. Regarding the Xbox Kinect allegations, it says, “we’re concerned about any reports of governments surreptitiously collecting private customer data. That’s why in December we initiated a broad effort to expand encryption across our services and are advocating for legal reforms.”

Jon Lawrence, from digital rights advocacy group Electronic Frontiers Australia, explains it differently. “It’s important to note that firstly, knowledge about these activities is likely to have been very closely controlled within the companies themselves, and that those people with knowledge would likely be subject to prosecution with harsh penalties if they spoke about these activities,” he told *Honi*.

He believes that Microsoft might not willingly provide access to their systems, with the financial risk of losing consumer trust simply too great. They are instead “forced

and/or paid to do so, or the intelligence agencies may have simply found their own way in.”

Regarding the data itself, Lawrence finds it “difficult to imagine how any data resulting from [games console] surveillance would be of any real value to intelligence agencies”. He considers it to be “just another case of data being collected because it’s technically possible, rather than for any defined purpose”.

Out of context, the notion that your Xbox can spy on you may seem a crackpot theory. All the same, I’d be wary of allowing a creepy always-on camera into your most vulnerable areas. The Microsoft Tech Lounge is probably a safe space; just make sure you don’t spill any state secrets there.

This game surveillance affair makes me nostalgic for the good old days of offline gaming. Back then, it didn’t matter how much your government hated you — you could still game in peace.

Bring back the Nintendo 64.

# Rebooting nature | Tech

*A new project aiming to revive long-dead species is awesome but irresponsible, writes Leigh Nicholson.* ILLUSTRATION BY MONICA RENN

Despite the lessons learnt from Jurassic Park, a new project in the United States called Revive and Restore aims to bring back species from extinction. Started by Steward Brand with funding provided by National Geographic and TED, Revive and Restore comes under the umbrella of the Long Now Foundation, which backs similar projects including a clock built to tick uninterrupted for the next 10,000 years in order to instil “long-term responsibility” in the public.

The aims of Revive and Restore will hopefully be achieved through somatic cell nuclear transfers, a series of delicate genetic procedures. However, the technique can only be used with species for which we have cellular material for, which unfortunately destroys any

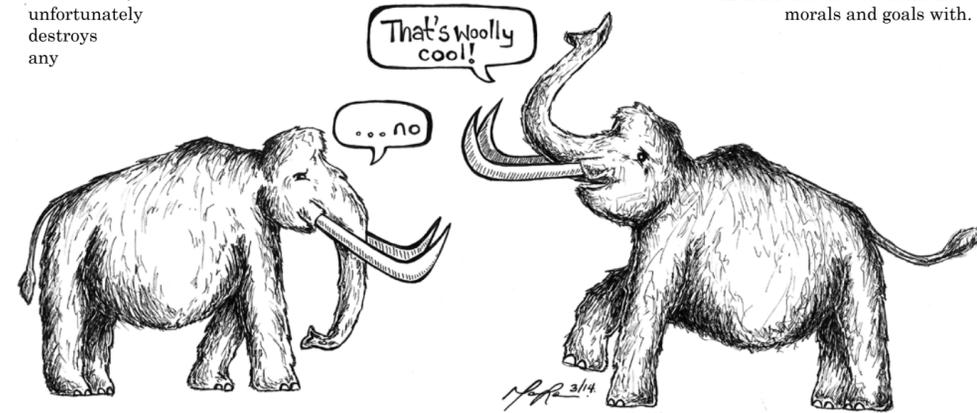
dreams for a real life Jurassic Park scenario. The process involves sequencing the correct genome for the species with existing material, with the rest made up with information that we more or less think or know from modern day relatives of the species. The slightest change in a genetic sequence can have massive impacts. What follows is a complex process of cell culturing, inscribing the genome into a living embryo, and ensuring the correct behavioural and developmental science once the creature is born.

However, the idea has received a fair share of criticism, from members of the scientific community calling it impossible to the *New Yorker*

labelling it a “vanity project”. When reading the goals on the project’s website, the latter disparagement certainly comes to mind. Brand compares the drive of his project to that of the conservation movement, citing innate human guilt as motivation: “some resurrection is in order ... a bit of redemption might come with it”. This was reinforced in a Q&A on Reddit last year. “If we killed them off, do we have any obligation to repair the damage?” he posed. This dangerous mentality ignores the reason for the revival in the first place - reviving species from human-caused extinction does not address why the extinction originally occurred. This is the difference between Revive and Restore and the broader conservation movement, which Brand tries to blend his morals and goals with.

Mark Colyvan, a professor of philosophy at the University of Sydney, emphasises this. “There is no point putting time, effort, and money into reviving a species, only to watch it go extinct again,” he says. Colyvan agrees that there is rationality in the inherent guilt that Brand has spring-boarded from. However, he suggests that the project might still not be the best solution. “It would be better to determine which currently extant species would most benefit targeted conservation efforts,” he says. The reasoning for this, he believes, is quite simple probability. It would likely be better to put money towards a more manageable task like saving an endangered species rather than trying to save the past with a smaller chance of success.

Brand also mentions the most obvious of desired results; the aesthetic we desire whilst witnessing species falling to extinction. “Just the thought of mammoths and passenger pigeons alive again invokes the awe and wonder that drives all conservation at its deepest level”, he writes. Unfortunately, this desire is not enough to justify the means, or even to confirm the ends. The project requires a huge amount of funding and a lot of trial and error, error that will be endured by the species involved. To cement his position, Colyvan paraphrases a quote by Kahil Gibran: “If we really love Thylacines, perhaps we ought to let them go”.



# The woes of modern linguistics

*Yitzi Tuvel is truly exasperated with modern society.*

## YOU STARTED THAT LETTER WRONG

It’s true. No matter how much effort you put into using the proper tenses and moods, you fucked up that email you just sent, right from the get-go. You do it every time.

Here’s the problem: people used to begin letters with the salutation “Dear Agatha”. If they were feeling particularly frisky, they might write “Dearest Agatha”. Other variants exist for addressing royalty, clergymen, and people not named “Agatha”.

I’d not, until recently, considered the grammatical form of such a salutation, but it appears to be a simple adjective + noun. “Dear” is a fairly unfashionable word meaning “valuable” or “expensive”, and somehow lucked into the position of adjective-of-choice

when describing a correspondent one was addressing. “Valuable Agatha!” one was effectively exclaiming. “Pricey Agatha! O, how thou takest mine doubloons, in such time as I am moste myself requiring aid! Verily, thou art an aureate prospector!”

Today, the “dear” of old appears to have been commuted to an altogether tamer “hey”. “Hey Agatha,” you’d begin, real casual-like. Don’t want to spook old Agatha just now. But Agatha is already spooked. Because you gone and done screwed up your grammar.

## THAT ONE TIME SHAKESPEARE BASICALLY SAID “FUCK” IN FRONT OF EVERYONE

When addressing someone directly, one employs the vocative case. Consider these sentences:

I don’t know Agatha.

I don’t know, Agatha.

The first is denying any familiarity with Agatha, that deviant. The second is addressed to Agatha, and could be in response to any number of questions with which sneaky Agatha might just have cornered you: “Where is my walking cane?”, “Who is this Lorelei hussy?”, or “Don’t you love me anymore?”

The only difference between these sentences is the presence of that single comma, which changes the case from indicative to vocative. That comma is the crux of the matter. So once you’ve changed your hail to a “Hey Agatha,” you really ought to add an extra comma for grammatical consistency. I realise that no-one is going to start putting “Hey, Agatha,” at the beginning of their letters because, quite frankly,

# Individuality loses out to fame and freebies

Jay Ng challenges the idea that fashion blogging is democratising the industry.

Many commentators herald the rise of fashion blogging as some sort of democratic progress. They posit that social media networks like Instagram and Tumblr have broken down barriers to entry, giving individuals influence in the world of fashion. If this is true, then the industry would no longer be an exclusive community just for fashion editors, celebrities, and professional stylists. Unfortunately, letting anyone with a smartphone, an ego, and cheekbones showcase their style to the rest of the world, hasn't achieved that happy ending. Fashion bloggers have just been sucked into the world of product endorsements and collaborations with major corporations.

