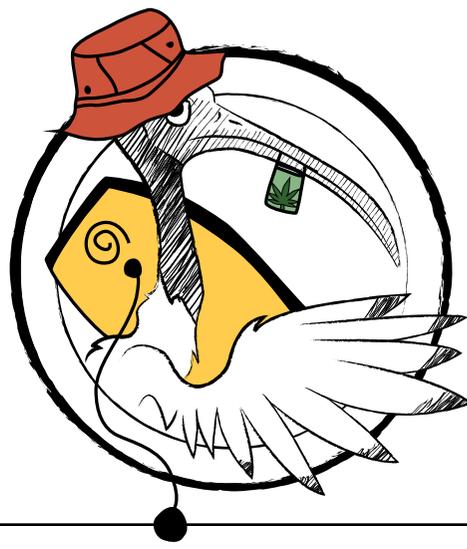


# Honi Soit



Week 11, Semester 2, 2014

HONI SOIT QUI ZAL Y PENSE

**p.4** *Uni fails nude photo victim*

**p.8** *The lost students of homeschooling*

**p.11** *Profile: SRC Prez Kyol Blakeney*



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNIFER YIU

## In Senate race, students lose

*The Honi Soit editorial team sifts through the rubble of the 2014 student Senate elections.*

We were as surprised as anyone by the election of Dalton Fogarty as the undergraduate student representative on Senate. In an election that centred on the issue of fee deregulation, Fogarty's answer to the question of where he stood was that it is 'complex' – a euphemism, we can't help but think, for "I'm not really sure". We thought, given this clear lack of engagement with the most important student issue the Senate has discussed this year (entertained in calls for Convocation, town hall meetings, focus groups and purportedly extensive consultation procedures), that he was destined to repeat his 2012 showing – a vote count somewhere in the region of 200 votes. Instead, he beat his nearest rival, incumbent Undergraduate Fellow Patrick Massarani, by nearly 1,000 votes.

This result is currently being contested by Massarani and fellow

candidate Annabel Osborn. The pair allege Fogarty breached the candidates' guidelines by standing near students as they voted, and that the Returning Officer failed to respond appropriately or consistently. This complaint, and the attendant confusion around what is and is not acceptable in student Senate elections, should spark a discussion about overhauling them. Agenda items for that discussion: appointing an experienced, external Returning Officer; writing electoral regulations that run longer than two sentences; and organising interviews and debates that would ensure candidates undergo proper and thorough scrutiny.

But aside from issues of Returning Officers and regulations, a larger question still lingers after this election: did any of the candidates receive support from University management at any point in their campaign?

This should never be a question we have to ask. But in this election, we do. We know that University management was involved in the elections, but we don't know to what extent. We know that, in collaboration with the USU, they contacted at least two students and have good reason to believe that number is higher. We know the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor had morning tea with the Liberal candidate Dean Shachar, but we don't know what was said or if anything was promised.

The University defended the decision of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to contact candidates, with a spokesperson saying the pair "have always seen it as part of their responsibilities to encourage any student who expresses an interest to get involved in the Senate process." This might be a passable excuse, except they reached out to people who had expressed absolutely no

interest in the Senate election, and very selectively contacted those who had. Moreover, neither Massarani nor Osborn – students who had overtly declared their intentions to "get involved with the Senate process" – were invited to brunch with the Chancellor. And, even if the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor had acted consistently with the reasons they provided, it was hardly principled for the most powerful members of the Senate to covertly involve themselves in an election for the only two student seats on that body. It threatens the very limited student space on our governing body, and it taints the rare instance of student democracy there as well.

Why, then, did they do it?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

# Contents

HONI SOIT  
ISSUE #24

3	Letters
4-6	News commentary
7	Opinion
8-9	Feature: Reforming home schooling
10	An elegy for the clickwheel
11	Race in student politics
12	Courtyard is Other People
13	Lesbians are the New Black
14-15	Investigation: international student housing

16	Review: <i>Schappelle! The Musical!</i>
17	SRC Help
18-19	SRC Reports
20	What's On
21	Puzzles and quizzes
22-23	Honey Soy

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

In a week's time, after this edition of *Honi Soit* has been read and discarded, we will be celebrating this rag's 85th birthday with a party at Verge Gallery. It's easy to be transfixed by the nostalgia and decades of history attached to this paper, but it's just as important to remain forward-looking, and not rest on the laurels of our predecessors.

Following in the footsteps of the paper's last two editorial teams, we have endeavored to push *Honi* online and grow its digital presence. 2012 gave us the first functional *Honi Soit* website. 2013 took to Twitter and gave the campus live, rolling coverage of the industrial action and the battle for fair teaching conditions.

This year, we attempted to add to this salvo by revamping the website; releasing an app; rolling out a live blog; and running the gaudy and depraved Hack Bet. We have not been sated, however, by merely adding toys to an online arsenal.

We adopted a culture of breaking news online – urgently and immediately – rather than restricting ourselves to a weekly print deadline. In many ways, we strived to go the way of several college newspapers in the United States and operate as a daily, albeit with a weekly 24-page supplement (and less money).

This too has extended our reach beyond the confines of campus and exposed us to an audience of faraway fans and online trolls. At the time of printing we're on track to crack half a million visits to the website, just in our year-long stewardship of this glorious rag.

To match these figures in print, students would need to pick up every single one of our 4,000 copies of *Honi Soit*, hand it to a mate, and then have it passed on to another four people, for each and every week of our 26-edition print run.

With all that said, objectivity may be dead but print sure isn't. There is a weekly ritual of laying up the paper, cramming in content, and

becoming increasingly delirious and deranged that cannot be beaten by the beige roar of uploading articles to WordPress.

