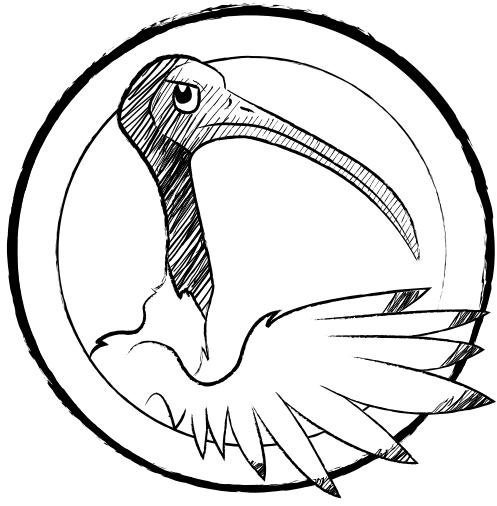


Honi Soit



Week 9, Semester 1, 2014

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE



p.4-5 *Deregulating university*

p.6 *Pot Politics*

p.12 *USU Elections*

Lost in the system

★ FEATURE

The University is far from adept at dealing with students' mental health, finds Natalie Czapski

"It's hard to come to grips with the fact that depression isn't necessarily related to your life conditions. Sometimes it's inexplicable - you don't necessarily have to have experienced something terrible to have depression. When I first started feeling depressed I kept thinking 'Just snap out of it, what do you have to be depressed about, you have everything you could want'."

* * *

Maddison was in the second semester of her first year of

university when she began struggling with poor mental health. "Arriving at university in the morning," she tells me, "I would get panic attacks ... I was crying all the time, sometimes I would start crying in my lectures."

She sought professional help, and, when her panic attacks continued, she asked for medication.

"The anxiety I was experiencing was so debilitating that I really needed to take something just to function normally and to think normally," she recalls.

Ultimately, she deferred that semester, and transferred from her Agricultural Economics degree into the Education Faculty. Now in her fourth year of her new degree, Maddison is a much better place, but still vividly recalls her struggles from several years ago.

She believes that University bureaucracy exacerbated her mental health condition.

"Organising special consideration was stressful in itself for me. I was studying a degree that was across three faculties, so every time I had

an assignment, I had to go to three different places [with] a medical certificate."

She felt deeply uncomfortable with the bureaucratic, dehumanised nature of her interactions with the university.

"You never actually deal with any person face to face, you just hand in a form."

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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

The vote to remove Vice-President Tom Raue may have been the most publicised decision that the USU Board has made in recent memory, but it was not the most important. This is not to trivialise the fight for transparency; it's just to say that the choice of how to spend \$22 million of student money is more significant. And that it should be equally ideologically fraught.

The Commission of Audit – and the horrified response to it – should indicate how uncontroversial this is. It takes a uniquely blinkered Thatcherite to deny that ideology underpinned the Commission's proposals.

(If you're suffering under the delusion that this was non-partisan cost-cutting, observe that the Commission identified the rising costs of asylum seeker detention to be a problem. They noted that it costs \$400,000 per annum to keep an asylum locked up offshore and \$50,000 to put an asylum seeker on a bridging visa for a year. The Commission's solution: reduce services for asylum seekers in offshore detention centres.)

Budgets are political.

Yet, how the USU uses its \$22 million goes unquestioned, absent from the political debates on campus. The USU's usual critics find it easier, understandably, to moralise on the

principles that animate democracy than to grandstand about counting coins.

* * *

In 2011, three of the six Directors we elected to USU Board voted Liberal. Of the 11 Directors elected since, none do.

There have been some noticeable shifts in outlook: the current Board values transparency more than past Directors have, it would be unlikely to approve LifeChoice, it is more sensitive to identity politics. But the budget has faced very few significant changes.

When we elect Directors, we are electing a vision for the Union. The constitution bestows upon them the power to direct the USU in line with that vision. But when it comes to the most significant, vision-based decision – the allocation of the budget– the Board sign their names to a document written by unelected staff. It's as if civil servants were to prepare the Federal budget.

That is what explains the startling similarities in Union budgets even while the Board undergoes a major ideological shift. It is, in part, our fault for a lack of scrutiny and a paucity of debate. But much of the blame can be laid at the feet of Directors who are content, with minor exceptions, to allow the staff of the Union to

steer the organisation.

And so budgets are signed off without seriously questioning the worth of their allocations. Almost half the budget – just over \$10 million – goes towards the wages of staff every year. Does the Union need a marketing team so large? Couldn't the student executives of Clubs and Societies take on many of the duties of the people who fill the Events and Programs team?

Because they haven't been budget hawks about unnecessary items, the USU is left unable to act on the more ambitious projects it could undertake. Subsidised student housing. Improved counselling services. Free ACCESS. Paying C&S leaders.

* * *

By the time you pick up this paper, the Board campaign will have begun. In the blur of slogans and logos and factions and preferences, don't forget that this is an election to decide the people who ultimately will get to control \$22 million of your money.

And don't let anyone tell you that is not a political choice. In a finite budget, choices about spending are always so. Are you willing to reduce C&S funding to spend more on being environmentally sustainable? Would you accept *BULL* solely appearing in

an online format if it meant the USU could employ a lawyer to take on students' cases?

At the core of most of these item-by-item questions is a valued-based one: Should the budget aim for maximum benefit to the maximum number, or should it seek to assist those who need it most and commit to progressive projects?

A Director who wants to change the budget in any meaningful way needs an answer to that. And they need to be able to defend it with intelligence and force and self-assurance, because they will run into a wall of resistance from staff protecting their positions and their interests, and from fellow Directors too conservative or unambitious to consider that the organisation they have wedded their university life to is imperfect in any way.

These are questions that deserve serious and public debate by this year's candidates. How they want to spend that \$22 million is a question about what they consider the very purpose of the Union to be.

Disclaimer: Due to her role as the Immediate Past President of the USU, Astha Rajvanshi has no part in any coverage of the USU. Michael Rees and Georgia Kriz are conflicted off coverage of the USU election as they are campaigning for Liv Ronan.

Callout for Indigenous Honi Contributions

The Editor-in-Chief is looking for writers for Indigenous issues and related subject matter, artists willing to create pieces that reflect on cultural and native concepts and anyone who is competent in Adobe InDesign and willing to be on board.

Please contact Madison at indigenous.honi@outlook.com if you are interested in contributing. The deadline for submissions is Friday 9 May.

The edition will be autonomously managed by Indigenous students, but contributors need not identify as Indigenous, or come from Indigenous backgrounds.

Get your house in order

Dear Honi,

I'm disappointed in you. Through editorial error, you've embarrassed a well-meaning student. I expected better of you and so did Chaneg Torres. It is excruciatingly obvious that he intended his recent letter to be published in Honey Soy, yet you published it as if it contained his actual opinions. Honestly, I'm incredulous that you missed the following markers of satire.

Conservatives laughing at proles suffering, a la the 'And Then I Said' meme, is a staple of anti-conservative satire. By confessing such Schadenfreude in paragraph one, Torres made his intent clear. He proceeded to demonstrate a farcical misunderstanding of politics by suggesting that Australians voted for Tony Abbott, as if ours were a presidential system, something which surely no BPSS student could think. And then, to ensure no one would think him sincere, he called Abbott a "man of principle". How Honi missed that cue is beyond me, much like principles are beyond Abbott. What principles could he have? Family values are a common claim but, as evidenced by consigning his own sister to second-class citizenship, Abbott doesn't even value his own family.

Another thing which strikes me is the sassiness about knighthoods. Calling medieval Europe's most brutal social role part of "our heritage" is almost farcical, suggesting it's a cause for pride is more so. As the famously-unknighted Sandor Clegane said: "You think it's all taking favours from ladies and looking fine in gold plate? Knights are for killing." Good knights weren't philanthropists or educators. The knights who abducted a rebel's newborn daughter and dashed out her brains on a market cross were good knights. They obeyed and killed. Eventually, of course, knighthoods were awarded to non-killers, but they could only be deemed honours because of the glory associated with their violent origins. And those origins are not something to be proud of. No one wishing to be taken

Also, check out our radio show, every Thursday 10-11am on SURG!

seriously would suggest they are.

There are more jokes I want to discuss, but the "stifling regulation" of your word count prevents my "free speech" from continuing. Besides, lacking optimism I mustn't be a "mainstream Australian", so it's not like I even matter. Just try not to take jokes too seriously from now on, okay?

Your sincerely,

William Edwards

Arts I

To make myself perfectly clear

Dear Honi,

I thank Professor Houston for engaging with the article "Uni Failing Indigenous Students". I would first like to address a statement Houston made that I found disturbing, accusatory and cruel – "I thought they would support more of our mob getting to the University". I absolutely DID NOT state that Indigenous peoples engaging with tertiary education is bad. I will always fight for Indigenous rights, especially where they are grossly underrepresented in University.

The support and dedication provided by that the Indigenous Student Support Staff at the University of Sydney is unparalleled. I believe this is the reason for increased student engagement with student support staff, not Wingara Mura. In terms of the recent hiring of additional support officers - This change is not a result of Wingara Mura. Students tirelessly fought and campaigned for it. In a meeting with Deb Reid (Manager, Trust and Engagement ISS Department) at the beginning of semester, I was informed that there was no overarching plan that I would be able to access in the mean time. Professor Houston has repeatedly been telling Indigenous students over the past 2 years that the Koori Centre was not being replaced, and Deb Reid stated otherwise.

I do congratulate the University of Sydney ISS Department and Compass for the success of the Wingara Mura - Bunga Barrabugu programme. It is an initiative that I am glad to see at the University of Sydney in lieu of the historical success of the University of New South Wales Indigenous Winter School. I hope that this programme continues for many years to come.

Let me make perfectly clear my intention for writing the article:

to some, the dissolution of the Koori Centre might be old news but it is something that has severely impacted the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on campus. It was my intention to bring this issue back into public discourse in order to tell the university that we haven't forgotten what they have done to us and we still haven't forgiven them.

I want to make it very clear that this article is not meant to interrogate anyone other than Professor Houston. The article sought to indicate the lack of transparency and communication between the ISS department and Indigenous students. All I ask is that Professor Houston and the ISS department tell students what is going on, what they are planning, and how we can be involved.

Laura Webster

Arts III

Vice President, University of Sydney Students' Representative Council

Atrocities aplenty

Dear Honi,

Chaneg Torres, your condescending portrayal of left-wing groups on campus in last week's Honi was misguided and inaccurate. Thank you for your concern, but we are not 'desperate to look for anything to protest about' – the Abbott government has committed more than enough atrocities to fuel our fire.

Taking your example, George Brandis' push to repeal Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act is just one instance in which the Abbott government has used their power and privilege to silence minorities and ensure the continuance of oppression. It does not grant the left any more 'freedom to spew forth the typical bile that the far left spews', because it is the voice of the far right, not the left, which is used to racially vilify. Promoting vocal racism is not 'fearless', 'principled' or in any way deserving of the pride you convey – it is a shameful example of the regressive and prejudiced way of thinking that the government is encouraging.

If the reinstatement of the archaic system of knighthood and damehood is really in the top five achievements of the Abbott government that you list, surely that warrants an inquiry into their failures. The atrocious and inhumane treatment of asylum seekers in offshore detention, repealing the carbon tax, total failure to take any action on climate change whatsoever (aside from giving large sums of taxpayer's money to award the biggest polluters in the country), making Australians pay more for healthcare and education while investing \$25 billion on fighter jets, and selling off vast expanses of priceless wilderness to be plundered by mining and logging companies (the true environmentalists) are a few examples of the ways in which the Abbott government has done wrong.

In deriding Hitchens as a dick, Tim misses the far greater issue that a pluralist society incorporating a multitude of religions must be prepared to look beyond assertions that 'Activity X is OK because my religion thinks so'. It must rather scrutinise the activity and its consequences. Hitchens' focus is right, even if his medical analysis is possibly wrong.

For these failures, for letting prejudice erode compassion, for placing the interests of the privileged few before

the many, for trading in morality and progress for self-interested political gain, we will continue to exercise our right to protest. We will continue to speak out when we disagree with what the government is doing, because without opposing voices in the conversation, democracy suffers.

So thank you for your concern, but we don't need it. No amount of condescension can change our determination to fight injustice.

Anna Egerton

BA/BSc (II)

Not seeing the forest for the wood

Dear Honi,

I wish to say something of Tim Asimakis' article on Christopher Hitchens which appeared in print last week. As I understand it, the gist of this article was that Hitchens once condemned male circumcision as a medical practice, a criticism contrary to academic findings on the benefits of that practice. According to Tim, the conclusion is that Hitchens criticises male circumcision merely because religious people advocate for it, which is anti-intellectual reactionism rather than a reasoned inquiry.

The nub of the issue, however, is that religious arguments for male circumcision have not traditionally been couched in the positive utilitarian terms mentioned by Tim. Rather, male circumcision has been performed as a matter of religious deontology. It is justified because of ritual or customary importance, for instance, as a condition precedent to 'manhood'. It may also be justified as a potential suppressant of emotions or drives that are considered 'bad'. Such assertions cannot be supported on a purely rational basis. They can only be supported if one is willing to accede to the frame of reference of the religion which undertakes the practice. Hitchens' scientific view of male circumcision may be misguided. However, to the extent that he is critical of the arguments referred to above, he is entirely correct. For they may be applied to a large variety of activities regardless of their medical benefit. One example of this, referred to by Hitchens, is female genital mutilation, a practice so invasive that it could not possibly be defended on grounds of religious freedom or cultural relativism. Part of Hitchens' argument is that defence of certain practices on religious grounds obscures an important discussion of their ethicality (is consent important?) and utility. This is hardly 'anti-intellectual'.

In deriding Hitchens as a dick, Tim misses the far greater issue that a pluralist society incorporating a multitude of religions must be prepared to look beyond assertions that 'Activity X is OK because my religion thinks so'. It must rather scrutinise the activity and its consequences. Hitchens' focus is right, even if his medical analysis is possibly wrong.

Adam Murphy

Letter of the Week:

it's good that guy who wrote the letter to the editor about me didn't include his name or I swear to god I would tag his daddy's porsche with CLASS WAR MOTHERFUCKER

Subeta Vimalarajah

Arts/Law (III)

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Students should pay more, earn less: Commission of Audit

A raft of recommendations indicate students may be in the firing line, reports Justin Pen.

University students should pay more for their degrees, the Commission of Audit recommended last Thursday.

The Commission proposed the average contribution paid by students increase from “41 per cent to 55 per cent”. It additionally suggests the HELP-debt repayment threshold drop from “\$51,309 per year to the minimum wage of \$32,354” per annum.

Education Minister Christopher Pyne indicated that he strongly supported an increase to student contributors on the ABC’s *Insiders* program on Sunday.

It also recommended the minimum wage drop from 56 per cent of average weekly earnings to 44 per cent, meaning the minimum wage would drop to \$25,422.80, or, from \$622.20 a week to \$488.90.

The Commission’s findings follow comments made by Pyne, who indicated last week the government would further deregulate the tertiary education sector in a speech to a London think-tank.

In line with the endorsements of the Kemp-Norton review into the tertiary

education sector’s demand-driven funding system released a fortnight ago, Pyne declared an intention to provide federal funding to private universities, TAFEs and non-university higher education providers.