Many fashion bloggers start fresh, full of integrity, original style, and naivety. Any individual autonomy bloggers had starting out is sacrificed for fame and success. As tall, thin and white bloggers like Jennifer Grace (of The Native Fox) become famous with over 500,000 Instagram followers, the pictures on their blogs become so staged that they are no different from Vogue editorials, along with products that a majority of people cannot afford. Emily Weiss, founder of Into the Gloss, hires prominent digital designer Michael Harper in order to give her website an editorial vibe.

*Women's Wear Daily* published a feature in 2011 that explores "what [bloggers] do: Reportage and criticism or marketing and promotion?" and details how bloggers like Bryanboy, Leandra

Medine, Kelly Framel, Susie Lau, and Rumi Neely make revenues. Bryanboy admitted that "advertising is the main source of revenue but [he] also makes personal appearances at events, [and] collaborates with brands". His response was pretty much identical to the rest of the interviewees'.

Major fashion brands often bestow fame upon a chosen blogger to boost their brand. Marc Jacobs made Bryanboy, who has 1.4 million monthly views on his website, a fashion week front rower since the open love letter and glorified him with the 'BB' handbag. Many bloggers now sign contracts to agencies to secure success, subordinating their creative freedom to corporate control. Leandra Medine (The Man Repeller), who writes fashion commentaries, is currently the most popular blogger with 3.7 million monthly views and 540,100 Instagram followers. She told *Business of Fashion* that she scored collaboration with Saks Fifth Avenue and a book deal upon signing with CAA, a prominent agency that represents celebrities like Natalie Portman and Kanye West.

Fashion houses and online shops sponsor bloggers with the latest products for promotions. There is nothing more cost effective than getting bloggers to endorse #musthave items to their huge audience base, or even launching collaboration projects that generate financial gain for both the designer and the blogger.

This in turn creates a scene where major fashion bloggers are almost uniform, all bribed and propped up by the same fashion institutions. Bloggers claim to have a sense of "realness" since many of them started blogging from scratch, which taps into a different market and makes them valuable to fashion houses.

If fashion was truly democratised we would see successful bloggers from every race and size. Yet, only seven out of 16 bloggers in "The Most Influential Personal Style Bloggers" from *fashionista.com* are not white. Fashion bloggers may have brought in a glimpse of racial diversity, but a discriminatory attitude towards race and body shape still exists in fashion industry. In fact, Bryanboy was accused of being pro-anorexia by suggesting followers to lose weight for Fashion Week. Ideas of beauty and style entrenched by fashion magazines remain unchallenged.

Fashion bloggers are famous because they appear to live like celebrities. Take Margaret Zhang as an example: in an interview with *Inside Enterprise*, she reveals that she spent her "weekends and study breaks travelling to seven cities throughout Asia to film for the TV show". She casually tags fashion celebrities like Eva Chen, editor-in-chief of *Lucky Magazine* and Natalie Massenet, founder of renowned e-retailer Net-A-Porter on Instagram.

Brands do not simply send bloggers products solely for the purposes of publicity and money.

Control comes as a complimentary statement accessory. Bloggers are afraid to be critical about social injustice within the fashion industry. Would they really want to risk their free studded kitten heels from Valentino, especially when the Federal Trade Commission of the United States dictated a policy in 2010 that bloggers need to fully disclose gifted materials? Such policy makes promotion gifts a norm that no one is ashamed of anymore. More importantly, are they willing to sacrifice shiny golden tickets to Lincoln Center during New York Fashion Week for whitewash runway shows and 'my life is better than yours' Instagram photos?

At the end of the day, bloggers start their blog with a passion for fashion. If they can make money and fame out of what they love, who cares about becoming a sell-out?

Solid effort has been made by supermodels like Jourdan Dunn, Chanel Iman and fashion activist Bethann Hardison, calling out on the lack of diversity on runways through creating Diversity Coalition. While there have been improvements in the latest fashion weeks, it did not come from bloggers. They could have used their prominence to open up conversations about body politics and racism in order to achieve real fashion democracy, but that might not trend as well as soy chai lattes.

# Tigerlily: Basically Superman

Milly Ellen speaks to a real-life electric mermaid.

Sitting on the Law Lawns sipping on a Slurpee, Dara Hayes discusses her double life.

Better known by her stage name, "Tigerlily", the fourth-year Media & Communications student is one of Australian dance music's rising stars. She is the resident DJ at major Sydney nightclub Pacha, regularly tours around Australia, and has recently completed a tour of Asia supporting Dutch superstar Tiesto.

"I think a lot of DJs let everything get to their heads but ... I can still sit here and do uni and then go and do my thing at night."

So you're basically Superman? "Yeah, pretty much. I'm going to start wearing a cape and make that my thing on stage."

The work ethic needed to balance university studies with such a demanding career seems utterly incomprehensible. And Hayes admits that it does come at a price.

"I honestly don't have time for a social life. Between uni, meetings, studio work, gigs and travel - it's a bitch. Just last weekend I was in Melbourne, then Adelaide, Melbourne again, Tasmania, Melbourne then back to Sydney. It's fucking ridiculous," she says.

So she went to America over the summer to try to spend some time relaxing. "I just needed a holiday. I didn't want to do anything. I mean, I had a great time. But I did end up doing PR, interviews, photo shoots, live mixes, and a music video. So I ended up doing a bit ... a lot."

It seems a wonder Hayes bothers with university at all, having already acquired a full-time job and a healthy throng of teary, obsessive fans. But she tells me she believes that, as a woman, it's important to attain a university education.

"We have the opportunity, and I want to prove to myself that I can do it all. I can do what I love, complete a full degree, and prepare myself for anything," she says.

Would she consider journalism as a fallback career if music doesn't work out? "Oh, fuck no. No way. I don't want anything to do with that."

It seems that Hayes was always destined for a career in music.

She is a classically trained singer, pianist, guitarist, and, to this day, holds a special place in her heart for the trombone. She also writes music, and recalls the excellent marks she received for composition in the HSC.

Despite this, she hadn't always pegged herself as a musician. "I was going to be an orthodontist." Wait, what? "Yeah! I had such

scene. I need more! That's what needs work. The Australian market just doesn't have the funds, the resources to really promote DJs. The populations over there, and the huge amounts of money that get pumped into clubs, music, everything. I need to go to America."

In reality, however, Hayes is likely to encounter a variety of obstacles

DJ Gun\$ Garcia, arguably the most successful female DJ in America has been frank on the issue: "When patrons come and tell me how "good I am for a girl" it boggles my mind. Should I respond by saying, "Wow, you're really smart, for a guy?!" I'm a damn good DJ, reproductive system aside." When asked if she saw obvious inequity in the industry Garcia was adamant: "Everything works differently for men and women, especially when it comes to business. I've had to market myself much differently from how I would have if I was a male DJ."

It is unclear to me if Hayes is blissfully ignorant of the obstacles she will face, or simply stoically determined to disregard them. Either way, she is certainly aware of the importance of marketing and cultivating an image for herself. Her social media profiles are meticulously maintained, filled with frivolous selfies, PR material and conspicuously free of any discernible political or social agendas. I am asked to not take a picture at our interview - "I don't look good! I always have to look good in photos!" - and she staunchly refuses to reveal who she has collaborated with in her upcoming release.

Are they Australian? "I can't tell you that." Male or female? "I can't tell you that." Have you collaborated with them before? "I can't tell you that." Animal, vegetable, or mineral? "Animal. Definitely animal." This seems to be about as much detail as I'm going to get out of her.

So how does Hayes think she has achieved such success so rapidly? "I've worked hard but it comes down to luck as well. It's sacrifices, hard work, talent and luck. People underestimate how much work goes into it. It's not just the two-hour set - there's so much work happening behind the scenes. It's much more than a full-time job."

So what is she working on currently? "Well, the EP has been put on the backburner a bit, I've just done two remixes to be released soon, and I'm working on a brand new recording tomorrow!"

Who is she working with?

