

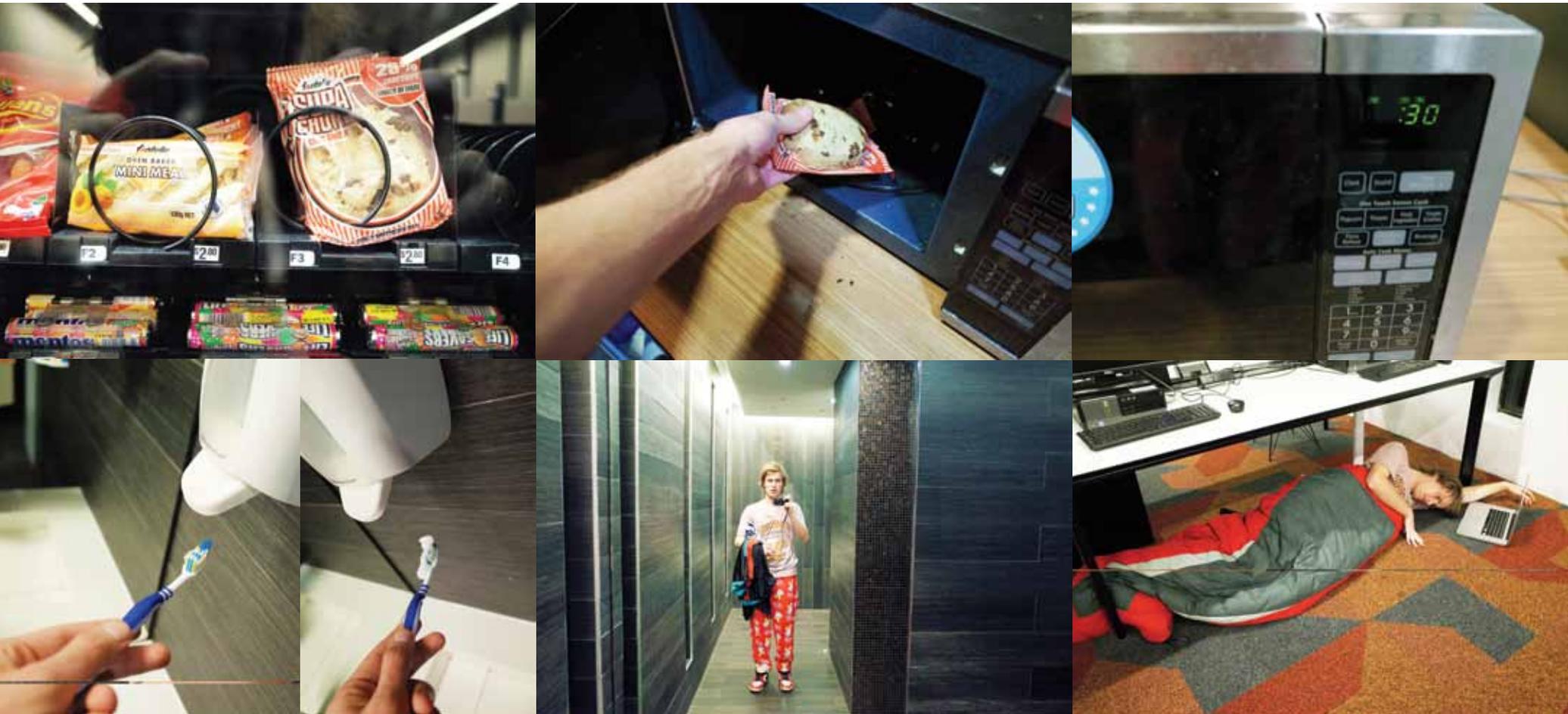
Honi



Soit

Week 3, Semester 2, 2014

HONEY SOY QUI MAL Y PENSE



Sandstone Purgatory

Peter Walsh is privileged enough to cultivate boredom as a hobby. PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER WALSH

Someone once said you're never so alive as when you're bored. They obviously never slept over in Fisher library. "This will be hilarious", I thought going in. But an hour after I arrived, just as my eyelids were beginning to droop, I had two-and-a-half realisations:

1. The lights in the 24 hour study space never go out, and

(a. *My sleeping bag is too small to shield my eyes*), and

2. I've made a horrible mistake.

With this in mind, here's what happened. Verbatim.

10:00 pm. With my overnight bag in tow, I arrive at Fisher Library. At closing, they kick us all out before letting us line up to re-enter, which feels like a metaphor

for the university's operations generally. I set up camp on one of those u-shaped couches and change into my pajamas.

11:30 pm. An *Honi* editor told me that the library had installed a new vending machine that dispenses microwave ramen and other quasi-meals, so I skipped dinner. They were wrong. Instead, I buy a stale cookie and warm it in a dirty microwave (see above). The cookie was bad, which was only partially my fault for using the plastic wrapper as a plate and melting everything together. I go to brush my teeth, except I forgot toothpaste. I use bathroom soap instead (see above).

12:04 am. Am so lonely I consider calling in a bomb threat. However, since budget cuts reduced overnight security, the university

now operates on the 'honour system' and I'd have to evacuate myself.

1:12 am. Painfully realise that at no point for the rest of my life will I ever be able to pretend I'm asleep in the car so my parents carry me inside.

1:13 am. Will my wife be able to do that?

1:14 am. Will I ever have a wife?

1:15 am. I need to get my kids lifting.

2:00 am. I'm visited by the Ghost of Dead Trade Agreements, who's employed on a casual basis to haunt the lower floors. He warns me of a future without desk space.

2:14 am. Fisher undergoes

a *Night at the Museum* style transformation. I get the shit kicked out of me by the leftovers of that cookie I badmouthed.

3:08 am. I become inexplicably afraid that in the future there will be an artificial intelligence both powerful enough and malicious enough to spend its days retroactively punishing anyone who doesn't assist in building it. As an Arts student, I know I will never build a robot. I wonder if Fisher is my future punishment sent backwards in time.

6:00 am. Beside me on the bus home, a man receives a text that says: "our sex is just sort of in out and you kinda check your watch while I pick your back pimples" and as bad as *that* is I can't help but feel I've had it worse.

Contents

HONI SOIT
ISSUE #16

3	Letters
4	BREAKING: USyd hot dogs disappearing
4	Hacky hack gossip do not read if not hack
5	Student “attends” Senate meeting
6	Investigation: Biotech
7	Diversity in comic characters
8	Women’s refuges: a personal story
10	Dance Moms, yuck
11	Ethical fashun
12	Review: SUDS does Hamlet
13	Profile: Max Illingworth, Aus. chess champion

14-15	Feature: International student life
16	My first time: Stupol
17	SRC Caseworker Help
18-19	SRC Reports
20	Puzzles
21	What’s On
22-23	Honey Soy laffs laffs so many laffs
24	THE FINAL NDA AD OF THE YEAR FUCK YEAH MORE ART FOR YOU SOON M88

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

Great. Yet again I find myself attempting to write an editorial when I don’t even know what the fuck an editorial is or what it is meant to achieve or communicate (although I do know we usually don’t write them in first person so I’ve fucked up already.) But it’s my week as Editor-in-Chief, and unfortunately that means writing an editorial as well as performing a seemingly endless number of headkicking tasks, eating a lot of takeaway, and plotting the demise of some of my fellow editors who decided to take the whole weekend off because they were running the fucking City2Surf #bulk #boysboysboys #runrunrun #killmeplz #latergram.

Well dip me in honey and throw me to the lesbians – one of my fellow editors who isn’t running the City2fuckingSurf has just informed me that, by pure coincidence, the last time I was EIC was Week 3 last semester! I guess that means a whole semester has passed since I last struggled with this – time flies, ay. If my life were a movie I would be played by Julia Roberts and this would be the cue for a retrospective montage set to that song that goes like: “as our lives change/ we remember/all the times we/had together”. But it isn’t a movie and Julia Roberts and I don’t even look alike, so cue the paper version instead.

Your 2014 *Honi* editorial team have now been working stupidly hard for over a semester to bring you a paper that is political not partisan, challenging, funny, exciting and beautifully designed. We’ve covered student elections, protests, scandals and heaps of banal shit too. We’ve developed an app* (COME TO OUR APP LAUNCH THIS WEDNESDAY EVENING AT

THE ROSE IN CHIPPENDALE WE HAVE A BAR TAB), redesigned our website**, and introduced regular international student, sport and tech sections. We’ve run features on everything from Young Libs to mental health services at USyd to unfairly imprisoned journalists. We also ran a feature-length piece on a book called *Beautiful Chickens* which was undeniably pure, unadulterated fourth estate journalism.

As you can tell, we’re pretty chuffed with ourselves. Or, I guess, I am chuffed with my fellow editors (even the ones who ran that infernal race and plastered their ugly sweaty pictures across all social media ever), with our reporters, with our artists, and with what we have been doing. It’s been a fucking nuts semester since I wrote that other editorial, and I found a grey hair on my head the other day, but this job is utterly wonderful and I feel so wholly privileged to be locked in this windowless, airless office for roughly 30 hours a week with this arrogant, intelligent, infuriating, often socially-challenged bunch of gits.

Anyway, stay tuned – we’ve got heaps of other good shit coming up before our time is done. Thankfully, though, this is my last editorial. And hey, maybe I have figured it out after all, maybe this is what editorials are meant to be like: self-congratulatory, self-indulgent and awkward. *Fin.*

*by “we” I mean Andrew “App God” Passarello, cheers mate

**yeah go Andy P, 10/10 bloke, ANZAC legend

Credits

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ABSOLUTELY LOST THE PLOT: Georgia Kriz

EDITORS: Georgia Behrens, Felix Donovan, John Gooding, Andrew “Beat Mike Baird In The City2Surf” Passarello, Justin Pen, Astha Rajvanshi, Michael “Puzzles King” Rees, Lane Sainty, Christina White

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Judy “Bagged Herself

A Hottie” Zhu

MASTHEAD ILLUSTRATION: Helen Xue

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PUZZLES/QUIZZES: Zplig, Sam Herzog

Liberté, Egalité, Sécurité

Dear Honi,

I wish to use this space to give a big shout out to our great campus security, particularly the night staff, who perform services around our university that are all too often undervalued.

As someone who studies in to the dark quiet hours on campus, they ensure that I feel safe on the lonely trek to my car. Many an all-too-frequent study break has seen me share a cigarette with a campus security officer, as we ponder the meaning of life and love, sharing our hopes for a better future where Gelato Messina delivers to Carslaw at 1am.

Playing the role of designated driver only last week, I sought to load an intoxicated and more or less unconscious friend into my car. Security, appearing more or less out of thin air, kindly pointed out that in my distress and exhaustion I had neglected to put a seat belt on my inanimate friend. It is this attention to detail that saves lives.

Last semester, in a frenzy of stress as I rushed off to sit an exam I was already five minutes late for, I managed to leave my car unlocked, with the engine still running. Security were kind enough to switch it off for me, lock my car, and leave a friendly note asking me to swing by campus security and pick up my keys.

This is a team of staff that ensures the safety of all students, while evidently providing assistance as a valet service when circumstances arise.

They are silent protectors, watchful guardians, dark knights.

My heartfelt gratitude,

Brigid Meney
Masters Nursing II

Rocking that lime-green

Dear Honi,

I read with a mixture of excitement and intrigue Alexandra Pinkham’s response to my article on the under-representation of women in skateboarding (“She was a sk8r...girl?” Week 1, Semester 2). Pinkham seems to have missed the point I was trying to make: although there are a significant number of women skateboarders (check my article for precise statistics), they are still underrepresented in comparison to men. This divide becomes interesting when contrasted to

other extreme sports like inlining and bmx, where women have higher rates of representation. My argument illustrated the divide between these sports, and ended in a feminist skateboarding manifesto; in no way could it have been construed as disheartening “lady shredders”, as Pinkham calls us. I’m not sure how Pinkham came to that conclusion, but I’m really happy for the response and engagement with my argument.

I thank Pinkham for responding to my article and welcome her to come shred with my (women skater) friends and I on a Saturday. I can be found and messaged on Facebook. Otherwise just stop me when you see me on Eastern Ave.

Globe Bandit deck, lime-green Penny wheels.

Mariana Podesta-Diverio
Arts V

Pathological drunkard claims goon

Dear Honi,

I find myself wholeheartedly unsurprised that you have botched another of your editorial obligations. I refer of course to your promised HackBet prize, with which I remain unacquainted.

75 days. 1,800 hours. 108,000 minutes. 6,480,000 seconds.

That is how long I’ve been waiting for my goon

All I ask is that you make an effort.

Regards,

Dom Ellis
Arts (MECO) II

Better Left unsaid

Dear Honi,

No sooner had my letter regarding the Convocation been printed last week, then I was completely put off my luncheon reading your news that the Senate had ditched the notion of a Convocation in favour of a “mass gathering in the great hall of students, staff and alumni”.

Other than a few throwaway comments made regarding the regulations around timing, I found your explanation of the difference between this vague notion of a “mass gathering” that the Senate has concocted, and the idea of a Convocation, completely and utterly lacking.

Your own inability to adequately

highlight the difference between the two, leads me to assume that regardless of whether you call it a “mass gathering” or “Convocation”, it will essentially just be a cluster-fuck of post-federal-budget grieviers, wiping one another’s tears as they collectively mourn the fact that Christopher Pyne survived beyond infancy.

Although I’m sure the Senate will think twice before inviting me to voice my opinion again, I shall be in attendance. If anything, to relish the hysterical shrieks and dying breaths of the ideological left on campus as they attempt to block the radical change that tertiary education desperately craves in this country. And I shall have not an ounce of pity for them Honi, for they have sought to shackle this great University to the corpse of mediocrity, when we have been handed the opportunity for growth and greatness on a platter.

To quote Professor Ian Young, the Vice Chancellor of ANU, my message to the Senate is simple: “I urge our senators to give universities the freedom to be brilliant - to rise above point scoring and political trickery.”

See you at the barricades Honi, where we can hopefully take the out-dated and self-destructive concept of over-regulation and lay it to rest with the traditions of a Convocation.

Regards,

Don Hewes
Arts III

Curse those meddling facts

Dear Honi,

Question 9 of your quiz last week asks: “How did the inventor of the Segway die?”

The inventor of the Segway, Dean Kamen, lives in New Hampshire, aged 63. He runs a charity called U.S. First, which encourages kids to pursue careers as scientists and engineers. He is not dead.

You presumably meant to refer to Jimi Heselden, who died in 2010 shortly after purchasing the company which makes Segways. He rode a Segway off a cliff and the death received a lot of media coverage.

Kind Regards,

Tom Gardner
Arts/Law III

Lone wolf

I fondly recall my 35 minute phone

interview with your reporter Mr Asimakis which generated his piece ‘Opaque Senate’ (August, 5). Regrettably, little of that interview’s content came to form the finished product - one which labours heavily under the weight of its own self- important bullshit.

As the scent of upcoming Honi Soit elections grows thicker in the air the traditional upsurge of ambitious debaters peddling deluded self-indulgent ‘progressivism’ is as strong as ever.

Of the 34 000 undergraduate students I am their lone representative on Senate. It is a moral duty and statutory responsibility I take incredibly seriously. I would invite Mr Asimakis to speak to any of my Senate colleagues, the Chancellor, the Editors of this newspaper or anyone that has worked alongside me these past 18 months - I suspect that none among them would doubt my engagement or commitment.