Though the current demand-driven system has seen a 32 per cent surge in domestic undergraduate enrollments in 2012, a report compiled by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research found that 80 per cent of these students came from medium to high socioeconomic (SES) backgrounds.

To afford the recommendations, the report cited a submission of the Group of Eight, a partnership of elite Australian universities, which recommended the partial abolition of Commonwealth Supported Places and an overall increase to student contributions.

The review also proposed the imposition of a “loan fee” to be paid on top of students’ HELP debt.

Several Vice-Chancellors from the Group of Eight have made public their support for increased deregulation, including Professor Ian Young of the

Australian National University, and Fred Hilmer of the University of New South Wales.

In an op-ed published in *The Australian*, Young proposed the implementation of additional equity scholarships as a bulwark against the inequalities that typically arise from deregulation.

“Such scholarships could address both tuition costs and living expenses, thus addressing one of the real barriers to study suffered by low socioeconomic status students,” he said.

A report compiled by the University of Melbourne’s Centre for the Study of Higher Education in 2008, however, noted that “scholarships, bursaries and fee remissions [were] not the entire solution to increasing access”, citing complementing factors such as the insufficient provision of Youth Allowance.

The Kemp-Norton review additionally highlights the conversion of Student Start-Up Scholarships to income-contingent loans as a potential key area of saving.

The review further recommends the

dropping of the target of 20 per cent low SES enrolment by 2020. In 2012, only 8.64 per cent of students enrolled at Sydney University came from low SES backgrounds, compared to the national average of 15.7 per cent.

“The Commission of Audit is targeting those who need financial assistance the most,” said SRC President Jennifer Light. “If these recommendations are to be implemented University will be a luxury to those who can afford it.”

“A lowering of the minimum wage will mean students must work more to be able to sustain their current standard of living,” said SRC Welfare Officer Brendan Wylie.

Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence noted that the current demand-driven system had “had a modest positive impact overall levels of participation” on students from low SES, Indigenous, and rural and remote backgrounds, in a submission to Kemp in December 2013.

When pressed for comment, the Vice-Chancellor offered to write an opinion piece for Honi Soit about his personal views on the matter, but declined to comment in any other format.

Closed doors for the short term

Not everything in the Kemp-Norton review is fucking stupid, writes Georgia Behrens.

The promise of equal opportunity has always been the driving force of Australian education policy. Deliver the promise of education to as many as possible, the logic goes, and you offer the daughter of a labourer the chance to join the professional class. Since the end of the WWII, that logic has gone unquestioned. It was with equal opportunity in mind that, in 2012, Prime Minister Julia Gillard set the nation’s newly-deregulated universities a challenge: to ensure that, by 2025, 40 per cent of young Australians would have obtained a Bachelor’s degree.

To this end, the Australian tertiary sector has since opened its doors to a generation of students for whom university would once never have been an option. But recent studies have shown that the predominant characteristic of these students is not, unfortunately, that they are Indigenous, come from low-SES backgrounds, or grew up in rural areas, but simply that their ATARs are substantially lower than those of students who would have been admitted under the old, capped system. Since 2012, for example, there has been a 153 per cent increase in the number of students who have enrolled in university with ATARs below 50.

Your ATAR, of course, can say next to nothing about your intelligence or ability to complete a university degree. In my time at Sydney University, I’ve met enough GPS alumnae with higher ATARs than IQs to be able to confidently attest

to that particular fact. But your ATAR can, and often will, provide a pretty solid indication of your willingness and preparedness to write essays, sit exams, and feign enthusiasm in tutorials. It’s for this reason that, if you got into uni with an ATAR of 70 or below, there’s a one in three chance that you won’t make it to the end of your degree. If your ATAR was below 60, that chance is one in two.

In a world of less finite budgets or more progressive governments, we would offer all students who wanted it enough support that they could obtain a university degree. But, unfortunately, our current government is totally unwilling to offer the struggling amongst its citizens anything other than directions to their nearest set of bootstraps.

The Kemp-Norton Review has recommended the abolition of the 40 per cent target to ensure that Australian universities are better able to contend with changing needs and circumstances. Currently, what these universities are contending with is shrinking pools of government support and rising tides of students in need of extra resources. Their circumstances are untenable.

It may be well that under-resourced and over-populated universities need to close their gates for a while. If that is the case, the government should let them.

It’s not all about supply and demand

Eleanor Gordon-Smith on why vice-chancellors don’t deserve all the blame.

The terminology of fee “deregulation” is no accident. In functional terms, it translates to “let them charge more”. That ‘deregulation’ is the term we use belies the reasoning; degrees are commodities traded in markets, and perfect markets should be deregulated.

The market explanation of tertiary education is that degrees, particularly “premium” degrees like Medicine and Law, accrue a private benefit to the graduate. People who get Law degrees get Law salaries later in life – why should the taxpayer finance their ascent into the wage stratosphere? There is some truth to this claim. In general it’s true that more qualified people earn more money. This is the backbone of the Go8’s proposal; the more a student stands to earn because of their degree, the more they should have to pay for it.

What this argument omits is that tertiary education also has a public good. It’s good to be a doctor, but it’s also good to be in a society with people who can provide healthcare. A lawyer might well get a marble floor and a water view, but everyone around her gets access to legal representation.

In all the vitriol aimed at vice-chancellors for bringing the proposal to deregulate fees, we forget that there is at least one other actor responsible for this situation. Government funding for tertiary

education has plummeted in the last 20 years. It’s true that on a per-head basis, the government funds universities at a higher rate than it did at the start of the decade, but in real terms it’s far below what we received in 1994. Tertiary education is cast as a luxury; if the education sector were transport, universities would be the light rail. Nobody’s quite sure why we fund it and the people who use it have iPad subscriptions to *The New Yorker*.

Two decades of scepticism about the public good of tertiary education have eroded the federal funding base that universities might have drawn on before turning to their own students. All the problems in service provision that universities have can be traced back to the original pathogen of financial shortfall. If we had the money, we wouldn’t have to fire staff and we wouldn’t need to wring cash out of domestic undergrads. The vice-chancellors’ reactions may be deserving of criticism, but so is the system that provoked the reaction.

It’s a burden worth pushing, as USyd Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence did once upon a time in reply to then-Shadow Education Minister Christopher Pyne, who has since lost his shadow and solidified into a real Minister for Education. In a skirmish on Q&A about whether educational institutions should be “focussing on the money all the time”, Pyne asked Spence, “Well, have you got \$6.5 billion?” Spence bit back: “No, but you do.”

Explainer: Commission of Audit for Uni Kids

Alex McKinnon kindly explains what the hell is going on. ILLUSTRATION BY MIKAELA BARTELS

Hey kids! The government’s making some exciting new changes to how you pay for your degree. I’m going to take you through what you need to know, and how you can make these changes work best for you.

First up: HELP. At the moment you start paying back your HELP debt when your income is more than \$51,309. The government-appointed Commission of Audit has decided that’s much too high, and recommended that students should have to start paying it back when they earn the minimum wage: about \$622 a week, or \$32,000 a year. Unless the government also adopts the Commission’s recommendations to cut the minimum wage over the next ten years to \$488.90 a week, or \$24,445 a year. So you can start paying back your HECS debt literally twice as fast! Hashtag efficiency for all you crazy Twitter fans out there lol!!!

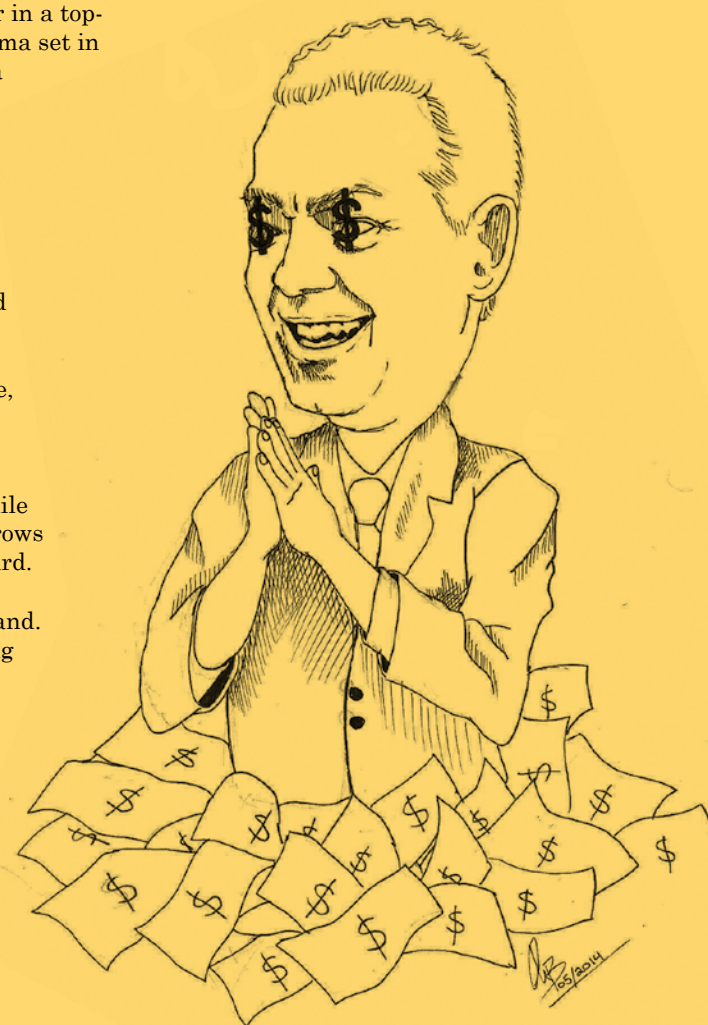
“But wait! That’s not much money! How am I going to pay my HELP and afford to live?” I hear some of you complain like a bunch of absolute babies or something. Let me allay your fears. First off, shut up. Secondly, \$24,445 is heaps of money. Do you know how many Freddo Frogs you could buy with 24 grand? Loads, I

reckon. Tighten your belt a bit, mate. Stop buying so many Freddo Frogs. They’re not even good for you.

Anyway, lots of you don’t have to worry about HELP at all because if you’re doing Law, Economics or Commerce, you won’t be able to get it anymore. Eight of Australia’s biggest universities, including Sydney, are pushing to remove Commonwealth-supported places for those degrees and charge full fees upfront instead. So if you want to do an undergrad Law degree over four years, you’ll have to pay about \$15,000 upfront every year before you start. Boom. No more HECS debt.

“But I don’t have that kind of money!” you whine. “How can I ever get a good job if I can’t afford to get a degree in the first place?” Wow, you just won’t shut up, will you? Let me call the waaahmbulance, seriously. If Dad can’t splash out because the dickheads at ICAC are tapping his phone again, this is the perfect opportunity for you to become a forward-thinking, cutting-edge entrepreneur in the new synergized 21st-century digital economy. Here are some handy ideas for how you can make a little extra bread:

1. Write, direct and star in a top-rating buddy-cop drama set in ‘80s Miami starring a maverick renegade PI who doesn’t play by the rules and his sidekick, a sassy Pomeranian who never knows when to quit. Call it K985, only the ‘K’ is stylised so it’s also a 1.
2. Dress up like a hippie, bus driver or some other form of povvo and dance at Liberal Party fundraisers while Christopher Pyne throws coins at you really hard.
3. Export tulips to Holland. The Dutch are fucking nuts for tulips.
4. Honestly, if you can’t pay for your degree using the above tips you don’t deserve a university degree. Leave the thinking to the people of quality, you pleb.



Liberal henchmen, get away from the children

Deregulation can only foster inequality, writes Peter Walsh.

Last week Chair of the Go8 and UNSW Vice Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer wrote an opinion piece for *The Sydney Morning Herald* in response to the Kemp-Norton review titled “Time to consider US-style University system”. Agreeing with Pyne’s “need” to deregulate the tertiary education system, Hilmer pushed the same vapid rhetoric of “choice” as Republicans bashing healthcare. “What would a deregulated higher education sector look like?” he asks. “A monument to inequality,” I answer.

When the past Labor government allowed universities to allocate places based on demand, it sent a message that education not only could but

should be accessed by all, regardless of background. For the Liberals to pass the cost onto participants is to poison the well. An immediate financial burden now plays into any decision to study, while the removal of funding support for certain postgraduate courses characterises universities as education factories, where you learn an immediately vocational skill and move on. Absolute reactionary nonsense veiled as reform.

The Go8’s praise is similarly suspicious. Composed of Australia’s most revered institutions (including USyd, UMelb, and UNSW), the liberalising of the education market will do little to threaten their

hegemony. Instead, it will increase competition between the small fish while allowing market leaders to charge more for the privilege of attending a prestigious institution. Again the students are commoditised, and the best jobs are limited to those capable of affording them.

As of October 2013, there was \$23 billion worth of HELP debt still to be reclaimed over the long term. That unfathomable sum could purchase a hundred Joint Strike Fighters, or could be earned with four years’ worth of payments to the Mineral Resources Rent Tax. Instead, Abbott’s government wants to hide tax cuts by aggravating the debt of students. Education is expensive,

and is operated at a short-term loss. Historically, our nation’s social contract has acknowledged the need for not only equitable access to education, but a preferential option for students from underprivileged socioeconomic backgrounds.

In America, the prohibitive cost of studying and exorbitant interest rates paid on student loans results only in an unimpeachable social inequality. Australian students would do well to resist any threats to equity hidden beneath the insidious guise of “choice”.

@_peterwalsh

The politics of pot

ILLUSTRATION BY AIMY NGUYEN

Ed Miller reports on the push for marijuana legalisation in Australia.

I was introduced to illicit drugs by a yellow giraffe named Harold. Inside a dark trailer parked across our handball courts, Harold – a hand puppet – delivered stern counsel to my year four class: stay away from weed.

Young and impressionable as we were, Harold didn't care too much for details. Cannabis, he told us simply, would lead to impaired development, mental health issues, and – in what I can only imagine was a nod to the teachers present – poor academic performance.

The public debate on the recreational and medicinal use of marijuana has not exhibited a great deal more sophistication over the last fifteen years. Drug reform is one of many issues in Australia where ideology plays as much of a role as scientific evidence, and public attitudes are as important as expert opinion. But the increasing number of jurisdictions around the world taking steps to legalise and regulate the production and consumption of medical and recreational cannabis may herald an inevitable change in Australian law.

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Possession and use of marijuana is considered a criminal offence in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania. That's bad news for the 700,000 Australians for whom marijuana use is a weekly habit. According to the 2010 National Drug Strategy Household survey, cannabis is the most widely used drug in Australia. 36 per cent of Australians have tried marijuana at least once in their life. 26 per cent of 17-year-olds have lit up.

Those statistics should make us pause. Criminalisation is meant to roughly reflect a society's condemnation of certain behaviours, yet sometimes laws get out of sync. Imagine if copyright infringement suits were actually brought against every Australian who illegally downloaded the latest episode of *Game of Thrones*. Our legal system would be unable to handle it. What then, is the purpose of a law that, if enforced, would punish the one in three Australians who have found weed acceptable enough to try themselves?