Where does this paper – the term now looking more and more like an anachronistic metonym – go from here? What direction does it take? What will become of old mate Ibis?

Fuck if we know.

But for now, we'll leave you with the words of 1996 US presidential contender Kodos. Though he was speaking to the plight of the American people, we feel his words apply perfectly to the media crises of today and the response given by the industry's finest séances: "We must move forward, not backward, upward not forward, and always twirling, twirling, twirling toward freedom."

It's been a pleasure, mates. We hope you enjoy our penultimate edition half as much as we did, and twice as much our parents.

## An open letter against Islamophobia

Signatories of this statement stand opposed to the growing racism, Islamophobia and fear-mongering of the Abbott government. Shamefully, our own University of Sydney's Vice Chancellor has contributed to the backlash by banning a Muslim speaker from campus. As the government prepares for a new war in Iraq, and continues trying to push through its regressive budget, it is whipping up a climate of fear and hatred. But we will not let Abbott divide and rule.

We condemn:

1. The draconian new terror laws which make travelling to designated regions in the Middle East illegal without "good reason" (effectively reversing the onus of proof), grant police increased powers of arrest on suspicion of terrorism, and grant ASIO more protection and increased powers to search and spy.

2. The highly orchestrated terror raids carried out on 18 September, which amounted to a spectacle of police violence, intimidation and humiliation against Muslims.

3. The University of Sydney Vice Chancellor Michael Spence for contributing to this Islamophobic backlash by targeting and banning a particular Muslim speaker, Uthman Badar, from speaking on campus.

4. The growing torrent of racist abuse, vandalism, anti-Mosque demonstrations, physical intimidation and attacks, death threats, and bomb threats to Mosques.

To read the full statement, and for instructions on how to add your signature, go to honisoit.com.

Signatures:

Students

Kyol Blakeney (Indigenous Officer USYD SRC, NSW Indigenous Officer NUS, SRC President-Elect); Brigitte Garozzo (SUPRA Education Officer); Gabrielle Pei Tiatia (SRC Ethnic Affairs Officer); Surabi Alauddin (Vice President, Amnesty International Society); Fahad Ali (President, Students for Justice in Palestine); Kany Hardy (SUPRA councillor and USyd Greens on Campus Treasurer); David Shakes (SRC Queer Officer); Vivian Honan (President, Solidarity student club); Mariam S. Mohammed; Daniel Cheers (Pysch IV); Kitty-Jean Laginha (anti-racism collective); Imogen Szumer (anti-racism collective); Althea Wang (anti-racism collective); Eliot Hoving (Arts adv honours); Bjorn Wallin (Masters of Teaching); Tomas Emmet de Bhaldrathe; Riki Scanlan (Arts II); Joshua Han; Emmanuel Esteves Sebastiao; Danny Hardiman; Tory Karmakar (Bachelor of Social Work); Don Sahand; Marco Avena (SRC Councillor, SRC Environment Officer,

Vice-President Vegesoc), Priya Shaw

Staff

Nick Riemer (English and Linguistics departments); Kevin Lin (casual academic, NTEU); David Brophy (Lecturer, Department of History); Briony Neilson (History department); Anne Picot; Daisy Farnham (casual tutor); Erima Dall (casual tutor, NTEU); Marijke Hoving (casual general staff, NTEU); Jean Parker (casual academic researcher, NTEU); Alex Page (PHD candidate & casual tutor); Elizabeth Humphreys; Matt Withers (casual academic)

## Carbon copy

Dear Honi,

Although the fact that four out of five students voted YES in the recent referendum on Fossil Fuel Divestment is pleasing, it was no surprise.

What was surprising was that only one out of thirty-thousand students was able to submit a piece outlining the conservative position on Divestment.

The sentiment among the young right on campus is that conservatives do exist a-plenty at USYD, but are oppressed by a juvenile swathe of moralistic young idealists. This sentiment is what keeps the delusion strong enough amongst Mon Droit's writers and reader to facilitate the mental gymnastics they must perform to rationalise getting up in the morning.

But when Chaneg Torres penned the words "It is baffling that those who scream loudest about inequality and global poverty are often the first to condemn the coal industry" in his opinion piece printed 23/9/14 the truly baffling thing is that the young man seemed to miss the correlation between the volume the voice for divestment, the referendum results, and the University's responsibility to let this perfect example of market voice dictate investment.

But Torres' piece was not only representative of how lonely one must feel to be amongst the smallest consensus on campus after Jews for Jesus - it also was a reflection of just how impossible it is to write in favour of Fossil Fuel investment without economic incentive. Believe me, I tried.

Most disgracefully, the published piece was an example of why Turnitin might be just as if not more important to digital media than academia.

Torres' article was plagiarised from multiple sources; sources paid for by Big Mining as part of their PR network, a press release from Scot Macdonald, and, ironically, a Peter Hannam article. Quoting every plagiarised sentence would have broken this letter's 300 word limit before I'd have been able to even write a word of my own.

Articles published by NSW Mining and Australian Mining, to name a couple, were written by droids in PR firms paid to sell the un-sellable.

While the actual writers of Torres'

opinion complain that 'activism' is threatening the jobs of "our hardworking NSW miners again", it must be asked whether or not they know that their jobs might be being threatened themselves by freelance benevolent volunteers like Torres' willing to do the bidding of this gargantuan industry for free?

Regards,  
Joshua Dabelstein.

## BroSoc: Shit name but a good idea

Dear Honi,

Reading 'BroSoc, more like NoSoc' was disappointing. An anonymous SRC candidate's review of the new society felt unfairly biased and more like a loose web of poorly concealed prejudices instead of weighing the pros and cons of this new society. As a reader unassociated with the society, though admittedly a cis-male, the article was troubling as it did not fairly present a case for this society's existence.