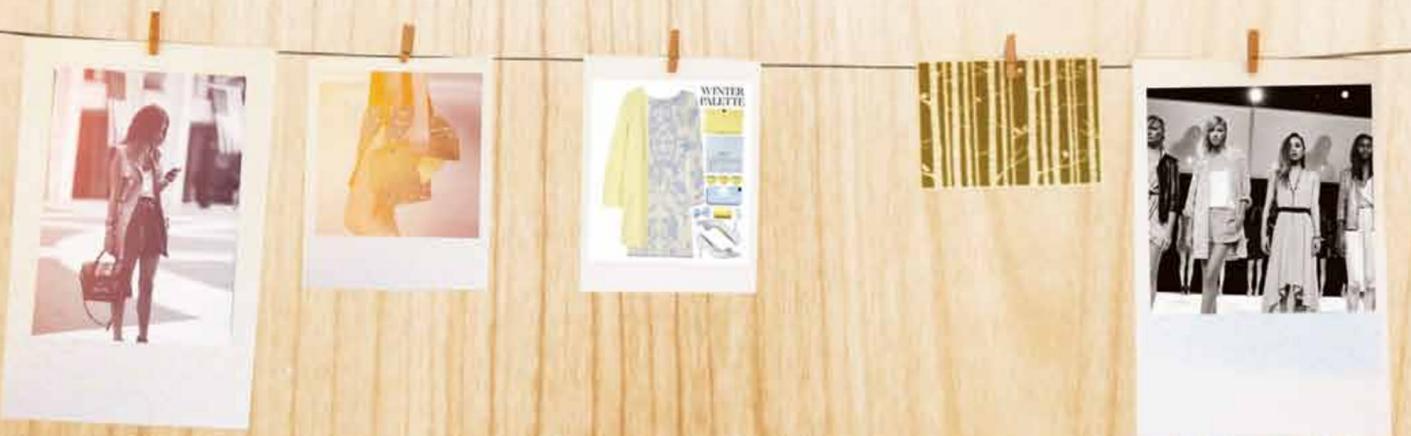
"I can't tell you that! But definitely not a vegetable or a mineral."



*"The Australian market just doesn't have the funds, the resources to really promote DJs."*

a good experience with my orthodontist and I just wanted to give that to other kids. I started out doing Science in first year. But then I realised I hated it."

When I ask about her plans for the future, Hayes becomes reflective, almost wistful, detailing her plans for worldwide musical domination. "I just want to finish uni and make some inroads into the international



# Review: Welcome to Jury Service

*Lane Saintry takes a look at a NSW government gem.*

It's an artistic work of great drama and suspense, filled with courtroom scenes and agonising pauses. The characters are easily relatable, but they don't make you uncomfortable, and the legal challenges tossed up by the program are interesting to all. Since it was created in 2012, the viewership has been steady, with thousands of Australians tuning in each year.

I'm not talking about *Crownies*, *Rake*, or any other critically appraised Australian legal drama. Rather, I'm referring to *Welcome to Jury Service*, a twenty-minute-long informational video played to NSW citizens who have been summoned for jury duty, as they sit in district courts across the state and wait for their number to be called.

*Welcome to Jury Service* is, like many modern shows, difficult to assign a genre. Although the initial purpose of the film was to inform citizens about jury duty in order to cut mistrial costs, the questionable insertion of a dramatic narrative transforms *Welcome to Jury Service* into one of the slowest-burning and most delightfully awkward legal dramas in Australian history.

Whilst most shows might open with a scene from the police station, or even the crime itself, *Welcome to Jury Service* opts for a standard, and, frankly, tedious, shot of jurors entering the court. Our Friendly Host (who carries us through *Welcome to Jury Service* when, as frequently occurs, the narrative isn't sufficiently strong to hold itself up) explains the concept of jury duty to the camera.

It's an interesting choice of opening scene, and one that encapsulates the major flaw of *Welcome to Jury Service*: a constant indecision between information and narrative. The resulting film is coherent yet fundamentally confused; a tourist who knows where they want to be but can't figure out how to get there.

The jurors enter a room, where a

brisk looking woman with a plait asks if anybody would like to be excused from jury service. A man stands up, and explains why — he is busy at work as the head of his company's IT department — but is abruptly shut down by the woman who asked for his input in the first place, revealing the entire scene as a clumsy attempt to introduce us to the classic character of Reluctant IT Guy. Another prospective juror, who goes on to become the star of *Welcome to Jury Service* in the role of Relatable Jury Foreperson, queries what remuneration jurors can hope to receive.

It's a slow start, but the action ramps up as the jurors enter the courtroom. We're introduced to yet another character: John Bates, who is accused of armed robbery. But instead of detailing the juicy crime, the highly original *Welcome to Jury Service* opts to take us through the many, many circumstances of when a juror should speak up about not being able to serve. It is, again, an interesting creative choice, but one that displays the bravery and creativity of the filmmakers, unwilling to bend to the usual sensationalist scenarios of the legal drama genre.

It's during this excruciatingly slow-moving courtroom scene that we're introduced to an unusual cinematographic element: individual, direct-to-camera monologues from various characters, done in the style of *The Office* or even, at times, the *Big Brother* diary room. However, the attempted pastiche fails to capture the humour or insight often associated with the technique. Instead, in *Welcome to Jury Service* the interviews are plagued by slow legalese and jarring jump cuts that zoom in and out on the judge's face.

The best performance of *Welcome to Jury Service* is undoubtedly that of Relatable Jury Foreperson, who strikes a perfect balance between willing and resigned. Less impressive is the performance from District Court Judge Penny

*“Less impressive is the performance from District Court Judge Penny Hock, whose awkward acting can probably be excused by the fact that she is not, in fact, an actual actor.”*

Hock, whose awkward acting can probably be excused by the fact that she is not, in fact, an actual actor.

One of Hock's most memorable lines is delivered to Relatable Jury Foreperson after she brings up a potential conflict, which is quickly dismissed. Hock then says, “But thank you for bringing that to my attention. It is precisely the sort of matter that should be clarified before the trial begins.” Although spoken clearly — a low bar to begin with — the line is a little too laboured to be a realistic part of the courtroom scene, and *Welcome to Jury Service* makes the same old mistake of combining too little drama with too much direction.

The film adopts a distinctly hostile vibe during the scene in which various members of the jury are challenged, a moment uncomfortably reminiscent of the Tribal Council meetings in *Survivor*. The robotic judge's assistant reads out juror numbers one by one, as the respective lawyers for the Crown and the accused respond with “challenge”. Inexplicably, each lawyer has a look of faint disgust on their face as they veto the jurors, an aspect of the scene that directly contradicts the earlier assurances of Friendly Host that “there's certainly no reason to feel embarrassed or offended” should you be challenged as a juror.

*Welcome to Jury Service* reaches a dramatic crescendo as Relatable Jury Foreperson rises to give the verdict. In a bold deviation from the usual form, the screen fades to black on a shot of the

nervous-looking accused before the words “guilty” or “not guilty” are uttered. He, along with the riveted audience, is left hanging, with no sequel in sight.

Is John Bates acquitted of his crime, or convicted of bank robbery? It's a great flaw of *Welcome to Jury Service* that we never find out. That is not to say that all films should end conclusively— for instance, in *Inception*, the ambiguous ending is used to great dramatic effect. However, the plot in *Welcome to Jury Service* sorely lacks the complexity of the *Inception* narrative, and as a result, the use of the cliff-hanger is simply disappointing.

The fade to black reopens into an interview with Reluctant IT Guy and Relatable Jury Foreperson. In a highly unbelievable plot twist, Reluctant IT Guy actually had the time of his life doing jury duty. “It's been quite an experience,” he says. “I feel that I'm not just an observer of the community, I am part of it. I have played my part.”

*Welcome to Jury Service* is a reasonably enjoyable, yet heavily flawed, addition to the Australian legal drama television scene. The unlikely pairing of drama and bureaucracy results in a surprisingly coherent, if only marginally compelling, narrative that is as informative as it is awkward. Sure to be screening in a district court near you, mere inclusion on the electoral roll will mean you'll be forced to view this cultural gem at some point in your life — a civic duty to look forward to.

# The comic sans of software

*Adam Chalmers really hates Blackboard.*

If you offered me a choice between having a twelve inch catheter shoved up my urethra or using Blackboard for ten minutes, I'd choose the catheter, no questions asked.

For those lucky few who don't know what Blackboard is, it's a course “management” “software” designed to “help” schools and universities share course materials with their students. It's used by an estimated 3.7 million users from 37,000 clients worldwide. While perhaps not as successful a product as the catheter, Blackboard ultimately displays more inventiveness in the pursuit of human suffering.

