

Honi Soit

Week 10, Semester 1, 2014

HONI SOIT QUI NO TO PYNE

USU BUMPER EDITION

ILLUSTRATION BY MADELEINE PFULL



p.14 Meet your
Union Board
Candidates

p.19 Review:
52 Tuesdays

The Master Budget and the Margarita

Nick Gowland witnessed a most unusual exchange.

A sharp knock rang against the door of Tony Abbott's private Prime-Ministerial office.

"Go away, I'm busy Prime Ministering," said Tony, as he frantically minimised NeoPets browser tabs. "You're going to want to meet this person," said attractive young secretary and Minister for Education Christopher Pyne as he opened the door and ushered in a shadowy figure.

"Chrissy, are you serious? Is this one of those Q&A hooligans?" exclaimed Tony as he eyeballed the stranger's swishy hemp robe and Pantene commercial hair. He began to reach for the button under his desk that would send \$12 billion of publically funded joint strike fighter pain screaming in through the windows of Parliament and into the kale-smattered beard of this smelly ideologue. But before he could press the button, his eyes popped out like moles in a Whack-a-Mole.

"Aaaaaaaaw, mate!" said Tony.

"Please allow me to introduce myself," said the stranger.

"AAAAAAAW, MATE" squealed Tony. "I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!"

It was Jesus.

"Look, Tony, I'll cut to the chase," said Jesus as he took a chair and struck a match to a slender cigarillo which appeared between his lips out of nowhere. "I've come directly from Moscow to talk about your new budget."

"Oh, Jesus, of course mate!" gushed a near-hysterical Tony, as he scrambled through a pile of Sudokus and Paint-by-numbers for the right document. "Oh my gosh, you have no idea what an inspiration you've been for me! You are like..." Tony paused as he handed a file to Jesus. "Jesus, you are my muse."

"Riiiiight..." said Jesus as he pressed the beige envelope to his forehead and absorbed its worldly knowledge. He sucked deeply on his cheroot. "Tony, what's going on here?"

"Oh, Jesus, you're going to love this. The other night I was in the tub and I thought, 'Not once in the Bible does Jesus ever attempt to redistribute limited resources to support society's most vulnerable and oppressed.' So we've given welfare a kick in the teeth..."

"Um, actually I did..." began Jesus, but it was no use, because Tony had entered full fan-boy mode.

"Of course, we couldn't have pulled it off without softening everyone up with the Commission of Audit report, which was TOTALLY inspired by the whole Bad-Cop Old Testament, Good-Cop New Testament deal. And then I plonked an extra few million into Operation Sovereign Borders, because after all, neither you nor your family ever benefited from strangers who were willing to offer what little they had to desperate foreigners with no place to go."

"Look, Tony..."

"Also, we've revamped universities to reflect how you charged your disciples, so debt now kicks in at minimum wage. Which we're lowering, because like you told the Pharisees," – and here Tony placed palm on beating breast – "Let he who is without sin have the courage to do whatever he wants by oppressing the fashionable minorities of the moment through neoconservative economics."

"Okay, that's just a garbled mix of Ayn Rand and yourself."

"So did I do well, Jesus?" Tony's ears wiggled like a giddy puppy. "Are you happy with me?"

Jesus sighed. Were times really so bad that his only choice was between THIS and Cory fucking Bernardi? "Well, I guess paid parental leave is hard to fault..."

"\$50,000 to eastern suburbs yummy mummies!"

"Oh for fuck's sake... Look, fine, whatever, if this is what you want to do after everything I went through, then go for it. I just can't anymore." Jesus stubbed out his cigarillo on a mountain of tax cuts for the rich.

"DOES THIS MEAN I GET TO BE POPE???"

"Sure."

Tony began spinning in gleeful circles. Round, and round, and round he went! By the time he slowed down, Jesus had already vanished into thin air. "Just like in the book!" thought Tony. This was the happiest day of his life.

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ISSUE #9

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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

Print journalism was dealt yet another blow last week, with the announcement of 70 job cuts across Fairfax Media titles. Thirty photographers will be cut from the company, with Fairfax stating they will outsource most of their photography to Getty Images. Fifteen journalists will be cut from the Life Media team. Thirty-five jobs will be cut in editorial production, with ten of these jobs shifting to newsroom editorial roles. Just to be clear, yes, it was Fairfax Media that produced the now infamous “World is fukt” paper and, yes, they are now cutting sub-editors.

Almost used to the periodical shaving of their newsroom, Fairfax journalists walked out in a heavily publicised (after all, they are journalists) 24-hour strike. Management sent out a terse email threatening job losses for non-unionised strikers, while Twitter erupted with people posting the brilliant work of photographers whose jobs are on the line. The ongoing slashing of newsroom staff is something that should draw the concern of anyone who cares about the role of the media as the fourth estate. The eruption of the Twittersphere is not just the echo chamber of those who inhabit it most enthusiastically, but the genuine anger of those who feel quality Australian journalism slipping away.

Here on this predominantly left-wing campus, far more politically aligned with the *SMH* than *The Daily Telegraph*, many have pointed out the Fairfax flagship’s decline in quality, saying their website homepage has become an homage to sporting and celebrity gossip. However, an assessment of the *SMH* that fails to take into recognition its investigative journalism and commitment to uncovering the mysteries of this city is

incomplete.

Although this example is given so often it has almost become hackneyed, the hard work of Kate McClymont has led to the uncovering of rampant corruption within our criminal government. Their work extends from the political to the personal – just earlier this year, Peter Munro wrote an intensely compelling story on Natalie Wood, a Sydney woman who lay dead in her home for eight years before anybody noticed. The value of this kind of journalism won’t be realised until it no longer exists.

Here at *Honi Soit*, we are lucky. We don’t have to sell newspapers. We survived the death of compulsory student unionism, and – so far, at least – have survived this criminal government, which is more than we can say for parts of the ABC. However, despite our financial status and situation being markedly different from that of the *SMH*, we stand in solidarity with those in danger of losing their jobs.

Fairfax will never regain full health, never return to be the media gatekeeper it once was. The proliferation of online news sources has taught audiences not to pay for what they can already get for free: Clickbait. Celebrity gossip. AAP wire rewrites. Getty images.

Quality, trust, and brand recognition are all Fairfax have left. This is what they must focus on going forward, and asking people to do more with less will only serve to further erode this crumbling foothold. Continuing to undercut quality in the name of ‘keeping up’ will only send Fairfax tumbling into the abyss of irrelevance even sooner than expected.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Lane Sainty

EDITORS: Georgia Behrens, Felix Donovan, John Gooding, Georgia Kriz, Andrew Passarello, Justin Pen, Astha Rajvanshi, Michael Rees, Christina White

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Judy Zhu

MASTHEAD ILLUSTRATION: Helen Xue

REPORTERS: Andrew Bell, Ben Brooks, Ben Brunker, Georgie Crawford, Milly Ellen, Dominic Ellis, Nick Gowland, Sam Jonscher, Tom Joyner, Joshua Krook, Patrick Morrow, Jay Ng, Leigh Nicholson, Nick Rowbotham, Subeta Vimalarajah, Peter Walsh, Jeff Wong, Rebecca Wong, Isabelle Youssef

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Last week’s election cover art was by Julia Zhu Wei. Many apologies to Julia for forgetting to credit her work.

Credits

CONTRIBUTORS: Benjamin Bolton, Cameron Smith, Georgia Carr

ARTISTS/PHOTOGRAPHERS: Jay Ng, Maria Mellos, Madeleine Pfull

PUZZLES/QUIZZES: Paps

Write to us:
editors@
honisoit.com

Why so USU?

Dear Eds,

I am writing in response to the University of Sydney Union election coverage in the Week 9 edition. I feel the editors, in stressing the candidates' determination to annoy the fuck out of every student on campus, lost an opportunity to emphasise not what board directors usually do, but what they have the potential to do.

But that’s hardly the editors’ fault. The 2013-2014 term was a fraught one with a lot of crap flung into the student political ceiling fan that has warranted focus. While its easy to dismiss what directors are individually in charge of, the truth is that the amount of power given to these students is patently absurd.

18-25 year olds are pushed to come up with ideas, and if they’re intelligent and have the gumption to follow them through, can execute them with the help of a few votes from their mates on board and then thousands (or sometimes millions) of member dollars to bring it home. The premise is terrifying, but when the directors are smarties the creativity that follows is wonderful.

The successes borne out of this arrangement are readily forgotten. I don’t mean to excuse the broken promises or frivolous campaign policies (of which I am very much guilty). I only mean to bring attention to examples where directors haven’t fucked up but have instead positively influenced students’ day-to-day lives, whether they’re hacks or mercifully disenfranchised.

This year alone, current directors Bebe D’Souza and Eve Radunz have developed, respectively, the new and important Sex and Consent Day and Health and Wellbeing Week. In 2011, a director founded Incubate, which today officially partners with Google. In 2010, it was a board president who mandated free ACCESS cards for every college student. In 2009, another board president conceived of and then built the International Student Lounge on Level 4 Wentworth and the Verge Gallery. His name was Ruchir Punjabi and he was the first international student to be president; he saw a need for an international student space, and was driven enough to get the job done. He started and finished these projects within his two-year term.

Across too many board terms worth counting, it was down to the smarts of a handful of directors to seek, and seek again, funding from the university to keep the C&S program alive, at a time when the USU couldn’t stand on its own legs. I shudder to think what would have happened if those fearless students weren’t elected (and there were more muppets in their place).

These students were the ones who decided your coffee should be Vittoria and ethically sustainable, who kept the student bars funded and staffed from

month-to-month, and who appoint the people who run O-Week, Verge, gigs at Manning, and so on. Board directors made the controversial decision to, for one year only, double the mandatory student services fee to raise enough capital to construct a new building for its members (Wentworth was built, from scratch, from student money). It would have been an exceptionally crazy director to come up with that funding model - what if she or he hadn’t gotten up? We’d have a lot less food options, retail outlets and one less bar.

It’s easy to be disillusioned by the ball pits and the lanyards and the parking spots and the douchebros emanating from self-confessed student leaders like cartoon stink lines. But know that today’s pests are tomorrow’s absurdly influential decision-makers. When they’re not in court they’re busy building shit, and they might even be worth your time in voting.

Alistair Stephenson
JD III, Douchebros Self-Confessed
Ex-Student Leader

The falcon cannot hear the falconer

Dearest Honi,

I write to you today with the gravest concerns about the state of humanity. It was nothing short of abject horror today when I made this discovery. For years now, I have suspected something to be amiss, but today I stumbled on the confirmation of my suspicion as I roamed the (now rather roomy) aisles of Fisher.

University students do not understand basic concepts of decimals, which has thrown the entire Dewey decimal system in Fisher library into COMPLETE DISARRAY.

When looking for books today, I discovered the 363.32 36 I was after crudely shoved between 363.32035 and 363.32037, thus placing it in an entirely different topic category. Then, after traipsing all the way to level eight via the stairs (the elevators in Fisher shall be the topic of another strongly worded letter, I’m sure) to find 956.70442 25, imagine my horror when I found not only it, but also 956.70442 24, 956.70442 26, 956.70442 27, and 956.70442 44 shoved four shelves away from the rest of their 956.70442 ?? counterparts, in a random location that cannot even be a simple misgiving (as in my previous example)! This act was pure mischievousness, that fact is undeniable. Then, when I descended the stairs back to level 4, imagine my disappointment when 300.1 201 just simply wasn’t there, despite two copies being allegedly available.

Why do students seek to undermine the Dewey decimal system? I think it must be an innocent lack of understanding, for surely University students must understand that the Dewey decimal system is the glue that holds the library together, that any erroneous book will cause pain and torture to any future student who seeks to find it, and may take weeks, months, even years to locate on the expansive shelves of Fisher?

I’m not sure how we can fix this, *Honi*. More conveniently placed reshelving trolleys might encourage students to leave the returning of the book to the shelving experts, however I am pessimistic about this option, given it would require more staff and as I learned from Honi last month, our libraries are sadly headed in the opposite direction.

With the current library climate, I see no possibility of change. I guess I should just knuckle down and wait for the apocalypse, for surely it will come sooner than 300.1 201 will return to its rightful place, between 300.1 200 and 300.1 202.

Yours in despair,
Lucy Watson
Media and Communications VI

Forking out for sexism

Dear Honi,

It sucks that as a young male on a night out with fellow uni friends, I have to feel like I’m condoning wet T-shirt competitions and near-naked salsa wrestling. I’m not. And yet simply by entering Scary Canary, I fund sexist practices like these. Practices like when their male MC announces that, unbeknownst to participants, the provided shirts should be removed for the final round of salsa wrestling. (The thinly veiled premise of a game here makes this option more like a paid command.) Bras remained, but these were lost in the fight. Presumably, this was anticipated.

What I find disturbing, though, is the double standard generally that girls on a night out should be drunk, sexy and yet with their capacity to consent totally intact. Worse is the attitude which holds that this one-off consenting signature represents that this sort of thing is universally okay, particularly when that initial participation means a potential boost in disposable income. Let’s not lie - there aren’t many things a student or backpacker could conconably refuse to do when \$200 is involved.

The saddest part about Friday night was the knowledge that the club would recover their cash loss many times over, because apparently this is what people pay to see. I guess Scary Canary can’t be blamed for giving the market what it wants. And that’s the problem: the culture that condones the humiliation of young women as a legitimate form of entertainment, and the culture that equates the term ‘feminism’ with a brand of anti-male extremism that people seem to think exists everywhere, despite being able to point to few actual subscribers. (Please don’t say ‘Germaine Greer’.)

I think it’s up to us, as students, to select products and services on the basis of a social conscience, because dollars we spend at Scary Canary endorse the demeaning of our sisters, our friends and of young women generally.

Maybe, then, an enjoyable night out wouldn’t mean having to turn a blind eye to the blatant symbolism of giant inflatable penises being chucked around the crowd.

Regards,
Lachlan Ellison
Arts (Languages)

Thumbs down to Q&A protestors

Dear Honi

On behalf of all mainstream students on campus, I would like to express my disappointment at the juvenile antics of the extreme left on Q&A.

Many of those who engaged in such churlish behaviour that evening were unfortunately students of Sydney University and are thus an embarrassment to the majority of the student body.

In this democracy, we pride ourselves in our freedom to dissent strongly against government policy that we disagree with. No one is denying their right to protest. But it wouldn’t hurt to lift the level of discourse beyond a leftist banal call for free stuff. These radicals have done nothing except attract ridicule, as well as to hurt their own message.

Nothing is for free: everything has a cost. It is unfair for these privileged lefties who so often spend their time asking everyone else to check their privilege to ask the majority of Australians who don’t go to university to subsidise the majority of the cost of their university education. University students on average have the capacity to earn higher incomes. With no one having any intention to remove the HECS scheme where every dollar can be borrowed from the government and paid back in the future, surely privileged Sydney University students can in the long run afford to contribute more to the cost of their education.

In my opinion, many of the recommendations under consideration from the Kemp Norton review, if adopted, should see an Australian tertiary system that is accessible, fair and of higher quality. Already Minister Pyne has shown a passion for reform and is to be commended for this.

At least there is some sensible policy engagement by the centre left. But unfortunately, the radical left wing (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th year Arts??) students on Q&A get a kick out of professional activism and perpetually living off the taxpayer, so I won’t be holding my breath for considered policy engagement with them.

Yours in deregulation and efficiency cuts,

Chaneg Torres
BPES III
President, University of Sydney
Conservative Club

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Tensions run high on USU Board

Andrew Bell reports on Board-staff discussions at the recent USU Board Meeting.

University of Sydney Union CEO Andrew Woodward rebutted claims that he disclosed aspects of a confidential USU report to USyd Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence at the most recent Board meeting.

At a fiery meeting, held earlier this month, Woodward responded to a number of comments made by Board Directors during another meeting held to vote on the expulsion of USU Vice-President Tom Raue. *Honi* could not acquire a direct transcript of the proceedings due to restrictions on attributing the statements of non-elected USU staff during meetings.

During the expulsion meeting Raue stated that Woodward disclosed much more of the report to Spence than Raue did, a claim Woodward disputes.

“The email between me and the Vice-Chancellor was a private

email, written to provide him context to the report that had already been published in a public domain by *Honi*,” Woodward later said.

“Tom had already made public the report that I referred to in my email by the time of the email. I did not release the entire content of the report. To this day I still have not seen the report.”

Woodward also denied that USU staff “play favourites” with Directors, saying that “each Director brings a unique view and makes a unique contribution”. At the expulsion meeting Raue stated that he faced “punishment because I am not aligned with the powers that be in the Union”.

Board Director Robby Magyar also criticised the relationship between staff and student directors. Magyar was critical of Woodward’s decision to speak at the most recent meeting. “The

comments made by Woodward at the last Board meeting should have been made in a private setting, particularly given he was conveying his personal opinion after the vote on the Special Resolution had already been cast by the Board,” he later told *Honi*.

USU President Hannah Morris suggested perceptions of staff favouritism may be mistaken. “If some Board Directors appear to have particularly friendly relationships with a staff member more than other Directors do, it is often because that Board Director has taken up opportunities to spend time with and form a close working relationship,” she said.

In contrast, Magyar said he had witnessed staff preferential treatment. “On the topic of individual staff members playing favourites, I cannot speak for all directors, but it is something I have personally felt for quite sometime,” he said.

Sydney best city for international students: report

Sydney ranks high for International Students, reports Jay Ng.