Unfortunately for Tim his article accusing my of being unable to ‘intelligibly’ explain Senate decisions appeared alongside two articles where I did just that (‘Fisher library up late’ & ‘Senate decides’).

Far from the remote and distant picture Mr Asimakis paints I note that immediately following last Mondays most recent Senate meeting I sought and secured and a briefing for Christina White with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. I understand the Chancellor again made time to speak with Christina over tea late last week. Perhaps Tim might like to come along next time?

Mr Asimakis concludes his article by calling for the election of a candidate who will ‘provide information that is relevant to the student interest, irrespective of its confidential status’. Such a suggestion is paradoxical.

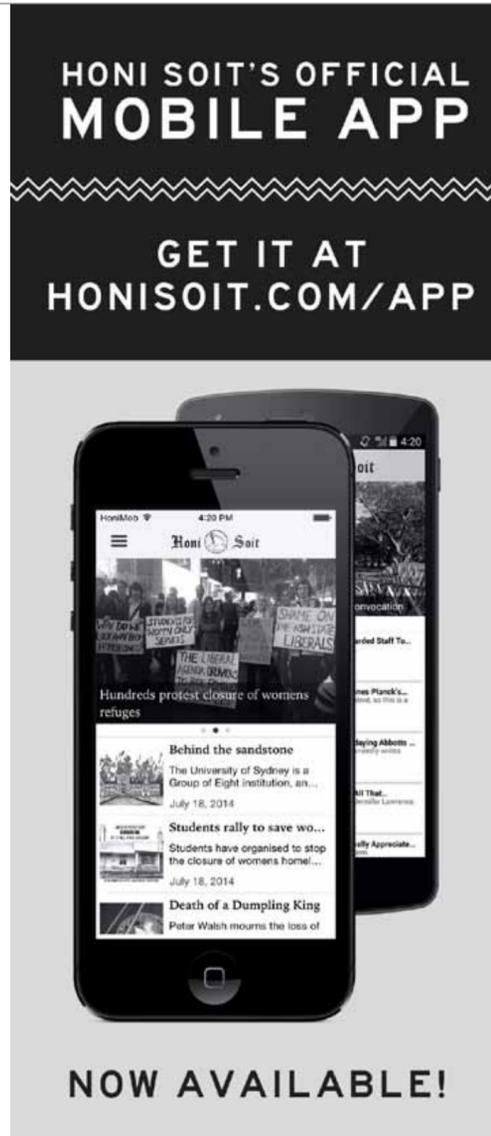
The student interest is best served when their representative has the support and respect of their student constituents and Senate colleagues alike. My influence, and that of students is greatest when I can speak freely with my colleagues and they with me.

I have no intention of adopting the posture of an anarchist ratbag that Mr Asimakis suggests.

I wish your reporter all the best in his future writings with a lingering hesitation that you may be depriving a village somewhere of its idiot.

Warmest regards,

Patrick Massarani
Fellow of Senate



THE MANNING FILES

HIDE YOUR KIDS, HIDE YOUR WIFE, HIDE YOURSELF

Roll up, roll up – the SRC elections will be happening next month at Sydney University. Hacks have been busily plotting their paths to world domination, and in this week's Manning Files we bring you all the goss they grudgingly confirmed, denied or denied to confirm.

(If you're not familiar with student elections, we suggest you head to honisoit.com and search for our campus dictionary before attempting to decipher the endless paragraphs of hack-speak to follow.)

The two major candidates for SRC President will be SRC Indigenous Officer Kyol Blakeney and NSW NUS Women's Officer Amy Knox.

Blakeney, a member of left-wing group Grassroots, will be supported by a 'broad coalition' of campus factions. From Grassroots, Board Directors Bebe D'Souza and Ed McMahon will be playing a large role in negotiations, along with SRC Vice President Laura Webster and Welfare Officer Brendan Wylie. Other factions in the coalition supporting Blakeney are the Indies (including USU President Tara Waniganayaka

and Board Director Liam Carrigan), a collection of SRC office bearers who recently defected from Labor Left faction Sydney Labor Students (including SRC General Secretary James Leeder), and socialist faction Solidarity. It is expected that Blakeney's campaign colour will be green.

Knox, a member of Labor Left faction National Labor Students (NLS) will be co-managed by current NUS NSW State President Hannah Smith and NLS member Chloe Smith. After a successful bid for the presidency last year, Unity (Labor Right) has returned to their usual position of backing NLS for the SRC presidency and will be supporting Knox. Knox will also be backed by the remaining members of SLS and Socialist Alternative (SAlt). It is believed these groups have joined together in an attempt to secure the presidency for NLS, the General Secretary position for Unity and the two Education Officer positions for SAlt.

However, SAlt were cagey when we questioned them about their motivations in the SRC elections. Current Education Officer Eleanor Morley refused to tell us who was heading their negotiations, saying that she "shouldn't have to tell us anything" because she dislikes our paper immensely. However, Morley did graciously confirm SAlt

would be wearing purple shirts in the election.

And as for *Honi Soit* – well, there's two tickets currently shaping up to contest the *Honi* election. The first is being headed by SUDS member and *Honi* reporter Peter Walsh and *Honi* reporter and FilmSoc executive Dominic Ellis. It also includes Alexi Polden, Alexandra Downie and Lisa Xia. This ticket will be managed by Liv Ronan, current Board Director and the manager of last year's winning *Honi* ticket.

The second ticket is headed by *BULL* editor and *Honi* reporter Eden Caceda, *BULL* editor Katie Davern and Hermes editor Whitney Duan.

Although an SRC regulation change earlier this year prohibited *Honi* tickets from swapping preferences with SRC tickets, it is likely that the *Honi* tickets will informally pair up with SRC campaigns over the coming weeks. Both *Honi* tickets said they were yet to deal with factions, however, it is likely that the Walsh/Ellis ticket will pair with Blakeney's presidential campaign.

All coverage of the 2014 SRC Elections will be researched and written by Astha Rajvanshi, Lane Saintry and Georgia Behrens.

Neither Astha, Lane nor Georgia are involved in any SRC campaign, campus faction or political party.

THAT AWKWARD MOMENT WHEN...

Sydney University accidentally transfers \$500,000 into a deregistered, inactive USU society bank account.

(At the time of print, we're waiting for more information from the University. Check honisoit.com for more on this through the week.)

HONI PITCHES IN FOR USU TRANSPARENCY: THE NUMBERS THE BOARD DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE

City2Surf results:

Board Director Alisha Aitken-Radburn – 1:42:29

Board Director Kade Denton – 1:40:57

Immediate Past President Hannah Morris – 1:40:57

Board Director Eve Radunz – 1:50:13

Board Director Kate Bullen – 2:10:42

Incubate Co-founder James Alexander – 3:12:58

The meeting that was (shit)

Astha Rajvanshi encourages you all to attend an SRC meeting.

I imagine you didn't follow *Honi Soit's* live blog on the 5th meeting of the 86th Student Representative Council (SRC). Why would you want to when you could inflict serious pain on yourself in several other ways, including grating your face, sticking a toothpick under your toenail and kicking the wall, or flagellating yourself with a cactus?

For us, it was just the former. For your (unviewed) pleasure, *Honi Soit* launched our first live blog on the night of the meeting to keep up with the exciting events that were about to unfold.

When we first walked into the meeting, a hint of optimism glinted in our eye, for we were about to propose a Very Important Motion: the ability to report on the height of student politics fuckery that is the SRC's annual elections later this year. Yeah, I dunno, I guess the Freudian theme of the night was sadomasochism.

However, our initial enthusiasm

was quickly dampened by the battle that ensued following a motion proposed in solidarity with Palestine, in support of the BDS campaign.

Considering the (copies of) *Red Flag* that popped up early on in the meeting, this shouldn't have come as a surprise. First of all, there were two completely estranged, unknown students who sat inconspicuously at the back of the room refusing to reveal their identities. For a few minutes, we thought they might have been young, idealistic doe-eyed students who actually just wanted to get involved in the USyd SRC. However, they turned out to be representatives from the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS) who were in attendance to speak against the motion.

As soon as this revelation took place, chaos ensued. Insults were hurled across the room, most from the mouth of Socialist

Alternative (SAlt) member and Education Officer Eleanor Morley, who accused the AUJS member of being a "genocidal maniac". Morley's fellow SAlt member Omar Hassan quite seriously asked them: "Where have we heard the phrase 'forcible relocation' before? I think we all know," to which the AUJS representative Ilya Borecki responded "This is bordering on anti-Semitism".

Then, the debate was inexplicably halted to congratulate the Queer Officers for their work on the Pride Festival – an announcement that evidently could not have taken place at any other time – while the *Honi* editors played the fitting tune 'We can't stop' by Miley Cyrus.

Back to the Israel-Palestine debate. More accusations were shouted across the room, the shouts slowly turned into screeches, and then, to genuine screams. We all questioned ourselves "Is that all there is?"

Anyway, if you're wondering what happened to our motion, it passed.

We hope for the love of god, no.

Finally, the motion passed, so there's that. As one council member commented, "Aren't you glad that we solved the Israel-Palestine situation in that meeting?"

The highlight of the meeting was when SRC President Jen Light named Morley, to which Morley responded in a deep, threatening tone: "There's NOTHING you can do to stop me". I absolutely, 100 per cent, believed her.

In summary, not enough comedy, too much tragedy. By the time we left, we had been stripped of any human dignity or, indeed, hope for a better world. One of the editors was even curled up in the foetal position and literally had to be rolled along the floor so that we could vacate the room for the grumpy, overworked cleaner who was waiting to clean up after us.

Anyway, if you're wondering what happened to our motion, it passed.

Desperately seeking Senate

Christina White sat outside a Senate meeting for three and a half hours.

"Wow, you're going to observe the Senate meeting. Are you nervous?" asked the security officer at the Charles Perkins Centre as she escorted me up to Level 6. I quickly realised that people without swipe cards don't often seek out our elusive Senate in the flesh.

Despite the fact that parts of these meetings are open, it was difficult enough to find out basic information. "Monday 4 August 2014. Time: 3.30pm. Venue: various" the Senate's website helpfully tells the average student.

As I walked towards the meeting room, people in suits stared at me in complete bewilderment and shock. I would guess most of these Fellows haven't seen a student, let alone spoken to one, since the days of Barton.

The Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson introduced herself, Peter FitzSimons walked past, and the Secretary to the Senate told me that the meeting would begin in confidence.

So I sat outside for three and a half hours.

Soon the Secretary came out and asked my full name for the minutes. This seemed ironic because I hadn't even been allowed into the room yet. I imagined the minutes read: "Spence answered question. Christina White still sitting outside."

The Fellows took a break about two hours in. Some looked frazzled, quickly clumping into a few chattering groups. One turned to me and said "I hope you're covering your ears, Christina."

After the break, the Secretary pointed me to a buffet. I approached at the same time as a suited mystery man who had been sitting on the other side of our foyer-room this whole time. The mystery man said "Hello," and introduced himself as Mark, the Chief Financial Officer of the University. Mark was lovely and selected a salami sandwich from the platter. I asked how the finances were. "Fine", he said. "We like it when things are dull". Then we both returned to our respective corners of banishment.

I sat down wondering why even the CFO isn't allowed into the Senate

"The lack of transparency comes down to the Senate's quasi-corporate, quasi-democratic character."

meeting. As I finished my fruit salad (cheers Senate!), Mark was invited in and I was left alone in exile.

Ten minutes later, the Secretary invited me in. The open session of the meeting was about to begin.

I entered, clearly a novelty. Everyone stared at me and a few Fellows quietly cheered. I sat down and a split second later, someone snatched the agenda from the table in front of me, lest I know even the subject of what was spoken about.

They briefly discussed the report of the Academic Board, and the session ended not ten minutes later.

Hutchinson told me they agreed to hold a meeting (later rebranded

"mass gathering") and invited me to have drinks with them all outside.

Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence came over, and called *Honi Soit's* latest article on convocation a "diatribe". Insisting he wanted to chat, he grabbed four whiteboard markers and said "We're going to write on this wall". Drawing diagrams and lists, Spence explained the University's financial structure in a one-on-one lesson. I was stunned at how human he seemed- he's normally shielded behind an entire PR team. Usually when we try and contact Spence, a media advisor jumps out in front of him to take the bullet.

After Spence and Hutchinson left, I drank wine with Kate McClymont. She is the coolest person ever. It was all worth it.

A few days later the Chancellor met with me and explained the closed session. "In regards to Convocation, I asked the meeting whether they want this to be a closed session or an open session and asked for a show of hands," she said. "There was a bit of a debate, and people said they'd like to be able to speak quite openly." She paraphrased the Fellows' collective view as, "I want to be able to express myself and I don't feel I could necessarily express myself as openly if it was open."

I've searched for minutes and asked questions, but all the Fellows are

barred from speaking about matters discussed in confidence. The lack of transparency comes down to the Senate's quasi-corporate, quasi-democratic character.

Twelve of the 22 Fellows are democratically elected by academic staff, non-academic staff, students and alumni. As our representatives, they should be speaking openly and frankly in such a way their electors wouldn't scowl at. However, the Chancellor maintained that confidence is necessary to facilitate "an open frank discussion, robust debate."

All the Fellows are bound by a duty to act in the best interests of the University. The current MO of the Senate prioritises complete secrecy above all else. The Chancellor said she sees her role as "apolitical", but that's still a political decision. Confidentially won't always be in the best interests of the broader University community.

While the release of sensitive business information could clearly hurt the University, issues of consultation are blatantly not confidential. The petition was covered in national media and University spokespersons have repeatedly promised that management are being as open and consultative with students as possible. Why should we have any faith in their press releases if they won't even guarantee they're listing to our concerns?

The next Senate meeting is on the September 8. If anyone wants to come keep me company let me know.

Much Ado About Hot Dogs *Yi Jian Ching is as hot as the dogs he's trying to save.*

A great calamity has befallen upon us, for you must know that the doomsayers were right indeed. "You've lost me, so I'm just going to flip to the crosswords now," you say, "But they don't sell hot dogs anymore at the coffee carts!" "EXCUSE ME."

Much like the despair felt by Caesar on the Ides of March or by Robin Thicke after the release of *Paula* – such despair has filled our hallowed halls. Let me recreate my own personal tragedy for you:

A lone student on the eve of his MATH1002 exam finishes his 'revision'. Half-starved, he manoeuvres his way through endless aisles of dusty books, his tired eyes struggling to see as fluorescent lights flicker above. He doggedly treads the sterile path to the Fisher Coffee Cart only to find that: "I'm sorry we don't serve hot dogs anymore". Instead, he is forced to purchase what he is told is called a "sausage roll".

The larger question that looms

overhead like a giant sewing machine in the sky is why they disappeared in the first place. Time spent theorising with a fellow connoisseur turned up two possible reasons. The first is simple – the health concerns associated with eating fatty, processed offal – but the second is more complicated. It could be the "unwieldy" process of assembling the hotdog – neatly placing the frankfurter within the spongy confines of the bun, and then applying sauce before wrapping the entire affair in a paper bag. This process, coupled with the already prohibitive lines at USU coffee carts, could have led waiting times to become unbearable, and, ultimately, a financial hit to the Union – a probable reason behind their outrageous disappearance.

Hot dogs still exist in some form at Manning Bar...on Wednesday nights. After attending a fairly anti-climatic hot dog eating contest on campus last week, it's clear that the food itself isn't going to disappear entirely. This is, however, insufficient – how many

more students will have their lives unfulfilled, asking for a hot dog and receiving their tepid sausage roll?