The main thrust of the article was that the poorly named BroSoc is inherently sexist "because it allows cis, heterosexual men once again to speak over and drown out other identities". This bold assertion glosses over the society's own description as "a safe space for men on campus" which is promptly described as "ridiculous". Safe spaces for LGBTQ societies rightly exist on our campus in the name of equality and they support the broad spectrum of sexual orientation people associate with. These are spaces to voice, debate and support opinions amongst people who we feel we can share them. The statement that the group must by its nature propagate "heteropatriarchal standards of masculinity" suggests that identifying with masculinity implies inherent sexism. This argument about "problematic views regarding gender to which society has clung to" is superimposed over what could have been a weighing of the merits and implications of mens mental health, which sadly took a back seat to unfounded statements repeating the authors opinions that BroSoc will become a space to "whine about reverse sexism".

The groups mission statement is to be a "Campus men's shed... intended to be a safe place for men to engage in discussions about their mental health" - a statement later redacted. If identifying with masculinity and choosing a masculine space to associate with implies "heteropatriarchal standards", then I ask the author to explain how masculine standards are reinforced through the very unmasculine act of talking about mental health. In Australia, an estimated 6-7% of young men and women aged 16-24 will experience depression. Is choosing to share your feelings amongst other men truly unthinkable, and whilst it is pointed out that MAHSoc does exist to cater to both genders equally, through the context of a Homesexual/Queer/

Bi or Trans student choosing to reach out to their prospective societies for support, I do not think there would be any such anger, pointing to a troubling double-standard.

Instead of condemnation, we need more discussion and open-mindedness.

Aidan Quinn

Arts II (Government)

## Uncritical praise?!

Dear mega dork nerd kings,

Normally Honi letters are full of rage and anger but NOPE NOPE THIS ONE IS A GOOD FUN LETTER I LOVED YOUR ARTICLE.

Look I'm not saying that I am completely in love with your piece on X-Men and oppression, but no that's exactly what I'm saying I'm going to frame that article on my wall and nervously ask it to the year ten formal and we're going to have our first tentative sips of champagne together at the after party. You married two of my greatest loves – criticism of social systems and X-Men – and wrote a thoughtful article which challenged an element of the franchise I had never really questioned before. I'd kind of blindly accepted the analogy made to Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr, and it was a really important criticism of that analogy and I am so glad you wrote it. And you stayed true to the spirit and heart of X-Men, and talked about it with so much love and passion! Truly you are an inspiration. Also how great is Hugh Jackman?

With lots of love and the hopes of a very emotional and drunk X-Men marathon,

Emma Balfour

BIGS II

## Stop being wankers

Hi!

I've just read the latest newspaper. As a international and second-year faulty of engineering student, I still find it is not easy to read through the whole newspaper.

I have to look up a lot of "fancy" word in the newspaper which makes me feel it even better to read academic articles :(

It is a University of Sydney's weekly student newspaper and it means the newspaper should be "readable" for all student in uni right?

Cheers,

Fan Yang

## Student Leaders Wanted

Are you politically beige?

Do you hold no strong opinions?

Is vanilla your favourite ice cream flavour?

Keen for a two-year internship with old man Mike?



Apply now for the University Senate!

*"Well, I've got the microphone" - Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor*

## Credits

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Justin Pen

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

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Judy Zhu

MASTHEAD ILLUSTRATION: Helen Xue

REPORTERS: Andrew Bell, Rupert Coy, Geordie Crawford, Williams Edwards, Dominic Ellis, Joshua Krook, Patrick Morrow, Charlie O'Grady, Peter Walsh, Mary Ward

CONTRIBUTORS: Rose Barnsley, Slavoj Zizek

ARTISTS/PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Mikaela Bartels, Whitney Duan, Monica Renn, Jennifer Yiu

PUZZLES/QUIZZES: Bolton, Samuel Herzog

DISCLAIMER Honi Soit is published by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney, Level 1 Wentworth Building, City Road, University of Sydney NSW 2006. The SRC's operation costs, space and administrative support are financed by the University of Sydney. Honi Soit is printed under the auspices of the SRC's directors of student publications: Dover Dubosarsky, Jennifer Light, Miranda Smith, India O'Neill, Naaman Zhou, Phoebe Corleone, Sonia Feng. All expressions are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as the opinions of the SRC unless specifically stated. The Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained within this newspaper, nor does it endorse any of the advertisements and insertions.

# Uni fails sexual harrassment victim

*The University has failed to protect a student who had their naked photo shared without their consent, reports Christina White.*

In May 2013, ██████ took a naked photo of a woman he was with, on his mobile phone. "I took a photo of us in a state of undress without your knowledge or consent," ██████ stated in a letter to the woman. "After I found the photograph, I showed it to other students that we both know." ██████ shared the image at parties, showed it to mutual friends and other USyd students, the victim told *Honi*. The photo was taken during intercourse and her eyes were shut, she said.

██████'s actions may constitute a crime under NSW law. Taking a photo of someone in a "state of undress" without their consent can result in a jail sentence of up to two years. Police did not press charges due to a six-month time limit on commencing proceedings from the date of the offence (in the absence of aggravating factors) and the victim did not find out about the photo's existence until eight months after it had occurred.

The University was made aware of the incident in January this year, but appears to have taken little action and dragged their feet at every step. ██████ still studies, lives, and works on campus. USyd's failure to punish him speaks to a broader resistance to take sexual harassment seriously.

"I had to fight to get Student Affairs to consider it a breach of misconduct and investigate my claim. It took months to process it (from January to August)," the woman said.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the University facilitated a meeting between the students in May. However, the woman has told *Honi* the University was reluctant to proceed with any such meeting, offered little to no assistance, and that she had to push them to organize a meeting.