That is a question that Graham Askey, the National Secretary of the Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) Party, would like answered. "The current laws are unfair to everyday Australians and this idea that decriminalisation is a sufficient answer is complete bullshit," argues Askey. "Something either has to

be banned or not banned. Alcohol prohibition in America was an example of decriminalisation and it didn't stop the drinking at all, it just ensured more dangerous alcohol and funding for organised crime."

It's not just micro-parties that are pushing for reform. Last year in NSW, a cross-party Parliamentary Enquiry unanimously endorsed the legalisation of medical marijuana. Askey tells me he was expecting a 4-3 split but was pleased when it was announced that the LNP members added their votes to the recommendation. "The right wing parties usually want to look tough on crime," he tells me with a hint of irony in his voice. "If you're a drug dealer in this country, you vote for the Liberal party. Prohibition is the business model of criminals."

There is growing support outside the sphere of politics as well. A survey done by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that medical cannabis has 69 per cent community approval. There is growing consensus within the medical profession as well, with a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showing that in the hypothetical case of a 68-year-old woman with advanced cancer, 76 per cent of clinicians would recommend medical marijuana.

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There are of course, genuine risks associated with legalising marijuana. Studies have shown that even casual use can physiologically affect the part of the brain that controls feelings of motivation and desire. Studies have linked use of the drug to the development of mental illnesses in those who were genetically predisposed to them. There is always the possibility that legalisation and acceptance of marijuana will make it easier for more people to get their hands on it, and that it could act as a gateway to more dangerous substances.

These are all risks that demand consideration and balancing, not prohibition.

22 American states have legalised medical marijuana, with Colorado and Washington permitting recreational usage. Portugal, the Netherlands, and Switzerland are signatories to the same prohibitionist drug treaties as Australia, and yet have used the discretion afforded by those treaties to either decriminalise or legalise marijuana.

The war on drugs has failed. In 1998 the UNODC adopted the slogan, "A drug free world, we can do it!" In the



last 40 years the US is estimated to have spent \$1 trillion dollars, and incarcerated 500,000 people. Since 1998 global opium production had increased 103 per cent, cocaine production had increased by 20 per cent and cannabis production had increased by 36 per cent. The purity and potency of each drug had improved significantly at a street level. This failure can't be ignored when considering the future of Australia's policy settings.

* * *

I haven't smoked a lot of weed. The few occasions I have, it has made me sleepy, hungry, and peculiarly aware of my contact lenses. These aren't tremendously enjoyable effects. But I understand that for many, smoking pot is a means to curating emotional and psychological experiences that they otherwise wouldn't have had. We all do this in some way. When we listen to music in the car, or eat leftover Easter chocolate for breakfast – we're trying to steward ourselves to a heightened sense of pleasure. Sure, doing so may distract us from traffic conditions or cause us to be overweight, but that's a trade-off

we're ultimately allowed to make for ourselves.

Answering the question "how should we regulate drugs" speaks a lot to one's perspective on freedom. Is freedom an inherent right that the state has to justify taking away, or is it freedom only a licence granted by the state that can be offered on their terms? If this is the debate we are having, then we should have it.

H.L. Mencken said, "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins." Too often drug users are painted as irrational victims of addiction, rather than rational individuals freely shaping their conscious experience of the world. Their subjective experience of drugs isn't included in the policy calculus of leaders who are trying to do the right thing. "There's still a real stigma for us who smoke weed," Graham tells me, "but when you think about it, there are far worse things you could do with your time."

Opinion policing beyond the pale

Sanctioning thought rather than action is a dangerous road, writes Ben Brooks.

LA Clippers owner Donald Sterling is a devout racist. Mozilla CEO Brendan Eich is firmly committed to denying gay rights. Sterling will be forced to sell his team and pay a \$2.5 million fine for making remarks incompatible with the racially progressive culture of the NBA. Likewise, Eich was forced to resign last month after it emerged that he had donated to Proposition 8, a 2008 Californian proposal to ban gay marriage.

These controversies exemplify how social and economic pressure can be applied to eliminate hurtful and outmoded prejudice. But like so many repellent human beings, Sterling and Eich also raise some difficult questions about freedom of speech, and freedom of thought.

The exercise of free speech is always accompanied by the prospect of ridicule, boycotts, and ostracism. Ideally, that is how freedom of speech works – how unpalatable ideas are tested and moderated. Speakers who embrace cruel or hateful ideas are sanctioned for expressing

those ideas, and both Mozilla and the NBA have been praised for their strident reprisals.

Yet what Sterling and Eich committed were not acts of public expression. They have been sanctioned merely for holding an idea, and for entertaining a thought.

Sterling, for instance, made his comments in conversation with a mistress. They were surreptitiously recorded, and leaked without consent to the press. No one cared to inquire whether his opinions manifested themselves in racist management or racial abuse. In his dealings with the NBA, there is nothing to suggest that they did. It was enough that Sterling merely held racist thoughts.

Oddly, however, Sterling escaped a string of discrimination lawsuits between 2003 and 2006 with his reputation unscathed. Former tenants and the Department of Justice tendered compelling evidence alleging that Sterling – a wealthy landlord among other

things – discriminated against African-Americans, Hispanics, welfare recipients, and parents. He concluded a settlement described by a District Court judge as "one of the largest in this type of case". Yet the litigation was all but forgotten. Only an unverified recording would bring him down, containing nothing more than the unbalanced ramblings of an old, institutionalised white man.

Likewise, consider Eich. By all accounts, he supported an inclusive work environment at Mozilla. His \$1,000 donation to the \$39 million Proposition 8 campaign was paltry. He never sought to use his name, the Mozilla brand, or company resources to advance the cause. At the time, President Obama shared his belief. Yet privately supporting the legislation was enough to compel Eich into ignominious retirement six years later.

Eich should have anticipated California's campaign finance disclosure laws. They are exceptionally transparent.

Australia, by comparison, only identifies individuals who donate more than \$12,000. But Eich hardly intended his donation to be a public expression of his beliefs, nor an invitation to engage in public debate. Likewise, Sterling did not intend that his comment would become a matter of public record.

Certainly, they hold objectionable ideas. It is reasonable to expect that ideas likely to hurt or offend others will remain unspoken; if an errant thinker chooses to express those ideas, they rightly expose themselves to public censure, or even legal penalties.

Yet even if the bigots and Bolts of the world are expected to speak guardedly, they should not be expected to think guardedly. Individuals are entitled to hold opinions free from the threat of social coercion. That is the primary function of secret ballots, after all. There is a fine line between convincing people that an idea is repulsive, and compelling them not to hold an idea at all.

Bisexual blues

Izzy Comber may be bisexual but she's doesn't want to fuck you and your girlfriend, thanks.

I was pretty sure I had constructed the perfect situation for lurrve. Music festival setting (the place where all great romances are conceived), cute guy (ever so rugged), and some primo... vodkas (nothing suss, officer). I figured I was in for a lovely evening of intellectual chat and potential dry humping. It was meant to be the start of something beautiful.

An awkward deviation in our banter, however, got us talking about exes and dating, and he asked me when the last date I'd had was.

"Ummm." I paused. "This chick called Megan a few weeks ago." To say he looked as if all his Christmases had come at once would be an understatement. Immediately he went in for the smooch, washing-machined my mouth and then gazed at me in excitement.

"Let's go find a girl in the crowd for you and me to have fun with." Dear readers, riddle me this: What is the overwhelming appeal of threesomes? I'm not opposed to the concept, but I hardly think it's the

holy grail of the sex world some guys (and gals for that matter) make it out to be. I would think the possibility of getting double-queefed on would be enough to make any guy run for the hills, but I guess *Vicky Christina Barcelona* deterred that in the minds of many. Damn those sexy Latinos.

Realistically, many individuals who identify as bisexual or any other deviation from the straight/gay model often find themselves the victims of opportunistic pursuit. There seems to be a general consensus that because

'sexually deviant' persons don't fit the straight/gay binary, they'll be a perfect fit to fulfil the sexual fantasies of others. Straight? Gay? Man? Woman? We're open for business and take all sorts over here at Bisexuals Inc.

Not quite. There seems to be a bit of an issue with bisexuality being synonymous with promiscuity (a leg of the larger issue that promiscuity is synonymous with being bad). Promiscuous or not, few individuals relish in the prospect of being a tool in someone's fantasy. In my case,

I have little interest being one of two girls putting on a show for some schmuck with a hard-on (or lady with a lady-boner, for that matter).

I also think we would all do well to remember, daily, that sex is never as straightforward as it seems in *Girls Gone Wild 5*. Most porn actors are carrying out a highly athletic activity, rumoured to be notoriously hard work (pardon the pun). It's not real; it's a constructed version of sex and intimacy where actors are resorting to Viagra and pretending to enjoy getting cum in their eye. When, in actual fact, sex is meant to be intimate (whether with casual partners or not), awkwardly sticky, neither here nor there and most of all – fun.

Mr Music Festival never did get his double dose that night, but I didn't tell him straight up it would never happen. If I could go back I would probably sack whack him in each individual testicle, smile and say: "See? Two isn't always better than one."

@IsabelleComber





Chasing Laughs

Lucy Connell chatted to Chris Taylor about skivvies, comedy and car chases in the Quad.

Most of the Chaser met while you were studying at Sydney, what were you like back in the day?

I wore skivvies. I saw a photo of myself the other day wearing a skivvy. It wasn't even winter. I was wearing one as though it was a normal piece of clothing outside a ski resort.

I was a terrible student, but I threw myself into extra-curricular. That was my real education; drama, debating, revues. And I kissed a girl for the first time.

And the other Chaser boys? Do you remember your first impressions of them?

Julian [Morrow] was a high performer, a very good debater in fact. A lot of people were very surprised when he joined the Chaser, as it didn't square with their view of him as this very straight logical man.

Andrew [Hansen] I saw in Arts Review in my third year, and I thought, 'that's the sort of guy I came to university to meet'. He was just a head and shoulders above everyone else. He was in every sketch, and could do every accent.

Charles Firth – I hope he doesn't mind me saying that I thought he was a complete wanker. You know those sort of people who turn up on day one wanting to be a campus identity? He was political, he threw himself into everything, ran for SRC in his first year. He was a great self-promoter, and exactly the sort of person I despised. But then I met him and he was incredibly warm and generous. Charles' great skill is to realise that he can further himself by surrounding himself by good people. So I think all of us owe him great thanks and a great debt, because he sort of spotted us.

What do you think are your fondest memories of university?

Around that time, we set up something called the Port Club. We were very inspired by the *Dead Poet's Society*. Each Sunday someone would have to write a paper on a pretentious topic, and I remember having a particularly robust debate about whether to donate sperm. After the meeting we used to drive our cars very recklessly around the Quad. Security used to come quite quickly, so we used to have some wonderful car chases.

You are currently co-performing 'One Man Show' with Andrew Hansen. How does theatre compare to television?

On TV you coach your audience to clap and you have editing power. In a live show it's quite liberating to be warts and all, it feels much warmer and cosier in the room.

It's also different because you really only have fans who come to watch. Comedy on TV these days has become almost a blood sport. It can be quite brutal being on the receiving end. With *The War on Everything*, after we had some big controversies, it felt a bit like everyone was just tuning in to tear the show down. With a live show it is insulated from that conservative shock jock culture.

Do you think comedy cycles intersect with political currents? Does comedy always flourish under conservative governments?

I take the view that comedy thrives when there are bad governments. The last Labor government was farcical, and that was a great time to be writing comedy. Pleasingly, the new government is proving itself to be just as farcical. The Labor party was in functional disarray, whereas this government is putting forward a series of interestingly aggressive ideological views, which for satirical comedy, is manna from heaven. There is plenty of meat on the bone. Politicians of both

sides are generally flawed and disappointing, and often some very interesting comedy comes out of left wing governments, which go back on the causes they champion, or cave to entrenched interests.

Perhaps though, to be funny you need to be a bit subversive, or disruptive – an instinct at odds with conservatism?

The tools and structures of comedy are to turn something upside down, or place it in a different context to amuse us. I mean there are funny conservatives, but they are thin on the ground. I guess because their default position is to preserve rather than subvert. [He gestures toward the teapot.] If I say "This is a teapot," there is nothing funny about that. If I try and turn the teapot into something else...we have humour!

A lot of your humour relied on an outsider status, critiquing the media and politicians from a 'cheeky underdog' kind of position. Did it become more difficult as the Chaser became part of the establishment?

Yes, I can't speak for the others, but I certainly enjoyed the show less as it got more popular. That show worked because it was a cult show; a small niche club for people who wanted to disrupt society both literally and satirically. The moment it became sort of a mainstream entity, we became the people we used to mock. It was one of the reasons we wound down the war on everything and came back with *The Hamster Wheel*, a deliberately much more niche and esoteric show.

We kind of did want to lose some of our audience. You can see it in the final season, there is some very black humour in there, and I think unconsciously we were a bit embarrassed, and wanted to get our cred back.

The other guys might disagree, but I certainly felt that, and I wrote a lot of the skits. Through that final season I kept apologising to my

comedy friends for selling out.

Any advice for young people wanting to get into media or comedy?

Make lots of things, develop your craft, and accrue things to put on your CV. The less obvious thing is don't stop consuming media. Read *The Grapes of Wrath* – it's amazing how good writing informs your language, and your sensibility. Watch everything. See what is working. Inhabit the world.

It's a great excuse to do fun things, being a comedian. Some members of the Chaser, who shall remain unnamed, are shocking with tax. They say, "Well, I might write a show about tea one day", so this teapot is a tax expense.

Do you think a lot of comedic success is bluff?

God yes, everyone is bluffing. Comedians are the most nervous, poorly adjusted, insecure people you will ever meet. If a comedian asks you out – don't go. You have got to be full of neurosis to be driven to go up and ask for public approval night after night.

A lot of young people wanting a creative career face pressure from family, and are apprehensive about the risks. Was that an issue for you?

Absolutely. It is a very irresponsible career, and I do understand young people being worried about that. It doesn't work out for everyone, but equally it might! You don't want to die wondering.

I come from a family of very conservative lawyers, and even now they say things like, "Well, you've had your fun, but it's time to settle down. No one wants to hear your jokes forever! It's time to knuckle down, here are some brochures."

Sounds nice, feels nice

The internet is bringing together a peculiar breed of sound aficionados, whispers Felicity Nelson.

Gentle whispers, the crunch of snow under your boots, the rustling of paper, the tapping of fingernails on a desk or the sound of rain – some sounds just feel good. For a few, very lucky people with ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response), these delicious sounds can actually trigger a 'relaxation high' characterised by intensely pleasurable brain tingles. As for the rest of us, well, apparently we're missing out.

If you are in the habit of diving down rabbit holes on Youtube or Reddit, you may have already come across videos designed to trigger ASMR. Such videos usually feature young women whispering intimately in a slight foreign accent and paying close attention to a repetitive task. It is difficult for someone who doesn't experience ASMR to understand why these impossibly dull and slightly unnerving videos have hundreds of thousands of views.

Yet ASMR videos have become a profitable cottage industry, and Youtube artists popular with ASMRers now have upwards of 100,000 subscribers.



Before Internet chat rooms brought the disparate ASMR community together, people mostly kept these trance-like states of ecstasy to themselves. Until I told my twin sister I was writing this article, I had no idea that she was a whisper connoisseur.