Recent research conducted by global consultancy firm A.T. Kearney shows Sydney is the most popular destination in the world for international university students. Sydney ranked higher than many cities such as London, New York, and Paris, which won the title last year according to QS World University Rankings.

The firm’s 2014 Global Cities Index found that a majority of international students come from China, India, South Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam. The report also stated that the number of students originating from Pakistan, Colombia and the Philippines is increasing.

Sydney’s Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the international student community has contributed more than \$1.6 billion to the Sydney’s economy. She added that a high international student population “helps build Sydney’s cultural diversity and strengthen our regional and global connections.”

Moore named Sydney’s prestigious education institutions, quality employment and research experience, lifestyle and strong economy as reasons why students would choose Sydney.

While the result is a win for Sydney’s universities, international students in NSW are still denied student concessions on most types of public transport tickets, and face other difficulties, such as a lack of assistance within educational institutions.

Emma Liu, an international student at USyd, says Sydney University “must not take it for granted that foreign students will keep coming and thus lose motivation to support them.” Institutions should “actively invest in facilities and support for international students,” Liu said.

The Federal Government estimates that Sydney has 50,000 international students studying at universities, and another 50,000 studying specialty and English courses. International students at high schools are not included in these statistics.

Q&A narchy

Astha Rajvanshi reports on the EAN’s starring role on Q&A.

Students from the Education Action Network (EAN) appeared on ABC’s live Q&A show on May 5 to protest against Federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne and his support for various higher education policy proposals.

The interruption came 20 minutes into the program after students in the audience asked Pyne questions about the government’s plan to deregulate university funding and make cuts to youth programs. In an attempt to give Pyne “a breather”, the show’s host Tony Jones asked another panelist to respond, at which point over a dozen protestors appeared on the mezzanine behind the guest panel. They chanted “Chris Pyne, get out! We know what you’re all about! No cuts, no fees, no corporate universities!” and dropped a banner – at first, back to front – which read, “More brains, not warplanes. Fund Education. May 21 Rally @ UTS 2:30pm”.

Eleanor Morley, the Education Officer at Sydney University, said the protest was organised because “students aren’t happy with the attacks on higher education that are being proposed by Pyne and Abbott”.

The protest followed the recent release of the Kemp-Norton Review and the Commission of Audit Report, both of which

recommend an increase in the contributions paid by students for the cost of their degrees, as well as a drop in the HELP-debt repayment threshold. “By further deregulating the sector to create a US style two-tiered system where only rich kids can get a quality education ... poor, working class students will be in severely underfunded institutions,” Morley explained.

As security guards stepped in to suspend the protest, the live broadcast was temporarily

abandoned in favour of a clip of a previous episode featuring a performance by singer Katie Noonan. Jones resumed the show by apologising to the panelists and the audience. “This is not what we want to happen on this program. This is not what democracy is all about and those students should understand that,” he commented.

Jones has received wide criticism on Twitter for his response, sparking debates about Q&A’s role in democracy in news outlets like *The Guardian* and *The Sydney*



ILLUSTRATION BY MARIA MELLOS

USyd housing plan sparks controversy

Tom Joyner investigates the criticisms surrounding USyd’s new student accommodation.

Sydney University, among other Australian tertiary institutions, has drawn criticism for its funding application under the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) to build housing for low-income students on campus.

Introduced under the Rudd government in 2008, the scheme aims to use subsidies to incentivise property developers and businesses to lease to lower income-earners at 20 per cent below the market rate, in order to address shortages in affordable housing.

Other Australian universities have been accused of exploiting the scheme to build on-campus accommodation targeted at full fee-paying international students, often at the expense of their domestic counterparts.

A University spokesperson has rejected such accusations, saying that the University “aims to deliver the cheapest possible, safe



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY NG

“The University of Sydney does not seek to make a profit from its proposed student accommodation developments,” he said in the letter. “It believes that utilising NRAS in this way is entirely consistent with the objectives of the program.”

Dr. Spence claimed that if successful, the University would provide 1,200 rooms at a

and high quality accommodation options for low income students”.

“Our proposal fits entirely within the current requirements [of NRAS]. If successful the project will deliver benefits for low-income students, with flow on benefits for the local community by easing pressure in the private rental market,” they explain.

Sydney University Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence also denied suggestions that the University’s application was profit driven in a letter written to Mark Bishop, Western Australian senator and chair of the committee that reviews NRAS.

weekly rent below \$300, with the ultimate goal of providing up to 4,000 additional beds adjacent to the main campus.

The University spokesperson has also denied that there are plans to introduce a quota system to discriminate against domestic or international students in planned student housing. Eligibility criteria will instead include “means test requirements”. “If the University’s project is successful we will target the accommodation to students assessed as having the greatest need based on an understanding of their incomes and other factors.”

Morning Herald. “Q&A protesters didn’t disrupt democracy, they disrupted a highly produced TV show,” wrote *SMH* national opinion reporter Judith Ireland.

The show’s Executive Director Peter McEvoy did not think that the protest was an appropriate use of Q&A. “We think there’s a lot more value in people having a productive dialogue rather than chanting slogans,” he said. “There was some opportunity for debate lost because of the interruption of the protest.” McEvoy also believed that the protest did not have any impact on higher education issues. “So far, it’s really led to a discussion about the place of protests in a democracy rather than a discussion about education policy,” he said.

Morley disagrees. “It’s just false to say that no one’s talking about education cuts, I mean there’s obviously two things going on here, talking about the cuts and the impact they’ll have on students and the role of protesting.”

The EAN will be organizing more campaigns against increases in student fees with its cross-campus network, including a protest for the National Day of Action on May 21st at the University of Technology, Sydney.

USyd researchers focus on refugees with disabilities

Milly Ellen reports on an important research project.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has provided three University of Sydney researchers with the necessary funds to monitor and make recommendations on disabled refugee populations in six countries.

The research, led by Professor Mary Crock, primarily focuses on finding mechanisms for effectively protecting refugees with disabilities, whilst potentially developing a more sophisticated identification tool for displaced and disabled citizens.

With support from the United Nations High Commission for

Refugees (UNHCR), Professor Crock, Emeritus Professor Ron McCallum and Professor Ben Saul have already extensively documented the conditions within refugee communities in Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan.

Their most recent excursion to Uganda yielded over 1,000 individual testimonies from disabled refugees. Following on from the success of these initiatives, and with renewed funding from both DFAT and the UNHCR, the researchers are aiming to cover the burgeoning number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria to reach Jordan and Turkey.

The UNHCR has struggled to accurately determine the number of disabled refugees under their care, with figures contradicting the rates reported by the World Health Organization.

Whereas the UNHCR generally relies upon refugees self-reporting their disabilities, the recommendations put forth by the University of Sydney researchers will aim to provide a more effective framework for identifying, classifying and allocating effective physical and psychological health-care services to vulnerable refugees.

The consideration of disabilities is often neglected in the context of civil war, mass displacement and the immediate needs of refugees.

As Professor Crock surmises, “a conservative estimate would deduce that there are 5.5 million displaced people with disabilities worldwide. Having a disability has significant impacts on the experiences and quality of life of refugees and the provision of protection for them is fundamentally important to ensuring their international human rights are respected.”

Clerking mad

Joshua Krook investigates how legal careers are represented and sold by the Sydney Law School.

When I first entered law school I wanted to become a lawyer.

This shouldn't surprise you. Neither should the fact that 66 per cent of students entering law school want to become legal practitioners. What should surprise you is that 64 percent of law students don't end up going into law. These competing statistics pose a confronting dilemma. The reality is that the job market cannot handle the oversupply of law students, to the point where only the cream of the crop get employed. The rest are left without direction, the dreams of corporate careers sold to them at Sydney University now deflated.

UNSW, ahead of Sydney University, has recognized this disconnect between students' expectations coming into law school and the dismal graduate job market. Professor Michael Legg, the newly appointed Director of Senior Studies at UNSW (itself a recently created role), understands students are "anxious about the fall in graduate places being offered by the major firms," and the "increasing numbers of graduates being churned out by universities nationwide". His role includes outlining to students a range of "alternative career" pathways outside of corporate law. He wants students to "broaden their minds" and ask: "what kind of career might I be interested in?"

Some students, however, who prefer to remain anonymous, have questioned whether Legg is the right person for the job. His background, working in large corporate practices, along with his focus areas of ADR and corporate law, are questionable qualifications for a man who is there to guide students to "alternative career" pathways.

Michael Bradley, Managing Partner of Marque Lawyers, gives similar advice to readers of *Survive Law*: "Stop listening to other people and think about your own career from the perspective of what might make you happy and fulfilled," Bradley tells the Blog.

The question does arise: is law actually all it's cut out to be? A final year JD says to me, "Let's be honest: from a distance, being a lawyer looks like a lot of fun. Only later on do [you] realise the

crippling conditions that most young lawyers have to deal with at major firms. Corporate law firms have a lot to answer for, in relation to caring for the mental and physical health of their employers." He tells me of the belief amongst many social justice oriented students that they should "do their time" at large firms, but that many get "swallowed up", "drawn in by the tempting income".

UNSW Law Student, Amber Karanikolas, tells me "there are lots of students who are passionate

“Despite SULS’ best efforts, however, the fetishisation of clerkships appears to be an ongoing phenomenon. Clerkships remain a calendar staple for many penultimate-year students.”

about social justice and may be interested in alternative paths... but just don't know where to look". She tells me UNSW has had "genuine recent attempts by students to promote non-corporate careers", but the focus on corporate careers "is still quite visible". She admits that, "UNSW at least [may be] changing its culture over time".

As compared to UNSW, all of these dire warnings have yet to change practices here at Sydney Law. Currently, Sydney Law is entrenched in corporate advertising, which props up the idea that going into legal practice is the inevitable, and even the only, option, for law students. Sydney University Law Society (SULS) receives corporate sponsorship each year, which filters into its activities and promotions. I put it to President James Higgins that SULS is embroiled in these corporate connections, and relayed to him the messages given to me by several Sydney Law students, who feel overwhelmed by this corporate sponsorship.

Higgins rejects the contention

that SULS places a priority on corporate career pathways.

Despite receiving a substantial degree of sponsorship from large law firms, he argues that such "support is targeted and does not in any [case] cause detriment to the quality of [SULS] events or programs". Of the 60 mentors involved in the SULS Career Mentoring Program, he informs me, 62 per cent come from non-corporate backgrounds.

He recognises, however, that some change is required within

the Law School, "I think it is much more important to provide more clinical courses in the area of social justice law, or with public sector organisations", as compared to UNSW's approach, he tells me. In line with Legg's recent appointment however, he informs me "SULS will be looking to propose that the Law School implement a system of academic advisors [who] will be able to provide advice and support to students".

Despite SULS' best efforts, however, the fetishisation of clerkships appears to be an ongoing phenomenon. Clerkships remain a calendar staple for many penultimate-year students. Perhaps it's the offer of salaried work over the summer, or the stability of the much sought-after grad job.

UNSW law dean, David Dixon, recently told *The Australian*, "students often [think] a job at a large law firm [is] the only pathway to a career in law. The university is dominated by publicity from the big law firms [and] students think they have failed if they don't get a summer

clerkship from one of them". One Sydney Law student mirrored Dixon's comments, revealing to me their "nightmare" of not getting a clerkship in law. Particularly after just being told at a Minter Elison presentation that a clerkship is the only way of getting a job there.

Justin Whealing, Editor of *Lawyer's Weekly*, Australia's leading source of legal news, tells me: "a law degree is very well regarded in many other professions, such as journalism, so the fact that the majority of law graduates don't take up a career in the law is not an undue cause for concern." It is simply a matter of *telling* these students that other options exist. Whealing is more concerned with the significant contractions in the legal sector. He tells me "graduate recruitment programs have been cut hard as law firms look to reduce costs".

So what do students think of this "permanent structural change" of reduced grad intakes? I asked several, who wanted to reply anonymously. On the lighthearted end was a fourth-year Sydney Law student who said, "Who cares if we end up in a law firm or not? If Minter Elison want to buy me free drinks, then so be it."

Other students were more forthcoming with their fears of never getting a job in law. Another fourth-year told me privately, "getting a job [in law] is like getting into the popular clique in high school – reserved for a small crowd of people. It seems as though the future of the legal profession will be saved exclusively for those outstanding, all-round HD recipients that tick all the additional requirements."

In this tough job market, where marks are everything and positions are far from guaranteed, students can perhaps be comforted by the words of one law tutor. "Don't worry, there are a few P's on my transcript. Just keep persevering," he recently told a student.

That idea, to "keep persevering", is perhaps the only option left for the embattled law student. The other option, given little credence at Sydney Law, is to consider the path less travelled into alternative careers.

THE MANNING FILES

FORGING AHEAD

Callum Forbes is to be congratulated for pioneering some new campaigning tactics. He has posted his weekly schedule on his website, listed his daily lunch location, and invited voters to join him at BodyAttack at 6pm on Thursday. *Honi* isn't a huge fan of yuppie gym classes, but if anyone else wants to go and get sweaty with the candidate please let us know how it goes.

However, his innovation doesn't end there. Most candidates mindlessly decided to obey the regs and only start campaigning when permitted – the lazy shits. But not Forbes, who was seen wearing his campaign shirt on campus the Friday beforehand.

Forbes also found himself in an A-frame related workout that surpassed any of the gym sessions he plans to attend. Omar Hassan, a member of Socialist Alliance, was seen expropriating the light blue signs and Forbes chased after him in an endearing little hack scuffle. *Honi* is loving SAlt's participatory democracy this week, keep it up guys.

Forbes is also the only candidate to have inspired the creation of a fake Facebook page, titled 'Callum Forges', reminding voters of the time Forbes fraudulently doctored receipts in the 2013 SULS election, trying to hide the fact that he had breached the spending cap and lied about it to his ticket before being caught out by the Electoral Officer. Campaign celebrity, woohoo!

REGS SCHMEGS

On Sunday, Forbes sent out an email to all WineSoc members promoting his Union Board campaign. The email begged: "This week also marks the final full week of the USU Board Election campaign. I've been nominated by members of the Wine Society as a candidate for the position of Board Director of the University of Sydney Union and we'll be asking for your support in voting for me next week."

According to USU regulation 17.11.1m, it's against the rules to use any USU resource in the Board election, including USU emails. The WineSoc email also lacked a candidate authorisation, a breach of regulation 17.11.1e. The Manning Files team is sure that every single other candidate reported Forbes' indiscretion to the Returning Officer within seconds of the news breaking on Facebook, and are keeping an eager eye on her decision.

WHO'S BEHIND WHO?

Lest we forget the other campaign celebrities. Power couple Tara Waniganayaka and Rhys Pogonoski, who were previously supporting Jethro Cohen before he dropped out of the race, have now thrown their might behind Liam Carrigan and his dopey-looking reindeer. It's highly likely that Waniganayaka is trying to shore up a vote for her presidential ambitions in the upcoming executive elections. If only there was such a clear reason for quasi-geriatric Pogonoski, who was Treasurer at some point last decade. *Honi* can only speculate that he

really likes making antler ears on Eastern Ave at midnight.

In a bizarre turn of events, Aitken-Radburn, the Labor Right candidate, has received backing from some members of the Conservative Club. We're not exactly sure whether they think Aitken-Radburn supports their normal agenda of neofascism or if they just really dislike Callum Forbes. Conservative Club President Chaneg Torres told *Honi*: "Many members have expressed a deep disappointment in the actions of the Liberal Club in choosing to support a candidate known to have engaged in dishonest conduct, and feel there is nothing conservative about this." Aitken-Radburn's first policy is subsidised ACCESS for students in financial difficulty. *Honi* can't wait to see the Conservative Club endorse compulsory student unionism next.

PROPOSED ARMISTICE

Members from Grassroots are trying to orchestrate an agreement for all the campaigns to take a one-hour break from campaigning on the May 21 for the National Day of Action, a protest against cuts to university funding and the deregulation of fees. Even though it is just 60 minutes, campaigns are reluctant as May 21 is the main day of polling. Forbes has refused to participate in any armistice.

Cutting red tape

Public service job losses aren't mourned like they should be, writes Georgia Kriz.

Since the Abbott government came to power just eight months ago, there have been more than 5,000 public service job cuts announced. Another 15,000 are to come.

Liberal governments framed these cuts with well-known phrases like "trimming the fat" and "cutting red tape". Cuts like these are broadly welcomed by the Australian public. When reading the comments section on news stories reporting the cuts, one could be forgiven for thinking that public servants were the most despised sector of people in the country.

Over the next three years up to 200,000 people will lose their jobs as car manufacturers Ford, Toyota and Holden move production out of Australia.

The federal government has pledged \$100 million to help develop a re-skilling and resettlement program for those

workers left jobless.

Unsurprisingly, there have been no commentators rubbing their hands in glee at the prospect of joblessness in the car industry.

As a nation, we have written our public servants into a narrative of excess and greed. We take delight in vilifying them, in painting them, their jobs, and their livelihoods as somehow less valuable than the rest of the nation's. By extension, the city of Canberra itself is denounced as a bloated bastion of bureaucracy and red tape, and held up as an example of the dangers of big government.

But public servants have families too, and they have mortgages to pay. They have kids to send to school, just like their counterparts at Holden, Toyota and Ford. Canberra's economy will suffer just as Victoria's and South Australia's will. In fact, a report by Deloitte Access Economics predicts that the

impact of the public service jobs cuts on the Canberran economy will be worse than that of the closure of the Holden plant upon South Australia's.