"I had to fight for it," she said. "I was told to run the meeting and was given no help or direction from the Head of Student Affairs."

Allegations of student misconduct are investigated under the

auspices of the Office of General Council, at the request of the Registrar. They appear to be shrouded in bureaucracy and secrecy.

"I was not kept up to date with the investigation and would often not hear from Student Affairs for weeks. Towards the end of the investigation Student Affairs would not return my calls or emails. I had to push them to find out if the case had been closed or not."

At the May meeting, ██████ agreed to make a public apology at a later date, she said. *Honi* understands that no public apology has been made to date. Student Affairs told the woman they would not facilitate a second meeting, and it was her responsibility to do so. The woman explained how the burden was insurmountable: "It is not possible for me to organise all the parties (his friends especially) to attend an apology meeting."

Further, the woman says she has not been informed of any punishment taken against ██████. He sent an apology

*"I feel abandoned by the University. I spoke out hoping to make a change."*

letter to her, but it seems that the University has not forced him to do anything. He is still a student on campus, and retains his position as a Resident Liaison at Darlington Road Terraces, campus accommodation owned and operated by USyd. In this role, he is in a position of authority over younger students in their place of residence.

The Head of Student Affairs, Idena Rex could not comment on the matter specifically, but told *Honi* the "penalty of expulsion is applied for [only] very serious incidents of misconduct."

Rex added, "In my experience of working in universities and talking

*"I was not kept up to date with the investigation and would often not hear from Student Affairs for weeks."*

to colleagues within the sector, the penalties that are applied here at Sydney are commensurate with those applied for similar breaches in other universities."

The Vice-Chancellor's office refused to comment.

In contrast, last week the Vice-Chancellor of Otago University Professor Harlene Hayne publicly condemned similar actions of students posting explicit photos of their girlfriends on Facebook. "We will take action to set an example to the university and wider community that this sort of behavior is totally unacceptable on every front," said Hayne.

The woman continues to be harassed by other students. "Since semester one this year I have experienced intimidation,

been groped at social functions, excluded from social settings, insulted and oversexualised by a group of his friends on and off campus," she said. "Students make comments about my body. This has happened on most of the days I attend university: it has happened in the library, walking around campus or at campus events."

The Student Affairs department at USyd has offered her no practical support regarding long-term harassment. They initially advised her to take out individual misconduct claims against each person harassing her, but there were too many instances to deal with separately. Student Affairs then withdrew this offer and

suggested she call security.

SRC Sexual Harassment Officer Georgia Carr believes the University could be doing much more to support to those in need. "Stories like this one, as well as the reports and anecdotes of sexual harassment and assault that come out of residential colleges during O-Week and throughout the year, are indicative of a lack of initiative," said Carr.

The way USyd deals with sexual harassment is insufficient. Carr outlined what better services could be introduced. "Services like a hotline for anonymous reporting of sexual harassment on campus should be readily available, as well as an immediate point of contact for harassment that occurs in residential colleges or at university-run events such as faculty balls and dinners which occur at this time of year."

This woman was brave, but she is by no means the only victim of USyd's inertia. "I feel abandoned by the University," she said. "I spoke out hoping to make a change, to fight for my rights and those of my fellow students."

Incidents of sexual harassment are a window into sexism and misogyny that run throughout society; USyd is by no means exempt from these harmful cultures. Indeed, through its inaction it becomes complicit in a culture of silencing victims.

"By concealing what they have done the University is condoning his behaviour," said the woman. "They appear to be more concerned about dampening this down, keeping the status quo and protecting themselves. This makes me concerned for other students' experience on the campus."

# Two green thumbs up

*Geordie Crawford reports on the growing environmental movement, sweeping campus and country.*

The last weekend of September saw a series of protests against coal mining in northwest NSW's Leard Forest that included one protester strapping himself to a train line. The protest, staged by nearly 200 people, was carried out at four mines and one coal loader across the state. The daredevil protester who tied himself to train tracks caused delays at Newcastle's port, the world's largest coal export terminal.

The protests were primarily targeted at Whitehaven Coal's mining development at Maules Creek in the Leard Forest. The project has been criticised for destroying pristine wildlife and multiple cultural heritage sites belonging to Indigenous Gomerioi custodians. Local farmers are also concerned that the company's water use may deplete nearby water tables by several metres.

In August, the University administration announced it would review its investment policies and withhold purchases in all consumable fuels until its findings were complete. Since then, the University has been "unable to provide any further commentary on this matter."

The recent student referendum on fossil fuel divestment represents a major victory for student activists. 79.67 per cent of USyd undergraduate voters supported divestment from companies whose primary business involves fossil fuels.

SRC Environment Officer and Fossil Free USyd Collective member, Clo Schofield, said the

referendum should send a signal to the University administration: "As primary stakeholders of our university, and as primary stakeholders of the future of the planet, our voice should be, and will be heard."

A recent Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) report claims that coal divestment is viable due to the dramatically decreasing global value of this resource. With stock prices of coal-extraction companies halving since 2009, the report suggests that "other large sectors could absorb coal equity dollars, as could clean energy."

The report also states that divestment from oil and gas companies could take longer and be more difficult. Yet Schofield says divestment is compatible with economic sustainability: "We haven't suggested that all investment in fossil fuels be ceased tomorrow, we have instead proposed that of USyd's holdings, the uni should divest from all companies whose primary business is the extraction, transportation and processing of coal, oil and gas. The effect of divestment... will be another prominent institutional voice added to the many calls for a just transition away from fossil fuels, that is both environmentally and economically sustainable."

Some pro-coal advocates have suggested that any form of divestment may lead foreign investors to purchase shares in international coal companies with poor environmental records.