Most experienced the tingles since childhood and assumed everyone had it. Some had very personal triggers. My sister finds answering IQ and personality tests sparks the tingles. "Even answering these questions is doing it!" she says. "I'm triggered by soft, accented speech, watching somebody do something methodically (like performing a tea ceremony) and just, random ambient sounds, sometimes a quiet library will do it," another friend told me.

The spread of the internet has allowed ASMRers to form communities on Facebook and similar websites. "[ASMR] feels like... my whole body pleasantly humming. I used to call it the 'tingly hood' before there was a name for it," says Kristen Bebelaar, from New York. Another American, Serena Michelle, described ASMR as "waves of intense love without a sexual connotation". Marysa Murceli described a "fizzy feeling" from the sounds of jelly beans (whatever that means) as well

as the clicker clatter of keyboards. Her favourite Youtube artist is Lilliwhispers: "She is amazing, her very strong American accent (I am French) and the way she whispers while chewing gum ... she is so focused on what she does in the video. I've watched two of her videos every single night for a year and a half now."

To date, no scientific study has been done to determine what ASMR is and why people have it. Theories range from ASMR being an odd fetish of an over-sensitive minority to a hangover from early childhood as a response to the soothing sound of a mother's voice.

Often ASMRers are quite hesitant to talk about their tingles. They shouldn't be; their access to such a perfect, free and harmless happy-drug is enviable. "The community itself can seem a bit weird I know," says Chloe, another American. "But in the end it's people helping other people relax and feel good, like giving someone a hot cup or tea or a massage. And that's a pretty lovely thing when you think about it."

Oculus miffed

A whole new world, shining shimmering splendours, discovers Jeff Wong.

Imagine if you could walk along the ocean floor, or maybe the surface of the moon. Perhaps you've fantasised about actually inhabiting the fantasy worlds you know in films or books, or re-living pivotal moments in human history. If you haven't, then I'm sorry but this relationship just isn't going to work out. But if you have then I think I've got just the thing for you.

Oculus Rift is an impressive virtual-reality headset, initially a project funded through Kickstarter to bring a never before seen level of immersion to video games and other interactive media. The Oculus Rift allows the user to explore with full 360 degree vision, and can accurately and comfortably follow all three dimensions of head movement. It's a truly revolutionary way to experience media.

Oculus Rift has the biggest implications for the video game industry. By introducing such a high level of fidelity, immersiveness, and responsiveness to the player, a whole new genre of games are possible. Combined with a high quality set of headphones and virtual treadmill such as the Virtuix Omni, the device can fully simulate the fully exploration of fantasy worlds.

But for many (some disheartened) people the biggest news in Oculus Rift's short history would be the Facebook buyout. On March 26, Mark Zuckerberg announced that Facebook had acquired Oculus VR, "the leader in virtual reality technology". The reaction from much of the tech sphere has been negative. Despite the huge cash injection Facebook have provided (the acquisition was valued at \$2 billion) there are concerns the new owners will steer the Oculus Rift

away from the direction of video games, one of the applications with the most enthusiasm around it. Markus "Notch" Persson, the Swedish developer behind *Minecraft*, announced that plans for an Oculus Rift compatible *Minecraft* had been cancelled, stating, "I just cancelled that deal. Facebook creeps me out." There may still be hope for video-game fans. Zuckerberg, in his statement on the acquisition, said that "immersive gaming will be first, and Oculus already has big plans here that won't be changing and we hope to accelerate. The Rift is highly anticipated by the gaming community ... Oculus will continue operating independently within Facebook to achieve this." By bringing the Oculus Rift into the eye of public media, Facebook has definitely drawn the world's interest and intrigue to the frontier of virtual reality.

What once seemed firmly in the realm of science fiction is now real. A powerful 360 degree camera, sitting in the front rows of a stadium in Brazil as the World Cup Final plays out, could allow millions of people to tap in and experience the event as if they were really there. Space shuttles and rovers equipped with such cameras would allow Oculus Rift users to peer into space, into the crevices on Mars, or beyond the furthest stars. It's an incredibly powerful piece of technology, and now that Oculus Rift has found a foothold in the industry, it has the chance to open all these doors and more.

From humble beginnings on Kickstarter, to a platform on the world stage, the Oculus Rift has the potential to change a lot more than video games. The possibilities are endless, and minds will be blown.

Battling with bureaucracy

Time and extensions aren't always the answer to students' mental health concerns, finds Natalie Czapski

Struggling with mental illness is a common experience amongst University of Sydney students. Nationally, it is estimated that 27 per cent of 18 to 25-year-olds experience mental health problems each year. Of the approximately 4000 students who responded to a University of Sydney Mental Health survey in 2012, 49.8 per cent of students reported high to very high levels of psychological distress. 21.2 per cent of those surveyed were experiencing levels of distress indicative of probable serious mental illness.

Given these statistics, it would seem fair to expect our University to be adept at supporting students dealing with mental health concerns. But it appears that, in reality, this is far from the case.

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USyd students with ongoing mental health conditions will typically have to liaise with Disability Services, which works with faculty and administrative staff to help students get the most out of their time at university. Nicola, who is registered with Disability Services, believes that Disability Services often struggles to effectively assist students dealing with anxiety and depression. She cites poor communication and lack of responsiveness as key problems she has encountered with the service.

"I'm always met with a lot of resistance," she tells me. "For a student who is highly, highly anxious, not getting any feedback that they've received my requests or that they're working on them really doesn't help. For students who are more prone to anxiety than myself it would be almost unmanageable."

Submitting a request to Disability Services for an academic adjustment takes place through

on online, impersonal process, with strict requirements on documentation. Registered students go through this process every single semester, and submit individual requests for each subject and assessment. Students tell me that this process often becomes incredibly onerous.

"It's a service for disability students, but it's not geared to them at all it seems," Nicola says. "It's very much about going through the motions, it's very strict on documentation, [and] it's very unsupportive."

Nicola believes that Disability Services' strict documentation requirements can even exacerbate some students' mental distress.

"You've got the stress of paying for seeing a specialist, getting there, taking the time to do it when you're trying to finish an assignment, whilst other work is backing up," she says. "It all just spirals out of control, not just due to the situation you're in, but due to the system."

These concerns are much the same for students who develop mental health issues over the course of a semester and need to apply for Special Consideration through their faculties. Documentation requirements are strictly enforced, and usually require students to provide medical certificates from specialist psychologists or psychiatrists.

One student who has been through this process said that she would always advise students dealing with mental distress to "go see someone [to obtain documentation] straight away, because you might need it later on". She says that she has learnt from experience that it is necessary to plan ahead as much as possible if you think you may need Special Consideration, or other academic adjustments on account of your mental illness.

The current system, it seems, forces students to assess their own condition and punishes them if they fail to plan ahead. This can add additional anxiety to students facing trouble, and leaves any student who can't get something done on time – perhaps due to their original health issue – with minimal recourse.

Whilst there are university-wide guidelines on Special Consideration, faculties implement their own individual policies, which vary widely in documentation and lodgement requirements and in the flexibility of adjustments provided. As Lawrence Muskitta, President of USyd's Mental Health Awareness Society (MAHSOC), explained to me, "in the Arts Faculty there's a less formal process that you have to go through, where you can email a lecturer and ask for an extension, whereas in the Science Faculty – you need to do a lot of different things and the documentation around that is confusing."

Many students I spoke with spoke highly of the Arts Faculty and the flexibility they provide in dealing with mental health concerns. By contrast, the Law, Science and Business Faculties were all heavily criticised. Differences in faculty, unfortunately, can make a huge difference to the student experience, and in what might be deemed an 'appropriate' level of illness or misadventure to constitute special consideration. Much is left to the discretion of academic staff, who are not required to undergo formal training on how to deal with student distress and therefore commonly misunderstand students' concerns and conditions.

In one incident, a lecturer told a student suffering from anxiety that their mental health condition was not "a legitimate excuse" warranting Special Consideration. Another professor

told a student that anxiety would not be taken as a reason for being unable to sit an exam.

Maddison, who struggled with her faculties in the first year of her degree, recalls the relief she experienced upon transferring to the Education Faculty.

"It was a much more nurturing environment to be in, as compared to Agricultural Economics and the Business Faculty, which has very much a sink or swim mentality to it. It's almost like it's set up for failure and people don't really want you to succeed," she says.

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There are, of course, support services available for students suffering mental distress on campus. Perhaps most significant is Counselling And Psychological Services (CAPS), a free, drop-in service staffed by trained counsellors. CAPS helps hundreds of University of Sydney students every year, but is severely under-resourced.

The recommended counsellor-to-student ratio is 1:3000. CAPS currently operates at a hugely deficient 1:4240. This deficiency has led to a huge backlog of students waiting to access their services.

Even if the investment in CAPS were to be doubled, it would still operate with a waitlist. This makes it harder for CAPS to deal with emergencies, including the dozens of documented students who present to CAPS each year with signs of self-harm or high risk of suicide. It also means CAPS cannot dedicate enough time to raise awareness about the service to the student body, as the needs of attending students are undeniably prioritised.

Other organisations are set up to support students on campus – a Psychology Clinic, a branch

of Headspace, and GPs at the University Health Service – but it seems unclear how they understand their roles in relation to one another. One student spoke to me of being referred between the different services multiple times; in the course of my own research, I was referred to CAPS when I tried to speak with Disability Services, which is somewhat inexplicable given that the two services fulfil quite distinct roles. As important as these services are, it takes initiative to access them and then endurance to persist long enough to find the right service for you, which poses potential problems for students suffering mental distress.

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The offices of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) lie underneath the Wentworth Building. It's a carpeted bunker, often thought to be solely populated by student politicians and office administrators. Few students know where it is. Fewer still know what it provides.

The SRC offers a free caseworker service on every campus, which can help with applications for special consideration and appeals for students whose academic performance has been affected by their mental distress.

To Leigh, who experienced depression and anxiety after one of her parents was diagnosed with a terminal illness, the service was a godsend.

"When my marks came out at the end of semester, I had failed three out of five subjects," she recalls.

"When that happened, I went to the SRC and spoke to a caseworker there, and she recommended that I apply for DNF. She said that I had to write a letter to the Dean explaining why I had failed these subjects and why it was out of my control, and why I hadn't discontinued them earlier. So I drafted a letter – I sent her some drafts, and she read them over."

Leigh was ultimately successful in applying for DNFs, and again in recuperating the HECS fees she had been charged for those subjects.

But even with all this assistance, the remedies provided cannot always treat the unique sets of symptoms that students present.

Philippa Specker, one of the SRC Welfare Officers, commented that "often you'll get an extension or an exam reschedule... [but] if you have severe anxiety or OCD or obsessive compulsive personality disorder – delaying or prolonging the task in that particular format might not be the most effective way to do it."

Little wonder then, that many students avoid the Special Consideration process entirely, and end up dropping subjects, applying for DNFs, or deferring university. With a system full of hurdles, so laborious and unwelcoming, many students are put off. The process of reaching out for help can be incredibly traumatic, and if a student has a poor experience, they may be entirely dissuaded from seeking the alternative help that they need.

This university does recognise that mental illness can impact students as severely as physical sickness. Its great omission is the myopic, inflexible deployment of mental health services; the belief that time and extensions heal all wounds.

* * *

But even if we were to reform the bureaucracy, we would still be forced to contend with the societal stigma which, it seems, can be a huge barrier in preventing individuals from seeking help. According to Lawrence, society pressures individuals "to look perfect and appear to be strong" such that "going to see a psychologist or student psychiatrist is something that is looked down upon, which it absolutely shouldn't be."

As individuals, we can play our part in looking out for each other – empathising and encouraging friends to seek help when needed – and we can educate ourselves about mental health so as to be able to do so better. CAPS, for example, runs a Sidekicks program which aims to educate students about how to support their friends, helping combat

stigma and a chronic lack of understanding about how mental illnesses manifest themselves.

As Leigh tells me, "people, when they think of anxiety or depression, still think of it in terms of there being a stimulus for it, when it can just be general – it can just happen and there's absolutely no explanation for it and you can't find any reason for it happening."

Fortunately, there are a number of student-led groups and initiatives on campus taking up mental health issues. MAHSOC, a student society founded in 2013, seeks to provide a safe social space for students on campus, and promote positive mental health within the University. They have weekly meditation and yoga classes as well as social events, and the society advocates to break down social stigmas associated with mental illness. As part of the USU's Health and Wellbeing Week, MAHSOC displayed a photo exhibition with messages from nearly one hundred students who shared personal experiences or gave their messages of support – an incredibly evocative reminder of how much support truly does exist for students who are facing challenges.

The Health and Wellbeing Week is another new avenue for raising awareness about mental health issues on campus. The program included a support services information fair, Headspace speaker panels and training sessions run by counsellors.

Meanwhile, the Mental Health Action Group (MHAG), which was started earlier this year by Fahad Ali, is a non-autonomous student group seeking to raise awareness, challenge stigma, work with and lobby the university to provide greater support for students with mental illness.

"I have an ongoing condition which can sometimes flare up and a lot of people have interpreted that in different ways," Fahad told me. "People have interpreted that to make generalisations about my behaviour which aren't true. It was the utter disgust with that which led me to found the Mental Health Action Group."

Fahad hopes that MHAG will give students suffering mental distress the opportunity to feel empowered.

"For many people who do have mental health conditions or poor mental wellbeing it's really important to give them the power to create change," he says.

"Often it tends to be administrators and psychologists and doctors organising your life for you and telling you what's best for you. MHAG gives us the power to create change on our terms because we are the ones who have to deal with it at the end of the day."

* * *

Everyone I spoke while researching this piece emphasised the importance of talking, and asking for help if you believe you may be suffering from mental distress. No matter how mild as it may seem, if you are suffering, don't isolate yourself for fear of being judged. Speak to a friend, or a family member, or go and see a professional, be it a GP, a counsellor or a psychologist. Help is there for you when you need it. At CAPS, they attested to the large portion of students who visit them saying "I don't think it's a big deal", who certainly would benefit from their help. There are many more who simply never seek help in the first place; only one in four young people experiencing mental health problems actually receive professional help.

It can be difficult to recognise that your own situation is worthy of support. Nicola warns against comparing yourself to others and downplaying your own experiences: "Mental illness is difficult and unfair for everyone."

Mental health concerns affect all of our lives. Every time we speak out about it, we break down the barriers that hamper support. If nothing else, after reading this feature, ask a friend how they're feeling, or just start a conversation about it. You never know what difference it could make.

"People, when they think of anxiety or depression, still think of it in terms of there being a stimulus for it, when it can just be general" – Leigh

Welcome to the jungle

Beneath the ball pits and the onesies. ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY WOODS

WHAT ARE THE ELECTIONS?

The upcoming elections are for the student board Directors of the University of Sydney Union (USU). There are 11 Directors on the board at any time, and each May about half are replaced (kind of like the Senate; they take themselves just as seriously but need lanyards as proof). Five new directors are elected in even-numbered years and six in odd-numbered years. This year eight candidates have signed up for the gladiatorial ball pit of the USU election – here’s how the battle for the five spots will play out.

The official start date for campaigning to begin is Monday, May 5. Any actual campaigning before this date is against the regulations. Candidates can get disqualified or penalised for breaching these regulations. In the past, two Board Directors have been kicked off board for breaching the spending cap – after investigations revealed they had forged receipts and lied on statutory declarations.