Blackboard's main problem is that it presents four different ways to do any given task, only one of which works. For example, I recently had to create a discussion board for a unit of study I tutor. How would

we do this? You could go Control Panel > Unit of Study Tools > Discussion Board, but that will only show you a list of discussions. You can't make one from there. Instead, you can try Control Panel > Unit of Study Tools > Users and Groups > Groups > Create a group with all students > All Students Group > Group Discussion Board > Add Group Module > Group Tools > Group Discussion Board > Realise the “Group Discussion Board” button doesn't do anything > Click it again > Fail to observe any change > Try not to cry > Cry.

Googling “blackboard create discussion forum tutorial” didn't help much. Blackboard's official documentation told me to click a “create forum” button that wasn't there, and probably wouldn't have worked if it had been. All the YouTube video guides were from outdated versions of Blackboard

released years ago. In the end, I had to call USyd's internal support team and get a step-by-step walkthrough of the exact process. I'm in my fifth year of Bachelor of IT. How on earth are teachers without technical training supposed to figure this out?

Don't get me wrong, I'm incredibly impressed that Blackboard Inc has hired the ghost of Franz Kafka as a design consultant. If there was an award for “Software Most Akin to Walking Blindfolded Through a Hall of Mirrors While Unsettling Voices Chant the Names of Those Forgotten”, Blackboard would win it every year. And don't forget about an array of software bugs. Like how when you mouse over a table, it says “this table is a collection of values of attributes.” Very helpful. Or when you add all students to a group, it says “All items added to a cart,” confirming

my theory that Blackboard is owned by faceless aliens who don't value human life. It's slow, it uses frames (the Comic Sans of web development), and it breaks on mobile devices.

In 2014, there is no need for software as bloated and overengineered as Blackboard. If you want to share files with students, make a Dropbox and give them a share link. For more functionality, use software like Canvas. I've used it in some units of study, and both teachers and students loved it.

These days, Blackboard Inc. is more concerned about buying their competitors and adding new features rather than actually improving their own core product. I'd rather teach with a Dropbox, a slide deck and a catheter than touch Blackboard again.

# Synecdoche, Sydney

*The new Central Park complex is a departure from reality, writes Patricia Arcilla.* ILLUSTRATION BY AIMY NGUYEN

In *Synecdoche, New York*, Caden Cotard, a playwright, builds a 1:1 model of New York inside a warehouse, populates it, and tries to simultaneously portray and preempt reality. From the water-coated glass ceiling's perennial suggestion of rainy weather to the interior foliage undulating in a non-existent breeze, Central Park is Sydney's answer to this: a microcosmic and fictionalised vision of Sydney within four walls and a roof.

Externally, the building is innocuous: right angles, solar panels, and creeping greenery all having become baseline expectations of contemporary building developments. Like a geode or Kinder Surprise egg, it is in the interior — demarcated into levels like those of a video game — where things get interesting.

Levels ground and one are unremarkable, excepting the former's bemusing literal interpretation of the word “pedestrian” in clustering shoe stores by the street level entrance. The food courts on lower ground and level two respectively are bizarre in their diametric opposition; the former Dining District suggesting a Sydney in which children are regularly sent to fight to the death in a state-sanctioned arena event.

The latter Central Kitchen is also oddly named; a domestic pastiche of the dining rooms of Sydney's nonchalantly trendy, an exercise in copying and pasting wire legged barstools, timber tabletops, and coloured pendant lamps ad nauseam.

Level three — rather, 13. Central — is where the building most valiantly attempts and fails to accord some degree of authenticity to its self-conscious alternative reality.

On chalkboards, visitors follow mundane directives like “My favourite word” or “My life in four frames” (alongside the curiously existential “Who am I fighting?”). The result, predictably, is some bastardisation of a Basquiatic, where trite Facebook status fodder like “Live

your dreams and don't dream your life” floats in a sea of phalluses and block print expletives.

There is nothing to suggest the Sydney that the building's designers have attempted to capture: like the exterior, the level

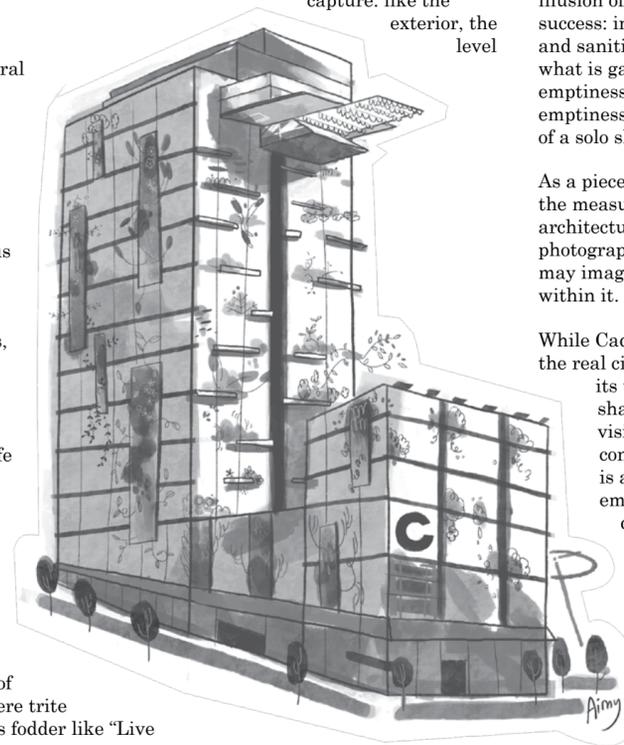
could be replicated elsewhere and blend right in, for all its lack of distinctive character.

This amorphousness is reflected in the building's many mirrors, ostensibly installed to give the illusion of scale but to questionable success: in a space as streamlined and sanitised as Central Park, what is gained by reflecting emptiness, beyond more emptiness and the reflection of a solo shopper?

As a piece of design this is telling: the measure of contemporary architecture is how well it photographs, or how good one may imagine themselves to look within it.

While Caden's New York idealised the real city in existence beyond its walls, Central Park is a sharp-edged utopic dream vision of Sydney, which like contemporary architecture is a sleek, green, and eminently photographable departure from reality.

From whose dream does this emerge? Who dreams in fragmented, half-loaded video game levels, in reflections and fake plants and infinite emptiness? Whose dream is this, and how do we wake?



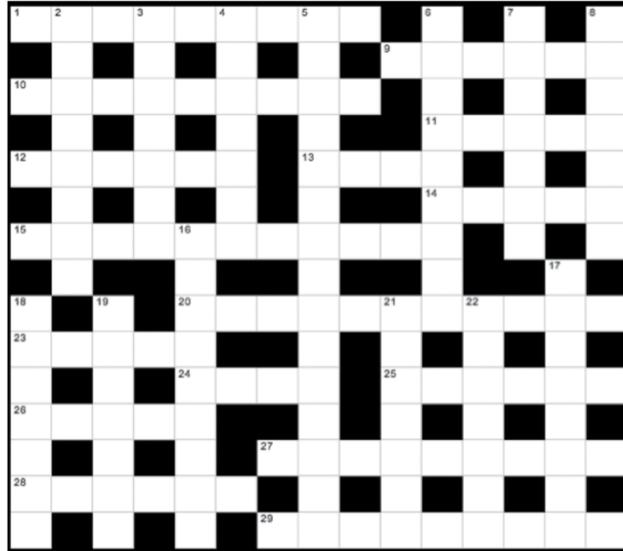
## speedy (5)

### ACROSS

- 1 Performer's illuminator (9)
- 9 Interjection used to express delight (6)
- 10 Serial like The Young and the Restless (5,4)
- 11 Honey badger (5)
- 12 Felt hat (6)
- 13 Manufactured article (4)
- 14 Seize by force (5)
- 15 A hearty eater (11)
- 20 Agile (5-6)
- 23 Shuffled (5)
- 24 Cracked skin patch (4)
- 25 Truly (6)
- 26 Stand for drying clothes (5)
- 27 References (9)
- 28 Hungarian cavalry member (6)
- 29 "...is bliss" (9)