This case was made by Conservative Club President,

Chaneg Torres, who plagiarised a number of passages from NSW Liberal MLC Scot MacDonald's website and other sources in a recent *Honi Soit* print debate on the divestment referendum.

In an almost word for word translation of MacDonald, Torres wrote: "Australia's international customers would simply substitute our resources for poorer quality coal from international competitors."

Some of the world's most notorious polluters, however, are making conscious decisions to limit their carbon footprint. For instance, China, which consumes as much coal as the rest of the world combined, will implement environmental restrictions on coal imports from January 2015. India too is making efforts to change its energy consumption patterns, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi organising a global investor summit focusing on renewable energy for February.

As more foreign governments commit to environmental reform, the argument that Australia should continue to invest in coal to prevent misuse becomes less convincing.

Indeed, the case is gaining little traction as companies and organisations around the world consider divestment. A number of prominent overseas groups, including Stanford University and the Rockefeller Brothers, have divested themselves of fossil fuel stocks already. In the last two weeks the Australian National University and Local Government

Super have announced they will be dumping holdings in select fossil fuel companies. The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly has also committed to divestment.

USyd's Students' Representative Council is now even targeting businesses affiliated with fossil fuel investments. The Council has sent a letter to the National Australia Bank (NAB) threatening to split ties if the organisation does not divest from coal and gas export projects in the Great Barrier Reef.

Despite this action and the general trend it reflects, it is hard to see the Maules Creek mine development being overruled. Whitehaven Coal have already been taken to court and seen the project approved, while both federal Labor and Liberal parties also support the mine.

However, if recent protests are an indication of resolve, activists will continue to fight Whitehaven long into the future. Another company that is mining in the Leard Forest, Idemitsu, was worried about protestors enough to hire a security consultancy that embedded spies within activist groups.

There is no doubt that mining companies see protestors as a threat to their business model. Through a combination of investor boycotts, student referendums, and creative grassroots protests, the campaign to save the Leard Forest may yet succeed.



IMAGE: CLO SCHOFIELD.

# A missed opportunity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The University Senate is the top governing body of this university. It hires the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, decides the university's strategic direction, and sets its budget. Importantly, in this political context, it approves fee deregulation proposals.

It is made up of 22 Fellows: 10 appointed by either the University or NSW Government, including the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, and 12 elected by students, staff and alumni. Proposals brought to Senate must pass a majority vote before they can be implemented. Significantly, therefore, if the 12 elected fellows were to vote as a bloc, they would have the numbers to block any motions they deemed to be against staff and student interests – including motions to increase fees.

It was not intended to be this way. In 2011, the NSW Liberal Government passed the *University Governing Bodies Act*. Education Minister Adrian Piccoli, speaking to the bill in parliament, said that universities “are both major public institutions of great strategic significance to the State and very significant businesses.

Their governance arrangements need to reflect this reality.” The Act’s intention was to ensure that elected staff, students and graduates would hold the minority of seats on university governing bodies, through increasing the flexibility that university management had in deciding the size and make-up of these bodies. This flexibility, Piccoli said, would give universities “freedom to govern themselves according to their individual missions and strategic plans.”

The management of this university, through oversight or overconfidence, neglected to resize or restructure the Senate in its favour. It has allowed a situation in which a bloc of 12 senators elected by staff, students and alumni could potentially change the strategic direction of the university. Last year’s alumni election saw the victory of a progressive ticket that has actively campaigned against fee deregulation this year. Next year, the staff elections will be held and there is a strong chance that four National Tertiary Education Union members and one Community & Public Services Union member will be elected as Senate fellows. Two progressive students would have completed a bloc that could have stood as a powerful bulwark against any proposed changes to USyd’s fees.

Assuming that the University can count to 12 just as well as we can, its incentive for intervening in this election seems, therefore, clear; a left-wing, anti-deregulation bloc would have thwarted any intentions it may be harbouring to hike fees, despite vociferous protest from USyd staff and students throughout the year.

Considering that, the travesty of this election is not that Dalton Fogarty may have stood over some people while they voted for him on his laptop. That, ultimately, is little more than a fresh iteration of coercive campaign tactics that are used by ambitious student politicians year after year to try and get themselves elected.

The real travesty is that he was elected in the place of a student who could have helped divert the strategic direction being pursued by this University’s management. Like it or not, the Senate has more power to determine the nature of students’ experiences at this University than the SRC or USU Board ever will.

Given the Senate’s powerful role, left wing students should not just decry others’ actions, but reassess their own efforts. In the Senate elections, the two left-wing candidates, Massarani and Osborn, received fewer than 900 votes between them. By contrast, in the recent SRC elections, the two left-

wing Presidential candidates received more than 4,000. If the campus left had engaged with the Senate elections with the same energy and fervour they had shown in the SRC elections a few weeks earlier (and, presumably, won a similar number of votes), no amount of coercion or management interference could have got Dalton over the line. Instead, aside from a few Facebook statuses and profile pictures changes, they were largely silent. We, too, must shoulder some blame, having been distracted in our coverage by the shiny bauble that is SRC elections. This inattention speaks volumes about the left’s misunderstanding of the Senate’s importance, and their unwillingness to work for change within University-controlled institutions, rather than just protesting their existence. The Senate is not students’ stomping ground as the SRC and USU Board are; but that doesn’t mean it should be ignored.

Two students could have joined staff and alumni in blocking fee deregulation at Sydney University. Instead, we got someone who’s still working out whether it’s a good idea or not.

Whether through scheming or just sheer luck, University management got exactly what it wanted out of this election.

# Alice in Cumberland

*The unlikely story of how the Faculty of Health Sciences became the kingmakers of student politics. John Gooding reports.*

For some stupid reason, the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Health Sciences is not located at Camperdown campus. Rather, prospective practitioners of health science (who make up around ten per cent of the University’s student body) must instead transport themselves to Lidcombe to complete their studies at the Cumberland campus.