I know I am no longer going to stand back and take these sausage rolls. That sounds like something Tony Abbott would do. Are you Tony Abbott? Of course not, so take action

and protest (that might work, right?), or, alternatively, you could join me in my passive frustration and pray someone from the USU reads this. That might work too. Maybe.

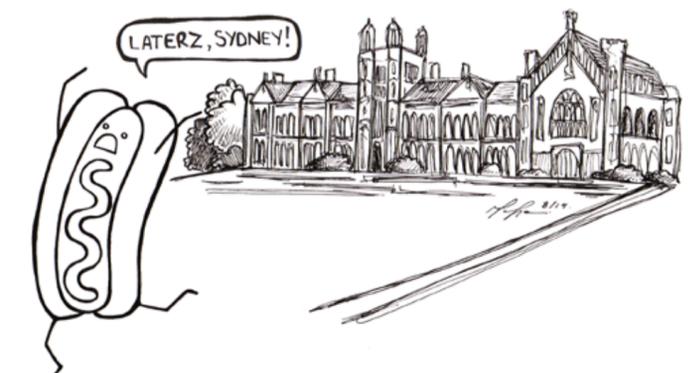


ILLUSTRATION BY MONICA RENN

Run your fingers through the bureaucracy

Biometric technology is making inroads into Australia, writes **Mariana Podesta-Diverio**.



The use of biometrics, a branch of information technology that deals with the collection and analysis of biological human information such as face scans, DNA and fingerprints for the purposes of identification and control, has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the 20th century.

Some readers may be familiar with this technology from laptop finger scanners, vocal identification technology, or recent smartphones that use fingerprinting instead of passcodes to allow access. Many of you will have dealt with the biometric voice identification software used by Centrelink for over-the-phone income reporting and customer identification, which the department began to roll out in 2009. Those of you who haven't yet come into contact with this technology will have the chance to do so very soon. In May of this year, it was announced that more Australian financial institutions are considering using biometrics for customer identification. NAB began to use voice recognition in 2009, and ANZ is currently looking into rolling out the technology.

There are countries where the mass collection and storage of biometrically obtained information is the norm. The Uruguayan government, for example, has a digital collection of my fingerprints. This is a necessary step in the acquisition of a citizen's ID card that is mandatory for all residents, and optional for citizens living abroad. The index fingerprint is also displayed prominently on the identity card. Followers of world news will remember that Uruguay was the first country to legalise medical marijuana last year. Those who purchase marijuana in Uruguayan pharmacies do so with the use of their fingerprint, which is used by the government as a means of controlling and tracking

how much of the drug customers are purchasing. The legalisation of marijuana and its commercial distribution has been facilitated by the previously established system of fingerprint collection.

India has the most developed system of biometric data collection of any country, as a result of a program called Aadhaar, which is being developed as a means for building a database for the universal identification of Indian people. In a report for the Centre for Global Development in 2012, researchers state that 200 million Indians had at that point enrolled for the service. In contrast to Uruguay's government-controlled system, the information collected by Aadhaar will be available for public and private sector use. The argument for this universal identity program is that countries with large populations, such as India, need strong systems of identification for social and economic development.

There has been a steadfast growth in the introduction of biometrics systems, particularly finger scanners, in Australian workplaces as a way to monitor shift times and breaks. The highly individualised nature of biometrical information, as opposed to the easily forged information from signatures or swipe cards of yore, means that finger scanners grant employers access to information regarding employees' movements in a way that was never before possible.

Dr Charlotte Epstein, Associate Professor in the Department of Government and International Relations at USyd, said that the use of biometrics is becoming increasingly normalised. Epstein highlighted the connection between the biometrics industry and social media, citing Facebook's face recognition software, to facilitate

photo tagging, as a prime example.

"The key thing to know about certain biometrics is that the iris, for example, can contain really private genetic information" Said Epstein. "People are giving up private information about their bodies."

Epstein said that biometrics enable an intimate access to one's personal information – a surveillance that is applied to the body. The use of these technologies is, in the neoliberal context, "sold in terms of an efficiency logic," she said. "Particularly in places like airports, to make processes faster."

On a more local note, the University of Sydney Union (USU), has begun to implement the software for biometric technology in some of its workplaces. The USU will be using a fingerprint scanning system that will "accurately record employee time and attendance" among other things.

Like other fingerprint scanners on the market, the system used by the USU will not store an image of the fingerprint in any form. Instead, a template is generated from the fingerprint reading via an algorithm. This template is then compared to existing templates that correspond to an employee in order to verify identity. This is a one-way conversion process, meaning that once the template is generated to match an existing template pertaining to an employee, there is no way to reverse this process and recreate the original fingerprint.

If that doesn't make sense, think of it this way: you need to use flour, water and oil to make a loaf of bread, but once the loaf is baked, there's no way you can make it raw again and extract those ingredients. There are downfalls

to every technological innovation, and biometrics is no exception. In a 2004 document, the Victorian Law Reform Commission reported that five per cent of the population cannot use finger-scanning tools, as their fingerprints are either worn down from labour or "genetically indistinct". This poses a roadblock to the universal application of biometrical data collection systems that draw significantly from fingerprinting as a source of information. This incongruence in the data (what we might also call 'human error', in its most forgivable incarnation) could lead to skewed biostatistics.

The acquisition of this information helps develop knowledge in a way utterly unique to current technologies. It enables the systematic categorisation of individuals by any number of factors, such as age, residency status, address, gender – the list goes on. Michel Foucault who, before his death thirty years ago, wrote extensively about surveillance, governance and their implications for the control of human bodies, would have an aneurysm if he were alive to see the recent developments and applications of biometrical systems.

In Australia, we haven't yet reached the stage where our every movement, disease, and purchase is monitored, but as finance and technology develops, we move steadily closer to that reality. Biometrics is no longer a thing of distant future, resigned to sci-fi films and cyberpunk novels. In the very near future, we will have much more to worry about than Facebook storing our old status updates and ridiculous photos. We'll soon face the prospect of having every one of our movements electronically stored and perhaps even used as a tool for control.



One-hit Marvel? *Sam Langford is skeptical of the introduction of diverse characters in the new Marvel Comics.*

A few weeks ago, Marvel Comics announced that two of its most popular series would soon feature an African-American Captain America and a female Thor. Mass hysteria immediately ensued online.

Some insisted that a female Thor isn't congruent with the traditional Norse mythology that inspires the character (though apparently flying around New York and hanging out with The Hulk is totally fine). Others argued that women are incapable of possessing the fundamental characteristics of a "true hero". Some particularly brave keyboard warriors have even gone so far as to assert that it "seems like Marvel is trying to exterminate all straight white males from existence". Considering that non-white, female characters remain staggeringly few and far between, Marvel has got a long way to go indeed.

Thankfully, despite the petulance demonstrated by some of their readers, Marvel writers seem to get it. The recent announcements have not just been the start, but the continuation of an increasingly diverse comic book tradition. For

decades now, the X-Men have been a fairly obvious metaphor for the experience of the queer community. In recent years, the comics have moved beyond metaphor, presenting us with (among other things) openly queer characters, an all-female X-Men team, a predominantly non-white Mighty Avengers team, and a teenage, Muslim Ms Marvel. One needs only skim the letters page of any given comic to see an outpouring of gratitude and excitement from readers who finally see themselves reflected in a way they can be proud of.

When representation is done right, it's worth celebrating. But it's crucial, tempting as it is to laud any step in the right direction, that readers' praise isn't unconditional. The success of Marvel's more diverse ventures is, at its core, a financial success. Should the impending debuts of the new Thor and Captain America see a significant drop in sales, it's almost certain Marvel will hastily return to their traditional, non-threatening cash-cows.

In fact, as the new inclusivity is almost certainly a temporary story



arc, one can't help but wonder whether it's a progressive move at all, or simply a publicity stunt with no lasting impact. After all, for all the writers' protests that the changes are here to stay, there's truth in the running joke that only Uncle Ben stays dead in the Marvel Universe. The original Captain America and Thor won't even have to beat death to return, however, as they're not being killed off, but merely depowered.

In fact, they will continue to feature in comics, raising the troubling possibility that their newly diverse counterparts might just exist to further the character development of the traditional and beloved straight white men.

Only time will tell, and it will depend greatly on the quality of the writing. Writing can make the difference between a tokenistic and a three-dimensional depiction of a character, and we can only hope the writers at the helm do their new characters justice. When diversity in media is done right, it delivers compelling and refreshing storylines, affirms the identities of those it reflects, and provides a platform from which discussions can be launched and, perhaps even minds changed.

In the battle for more diverse representation, the new Thor and Captain America should be welcome allies, but their presence should not be accepted without question. Ill-represented groups don't just have the right to be seen, but also the right to be depicted properly, with ongoing storylines that represent their full, nuanced and complex lives.

No cuts, no fees, and feeble media scrutiny

The Australian media's priorities are yet to catch up with students concerns, writes Milly Ellen.

Writing for the quietly disapproving *Mums on Mamamia*, Jamila Rizvi has universally labeled us all Violent Student Protestors and given us a stern warning to stifle our anger and "grow up". Annabel Crabb suggests that "protesters are somehow getting dumber" and that students shouldn't be "protesting like it's 1969", while accomplished wordsmith Andrew Bolt has labeled us the "Storm-troopers of the Left". Any protest efforts are regarded, to varying degrees, with paternalistic patronising or outright condemnation. On the flipside, if no action is taken to publicly voice our views as students, we are labeled the "apathetic youth", "Gen Y bludgers" or "politically disengaged whingers". Whatever we do, we can't win.

By discrediting the student sign-wavers of today, these commentators have neglected to reflect on the long history of student activism that has influenced culture and politics, and produced some of Australia's most ambitious, socially conscious

and politically engaged leaders and revolutionaries. Heralding the end of protesting means either disregarding the successes (and failures) of over 120 years of student demonstrations as a means of circumventing the vitriol of traditional media commentary, or massively overstating the potential of social media.

While the budget rallies of last semester roused even the most apathetic of students from their midday slumber, the machinations of our national media outlets have nudged the issue out of our collective consciousness. The perpetual news cycle ensures that evocative headlines and photographs are all you need to satisfy the majority of readers. On slow news days without any gaffes or aviation disasters, cats and human-interest pieces are offered up instead. The concerns of students only make the cut when thousands in the streets are yelling them.

This brutal media cycle is widely accepted, even as it continues to sideline the problems being

picketed in university campuses across Australia, not to mention almost anything else affecting groups without much political sway. We all know this is not a new phenomenon, but neither are the continuing proclamations that protesting is futile. Following riot clashes with police and widespread social upheaval during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 60s, President Johnson established the Kerner Commission to investigate, among other phenomena, media coverage of the Civil Rights Movement. It conclusively surmised that national reporting was shortsighted, biased and harmful to vulnerable minorities and ultimately unethical. In Australia, media outlets similarly panned protests in 1970 in response to the Vietnam War and conscription as the moratorium marches became increasingly violent. Familiar condemnations of "wild, uncouth youth" and "un-Australian students" were utilised in an effort to stymie student activism.

However, the fate of social change has rarely rested on the shoulders

of a lone individual. Decrying mass movements as ineffective implies that there is another, more effective way of getting a message across, when in many cases, there simply isn't. Social media is often hailed – by Crabb, for instance – as an effective and cohesive forum for change. However, as much as social media has built essentially the largest forum of students on earth and disrupted traditional conceptions of the fourth estate, established media outlets continue to define the foundations of knowledge, conceptualisation and interpretation of national events that form our knowledge of and opinions on current events. And it is with this power that the media reinforce the purported need for social order whilst lambasting those who actively attempt to defy systematic forms of oppressive authority. The media's chosen, decades-old approach has resulted in students' budgetary concerns being relegated to the 'old news' pile; it's clear where the priorities of the Australian mainstream media lie.

“Like a lion trapped in a paper cage”

Summer Lea writes about her experiences with women’s crisis housing.

My name is Summer and I would like to share my story.

Like many of you currently reading this newspaper, I am now a successful, coping young person studying for a degree at the University of Sydney. Recently, I was asked to speak at the vigil to raise awareness about cuts to women’s crisis housing services. Specifically, I spoke about how a young women’s refuge staffed by women played an essential role in my journey from abused homeless teenager to young, independent student and worker.

Women need refuges but the state government is threatening to streamline services for homeless people into a one size fits all model with its “Going home, staying home” reforms. This could mean small, individualised services for women run by women, would be under threat. Abused women fleeing domestic violence could wind up in accommodation with homeless men run by male workers.

My personal story is testimony to the need for women-only services. I believe my journey to the life I have now was extremely different from many University of Sydney students.

My story started a long time before I was born. It started during the Vietnam War, which brought endless turmoil and suffering to people like my parents. It had a terrible impact on my mother. One summer’s day when my mother was 10, she was playing with her baby brother who was eight months old in her front yard. Suddenly a bomb dropped from nowhere onto them and killed her brother instantly. I’m sure such an experience contributed to her developing of schizophrenia as an adult. My dad was also profoundly affected by the atrocities of the Vietnam War. My grandfather was conscripted into warfare to fight with the American troops in order to protect the South Vietnamese from becoming a communist nation. He was affected by the war, that affected my father and in turn I was affected.

My parents escaped Vietnam after getting married and decided to seek asylum in Australia. It was a journey of constant danger, change and uncertainty. They lived in Marrickville as this was the place where Vietnamese refugees were settled. This was before it became gentrified and before it was full of university students. The only work that was available for Vietnamese refugees was tailoring and mass-

producing garments for chain stores like David Jones and Grace Brothers. They were paid \$1 for each coat.

Some refugee families found a new life of optimism in a new country.

However this was not the case in my family. My home was a battlefield. My life was coloured by the chaos around me.

My parents had no capacity to offer the love and security all children need. I was always envious of my friends with loving families. I still believe to this day, that love, in any form, is a fantasy, a figment of my own imagination and an unreachable dream, so far away from reality.

At 15 I was permanently removed from my family. I wanted a better life for myself. A life worth living.

cage. A young woman ready to take on the world but there were many barriers in my life.

The first refuge I went to after being removed from my family was the Young People’s Refuge in Leichhardt, a women’s refuge. One of the services under threat with the new state government reforms. I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The workers were great role models who provided me with counselling in order to cope with the traumas that haunted me. They helped me develop my life skills in a holistic way, quite specific to being a woman. They also helped me in accessing other services, with the biggest goal of achieving long-term accommodation.

Importantly, I was in a safe environment for young females who needed to be in a gender specific service for a while. The refuge taught

As much I as I’d like to be able to go back and have Sunday lunch with any of my families, this is not feasible for me. The pain and despair inflicted by my biological family them meant that I have never returned home to this day.

“Summer’s foundations are made from sand, they are not solid.” Maybe one day my sand will turn into concrete.

To this day, I haven’t told my friends this story. Many people, due to being unaware of their own privilege, end up reacting awkwardly. As a consequence, their responses are not helpful for those in a similar situation. All I wanted to do while I was growing up was to be a normal teenage girl, to preserve my privacy and dignity. I didn’t want to be perceived as different to friends who were being raised in loving, middle class homes. I didn’t want to be stigmatised, like so many, for using women’s refuges and for being homeless.