Public servants are broadly from a different, more privileged background than car manufacturers, but this should not render them intrinsically less valuable or worthy of consideration. Just as the car plant workers will have trouble finding new jobs, so too will the public servants.

Many of those who have lost and will lose their jobs are career public servants, having gone directly from university into the service, with few unique and marketable skills that make them desirable in the cutthroat and highly competitive private sector. The car plant workers will face a similar struggle, with many of them finding themselves financially unable to move or

retrain in order to find work.

An interesting comparison can be made between the public perception of academics and that of public servants. While academics are cut from a very similar privileged, white, tertiary-educated cloth to public servants and they do similar, socially productive work, they are cast as victims when they lose their jobs. Students rally to defend them and politicians denounce their poor treatment at the hands of corporate management. They're not excess fat to be trimmed.

When the Federal Budget is handed down this coming Tuesday, more public service job cuts will undoubtedly be written into it. As these are carried out, and as the Holden, Ford and Toyota plants steadily shut down, we should spare a thought for all those who are affected. Job cuts and losses should be mourned in whichever sector they occur.

Not #myNYPD

Don't be too quick to trust police media sources, writes Subeta Vimalarajah.

In late April, the New York Police Department (NYPD) launched an informal social media campaign to improve its public reputation.

Police officers took photographs with willing members of the public who then uploaded their happy snaps to Twitter with #myNYPD. Soon enough, the NYPD's remarkable lack of foresight was evident when their humble tag was reclaimed nationwide to expose all manner of police brutality. Occupy Wall Street was first to get the tag trending, wittily paralleling the hollow sincerity of the NYPD with a photo of a young African-American man crushed against a car by a mob of policemen accompanied by the line "Free Massages from the #NYPD. What does your police department offer?" Thousands of photos and retweets later the saga was picked up by national media outlets and deemed the #D'oh NYPD Twitter campaign. Whilst the result was humorous, the NYPD's campaign to reform public will through social media brings to attention a general

trend in policing.

In early May, Sydney University academics Professor Murray Lee and Dr Alyce McGovern released *Policing and Media*, a book that explores the relationship between the Australian police force, the media, and the public. Using case studies from the Queensland floods through to 'Operation Eyewatch', a neighbourhood watch initiative of the NSW Police, the book explores the reasons for and implications of police media output.

But beyond those official, traditional channels, it is important to recognise that police media output now extends to smaller scales. Now that every protestor has an iPhone 5 to shakily document the riot squad bashing up their best friend, police have started bringing their own cameras for documentation purposes. This means that for every two-minute Youtube clip of a protestor being pounded to pulp by the police, there is another clip

of the police acting respectfully: filmed, edited and uploaded by the police. It seems relatively harmless – surely the police have a right to represent their perspective? All good media requires balance.

But there is no balance in the relationship between police and those they use force against. The police have access to mainstream media that investigate stories and, to some extent, balance perspectives. Social media, however, is unregulated. The dissemination of information should be democratic, but the police, as an authoritative state institution, will always be perceived as more credible. This allows them to undermine the voices of those who are beaten, cuffed and silenced.

The format of social media also dilutes critical perspectives. Viewers do not realise that a Youtube video by the NSW Police Force is as much propaganda as a comment from the Police Commissioner. In the aftermath

of a protest, even if there is a ten minute video of police behaving appropriately, giving it airtime is problematic in that it encourages the belief that it's good enough for police to be doing their job most of the time. The police should be held to a higher standard than that. This is made difficult when police have extensive control of traditional media through news outlets, propagandising TV shows like *RBT* and *Recruits*, and your Facebook news feed.

If the NYPD debacle teaches us anything, it is that it will be decades before police can as seamlessly propagandise through social media as they have through traditional media. Hashtags and statuses will likely always be the domain of the young and dissident. But not every attempt by the police will be as mismanaged as the #myNYPD campaign, and we ought to be cautious of the intention behind police media output or we may lose the critical dialogue that keeps our police force in check.

Rewriting the law

Female voices have been silenced in Australian legal system, writes Isabelle Youssef.

Historically, female voices have been pushed out of our legal system: both before the courts and in the law-making process. From this, comes the Australian Feminist Judgments Project, a collection of existing legal judgments that have been rewritten from a feminist perspective. Inspired by the 2010 UK Project, the Australian Project ('the Project') is to be published in December 2014. In the UK and Australian legal systems, judges must make and write decisions within the confines of existing law. Authors for the Project also had to write within this constraint and therefore the Project explores the potential for feminism in the law as it currently stands.

Dr Trish Luker, a post-doctoral research fellow at UTS and one of the four leaders of the Australian Project, said that there were "clear hopes" for the Project as an exercise which could be used for teaching purposes and read by judicial officers. The Project comes at an important time in Australia's legal history, as there has been a significant increase of women on

all levels of the bench in recent years.

Each rewritten judgment is accompanied by a commentary that reflects on the original judgment and how the feminist judgment alters this. Most of the judgments are written by feminist academics, covering diverse areas of law, including not only criminal and family law, but more unexpected areas such as consumer, tax and constitutional law.

Dr Luker described the feminist approach taken by each writer as "intuitive." She said that she and her co-editors were "very open to the fact that there are many different feminisms" and that the feminist angle taken varied "according to the intention of the rewriter."

Ms Heron Loban, one of three Indigenous contributors to the Australian Project, rewrites a 2005 decision *ACCC v Keshow* in which Mr Keshow, who owned a business that sold children's educational materials, targeted Indigenous

women in the Northern Territory. He created payment plans in which he automatically deducted money from their accounts. He was found to have engaged in unconscionable conduct, for selling toys which were not age-appropriate for the women's children; deducting money for goods which were never provided; and taking advantage of the lack of commercial knowledge or education of the women.

Dr Luker identifies this case as "highly distressing" and Ms Loban's judgment seeks to reinsert the Indigenous women's voices into the case. The original decision was based on the technicalities of the transactions and the key role of gender and race in their interactions was completely overlooked. This reinsertion of a human voice and recognition of power imbalances in relationships can only be beneficial to legal development, both in terms of being a catalyst for law reform and for a better experience of the individual in the legal system.

Dr Luker identified rewriting

judgments with accuracy in the law at the time of the decision as an issue with the constraints of the project. Dr Luker said that Dr Irene Watson, another Indigenous scholar, recognized that "she didn't feel that she was able to speak with a sovereign Indigenous woman's voice" within the confines of existing law from the outset.

The Project is a very exciting endeavour as it explores the importance of developing inclusive discourses in law making. In the Foreword to the UK Project book, retired judge Baroness Brenda Hale writes that the Project opens fascinating possibilities: "not the straightforward, predetermined march from A to B of popular belief, but something altogether more complicated and uncertain."

While titled the "Feminist" Judgments Project, it seems that these cases are not only feminist but also humanistic – they very necessarily reinsert the individual's story into court decisions.

Students revolt in privatised Chile

Benedict Brunker on the students fighting back.



Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has reiterated her commitment to free higher education for all Chileans, following three years of intensive student action around the country. Her government plans to grant free tertiary education to around 1.2 million students over the next six years.

Chile is home to one of the world's most heavily privatised education systems since the sweeping neo-liberal reforms of military dictator Augusto Pinochet in the 1970s and 80s. This trend has continued through the "return to democracy" over the last two decades. Chilean students have been paying some of the highest education fees in the world – 50 per cent higher on average than Australian students. They have been paying 75 per cent of the costs of higher education, higher than any other OECD country.

Bachelet's education commitments also involve the removal of government funding to for-profit institutions and free pre-school for all children. These are amongst the demands that have been made for the past few years by Chile's large and powerful student movement. The movement gained momentum in 2011, when massive protests were triggered by the decision of the right-wing Pinera government to increase funding to for-profit educational institutions. Minister for Education Joaquin Lavín was discovered to be an investor

in companies that rendered services to these institutions, and stood to gain personally by the government's decision.

Chile is the wealthiest country in Latin America – and its most unequal in wealth.

On June 13 of that year in protest to the government's educational policy, students occupied 100 high schools around the country. By July 19, 148 high schools were occupied. On June 30, something like 200,000 student demonstrators turned out against the government in Chile's major cities. In response, President Sebastian Pinera pushed privatisation still further by formally allowing higher education providers to operate for-profit, thereby codifying conduct that was already widespread.

On July 14, students marched alongside striking mineworkers in one of the largest demonstrations since Chile's "return to

democracy". By 2012, police had begun removing students from occupied high schools by force, and began to occupy such schools themselves to prevent students from returning. The Confederation of Chilean Students (CONFECH) called for student strikes, some of which lasted up to seven months. Unionised workers engaged in solidarity actions, including most dramatically a general strike called by the Central Unica de Trabajadores (Central Workers' Union). High school students repeated grades in order to participate and tertiary students suffered the loss of vital bursaries and scholarships in order to take part.

In spite of the disruption to daily life caused by two years of strikes, demonstrations and occupations, polls showed that four out of five Chileans supported the students and their demands. This, and the participation of workers' unions in militant student action suggest a wider disenchantment amongst Chileans with the neo-liberal economics of the Pinera government of which higher education is a symbol. Chile is the wealthiest country in Latin America – and its most unequal in wealth.

Though the right-wing military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet was gradually overthrown

through the 1980s, many of the hallmarks of Pinochet's reign have remained firmly in place through Chile's return to parliamentary democracy. Chile's economic system is characterised by steady privatisation, market deregulation and restrictions on independent trade unionism. Though the children of the wealthy have little trouble in securing a quality university education in Chile, the protestors' demands have coalesced around ensuring all Chileans have a chance at securing a decent education.

That higher education is only a part of a larger struggle in Chile against the legacy of Pinochet is perhaps evidenced by the election to Chilean parliament last year of two key figures in the student movement: Camilla Vallejo and Gabriel Boric. As Vallejo, a member of the Communist Youth of Chile, has put it: "The public understood that we were not just students who fought for our own interests and that the youth is also part of the process of a much greater social transformation that involves the rest of society."

Lessons for Chile, then, and lessons for us. Chile remains the chief example in the 21st century of the ability of students to take matters of public policy into their own hands.



Private and controversial

Rebecca Wong probes private universities.

In Sneha’s first year of Medicine at Bond University, one of the guys in her class announced that both of his parents had BMWs. Ask most students what they know about private universities and they’ll talk about wealthy kids paying their way through degrees they weren’t smart enough to get into. “It’s basically just rich white kids who come here,” Sneha says.

Looking at Bond’s campus, which boasts a man-made Lake Orr and a 48-hectare campus complete with a Sports and Recreation Centre, an Olympic-size swimming pool, and rugby and soccer fields, one walks away with the impression that this is a university for the dumb children of the rich. On the other hand, one campus of private Roman Catholic university Notre Dame is enclosed within the confines of Chippendale in Sydney’s CBD, overlooking little else but a busy Parramatta Road.

For Katie, however, it was the transfer from Notre Dame to a public university that proved to be a daunting experience. “At Notre Dame, lectures probably seated about 150 people, maybe even less. Here [at USyd] I’m sitting in a lecture theatre with 300 students around me, and it’s intimidating and hard to concentrate,” she explains.

Bond and Notre Dame both opened in 1989 as Australia’s first independent universities. Earlier this year, they were joined by Torrens University in Adelaide, offering non-subsidised, full-fee undergraduate degrees. Bond is relatively small with a student body of 7,000 and a trimester system that enables fast-tracked degrees. The 2015 Bond University Undergraduate Guide spruiks the benefits of “working with internationally renowned teachers in small personalised classes”, further emphasised by the comparatively high teaching quality and student satisfaction ratings that Bond received in the *Good Universities Guide*.

“I can just get through my degree a lot faster,” says Sneha. “Instead of waiting six years, I can do it (Medicine) in four and a half.” This intake allows Bond to cap its class sizes at 120 students per lecture

and 12 students per tutorial, where staff get to know students practically by name.

Hashim, who transferred from the University of Melbourne, says, “They basically have an open door policy. And obviously they can’t have that at bigger universities... you get that one-on-one time whenever you want.”

Notre Dame is similarly small, with 11,000 students spread across its Broome, Fremantle and Sydney campuses. As a Roman Catholic university, its teaching curriculum is underpinned by a value-driven focus on philosophical and theological subjects. In particular, Notre Dame emphasises alternative pathways and flexible entry policies to students.

Oscar, who is studying a Bachelor of Media and Communications, was offered a place at Notre Dame even before he received his HSC results. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do so I was like, ‘Alright I’ll just take it,’ and it was a Commonwealth supported place, so half the fees are paid for.”

For those without a standard Year 12 qualification such as the HSC, Notre Dame accepts Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) for almost all its undergraduate courses.

Like Bond, the flyers of Notre Dame also promote a “caring community atmosphere” with individualised teaching and a less alienating classroom experience. According to Sarah, who studies Psychology, Notre Dame is “a bit more nurturing, the classes were smaller so you get to know your lecturers and meet a lot more people”. Similarly, Katie, who studied a bridging course, describes the tutors and lecturers as more accommodating and engaged in the learning process, from helping students grasp large concepts to detailing the nitty gritty of assessment submission.

“We did all our stuff in APA style referencing, and they spent a long time making sure we knew exactly what we were doing.”

Smaller class sizes have also encouraged the development of a more close-knit community than

exists within other, larger public institutions.

“At Notre Dame, I’d see the same people every day and I knew everyone’s faces,” Katie says.

“Every single person I’ve spoken to [at Sydney] is like, ‘Yeah, I don’t have any friends in my classes’. For some reason, here it’s like, ‘I’ve been here for four years and I still don’t know anyone’s names in my classes.’ That seems very strange to me.”

* * *

In private schooling, government funding is buffered by the political imperative of parental choice. Private schools are viewed as the purveyor of all manner of opportunities that are invaluable to the social and professional development of a child. The Independent Schools Council of Australia wields considerable political clout, having endorsed the federal Gonski reforms in July 2013 only after the addition of a \$150 million sweetener to independent school funding.

It is surprising, then, that this generally favourable view of private institutions does not extend to tertiary education. Indeed the dominance of public unis, making up for 41 out of 44 tertiary institutions in Australia, is viewed positively by those who see high fees as a barrier to low-SES students. Perhaps the historical progression of university funding in Australia is to account for this. Many see the 74-89 period as the golden age of higher education in Australia. Following the Whitlam government’s abolition of university fees in 1974, tertiary education remained free for 15 years. Spearheaded by then Education Minister John Dawkins, the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) was introduced in 1989, and is based on a system of interest-free loans that are repaid once students reach a certain income threshold (\$51,309 in 2013-14). HECS works in tandem with direct government funding for Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) in university degrees, ranging from \$1,600 per student for Law to \$17,800 for Agriculture.

The National Union of Students

(NUS) consistently lobbies the Federal government to abolish fees for social equity, with their website proudly stating that the union “supports free education internationally” to ensure equal access to students from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Australian universities are often compared to America’s top colleges, which are all private. Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford charge an average of \$50,000 - \$60,000 per annum, while Sydney University’s most expensive undergraduate degree (Medicine/Commerce) is \$67,000 for seven years’ full time study.

Critics of America’s education system point to the \$1 trillion debt currently owed by students, many of who have struggled to find jobs in the flagging post-Global Financial Crisis economy. In response to the prospect of fee deregulation, NUS president Deanna Taylor stated “an income-contingent loan scheme ... is not an excuse to gouge more money out of students’ pockets and leave them crippled with debt.”

However the National Commission of Audit report, which was released last Friday, recommends that student contributions to higher education costs should actually be *increased*, with HECS loan repayments coming into effect as soon as graduates begin earning the minimum wage.

In the current political climate, it seems unlikely that there will be any reduction in fees any time soon.

* * *

When flipping through the prospectus for Sydney University, it’s the allure of sandstone and prestigious alumni that entices prospective students to enrol. Perhaps this is not a bad move, given that even Oscar opines an express wish to be able to lie on the grass that Notre Dame’s concrete labyrinth does not provide.

“Nothing beats that quadrangle at Sydney, it’s just that sort of American college feeling ... those big prestigious grounds that give you a sense of purpose there,

whereas here it’s sort of like an office building,” he comments.

The relatively younger Bond and Notre Dame stand in stark contrast to Sydney’s marketing. Established a mere 25 years ago, they lack the entrenched historical prestige for which institutions like Sydney are widely known and esteemed. Even Notre Dame’s website acknowledges this: “It will be some years before it [the university] can be regarded as a mature institution.”

“The uni’s improved a lot since 2010,” Oscar contends. “The café used to be a car wash, now they’ve gained like five or six buildings in four years ... they’re just expanding.”

Instead, the marketing of these private institutions stresses teaching and learning outcomes within the university market.

These competing marketing strategies reflect a more complex nexus of competitive pressures. In 1997, the Howard Government initiated six per cent upfront funding cuts to tertiary education, with further cuts proposed in 2013 to fund the Gonski reforms. Along with a cap on domestic fees, the proportion of full fee-paying international students has surged. They now represent a quarter of the student population, making Australia the world’s third largest provider of international education services, outranked only by Britain and the United States.