In terms of student politics, the campus is a perfect analogue to Western Sydney, in addition to actually being in Western Sydney. Every electoral season, campaigners and candidates make the trek out to convince the people of Cumberland they have their best interests at heart, before returning to Camperdown, often never to be seen or heard from again.

This year Switchroots blitzed the campus with the Indies/Grassroots #CumboRepresent ticket, which had specific branding and supported Grassroots candidate for SRC President, Kyol Blakeney. On the first day of voting, Blakeney outpolled

Stand Up! candidate Amy Knox 188 to 27 at Cumberland, and 104 to 2 on the second. The ticket accrued so many votes and preferences on the SRC ballot that three people from #CumboRepresent were elected to SRC, more than any other ticket in the election.

“Campaigning at Cumbo was rather easy, I’ll admit,” said Fiona Lieu, a candidate with #CumboRepresent and SRC councillor-elect. “Cumbo is a small campus so everyone knows each other, or has a two-degree separation. You pull in a friend, and they’ll pull in theirs. You really notice how tight our campus is – it’s cute.”

“We heard that campaigning on main campus was quite aggressive and we wanted to avoid that at all costs ... we wanted to promote an authentic group of students for Cumbo, from Cumbo. That’s what won us the votes.”

The outpost was not always an electoral bastion for the Indies; in 2011 and 2012 Labor ran a campus-specific ticket, ‘Stand Up! for

Cumberland’. “[The Indies] didn’t pose any competition in 2011,” said Isabelle King, a Cumberland native who was a candidate at the top of the ticket both years. “They had more of a presence in 2012, but it didn’t really matter because Cumbo people are loyal.”

This year’s three Cumberland SRC councillors is a bit of a bonanza for the Indies, and points to a broader trend. If you run a Cumberland local against generic campaigners, past trends dictate you get at least one councillor and a bevy of presidential votes.

So how could Labor forget that they once reaped? According to Knox, it wasn’t a memory lapse but a matter of principle. “I don’t think that we have ever underestimated Cumberland as a campus,” said Knox. “Stand Up! believes in running candidates who are passionate about student issues, and do not run candidates for the sake of winning campaigns. It’s a shame we didn’t have a Cumberland student in Stand Up! this year who had this

particular interest.”

Christians, Engineering students, college kids and the conservative “silent majority” have all been touted as massive untapped voter bases, just waiting for a student politician to ride their clamouring support to victory. To write these groups off completely would be unfair; some in these blocs do rock up and vote (just look at ‘Up the Colleges’ nabbing a councillor spot this year). But amid the hype, the good people of Cumberland stand alone as the guaranteed Real Deal.

However, students would be advised to get in quickly or forever hold their political aspirations, as electorate boundaries may soon be redrawn. The University is considering moving the faculty to the main campus, where Health Sciences students would be so sufficiently diffused among the local populace that campaigning directly to them would be fruitless. The proposal has not yet been finalised, but it’s looking likely that Cumberland will cease to be the political promised land of yore.

# Solidarity and sexuality

*Anonymous and Anonymous explore the shortcomings of sex-positivity.*

We are sitting in some café on King Street on a Thursday evening. The conversation turns to our plans for the night – will it be a big one? Are we going to get wasted? And then of course, a painful non sequitur. “Who’s feeling sexually frustrated?” a friend asks, in all her blonde, leggy, outrageously attractive glory. Everyone at the table raises their hand – I don’t. She turns to me, apparently incredulous. “Admit that you’re sexually frustrated. Who have you even had sex with recently?” I reply meekly that I just don’t feel that “sexual” at the moment, finish my coffee and head home disgruntled but apathetic. As a queer, wom\*n of colour with many well-meaning, but painfully perfect white, heterosexual friends, negotiating one’s sexual anxieties is difficult. And of course, the constant pressure to adopt the open, fun-loving and liberal attitude – which they, and dominant feminist discourse, assume – doesn’t make it any easier.

‘Sex critical’ is a vexing term. By its very nature it implies something negative, and in comparison to ‘sex

positivity’, it might seem so. For those in the dark, sex positivity, as defined by YouTuber Laci Green, is “the cultural philosophy that understands sexuality as a potentially positive force in one’s life”. It celebrates “sexual diversity, differing desires and relationship structures, and individual choices based on consent”. Laci’s definition seems uncontroversial and we wish it was too, but unfortunately we don’t live in a post-racial, post-class, post-systematic-structures-of-oppression-that-suck-and-warp-everything world.

With its fixation on self-care and self-responsibility, sex positivity can often fall into the neo-liberal trap of self-reliance and prescriptive victim-blaming language of “you should”. This means that systems of privilege are continually obfuscated by a fun, free-for-all mentality that regurgitates second-wave feminist notions of all women having an ‘equal choice’. However, if one concedes the complex, intersectional experiences of oppression that many wom\*n negotiate, this is problematic. As two

wom\*n who have experienced how sexuality can be inconsistent with “just embrace it” rhetoric, the expectation to perform to the rose-tinted dialogue of sex positivity has often invalidated our experiences and perpetuated self-shame.

Further, by placing all the emphasis on the individual subject to ensure they practice enthusiastic, liberating sexual experiences, sex positivity inherently resists self-interrogation and criticism on a collective, structural level. Instead of championing the idealised world of a million sexualities that are embraced and regarded “equally” as Laci and we would like, sex positivity becomes a guise for promoting the very patriarchal, hetero-normative vision of sexuality that feminism should be destabilising – not abetting. We only need to look at the increasing support for *Cosmo* as a tool for empowerment; because last time we checked, flawless eyebrows and “19 signs he wants you” doesn’t scream accessible.