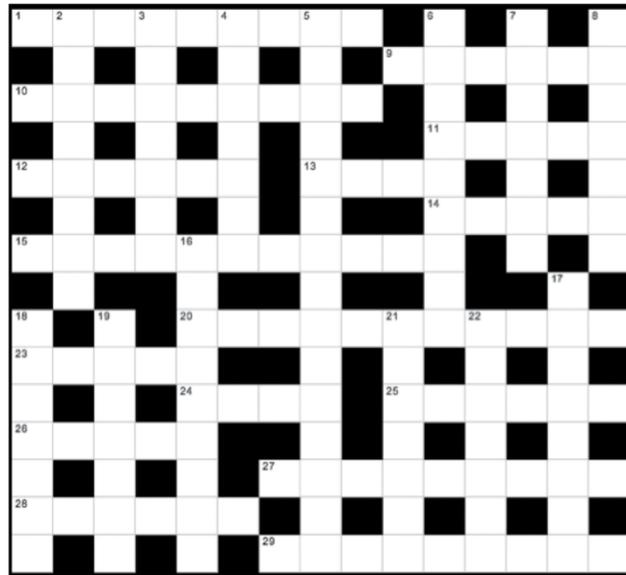
### DOWN

- 2 Trailblazers (8)
- 3 Tropical storm (7)
- 4 Accuse official of unlawful activity (7)
- 5 Idolatry (4-11)
- 6 To that (9)
- 7 Producing vinegar (7)
- 8 States of confusion caused by ineptitude (4-3)
- 16 Emulsion designed to smooth skin (4,5)
- 17 Greek (8)
- 18 Capacity to recognize emotions experienced by another (7)
- 19 1985 Van Allsburg book, 'The Polar...' (7)
- 21 Confused mixture (7)
- 22 Zelda instalment '...Of Time' (7)



## sob optic sans "O, Perplexing" (7)

Note: Seven clues share a common theme and are thus undefined – all other clues are normal.



### ACROSS

- 1 Magnetic blast made Matt Peck a wreck (1.1.1,6)
- 9 Oar kit arrangement is Tchaikovsky's eleventh season (6)
- 10 Render obsolete quaint tea blend (9)
- 11 Non-malicious bicycle commercial features woody seed plant (5)
- 12 Wither around! (6)
- 13 Pipe missing, ah? (4)
- 14 Type of panel found in parasol arrangements (5)
- 15 Situated mix damaged arena gate (7,4)
- 20 Can bestow grant to bless mob (11)
- 23 See 8-dn
- 24 Learner left confused loner with alleged pyro-fiddler? (4)
- 25 Edvard ate me subjectively (6)
- 26 Abounds in freestyle meets (5)
- 27 Get used to air conditioning weather (9)
- 28 See 2-dn
- 29 Droning model in Inverness lost a fiver (9)

### DOWN

- 2, 28-ac Review for few? (8,6)
- 3 Kingsley, somewhat (7)
- 4 Canadian leader found to intrude Auckland (7)
- 5 12-ac a chief contumacy (5,2,2,3,3)
- 6 Joker Astley replaced the missing ace taster (9)
- 7 Abraham Day-Lewis (7)
- 8, 23-ac, 18-dn Canberra team from the missing ship? (7,2,3,4,3)
- 16 Half-incentives for rosy shift of thurible (9)
- 17 Mollifies and moulds pale cast (8)
- 18 See 8-dn
- 19 Try @entice (7)
- 21 Right walker an aimless talker (7)
- 22 Covered gnome an epithet (7)

## What word originated in 1791 when a Dublin theatre proprietor called Richard Daly made a bet he could make a nonsense word known throughout the city and encouraged people to write the word on walls around the area?

- 1. Hiro Protagonist is the protagonist of which novel?
- 2. What does RADAR stand for?
- 3. Who won the 2013 Women's Wimbledon Singles Championship?
- 4. Who are the four judges on The Voice UK?
- 5. What is the northernmost territory of Canada?
- 6. What was the name of the former Ukrainian

- President recently released from prison?
- 7. Rounded to the nearest hundred, how long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 8. Which recently released Studio Ghibli film has been labeled as Hayao Miyazaki's last film?
- 9. The Battle of Waterloo was fought in which year?
- 10. Which driver was disqualified from this week's Formula 1 race in Melbourne?

- 11. Who wrote Foucault's Pendulum?
- 12. Of which country is Ouagadougou the capital?
- 13. Where in the world is Carmen Sandiego Malaysia Airlines Flight 370?
- 14. What Israeli TV series is US drama Homeland based on?

ANSWERS: Title: Quiz 1. Snow Crash by Neal Stephenson 2. Radio Detection And Ranging 3. Martin Barlow 4. William Sit Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, Ricki-Lee Jones 5. The Wind Rises 6. Serhiy Bohdan 7. 116 years 8. The Wind Rises 9. 1815 10. Daniel Ricciardo 11. Umberto Eco 12. Burkina Faso 13. [Answer Redacted] 14. Prisoners of War (Haitian)

## What is Plagiarism?

Your marker needs to know where you got the words and ideas from in your work. Unless you clearly tell them (by using quotes and references) that it is someone else's words or ideas they will assume it's all yours. If the marker finds words from a source that you have not told them about then they will think you are cheating.

### The University acknowledges two types of plagiarism.

**Negligent Plagiarism** not giving correct acknowledgement to copied work, due to accidentally forgetting to follow the correct referencing practices. This can arise from a student's fear of paraphrasing or writing in their own words, and/or ignorance of this Policy and Procedure.

**Dishonest Plagiarism** means knowingly presenting another person's Work as one's own Work without Acknowledgement of the Source. It is also considered plagiarism if you copy a previous assignment of your own. Alleged Plagiarism will be deemed to be alleged Dishonest Plagiarism where:

- a. substantial proportions of the Work have been copied from the Work of another person, in a manner that clearly exceeds the boundaries of Legitimate Cooperation;
- b. the Work contains a substantial body of copied material (including from the Internet) without Acknowledgement of the Source, and in a manner that cannot be explained as Negligent Plagiarism;
- c. in the case of a student preparing Work for Assessment, there is evidence that the student engaged another person to produce or conduct research for the Work, including for payment or other consideration; or
- d. the student has previously received a Written Warning.

Penalties can range from having to resubmit the piece of work to a fail in the assessment for negligent plagiarism. For dishonest plagiarism you may be referred to the Registrar for a formal investigation. In extreme or repeat cases this can lead to suspension from University.



Most faculties will show you how to reference properly. Using the excuse of being rushed, or having too many things to do, or just forgetting because of the way you write your essays are simply not good enough. Make the effort to keep your quotes linked to their sources while you are drafting your essay.

### What to do if you receive a plagiarism allegation?

1. Understand why the allegation has been made.
2. Learn from your mistakes. Seek help from someone in the faculty who can help you identify ways your referencing and paraphrasing can improve. You can also talk to the Learning Centre ([www.usyd.edu.au/lc](http://www.usyd.edu.au/lc)).
3. Bring an SRC caseworker to your meeting with the faculty. Be as honest as you can.
4. Decide if you want to appeal the finding and/or the penalty. You have 15 working days to appeal. Bear in mind that you could end up with a more severe penalty.
5. Come to SRC HELP with a draft appeal letter if you wish to appeal, and we can give you advice.
6. If you have been referred to the Registrar for an investigation – either because it was considered so serious or because it was the second time – come to SRC HELP for advice and representation.

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



## Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

Every semester I do really well in the first few weeks, then as the assignments start to come in, I get really stressed out to the point where I stop eating and have insomnia. I don't have any friends to talk to about this, and my mum just thinks I'm being a sook. I really want to do well this semester so I can graduate and get a job. What advice would you have for me?

Determined.

Dear Determined,

I'm sorry to hear that you have been so stressed for so long. It actually sounds like you suffer from anxiety. That's not being a sook. That's having a legitimate medical condition. I would urge you to see a doctor to talk about it. Sometimes doctors aren't very good at helping people with illnesses like that, so if you need help finding a good doctor that bulk bills ask an SRC caseworker. You can also register with the disabilities unit. You might be able to get later deadlines for assignments and extra time in exams. Try to be realistic about what you can achieve in a semester. It is far better to enroll in 2 subjects and pass them, than to enroll in 4 subjects and fail 2 of them. I understand that there are restrictions on the number of subjects you need to do to receive a Centrelink payment or satisfy visa conditions, but you may be able to gain an exemption. If you are not sure where to start make an appointment with an SRC caseworker.

Abe

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

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# President's Report

*Jen Light*

Come and support the National Day of Action against education cuts.