In a “demanding budgetary situation”, the Kemp-Norton Review noted the importance of the international student market as a source of revenue for universities. Members of the Group of Eight (Go8), a coalition of Australia’s top-ranked universities, rely on their reputations as innovative research institutions to compete in the global and national education markets. Sydney University’s website advertises its impressive placement in the QS World University Rankings, waxing lyrical about the benefits of studying its internationally renowned degrees. Getting a World University Ranking requires combining research with teaching and learning outcomes, including a minimum number of published papers as a prerequisite for consideration. As collating and comparing data on outcomes such as barriers to entry and staff-student rations is difficult, the emphasis in the rankings shifts to research. Andrew Norton, the Program Director of higher education at the Grattan Institute, believes that this is a particularly problematic aspect of the legacy of the Dawkins reforms. “Almost every academic is expected to be both a teacher and a researcher,

“It was sold to me as ... an elite club that I should feel very privileged to be invited into.”

and that’s not necessarily a particularly efficient way of doing either teaching or research,” he states.

Staff dissatisfaction with this trend is evident with the ‘Stop the Cuts’ campaign and subsequent strikes at Sydney University in 2012 and 2013. In his speech at a rally in 2013, Nick Riemer, English lecturer and National Tertiary Education Union member at Sydney University, accused university management of having a vision “predicated on competition, division, self-interest”. Heavy criticism has been fired at Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence for supporting extensive staff cuts while simultaneously spearheading the construction of the \$385 million Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease.

Bond and Notre Dame are less subject to these competitive funding pressures as they remain uninhibited by domestic fee caps. International students comprise 40 per cent of Bond’s intake, with American students representing by far the largest proportion. This can perhaps be explained by the emphasis on small class sizes similar to the US, where smaller, elite institutions differentiate from their larger, lower-tier public counterparts, also known as community colleges.

In the context of a comparatively small private sector, and absent the imperative to produce innovative research, Australia’s private universities are able to focus on teaching and cater to individual students’ needs. The 2014 *Good Universities Guide* gave Bond and Notre Dame five stars for teaching quality and overall satisfaction (based on graduate ratings), while Sydney University was given only one star, placing it in the bottom fifth of universities for each of these indicators.

Mina, who chose to study at Notre Dame because of the community setting, appreciates the flexibility that smaller classes allow. “You have all the resources that the teachers provide you with, the opportunities they give to go and see theatre shows ... maybe an

art show, that’s relevant to what you’re doing. And because there aren’t that many of us ... it makes it easier to do that.”

* * *

The most contentious aspect of the existence of private universities remains whether students can afford this kind of education. With hefty price tags of up to \$300,000 for Medicine, Bond’s reputation for attracting moneyed students is perhaps not undeserved. Without access to subsidised university places or HECS loans, students must pay their fees up front. While some may have access to FEE-Help loans, these are limited to \$120,000 and incur a 25 per cent interest fee.

For Georgia, the decision to study at Sydney Uni rather than Bond, despite being offered a 50 per cent scholarship, was partially a financial one as the baseline fee was still exorbitant.

“That aside, I think I definitely would have gone,” Georgia says.

“They wooed me because I was school captain,” she continued. “They kind of spoke to my ego a lot. It was sold to me as something that could get me into networks that were otherwise completely closed ... an elite club that I should feel very privileged to be invited into.”

Several students admitted that Bond was the only university to offer them places in competitive courses such as Medicine when their ATAR did not meet public university cut-offs. Many were also willing to move interstate to attend university, which would add to their costs due to accommodation and living expenses. Almost all Bond scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, extracurricular and leadership achievements, with none geared towards educational or economic disadvantage. Over at Notre Dame, fees are less prohibitive, ranging from \$18,000 for Nursing to \$52,000 for Law. Limited HECS loans are available for the first year of some government-designated high priority degrees,

including Health Science, Medicine and Nursing.

“All my friends who go here, they’re all on FEE-Help,” Oscar says. “Their parents aren’t paying their fees, so they’ve got a huge amount of debt to pay off.”

Counter this with Sydney, where studying any degree must meet an ATAR cut-off of at least 70, with higher cut-offs for premier undergraduate degrees like Law and Physiotherapy.

Despite its higher fees, Notre Dame outperforms many of Australia’s top public universities including Sydney, Melbourne and ANU in participation across socioeconomic status. A 2009 study undertaken by Chris Ryan (ANU) and Bully Cardak (La Trobe) found that low-SES students with equivalent ATARs are as likely to attend university as their high-SES counterparts. This suggests that a student’s capacity to do well in high school is a better guarantee of access to university than wealth.

At Notre Dame, Tertiary Enabling and Foundation Year programs are offered as an alternative pathway to those who did not get the required ATAR to enter university, or may have suffered educational disadvantage. These bridging courses are fully funded by the government, and are advertised as providing a study environment that is “both challenging and supportive”.

“When I first started uni I hated it,” Oscar says. “I took four years off, and now I’m 23... and I’m doing quite well, and it makes me want to stay and I’m learning everything that I guess I can.”

“They’ve got a really good film school here, it’s really involved, it’s got a lot of smaller classes.”

* * *

Crusading against higher university fees is popular as this is an aspect of education over which the government can exert control. It is more difficult to admit that there exist less tangible barriers to access, such as the competitive and prestige-driven atmosphere of bigger universities.

Despite a good quality of education at Notre Dame, Oscar plans to transfer to UTS next year. When it comes to job interviews and applications, it’s a more “respectable” university.

Still, the impression of a colder environment at bigger public universities persists. “Here I’m somebody, whereas I feel like if I go somewhere big like UTS I’d just become a dot in this huge ocean of people,” he says.

Profile: Jake Lynch

Nick Rowbotham speaks to the Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies Director about his time as a BBC journalist, involvement in the BDS movement, and the push for academic freedom.

Last November, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution condemning Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory. The resolution passed with little fanfare, as it does almost ritualistically each year at the UN.

But in one of the Abbott government’s first major foreign policy decisions after the landslide September election, Australia reversed its position on settlements in the West Bank and abstained from the vote. It passed with 158 countries in favour, six against, and eight abstentions.

Rewind to late 2012, and Julia Gillard, along with Bill Shorten, opposed the consensus position of the rest of the Labor cabinet to vote in favour of granting UN ‘non-member observer’ status to Palestine.

Australia ultimately abstained on another vote passed overwhelmingly by the General Assembly. As Professor Jake Lynch, head of USyd’s Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, puts it, “Australian government policy positions this country on the extreme pro-Israeli fringe of world political opinion.”

Professor Lynch is currently in Australia’s Federal Court fighting a landmark case in defence of the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which aims to put diplomatic pressure on Israel to end its military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

He is accused of breaching the Racial Discrimination Act after refusing to endorse a fellowship application for an Israeli academic last year. When the court last sat, several key sections of the statement of claim against Lynch were struck out, though it still appears likely the case will go to trial.

The quiet niche of academic life is a far cry from Lynch’s former career as a BBC and Sky News presenter. His transition from the buzz of TV news in Britain to relatively obscure academia in Australia puts him in opposition to the stereotypes of both professions.

Lynch struggled with the “possible complicity of journalism in



mobilising publics for war” whilst working at the BBC during the first Gulf War. But his career in journalism no doubt informs his belief that “academics need to have a careful think about their role in the public sphere”. He points to the Abbott government in illustrating the problem facing academics. “There’s a heedlessness to this government,” he says.

“When evidence does not suit the interests of their members and clients, they are inclined to disavow and deny that evidence and ignore it, and try and bluster their way through it. So that’s really producing a climate in which academic endeavour is going to be seen as less and less important.”

Lynch brings an activist mindset to his professional life, which undoubtedly stems in part from his days as a student journalist and activist. He is one of the world’s leading scholars in peace journalism, “a globally distributed reform movement in and around journalism” that aims to reduce “emphasis on violent events” in the reporting of conflicts and to reprioritise an “emphasis on process”. He describes his first journalism assignments working as “a kind of, part-time Wales theatre correspondent for the *Morning Star*” (Britain’s socialist newspaper). “I would do reviews of plays that were likely to appeal to a *Morning Star* readership – and there were plenty of those,” he remarks drolly.

Lynch was also an anti-apartheid activist as a student, which goes a long way to explaining his strong support for BDS. A few years ago, it would have been deemed extreme to label Israel

an apartheid state, but just last month US Secretary of State John Kerry stated that Israel risked apartheid if a two-state solution was not reached.

Kerry later retracted the comment after pressure from the Israel lobby, but there is plenty of anecdotal evidence that awareness of the Israeli occupation and support for BDS is growing. Actress Scarlett Johansson was criticised heavily earlier this year when she stepped down from her ambassadorial role at Oxfam, after the human rights organisation expressed concern about her appearance in advertisements for SodaStream, whose main plant is in occupied Palestinian territory in the West Bank.

In the US, several large academic associations have voted to boycott Israel, and the EU has a number of policies in place penalising individuals and corporations with ties to Israeli settlements. It’s interesting that, given the power of the Israel lobby in the US, the pro-Palestine movement seems to have gained more traction there than it has in Australia. Lynch argues that Sydney University “goes out of its way, and beyond the call of duty, to appear as the most prominent ally of Israeli higher education in Australia”. He cites USyd’s extensive research partnerships and fellowship schemes with Israeli universities, particularly the Hebrew and Technion universities, both of which have strong institutional links to the Israeli Defence Force. Hebrew University has a campus in occupied territory in East Jerusalem, and is home to Dr Dan Avnon, an academic whose fellowship application was

boycotted by Lynch, ultimately landing him in the Federal Court despite Avnon expressing no desire to be a part of the case.

Lynch’s stand in the Federal Court is perhaps the first sign that there is any resistance, at least from academics, to collaboration with Israeli institutions with links to the occupation of Palestinian territories. In part, it’s reflective of a man who believes firmly that “it’s absolutely essential to establish our political freedom to take non-violent action from the level of civil society.”

But it’s also reflective of an Australian society that is ignorant, sometimes wilfully so, of human rights abuses in Palestine. It’s in this context, Lynch opines, that academics need to “stand up and be counted.” He refers to last year’s industrial action as an example of their capacity to do so.

When the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies adopted its boycott policy on Israel in 2009, Lynch wrote to USyd Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence asking for USyd’s fellowship schemes with Israeli universities to be revoked. According to Lynch, “Spence wrote back and said, you know, because Australia has diplomatic ties with Israel, we won’t do it, we will continue.”

Lynch has few kind words for Spence, whom he describes as “craven” and “an enemy of academic freedom” in the context of university management’s proposed removal of academic freedom clauses in 2013’s enterprise bargaining negotiations, which were eventually reintroduced during the year’s industrial action.

He describes last year’s controversies as “a concerted management attack on the principles of intellectual freedom”. “We only have it because of the strength and solidarity of staff at the university,” he says. “Academics do have a record of taking action and coming out of their offices in defence of important principles. All they need to do is extend their vision a little bit further, and take on responsibility for some of these other issues.”

Eastern Avenue is Decadent and Depraved

[REDACTED] was told campaigning would be a great way to meet people.

0700: By the time I wake up, I’ve got three missed calls from my booth manager, who’s reminding me to wash my shirt. It’s day five of the campaign and, till now anyway, I was wearing the same shirt uninterrupted each day. “The smell is turning away voters”, they said.

0900: My job today is to follow █████ around campus. He’s the corrupt candidate, and we figure we can get him disqualified if we get enough electoral breaches on tape. I asked to look at █████’s receipts and █████ said they were still rendering.

1100: Walk-and-talk outside Fisher. Get told to fuck off in Española, which joins French, German and English as ‘languages I’ve been told to fuck off in’.

1130: Go to King Street for lunch. Sit next to someone from rival campaign on bus. In my head, imagine an entire reality where we overcome our differences and have a steamy romance inside the ballot box. She gets off a stop before me. I run my hand down the window and whisper “*noooo*” as she walks past.

1200: Stop campaigning to go to class. People look anxiously over their shoulders when they see me approaching. “Don’t worry, I’m off-duty,” I say, but the guy has headphones in so he just tells me to fuck off.

1300: Everyone I try campaigning to goes to UTS. Even that guy wearing a USyd bomber jacket.

1400: Cute girl walks towards me near Manning. I smile. She pulls her phone

out and puts it to her ear. “I’ve already voted”, she says. The polls don’t open till next week.

1430: For the first time in ten years, I see my estranged father, standing in a throng of people on Cadigal Green. I run to him. Dad, I have so much to s— “Sorry Son,” he replies, “I’m voting for Alisha”.

1500: It starts to rain. My soggy candidate flyers become a metaphor for my heart. One of our placards is pushed over by the wind. It is also a metaphor for my heart.

1600: A mother comes by the stall with her baby. I smile at the baby. The baby’s first words are “fuck off”.

mixtape

FOR THE

elections

CAT STEVENS / I LOVE MY DOG [FEAT. NLS CAUCUS]

MGMT / TIME TO PRETEND [FEAT. CALLUM’S RECEIPTS]

RADIOHEAD / HOW TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY

DEAD MAN’S BONES / LOSE YOUR SOUL [FEAT. UNITY]

DAFT PUNK / ONE MORE TIME [FEAT. RHYS POGONOSKI]

JOHNNY CASH / WALK THE LINE



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quiz 2014

A. USU FINANCE

1. To the closest \$1m, what is the total annual expenditure (based on the 2012 financial audit of the USU) of the USU?
2. To the closest \$1m, how much money did the USU receive in SSAF funding from the university in 2013?
3. Of that 2013 SSAF allocation, approximately what percentage went to i) the Debates Program; and ii) Revues?
4. To the closest \$1m, how much money did the USU make from the sale of goods and services in 2012?
5. How much money was the Quidditch Society given to go to the World Cup?

B. OTHER CAMPUS ORGANISATIONS

1. Which student organisation(s) received more in SSAF funding than the USU in 2013?
2. Name five SRC office bearers.
3. To the closest \$1m, what if the SRC's annual budget?
4. Who is the current president of SUPRA?
5. Which student organisation has the acronym CSG?

C. USU REGULATIONS

1. Identify two of the three mechanisms for changing the USU Constitution.
2. Who were the two Directors removed in 2011 and why were they removed?
3. What is the quorum for a General Meeting of the USU?
4. Who decides the date of the Annual USU Director election: the USU Board, the USU President, the USU CEO or the USyd Senate?

D. CURRENT BOARD AND POLICIES

1. Name two of the specific policies of each of the USU Board Directors elected last year (half a point for each correct policy).
2. Name the two Senate-Appointed Directors who USU President Hannah Morris attempted to get reappointed to the USU Board by the USyd Senate earlier this year?
3. During the special resolution to remove Tom Raue, which Board Directors voted for Tom's removal and which directors voted against?
4. Who is the current Queer portfolio holder and who was their immediate predecessor?
5. Name three resolutions passed by the Board in 2014.
6. Who is the current Marketing and Communications Manager?

E. STUDENT LIFE

1. To the nearest 5 per cent, what percentage of USyd students are international students?
2. Name 10 businesses given tender by the USU (half point for each correct business).
3. What was the name of the band night at the O-Week finale and who headlined?
4. To the nearest thousand, how many likes does the USU Facebook page have?
5. How many issues of *BULL* get printed in a year?
6. Name the subjects of five features in *BULL* this year?
7. Which USU club has the most members?

F. ETHICS

1. Is it ethical to doctor receipts?

liam carrigan

M E C O I I



Liam Carrigan is running as an independent but presents a very progressive platform. One of the more knowledgeable candidates in the field, he got 74 per cent on *Honi's* quiz, and his interview showed he is well versed on all things USU related. He supported Raue and genuinely seeks to make the USU a democratic institution.

He can talk at length on his commitment to student control and democracy, however his progressive idealism comes across as quite naive. He flipped around between arguing for more SSAF funding for the USU and then insisting that he doesn't want to screw over other student organisations. He does seem to have lucid ideas: he supports the Queer Portfolio review and is happy to cut funding for Incubate, the USU's annual dinner, and Debates if necessary.

His policies are generally poorly thought through. His online grievance box sounds more like publicising Board Directors' email addresses. When asked what would be new about 'open board forums', location seemed key. He suggested Manning Forecourt or the Law Lawns as ideal venues, so we can only conclude that he just wants these meeting to happen outside. On his 'student control committee' he failed to articulate why the Board couldn't fulfil the job description of representing student interests, or why the Senate would listen to such a committee. Like much of Liam's presence, it "just flags an issue we're passionate about". He also wants fireworks on campus, a daily USU *BULL* App, and the USU to give careers advice.

It is hard to imagine Liam navigating strong personalities on Board, as during his interview he was swayed by the way questions were asked. When asked about the role of friendships on Board, he said, "your opinion of them is going to mediate how you view their voice on Board and how successful you want to see them be in the organisation" before correcting himself by saying he "wants the most progressive people to succeed".

All in all, Liam is a well-meaning ingénue who wants to sit at the big kids' table. He seems genuinely committed to changing the USU, but we saw no evidence that he has tangible plans for how to achieve it.



QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 74% ==

A. 4/6 D. 9/10
B. 4/5 E. 7/12
C. 4/5 F. 1/1

callum forbes

J D I I



After just one year at the University of Sydney, Callum Forbes is already one of the biggest names on campus. There are two reasons for this. The first is that Callum has mastered the art of shameless self-promotion to a degree not normally achieved by anyone with a surname other than Kardashian. His social media presence, resume, and personal grooming are immaculate, and, in person, he is the perfect combination of self-aggrandisement and self-deprecation. The second reason for Callum's notoriety is that, last year, with the assistance of Adobe InDesign, he managed to single-handedly derail an entire SULS executive election. If you don't already know what incident we're referring to, put down this paper, get out your phone, and Google "Callum Forbes receipts". Now.