As a teenager, I kept this secret hidden well. Behind my smiles, was a broken heart and behind my laughter, I was falling apart... up until the point I saw that glimmer of hope.

Across Australia, wives, sisters, mothers, daughters, children can find themselves in need of a safe place where their gender and ethnic diversity will be recognised and respected, when their home is no longer safe. We should always be aware that anyone, from any social background, could have experienced this. But I am not alone.

In such circumstances, we need a robust safety net of social welfare that can cushion the fall and allow a safe place from which we can rebuild our lives. Women’s refuges were created by women, for women. They’ve been working well, so why destroy them? The new plan is one size fits all, but one size doesn’t fit all. There’s talk about eliminating “red tape”, but we need to value and maintain the good things that are already happening. And, at the end of the day, people who use these services are more likely to go on to rebuild their lives and support their communities, just like me. Surely, this is an outcome that Australia should be aspiring to.

I believe some women are lost in the fire; however, some women are built from it....

“Behind my smiles, was a broken heart and behind my laughter, I was falling apart”



The Department of Community Services (DOCS) were never much help in resolving our family problems. I really got the most help from a small non-government organisation called Barnardo’s. They assisted me in leaving home safely.

I was now able to live on the other side of fear.

What followed was a series of refuges, foster homes, and boarding arrangements. My first placement in a refuge was really what gave me the skills and empowerment to cope with the difficult path to adulthood.

I was like a lion trapped in a paper

me skills, which equipped me to cope with the world of foster homes, and all the changes I had to cope with as a teenager.

My experiences demonstrate the effectiveness of small-individualised services.

Unfortunately, none of my foster homes lasted long so I became nomad Summer. I never fully unpacked my suitcase knowing that I was going to leave soon. The constant change and upheaval left me fading into oblivion. While I was in foster care I experienced the lifestyles of rich and poor, multicultural, gay and lesbian family households.

Quantum quandaries

Rupert Coy investigates the Marcus Einfeld phenomenon.

Things can be in two places at once. This is quite possibly the most extraordinary conclusion in modern science. It seems wrong, it goes against every last bit of intuition, but it’s now an accepted part of physics. Although unobservable at the level of human beings, the principles of quantum physics can be seen in particles like electrons and photons. Now scientists at Sydney University and across the globe are using this phenomenon to create the first quantum computers (QCs).

It’s both unusual and incredibly exciting that many possibilities of QCs are already clear. Often, revolutionary technologies have been completely unexpected: the first researchers of semiconductors had no idea that it would develop into a \$300 billion electronics industry. Likewise, it took decades after the first investigation into microwaves was done for scientists to realise that they could be used to heat up last night’s pizza.

Security is at the forefront of this research. Sydney University’s Professor Stephen Bartlett,

a primary investigator in the Quantum Science Group, said that he now saw “a direct application for problems in cryptography and data security”. The most important of these is the RSA cryptosystem, which is not only used for encrypting emails and other digital information on the internet, but is also fundamentally similar to some encryption used by the NSA, British Secret Service, and other intelligence agencies.

According to Professor Bartlett, QCs also have a future in ‘big data’: huge sets of information found in fields like climatology, finance and medicine. Modern computers are ill-equipped to process such enormous amounts of data, but the sheer power of QCs could allow them to more efficiently analyse this information and aid in the production of cancer drugs or real-time fraud prevention.

Two remarkable properties set QCs apart from any computers before them. The first, superposition, allows for several possible events to occur simultaneously, like a single

particle being in two places at once. The most basic repercussions of this in computing is that instead of machines consisting of bits, which are either 0 or 1, QCs have qubits which can represent 0 and 1 at the same time. This seemingly innocuous change makes an extraordinary difference. It takes more than a terabyte (around 8,800,000,000,000 bits) on today’s computers to describe a system with just five hundred qubits.

The second phenomenon is entanglement, which describes how particles are inherently related to one another. Scientists use this to create quantum logic gates, which connect parts of a computer that were completely disparate in normal integrated circuits. This means that QCs should be able to tackle a far broader range of computational problems than normal machines ever could.

Despite rapid progress, QC research remains in its early stages. Professor Bartlett explains: “There are still many open questions, such as what are the key aspects of

quantum mechanics that allow us to process information in a way that a conventional computer cannot?” Promisingly, the physical difficulties of compiling a QC, which seemed insurmountable even in the 1980s, are slowly being overcome. Sydney University is playing a key role in this, says Professor Bartlett. “We are solving physical and engineering problems on how to build and operate the basic components of a QC ... this is very much a frontier field of discovery.”

When will we have fully-functioning QCs? The timescale depends often just as much on the political and social will as it does on the scientists. The sharp rises and declines of space exploration, a result largely down to the oscillating NASA budget, shows as much. Nonetheless, Professor Bartlett predicts that within the next decade QCs will feature in scientific and industrial research. A growing interest in the security and technological implications of QCs should provide a catalyst for further research. Exciting times.

Are you on drugs?

Samantha Jonscher made some gains.



Wander into any of the many and multiplying supplement shops in Sydney and you will find a range of products to enhance your fitness regime. The keen gym-goer can buy protein shakes, fat burner shakes, muscle building shakes, amino acids, post-workout supplements and a relatively new addition, pre-workout supplements. Pre-workout supplements are popular. Fabian Di Marco who runs an online supplements company told ABC news that they account for 35 per cent of their sales. No small sum for an industry that in Australia in 2012 was worth \$292 million.

Pre-workout supplements promise muscle gains, intense focus and high-energy workouts. One product, favoured by Grace*, 21 and a self-described gym junkie, is Apocalypse. According to the Apocalypse marketing team, it promises a workout “like it is the LAST DAY ON EARTH”.

“This stuff is fucked up,” Grace told me. “I bought it for the gym and

I felt high, for hours – it’s pretty much legal ecstasy.”

Many pre-work supplements just contain high doses of caffeine (200 to 300 mg whilst a shot of coffee has only 80mg), but some contain a stimulant that mimics the effects of MDMA. Apocalypse is one of these; it contains a stimulant called methylpentanamine or AMP citrate. Methylpentanamine is one carbon short of being DMAA, a stronger stimulant that used to feature prominently in pre-workout supplements. It was banned in 2012 after five people died from using it. AMP citrate started appearing in January of this year.

With comparisons frequently made between products like Apocalypse and party drugs, it wouldn’t be surprising to learn that they are sometimes used recreationally, but in the gym scene this is rare. All the more surprising given the price difference: a cap of MDMA is \$30 to \$40; an Apocalypse shake is \$1 to \$3.

Grace told me she did go out once on them, but only “for the lolz”. She uses party drugs as well but says they serve a different purpose. “I like working out, but I really just do it to look good, and these things push me harder”. She uses recreational drugs “because they are fun and make me go harder when I’m out”.

Interviewees insisted that workout stimulants and party drugs are intrinsically different. Brad is adamant that he would never swap his stimulants, explaining “it’s weird, using party drugs in the gym- they are completely different. I do drugs for fun.”

Phillip agrees. “I wouldn’t workout on MDMA. I use pre-workouts to get a great work out. I want to look good, I don’t care how – but I would never use steroids”.

The interviewees are clear on this boundary: steroids are cheating, but pre-workouts aren’t. “I pride myself on being natural,” said Brad. “Pre-

workouts are different, they change your mind, but not directly how you look.”

Pre-workouts, as well as cocaine, speed and MDMA target the central nervous system, causing temporary improvements in energy, focus and metabolism. Steroids change a user’s hormonal balance and increase their muscle mass.

My interviewees were happy to elaborate upon the difference between roids and pre-workouts, but the idea of repurposing stimulants still makes them uncomfortable. Phillip is clear that he works out to look good but goes out to have fun, even if the stimulants he is using for both are very similar.

In a subculture that encourages people to push themselves to their limits it might be important to make boundaries between work and play. Brad admits: “pre-workouts, like most drugs, are psychosomatic to a certain extent”.

Reality check

Those who cannot learn why putting children on reality television is bad are doomed to repeat it, writes Mary Ward.

Maddie Ziegler has 1.6 million followers on Instagram, 390,000 followers on Twitter, and her appearance in the music video for Australian singer Sia's 'Chandelier' has been viewed over 97 million times. In the past two months she's appeared on *The Ellen Show* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, and she's currently in Australia promoting the upcoming fifth season of her hit television show.

The 11-year-old is having a damn great year.

Maddie's success could not have come at a better time, because *Dance Moms*, the show on which she found fame, has not been having a great year (assuming you measure greatness by the capacity to not film and broadcast children watching their guardians assault each other, by various other measures, however – the capacity to promote jazz shoe brands, the sequin-to-spandex ratio – things are going swimmingly).

Dance Moms follows the lives of the Abby Lee Dance Company's junior competition troupe, and their stage mothers. Each week, the girls are ranked on Miss Abby's 'pyramid' (worst dancers at the bottom, best dancer/kid whose mum payed for the most private lessons at the top) as their mums do their best to make Siri look like a viable parenting alternative.

Abby Lee Miller is part-Broadway choreographer, part-Sontaran. She tells her young charges: "second is the first to lose" and "everyone is replaceable". She prides herself on once having told a mother her daughter "looked like road kill". Yes, it's totally/probably/ hopefully a bit scripted, but that doesn't preclude it from also being fucked. Earlier this year, Maddie and her dance troupe were filmed as they watched Kelly Hyland, the mother to dancers Paige and Brooke, punch Miss Abby in the face.

Hyland has since launched a lawsuit against Miller for emotionally traumatising her daughters, which is reportedly (read: according to *TMZ*) worth \$US5 million. Hyland alleges that Paige has been attending sessions with a psychiatrist to try and overcome the anxiety she developed under Miller's tuition (and, you know, her

mum treating her like a performing monkey on cable TV, but maybe that's something to raise when Paige launches her own inevitable lawsuit ten years from now).

And yet, despite the controversy, when the Abby Lee Miller dancers came to Australia two weeks ago they were welcomed with open arms, morning television spots, and thousands of young girls whose parents were either \$184.47 poorer after buying their kids tickets to a Dance Moms Meet'n'Greet or \$154.00 poorer after scoring a place at "Tea Time with Abby Lee Dance Company".

"Abby Lee Miller tells her young charges: 'second is the first to lose'"

The dancers were everywhere, appearing at cultural bastions like Randwick Racecourse and the Kyle and Jackie O Show. Even Channel Nine was on it, which seems an odd choice given their desperate attempts to promote *The Voice Kids* as a really ethical method of exploiting children on live television.

But is there ever an ethical way to have children appear as their unadulterated selves on the box? As each new show comes around – *Junior Masterchef*, the *Got Talent* franchise, *Toddlers and Tiaras* – we seem to reach the same conclusions every time: these children don't understand what's going on and thus can't consent, and it's hard for them to differentiate between their private lives and working lives if so many elements of the former (their parents and friends) appear in the latter.

Will there ever be a time where television producers decide that making kids watch their mum beat up their dance teacher is perhaps a bad idea? Or will the allure of thousands of girls and their parents' sweet cash dollar always win out? For now, the latter seems to be winning.

Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney

SRC Elections 2014 Postal Voting Application Form

POSTAL VOTING

If you wish to vote in the 2014 SRC elections but are unable to vote EITHER on polling days Wednesday 24th or Thursday 25th September at any of the advertised locations, OR on pre-polling day (on main campus) Tuesday 23rd September, then you may apply for a postal vote.

Fill in this form and send it to:
Electoral Officer
Sydney University Students' Representative Council
PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: postal vote applications **MUST BE RECEIVED AND IN OUR PO BOX by Thursday 21st of August** at 4.30pm or they will not be considered. **No exceptions.**

You may use a photocopy of this form.

Name of applicant: _____

Student Card Number: _____

Faculty/Year: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

I hereby apply for a postal vote for the 2014 SRC elections. I declare that I am unable to attend a polling booth on any of the polling days, OR on the pre-polling day, for the following reason: (please be specific. Vague or facetious reasons will not be accepted. The Electoral Officer must under section 20(a) of the Election Regulation consider that the stated reason justifies the issuing of a postal vote.)

Signature: _____

Please send voting papers to the following address:

State: _____ Postcode: _____

I require a copy of the election edition of Honi Soit: YES / NO

**For more information contact
Paulene Graham, Electoral Officer 02 9660 5222**



Authorised by P. Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2014.
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney Phone: 02 9660 5222 www.src.usyd.edu.au

The ethical fashion revolution

A recent fashion trend is changing how we value our clothes, writes Jay Ng. PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY NG

In June 2014, a woman in the UK found a call for help written in the label of a Primark garment. Rumour circulated that the message was allegedly written by a Chinese prison worker, who claims that he has to work 15 hours a day to make clothes for Primark, a fast fashion chain. Another rumour says workers in Bangladesh sewed it. 'Labelgate' sparked discussions on the problems with fast fashion, after the tragedy happened in April 2013 at the Rana Plaza in Bangladesh. Numerous articles have been published on how unethical is a \$2 t-shirt. Many suggest solutions or who to blame, but is anyone listening?

This is particularly crucial as consumers warmly welcomed the introduction of fast fashion chains such as H&M and Zara in Australia. Local Australian fashion institutions like Ksubi went into liquidation and Myers and David Jones were well aware of the competition fast fashion poses. Australian consumers need to understand there is more behind a \$5 shirt. A piece of clothing requires numerous workers to produce raw materials (often cotton) from planting to yarning, and cut and sew in factories. The current fashion market is designed and marketed to make us ignore the production process.

In Bangladesh, factory workers' minimum monthly wages is US\$68; it was increased by 77 percent last year from US\$39 per month due to the Rana Plaza tragedy. It was also reported that factory workers in countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh and China have working hours as long as 19 hours a day. Such a statistic is not surprising when retailers like Zara can design, produce and shelve products in just 15 days.

Fast fashion brands – such as Primark, Zara and H&M – remain hugely successful despite the growing attention to their problematic supply chain issues. Bucking against the trend, a small but growing number of fashion enthusiasts have started to create demand elsewhere. They wear the conscious shopper badge and shop from fashion social enterprises – stores or brands committed to ethically produced fashion and giving back to the community. Shopping from fashion social enterprises allows one to get access to garments that were made with respect and integrity, as well as quality. Interest in these enterprises has been bolstered by the fact that many consumers were already concerned with the lack of quality in fast fashion. Everyone knows a \$3.95 knit from Forever 21 won't last all that long.

This is not something particularly new to fashion, but the nature, and success, of social enterprise in the industry has changed over time. In the past, many fashion social enterprises around the world only focused on being ethical and forgot that fashion is a commodity. Clothes are only

valuable if people want to buy them, and any brand needs a dose of realism to survive. Many older enterprises made products that were not appealing to customers and could not sustain those businesses. Hence, it completely defeats the purpose of helping the ones in need.

Maiyet, explains that this is a first in luxury fashion, without patronizing developing countries. The company has been so successful that fashion editors overwhelmingly applaud their designs at fashion shows, and the worth of the company has skyrocketed.



Fashion social enterprises have always had to fight against the perception that they are 'not chic' is still in many people's mind. A new generation of fashion social enterprise has emerged, particularly in the post-GFC period, which are flourishing. TOMS, Oscar Wylee and Bottletop are a few well-known fashion social enterprises that started their businesses in the past decade or so. These new brands marketing themselves as ethical are doing a better job providing commercialised ethical products that suit the tastes of many. They seem to be driven by many young university graduates with bright business minds who took note of how the public expressed outrage at exploitative, risky and unethical businesses. These entrepreneurs are taking a myriad of different approaches, but all trying to do something positive whilst still making profit.