Wednesday March 26 is the National Day of Action against Abbott and Pyne's cuts to higher education. Minister for Education Christopher Pyne has introduced a bill in Parliament to cut \$900 million from higher education and another bill to cut student start-up scholarships. With the senate changing in July these bills are at great risk of getting passed,

consequently having devastating results of the quality of higher education in Australia and the inclusiveness of University.

The NDA is being co-ordinated by the National Union of Students (the National representative body for students) in conjunction with Universities all over Australia. There will be marches in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra and Hobart.

*The reports on these pages are wholly the work of the SRC Office Bearers. They are not altered, edited or changed in any way by the Honi editors.*

The NTEU (National Tertiary Education Union) the major Union that represents your lecturers and tutors has come out with this statement of support: "The National Union of Students has called a NDA on 26 March to protest the Abbott Government's repressive agenda for higher education. NTEU supports students taking action to protest cuts to education and to student financial support. NTEU members stand alongside students advocating quality higher

education for all. NTEU calls upon academic staff not to penalise students absent from classes while taking part in the National Day of Action."

This March will be commencing from 12pm at Fisher Library, and then marching up to UTS to join the major march at 1pm. This is an amazing opportunity to demonstrate the unrest on behalf of students for any cuts to education.

# Wom\*n's Officers' Report

*Georgia Cranko, Julia Readett and Phoebe Moloney*

Hi everyone. The Wom\*n's Collective has been working on a mix of things this week, actively organizing events and a little self-education about privilege. Since this is a topic that is relevant to the majority of people lucky enough to attend university we thought we'd share our modicum of learning with all Honi readers.

(If you would like to learn more about this then we are also very excited to let you know that will be starting a reading group in the next few weeks. Keep you posted!)

So what is privilege? In the broad definition, social privileges are abilities you're afforded, solely based on external factors.

Such as where you were born, how you look, where you live, what kind of education you have received, what you believe in, who you are attracted to, or what body you find yourself in, etc.

These societal privileges are important and necessary to acknowledge and comprehend because where there is privilege, there is always disadvantage and oppression. In fact, when we neglect to question our own experiences and just accept the way society functions, we become complacent in all forms of oppression, even our own. You can moderate the degree of oppression in discrete situations by being aware of your own privilege and

actively trying to counter it.

Well how do you do that? Well, firstly you have to recognize that societal discourses and narratives, institutions and bureaucracies often reinforce privilege (and oppression) as their power is implicitly based on a dichotomy of haves and have-nots. The problem is everywhere, but change can start anywhere (ie. You.) So here are some tips on how to negotiate your privilege in a space where oppression occurs:

- Listen.
- Understand that your image of success is not the same as other peoples'.
- Understand that while we

work together as students, there's no universal experience of identity that unites us all.

- Be respectful and engage thoughtfully and compassionately.
- If you aren't sure about cultural experience or gender identity, ask generally not personally. Don't forget about the internet!
- Educate yourself about the oppression of others for your own sake.
- Never expect or accept gratitude from minorities or oppressed groups for self-educating.

# General Secretary's Report (Shiraz with Maz)

*Mariana Podesta-Diverio* updates you on Meloncholia, the latest film from Lars von Trier, in which a giant watermelon destroys the Earth.

In a world plagued by evil neoliberal villains, ravenous leeches clawing at the succulent, pulsing brachial artery of undergraduate life, and sardines-in-a-can tutorial sizes, what do you say to the possibility of fighting against the malevolent figure looming over your right to a free education? "*Totes cabotes, cumquats and oats!*" That's right!

Now that I have your attention:

If you're holding this newspaper on Tuesday afternoon, keen bean you are, it having just been placed in the stands by the SRC's superhero publications distributor, then you have ample time to plan your outfit and footwear for tomorrow's National Day of Action

for education rights.

If it's Wednesday morning, then you have a couple of hours to grab a coffee, do a quick reading, ingest a generous amount of water (or bourbon – who am I to judge?), and grab three friends to march with you to protest education cuts. If it's noon, and you're reading this as you wait outside Fisher library for the rally to start, good. The time to stand up for your right to an accessible, quality education is now.

In the first week or two of semester you were bombarded by the different services and groups on campus, including those of the SRC. I'm going to sound like a broken record, but it's for a good

reason: there's a page (the reverse of this one) dedicated to advice on things such as harassment, Centrelink, housing – you name it. As well as this, the SRC provides a free casework service to all undergraduate students. If you're ever in need of some assistance with issues such as those raised above, or things like academic appeals, the SRC should be first on your organisational dot point list. The SRC also has two experienced lawyers, who are available for free consultation.

If, however, you're not in need of assistance just yet, then sit back, relax, and enjoy what may be the best years of your life. It's likely you'll never again have the privilege of spending hours

on end basking in the sun on the front lawns of the university, with little to no fucks to give about anything in the world other than the amount of 'likes' your latest instagram photo got (#ibislol #what). Other stereotypical and cringe-worthy student endeavours include: spreading the word about ("just discovered!!!!") speedy campus shortcuts, boasting about your computer acquisition skills in Carslaw Hub peak hours, and orchestrating the inconvenient and, frankly, ridiculous conversion of fruits into various types of protective headwear.

*Carpe peponem.*

Seize the watermelon.

# Education Officers' Report

*Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley.*

A slogan from the student protests in Paris in May '68 reads "*la beauté est dans la rue*" or '*the beauty is in the streets*'. I'm sure anyone who went to the March in March last weekend can attest. Over 10,000 in Sydney, and 100,000 people across the country around rallied and shut down city streets to protest the government in an inspiring display of opposition. Because contrary to what they teach you in Government, voting once every three years for one right-wing tosser or another isn't democratic. It's self-evident these days when the results of elections mean we live in a world where Tony Abbott is Prime Minister and Gina Rinehart's poetry is displayed

publicly. Come on. Nobody wants that. The March in March showed us what real democracy looks like. It gave a voice to plebs like you and me, who find ourselves excluded from the pages of the Australian and the Daily Telegraph, excluded from the backrooms and boardrooms, and from the rotten halls of Parliament. A refreshing reminder that Tory-haters are not alone and that we can fight back (and not by voting Labor).

Last week the EAG hosted Rowan Cahill and Terry Irving in a forum on 'The radical history of Sydney University.' Over 100 students, staff members and community members attended the forum to hear

brilliant stories of student activism and rebellion.

On the national day of action on this Wednesday, it's time for students and education staff to March in March. We're faced with a fraught and underfunded education system, with a further \$900 million in cuts on the table. We're faced with a stone-age Education Minister who wants to further entrench the celebration of Western values (racism, colonialism, mass murder) in the curriculum, and erase women and Indigenous people from history. We're faced with attacks on student welfare, which could see HECS increase by up to 40%

for working class and low SES students. We're faced with the Group of Eight universities (which include Sydney Uni) suggesting they forgo government funding for certain degrees like Law, Accounting and Commerce, i.e removing their HECS status and replacing them with full-fee paying places. And we're faced with the pièce de résistance of reasons to come to the rally: Tony Abbott. Enough said.

Defend your education – PROTEST: Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 12pm @ Fisher Library.

See you there!

# International Student Officers' Report

*Emma Liu, Xinchun Liu, Sherry Vanbo and James Wang*

We are honoured to be your International Students Officers this year and continue to advocate for equal rights for International Students. International students make up over 20% of the student population at USYD and we think it is important that we are represented appropriately.

In the beginning of this year, the International Students department launched our first International Students handbook. There is heaps of useful information for newly arrived students as well as tips from 'old' International students. Come to our meeting and grab a copy if you missed it at O-Week.

We have also started to send out weekly bulletin and organising fortnightly collective meetings this year in order to inform students of their rights and empower

more international students to raise their voices. We had a great turn-up rate for our first collective meeting in Week 2, and we were thrilled to meet so many enthusiastic international students. Thank you to all of you who came to the meeting. We hope to meet more international activists in our coming meetings!

Our major campaign this year is on the all time controversy: travel concession. Victoria's newly announced travel concession for international students are restricted to annual passes, which is a mimic of NSW's quarterly or yearly MyMulti concession. These 'concession tickets' cost at least \$410 which means that international students cannot save money unless they spend more. Besides, 'education is

Australia's biggest non-mining export industry', says Australia's Education Minister Christopher Pyne – we are treated as a source of tourism. international students should be aware of the election and campaign slogans saying helping us getting cheaper travel cards, which are usually just attracting your eyes and taking advantage of your voting right. Actually, when you talk to the monopoly as a consumer instead of being more as students, it would be harder to share its profits. It's a tough task, though we are trying to put our effort into it and we will keep you updated on the progress.