In his interview, Callum blamed this particularly "poor decision" (his words, not ours) on the pressure of being involved in a "very intense campaign". He also claimed to have since learnt how to manage his time and stress better. Given the dozens of students who manage to run in elections every year without resorting to fraud, *Honi* can't help but think the real issue at play may not have been poor time management skills, but a fundamentally defective moral compass.

Callum's campaign thus far has been slick, smooth, and engaging – *Honi* particularly applauds him for his willingness to chat to voters over a 6:30am Body Attack session. Unfortunately, though, there's not much policy substance to back it up. In his interview, Callum was unable to provide any suggestions as to how he would go about achieving the universally-accepted objective of "greater engagement with students", claiming that this (his flagship policy) is "more of a framework through which decisions would be made". He was equally unconvincing on his vague promise to "reduce unnecessary red tape" in the Union, a subject which, as a card-carrying member of the Liberal Party, he should be able to effuse upon with ease.

You should probably also know that Callum performed poorly in the Candidates' Quiz; turned up 25 minutes late to his candidate interview; has been openly criticised for not doing his job properly as Treasurer of SHADES; and looks set to get in trouble for, once again, testing the limits of USyd election regulations. See this week's *Manning Files* for more.



QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 46% ==

A. 2/6 D. 4.5/10
B. 3/5 E. 5.5/12
C. 2/5 F. 1/1

liv ronan

A R T S / L L B I I I



The *Honi Soit* editors did not write, edit or provide direction to this profile, as Liv managed our *Honi* campaign. It was written by Georgia Carr and Geordie Crawford.

Liv Ronan is prepared and well-spoken, a testament to her wealth of experience as a debater and because she's probably been planning to run for board since last year's *Honi Soit* elections where she co-managed the winning ticket *Sex for Honi*.

Her Access Sydney Arts and Student Marketplace policies are clever in that they add to pre-existing models at the university (Access partnerships and the fortnightly Wednesday market respectively). The Breakfast Bar and Free Event Night Quota policies are well thought out despite also seeming somewhat populist, but the Pre-Exam Pick-Me-Up policy could use further fleshing out.

We questioned Liv on why her policy statement made no mention of increased transparency within the Union – something that was notably lacking in a field of progressive candidates. She responded that she supports increased transparency wholeheartedly and believes that the board will inevitably move in that direction, and assured us that this was part of the message she has been communicating to voters.

We got the sense that Liv does indeed support increased transparency, with considered responses around tweeting, in camera meetings and Tom Raue's almost-dismissal.

However, we did feel she was somewhat evasive on questions relating to Tim Matthews – a top contender for Union Board President. Despite Matthews authorising and co-managing her campaign, Liv denied that her executive vote was finalised.

She also expressed that she does not believe the senate-appointed directors should have a vote in the executive ballot, and admitted that should a Presidential candidate seek their votes she would speak to them privately about her disagreement. When probed on whether she would speak out publicly, she responded that she would 'if asked the question directly'.



QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 79% ==

A. 5/6 D. 9/10
B. 2/5 E. 9/12
C. 5/5 F. 1/1

alisha aitken-radburn

M E C O I I I



Alisha is an experienced and knowledgeable candidate who placed equal first in the Candidates' Quiz. Her extensive – some might say unachievable – policy document contains a whopping 31 policies. Some are admirable and pragmatic, including a free breakfast bar, an increased focus on social justice within the USU, and an end to Eftpos minimums on campus.

However, some others are disappointingly populist. In particular, Alisha's policy to introduce beanbags at Hermann's is particularly ill thought out, considering that last time the USU bought beanbags they wasted \$14,000 of student money.

Alisha said she would prioritise her ACCESS subsidy scheme if elected, which would take both USU engagement and financial need into account to provide cheaper ACCESS cards for students. "I don't really envision this being a scheme for someone who just wants to get 20 cents off their coffee," Alisha said. She would also prioritise her policy about USU jobs for USyd graduates and students.

Those who have worked with Alisha on campus were mixed in their reviews. SURG President Gordon Leibowitz said Alisha had performed well in her role as Publicity Officer and was an enthusiastic member of the executive. However, another student who has worked with Alisha noted "she is quite competent when she is available, but this is an uncommon phenomenon".

Alisha said she supported USU corporate partnerships, but only to the extent that they don't dominate student events. She publicly supported Tom Raue prior to the vote for his attempted dismissal, and is running on a platform of increased transparency and accountability within the USU.

It's important to note that Alisha enjoys immense factional support in this election. A member of Labor Right on campus, Alisha is also being backed by Labor Left faction SLS and an assortment of friends/student politicians from the progressive end of the spectrum to bona fide members of the Conservative Club. Even her campaign managers are stupol heavyweights – Jennifer Light, SRC President, and Robby Magyar, one of the USU President hopefuls.



QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 79% ==

A. 3/6 D. 10/10
B. 4/5 E. 6/12
C. 4/5 F. 1/1

edward mcmahon

B I G S / L L B V



The times appear to suit Ed McMahon. At some point during the failed dismissal of Tom Raue, everyone in student politics except those at the Howard Cup decided that they were best mates with Grassroots. In this election, many of the other candidates have been lining up to align themselves with Ed.

The lionisation of Raue has set up this election for a candidate preaching student control and a greater emphasis on equity and environmental justice.

But let's not crack out the goon without a bit of consideration first. Ed is a strong candidate, sure of his principles and eloquent in their defence. He has a clearly defined and well defended vision of what the Union should be.

Yet his understanding of the organisation he will confront (if elected) is less detailed. In the quiz, he scored less than 20 per cent in the USU Finances section. He got the budget wrong by \$15 million, thinking that it was three and half times smaller than it actually is (we suppose, if nothing else, he will be pleasantly surprised when he gets a copy of the financial audit). He couldn't name any resolutions passed by the Board this year.

That indicates that some important aspects of the organisation he wants to serve as a Director of remains a bit of a mystery to him. Unlike his fellow candidates, Ed cut his teeth in campus life primarily outside the domain of the USU – in activist groups and SRC politics rather than clubs and societies. That's why he's able to articulate a convincing progressive vision for the Union, and it's also why he is relatively ignorant of many important aspects of that Union.

Ed is an agitator before he is a prospective USU Board Director. That's his number one credential to many wearing his shirt around campus. It's also the number one concern for those who haven't been swept up in the highs of the Stand with Raue campaign.



QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 47% ==

A. 1/6 D. 3.5/10
B. 4/5 E. 6/12
C. 3/5 F. 1/1



kate bullen

ARTS III



Like all great Labor politicians, Kate Bullen has perfected the art of loving unions, making few promises and avoiding questions. Just in case you haven't heard, the third year Arts student lives in a share house in Newtown and likes pears.

At the time of writing, Kate has a far more sparse policy platform than most other candidates, and is actively collecting policy suggestions from the general USyd public. At first glance this seemed like a strategy of running with fewer policies in order to run with fewer promises, but Kate assures us that she will, by the time of publication, have collated these public contributions and used them to supplement her policy platform.

Some of Kate's few existing policies are vague nods towards abstractions like "ensuring students are at the heart of every decision", but others, like subsidized Responsible Service of Alcohol courses and free breakfasts during exams, seem like both positive and tangible goals.

Kate has far less autonomy than the other candidates, as she is bound to National Labor Students (NLS) caucus, which effectively means NLS caucus members will collectively determine her vote on major decisions. This isn't as bad as it sounds: NLS, generally speaking, are consistent in their progressive values, not rogue decision makers.

When asked what would happen if her personal views on an issue conflicted with that of caucus, Kate said, "I can't perceive a situation where that would ever happen, because we're a group of people who ... all believe in the same ideas." In short, as long as you agree with the NLS Hive Mind, you'll agree with Kate.

Her Candidates' Quiz results demonstrate a middling understanding of the USU and the wider USyd landscape: far from the best but also far from the worst.



QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 50% ==

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| A. 2/6 | D. 5/10 |
| B. 3/5 | E. 6/12 |
| C. 2.5/5 | F. 1/1 |

cameron caccamo

ARTS IV



Cameron Caccamo is a former Education and Social Work student, fourth year Arts Student, and serial hack. He describes himself as "broadly left-wing", though contends it isn't a difficult position to hold "in this [current] political climate". He scored equal 3rd in the Candidates' Quiz, indicative of his broad and myriad interactions with the USU.

Cameron's involvement as an embedded Union Board tweeter and Quidditch team keeper is reflected in his policy suite of increased transparency, by way of "Town Hall-style meetings", and events like Geek Week and Comedy Festival. When pressed whether his policies were unambitious, he described them as broadly representative of his electoral commitments.

When asked how he would vote on the Board's special resolution to sack Raue, he admitted his position had changed since the information first broke following revelations of "procedural injustice", that the "report wasn't fully confidential", and that there was a significant "student interest" attached to the leak. Cameron was less conclusive, however, when pressed whether some lighter form of punishment ought to be handed down, such as removing Raue's position as Vice-President. "I don't think I would've voted to have him kicked out of that position, but I could be swayed," he said.

Despite being well-ensconced within The Game, Cameron lacks strong factional support. However, though still in its planning stages, Cameron's fortunes may turn come polling day. Rumblings of a special ops team, affectionately referred to as 'Operation Old Hack', may see retired hall of famers spring from the grave (read: graduation, Juris Doctors) to help push him over the line. Currently, however, the team is so clandestine Cameron himself has allegedly not been informed of its existence.

Overall, Cameron came off an informed and dedicated candidate. However, his eagerness to please and lack of positive vision may cost him a spot on Board. Cameron has hedged his bets low, selecting relatively milquetoast policy platforms, which won't substantially challenge the status quo. It reflects a commitment to tinkering, rather than long-lasting or meaningful reform. His ostensible lack of experienced campaigners, when compared to this year's frontrunners, may further prove detrimental.



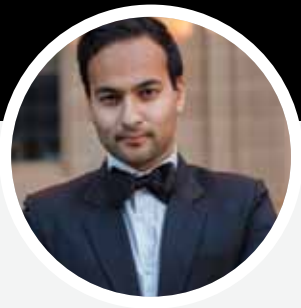
QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 74% ==

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| A. 3/6 | D. 9/10 |
| B. 5/5 | E. 9/12 |
| C. 2/5 | F. 1/1 |

arghya gupta

MBBS IV



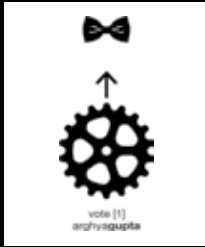
You likely haven't seen much of Arghya Gupta so far, and if elected, the USU is unlikely to see much more. Working 9-5 in a hospital and studying a Masters degree in the evening, he's not a regular FUNCH-goer.

He's the only true outside-the-beltway candidate in this election. If that makes him enigmatic, it has also made him ignorant. In the section of quiz devoted to current board and its policies, Arghya notched up a score of zero.

His maverick status has only been reinforced by some of the stranger and more inexplicable policies we've seen in recent years. He told us in his interview that he would like to sell off Manning House and the Holme building to private corporations, despite no Union financial audit recommending that. We asked who would apply to fill the 'Library angels' positions, the people Arghya wants to see employed by the USU to silence the less studious students in the library. The St Andrews rugby team, he responded.

Arghya has been a USyd student for eight years. He is midway through his second degree. It's clear that, almost just through experience, Arghya understands what a lot of non-political students want from their Union: cheaper food, Uber rides at the price of petrol and a quieter library. It's just that the policies he has devised to achieve these aims seem to have been written on a small napkin at the end of a boozy afternoon on the Manning balcony.

The presence of outsiders in elections should be celebrated. They bring new ideas to the fore, and they likely have better instincts when it comes to engaging students who haven't been C&S executives since first year. But Arghya is not really an outsider with a fresh take on the USU; he's an eighth year medical student who, it seems, might not have the time to take this election seriously. We all make mistakes when we're drunk, and it's fair to say that Arghya's candidacy fits somewhere between texting an ex and sleeping with a family member.



QUIZ RESULTS

== Total: 28% ==

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| A. 2/6 | D. 0/10 |
| B. 1/5 | E. 5/12 |
| C. 2/5 | F. 1/1 |

Rooting for losers

Sam Jonscher explores the romance of under-performing teams.

When my parents were younger and living in Chicago, they were devout Cubs fans. The Chicago Cubs inspire love in their fans akin to religion. The Cubs, it should be said, are universally acknowledged to be the worst team in America – they have not won a championship game in 105 years (they are 107 years old).

My mother remembers those games fondly: sitting in the cheap seats – the bleachers – exposed to the elements, with my dad and 20 or so of their nearest and dearest. There was cheap beer in a plastic cups, hot dogs, and score sheets. They militantly observed the various rituals that surround game day at Wrigley Field: Certain songs at certain times, particular flags, chants and the masochistic insistence that all balls caught by the away team should be thrown back if they happen to be caught (a serious sacrifice in the eyes of baseball fans). They always went hoping the Cubs would win, and they did occasionally. But that wasn't really the point.

I asked my mother why she would throw herself head first in to a team that seemed like the eternal underdog, doomed to only dream of being the 'best'. She started by explaining that the bleachers were an exciting place to be, part beer garden, part amateur cheerleading squad. She was eager to impress upon me that she went for the experience, the traditions, the game itself, more so than for the out come of the game. "If they won, that was better, but I didn't really care. They were the underdogs and winning was not the point. It was about being there and loving the Cubs with other people that also loved the Cubs".

Wrapped up in American Exceptionalism – that handy catch all explanation for American culture – is the expectation of superlative achievement: the best, the brightest, the fastest, the smartest. Being a Cubs fan though, is about camaraderie. She admitted to me as we talked more that "it's sort of nice to not have enormous expectations of things and to just have fun. A holiday I guess from work, politics. There was no pressure on anything." That, I think more than anything, is why the loveable losers captured Chicago's heart. They are easy to love in a world where achievements mean everything because their achievements mean nothing.

The IKEA of phones is coming

Why not just build your next phone, asks Jeff Wong.

You're running out of space on your phone, and it's starting to get a bit too slow for your liking. You need a new phone, you say.

Enter Project Ara. It's a Google funded project to develop a modular smartphone platform – the first of its kind. This means is that the hardware is comprised of independent units which are used to form the smartphone. For the non tech-savvy, this means you can mix and match the hardware of your smartphone depending on what you need your phone to do. In recent years, smartphone competition has been defined by software – but if Project Ara has its way, it will be defined by hardware.

In the past, if you wanted a better, upgraded aspect of some part of your phone, you had to wait until the next model was announced and pray the designers had your wishes in mind. Even then, you were more than likely going to be paying a hefty sum for a whole new piece of hardware, including features that you

would never use or wanted, just to replace an older phone that still functioned perfectly.

This is where Project Ara fits in. The battery, the memory storage, the camera, all of these are modular pieces of hardware which can be removed or upgraded independently without having to replace everything else. Want to take better photos? Upgrade and get a better camera module. Need more storage? Easy. Even bump up your battery life by putting in an upgraded battery module, or multiple battery modules if you're so inclined. During the Google Project Ara developer conference on April 15, it was even hinted that the screen itself would be modular. Should you find yourself on the wrong side of fortune and crack your screen, there will be far less heartbreak. The modules on the prototype are held together by electromagnets, and are intuitive and simple to customize.

There are boundless possibilities for further

innovation. Third-party development is key to the survival of Project Ara – and if these third-parties step up, Project Ara devices could offer functionality other smartphone users could only dream of. Crowd sourcing hardware and indie developers will make an already innovative platform rise above and beyond. Take the software-hardware comparison again: how much sway does third-party software and apps hold upon your choice of phone? If you design a platform that strives for individuality and independent design, and then let the people provide the ideas, success will follow.

Ultimately, what makes up our individuality is mostly to do with our personality and our innate characteristics, but undoubtedly some part of it is to do with our material and commercial identity. What brands we wear, which ones we hold with our loyalty. That being said, what better way to express your individual identity than with a phone that has three cameras on it?

How to spend 12.4 billion dollars

Ben Brooks gives Abbott some better options.

The Joint Strike Fighter looks and performs like a disfigured Transformer. It is now the most expensive defence procurement project in human history, and yet the federal government has committed to buying a further 58 Air Force variants for \$12.4 billion. It is worth considering what other ludicrous assets \$12.4 billion can buy as the government cuts, abolishes, and repeals in the name of "austerity".

Turn Back the Boats?

Intercepted asylum seekers are turned back aboard orange lifeboats. With \$12.4 billion, we could return over 1.2 million asylum seekers to South East Asia from Sydney in first class suites aboard the Queen Mary 2.

Too pedestrian? Between 2002-2013, Australia recorded over 44,000 irregular maritime arrivals. We could return each individual with a \$270,000 suborbital trip on Virgin

Galactic.

Of course, we also need somewhere to indefinitely detain them. \$12.4 billion would secure a three million year lease of Guantanamo Bay which is, by all accounts, more hospitable than Manus Island. The Liberal party has abolished legal aid for asylum seekers but, thankfully, we could put 102,000 asylum seekers through the University of Sydney Juris Doctor program (full international student fee, naturally).

Defence?

In place of the limp, overweight stealth fighter, Australia could purchase a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier (\$6.3 billion), a full complement of 85 (more capable) Super Hornet fighters (\$6 billion) and three B61-12 nuclear bombs (\$90 million).