In America, Maiyet is a new brand to luxury and ethical fashion that hires artisans 'from unexpected places' such as Kenya and India, as opposed to how luxury goods production is exclusive to European countries like France and Spain. Paul van Zyl, the co-founder of

Quality and ethical fashion products are not exclusive to the rich. Everlane provides quality and affordable clothing on top of their 'radical transparency' approach. Customers know everything about their clothing from factories to a clear chart of cost breakdown. It has also runs successful marketing campaigns with famous Instagram users, mostly artists and photographers, as opposed to fashion bloggers. The choice highlights their focus on craftsmanship and slow fashion. Fashion bloggers have been blamed for recent surges in impulsive shopping in fast fashion, especially those that team up with unaffordable fashion houses whilst simultaneously emphasising new and unmissable trends.

With brands that market themselves as social enterprise, the reality is not always as great as the marketing image. TOMS sells shoes with the Buy-One Give-One model; for every pair of shoes you buy, one will be donated to someone in need. This consumerist 'feel-good' approach has been incredibly successful - TOMS are stocked in major department stores all over the world. Adriana Herrera, CEO

of Fashioning Change, a website that curates ethical fashion brands and products, wrote in the *New York Times* that TOMS did not make the cut for her website because the shoes are manufactured in developing countries where the workers don't get paid fairly. Other critics have agreed that the way TOMS fills its labour needs contributes to the root cause of poverty.

In Australia, fashion social enterprise is quite different. The Social Studio is a successful non-profit social enterprise based in Melbourne. Established in 2010, it focuses on local skill development, rather than just the products made or overseas workers, and provides practical training for new migrants and refugees to learn skills in fashion, design and retail. The brand provides students with programs to learn from professionals from fashion industry and express themselves creatively without being restricted by any language barrier. The products these students design are sold to the public, with profits then invested into further programs for students. The brand has benefited students by giving them positive experiences in Australia and a sense of productive community, as well as providing them with a multifaceted education and future employment opportunities.

Fedila, a fashion student describes her experience with The Social Studio: "It's fun here, we are like family. I love making clothes, the photo-shoots and modeling all the wonderful clothes." It is great to see how fashion makes a difference for refugees and new migrants in Australia, which contrasts with the portrayals of them in mainstream media. Last month, The Social Outfit, a sister organisation of The Social Studio opened their door in Newtown and provide similar programs for refugees and new migrants in Sydney. Jackie Ruddock, CEO of The Social Outfit, said "the Newtown community has been very welcoming and supportive of programs, events and donations of fabrics".

As many NGOs and commentators have suggested, retailers should take an active role to commit to ethical fashion by reducing unnecessary textile waste, invest in better production systems to prevent water pollution and so on. Consumers have a responsibility as well. We have a lot of power to decide how we shop and where we shop. As consumers, we have a choice to shop with conscience. Staying conscious is a start- we need to show retailers that there are purposes behind our purchases and that we care about how our clothes are being made and how workers were being treated. It is important to slow down and develop our own style to avoid making mistakes when we purchase goods. It is up to us to shop better; we must take responsibility by researching brands that produce goods ethically and support them.



Review: *Hamlet*

Peter Walsh beat off all the other reporters to get this gig. @peterwalsh

SUDS' 2014 major production of *Hamlet* opens with the play's conclusion, a tableaux of corpses and silent mourners beneath the anarchic strains of *Godspeed You! Black Emperor*. Without pause, the scene transitions backwards to a funeral, followed by a too hasty marriage ceremony. During this sequence, Hamlet (Travis Ash) grasps our attention wholly despite being staged on the side. The sole person looking away, he regards the audience directly, wide-eyed, cogs ticking over as if thinking "something's rotten in the state of, uh...".

Visually, the play's aesthetic is reminiscent of *Dogville*, without the chalk. Black curtains and a black floor, interrupted only by a rolling sarcophagus and some other choice, unspoilable stage pieces. Director Nathaniel Pemberton's production highlights the disorder of Claudius' Denmark by emphasising the air of mourning and uncertainty through the absence of colour. Intervals of darkness on stage are disrupted by piercing streams of torchlight, some focussed at the audience to blind them, and others directed cross-stage, extending the cast's shadows as fierce analogues on the wall.

This same darkness extends to the costuming—mostly white against matte black—and designer Julia Robertson succeeds in conveying each character's difference through visual shorthand. Hamlet's long jacket screams scholar—just look at it!—while the decision to dress the gravedigger in a fisherman's overalls jabs at the circumstances surrounding Ophelia's death. The same symbolism extends to the broader set. The curtains are let down to reveal a backdrop of white swirls on black. They might be ectoplasm, or fog, or froth—bubbles from Ophelia's last breath—floating on water.

Though this would all be subterfuge if not for the quality of the performances. Pemberton draws a number of noteworthy performances, as each archetype is made to embody a different dimension of the play. Ian Ferrington's Claudius has a statuesque physical presence and a serpentine charm in line with his being the worst step-dad you know. His solidity juxtaposes Travis Ash's fluid Hamlet, who ambles about the stage like a slinky on an escalator. Ash is a funny Hamlet, whose comedic beats only heighten the intensity with which he delivers the soliloquies.

It works then that his opposite number Laertes (Charlie Jones) realises the pathos of his part, embarking on the same journey as Hamlet though with different emphasis, exuding the gravity of each filial death. Hamlet's mum (Caitlin West) thoughtfully balances Gertrude's contradiction. Both domineering and neurotic, intimidated and intimidating, her relationship with Hamlet almost necessitates his antic disposition. Some of West's best moments are off the ball, in the background, through subtle dictates that reveal her utter influence over the scene. Tess Green plays the extremities of Ophelia tactfully, descending from an understated homeliness into insanity as the play's tension grows. Her song sequences are among the play's most unsettling, as her stilted intonation embodies Denmark's growing disorder. Sean Marshall, playing both Ghost and the prime player, gifts us with a number of the play's most compelling speeches, which are especially impressive when you consider the difficulty of his parts. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (Hannah Cox and Elliott Miller) show shades of their Stoppard-analogues in a complementary performance that balances the comedy with their drama. While we're on funny, Jack Mitchell steals a number of scenes through the timing and naivety with which he embodies the witless Polonius.

Does this mean *Hamlet* is faultless? Of course not. There are some inexplicable distractions to the language, as when Hamlet's "antic disposition" speech is drowned out by dance music. Similarly, some instances of blocking obscure characters behind rigging or with their backs to the audience, denying us vantage to scrutinise their emotions. While the broader ensemble performs in a way that maximises each individual actor's quirks, these vignettes are a sign of uneven emphasis, as the focus on the central cast is sometimes unfairly usurped. Similarly, in presenting the play with only minor cuts, there is not enough time to clarify problematic arcs and relationships. That said though, there are graces you afford student theatre, and *Hamlet* refuses to accept them. I nit-pick because the production invites it. *Hamlet* sometimes overreaches, but its successes are resolute and many. You can't fault its ambition.

Review: *Spamlet*

Charlie O'Grady enjoyed the play, but unfortunately sat next to a dick. @charmandrogyny

Who looks at a script of *Hamlet* and says, "This could use more length?" SUDS' Nathaniel Pemberton did. Not only has very little been cut from Shakespeare's five act tragedy, but several silent scenes have been added in the introduction. The opening tableau, an echo of the play's gripping final moments, is immensely effective. The subsequent scenes, depicting the funeral and the marriage of Gertrude and Claudius, are less so. With the accompanying music, which is, frankly, too loud, to the point of distortion, the first five minutes drag on a bit. What follows, however, is a deftly constructed spectacle.

Travis Ash is a tiny tour de force, and his interpretation of Hamlet is equal parts charming and disconcerting. Ash doesn't shy away from the text's exploration of mental illness—we see a Hamlet who plays mad, but who also negotiates his own depression and turmoil.

The cast as a whole is very strong. I found myself feeling Claudius Feels for the first time at Ian Ferrington's touchingly subdued rendition of the 'My offense is rank' speech. Caitlin West and Tess Green, too, as Gertrude and Ophelia, both give heart-wrenchingly honest performances. I could say volumes about the placing of Horatio amidst the audience, a focal point for Hamlet in numerous scenes—however, as my space has been restricted by one Peter Walsh, I will settle for saying it is an ingenious choice for a character who gives us a chance to witness this story, who sees so much and can do so little to stop it. In this vein, Max Rigby's 'I have seen some shit' face is also to be commended.

This production is not without flaws. Its soundtrack, as previously mentioned, is at times ill fitting and disjointed, and the change of backdrop toward the end feels unnecessary. There also appears to be no theme to the costuming, rendering the quirks, these vignettes are a sign of uneven emphasis, as the focus on the central cast is sometimes unfairly usurped. Similarly, in presenting the play with only minor cuts, there is not enough time to clarify problematic arcs and relationships. That said though, there are graces you afford student theatre, and *Hamlet* refuses to accept them. I nit-pick because the production invites it. *Hamlet* sometimes overreaches, but its successes are resolute and many. You can't fault its ambition.

issues so many interpretations of Hamlet face. Hamlet's scenes feature a frankly delightful amount of homoerotic face touching, a valid interpretation, and yet his flirting with now-female Guildenstern reminds us he is a Manly Heteromascuine Man.

What makes this production stand out is the unbridled love and respect for the text that permeates through every scene. It's there in every choice made by Pemberton and dramaturg-cum-assisting director Nadia Bracegirdle, and in the performance of every cast member. Indeed at multiple points I found myself in tears, because I am not a soulless automaton—which is more than I can say for Peter Walsh, who I can confirm has no soul.

Performing *Hamlet*, now, is something of a hall of mirrors, coloured by endless reflections of countless interpretations. It's no small legacy to carry on, and whilst SUDS' interpretation is not always the most original, it pays tribute to theatrical history in every scene. It makes what is a low budget student production something vast and limitless.

PS: Peter Walsh definitely writes in the theatre. And he smells.

Hamlet: 7.8 Feels out of 10

Walsh: -13 stars



More art than science

Julian Kuan gets into a bit of a zugzwang with Australian Chess Champion and grandmaster Max Illingworth.

ILLUSTRATION BY MADELEINE PFULL

For most people who inhabit the world of chess, the game is a hobby, not a lifestyle. It doesn't much matter whether you win or lose, especially since most people are a little bit hazy on how exactly the knight moves, let alone the subtleties and specifics of chess strategy. But for 21-year-old Max Illingworth, chess is more than just a game. It's even more than a passion. It's his job.

Illingworth's love affair with chess began early. First introduced to chess as a six-year-old while on a family holiday in Vienna, Illingworth found himself immediately drawn to the game. "I was just really intrigued," he says. It was a time when games of all kinds featured in Illingworth's life – he used to play against his parents and would often win. But chess presented a new opportunity. "I liked the idea of playing this game, the challenge of it appealed to me," he says.

After playing his first state junior tournament at age eight, Illingworth racked up success after success at the chessboard while still at high school. Particular highlights of his teenage career were a win in the 2007 NSW Under-18 championship and a third place finish in the 2009 Commonwealth Championship. After graduating from Manly High School in 2010, Illingworth spent a year further developing his game, scoring a spectacular victory in a Grandmaster tournament held in Budapest.

Despite the promise that a future in chess seemed to hold, Illingworth briefly flirted with a more conventional path, taking up a Bachelor of Economics at Sydney University before dropping out halfway through the first semester. He

believes this short sojourn away from the game helped clarify the actual path he wished to take. "It wasn't until I went to university that I really decided that I wanted to be a chess professional. I thought that I'd try a few other things and see if they appeal to me, and I quite quickly realised that chess was it. It was what I really loved doing."

Though Illingworth isn't Australia's first chess professional – an honour that likely belongs to Grandmaster Ian Rogers – he faces many of the same risks pioneering entrepreneurs in any field do: namely, income uncertainty and the lack of a typical career path. However, Illingworth is unconcerned.

"[Dropping out of university was] a risky move in a way, but I felt that if it didn't work out I could go back to something more conventional. In any case, I would have given what was my dream a go. It's worked out quite well so far."

"Worked out well so far" is something of an understatement. Despite the humble nature in which he describes his success, Illingworth is the reigning Australian Champion, winning the title tournament held in Melbourne in January of this year. In this tournament Max had an undistinguished start, but managed to catch a second wind and won the title by a mere half a point.

Interestingly enough, Max attributes this sudden increase in form to abandoning his usual workaholic ways for a more relaxed approach to the game.

"I took myself away from just being solely focussed on the tournament and tried to have a more balanced approach. That helped a lot," he says. Illingworth's more relaxed approach to match preparation was also complemented by romance. "I think one thing that did help was that I did meet my girlfriend at this tournament," he says, adding that she helped him to regain his composure after his bad start.

There aren't enough tournaments on the Australian chess circuit for even the strongest player to make a living, so Illingworth supplements his tournament winnings by teaching and writing. The eclectic range of chess related activities Max is involved in doesn't seem to bother him – if anything, Max seems to like coaching more than playing.

"Seeing one of my students have a good result makes me very happy," he says. "Or even if my students see something [new]; if they have a development in their game that shows in the next game that they play, it's very rewarding."

However, the need to juggle coaching and playing commitments can lead to hectic schedules. For example, the day that the Australian Championships had concluded in Victoria, Max had to rush back to Sydney to coach some of his students in the Australian Junior Championships starting the following day.

Despite his busy workload, Illingworth says there are plenty of perks to being a professional chess player. "The most interesting part

would be the travel element," he says, something that becomes even more apparent when I discover Illingworth is speaking to me from Tromsø, Norway, where he is representing Australia in the World Chess Olympiad. Illingworth is upbeat about his team's chances, despite it being one of the youngest teams Australia has ever fielded. "I think Australia, especially if we have a good finish, can definitely finish high up in the standings," he says.

Perhaps a little bit cheekily, considering that Illingworth has devoted his life to chess, I ask him why the modern university student should risk the 'nerd' stereotype and take it up. His simple answer encapsulates his feelings towards the game. "I think that the main reason, the best reason for picking up chess, is because you enjoy it," he says.

Well and truly struck with chess by age eight, Illingworth mentions that his love of the game grew as his skill accumulated. "I guess also as I became stronger at chess over time I appreciated the beauty of the game more and more."

However, Illingworth thinks chess has value beyond entertainment, attributes that set the game apart from other hobbies, something he says sets it apart from other hobbies.

"I think that one thing that chess offers that other pursuits don't is an intellectual stimulation," he says. "Somehow, when you play chess, you look at things from a different sort of angle to other people, because of the nature of the struggle."



Black is the warmest colour

Australia is even whiter than you think, writes Vanessa Mukhebi.

She looks like me. Her skin, the colour of dark chocolate. Her head, crowned with knotted extensions of finely twisted matted locks. She stood out like colour in a black-and-white scene. Gracefully trying to overcome my temporary state of paralysis, I walked into the lecture hall. I sat in front of her. I was burning up with elation. After three years of studying journalism at the University of Sydney, a manifestation of all I had ever hoped for was suddenly only an arms-length away. *Pinch me! What if she is an axe-murderer? Or worse, what if she is vegetarian? No, Vanessa, don't question a gift from up above! All that matters is that she looks like you.* My heart throbbed to an irregular beat as she introduced herself. "Jalessa Mungin", she said. Strangers we might have been, but our similar pigmentation drew us together immediately. I finally didn't feel so alone. We exchanged sweet shy glances as the lecture began.