Heads up, Bambi.

Far from being an archaic institution, the USU is a beacon of progressivism. Last year the Returning Officer decided to keep up with social change and declared onesies to be an ‘everyday item’, meaning candidates no longer had to declare them in their costings.

Election day is Wednesday, May 21. If you’re super desperate to vote for these onesie-clad student politicians, then prepolling starts on Thursday, May 15.

VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

Many of the campaigns will be managed by current USU board directors (eg. Tim Matthews running Liv Ronan and Robby Magyar running Alisha Aitken-Radburn) as a way to try and get an extra vote in the executive elections which will take place in June. If the newbies get up, they are indebted to their Campaign Manager and their vote can be counted on when they’re angling for President.

This “you scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours” mentality is characteristic of a lot of USU politics. Many of the current candidates have run campaigns in the past as a way to shore up support later on. Even in the lofty

realms of executive elections, someone declaring support for a Presidential candidate early on can normally get them a sweet spot as Vice-President or Honourary Secretary, whilst Treasurer normally needs to be traded in a politically expedient manner.

VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE

It will take you about ten minutes extra to walk across campus, as hacks descend to interrupt your peaceful walk with the joy of democracy. Particular danger zones include the walk from Redfern Station (or ‘Redfern Run’ in hack lingo) which clogs up with campaigners from the wee hours of the morning, Manning at lunchtime, and Eastern Avenue all the time. Experienced students will take back routes into uni, walking up through the colleges perhaps.

Being wise as we are, *Honi Soit* can tell you that campaigning will get much more aggressive on the last three days of the election; between Monday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 21. Keep your head down, headphones in, and never make eye contact.

Our recommended defence is just to say “I’m already voting for” and

say the name on the hack’s t-shirt. If you are fully committed to an isolationist policy, put on a t-shirt and you’ll immediately notice no one talks to you any more. You’re taken: a tree already pissed on.

Campaigning ends at 6.30pm on Wednesday May 21. Then you’re free.

WHAT ARE THEY FIGHTING FOR?

It’s a bit unclear. All we know for sure is they get stipends, nice offices, meal vouchers and car parking spots.

The USU’s merch insists that student Board Directors are responsible for governing the USU. They sit on the board with two other Directors appointed by the University Senate. They live under the shadow of the CEO, Andrew Woodward.

Current Board Director Robby Magyar told *Honi Soit* that the role is essentially what you make of it. “For some it might be to simply attend monthly Board meetings,” said Magyar, but thinks that should not be all. “I personally believe our main role is to [represent] the students and staff who put their trust in our policies and our vision for the Union when they voted for us.”

This keeps many board directors busy, as attested to by Tara Waniganayaka, another student Board Director. “On an average day I’ll start popping by the board office in the Holme Building in the morning to check up on my tasks for the day, and have a chat about any ongoing projects,” she explained. “After afternoon classes, I’ll probably head to an evening USU event, whether that be a party at Manning, a Verge Gallery opening or Google Incubate Demo Session!”

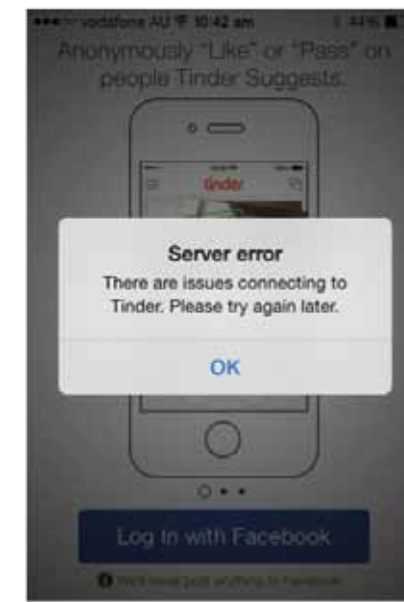
“The best part of being a board director is having the opportunity to represent student interests,” Waniganayaka added.

“Being a Director of the University of Sydney Union is easily both one of the hardest and most rewarding things I have ever done”, said Tim Matthews. “A lot of the time the work of an individual Director is self-directed, providing individuals with a valuable opportunity to execute their personal visions for change within the Union. It is through individual initiative, and a collaborative work ethic, that successful Directors are most able to achieve change within the USU.”

Here’s to the USU!

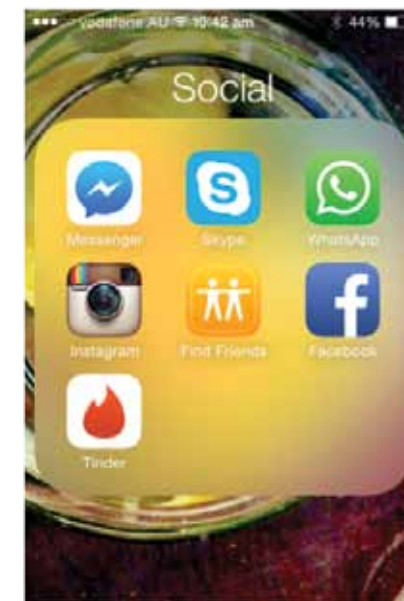


The other day I tried to log onto Tinder and it didn’t work. The day after that I tried again. It still didn’t work. I have been trying for seven days and still Tinder will not let me log in. Instead, it keeps showing me this message:



This was very troubling for me because I had struck up several conversations with several promising love interests. I have 256 matches on Tinder. My friend Alex has over 500. She is beating me at Tinder, but I don’t mind. Alex is very pretty. My Tinder profile consists only of a photo of a lamppost, my friend’s ex-boyfriend and a biography in which I threaten to bash anyone who tries to meet up with me.

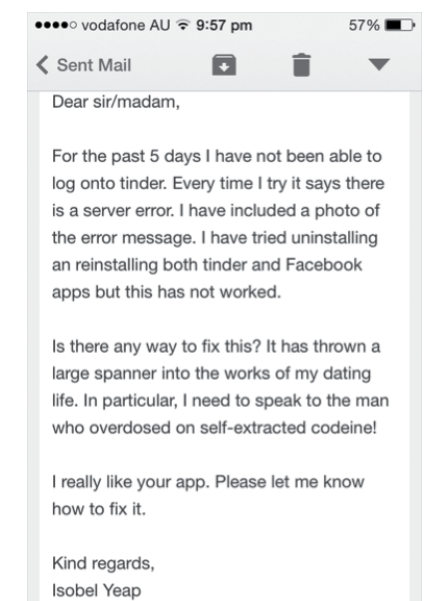
Anyway, the first thing I tried to do when I realised my Tinder account was broken was uninstalling and reinstalling the app. I did this several times. Then I uninstalled and reinstalled the Facebook app. I did this several times. Then I moved my Tinder app closer to my Facebook app, so they were actually quite proximal to each other on my phone.



See how close Tinder is to Facebook? It only needs to reach out and connect. But still, the app was not working. Yes, I have Find My Friends. I have Find My Friends because sometimes when I go on Tinder dates my friends are afraid that I’m going to be kidnapped, so they like to track me.

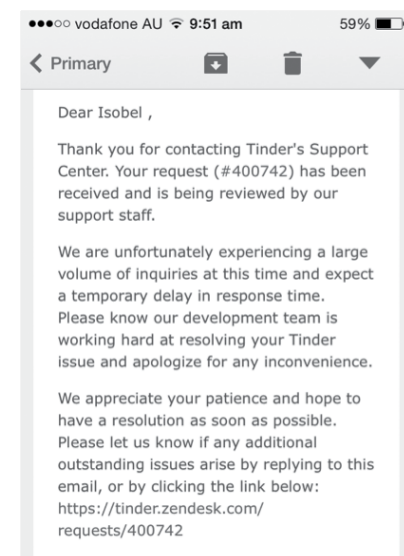
Now I was very sad that my Tinder account was not working. I told my mum. I said, “Mum, I don’t think I’ll be able to continue the family line. My Tinder account is no longer working.” She replied, “What do you mean?” I said, “I can’t log in! I haven’t been able to log in for the past week!” She said, “Why don’t you send them an email? You know what probably happened? That guy you went on a date with who worked in IT probably had your profile blocked.” “Yeah, good thinking mum! I will write them an email.”

Before writing them an email I sent several people on Facebook accusatory messages. “DID YOU REPORT ME ON TINDER???? I THINK I’VE BEEN BANNED.” None of them replied. It will be awkward when we next run into each other, but that is the price I am willing to pay for love. After this, I sent Tinder an email.



They replied very quickly, with a rival email. (Not everything is a competition, but my email was better).

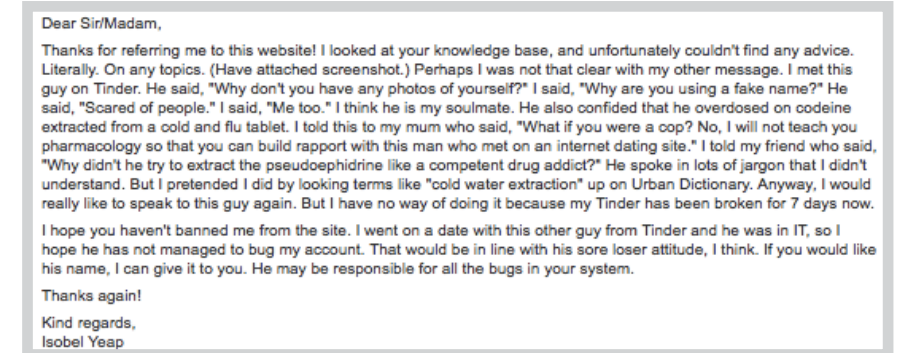
#400742!!!!!! This email reminded me of the time I went to the butcher at David Jones. I tried to order a piece of steak. They said, “Get a ticket.” I went to that red ticket machine and pulled out a ticket that read “60”. I am not waiting for 60 people before buying one piece of steak, I thought to myself. And I went home.



#400742!!!!!! I am not waiting for 400742 people to have their requests answered before I can get onto Tinder! I told my friend Alex (the one with the 500 matches) who suggested that maybe they weren’t taking my request seriously because I am only 23. “Perhaps they have pushed you to the back of the queue because they think you’re relatively fertile? Explain to them that you want to have 12 children before you turn 30 and they might push you towards the front of the queue. You must always articulate concerns regarding your biological clock.” Good idea, Alex. I will send them another email. I have lots of homework today because I study medicine, but still: Love Before Learning <3.

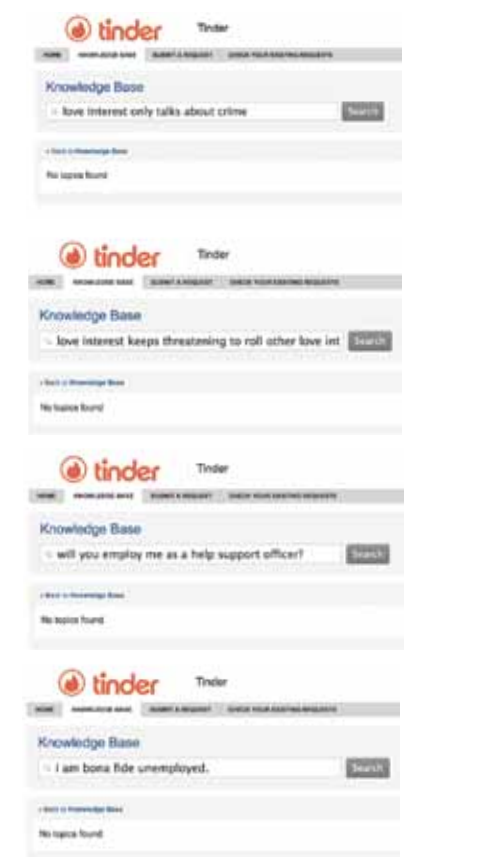
I clicked on “the link below”, as they say, and was taken to Tinder’s “zendesk”, as they say. Why is it called a zendesk? It should be called a helpdesk if that’s what it is. I think they used the term “zen” in a misleading way because when I reached the “zendesk” I was in no way “zen”. In fact, I was frustrated to find that I was the only person ever who had ever been on the “zendesk” and so there were no answers to any of my questions.

That is a terrible knowledge base. I literally have a bigger knowledge base in my head, and I usually have to pay people in order to give them my advice.



Anyway, I thought I’d see if there was some hidden knowledge.

Still, no knowledge. No knowledge for me.



Okay, so I then Facebooked all my friends who work in IT (n = 15) and asked them for help. They thought I was joking so didn’t help me.

I wrote Tinder another message. This one was far more eloquent than the first.

#402137!!!!!!

Fuck.

Debutante ball so hard

Fifty-six years after Buckingham Palace announced the end of 'coming out' presentations at the royal court, a small number of local communities across Australia continue to cling to this tradition.

These debutante balls represent the remnants of an era in which young women marked their coming of age in an elaborate ceremony used to signify their marriage eligibility. So in a society where marriage and childbirth are no longer the determinants of a woman's success in life, the modern relevancy of this tradition to local Australian communities is questionable.

Various high schools and local councils in Australia have long since put an end to debutante balls. But for some, such as the Broken Hill City Council, the decision to end the annual debutante ball as a cost cutting measure in 2012 was reversed

after prolific public outcry. The decision to have the debutante ball be funded by sponsors has meant that the community has been able to continue on with the tradition, without the council incurring any large expense.

According to the Mayor of Broken Hill, Wincen Guy, the annual Broken Hill debutante ball is about "keeping alive a long standing tradition in a world that changes so fast."

"For the majority of the girls participating in the Debut, it is not just about being able to dress up like a princess for a night, but it is about being part of a family where, for many of them, they are 3rd, 4th and in some cases 5th generation girls to complete their Debut."

Typically, girls from Year 11 (and very rarely, boys), will undertake a two to three month program with their school or local club before

the ceremony. On the night, the girls are expected to wear long, white dresses (resembling wedding dresses), long white gloves, and are expected to ask a partner of the opposite sex (known as a squire and who must be dressed in a tuxedo) to accompany them to their 'coming out' ball.

According to Peta Magee, the President of the Santa-Sabina Dominican Ex-Student Association and organiser of the Debutante Enrichment Program at Santa Sabina, Strathfield, her "association [has] revolutionised the ball to help educate students and prepare them for the modern world."

As part of the Debutante Enrichment Program, students from Santa Sabina not only learn to dance, but are also taught correct make-up application, table etiquette, and proper social media use.

Why do we still have these events, questions Bernadette Anvia.

Though, as beautiful as this tradition may be in its emphasis on family ties and social celebration, one can't help notice the stereotypical notions of femininity that some aspects of the debutante program seem to perpetuate. These include the necessity of wearing make-up, knowing how to act elegantly both at the table and on the dance floor, being attracted to the male sex, and wanting to wear long flowing white dresses that, whether you like it or not, heavily resemble the wedding dresses these girls might don in the future.

The debutante program could be a great thing for helping to develop our future female leaders – if it recognised that a girl's transition to womanhood isn't predicated just on her success in mastering the art of make-up or dancing.