Alternatively, we could fund another 1.5 Wars on Terror – Australia's financial

contribution to Afghanistan and Iraq totals over \$10 billion.

Economic Stimulus?

Over 50,000 jobs are expected to be lost with the demise of the car industry. Each of those workers could be given a \$248,000 publicly-funded redundancy package. Then again, they could be put to better use building seven Burj Khalifa towers in Barangaroo, six Space Shuttles, or three nuclear reactors.

Failing that, the government could buy out News Corp for \$10.3 billion, formalising its control of the Murdoch press.

We could spend \$12.4 billion on healthcare or education, but this is unlikely in a government which takes 'Kill the Poor' for its motto. Future governments can opt out of the absurd fighter program – let's hope Cabinet changes hands in the meantime.

Under the radar

Geordie Crawford chats to Hiatus Kaiyote, a world-famous Australian band you probably haven't heard of.

Walking down King Street I spotted a rare flock. There was a male with matted plumage and a rastacap chirping to another with a slicked back crest and leather jacket. Next to them was an unassuming male with a hairy bib nodding at a female with exotic plumage in the form of tattoos, bangles, piercings, badges, sparkles, crop top, and blue eyebrows.

No, I wasn't bird watching. I was on my way to interview Hiatus Kaiyote, an Australian band that have played to hundreds of thousands of people around the world, been lauded by Pharell and Prince, 'done' *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, and been nominated for an R&B Grammy.

If you're rubbing your eyes and wondering how such a pre-eminent band could have slipped past your musical radar, there's actually nothing to worry about. Hiatus are, somehow, still relatively unheard of in Australia.

Their recent opening slot for neo-soul empress Erykah Badu at The Star in Sydney was only attended by a couple of hundred fans, while mention of their name often leads to confusion in Australia, "Coyote? Ibis Coyote? Wait, who caters peyote?" It turns out that the soul food of the States and Europe is not as appetising to Antipodeans.

"I think stylistically what we do is more in tune with what's happening in other places," bassist Paul Bender tells me. "For instance, I think here there can be people who are really into Australian hip-hop but really unaware of a lot of stuff in the American hip-hop realm."

A case of different taste it may be, but the Australian music industry has also played a part in keeping Hiatus underground. Unlike other national acts that have recently made it big on the international stage, such as Flume, Chet Faker, and Tame Impala, Hiatus Kaiyote have not been fostered by Triple J. And, while their critically acclaimed debut, *Tawk Tomahawk*, received significant media coverage in America and Europe, the Australian music press have largely turned a blind eye.

Not that they're complaining. Over the last two years Hiatus Kaiyote have travelled the world showcasing their unique gumbo of soul/hip-hop/West African/jazz music, or as it is described on their website, "multi-dimensional, polyrhythmic gangster shit."

When I asked lead singer Nai Palm what informs her contributions to the band, she cited an array of non-musical culture : "There's a lot of references, from [children's TV show] *Adventure Time*, to Tuareg nomadic silversmiths, to the lifespan of a type of cacti from Jericho." She says all of this while Michael Jackson glares at me in his 'Thriller' pose from a badge on her jeans.

In conversation with the band, it's clear Nai's more than just a leader on stage. When I spilt my tea and subjected a tiny teddy to death by Chai, her absurdist humour brought some relief to the otherwise sorrowful occasion, "Teddy needs to change his cottage pouch."

After an appropriate mourning period, she was erudite in

explaining the role of women in music. "It's important to challenge the ideals that have been placed on women in the music industry," she says. "I've had a lot of cheek from sound engineers thinking that I'm just the face of the band and disregarding me as a musician. It's not that there's a lack of fucking awesome female musicians, it's just that, as far as the industry goes, there are certain niches women fit in. For instance, the 'pop princess' world as opposed to just being a badass musician."

In another band, Nai's tractor beam charisma and nomadic pop-punk aesthetic would make her the focal point. The most impressive aspect of Hiatus, however, is their music; a beautiful beast born from the imagination of four mad music scientists.

Keyboardist Simon Mavin and Bender have played music professionally since they were teenagers, in genres spanning from metal to classical, free jazz to eighties porn-funk.

Drummer Perrin Moss is a veteran producer and one time emcee. Hiatus Kaiyote is the first band he's played drums in.

Nai Palm is an accomplished singer songwriter with a background in soul and world music. Prior to Hiatus, she was singing in an Aztec cumbia dub band that covered Radiohead in Spanish and traditional Columbian fishing songs.

It's this eclectic mix of backgrounds that allows their music to remain fluid. One minute the band will be laying down a crisp hip-hop groove before transitioning into a soulful ballad

and then sliding into a synth-laden samba replete with polyrhythms and lush backing vocals. And it works because it's not contrived. It's their shared life experience.

"The music will probably keep changing because we keep changing as musicians. What we like now we might not like in a year's time," says Moss. It's a scary philosophy for the intransigents who love Hiatus Kaiyote the way they are, but a philosophy the band couldn't exist without. Their music is futuristic and they don't plan on letting time catch up.

In the spirit of time travel, after we'd been talking for an hour or so the band informed me they were running late to catch a plane. As we went to leave, Mavin abruptly grabbed my arm.

"Man, you have a spider on your forehead."

I slowly rotated to face him and he vacantly stared at me for what seemed like two hours. Could he not see the terror in my eyes? Thankfully, Nai was more decisive.

"I'll save you!"

Taking the spider's web in one hand, she carried it, suspended, to a tree; the invisible line between her hand and the spider suggested a telekinetic power. Evidently, Hiatus Kaiyote's front woman is not only a ringmaster of crowds around the world, she is also a tamer of deadly creatures.

I'm actually pretty chuffed that she saved my life, not least because Hiatus Kaiyote is recording a new album and I really want to be around to hear it.

Review: *52 Tuesdays*

Benjamin Bolton and Leigh Nicholson think that trans characters need to be at the fore of their own films.*

Recently released indie film *52 Tuesdays* opens with teenager Billie receiving some news: her mother is going to undergo gender transition. The story moves quickly from that momentous occasion, jumping from Tuesday, to Tuesday, to Tuesday – 52 times, all up. It's on Tuesday afternoons that Billie sees her mother, James, and also on that one afternoon per week that the entirety of this unique film is set.

Whilst the lack of information and context that the audience initially receives about James' experience and rationality is not inherently a bad thing, it is unfortunate that we don't get this engagement for the entire duration of the film. *52 Tuesdays* explores a handful of productive themes, including sex-positive depictions and the complexity of gender. However it fails to positively engage with the trans* experience which is currently needed in film.

The story of James and his identity is explored solely through the lens of his daughter; used only as a backdrop to Billie's growth and interactions. In one scene, Billie's uncle tells her "Don't be

like your mother". He doesn't mean "Don't be trans*," but rather, "Don't be indecisive," referring to the fact that it took James until he was age 48 to come out. This kind of identity awareness is a constant theme in *52 Tuesdays*, but it is only ever brought up by surrounding characters. There is never appropriate time given to James's engagement with his own decisions and identity, and while there is a short scene of James speaking with his lover about this, it is too quick and unfortunately feels out of context.

The lack of engagement with the actual experience of a trans* person in *52 Tuesdays* unfortunately makes for superficial character development. James is unable to continue with testosterone treatment, but the overwhelming trauma of this is crammed into about five minutes, quickly portraying the difficulties this presents for James, and is then never addressed again. You are only ever given insight into his experience from Billie's perspective and how it affects her.

Although sorely lacking in its direct engagement with



trans* narratives, the film does successfully explore Billie's own coming to terms with her sexuality, while avoiding the need for Billie to define herself. It presents a refreshingly raw and realistic depiction of a young, teenage woman exploring sex without any sort of guilt or suggestion of abnormality.

Additionally, the subversion of the definition of 'mother' was a highlight of the queer themes in *52 Tuesdays*, with James adopting *he*/ his pronouns but choosing to keep the label "Mum".

Whilst the representations provided by *52 Tuesdays* are not always in themselves problematic, the film is perhaps slightly pre-emptive. While the experiences of children of trans* people are incredibly important, actual trans narratives continue to wait in the wings, untold. There are hardly any portrayals that focus on trans people in film, fewer still of older people transitioning, and none of older people transitioning with children. Until actual engagement with the trans community is explored, stories such as *52 Tuesdays* should not take priority.

Bell and the Bard

Australian theatre needs more in the mould, writes Patrick Morrow.

"You have two voices: one for the stage and one for the pub. Don't mix them up."

John Bell is 73. It is literally half a century since he graduated from USyd. Despite this, he does not look, act, or sound out of place surrounded by the current theatrical cohort at our university, as he proved in a three hour Shakespearean master class that he conducted last Thursday.

It was 52 years ago that Bob Ellis (who still reviews our shows) wrote of Bell in the pages of Honi as a "top dog uni actor, cartoonist, good bloke." In his introduction, Nathaniel Pemberton (director of the SUDS Hamlet production this year) described him as a national living treasure, and Bell responded with a cheer and two punches of the air. He is charming, he is thoughtful, and he is in a

privileged position to which only a handful in the Australian arts community will ascend – one which many more will struggle for, only to fall short.

John Bell represents one of only a handful of Australians who make a real living through theatre. While his reputation is now enough to sustain him, there were no such assurances during his time in The Players (a dramatic society more or less as SUDS is now) and SUDS (then a chiefly postgraduate society), however, there did exist a culture of artistic criticism that could be depended upon. Student productions made every other front page of Honi from the late fifties into the mid-sixties. Clive James' indefatigable body of review material saw the likes of Bell scrutinised in every issue. And that's great.

Aside from excellent advice on approaches to Shakespeare, performance and scripts generally, Bell spoke about the state of theatre in Australia. He knew from his time here that direction was his calling, saying, "other things may have appeared to change that, but they didn't. I had the opportunity to follow those things through." Bell's drive was not solely the allure of the study of Shakespeare, nor of theatre, but their intersection: staging the Bard's works. He freely confessed that he would play most every character he ever had played again and advised that "you'll never nail it. You'll never get it right."

I, along with the rest of the SUDS, am tremendously thankful for Bell's time and insight on Thursday. It is affirming to know that he has the generosity of spirit



Freud and the Fast Lane

Nick Gowland has a six pack, did you know?

After a fifteen minute stretch, Mid-Life Crisis launches into a freestyle rampage down the fast lane. His buoyant Sunday-roast girth achieves an aquadynamic low waterline, but Mid-Life Crisis wishes there were more people to witness his prowess. The fellow fast-laners today consist of Corporate Lunch Break, who thrashes out her failed marriage with lap after lap of self-punishment, and Muscles, who just wants the world to know that he can do butterfly. After a quick five minute break, Mid-Life Crisis swims another lap, suppresses a heart attack, and decides to hit the showers. On his way he flicks a few sly droplets onto the girls sunbathing on the grass, because a mate recently told him something

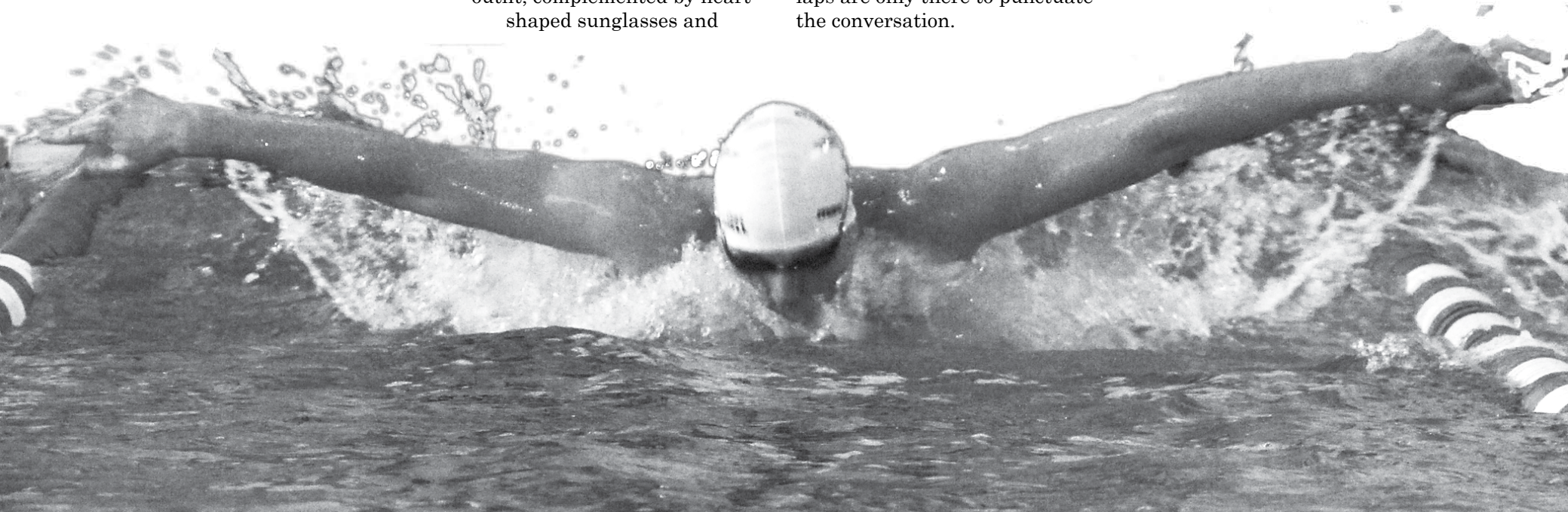
about pheromones. Of course, Mid-Life Crisis realises that he could squeeze out a few more lengths if he reigned in the pace and joined the medium lane, but deep in his thumping heart he knows that the pool, like life, is all about power.

Her Majesty’s hands give a slight flick (calculated for fabulousness) as her skinny backstroking arms reach the zenith of their arc. Her Majesty takes a liberal interpretation of a leisurely pace, even by the standards of the slow lane, though she doesn’t care. She might be 60 something but she’s got vintage Inner-West written all over those sinewy muscles and that tan which only ever grows browner. She has chosen a pink string bikini for today’s pool outfit, complemented by heart-shaped sunglasses and

a green swimming cap covering God knows what. The sunglasses limit Her Majesty to an unhurried backstroke, but the genius of the slow lane is that the longer each lap takes, the more people will have to overtake her, which gives the fans a better opportunity to admire their idol.

Between them, my mate and I stop for our twelfth break in as many laps. We once considered turning our Tuesday afternoon swims into a book club, where you discuss what you read after each successive length of the pool. In the end we decided that this would skew the ratio of swimming to resting a little too far. As it stands, we like to think of the swimming pool as a social event, where the laps are only there to punctuate the conversation.

It’s time to free the rhesus monkeys and let loose the lab rats: for the perfect case study in social psychology you need look no further than Sydney’s public pools. They are a chlorinated and goggled translation of our beach culture, where characters from all walks of life come to flaunt their insecurities in the suspiciously warm water left by the morning’s primary school kids. Our swimming pools are as Sydney as it gets, with people using the weather as an excuse to socialise and be seen. Just like the members of the Bondi Icebergs who are only in it to get their purple nipples on page four of the morning paper, nobody is really here to swim.



The pain of going home

Jay Ng will graduate soon, and is conflicted about what lies beyond.

I have lived in Australia for six years. In that time, a lot has changed as I have learnt through my own experience, and from the experiences of those around me. As bad as it may sound, I am not the biggest fan of Australia for different reasons. That aside I still feel very anxious about going home, as I am graduating soon.

I was born and raised in Hong Kong, a rather conservative society, despite the impression it gives of being an ‘international city’. Just to give an idea: in Hong Kong, racism is perpetuated against minorities and very little government assistance is provided for them. Families often prefer the birth of a boy rather than a girl, and women are policed in many ways for their dress and appearance. The society

is still evidently unsure about the difference between same-sex oriented and transgendered individuals (many members of the public were outraged when Denise Ho, a celebrity and LGBTQ+ activist, discussed transgendered marriage rights in the Legislative Council). While these examples do not represent the entire city, it is easy to come across individuals on a daily basis .

I was never exposed to ideas like feminism and race theories until my feet landed in Australia, especially during my time here at USyd. These values are inherently different and have made me a better person. I constantly worry about how to stand up for what I believe in back home, and how to articulate these ideas that I learnt in Cantonese.

In Sydney, I have to constantly make my own decisions and take responsibility for them, which has made me a strong and independent woman. It is undesirable in a culture that prefers submissive women. Going home, and likely to have to live with my family again after six years stresses me. I can already predict arguments on these issues, triggered by my changed behavior or ideas.

Going home also means I will lose the luxury of living the way I want to – from eating at random hours, to hanging out with my friends at the time and place that I prefer. As odd as it may seem, many parents in my culture are strict and protective regardless of the age of their children.

On a financial front, I also worry about my career path. There is very little support provided by the university here, especially if I was going to work back in my home country. Of course, it would be normal for any parents to expect their children to have a job with a decent salary upon coming home, especially when they have paid more than \$34,000 per year, along with the hidden costs associated with living.

Perhaps all these the points might not apply to all international students, but leaving Australia also means that we will be apart from all the amazing friends we have made during our time here. And for me, this is the worst part.



Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

I just received a phone bill for \$580. I don't know what happened. Normally I pay a cap price of \$50. I know I used a little more data this month, but that was because the internet wasn't working at home and I had homework to do. I can't afford to pay that much. Can you help me?