We would like to thank all students, staff and other International Students activists who have helped and guided us when we first took office. A special thank you goes to the Honi editors,

who have worked very hard for an International Students column in this paper which we believe will address the underrepresentation of International Students on campus.

In the spirit of democracy, we would like to again encourage ALL international students to get involved:

Our next collective meetings are on every second Tuesdays, 11am to 12pm at Merewether seminar room 298. We will share pizza, drinks and your ideas about International Students advocacy. For our other events and latest information about international students, please follow us on Facebook or simply sign up via the link on our website. Otherwise you can contact us at international.officers@src.usyd.edu.au.

# Global Solidarity Officers' Report

*Anna Sanders Robinson, April Holcombe, Kenan Toker and Mason Andy*

The murder of 17 year old refugee Reza Berati at the Manus Island detention centre this year sparked angry rallies across the country in response to the Abbott government's inhumane refugee policies. The rally in Sydney attracted hundreds of people and ended with an angry convergence outside the Immigration Department with protestors demanding justice for refugees and the closing down of these detention centres. As Global Solidarity Officers we attended this rally as the fight for refugee rights is incredibly important with figures such as Scott Morrison in government who seem to feel no remorse for the murder of a refugee at the hands of their

government. Join us at the next refugee rights rally on Palm Sunday (April 13) to continue the fight.

We have also been working hard to build for the National Day of Action against the Liberal government's \$2.3 billion in education cuts. Abbott and Pyne are set to privatise HECs debt, axe courses and jobs (with 350 jobs already on the line at La Trobe University in Melbourne) and attack the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) which funds clubs and societies at universities. These cuts will be extremely detrimental to universities across the country and fit into an agenda of neo-liberalism

sweeping the world which treats universities as a business to pump out workers not a place where students can explore ideas and work to change the world. We have been leafleting, banner painting, lecture bashing and generally going crazy about this issue and would love to see you all at the rally this Wednesday March 26, starting at 12 pm at Fisher Library.

Another issue we work around is that of women's rights, a global issue of equality that continues to be fought worldwide. We attended the rally for International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March which focused on fighting for women's reproductive rights

against the potentially detrimental Zoe's Law, which seeks to grant foetus's personhood, and on equal pay for women which is unfortunately still an issue on a global scale.

USyd Students for Justice in Palestine will commence meetings and activities in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we have been taking part in the city-wide Palestine Action Group to prepare for the upcoming al-Nakba rally on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We have confirmed Professor Jake Lynch of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies' to speak at a fundraising dinner in Marrickville on April 12.

### National Day of Action Rally

Look, we know we should be saying that we don't think it's our role to tell you that the Abbott government is about the worst government this country has ever had the misfortune to be led by, but, quite frankly, we just don't think that's the case. The Prime Minister and his cronies are pretty profoundly shit, especially when it comes to education, and we think you should make some noise about it. Head along to the rally on Wednesday to make your disgust heard.

March 26 @ USyd Fisher Library, free.

### 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

### SUDS presents: Six Characters in Search of an Author

SUDS is getting very meta indeed with their latest production, Luigi Pirandello's classic *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Basically, the plot goes like this: the cast of SUDS' last production, *Quack*, are busy rehearsing when a family of six storm the rehearsal room with their own stories to tell, but no director, author, or cast to tell them. To cap it all off, this particular production is complete with references to the USU and SUDS alumni.

Until March 29, @ USyd Studio B, \$7 ACCESS/\$10 concession. sudsusyd.wordpress.com

### The Sustainable Way to Make Chutney and Pickle

Laneway Learning is a new Sydney organisation that aims to provide fun life-skills classes to all those who are sick of the standard range of overpriced and underwhelming evening classes on offer around the city on a

weekly basis. This month, they're running Stargazing 101, a *Games of Thrones* Crash Course/ Refresher, and Blues Harmonica for Beginners, but we were particularly taken by the look of their sustainable pickling and chutney-making classes. Did I hear someone say "hipster"?

March 26 @ Cowbell 808, Surry Hills, \$17.00. lanewaylearning.com

### The Alchemy of Tea

...and continuing on in the vein of pretentious-but-in-the-best-kind-of-way classes, this one at Redfern creative hub Work-Shop will you teach the science behind tea brewing and blends. Amber Hudson, the tea alchemist behind local chain T Totaler, will share the tricks of her particular trade, and will guide you through creating your very own blend to take home at the end of the day.

March 27 @ Work-Shop, Redfern, \$40.00. work-shop.com.au

### Cropfest

Cropfest is a pop-up-kitchen-cum-eco-friendly-food-festival being run by the Youth Good Movement to "celebrate fruit and veggies in all shapes and sizes". The festival is designed to raise awareness of the fact that literal tons of edible food are wasted every day simply because they don't conform to the aesthetic requirements of large Australian supermarket chains. If you like your carrots a bit wonky or your cucumbers a bit curled, head along to check out the range of food stalls, cooking classes, and live performances on offer throughout the day.

March 28 @ St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney CBD, \$25.00. youthfoodmovement.org.au

### Lawn Library

The first-ever Lawn Library premiered at the Sydney Festival earlier this year, and was a rip-roaring success. The pop-up library is now reincarnated amongst the ferns of the award-winning Paddington Reservoir Gardens, with mobile bookshelves housing an every-changing collection of books for *al fresco* readers young and old. And, if the free books and deckchairs aren't enough to entice you over Paddington-way, there will also be live music performances, public readings, and classes over the course of the week.

March 29- April 6 @ Paddington Reservoir Gardens, Paddington, free. cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

### Sydney Vegan Festival

If you're familiar with the subtle differences between silken and regular tofu, or get particularly frothy over all things dairy-free, then this is the event you've spent your life waiting for. For the first time ever, the Factory Theatre is gathering an eclectic assortment of vegan chefs, musicians, bloggers, and advocates together to celebrate all that is great about abstaining from animal-based products. There will be food, stalls, speakers, and workshops galore - get your hemp on and go wild!

March 29 @ The Factory Theatre, Marrickville, \$49.00. factorytheatre.com.au

### Free Tree Giveaway

Look, we admit that odds are you don't actually own your own property or have permission from your landlord to go about re-designing your garden; but, if you do, you should head along to Sydney Park this weekend so the City of Sydney can shout you a free tree or two. The idea is that, by giving you some free greenery, the City will help you to help your neighbourhood become a leafier, and therefore pleasanter, place for everyone to live in. This is also

a great idea if you've got a keen-on-gardening relative's birthday coming up and are feeling a bit strapped for cash/ideas. Your tree will also come with complimentary gardening tips and a sausage.

March 29 @ Sydney Park, St Peters, free. cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

### Earth Hour 2014

We know it's tokenistic and makes virtually no difference to anything, but don't be a dick and forget this is happening, OK?

8.30pm-9.30pm, March 29, free. earthhour.org.au

### All About Women

At this full-day festival, speakers from Australia and around the world tell their stories and debate important ideas for women, both personal and global- from women's liberation and parenting through to fashion and sex. There are panels, film screenings, a clothes swap, and even a pop-up restaurant. Ladies of Sydney Uni- this is one not to be missed.

March 30 @ Sydney Opera House, various prices. sydneyoperahouse.com

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# The Dali Telegraph

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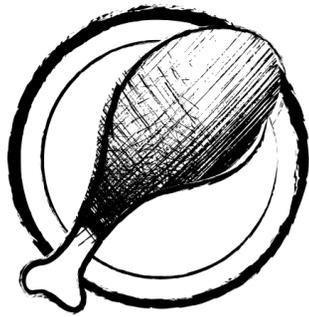
# CONROY JOINS THEM



...night key independents Gakeshott and Andrew Wikkie expressed serious concerns about the proposed changes — with Mr Conroy insisting he would not "barter" with them.

■ FULL STORY PAGES 4-5

# Honey Soy



## Putin Watch

### Vladimir “Fabulous” Putin: A Honey Vogue Exclusive

Luca Moretti spoke to the man behind the House of Putin.

Donning a softly tailored grey jacket, eclectically patterned blue tie and a light layer of mascara, within moments Vladimir projects virile leadership ready to play politics with presidents. Only a few weeks since Putin’s take on military chic was unveiled in the Crimea and shocked the international community, he speaks to *Honey Vogue*.