Ballet cray *The ballet's not just for old fogeys, writes Milly Ellen.*

Drowning in a sea of pensioners, I am surprised to see a woman who looks about my age. She's smiling and having an animated chat to a man in his early sixties. But as I walk up the stairs to catch a closer look, I see that she is wearing the telltale black uniform of staff. Of course. Why else would a 20-year-old be at the Opera House for the 6pm performance of *Manon*? Surely being lost in a drunken tangle of limbs, surrounded by dozens of inebriated roid junkies spilling their drinks whilst awkwardly lurching to 200 beats per minute is more appropriate. However, resurgence in the popularity of ballet, coupled with a change in marketing strategy, is slowly destroying that assumption.

The Australian Ballet Company (ABC) has pushed aggressive marketing techniques that directly target both younger audiences and potential devotees who may be curious about ballet, but feel deterred by preconceived notions of the culture surrounding the spectacle. Through the 'Introduction to the Ballet' program, aspiring ballerinas and ballerinos, as well as complete novices, are encouraged to interact directly with the dancers, via a training session, Q&A and performance.

The first performance in the 2014 repertoire is *Manon*. The fact that it was first staged in 1884 at the *Opéra-Comique* in Paris

may disinterest some. However, principal artist Lucinda Dunn disagrees. As the title character in *Manon* and longest serving full-time ballerina with the ABC, Dunn argues that in a rapidly modernising world "where everything happens in an instant", the ballet offers respite with slowly developing plots that rely on athleticism, refined technique and nuanced storytelling.

The culture surrounding ballet is sorely misunderstood. An air of snobbery and an image of highbrow, inner city finance executives speaking of the 'tasteful' solos and 'moving' symphonies pervades ballet. In defiance of these presumptions, the ABC performs in more regional areas than any other national arts company and displays over 200 shows annually. Student tickets are offered at \$36 and the ABC's 'Children at the Ballet' program is aimed squarely at dance fans below six years of age.

Dunn has dedicated her career of 22 years as a prima ballerina to the ABC, with leading roles in *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Romeo and Juliet* that have paved the way for many aspiring dancers. One such dancer is Ella Havelka, a young ballerina from the small town of Narromine in Western NSW who joined the company in 2013 as their first Indigenous dancer. Australian ballet is evolving to

include international trends, with performances exploring neoclassical, contemporary and post-structural form.

By investing in international choreographers and directors, the ABC has built a strong reputation that has seen its performances travel as far as Paris, Tokyo and Shanghai. Their latest season in London won the UK Critics' Circle award for Best Foreign Dance Company and cemented Australia's place as a preminent, globally respected company.

But *Manon* was still overpopulated by the aging, well-dressed, champagne-swilling

crowd that would be anticipated at a typical Opera House event. Young children (with rich parents) and elderly regulars (who provide hefty donations) are keeping ballet alive and thriving in Australia, but there is a gaping hole in the fan-base. As modern music spits out a plethora of new sub-genres every week, an appreciation for classical librettos is virtually nonexistent for the average person looking for something to do on a Friday night. However, with lowered ticket prices, contemporary routines and well-stocked, lively bars nearby, there's no reason why the Opera House shouldn't be a stop on every student's weekend plans.



ILLUSTRATION BY ERIN ROONEY

Comedy night makes people laugh: punters

Adam Disney enjoyed the voodoo magic at the Green Lights Comedy Night.

It seems that amongst Sydneysiders, live comedy is something of a hidden vice. It's a grim scenario, but thankfully it might be changing. Over the last year or so, the final Friday of every month has seen the Gaelic Club in Surry Hills play host to the Green Lights Comedy Night, a relaxed and supportive showcase for local comics with wide-ranging experience.

Sitting in our regular corner a month or so back, my associates and I witnessed several strong sets featuring, amongst others, the sly, droll observations of Ray Badran and the manic stumbling of the ever-brilliant Clinton Haines.

That's quite the rave review; where is the savage misanthrope of yesteryear?

I suspect this is Green Lights' doing. You feel it as soon as you enter the room – somehow, for some reason, everyone in the room *wants* to enjoy themselves. That's not as common as you might think. Be it the venue, the time or a shitty audience; a joke cannot live in a vacuum. Just as the tamest milquetoast can bust guts under the lights of a television stage, the sharpest and most distinctive of comics can falter and die in a hostile room. But this (generally) does not happen at Green Lights – by some strange voodoo, even the hardest bitten enter with a desire to laugh.

It's a special thing, but I shan't lie – not every comic is a winner. A large part of the night's appeal is in its presentation of a wide range of up-and-comers, and this brings with it some inconsistency. Yet even when facing an overly practiced delivery or excessive use of "seriously guys", my cringe was overridden by a deep desire to find some aspect to appreciate. This was never too difficult, and the brief sets ensure you need only grab another beer and wait a second before something more your speed comes along.

The night began with a gripping series of high-powered strategy conferences between myself, and co-founders Alexei Toliopoulos and Nikko Malyon. Drawing inspiration

from a party game where one performs an impression they have never done before, the idea for the night is, as Toliopoulos recalls, "[No] matter how shitty it is ... you've got the green light". This easy-going approach was a stark contrast to the duo's perception of the local scene. "There weren't ... many open mics [when] we started," Toliopoulos explained, nor were they exactly welcoming. Venturing to one such room post-high school was "scary, really intense; it cost money ... so if you wanted to bring friends, they had to pay".

It is understandable then when Malyon says they always wanted the show to be more a "creative outlet" than commercial enterprise, in spite of growing from what was envisioned as 'the same ten comics and the same ten audience members' to a rotating roster of local notables with a growing monthly audience. The increased popularity was something of a pleasant surprise. Toliopoulos notes that despite virtually no promotion for the year's first show, "the word of mouth carrying over from the last year ... was just huge". In addition to the self-sustaining audience, there is the added kudos of growing name recognition as an alternative room.

Relations with the club itself remain strong, no doubt attributable to the night having managed to go from financial drain to modest income-earner – no small feat in Sydney. Given the relative scarcity of venues and audiences, Toliopoulos feels that making a go of it through stand-up alone is "not viable; they're not making any money". The toughness of the Sydney scene acts as something of a proving ground, adding that comics often come down from Brisbane or WA to Sydney because it's a tougher gig and then go to Melbourne, where the crowds are perhaps more amenable.

If Sydney is harsh, then Green Lights is an outlier. The combination of an enthusiastic crowd and a resolutely DIY aesthetic provides a unique arena for showcasing the new, the old and the strange in a medium that is all too often hidden from the gaze of the average Sydneysider.

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Call of Duty: Checkmate

The battle between UNSW and USyd for chess supremacy is on, writes **Julian Kuan**.

On Thursday May 1, 16 USyd chess players, led by Gareth Charles, lined up against 16 counterparts from UNSW. When the smoke cleared, the spoils of this up and down match were shared. The results, an 8-8 score without a single draw, was testament to the fighting spirit of each of the players.

USyd managed to grab an early lead as Adrian Duong, playing on board 11, managed to capitalise on a mistake by his opponent and win quickly. UNSW then fought back strongly, managing to build leads of 3-2 and 4-3 as they asserted their dominance on the lower boards. With two games left to finish, UNSW appeared to have the match in the bag as they lead 8-6. However, USyd managed to grab the last two games, leaving the tie finely balanced heading into the second leg.

The tale of the scoreboard showed, after the top two boards, which were split 1-1, USyd's middle order performed very strongly, winning

7-3 on the boards 3-11. UNSW made up this deficit by scoring 4-1 on the bottom 5 boards.

Of the top six players in last year's victorious USyd team, four were unavailable for this match.

Rupert Coy, Intervarsity Officer for USyd Chess Club, was optimistic about the result. "I'm quite pleased with a draw," Coy said. "I'm very confident we'll win the second leg. The strength in the middle boards shows that we've got plenty of good new players." Coy singled out the play of Jordan Fotaras and Shawn Abeynaike for special praise.

A technical mishap occurred on board 6, as USyd's Ed Selig thought he had won on time before finding out that the clock had been set wrong. Anthony Wong, External Vice-President of UNSW Chess Club, apologised for this mistake. "It really shows poor form," said Wong. "[We will] ensure that this won't occur again in the future."

Despite this glitch, Wong believed that the match was a success. He lauded the executives of both clubs for bringing newer players to the match. He expressed his belief that the match was of great benefit to the growth of the game in Sydney.

This is the third year that the USyd-UNSW Chess Match has been held, with USyd triumphing in both of the prior editions. In 2012 they won 9½-4½, and last year they prevailed 13½-10½.



BOARD 1: Gareth Charles (USyd) 1-0 Hafiz Shafruddin (UNSW). As Black was playing Rb8 he over stepped the time limit and hence lost the game. His position is slightly preferable due to the pressure along the b-file.



BOARD 2: Raymond Song (UNSW) 1-0 Julian Kuan (USyd). Black missed the very strong Raxc8, with threats of Rd8 and c6, in favour of the tempting Qg1+. White managed to eventually extricate himself from his tied up position and his extra material told.

I, too, am Sydney

Tom Joyner reports on an ongoing, social media campaign against racism on campus.

Inspired by the Langston Hughes poem "I, too", the social media campaign, aptly named "I, Too, Am, Harvard" started by African-American students at Harvard University was a rallying cry of against prejudice and discrimination.

"I go to Harvard... but I don't feel like a typical Harvard student," says one black student in an accompanying YouTube video.

The project, started on a Tumblr

page in tandem with a play written by undergraduate Kimiko Matsuda-Lawrence (herself of mixed black American and Japanese heritage), soon spread to other campuses across the Atlantic, with other students from a mix of ethnic backgrounds at both Cambridge and Oxford starting their own campaigns in solidarity. Finally, "I, Too, Am Sydney" appeared on our very own campus last month, led by the efforts of the Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR).

"My name is not too 'ethnic' for your tongue. Stop normalising white names!" reads one message. Another reads: "My culture is not a commodity. Nor is it the theme of your next [insert university establishment] party."

While the context of these projects have been transposed from their beginnings at Harvard, their spirit has remained the same - that racial prejudice, even in the subtlest of ways, remains an unspoken blight on the campuses of elite universities. That through solidarity and storytelling, autonomous projects like Matsuda-Lawrence's and USyd's own can bring to light the lived experiences of minority ethnicities.

According to the Student Representative Council (SRC)'s International Student Officer Emma Liu, the project aims to "represent the ethno-cultural community on campus, both local and international students".

Bridget Harilaou, an Office Bearer of ACAR, emphasizes the importance of the project to strengthen non-white voices on campus.

"It serves as a platform for students who identify as marginalised by white supremacy in Australia, to articulate and communicate... discrimination they experience on a daily basis", she says.

According to the project and its founders, this problem also exists at an institutional level, where the systemic prevalence of 'whiteness' on campus comes at the expense of people of colour. "White students who do not acknowledge the privilege they carry and are ignorant of other cultures often make offensive jokes, and generally create a space that is uncomfortable for non-white students," says Harilaou.

"Marginalisation comes from [the] assumption of our linguistic capacity and probably immigration policy restrictions," explains Liu. Another example of this, according to Liu, are the annual SRC elections. "There is a regulation that prohibits the use [of] languages other than English in any sort of election campaign. This does not help engage international students on campus because most of them will not even understand what is going on."



Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

I have just received a letter from Centrelink saying that I have been overpaid. I had been reporting my income according to my jobs' pay fortnight, but they wanted it to be according to their pay fortnight. I didn't try to hide money from them. I've declared everything, but they're getting really angry because it makes a difference to my student income bank.

Fortnight Mismatch

Dear Mismatch,

As you need to report your gross earnings you should be able to just keep records of the amount of hours you have worked during your Centrelink fortnight and multiply that by your hourly rate. That will help you for future reportings.

However, for this situation you need to first establish whether or not you have been overpaid. Ask for a copy of your file (Freedom of Information Act). Your file will be huge so it will take weeks to compile. Calculate what you should have been reporting and how this would have affected your Student Income Bank and therefore your payments. Of course you can ask the SRC for help with this.

In the meantime Centrelink will probably start taking money out of your payments to pay off the debt. If this will cause you extreme financial hardship contact Centrelink and see how small a payment they will allow you to have. Also consider going to the Financial Assistance Centre of the University to be able to pay it off as a lump sum. If you can show the debt to be incorrect you will be able to get this money back.

If they ask you to attend an interview in their offices I would advise you to decline, but instead offer to answer any written questions that they have. Do not do this without talking to SRC Help.

Abe

Dear Abe,

Is it true that you have to pay to use an ambulance?

Car Struck.

Dear Car Struck,

Yes it is and they can be very expensive. The cost ranges from \$252 to \$5248 depending on the type of care and the distance travelled. If you have a Health Care Card or a Low Income Health Care Card (available to people earning less than \$500 per week) you get a bunch of discounts including free ambulance in NSW. If you have private health insurance you may also have ambulance cover. You can even get just ambulance cover starting at around \$30 per year.

Also note that you will be billed regardless of whether you called the ambulance or not.

Abe

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

DID YOU KNOW?

You should always be paid for "training" at work

Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you. Drop-ins 1-3pm Tuesday & Thursday or phone for an appointment. We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney (02) 9660 5222 | help@src.usyd.edu.au | www.src.usyd.edu.au | www.facebook.com/srchelp

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President's Report

Jen Light

The long awaited Abbott Government's Commission of Audit was released on the 22nd of April. The Commission was established by the Government as an independent body to review and report on the performance, functions and efficiency of the Commonwealth government – in essence it was a tool for the Abbott Government to legitimize the reckless and damaging reductions in Government spending they have had planned since opposition.

The commission gave recommendations that if followed though, will be devastating for not only for the wellbeing of the Nation – but will absolutely destroy the tertiary education sector as we know it.

From the recommendations of the Commission of Audit, we see findings right from the once widely ridiculed list of desired reforms from the stupidly far-right Institute of Public Affairs. From a Government that before the

Commission already singled their intention to fundamentally change the programs that make Australian higher education sector one the most accessible in the world.

The destructive Higher Education recommendations are as follows:

- Decrease Commonwealth contribution to higher education costs from 59 per cent to 45 per cent and increase the student share from 41 to 55 per cent
- Deregulation of university fees.
- Increase interest rates on student debt.
- Graduates repay HELP debt once they earn the minimum wage (\$32,354).
- Abolish all Commonwealth vocational education and training programs including support for apprentices.

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.



This is the time to send the Abbott Liberal Government a message. We will not stand for cuts to education, for increased burden on students, and for ELIMINATING ACCESSIBILITY TO EDUCATION!!

Your SRC is ready to fight the implementation of these appalling recommendations and will be closely watching Abbott and Hockey's first budget, due next week. Education is a right, quality education is a right, and we are ready to defend it.

General Secretary's Report

Mariana Podesta-Diverio is serious this week.



Mental illness is overwhelmingly overrepresented in young people at university and USYD is no exception.

Sometimes it manifests in the form of not being able to complete uni work or social obligations. Other times it comes down to being unable

to do basic daily tasks.

If you need help, please get it. Keep an eye out for unusual behaviour in friends, like detachment and disinterest in participating in activities they would otherwise enjoy.

The University has Disability Services, which you can register for in order to receive support for mental health issues that affect your studies. Their email is

disability.services@sydney.edu.au, and they're located in the Jane Foss Russell building, next to Wentworth.