Laci assures us sex positivity is about “potential”, but its discourse is not positioned so. Seeking an aspirational reality where sex is not complex and confusing requires diminishing the fact it presently is. We can’t support a feminism that acts as though access to choice is uniform, that sexual violence isn’t a tool of colonialism and that differently-abled wom\*n should fight hegemonic structures alone. By giving sex and consent the complexity and respect it demands, we can practice a philosophy that stands for all wom\*n by placing at its center those who are systematically erased. That doesn’t mean rejecting the potential that sex can be positive, but accepting that it does not need to be and that presently it is not for many. For those wom\*n who can embrace sex positivity comfortably, you are privileged. However, exclaiming it to others and expecting them to adopt the same attitude is not only inconsiderate, it’s unfair. So for solidarity’s sake: remember sex positivity is the future ideal, but not our current reality.

# At all costs *All of Anonymous’s friends went to student politics and all he got was a panic attack.*

As SRC elections conclude and council positions for 2015 are being finalised, it pays to reflect on the campaign season.

My career as a ‘student politician’ began on the 8th of September and ended two and a half weeks later at 9:30 in the morning on the second day of polling, in the New Law bathrooms, having the world’s most unnecessary meltdown.

Student campaigner tactics are troublingly manipulative in ways that larger scale campaigns cannot be. Due to limited space and time, as well as a smaller constituency, it is generally accepted that tactics such as approaching people in cafes, making announcements in literally every lecture ever, and the ‘walk and talk’—particularly prevalent on polling days due to the importance placed on ‘walking voters over the line’—are the only way to engage otherwise largely disinterested students.

The problem is not whether or not these campaign tactics work—we know they ‘work’, and that a bulk of votes are gained in this way. The problem is that they shouldn’t work, and what quasi-political advantage is achieved through them is not worth the overall psychological impact on both voters and campaigners.

A selection of advice I was given whilst campaigning:

“Make sure you shake their hand at the beginning of the conversation, so they feel obliged to keep talking to you.” “Ask them about themselves so they feel like you really care about them.” “Talk to international students, they won’t have any idea what’s going



*The correct collective noun for a group of #usydvotes campaigner is, like crows, a murder.*

want to do something is emotionally manipulative.

My reasons for not being okay with manipulative campaign tactics are due to my experience in an emotionally-abusive relationship. It’s the same reason I was concerned about the aggression I was told to expect during campaigning on the polling days. It’s the same reason I said I wasn’t going to do it.

“It’s okay if you’re shy, you just have to get more used to approaching people,” was the most common response to these repeat vocalisations of discomfort—this dismissal reached the point where it was simpler to just do what I was asked despite my concerns.

The way these campaigns are framed—this

high stakes race wherein everything is worth it to “change student life forever”—makes dissent impossible. To argue against tactics used is to suggest that whatever left wing ideal at stake is not worth the trouble, and as such people tend to stay silent about their discomfort. This, too, is highly manipulative—as is the implication that, as ‘walk and talks’ are ‘The Only Way to get votes, campaigners who don’t or can’t do them have little use.

I should not need to say that acting in a way that makes someone feel guilty if they don’t want to do something is emotionally manipulative.

This is in no way a faction-specific problem, nor is it exclusively a USyd problem. It points to an ideological standpoint that plagues student politics—that any group gain to be made is more important than individual comfort or safety. The generally accepted approach appears to be: “Fuck your integrity! This is politics!” Attempts to make campaigners feel safe—grievance officers, embryonic safe space policies—feel hollow when not underpinned by a serious discussion about the way campaigns are run, about the violence and aggression they inspire, and about the toxic emotional manipulation of voters brought on by the supposed urgency of student politics. Rather than say “people are going to scream insults in your face, but we’re here for you”, why not implement rules to stop people screaming?

An article such as this feels futile without a concrete model for future campaigns, but it is a conversation that absolutely must be had within universities and factions. Better use can be made of online campaigning, debates, and forums, to encourage students to participate in the conversation, as opposed to being a (frequently unwilling) listener to it. The answer to not enough students caring about the issues raised in student elections is not: “terrify them into walking over the line and ticking a box, and give them a token Leave Me Alone sticker”.

# “We’re everywhere”

*Thousands of Australian students are lost in the homeschooling system, writes Georgia Kriz. Additional reporting by Andrew Bell.*

“I need you to change my name and some identifying details, because I’m on the other side of the fucking world and I’m still scared.”

“Whatever you need, sure.”

“You’re going to change my name right?”

“Absolutely, yes.”

“And can you send me a link to the story when it’s done?”

“Yes, and you can see it before it is published.”

Jennifer\* is a mother of two, in her early thirties, with a bachelor’s degree. She lives a 13-hour flight away from her parents, and has not communicated with them properly in years. But she is still utterly, acutely terrified of them. Staunch fundamentalist Christians, they homeschooled her in rural New South Wales for most of her school-aged years. She suffered extraordinarily at their hands.

“My dad didn’t want me going to school and he said it was because he was afraid that I would tell teachers ‘lies’ about what was happening at home and that they’d see the bruises on me and report him,” she says. We are talking via Facebook chat – any other medium would be too intimate.

“He beat us a lot. He called it spanking but he used electrical cords, canes. I remember a cane and a wooden slat being broken on me. We would bleed. When I was ten, he did something to me that I consider rape.”

The abuse Jennifer suffered also went beyond the physical. Her education was extremely strictly-controlled and her access to the outside, secular world was limited. Science was limited to Creationism. The “ungodly” texts of Harry Potter and Sesame Street were banned.

Despite regaining control over her life by moving overseas, creating a family of her own, and learning via TAFE, university and now online courses, Jennifer says she still harbours anger and sadness over her homeschooling experience.