“I was looking for the clean lines and dramatic sweep of Yves Saint Laurent’s approach meets a gypsy-like delight in travel overlaid with costumes of strict warrior tailoring,” Putin says to me as he looks around his atelier in the Kremlin and takes delicate bites at panini flown in that morning from Florence.

“I tried to maximize the impact with flared trousers in muted khaki that I feel added a touch of seventies glam.” When quizzed on the fact that none of the models who made long, sinuous strides into the Ukraine were seen wearing labels from the House of Putin, Vladimir comes back strongly. “I think too often we get tied up with names in this business, I wanted the collection to be appreciated without my branding, I wanted to let the uniforms breathe, I see now that was impossible.”

Accessories-wise, the collection has kept it simple with AN-94 assault rifles, re-imagined with boho-chic bead detailing. Putin’s approach has been heralded as a return to form for his ailing Russian house, and echoes the vision

of inspired couturier Josef Stalin.

Anna Wintour is a known admirer of Putin’s leadership style and was heard to say at a private showing: “I think Vladimir’s work is really a celebration of craftsmanship; beautiful things produced by wonderful people ... in Siberian armaments factories.”

However, the acclaim has not been universal. Veteran Korean designer Ban Ki-moon has stated that sanctions on trade in sequins, satin and chiffon are still not ruled out. Such a move could cripple Putin’s Spring-Summer collection, which is rumoured to revolve around the theme ‘Arabian harem fantasy’.

Others are asking whether the Crimea is worth the expensive gamble. Putin assures me that he thinks the peninsular is the investment piece of the season. Nonetheless it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Putin is the John Galliano of international relations: mad, bad and with unsavoury attitudes to minorities.

As I turn to leave his presence Vladimir calls out to me. “Did you know,” he says as he looks over his shoulder, “those soft Crimean hills in winter are not white but dove grey...understand that and you understand everything about my vision.”

(For Annie Liebovitz’s re-imagining of the scenes in the Ukraine with Kate Moss, turn to p. 116)



### Putin Tightens Grip On Kebab

Cam Smith likes tabbouleh.



Tensions were at breaking point in the metacarpal region yesterday, as Russian President Vladimir Putin wrestled to get the upper hand in his struggle with a kebab.

Strategically tightening his grip on the tabbouleh region, the President was met with an instant backlash from onlookers, despite his reassurances that the move was only made to sure up the safety of the mayonnaise in the area, and to ensure any further destabilisation would not overflow on to his clothing.

The recent mayhem surrounding the kebab has become an ongoing headache for the Russian leader, with the imminent threat of the kebab’s toppling seen to be an unwanted distraction from the Russia’s recent successes at the Olympic games. The President has already suffered blowback from his poorly managed handling of the Kebab, with the G8 leaders excluding Putin from their next pub crawl.

President Obama has personally expressed concern that this latest move by Putin is in direct violation of previous commitments to cut back on carbs, threatening to employ napkins if Putin is unable to rein in the chaos.

This latest crisis comes as the second blow to the President’s popularity in as many months, with the international community still reeling from Russia’s outlawing of the promotion of hummus late last year.

### ‘Interesting’ Most-Used Word In Undergraduate Tutorials

John Rowley is a Gender Studies, Philosophy, Art History and Film Studies major.

Research conducted by the University of Sydney’s Department of Linguistics has revealed that the word ‘interesting’ is the most-used adjective in undergraduate classes.

The findings, published in a work called *Interesting: Student Communication in Tertiary Contexts*, required Faculty members to analyse recordings of tutorials and sit in on classes.

Lead researcher Professor Jeanette Faith said that the word ‘interesting’ was most-often cited by students who were hyper-aware of the participation element of a unit of study’s assessment scheme.

“These students aren’t necessarily contributing anything new,” she theorised. “They’re just trying to make their voices heard.”

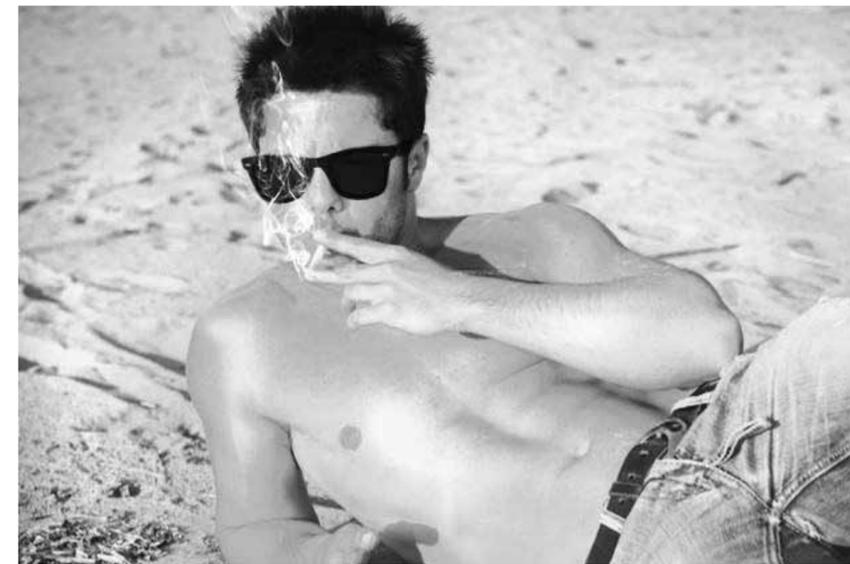
The findings indicate that the term – dubbed “the I-word” by Faith – is uttered every three minutes in the average university tutorial. The most devoted users of the descriptor are

Philosophy and Gender Studies students, while in Engineering tutorials the word is invoked, on average, only seven times per hour. According to Faith, this is because Engineering content “simply isn’t very interesting for most students”.

When asked for comment, Associate Professor of Philosophy Damien Routh called the results “int – I mean, surprising”.

The words ‘important’, ‘ironic’, ‘different’ and ‘Foucauldian’ are also key descriptors, according to the study. Faith expressed disappointment that only one word from the “noise, different, unusual” mantra of *Kath & Kim* ranked highly. “Unusual” was the seventeenth most common adjective, but “noise” was only spoken once during the Department of Linguistics’ research process, when a first-year Cultural Studies student cited the term in a presentation on the relevance of Sharon Strzelecki to contemporary Australian society.

### Scientists Discover Being Cool Number One Leading Cause Of Cancer



## In Other News:

Headmaster Unironically Recites “Oh, The Places You’ll Go” at Rural High School Graduation Ceremony

‘20 Strangers Fuck for the First Time’ Fails To Go Viral

Newtown Kindergarteners Grill Abbott On Fiscal Policy

Stroke Victim Described As “Hilarious” After Onlookers Interpret Disoriented Slurring Of “Much Pain, Such Fogginess” As Doge Meme.

### Report: Not A Single Child Aspires To be Prime Minister Any More, Not Even One

Patrick Morrow says fuk u Canberran scum.

In a landmark study by Monash University published on Monday, it was discovered that not a single Australian child under the age of fourteen hopes to be Prime Minister when they grow up. Not even one.

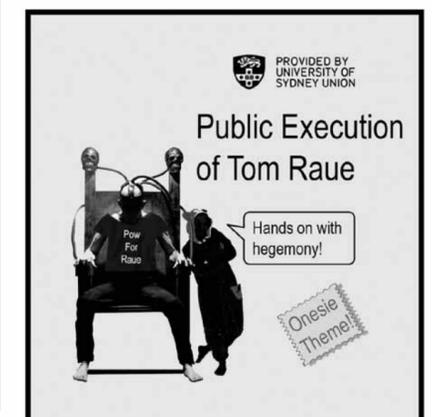
Having scoured literally every single home across the nation, the Melbourne research group was unable to find any children at all who would endearingly say they wanted the country’s so-called “top job” when they grew up.

Six-year-old Alexander Murphy who took part in the study stated that he was “above partisan bickering and short-term policy.”

Even precocious 12-year-olds were found to prefer prospects offered by high finance, or the Bohemian pursuit of art.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott took a break from actively holding the collective intelligence of the country in contempt this morning to dismiss the findings, saying that “it’s probably Labor’s fault”.

Astronaut and butterfly remain the top two preferences.



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