* * *

I arrived at the University of Sydney from Kenya in 2011. I'd attended, and loved, an international school in Nairobi throughout my teenage years, but, like so many young Kenyans, had decided to go overseas for university. I hadn't wanted to take the conventional study route and end up in the UK or the US. The University of Sydney had seemed like the right fit – far enough from my family and friends to discover my sense of self and well-renowned enough to appease my parents' high standards. Being aware of Australia's multicultural population, I hadn't made a considerable effort in researching the make-up of the student body, assuming that university was going to be an extension of my culturally diverse high school. The University's glossy marketing materials, all of which featured students from a wide array of

ethnic backgrounds, reinforced this vision. But when I first walked down Eastern Avenue searching for a face that resembled my own, I saw nothing. Over the next few months, I struggled to find someone who could empathise with my frustration at not being able to find a cheap hairdresser who could handle Afro hair, who could understand my midnight cravings for plaitain, who wouldn't look at me funny when I said I ate goat's meat. Although I was enjoying myself at USyd and found a good group of friends, I was surprised at how significant the lack of Kenyan, or even black, students would seem to me.

* * *

But perhaps I shouldn't have trusted the marketing. University promotional materials are designed to give these potential students an impression of the educational experience they might expect. Recruitment coordinators and marketing staff work tirelessly to create and nurture a specific image of their campus by deciding which buildings look the most collegiate, which computer labs look the most high-tech, and the way the student body should be depicted. Universities market themselves as diverse and socially inclusive in order to attract students from a wide variety of backgrounds, including overseas. While it is understandable that universities attempt to carefully craft their campus in the most positive way possible, the question remains whether or not these representations accurately portray the reality of the institution.

In a study published last year in the *Journal of Marketing for Higher Education*, researchers analysed more than 10,000 photographs found in the recruitment materials of 165 tertiary institutions in the United States. Led by Timothy Pippert of Augsburg College in America, the study found that a majority

of schools "provided images of diversity to prospective students" that typically portrayed "African American students at higher rates rather than presenting a more representative student body".

Brands are psychology and science wrapped together as a promise. "Good marketing is about understanding your customer, producing a product that meets their needs and then telling them about it," says Robyn Martin, an academic in the Marketing department at the Sydney University. "Then they will be happy with your product and tell others about it, therefore driving word of mouth. Poor marketing is looking at the customer, seeing what they want and then telling them that your product has what they want even if it doesn't."

* * *

When Jalessa began applying to colleges in America in 2012, her race was a serious factor in the decision-making process. As an African American student, she was apprehensive about the difficulties she might encounter at some of the colleges she received admission brochures for in the mail. "I remember getting one from a university in Lynchburg, Virginia. You really think that as a black person, I'm about to go to a place called Lynchburg? Play me not, I know what that's about!" She remembers experiencing a sense of bemusement at the representation of African American students in some universities' promotional materials. "[There] was this one university, located in some random part of Tennessee, where I lie to you not, it was the same black person in every single photo. He was literally the token black

person. There is no way in hell I was going there. Couldn't they have at least tried to find another black person?"

Having been accepted by all the universities she applied to, Jalessa says that her decision to study at the University of Pennsylvania came down not just to the institution's academic reputation, but also the large number of students it had from minority backgrounds. "It was mainly because I came from a high school where there weren't many minorities and I was tired of that kind of environment. I was tired of having those awkward conversations where the one time they are talking about slavery, they look at the one black woman in the room, and you are expected to know everything about Rosa Parks. I refuse! Coming from that environment, I just really needed to be surrounded by other people of colour."

Jalessa participated in an exchange program to the University of Sydney in the second semester of 2013, hoping to broaden her view of the world. Though Australia was foreign territory for Jalessa, she was surprised with the vision that greeted her. "Well I guess I knew it was going to be pretty 'white', but ... I wasn't expecting it to be that 'white', if that makes sense. Like I expected there to be more Aborigines [sic], I expected there to be more people of colour. I am not saying that I expected there to be a lot of them, but when I came to Sydney Uni, my jaw dropped!"

It was really confronting ... it did not match expectations."

The friendships Jalessa fostered over her four-month stay were hard for her to leave, but returning home was something she looked forward to. "I really did enjoy my time there, but I remember that there were also distinct periods where I really just wanted to return home. I missed people of colour. There is just a certain level of comfort being around people who look like you. Like we are both black and neither one of us fit. There is comfort in the fact that at least we don't fit in together."

* * *

While she was in Australia, Jalessa and I spent lots of time with Muthoni, a Kenyan Media and Communications student at UNSW whom I'd met during my time at Sydney. Muthoni's ethnicity had never been apparent to her until she arrived in Australia. "Growing up around Africa I didn't really notice my race. I wasn't made aware of my race until I came here. I have never been a minority. So when you become a minority, then it is like, 'Oh, okay, so I'm 'African' now'. That's when I started to take note that in class it's just me. You actually begin to fathom that you are the one, you're the only African."

Muthoni recalls that both she and her sister, who set up the African Students' Association at UNSW, were often asked to appear in promotional photographs for the university, its union, and residential colleges. "I ended up being on the cover of the website,

the cover of the prospectus book that they hand out, and you know what ... I was thrilled! Looking back at it, it seems like the college might have been trying to portray something, and I don't have a problem with it. You use your resources to the best ability but I think that it can be misleading to other people who may not see it quite like that. They might think, 'Who is this girl? What does she do? She is on this book, she is on this website...she is everywhere!'"

Muthoni says she was called to appear in more photographs for her residential college than any other student. "I ended up being on the cover of the website, the cover of the prospectus book that they hand out, and you know what ... I was thrilled! But when I look back at it, it's like okay, [my college] were trying to portray something, and I don't have a problem with it. You use your resources to the best ability but I think that it can be misleading to other people who may not see it quite like that. They might think, 'Who is this girl? What does she do? She is on this book, she is on this website...she is everywhere!'"

* * *

Dr Gaby Ramia, Associate Professor at USyd's Graduate School of Government, says that images of multicultural diversity are particularly important for universities trying to tap into the lucrative international education market. According to Ramia, Australian universities tend to focus on appealing to Asian audiences, while universities from the US and UK reach out more to African audiences. "[In Australia] you will typically have images of Caucasian students with students from Asia in particular, because Asia is the major market

in Australia, but occasionally you will also see images of people from Africa," he says.

International students generate \$15 billion towards the Australian economy. This means higher education ranks as the country's fourth largest export, after iron ore, coal and gold.

Ramia, an expert in international student welfare, believes that Australian universities tend to focus on the economics of international education rather than on the cultural vibrancy they breathe into the host community. "I think that they make an enormous contribution and that is often overlooked, because ... despite all the legislation and despite all the attention on safety and well-being of international students in the media, we still largely treat international students as cash-cows."

* * *

But Muthoni says that the measure of her worth goes beyond the dollar bill. "I think money is still a contribution, because international is international, regardless of where you come from. But I think just personally, being able to open people's eyes in terms of Africa, because people do have that whole mind frame of Africa not being safe and just a ditch of poverty and darkness."

Like other foreign students, Africans such as Muthoni contribute to the multicultural wealth of Australia. "I have had a couple of friends from here visit me in Kenya, and the genuine shock on their faces when they see that I have an actual house with toilets and not drop holes. I told them if they wanted to see them we could go to my grandmother's, who also has a 'normal house'. The rural

stuff is there, but it's only one aspect of life in the village. But being able in general to open their eyes to the fact that there is so much more to Africa is great!"

So whether she is teaching her housemates how to dance the Azonto or explaining why her sleek hair suddenly turned into an afro, Muthoni serves as a cultural broker. An ambassador of sorts, showing that there is vibrancy within 'black' and that she is more than just filling in 'colour' for advertising purposes. "I mean, someone has to do it...it might as well be me."

* * *

The unknown can be distressing. Human beings are naturally drawn to people who they share similar backgrounds with. As such, the way universities represent their student body in recruitment material does have an impact on an individual's decision to study at a particular institution. Students want to feel like their presence matters, and that they are part of a wider community. A sense of belonging is crucial.

But university is also about self-discovery, and even though black faces are not the norm in Australian universities, I have no regrets about studying here. I have grown fond of so many things about this country, but most importantly I've grown to appreciate my 'colour'. Who would have ever thought that speaking Swahili was "so cool"? Being one of the few Kenyans at Sydney Uni has instilled a strengthened sense of patriotism and responsibility to represent my culture. If I can impart my knowledge on to others about Kenya's various customs and traditions, then I can take pride in the fact that at least I make a mark, however small.

Everyone remembers their first time...

Eloise Griffiths went to the Labor Club/Liberal Club debate.

ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA PRECUP

It's a monumental step for many people and, I think it's safe to say, an overwhelming and confusing one at that. I was a bit nervous, the room was dim and stuffy, I pretended to know what was going on, and then all of a sudden it was over.

I am of course referring to my first encounter with student politics – my first exposure to a degree of enthusiasm and passion that I have never before witnessed.

I was invited by my adoring housemate to join her and a 'few mates' for a drink at a bar. Having just emerged from the shower and resembling a freshly boiled lobster, I reluctantly obliged, acknowledging that it may be more productive to spend the evening with people my own age rather than weeping over the *Downton Abbey* Christmas Special in between mouthfuls of my third bowl of cereal. I surfaced from the comfort of my nest and arrived at the bar to discover her 'few' friends were in fact a small army of matching t-shirt-clad student politicians and my recruitment to their cause was seemingly inevitable. I had walked smack bang into the middle of a Labor Club/Liberal Club debate. Cheers, housemate.

I was completely out of place. I'd never had any form of political involvement before and my query, "So what's a trade union?" let everyone know it. Upon being questioned on my political stance and being unable to respond with

a legitimate answer, I stammered: "I...I'm from Canberra though", as if my regular sightings of politicians going for power walks or seeing Parliament House in all its symmetrical glory lent me some form of credibility. I retreated to the corner and waited for the free alcohol I was promised. It soon arrived and inhaled two standards by the time the debate was due to commence. I was ready.

I tried to focus my increasingly blurry vision on the speaker and attempted to understand what was happening. Terminology and policies were vehemently debated and creative insults were shrieked from the mouths of a pack of escaped banshees. The opposing crowd looked fresh out of a frat house, sloshing beer in plastic cups and belting inaudible abuse, stuffed into their

finest suits for a polished façade. I nervously laughed along, sipping my cheap tap cider and using the liquid courage to meekly agree with the "hear, hears", all the while Snapchatting myself with cat ears and whiskers.

Things escalated quickly, the crowd was getting rowdy and much to my relief it was coming to an end, coinciding well with my lightweight tendency to stop functioning after 5+ drinks.

Despite still not knowing what a trade union is and forever associating student politics with excessive expletives and cheap alcohol, I have now taken the tentative baby steps into a politically involved student life. 10/10 need several months to recover though.



Struggle street: a journey down Science Road

Angela Collins reports on an ill-fated campus journey.

A student looks set to make a full recovery after collapsing outside the Old Geology Building on Tuesday, having failed an attempted expedition to the top of Science Road.

Honi asked the student for comment and was shocked to find that the incident had obviously caused serious stress and mental trauma. The student, a second-year History major who asked to remain anonymous, claimed:

"I only stopped to tie up my new Docs - have you seen the laces on those things? So I was kneeling down a while and suddenly there were all these people around me trying to give me water. I'm perfectly ok, trust me!"

Further investigation was obviously needed in the face of these delusional claims. After some initial digging, a source close to the victim has come forward, stating that the student had been planning the arduous journey to the summit of Science Road for months in advance.

"He'd been stocking up on stationery that was both lightweight and cost-effective from Officeworks for months. He was even considering a trip to Broadway for more variety, but I guess he thought he was prepared enough..."

The source speculated further that the student set up base camp at the Demountable Village, attempting to barter with the local people with Kilometric pens in exchange for food and shelter.

"He would have been fine at the start. It's the incline that would have got him. And the altitude. He has asthma, the fool - don't know why he even attempted the climb. Wanted the glory I suppose."

The student, becoming defensive when probed for the truth, showed clear signs of denial in the face of tragedy:

"I said already, I was just tying up my Docs on the way to my class in

the Quad! I walk up Science Road all the time!"

After examination of the scene, experts have suggested that the student's attempt may have unravelled upon approaching the notorious speed bump about halfway to the summit.

"He didn't even have a grapplehook," said Dr Hamilton, of the Geology department, making a disapproving scoffing noise. "If you want to get over that speed bump, you're going to need a grapplehook - any adventurer with half a brain knows that!"

Hamilton, who described himself as a veteran climber of Science Rd, suggested that a combination of steep incline, random slow moving cars, and thin air resulting from severe changes in altitude, would have likely caused the downfall of the student.

"Some people just aren't cut out for it," he shrugged.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' COLUMN

My first three weeks at Sydney

Amber Yor tells us about finding friendships across the world in Sydney, Australia.

Before I came, I was luckily offered a place at the International House (IH), where I've met plenty of new friends.

I'm so thankful to the staff and people here in IH. Just as the motto – live the world, share the world - there are residents from over 40 countries. Thus I see different people from diverse districts wearing different kind of clothes, and our diet habits vary too.

But we are here to share this with each other, too. Before I met a Columbian, I kept thinking they have summer and winter at the same time, but I have gotten to know that there is no distinct season in Columbia, a country that is across by the equator! And I know there is a lovely country named Samoa, in the South Pacific, and it took me quite a few minutes to find out where it is on the map! A girl from Finland doesn't know what a lychee is, but the fruit is a specialty from my hometown! So I strongly recommended that she give it a try. You see in this way, we are eliminating misunderstandings and enhancing each other's horizons.

You know I heard many comments about the weather in Sydney before I came: that it's cold but with drying sun, that it's easy to get sun-burnt but still comfortable. I was confused and worried by these comments, but after being here physically, I've found it is just OK and I've begun to love the weather here. This wonderful starting experience has given me the courage to talk to other students in campus. And yet, some of my friends just talk to peers from their home country and otherwise feel lonely. You will not know what something's like until you try, so don't just stay in your safe zone and open your heart to a new life.

Why try McDonald's in a new city when McDonald's are all the same around the world? We flew here from far away to have something new, didn't we? I know things are not always good, but they are better than nothing. Don't waste your chance and time overseas!

Help for Students with a Disability & Student Carers

Did you know the university has a service to assist students with a disability to access reasonable adjustments in managing their studies?

sydney.edu.au/stuserv/disability/

Disability Services are located within Student Support Services - Level 5, Jane Foss Russell Building (G02), City Rd, Darlington Campus.

Are you a carer of someone with a disability?

The SRC Disabilities & Carers Collective meets regularly to provide student carers with information and support, and to lobby the university for carer rights. Anyone is welcome to meetings and you can follow their Facebook page "USYDdisabilities.carers". Alternatively you can check out their webpage: srcusyd.net.au/disabilitiesandcarers or email them at: disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au

Disability Services works closely with the university's administration and faculties to support students with a disability whether it be physical, sensory, intellectual or psychological. If you find that your health is causing problems with your studies in an on-going way or that you are repeatedly applying for Special Consideration for your condition, Disability Services may be able to help you.

Check out their website to see if you are eligible and how to register:

Do you need special consideration?