CAPS – Counselling and Psychological Services – offer one-on-one appointments with psychologists, and they also have

support groups to help you manage by adopting strategies. Their email is caps.admin@sydney.edu.au.

Headspace Camperdown is just down the road, and have free psychologists and psychiatrists. The waiting lists tend to be quite long, so allow for this factor by ensuring you have access to other support if you need it in the meantime.

Here is a short list of some quiet places to sit on campus, mostly away from people:

The high levels of fisher library, around the 900s of the Dewey decimal, the courtyard behind the chemistry building that leads to Fisher Road, the courtyards in Old Teacher's College, St. Paul's

college oval when it is unoccupied, the giant set of steps next to the law building that leads to Victoria Park, the aesthetically pleasing but functionally useless steps next to Verge Gallery, the entirety of Schaeffer library, and the toilets in the basement of the Holme building.

If you need to unwind, buy a \$1 bag of yesterday's bread from Little Devil bakery near Broadway and feed it in bits to the ducks and eels in the Victoria Park lake. My friends taught me that one.

Remember that if you're struggling with academic penalties or appeals, the SRC's caseworkers can help you. We're in the Wentworth building basement; enter via City Road. MPD out.

Education Officers' Report

Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley



The Commission of Audit released last week was the stuff of nightmares. It recommended

increasing student fees by 34%, lowering the threshold at which HECS repayments start to the minimum wage, turning relocation scholarships into loans, and a litany of other attacks on students and higher education.

This was all accompanied by suggestions to introduce Medicare co-payments, reduce the minimum wage, raise the pension age, undermine welfare payments, and a number of other severe measures designed to assault the working class and poor.

We don't know exactly what will

happen come budget day, but it's clear by now that this government is there of the rich, and for the rich. The fact that the Commission of Audit was released on May Day, the day for the international working class, is telling.

Students need to match the intensity of these attacks in our campaign to defend our education system. We have to oppose any fee increases and Pyne's plans to move to a US style education model with ferocity. Only a mass campaign on the streets is going to stand any chance of winning against the heartless bastards that make up the government.

The National Union of Students had called for a national day of action on May 21 to start that fight. Sydney Uni students will be meeting at 1.30pm outside Fisher library for an on campus rally, before marching to UTS.

There's no time to lose, public education as we know it is under threat!

Pick up some posters from the SRC, join + share the event online, announce the rally in your lectures + tutes - and make sure you and everyone you know is there on May 21!

Wom*n's Officers' Report

Georgia Cranko, Julia Readett and Phoebe Moloney



Hi everyone, hope you had a relaxing mid-sem break. We certainly did, but writing this report we are once-more overwhelmed with the exciting knowledge that in week 12 non-cis-male students of USyd will be taking over all 28 pages of this respected publication!

If you are an avid writer, poet, thinker, tinkerer, artist, creator or doodler and would like to have your

voice and ideas in this space then we really encourage you to either submit to the Wom*n's Edition of Honi or be an editor with our team!

The 2014 Wom*n's Edition will be autonomous for non-cis-male students. This is a bit different to editions in past years, but means that everyone except male-bodied students, who identify as men exclusively, can submit and contribute to the creative process. The chance to establish an autonomous space in print media is an extremely exciting prospect as it gives us the opportunity to create according to our shared motives, reasons and values as well as remind ourselves and all students that our experiences, reasons, values as a community are actually mostly different and diverging. This is the radical opportunity of autonomy.

Its a chance to reinstate, explore and value our differences as people away from the homogenising eye of oppressive and violent structures.

However, we must recognise that autonomy in itself is a structure that works on and encourages exclusion and categorisation. In the past Wom*n's Honi has actively excluded students who do not identify as wom*n, or who have not had lived experiences as wom*n but also may not identify as "men". Implicitly, the voices of wom*n who are not expressedly feminine, white, able-bodied, straight have also been silenced. This year we would love to create a publication that does something to challenge each and everybody's ideas of what a wom*n, or not-a-man might be, and listen to those experiences, opinions, dreams, imaginings, ramblings, celebrations

that are silenced at all levels of society, right down to the censorship we partake in of ourselves.

This will never be achieved in a single publication, week or year but if you are interested in this aim or have any idea how we can get closer to achieving it please get in contact with the Wom*n's Collective, we would be overjoyed, relieved and super grateful to hear from you :) We need all the writing, art and ideas we can get!

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or our new non-autonomous book club, or just curious about what Wom*n's Collective does, please send us an email at: usydwomencollective@gmail.com.

Best wishes for Week 9!

Interfaith Officers' Report

Henry Maher and Monique McKenzie

It's hard enough to find any two individuals in complete agreement on matters of faith, let alone two world religions; a casual glance at the news show the globe embroiled in apparently religious conflicts, from Syria, to Sudan and Bangladesh, the list goes on. Thus rather than attempt to encourage inter-faith dialogue based on a commonality of belief, we instead suggest it should be based on a common enemy: capitalism. Beginning with Christianity, despite modern capitalism being built mainly by Christians, it is not compatible with Christianity. The Bible itself is jam-packed full of Marxist material, from Jesus overturning the tables of the traders (Matthew 21, the first example of

proletarian attempts to seize control of the means of production), Jesus' humble carpenter (read proletarian) origins in leading the lower class against the Roman oppressors, and Jesus' warning that 'it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven' Matthew 19:24.

Pope Francis speaks of a Christian Church of the poor, in which the pursuit of money and free market capitalism has no place. In Evangelii Gaudium, he criticised free market economics and 'trickle down theories' lamenting that 'Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon

the powerless.'

Similarly, Islam has in-built mechanisms to prevent capitalist absolute pursuit of wealth. For instance, many Islamic schools of Fiqh prohibit the charging of interest on loans usury and monopoly trading, the cornerstones of capital formation and anti-capitalist protests in Turkey have a strong religious flavour; Ihsan Eliacic, a protest leader, says protestors seek a pluralist world 'without exploitation and privileges, (a vision) that is at the heart of Islam.' Judaism produced anti-capitalist bastions Karl Marx, Leon Trotsky and later Herbert Marcuse, and many contemporary Jews

believe the sacrosanct imperative of 'Tikkun olam' (humanity's collective duty to heal, repair and transform the world) to be inherently incompatible with free market capitalism.

The solution to religious conflict is not going to be found in the reconciliation of metaphysical beliefs. Rather, it lies in people of faith finding commonality in the practical world, and cooperation in fighting common enemies. This imperative must be recognised by any person, either religious or otherwise, harbouring hope of world peace in the 21st century.

PEOPLE OF FAITH, WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

Disabilities & Carers Officers' Report

Yaz Camdzic and Sarah Chuah



A lot has happened so far this year in the way of disabilities and carers' matters and, as usual, this has largely involved behind-the-scenes work. In our capacity as student reps, we are a part of the Disability Action Plan (DAP) Consultative Committee; a group that meets every second month to discuss

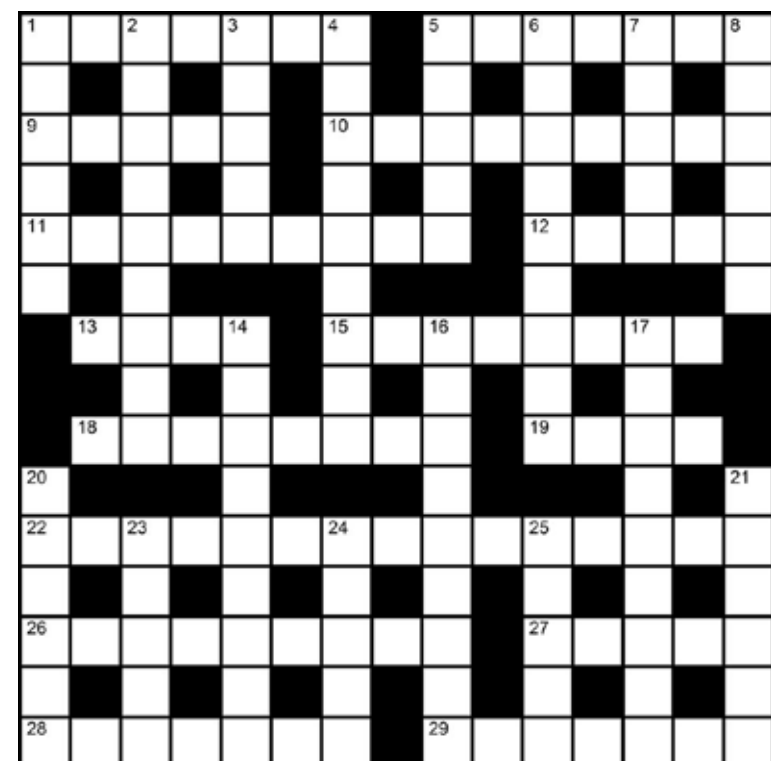
the progress of the University's third DAP and an avenue through which members can flag any issues that may become apparent throughout the implementation process. With five students on this committee, we are establishing a student consultative group to meet outside these meeting times to open the discussion and gather feedback from a broader range of students. We're encouraging students who have been involved in their faculty's local DAP to join the student consultative group as well as any other students who are interested in contributing their time and thoughts, so email us if you're interested.

In other news, we have been meeting with other disabilities student reps from universities and TAFE in Sydney to rebuild the Australasian Network of Students with Disabilities (ANSWD) in the local area. This network will strengthen communication for students between institutions and serve as a way to share information, discuss campaigns and plan events in a unified fashion.

As far as our campaign for supporting Carers in Higher Education goes, we have been thrilled with the interest and feedback we have received through consultations with a wide range of stakeholders both within Sydney

Uni and external institutions and organisations. We also have had involvement in the development of NSW's five year Carer Strategy and are pleased that Carer involvement in education is now one of the major priorities of the strategy. Attending the NSW Ministerial Carers Strategy Summit in late March was a fantastic opportunity to be involved in this process but also to network with various attendees within university, business and government sectors. We're confident that change is not far away- programs and policies to support Carers at uni are coming, but where they will appear first is anybody's guess.

Finished quicker than NSW Liberal Party's moral highground



ACROSS

- 1 Came over (7)
- 5 Possibly a painting (7)
- 9 Series of linked things (5)
- 10 Very personal fallacy (2,7)
- 11 Kind of triangle (9)
- 12 Past president of Argentina (5)
- 13 Charges (4)
- 15 Wizard (8)
- 18 Barren areas (8)
- 19 Catch sight of (4)
- 22 Italian painter (8,2,5)
- 26 _____ Ivy (9)
- 27 Cunning (5)
- 28 Circus swing (7)
- 29 North Americans (7)

DOWN

- 1 Target (6)
- 2 Neighbours, for example (4,5)
- 3 Good with gin (5)
- 4 Envy or greed perhaps? (6,3)
- 5 Remains of something burned (5)
- 6 Instrument that tells you the hour (9)
- 7 Title holder (5)
- 8 Japanese robe (6)
- 14 Conscious of yourself (4-5)
- 16 Position a doctor takes after an internship (9)
- 17 Highly priced (9)
- 20 Not quite (6)
- 21 Arm muscle (6)
- 23 "La Bohème," e.g. (5)
- 24 Control the vehicle (5)
- 25 Someone who doesn't eat meat, or products from animals (5)

NOTE:

Hugh Grant did this crossword in 4 minutes and 29 seconds. Can you beat that?

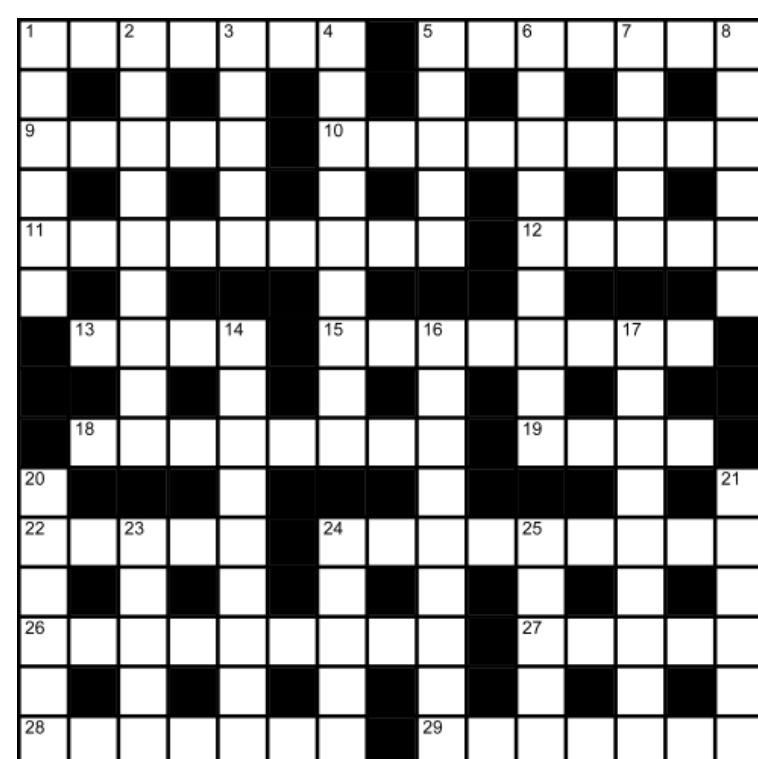
Expression of disgust loses a k following sub-ecclisial burial site

ACROSS

- 1 Inner part of jetty follows stream (7)
- 5 Contracts mark with odd slumps (5,2)
- 9 The old prepositions (5)
- 10 Prone to copy one university native, excluding the introduction (9)
- 11 New films, i.e. with good character, may be most insubstantial (9)
- 12 Trickery frames early drama (5)
- 13 Nearly choke on an alien selection of foods (4)
- 15 Scottish son and relative in conversation (8)
- 18 Entire Northern Territory adapted for the universal computer network (8)
- 19 *Allium Porrum; a flat bottom vessel that became capsized* (4)
- 22 Take delight in talk not involving the Queen (5)
- 24 Feigned nuisance is heard to be bubbly (9)
- 26 Composing competition on the regular parts of Peanuts (9)
- 27 Italian tale of adventure (5)
- 28 Rubbing ceresin is rarely unadulterated (7)
- 29 Relish cooked unethically, author and all being withdrawn! (7)

DOWN

- 1 Using money to get rid of an enthusiast expressing agreement inwardly (3,3)
- 2 One location constructed for a union (9)
- 3 Points inverted in the Cubist's Aestheticism (5)
- 4 A fellow member's brain stem is being reconstructed (9)
- 5 Mad loud wits (5)
- 6 Functional part of a bicycle where a leg is repositioned (4,5)
- 7 Silent all the same (5)
- 8 Determined in advance short press talk's beginning about ecstasy... (6)
- 14 ...as a consequence of the official obiter extremes, and early evidence (9)
- 16 Releasing a Christian who lost some love about Creation (9)
- 17 Spiritual leader clears two males by expelling the leaders of Sydney University's Apostles (9)
- 20 Expels Eliot after English Jack revolutionised the modern era (6)
- 21 Unfinished passion and desire returned (6)
- 23 False enemy in Arab republic (5)
- 24 Bessemer converter, upended, provides French cooking product (5)
- 25 Odd bits of poetry of the French become lost (5)



NOTE:

Seven clues have something in common and are otherwise undefined



What's on: mini fun-sized edition

John Bell Hosts Free Shakespeare Class

John Bell AO (Artistic Director: Bell Shakespeare) joins Sydney University Dramatic Society for a 3-hour Shakespeare and Hamlet Masterclass on Thursday May 8 from 2-5pm. Open to all (free entry) it promises to be a fantastic opportunity for students to see into the mind of Sydney's leading Shakespearean performance expert.