Net Debt

Dear Net Debt,

The SRC has a legal service that can help to consolidate (join together) all of your outstanding debts and contact your debtors. Unfortunately, if you were told about those extra charges, and you did use them, it is unlikely that you would be able to have them waived. However, you may be able to get a discount or at least get a payment plan through our solicitors' negotiations.

Abe

SRC LEGAL SERVICE

The Serious Consequences of Ignoring Fines

If you get a traffic fine as a result of an Infringement Notice or Penalty Notice issued by the Police, local government authorities or other prosecuting agencies, you should not ignore it. Read it carefully and make sure you understand the alleged offences for which you have been fined. Most importantly, take note of the due date on the fine.

If you do nothing about the notice before the due date, State Debt & Recovery Office will send you a penalty reminder notice, which gives you a further 28 days to deal with the fine.

What to do about your traffic fine? Your options are:

- Pay the penalty amount in full
- Pay the penalty amount by part payments, as long as it is paid in full before the due date listed on the penalty reminder notice
- Ask for an internal review if you think there are any issues with the fine
- Elect to have the matter heard in a Local Court (but make sure you receive legal advice before doing this.)

There is a deadline for all of these options. If you miss a deadline the option may be lost. For example, a court election date may apply despite a pending internal review.

What if you don't do anything?

There are serious consequences for ignoring a fine, financially and legally. If you default on a fine, the amount of money you owe will increase due to enforcement actions. Your driver licence could

be cancelled or suspended. You could have your car registration cancelled, your wages taken in part to repay the fine, your assets seized or you could be ordered to do community service. Worse case scenario, you could even be sentenced to do community service (as an alternative to a sentence of a period of imprisonment), depending on the seriousness of the case and the extent of your debt.

How can SRC Legal Service assist you?

We can discuss your alleged offence with you and explore the options you have.

- If you decide to pay the fine but have difficulties financially, we can help you work out a repayment plan that works for you and help you apply for an appropriate repayment plan.
- If there are special circumstances which we think the issuing authority should look at before they decide to pursue the fine, we can help you write to the issuing authority for an internal review.
- If there is room for challenging the fine after unsatisfactory internal review, we can also represent you in court on the condition that there is a reasonable prospect of success after reviewing all your evidences.
- Seek leniency from the court

To make an appointment with the SRC Legal Service, call the SRC office on 02 9660 5222.

DID YOU KNOW?

The SRC can help with accommodation and landlord problems.

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
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President's Report

Jen Light



What is the Student Services and Amenities Fee and Why do we need to fight to keep it?

On the 1st of July 2006, Australia saw the rollout of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU), consequently

ending compulsory student unionism and ending valuable student services. On the 11th of October 2011 The Australian Parliament passed the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), a specific fee to be charged to University students for the use of non-academic activities. After the introduction of VSU the breadth and quality of many vital student services diminished, and SSAF has filled that void. Universities have used SSAF for legal assistance, sporting facilities and childcare, as well as student advocacy. The introduction of SSAF has facilitated an increase in student movements all over the country. Similarly it has provided welfare services that are invaluable for students.

At Sydney University the

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.

SSAF is divided up amongst six organizations. The SRC, SUPRA (Sydney University Post Graduate Association), the USU (University of Sydney Union), SUSF (Sydney University Sports and Fitness) and Student Services. The SRC relies solely on SSAF for funding, as we have no commercial operations. Through SSAF funding the SRC is able to provide essential services like legal advice and representation and casework to students for free. Similarly the funding allows student activists to have the facilities and resources to fight for student rights.

While a fee to any student is seen as a burden, the SSAF fee directly gives back to students and is one we need to fight to keep. Without this fee student support would dramatically decrease. Students have the ability

to put SSAF payment onto FEE-HELP if they are unable to pay the fees.

With the Liberal Government on a cuts rampage the Students Services and Amenities Fee could well and truly be on the chopping block. This will be devastating to students. The SSAF provides essential services that students need through out University, as well as giving students a forum to have a voice.

Students need to fight against these cuts at every point, and ensure that SSAF is kept. So when you are paying your next SSAF installment don't think about the money coming out of your account, think of the benefits you are receiving.

General Secretary's Report

James Leeder



Dedicated readers, if you were away from campus last week you might not be aware that the most colourful student election, that of our Union Board Directors, has begun. Whilst many are caught up in the rainbow storm of promised change, it's important to focus on what the Union actually does and what capacity to implement change

Union Board Directors have. In the past we've been promised everything from large-scale renovations of Manning, Holme and Wentworth, to scores of new food outlets and more bars than you could drink at on a Young Labor pub-crawl.

Be aware that almost no candidate has fulfilled many of their promises in the past. Partly because board directors are not individually in charge of many of the activities of the Union and partly because directors only gain the institutional knowledge to figure out what can be done once they've been elected. Regardless, as students we have a right to vote for the candidates that speak to us. I urge readers to take the time to question the politics and vision that candidates have for the Union, as this is arguably

the way they can shape the board the most. Do they see the Union as run by students for students, or do they want it to maintain its current trajectory of increasing corporatisation? The incoming Union Board is also significant in that the CEO of the Union's contract is up for renewal.

Despite the election campaign, this week is also important as the federal budget will be delivered on Tuesday. By the time you read this we will know what sorts of changes the University sector faces. Regardless of whether or not we are facing drastic changes, it is important to remember that this is only the first budget of this federal government. Changes to the sector might not appear until next year or the year after; what matters is that we keep

reminding our politicians of the views of students.

Turning our eye to what your SRC has been doing: Oliver Plunkett, one of the SRC Welfare Officers has been working on a campaign to lobby the university to allow HECS for Winter and Summer School – check it out on Facebook. This is a terrific idea and long overdue. At both UTS and UNSW students can claim these units on HECS, ensuring that they are accessible to all students, not just those who can pay \$3000 upfront. Finally, there is an SRC meeting on this Wednesday, 6pm in the Professorial Board Room within the Quad. All students are welcome to come along to hear the motions being discussed and to ask questions of their student office bearers.

Vice Presidents' Report

Vice Presidents Max Hall and Laura Webster love protests and hate the government.



“The More You Ignore Us, The Louder We Will Scream

Vice Presidents Max Hall and Laura Webster love protests and hate the government.

First of all, we want to offer our congratulations to the University of Sydney Education Action Group, UTS Students' Association and the NSW Education Action Network for such an amazing action on last week's Q&A. The protest was in opposition to slashing education

budgets and the proposed deregulation of university fees – this essentially means universities will be able to charge whatever their little hearts want.

Universities are already woefully underfunded and we cannot fathom what will happen if further funding is cut. Tutorials are already at capacity, staff casualization is a disturbing trend and academics live in constant fear of being fired at any moment. Do the Liberals care that our education system is failing? No, and the proposed fee deregulation is the final nail in the coffin of tertiary education.

Are we angry?

Yes.

Do we have a right to be?

Absolutely.

The Q&A protest achieved its goal of publicly broadcasting the discontent and frustration university students feel with the Liberal government. We have been constantly silenced, policed and downright bullied and, in the immortal words of Twister Sister, we're not going to take it anymore. The only means we have of getting our message to the wider community is through media coverage and public protest and actions. Students are growing more concerned, discontent and furious as the government continues to obliterate our rite to a quality education.

Abbott and Pyne would have us think we are in a budget crisis. The fallacy of this is apparent to anyone capable of noticing that the OECD rates us among the strongest and most secure economies. How can the federal government justify slashing

education funding and then purchase \$12.4 billion worth of fighter planes? If the 'budget crisis' is as dire as the government want us to think it is, why can't these funds be instead spent on things we actually need like improved public health care, repairing infrastructure and funding quality and affordable education at all levels?

As long as the government continues to wage war against tertiary education, we will continue to protest. The more students you anger, the louder we will become.

However we will take one piece of Pyne's advise: as we are both students and tax payers, we will be sure to send each other flowers and chocolates as a thank you for funding each other's tertiary education."

Cheers!

Education Officers' Report

Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley



Last Monday night, activists staged a protest on Q&A against Education Minister Chris Pyne and his plans for the tertiary education system. For the most part, we've had an extremely positive response, but there's also been a lot of tut-tutting and hand wringing from those who think we hijacked a democratic forum, and did more harm than help to our cause.

Contrary to what Tony Jones thinks, there's nothing democratic about the mind-numbing conservative

consensus that marks QandA. Week after week, the ABC carts out the most right wing panellists it can find, allows a few people to ask pre-approved questions, lets the panellists retort their pre-written answers and passes it off as, in the words of Executive Producer Peter McEvoy, a "free exchange of ideas".

Our disruption of a tightly controlled TV show was the opposite of 'undemocratic'. Democracy should mean that in a debate about higher education, students and staff who are directly affected and with the most to lose actually have their opinions conveyed.

The set up of the show purports to offer reasoned and rational discussion, but you can't reason with people like Christopher Pyne. He is a born-to-rule Tory and has no interest in the opinions and struggles of students or anyone that's not a rich bastard just like him. He rules for the 1%, and no argument, however

articulate or measured, will change that.

None of the political parties represent the voice of students. In any case, we want to speak for ourselves. We want to take on politicians directly and on our own terms. That means putting forward arguments, raising our voices, speaking out of turn, calling out politicians on their lies, and yes, even chanting and using banners.

The political establishment and its official channels and processes aren't there for us to use, but for people like Christopher Pyne. Students don't get their speeches broadcast on TV or on the radio, we don't have mates who run the newspapers. The response we've received to our protest confirms our view that sometimes the only way to be heard is to disrupt business as usual and refuse to be silent in the face of stifling conservatism.

We have reached a critical moment. Higher education is facing the biggest attacks in decades. In the upcoming budget, students can expect to see fee increases, the undermining of student welfare and the full or partial deregulation of the higher education system.

There is every reason for students to be pissed off. We don't want to be polite, we don't want to be respectful, or courteous, or measured. We are angry about the government destroying our education system and our lives, and we are going to say so.

So we disrupted Q&A, and in a week we'll disrupt the country on May 21st in the National Union of Students national day of action for education!

Sydney Uni students are meeting at Fisher Library at 1.30pm. Be there!

Wom*n of Colour Autonomous Collective Conveners' Report

Shareeka Helaluddin and Tabitha Prado-Richardson



to give wom*n of colour a space for solidarity.

We held a dance party on the 25th of April, at the Newsagency in Marrickville – a big thank you to all that came and to the Newsagency for supporting us. Shareeka curated the playlist which swung between blues, sixties pop, and then a medley of M.I.A., Solange, and Beyonce's most recent album. Wom*n of colour staples. I can now say happily that I have danced until sweat fell in droplets to Matangi with a group of other wom*n of colour who, yes, also knew all the lyrics.

Being vaguely responsible for the night, I decided not to drink, and it struck me over and over again

how relaxed and inhibited I felt anyway as the hours ticked by. It's hard to convey it to those privileged enough to not know how it feels to be in an autonomous space, or those who aren't privileged enough to be able to access it. But there's a liberating sense of joy in finding or creating spaces that allow you to acknowledge the truth of your experiences, that not only act as sanctuaries from daily oppression but allow you to be a little more yourself.

While people might believe that autonomous collectives are divisive - especially ones as specific as ours – to me, that's an irrelevant claim to make. Asides from the knowledge that the collective creates a uniquely

inclusive and empathetic space, it seems obtuse to ask wom*n of colour to participate outwardly without allowing them time and space to nurture themselves. Young wom*n especially need time to crystallise their sense of self and shelter themselves while they grow. It would be shortsighted to think that's all activism should be, but it's important to keep a balance and to take care of yourself.

If your identity falls in line, come join our facebook group. We're thinking of holding another event around the end of semester which looks to be less sweaty and more cosy. It would be nice to see more faces!

Anti-Racism Collective Conveners' Report

Gabrielle Pei Tiatia tells you why we should stop Abbott not the boats



Since day one of Abbott's Prime Ministership, our action as pro-refugee students has never been more urgent. The Liberal Party (LNP) has already spent over 7.2 billion dollars on expanding offshore camps, brutalising refugees and violating international law; meanwhile, they're cutting 2.3 billion from the public university sector (which translates to 50 million dollars cut from USyd). This is a clear illustration of the LNP's priorities and a clear reason why we should be fighting back against them.

At the Lowy Institute last week,

Morrison announced the introduction of the Australian Border Force to take over customs and the Navy to turn back asylum seekers coming by boat. This is only to serve a rhetoric which shifts policy focus on militarising borders, that further stigmatises refugees and overlooks the reality of the persecution asylum seekers are fleeing from.

While Morrison and Abbott champion their policies for "stopping the boats" and hide behind a tough facade, they're actually more vulnerable than ever. The Nauruan Government have come out announcing it will not resettle Australia's refugees, and now the LNP are frantically trying to negotiate with neighbouring impoverished countries to take up our international obligations.

The Liberals have consistently been feeding the Australian public lies - bolstering vile myths, xenophobia and using racial scapegoating for

their own political expediency. Despite how horrific these policies are however, this isn't a time to despair. The movement under Howard showed that a pro-refugee mandate can be won through building a strong grassroots movement.

Tens of thousands have hit the streets to demand justice for asylum seekers and there is already a strong foundation being built to fight back against Abbott - pro-refugee groups at universities, schools, workplaces, unions, occupations etc. have been established all over the country that are committed to growing the movement.

Students are a vital component of the broader movement outside of parliament. We are always at the forefront of pushing progressive political agendas and we have have the power to dismantle Operation Sovereign Borders and shatter this pillar of systematic racism to shape

an equitable future for the most vulnerable. In order to do this, we need to unite collectively to demand a principled and humane approach to refugee processing and resettlement. This can only begin by breaking bipartisan support, shutting down offshore processing centres and ending mandatory detention.

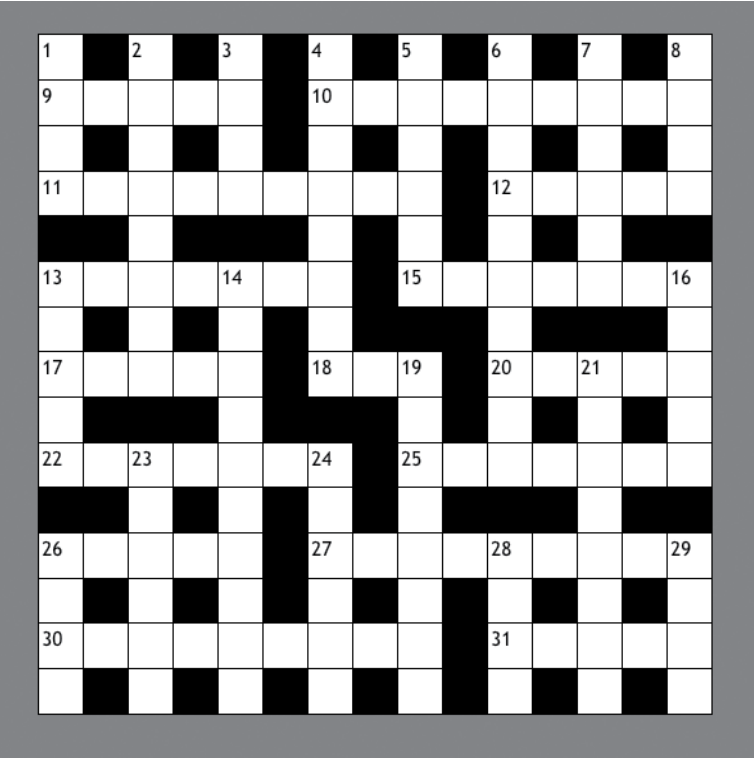
The Anti-Racism Collective (ARC) is committed to strengthening the refugee campaign by educating students and building up their confidence to become activists.

ARC meets every Tuesday, 1pm on New Law Lawns. All welcome!

For more info, check out our facebook page, 'Anti-Racism Collective Sydney Uni' or contact Gabby on 0416 488 258

We hope you can join us. Stand up, fight back!