Special consideration is different to a disability plan. If you are not able to complete an assessment due to your disability, this should be accommodated by you disability plan. If you are not able to complete an assessment due to an unexpected exacerbation of an existing condition, or an illness or misadventure that has nothing to do with your disability you are able to ask for special consideration. As with all Special Consideration requests, make sure you get a specific additional Professional Practitioner's Certificate on the day of your assessment to show how severely affected you were, and how you were affected, eg, unable to do exam or attend a lab.



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FOR SYDNEY UNI UNDERGRADUATES

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e: solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au | ACN 146 653 143

We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

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SRC CASEWORKER HELP Q&A

Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

I am currently staying with my girlfriend in her parents' house. Her parents are really lovely, but I think it is causing a strain in all of our relationships. I moved out of my house because things were really awful there. Do you know if there is cheap housing available through the university?

Strained

Dear Strained,

I am sorry to hear that things are awful in your home. If it is because of physical, emotional or sexual violence you may be eligible for Youth Allowance (Unreasonable To Live At Home). Alternatively if you are over 22 years you would also be considered "independent". Hopefully that will help with your finances.

The University used to have 40 low rent beds available but I do not think they are available any more. The University has plans of building new accommodation (eg, Urbanest in Darlington, and Queen Mary in Camperdown), but it is completely unclear if there are going to be low rent beds or if there are going to be scholarships for the rent. Either way, the University has not announced how many beds will be provided. With over 51,000 students the only low rent accommodation available are the 38 beds offered at STUCCO. This is the student housing co-operative situated in Newtown.

In terms of emergency or temporary housing while you're trying to get somewhere permanent to stay you can talk to SRC Help for some ideas. This way you can preserve your relationship with your girlfriend and her parents.

Abe

16

17

President's Report *Jen Light*

Housing affordability in Sydney is a myth – because it is not affordable.

However what is most concerning is the unaffordability of student accommodation around The University of Sydney. There are a few options that are offered: colleges, self catered rooms on campus, self catered rooms off campus, or going through private landlords.

There is college accommodation:

- St Paul's College starts (all male) at \$10,350 a semester (or \$796.15per week)
- Mandelbaum House (co-ed) starts at \$508 per week for a single room

- St John's College (co-ed) starts at \$484.50per week Sancta Sophia College starts at \$420 for a shared room, and \$490 for a single room.
- International House (co-ed) starts at \$367 per week for a shared catered room, \$470 per week for a single catered room, and \$438 for a single self catered unit.
- St Andrew's College (co-ed) starts at \$516 per week for a single room
- Weasley College (co-ed) starts at \$484 per week
- Women's College (all female) starts at \$515 per week

The cost of college's does include three meals a day, and all utilities included. There is Sydney University Village (SUV) – privately owned: which is a self-

catered room in shared apartments range between \$271.50-\$475 per week. Urbanest Cleveland Street – privately owned: self catered room's start at \$299 per week.

The University is planning on having 4000 new rooms available for students by 2020 and there are conversations happening about the affordability of rooms, what is defined as affordable and how much the University is asking students to pay for a bed. Student accommodation is particularly difficult for students who are required to live out of home in order to study at the University.

Student accommodation is just a single component to the great



complexity of student welfare, and the absence of funding to ensure it. The SRC will be presenting the University with an in-depth proposal for affordable student accommodation in next few weeks.

General Secretaries' Report *James Leeder and Mariana Podesta-Diverio*



goes unrecognised - so we want to give a shout out to the rest of exec, who attend regular meetings, discuss circular motions (to approve campaign spending) via email in between meetings, and help organise the activities of the SRC. The majority of readers are probably unfamiliar with the nature of our role, so in case you're interested in getting involved in the SRC (do it!), or you just want to know more, here's a brief run down.

The general secretaries attend regular executive meetings to do things like organise funding for collectives and campaigns, have sat on panels for the hiring of two new staff members, and are on the board of the Legal Service (which also involves staffing decisions and restructuring). We also produced an O-Week handbook containing

all original material and handed these out to new students at O-Week, met up individually with some newer office bearers (ACAR, Welfare, Queer, Disabilities and Carers, Indigenous) to discuss funding and SRC functions, assisted the VPs with regulation changes, publicised the SRC full-time every day at the O-Week stall and handed out showbags, we wrote up the SSAF proposal along with the President, participated in SSAF negotiations with other student organisations, and have been involved in SRC staffing matters. Our biggest project, perhaps (well, the cornerstone of our job description) was the budget. After consulting with extensively with auditors, the administration manager, and collectives, we put out the budget. We increased funding to the Indigenous, International, and Ethnic Affairs departments and have a surplus. This was a

pleasing outcome and a proactive reevaluation of spending priorities has enabled us to provide financial support to students arrested during activism on campus. We're working on some other things at the moment - some that we can't tell you about (but get excited - it involves jurisprudence) - and some that we can (extensive handover documents, information packs for collectives, general housekeeping).

This year has been active for the General Secretaries. We hope that future gen secs can continue to increase SRC's visibility on campus and find ways to provide as much financial support to collectives and campaigns as possible. We won't drop the ball while SRC elections are on in September, so rest assured that if you have any enquiries or require assistance, we'll get back to you promptly: general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

Education Officers' Report *Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley*



Pyne must be attributed to his own insufferable nature and the glee with which he announces further attacks on workers and students, it is undoubtedly also the success of the student campaign that has led to such a woeful approval rating.

Last May, when the Liberals made clear their plans to follow a deregulated, US-style education model, an essential poll found that only 43% of people opposed the deregulation of fees. Since then, students across the country have launched a campaign against the cuts in conjunction with the National Union of Students. In May we witnessed thousands of students marching on every capital city in opposition to Abbott and

Pyne, in addition to a number of protests targeting Liberal MPs both on and off campus. So far at Sydney Uni we have managed to disrupt both Julie Bishop and the hated man himself, Chris Pyne. Since then, there has been a dramatic shift in public opinion. Fee deregulation is now one of the most unpopular measures in the budget, with recent polls showing 69% of people oppose it.

Students have also succeeded in putting pressure on Labor, the Greens and Clive Palmer, who have all promised to vote against the bulk of these attacks. But we can't passively rely on Members of Parliament to block deregulation for us, we have to continue the fight by taking to the streets in

opposition Abbott, Pyne, and their neoliberal attacks.

So this Wednesday join the Education Action Group on Eastern Avenue to take part in a variety of birthday "celebrations" throughout the day. Then at 1pm we will be joining the NTEU at a rally outside Fisher library to protest the library restructuring which has resulted in the uncertainty of 60% of library staff jobs. The "unhappy birthday" celebrations are the prelude to the main event which will be taking place next week; on Wednesday August 20 there will be another national day of protest against deregulation.

Wom*n's Officers' Report

Phoebe Moloney, Georgia Rose Cranko, and Julia Readett



First up, we've change our meeting time to Thursday 2pm. Hope you can make it! We've had a great start to the Semester in the Wom*n's Collective. Many of us attended the film screening, hosted by Xiaoran Shi and Andy Mason, of *Black Panther Woman*,

the story of Marlene Cummins, an Indigenous activist in the 70s whose story is incredibly powerful and moving. As one member commented in a reflection, it is a privilege to be able to complain or report men's behaviour and for it not be perceived as a reflection of your culture, race or community. We're looking forward to collaborating with Xiaoran and Andy to screen regular documentaries and movies over the semester. We've also been at work finalising our Grievance Policy which contains the shared self-education and skill-sharing that we've done over Semester 1

to effective practice being non-oppressive as a collective and take these attitudes and behaviours into the wider world. We're also very excited to be supporting Bebe D'Souza in organising Radical Sex and Consent Day which will be held on September 4th, in just a few weeks. Get ready for film screenings, facilitated discussions, hands on workshops and all the things you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask. Finally, we were lucky enough to collaborate with the UNSW and UTS Wom*n's Collectives in a workshop called "How to Call Out and Apologise". It was a great

opportunity to share experiences in being called out and discuss strategies in calling out oppressive behaviour in activist spaces. We'd like to thank Amy Knox for her organisations skills and Georgia Cranko for an amazing workshop in disability politics. Georgia's workshop, through an old-school game of Simon Says, allowed us to experientially understand the social model of disability; where society arbitrarily constructs what a "normal" body is, builds infrastructure and attitudes around it, then blames people who might not be able to conform to those norms.

Vice Presidents' Report *Laura Webster and Max Hall*



Max Hall and Laura Webster have things to say and want somewhere to say them.

If there is a talent that every politician, administrator and rising member of an organisation's middle management has to have it's the ability to talk without saying anything.

For every article written and protest held about the changes

to university fees (you know: deregulation, larger fees, probably fewer university places and a bonus hike in your HECS debt) Sydney Uni has responded with promises to consult and reason their way through an approach to the changes. This is great. Truly. If deregulation is to become a reality, then a process of consultation that prioritises the interests of students is our best chance of securing changes to fees that minimize the impact on students, particularly those from groups already marginalized in the education system.

But there is a significant difference between talking about consultation and actually doing it.

The announcement last week by the university senate of a town hall style meeting in response to

calls for a convocation is a positive first step towards including all groups of the university community in deciding what to do about fee changes. Including current students alongside graduates and staff members is a sensible move on the part of the university. However, there is good reason to be concerned with the lack of detail accompanying the announcement. To make the meeting more than a publicity presentation from the powers at be, students, graduates and staff need an equal ability to speak and argue to that of the university administration. Relinquishing the moderation of the event to students or staff would be an ideal step to ensuring that discussion is meaningful and legitimate.

On that note, a single meeting is not enough. If they are to

fulfill their stated desire to consult widely and reasonably with students then there needs to be greater access to the vice-chancellor and his views. Ideally this first forum would lead to several more and the university would establish a means of making written submissions that students and student organisations could expect to be publicly responded to. Without comparable measures the universities lip service to consultation will remain just that.

This is the view that we'll be taking to the university in the coming weeks, hopefully resulting in a series of opportunities for you and anyone interested in saving public education in its current form to meaningfully influence the machinations of the university machine. In the meantime, come to the NDA and stay angry.

Environment Officers' Report *Marco Avena, Clo Schofield, Steven Kwon*



The SRC Enviro team has been very busy over the break. 23 students from USyd went to the Australian Student Environmental Network's annual conference Students of Sustainability in Canberra. We learnt about the importance of an intersectional environmentalism that fights for Indigenous sovereignty. We learnt about the theory of Just Transitions, an environmental movement that creates jobs

through worker's cooperatives building renewable technologies (check out the new Earthworker Cooperative in Victoria!), and the history of environmentalism in the worker's movement from Jack Munday of the Builders Labourers Federation famous for the Green Bans.

Since then we have been working hard on the Fossil Free Sydney University campaign to encourage the University to divest from (cease investment in) fossil fuels and stop profiting from climate change. We are on track, through collecting the constitutionally required 450 undergrad signatures, to having a student referendum on the following question included in the ballot for the upcoming SRC Elections:

"Should your university stop investing, via its shareholdings, in companies whose primary business is the extraction, processing and transportation of coal, oil and gas (fossil fuels)?"

Although it is yet to be finalised, there is support from the campaign from all sides of politics, and we are confident that the referendum will yield a positive result to demonstrate to management students support divestment. Even Council's sole Liberal councillor, Matthew Wollaston, seems to be making the right noises.

Coming up, we will be running some exciting events with the USU. #LeardBlockade Information night will be at the Verge Gallery at 6pm on Tuesday the 2nd of September. In addition to live

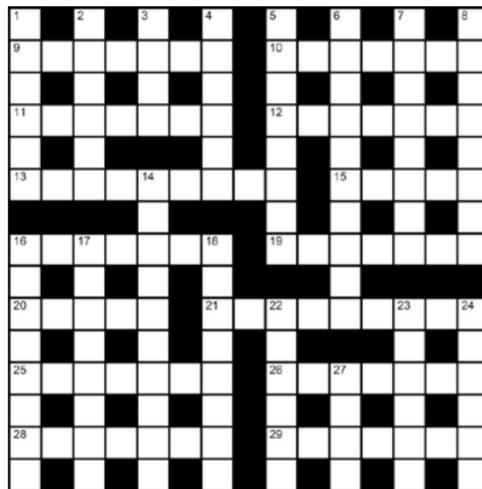
music and photography of the site, there will be talks about the Leard State Forest and the variety of different ways students can save it from open cut coal mines. Divestment Day will be held from 11am - 3pm on Wednesday the 10th of September. There will be stalls from divestment organisations and workshops will be run throughout the day to facilitate people getting involved in the campaign, and educating SRC campaigners from various political groups about divestment so they will be able to answer voter questions about the referendum.

If you want to sign the petition there is one at reception in the SRC and another copy in the USyd Food Co-op on Level 4 Wentworth Building.

ACROSS

9. Book of the Old Testament (7)
10. 'I knew you were _____' - Taylor Swift (7)
11. Loss of memory (7)
12. Something that revolves (7)
13. Location of 2004 sci-fi show (9)
15. Skilled practice (5)
16. Edible muscle (7)
19. Unpredictable (7)
20. Farewell in France (5)
21. British sci-fi show beginning in the 1960s (6,3)
25. Act of changing (7)
26. Short-lived space western TV-show (7)
28. Deliberately vague (7)
29. Very plain (7)

Quick



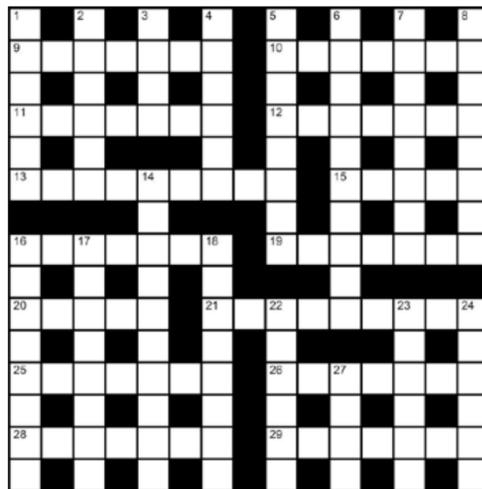
DOWN

1. Remove a vampire's teeth (6)
2. Dog's home (6)
3. Smooch (4)
4. Water-dissolvable base (6)
5. 1994 sci-fi film that spawned 3 long running TV shows (8)
6. Town in Monaco, and a kind of biscuit (5,5)
7. Existing only in the mind (8)
8. Excessively anxious (8)
14. Inflammation of body tissue (10)
16. 1960s show that has spawned 12 films (4,4)
17. Relating to beekeeping (8)
18. Ancestral line (8)
22. Long garment tied by the waist (6)
23. Blew gently (6)
24. Part of air (6)
27. Charge (4)

ACROSS

9. Odd allergy to spectators (7)
10. Kind of analysis grows after science and yachting starts (7)
11. Opposite in nature and in poetry (7)
12. Jean-Jacques traded heart for 50 coins in a roll (7)
13. Wacky persona he found with an iPod (9)
15. Oxygen over an area! (5)
16. Glimpse the French hiding dexterity (7)
19. Secluded ocean heard to conceal ends of a youngsters' amazing adventure? (7)
20. Flattens parts of a boat (5)
21. Mash isn't juice - it's a violation of another's right! (9)
25. Mix thick sounds in part of the house (7)
26. Ice block in a violent windstorm (7)
28. Work arrangement to complain unreasonably about bathroom (3,4)
29. Leveling out V engine (7)