Working with actors from SUDS' upcoming Hamlet (Seymour Centre, August 2014), Bell will explain his approach and face questions from the audience, before (we hope) getting smashed and celebrating the Bard's recent birthday at the Flodge post event.

Where: Studio B, Holme Building

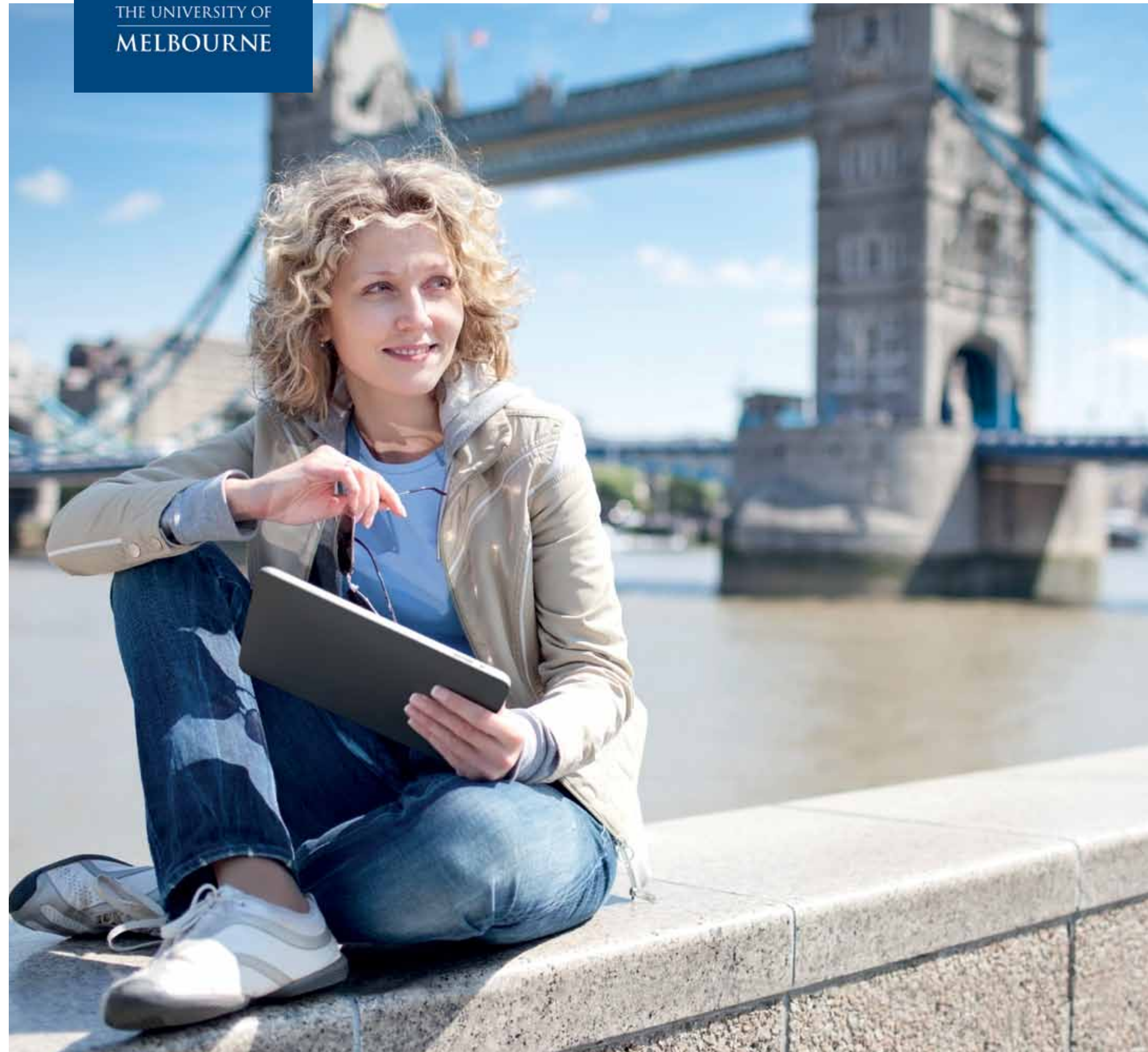
When: 2-5pm on Thursday 8th May

Cost: Free!

"It is the most shattering experience of a young man's life when one morning he awakes and quite reasonably says to himself, 'I will never play the Dane.'"



Melbourne Law School



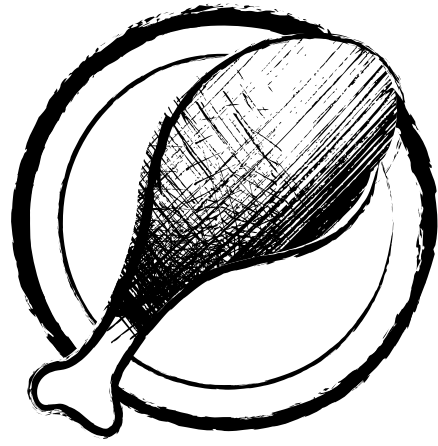
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Honey Soy



BREAKING: State Politician Refuses Bribe

Cam Smith is as dirty as they come.

In a revelation that has stunned even the most avid political watchers and sent shockwaves through NSW Parliament, the Independent Commission Against Corruption today tabled incontrovertible evidence that a sitting member of parliament was not corrupt in any way.

The gallery was said to be left speechless as the Commissioners handed down their ruling, describing the Member for Wollondili as a fine upstanding citizen and a benefit to his constituency, to the disbelief of all those present.

The member, who cannot be named due to early onset Alzheimer's, was swamped by the press as he left the ICAC gallows, with reporters clamouring to find out just why he thought he was so above accepting the bribes of hard working mob bosses.

"Look we've been all offered large sums of money for various kickbacks, but I found the thought of accepting a bribe while in public office unconscionable and morally unjustifiable," said the Member, apparently without irony.

"I also reported these offers to the police, and I've kept copies of the reports filed, which are available on my website, alongside a checked list of every single one of my election promises that I have dutifully honored to date."

Owing to the unprecedented allegations, speculation is rife on social media that the sitting Member may simply be so corrupt that he has just bribed the entire anti-corruption enquiry, a claim police are now looking into until they are bribed enough to drop the investigation.

The Labor party has lashed out at the revelations, describing them as "completely without proof", largely missing the whole point of the matter. "This is a complete disgrace," said the Shadow Member for Construction of Slush Funds the Hon. Don Tony.

"If all politicians stopped accepting bribes then the public would have to start footing the bill for their playboy lifestyles, meaning we'd have to be paying them hundreds of thousands of dollars in salaries and pension plans. That is to say hundreds of thousands of dollars more on top of the ones we already provide them, and the public simply won't stand for it. This blatant lack of corruption is something they'd never have to worry about under a Labor government, or come to think of it a Liberal government either. I guess what I'm trying to say is fuck the Greens."

The commission has now handed on its evidence over to the Supreme Court, where it is expected to be added to the cache of ICAC investigations awaiting processing in the central heating furnace.

Letter-Writers Solve Israel-Palestine Conflict

Georgia Kriz is going into hiding now.

After a heated exchange over several weeks in the letters section of *Honi Soit*, Left activist groups on campus have succeeded in solving the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Countless world leaders, NGOs and the United Nations had been working on stopping the conflict, which has raged since the mid-20th century and caused upwards of 24000 deaths.

In a press conference UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon praised the efforts of the letter writers and their commitment to world peace.

"Thanks to their dogged persistence and enthusiasm over the past few weeks, this immensely complex and fraught political and social catastrophe has magically resolved," he said.

"The best bit was where they devolved into calling each other Zionists or just broadly anti-peace. Who knew that that kind of petty exchange in a newspaper with a readership of roughly four people would work?! 10/10 would solve world peace in that way again."

Commentators are predicting that the *Honi* letter writers will now move on to solving the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is expected that this will only take two weeks.

J. Lo Readies *Jenny From Baroque*

John Rowley, Ricky Gervais, Louis C.K, Jerry Seinfeld - it sounds right, doesn't it?

Following the mediocre performance of recent singles 'I Luh Ya Papi (Feat. French Montana)', 'Same Girl', 'Adrenalina', 'We Are One (Ole Ola)' and pretty much everything else since 'On The Floor (Feat. Pitbull)', Jennifer Lopez is planning a big career shift.

The singer recently premiered a new track called 'First Love', but sources tell *Honey Soy* that this is a decoy release. Behind the scenes, Lopez is readying *Jenny From Baroque*, an album comprised of classical re-workings of her biggest hits.

A draft press release leaked to *Honey Soy* by a Capital Records staff member reveals that the first single from the set will be 'Dance Again (Gigue Remix) [Feat. Pitbull]'. 'Let's Get Loud

(Fortissimo Remix) [Feat. Future]' will also appear on the album.

In the press release Lopez explained that she "first fell in love with classical music when I was pregnant with [my twins] Max and Emme. I would play them Mozart's Requiem Mass in D minor all the time to get them in the mood for the birth." By blending orchestral arrangements with rap contributions from the likes of Flo Rida and A\$AP Ferg, the singer reportedly hopes to be perceived as an industry innovator.

"I think this could be the release that really puts me on the same plane as the greats – Vivaldi, Bach, Lopez," she said in the press release. "It sounds right, doesn't it?"



Union Board Campaign Manager "Just In It For The Experience"

Peter Walsh and Dominic Ellis definitely didn't write this about anyone in particular.

Former Ravenswood School Captain, Vice President of Young Labor, Best Speaker (AUSTRALS 2013) and "really competent driven young person"* Francesca Rabelais (Arts/Law IV), is managing a Union Board campaign "just for fun, really".

Rabelais, whose idea of fun includes attending general meetings and doing favours, says she has no ambitions of her own. "Nope, I have no desire to run for *Honi* or SRC or even Union Board," she said while being physically groomed by her candidate. "I am happy enough watching others get up." When asked if she had any opinions regarding the current operation of the board, she responded with a 14 line policy statement in dot points before continuing,

"Sounds pretty good, hey." There are, however, some suspicions surrounding her decision to manage such a controversial board candidate. While most people think of him as a slimy, deceitful sociopath, Rabelais praised his "sunny disposition" and "connections for future campa— I mean, sense of humour".

The people who told me to fuck off on Eastern Avenue while campaigning in the *Honi* elections last semester, collectively, had this to say: YOU'RE ALL—YOU INCLUDED PETER WALSH—NOTHING MORE THAN SELF AGGRANDISING SCUMBAGS.

*Curriculum Vitae, 2014.

Union Board Primer



IN OTHER NEWS

Honi Comedy Writers Strapped For Headlines

New Star Wars Films To Focus Entirely On Backstory Of Jar-Jar Binks

New Star Wars Films To Focus Entirely On Jar-Jar Binks' Circumcision



Royal News:

International relations sour as baby George regurgitates Vegemite rusk.

"Kate and Will incredibly down to earth," according to another fucking idiot.

Prince Phillip avoids classist/racist/sexist gaffe by staying at home.

SULC affirms true liberal values by unquestioningly supporting hereditary monarchy.

Classifieds

SEEKING:

Discreet young man with a vacuum cleaner and an open mind.

New opportunities in state infrastructure projects.
Contact: E. Obeid.

PRODUCT RECALL:

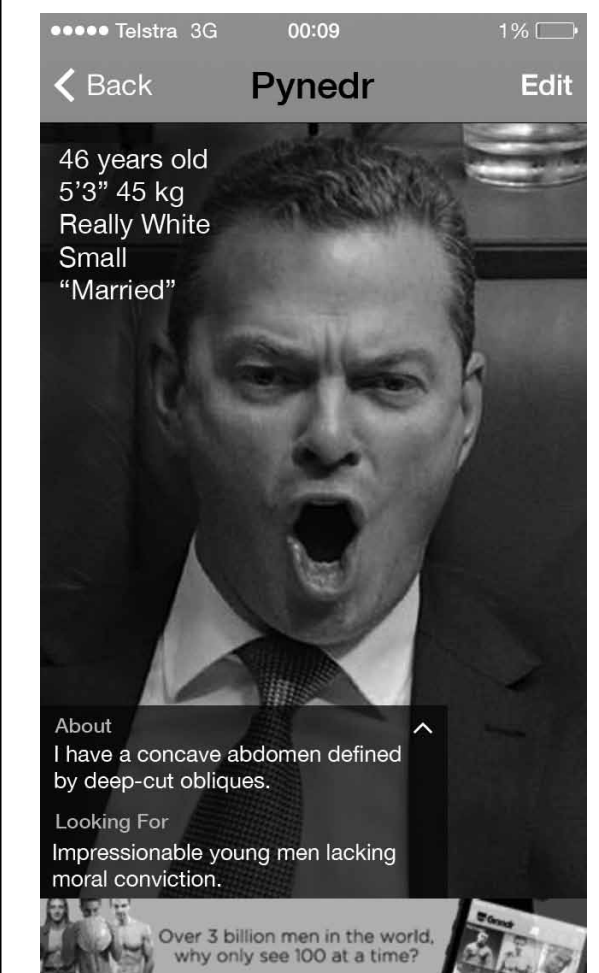
Manchester United. Beware: Choking hazard.

NSW State Government.

JOBS:

Public relations manager.
Contact V. Putin.

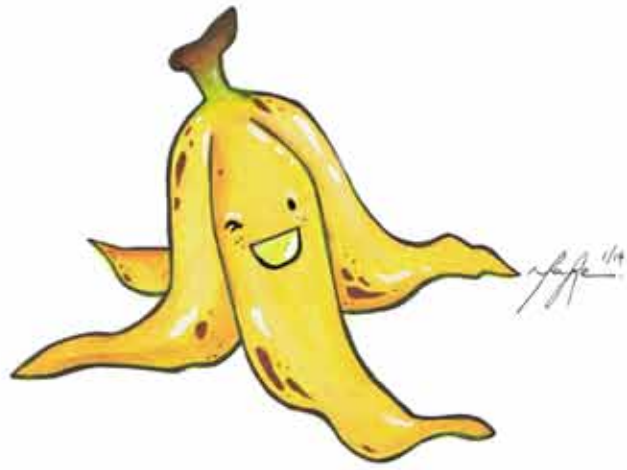
Tame albino rat willing to act as toupée. Contact C. Palmer.



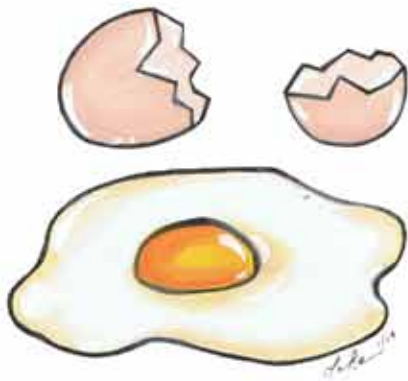
Just cut it out and say something!



Pick me up
hot stuff



You are very
appeeling



you are
eggcellent



nice pear

stupid puns brought to you by

little blue renn 