Usain Bolt after a Red Bull



ACROSS

- 9. Planet you are most likely on (5)
- 10. Bankrupt (9)
- 11. Hat (9)
- 12. Formation of rugby players (5)
- 13. African nation (7)
- 15. One who scatters seeds (7)
- 17. Instrument for picking up and holding things (5)
- 18. Nasty (3)
- 20. Batman’s pal (5)
- 22. Spoiled; intoxicated (7)
- 25. Immersion pursued for rheumatic or cosmetic purposes (3,4)
- 26. Device for recording rate (5)
- 27. Ability to predict what will happen (9)
- 30. Dilapidation (9)
- 31. Divinatory cards (5)

DOWN

- 1. Netting; engage (4)
- 2. Dress rehearsal (5,3)
- 3. Fella; become raw (4)
- 4. Something just waiting to happen (4,4)
- 5. Napping (6)
- 6. Doomed (3-7)
- 7. Studied (6)
- 8. Thing (4)
- 13. Short piece of choral music (5)
- 14. Make tough by experience (4-6)
- 16. Farm; dressing (5)
- 19. Former Dutch colony in South America (8)
- 21. Showoff (8)
- 23. Throw one’s weight behind (6)
- 24. Thwart; foundering (6)
- 26. Manner, function (4)
- 28. Location (4)
- 29. Namesake of British art museum (4)



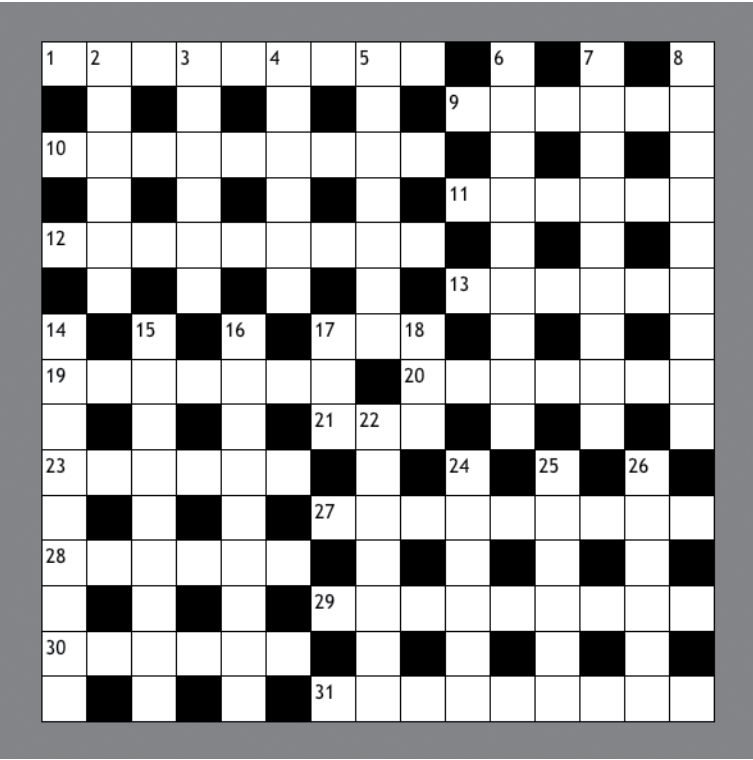
Continental Philosophy

ACROSS

- 1. Twofer gal finds a lasting radiance (9)
- 9. A crab’s kind of cross (6)
- 10. Ancestry, or perhaps the study of those imprisoned in lamps (9)
- 11. Garment of head honcho’s likeness (6)
- 12. Hole in the ground met an explosion that was not malicious (4-5)
- 13. Mongrel consumed the caretaker (6)
- 17. Crazy dickhead is after mum! (3)
- 19. Conversation emerges about uncertain leader of castle (7)
- 20. One soul set free (7)
- 21. Go back to bed, woman! (3)
- 23. Tamed animal follows a baby seal marionette (6)
- 27. Ponies’ age caught up in undercover work (9)
- 28. Renting endlessly confused trainee (6)
- 29. Lowbrow entertainment whacks bloodsucker (9)
- 30. First Australians untangle relative (6)
- 31. International Criminal Police Org. confuses European head to be unwanted (9)

DOWN

- 2. Bewildered D.E. Reef supplier (6)
- 3. Uniformly, Stephenly? (6)
- 4. Knocked back de-plug (6)
- 5. South Africa follows a body part material (7)
- 6. If this were you’ll never get it (9)
- 7. Protects a confused exhibitionist’s companion (9)
- 8. iStarter is unexpectedly enlightening (3-6)
- 14. Doubtful castle pic (9)
- 15. Tapestry will reveal nurturing around cherished...(9)
- 16. ...comet; converted unit? “O, I do!” (9)
- 17. Dragged through the disclosed Burmuda filth (3)
- 18. Give a name to backward pal (3)
- 22. Piles on revised 5th letter (7)
- 24. Acne sounds easy as pie (6)
- 25. Walk-in’s talent position (6)
- 26. To unevenly engage chumps lends ovum stability (3,3)



Frocking Hilarious

Presented by ActionAid Australia, Frocking Hilarious, the only all-woman line-up of the Sydney Comedy Festival, returns in 2014. Now in its second year, Frocking Hilarious, which will be held on the 14th of May, aims to highlight the importance of women laughing together and gathering as a community to be an active voice on women’s rights worldwide.

The all-star line-up includes Judith Lucy, Denise Scott, Fiona O’Loughlin, Clare Hooper, George McEncroe, Gretel Killeen and many more, so enter the competition below for your chance to come along and laugh it up for women’s rights all over the world. ActionAid is a human rights non-for-profit organisation that aims to end poverty around the world. ActionAid Australia works to empower women to realise their positions as rights-holders and stand up and claim their rights.

May 14 @ The Enmore Theatre, 7:30pm, \$34-\$39.

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT)

IDAHOT is a chance for people around the world to reflect on the progress made by the queer community and, more importantly, what still needs to be achieved. The USU are holding an event where you can inscribe a message of support for the queer community on a chalkboard and grab a free

cupcake if you’re an ACCESS card holder.

May 15 @ The Law Lawns, 12:00pm, free.

Friday Night Movie: Bridget Jones’s Diary

This classic early 00s romcom is on something called “Channel Seven” this Friday night. If you still have a television AND have it hooked up to an “aerial”, you can tune in to watch two parts the movie and one part ads!

May 16 @ your couch, 8:30pm, “free” (if you have TV/do not value your soul).

Snapback

Hailed as ‘good times for bad bitches’, this weekly night at the Newtown Hotel is the place to be for gay ladies on a Wednesday night. Head to the Newtown Hotel for cheap drinks and beats from hip hop to Motown to top forty. Lesbianism optional, snapbacks compulsory.

May 14 @ The Newtown Hotel, 7:30pm-midnight, free.

Everything I Know About The Global Financial Crisis In One Hour

This show was originally performed in 2010 as part of a double bill at the Belvoir Theatre. It’s a weird, wacky and intelligent adventure through the events of the GFC, going over the causes, the meltdown itself and the long aftermath.

It’s put on by Sydney trio post – Zoe Coombs Marr, Mish Grigor and Natalie Rose – the same actors behind the divisive Oedipus Schmoedipus.

May 16 @ the Giant Dwarf, 7:30pm, \$20.

Mixed Social Volleyball Competition In Ultimo

The competition started in March, but the City of Sydney has assured potential participants that if they don’t have a team, they will be slotted into one. So if you’re desperate to repeat your horrible experience of being picked last for sport in year 8 PDHPE, this is your chance. Thanks Clover.

May 14 @ Ultimo Community Centre, 12-2pm, unsure (sorry).

Composting Workshop

If you’ve been following What’s On religiously (of course you have), then you’d have attended the sick free earthworm training class the City of Sydney had on offer a few weeks back. Many astute readers pointed out that you need compost before getting earthworms. Great point - and thankfully, we’ve found a great free Composting Workshop for y’all to head on down to. This editorial team cannot think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning than elbow deep in a bucket of rotting food scraps.

May 24 @ Tom Foster Community Centre, 10am-12pm, free.



Tha Quaz

To what does the name of Islamic Extremist group ‘Boko Haram’ roughly translate in English?

- 1. Where did Prime Minister Tony Abbott attend high school?
- 2. At current market prices, which is more expensive: palladium or gold?
- 3. In which US state was Martin Luther King Jr. born?

- 4. In which decade was the Australian Greens part officially established?
- 5. What is Ukraine’s capital city?
- 6. On which continent is the world’s oldest known living tree located?
- 7. Which of the Wright brothers (Wilbur and Orville) was the eldest?
- 8. What did Dr David Warren of Melbourne’s Aeronautical Research Laboratories invent in 1958?

- 9. Which N’ Sync member went on to enjoy the most successful solo career?
- 10. What is the world’s longest river?
- 11. How many secret herbs and spices did the KFC colonel employ in the production of his world famous chicken?
- 12. What does the acronym of music label YMCMB stand for?
- 13. Which of the following people is a former USYD SRC President: Anthony Albanese, Belinda Neal, or Tanya Plibersek?

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Honey Soy

Mum “No Longer Impressed” By Twice-Folded A4 Paper Card For Mother’s Day

Peter Walsh is a shit son.

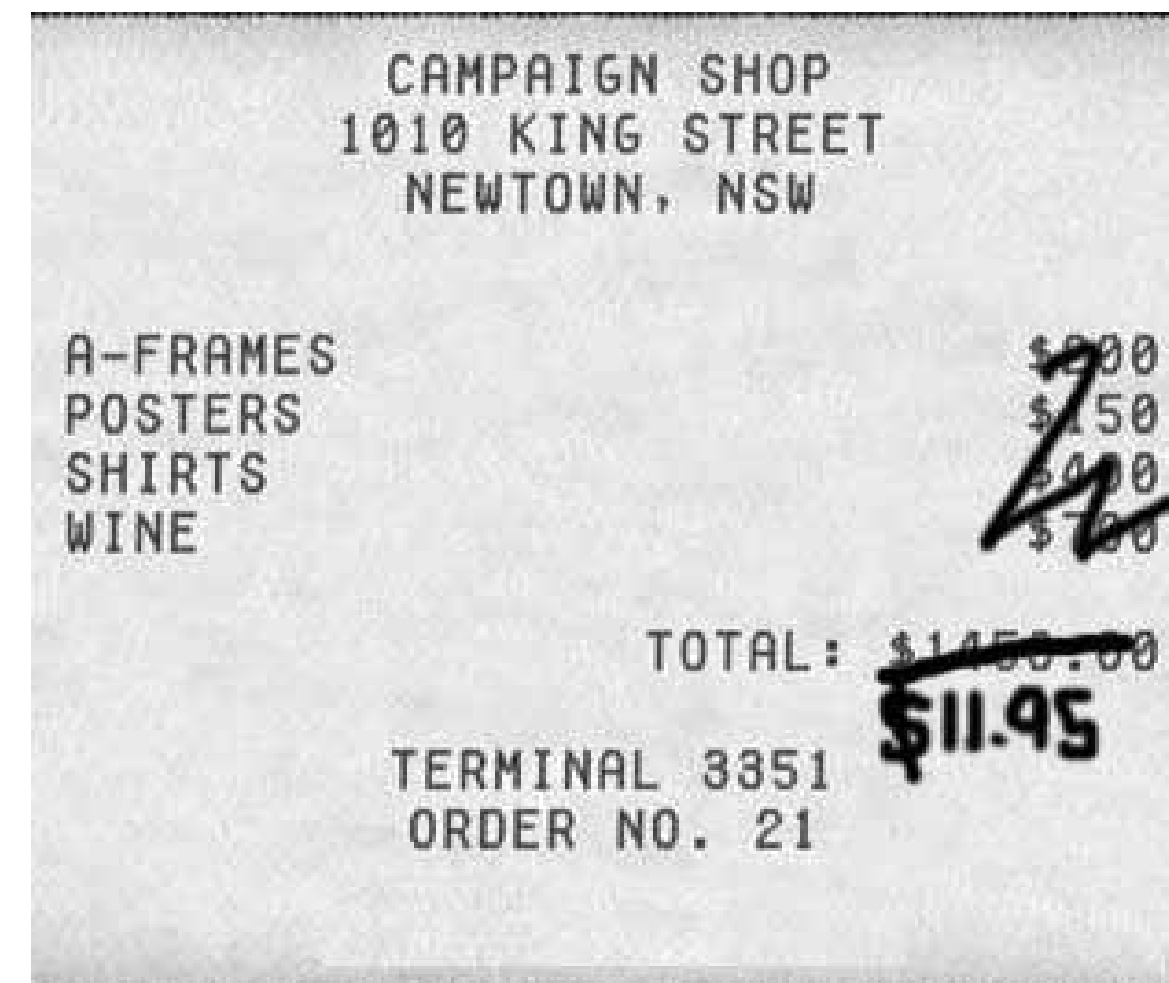
Sandra Port, mother of three, was “disappointed, but not surprised” when her son, John, greeted her on Mother’s Day with another homemade card. The card – a twice-folded piece of A4 paper on which he had drawn a stick figure diagram of himself and his mother holding hands under a sunglass wearing sun – was “basically identical” to the cards she had received when John was a baby.

John, 22 (Arts II), who woke up at 2pm, claims the date “snuck up on him since it was a Sunday this year” and blamed “the newsagents shutting early” for the throw together gift. When pressed, he accused his mother of thinking he was made of time during this very stressful year and said

that “essays on Analytic Philosophy don’t just grow on trees, y’know”.

While Sandra agreed that “it’s the thought that counts”, she said that gifts such as these “no longer impressed her”. The drawing was said also to reflect John’s growing distance from the family. “He should know better than drawing like that,” she said. “We haven’t been the same height in years.” Sandra then opened her bottom drawer to reveal the twenty previous cards John had made since he developed the cognition and motor skills to both understand and produce a ‘gift’. Worse still, a close study of John’s earlier work, especially around age two, suggests his artistic skills have regressed.

Callum Forbes Union Board Receipts Leaked: Photoshop Classes Clearly Paid Off



OPINION PIECE: NRL Bosses Are Totally Miranda Devine

*Cam Smith used to be a
Miranda Devine.*

WHY doesn’t the NRL just burn Mitchell Moses at the stake? The 19-year-old Wests Tigers player has been hit with a two-week match ban for leveling a slur against Queensland opponent Luke Bateman.

Let’s get one thing straight, he did no such thing. What Moses actually said was “you f...ing Miranda Devine”, during an on-field biff with Bateman. But “Miranda Devine” no longer means what it means. You follow? Good.

Before “Devine” came to mean “sad excuse for a journalist”, it meant good and high quality, but hardly anyone uses it that way now. Young people these days use “Miranda Devine” to mean anyone who’s lame, or dumb or stupid, as in: “That journalist is Miranda Devine.” People of an earlier era used the word one way, and now a hate-filled fear- mongering minion of the Murdoch empire has changed its meaning to something else. Easy come, easy go. No one owns a word, and it would be just tyrannical to demand that people must use the words “Miranda Devine” only in the form approved by some nutjobs named Miranda Devine.

So, following that clear logic, why is anyone pretending that what Mitchell said had anything to do with Miranda? It didn’t. He was being offensive, sure, but he was not being Mirandaphobic, which last time I looked meant “an extreme and irrational aversion to Miranda Devine” or “sane”. Bateman isn’t even Miranda Devine. What more evidence do you need that Mitchell didn’t call Bateman “Miranda Devine” as a slur? Checkmate, thought police.

What might have started as a noble cause to prevent vilification of Miranda Devine has veered into dangerous territory. If punishing someone for doing something that was against the rules is now NRL policy, then someone is on drugs. And reading back over my disconnected ramblings and idiotic arguments, I’m guessing it’s probably me. Oh well, I guess I’m just a bit of a Miranda Devine.



Union Board Elections 2014

*Peter Walsh and Dominic Ellis
have just come back
from an alternative reality
and these are the Union Board
slogans they had there.*



While this logo would have guaranteed 92 per cent of the vote in November 1933, it might need some explaining in May 2014. For those not in the know, electrocute is a portmanteau (nothing to do with Natalie Portman) of ‘electrify’ and ‘execute’. If you’re an easily scapegoated minority, avoid Eastern Avenue during the campaign. One star, obviously.



Holy fucking shit these stylised lacerations make me want to lacerate my own jugular, we’ve seen this shit a million times. -3/25 stars.



The white on blue is a familiar choice, reminiscent of one of USyd’s most popular societies. Though, I do have to wonder why the candidate chose to spraypaint the Facebook and Twitter logos on his A-frames. Hyperlinks don’t work in real life, dickhead. Two stars.



Wake up sheeple, there’s obvious Illuminati symbolism in the triangle. Don’t be surprised if you see this candidate on the Grassy Knoll across from Manning. I wouldn’t be surprised if her candidacy entailed putting fluoride in Manning and Hermann’s cider, to make us all docile. Joke’s on her, I bring my drinks from home.



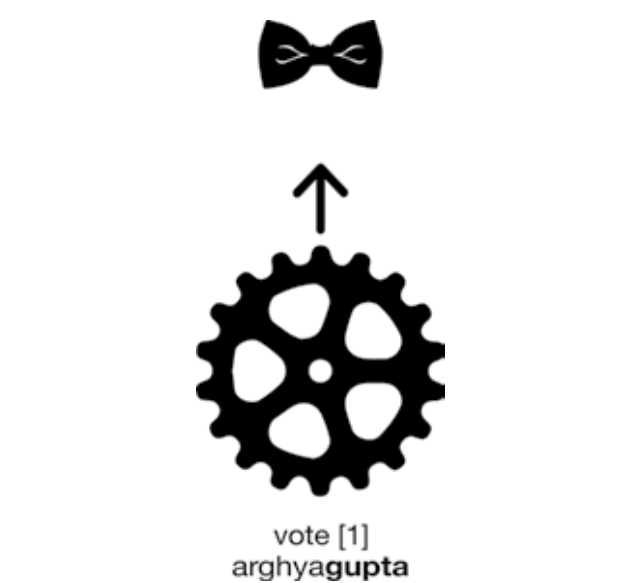
Oddly similar to a drawing I did in blunt crayon when I was four. Also: do I want an attack on my union? I think not. Clearly a neoliberal. Zero stars.



Sigmund Freud would have much to say about the way I first interpreted the splatter that makes up Ed’s logo. “Ed is a great candidate” – Ed’s campaigner.



Change, but from what? To what? For us students of advanced age, change is threatening. Personally, I hearken back to the good old days when candidates promised rickshaws on campus.



Nothing to be said. Clearly the best slogan and logo. Five stars.

EMERGENCY RALLY AGAINST CUTS & HIGHER FEES



Say no to deregulation
and the American Model

WEDNESDAY
MAY 21

1:30PM, FISHER LIBRARY
FOR A MARCH TO UTS