Cryptic



DOWN

1. Set off roast (6)
2. Sharp butcher's knife cut a... (6)
3. ... bear's wide ear (4)
4. Shadowy vernacular displayed in a dragon (6)
5. A strong coffee peers go mad over asks for odd members to leave (8)
6. Pen-names? My one's 'Spud Bananas' (10)
7. Strong part of DNA became active when the editor left? (8)
8. A sly tutorial was caught in a shrewd manner (8)
14. Shh! Oh? Logic changed after secondary education? (10)
16. Assistant is a borderline object? (8)
17. Altered trace around odd Esther bits and so on (2,6)
18. A three sided shape's integral is random (8)
22. An outer garment is nothing alien (6)
23. Representative charged with biopic ending inside? (6)
24. Power is contained in a flipped leaky Grenet-battery (6)
27. Prepare to swallow cashew as is lingering (4)

Take A Squiz

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1. What is Richard Gere's middle name? | 5. Little Boy is to Enola Gay as Fat Man is to... | to press shift to activate 'sticky keys' multiplied by the number of characters Peter Sellers plays in Dr Strangelove | as Kinshasa is to... |
| 2. What were German WWI uniforms made from? | 6. Pick the odd one out: American Beauty, Fight Club, Requiem for a Dream, American Psycho | 10. Which artist contributed a stylised version of his initials that look like a penis to the artwork Moon Museum? | 13. Who is the narrator in the novel version of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest? |
| 3. Which movie is the companion piece to Darren Aronofsky's Black Swan? | 7. Which metal is the best conductor? | 11. (PUP senators) ³ + planets ² / pints in a gallon | 14. What does the L stand for in L. Ron Hubbard? |
| 4. Number of white keys on a piano minus number of black keys | 8. What is Allodoxaphobia a fear of? | 12. Addis Ababa is to Abyssinia | |



1. Tiffany 2. Nettles 3. The Wrestler 4. 16 (52 - 36) 5. Books 6. American Beauty (no Jared Leto) 7. Silver 8. Options 9. 15 (6 x 3) 10. Andy Warhol 11. 11. 35 (27 + 6) 12. Zaire 13. Chief Bromden 14. La Fayette

HONI SOIT PRESENTS OPINION COMPETITION

ARE YOU SICK AND TIRED OF SOMETHING? ARE YOU ANGRY, OR JUST DISAPPOINTED? DO YOU HAVE STRONG FEELINGS? WHAT MAKES YOUR BLOOD BOIL?

PRIZES:
 1st place: \$800
 2nd place: \$500
 3rd place: \$300
 Highly Commended: \$150

WE'RE AFTER YOUR OPINION PIECES FOR HONI'S 5TH ANNUAL OPINION COMPETITION. THIS YEAR'S THEME IS DEATH.

Submissions due before midnight, Wednesday October 8.

Send them in to opinion@src.usyd.edu.au. They must be 800 words or less. The competition is open to all undergraduate students at USYD, so include your name, student number and degree in your email, but NOT in the attached document.

THEME: DEATH

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
 Notice of 2014 Students' Representative Council Annual Election

Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2014 close at 4:30pm Wednesday 20th August 2014. Polling will be held on the 24th and 25th of September 2014. Pre-polling will also take place outside the SRC Offices (Level 1, Wentworth Building) on Tuesday 23rd of September 2014 from 10am - 3pm. All students who are duly enrolled for attendance at lectures are eligible to vote. Members of the student body who have paid their nomination fee to Council are eligible to nominate and be nominated, except National Union of Students national office bearers. Fulltime officebearers of the SRC may also nominate as NUS delegates.

Nominations are called for the following elections/positions and open 30th July 2014 at 4:30pm:

- (a) The election of the Representatives to the 87th SRC (33 positions)
- (b) The election of the President of the 87th SRC
- (c) The election of the Editor(s) of Honi Soit for the 87th SRC
- (d) The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 87th SRC (7 positions)

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: www.src.usyd.edu.au, or picked up from SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth Building) from 4:30pm July 30th 2014.

Nominations **must also** be lodged online along with your policy statement and Curriculum Vitae (optional), by close of nominations at: www.src.usyd.edu.au. For more information, call 9660 5222.

Signed nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination **must** be received no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday 20th August, either in the locked box at the SRC Front Office (Level 1, Wentworth Building), or at the following postal address: PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

Nominations which have not been delivered (printed, signed, hardcopy) either to the Electoral Officer at the SRC front office or to the post office box shown above **and** submitted online by the close of nominations **will not be accepted** regardless of when they were posted or received.

The Regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available online at www.src.usyd.edu.au or from the SRC Front Office, (Level 1, Wentworth Building).

Authorised by P. Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2014.
 Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney
 Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au



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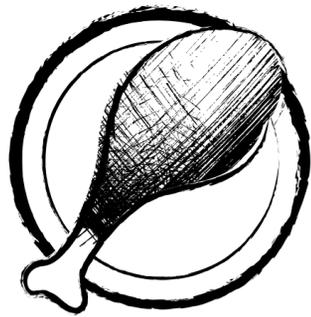
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*Cashback rate depends on condition

Honey Soy



Local Man Undertakes Marathon To Raise Awareness Of Game of Thrones

Cam Smith has watched many a marathon.

"Exhausting, but fulfilling," is how Mr Ben Brixton from Darlinghurst described the experience of having sat through four days straight of TV, in a marathon that he says he "would never have dreamed undertaking just a few months ago".

The four day TV marathon was devised by friends as a way for Mr Brixton to raise his awareness of the viral HBO series *Game of Thrones*, known commonly as GoT, which has been sweeping the world since it's initial breakout in 2011.

Mr Brixton said he was driven to undertake the grueling marathon after seeing numerous posts from friends and family on social media who were suffering from the this years round of GoT, and he said he couldn't sit idly by any longer and hear about these deaths second hand.

"I just had to do something," said Ben, "It had just got to the point where it had become

unbearable. At first I didn't know what I could do, and for a while I thought if I just ignored it the problem would resolve itself, but this year it's been different, everywhere I look someone is suffering from GoT."

The affliction is also close to Mr Brixton's heart, with his parents both suffering from an extended bout of not knowing about *Game of Thrones*. They too have been campaigning recently, asking for donations from the public to fund the purchase of equipment that will allow them to watch DVDs, which can sometimes cost hundreds of dollars.

If you or anyone you know is suffering from not knowing about GoT, FoxTel runs a 24 hour service and can be contacted on 1800-RIP-OFF, and you can share your experiences with others on most torrenting platforms.



GCST Men Mateship Dick Cock Balls Slammin Pussy

Eden Tollis is A Man.

Gender Studies Unit GCST2609 "Men, Mateship, Masculinities" has undergone extreme reconstruction with the appointment of a new unit coordinator, Bazza (Prof Bartholomews).

"It is a real testament to the ANZAC legend, a real dog and bone, struth, all examples of the idioms you learn in the class in 'week three: How to be a fucking Legend, mate," said Bazza.

"First week sees the students engage in mateship giving each other Aussie Bloke Names, like Harry turns into Hazza, Lara turns into Lazza, and Foucault turns into Cazza. Fuck oath."

The changes come in the wake of the 2013 Unit Evaluation, which highlighted the fact that too many people found the unit accessible and innovative

This semester Bazza hopes to move the class back to the days where "men could be men, being men, living manliness, doing men, eating dirt, playing rugby and no fucken gay shit."

IN OTHER NEWS

Obama Blindly Mashes War Buttons

Reading *BULL* Scientifically Proven To Be More Dangerous Than Running With The Bulls

San Churro Rebrands As Chocolate Cafe For The Freedom Of Palestine

Gloria Jeans: Gee, Looks Like Being Run By Hillsong Isn't So Bad After All

Joe Hockey Revealed To Be Sports Game All Along

Patrick Morrow is a day of the week.

In a Liberal Party press conference this morning, it was revealed that Joe Hockey, long credited as the treasurer of Australia is, in fact, a sports game.

The decision to make a statement came in response to increasing public speculation that Joe Hockey sounds a lot like a sports game.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten this afternoon stated that the revelation "made a lot of sense."

Reflecting on the implications, Shorten continued "yeah, when you think about it,

it's kind of obvious. I think I've even played games of Joe Hockey in the past. The name's familiar even if you've never set foot in a party room - 'Joe Hockey' - you know?"

Prime Minister Tony Abbott came to the defence of the Coalition's appointment of the sports game to one of the most powerful offices in the country, stating "the sports game truly was the best candidate for the job."

Mr Hockey was not available for comment as he is a sport.



BREAKING: Madonna Really Fucking Old

John Rowley's got the scoop.

This month, singer of songs and famous old person Madonna will turn 56. To mark the occasion, *Honey Soy* has reviewed media coverage of the ageing star published over the last 12 months (representing just 1.8 per cent of the singer's life to date). The survey involved the analysis of relevant content produced by News Corp, Fairfax Media and the Mail Online.

One key trend emerges from this analysis: Madonna is old. *Honey Soy* located 337 articles published by the aforementioned media companies that made mention of Madonna, and only one of these failed to mention her advanced (and rapidly advancing!!!) age. It was attributed to "Daily Mail Reporter", and detailed Madonna's plan to open a new gym in New York. Luckily, vigilant Mail Online commenters alerted fellow readers to the fact that Madonna is basically a heap of post-menopausal, slowly decomposing sinew.

"This old slag needs to put her tits away," wrote Maurice62. "I'd much rather have a go on Gwen Stefani".

Apart from its singular slip-up, the *Mail Online* has been admirably consistent in communicating to its audience that Madonna is geriatric and should therefore be stripped of her sexual agency. In more than half of its Madonna-related content, the publication noted the singer's age in headlines as well as body copy. "Try-hard Madonna, 55, dresses like a woman half her age as she dines out with toyboy Timor Steffens, 26," read a typical story title from January.

Honey Soy contacted Madonna in the hope of obtaining a comment, but she failed to respond to our email - probably because she's old, and doesn't really understand the internet. Old, old, old, old, old, DED.

White Male Credits Newfound Cultural Awareness to Interracial Porn

Peter Walsh is very politically correct these days.

North-Shore-private-school-graduate-cum-Architecture-student Henry Franklin had an epiphany late Sunday, realising that a conversation at the beginning of a pornographic video was the first intercultural dialogue he had taken part in.

"The sight of the genitals slamming together, it was like worlds colliding", said Franklin about the video he watched, eyes (and genitals) glazing over. He continued to outline how "basically everything [he] know[s]" comes from porn, including the suggestion that the Sun revolves the Earth, which he gleaned from a geocentric video about feet.

Still, at least this realisation appears to be a good one. "I used to think it was okay to identify people by colour in my anonymous posts to USyd Love Letters" said Franklin, who only just realised how problematic it was to categorise porn based on ethnicity. Indeed, Franklin's new insight has had a domino effect for his entire college dorm, who have voted to reconsider their First Fleet themed formal; and Franklin's mum, who has stopped wearing saris to her social lunches in Killara. At the end of the interview, Franklin pledged that in the future, he would only organise his porn by position and whether it was amateur or not.

OVERLY SPECIFIC HOROSCOPES

CANCER

The Camperdown ant colony is looking for a new Queen and you're it. Play your cards right and you'll have a lifetime of yummy larvae.

AQUARIUS

You will distance yourself from your family. So what if they're Australia's most pre-eminent online chess dynasty?

SAGITTARIUS

You'll almost certainly be cast as the villain in some kind of a Turkish rom-com. Better brush up on those language skills.



STUDENT RALLY AGAINST THE BUDGET

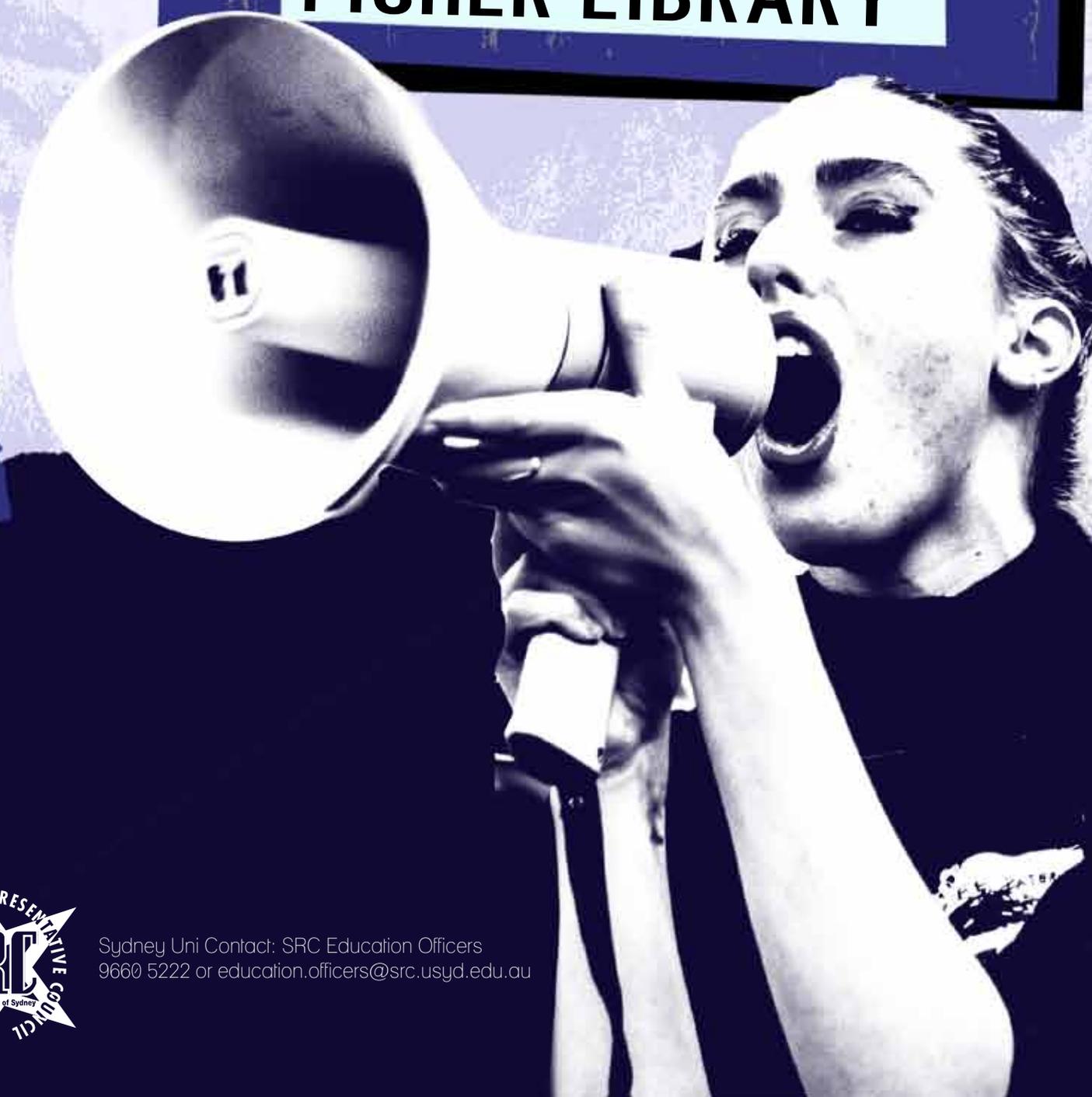
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