“I am still resentful. I feel like by

homeschooling me they purposely stole my right to an education from me,” she tells us. “My father says that because he said sorry I should forgive him and that forgiveness means never talking about it to anyone.” There is a pause in our chat. The typing ellipse appears on the screen.

“Especially not journalists. You are going to change my name, aren’t you?”

\* \* \*

It seems that Jennifer’s sad story of homeschooling abuse is not an outlier. In May of this year, the New South Wales Government established a Legislative Inquiry into homeschooling in reaction to a sharp increase in homeschooling enrolments and an increasing number of concerns regarding child welfare in homeschool environments.

Earlier this year, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that, between July 2008 and July 2012, there was a 40 per cent increase in the number of children being registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Education Standards to be homeschooled in NSW. As of December 2013, there were 3238 students registered.

However, the Home Education Association estimates there are approximately another 10,000 children who are unregistered and homeschooled, living and learning off the bureaucratic radar.

Deputy Chair of the Legislative Council Select Committee and NSW Greens MP, John Kaye, tells us he is very concerned by the figures.

“Homeschooling is a relatively high-risk activity. Although there are some parents – well educated, loving parents with the time to put into educating their kids – who do quite well, the reality is that homeschooling carries risks of poor educational outcomes, educational neglect and, at worst, abuse,” he says.

“In the unregistered families it is quite often the case that a child won’t ever see anyone outside of their family and their family home.”

Paul Green, a member of the Christian Democrats Party and the chair of the committee, agrees with parts of Kaye’s assessment.

“It is mind boggling that, in this day and age, we don’t know how many children are being home schooled...which says more about the process being a discouragement rather than an encouragement,” he says.

He argues the problems associated with the lack of registration stem from a system that places onerous requirements on parents who have already demonstrated an aptitude for Home Education. “Many people are not registering because they’ve lost confidence in the authority or the school process,” he tells us. He also criticises the lack of transparency in the administrative process, arguing that parents “should be able to know why [they] have been rejected.”

For Green, one of the most important – if not the most important – aims for the inquiry is facilitating freer homeschooling. He says many parents choose to homeschool their children because of valid ideological beliefs and behavioural issues.

“The state should empower them to maximise their educational potential.”

\* \* \*

The Inquiry has received over 300 submissions from parents, lobby groups, teachers’ unions and government departments. Broadly, the submissions from pro-homeschooling stakeholders have argued for the deregulation of the sector, with many complaining the current enrolment and registration process is unnecessarily opaque, complex and inefficient.

One such submission, from the Home Education Association (HEA) – the peak representative body for homeschoolers in Australia – paints homeschooling as a “marginalised, unsupported and poorly understood educational option in NSW”, and advocates for a bureaucratic overhaul in the areas of registration and processing.

“Many NSW home educators find

the current registration processes to be burdensome, intrusive, unsupportive and more focussed [sic] on compliance than on educational quality,” they write.

“The inappropriate policies of the current system, the inconsistency of Authorised Persons and the distressing registration experiences of many home educators, has led to an atmosphere of great anxiety and fear amongst parents as they approach registration.”

A submission from the Homeschooling Registration Reform Alliance of NSW reads similarly, arguing the current laws assume parental wrongdoing and are unnecessarily restrictive.

“The current heavy-handed NSW homeschooling regulations bring no benefit to our children, only intense scrutiny and repeated demands for justification of parent’s educational provision by representatives of a state education system that is out of touch with the realities of home education.”

The Alliance instead argues for a reframing of the issues of homeschooling and abuse, and says they should be treated as discrete, unrelated issues.

“Tightening homeschooling regulation off the back of misplaced views about child protection has shifted focus away from problems within the child welfare system itself. The spheres of education and child protection need to be recognised as separate.”

There is, then, consensus that the law as it currently stands is deficient.

For a start, enforcement of current provisions is rare. Bob Osmak, a member of the Home Schooling Association of Queensland (HSAQ) who educated his nine children, is the only person to have been prosecuted for homeschooling in breach of regulations. He was found guilty of not registering his 13-year-old daughter, and fined \$300 along with legal costs.

He made a submission to a Parliamentary Education and Innovation Committee in which he outlined the reasons for his

methodology: “I can testify that our schools are an almost total failure...The other reason for homeschooling is the violence in our schools. Teachers have lost control of students both in and out of classrooms.”

The HSAQ details the effects of its lobbying on its web page: “[Legislators] have just begun to back away from...the insistence on using the outcomes of the NSW Syllabus in the planning, assessment and reporting of educational programs.”

In addition there is a questionable “conscientious objector” clause in the regulations, which allows parents to “give the Minister written notice that the person conscientiously objects on religious grounds to registration under this Act.” What is a sufficient trigger for this exception is unclear both from the Act and the Board of Teaching Educational Standards regulations on the matter, which provide that “there must be satisfactory evidence that the registration would be granted if an application had been made”. The decision seems to be grounded in ministerial discretion; there is little to no transparency or oversight, and it is almost impossible to ascertain how many of these exemptions have been granted.

\*\*\*

“No schooling context can match that of homeschooling. The amount of individual attention available to a child, the student-centred active learning, individualised learning – these are really beneficial things, pedagogically speaking.”

This is Dr Richard Walker, an Associate Professor in the Education and Social Work Faculty at the University of Sydney. He specialises in educational psychology. He tells us that, in theory, homeschooling is pedagogically ideal.

“Provided that the parents are highly educated people, who are committed to their child’s education and who have the time and energy to do a good job, homeschooling is great.”

But when we ask for his thoughts on the potential for deregulation of the sector, he’s less optimistic.

“That seems very dangerous to me,” he says, slowly and forcefully. “Educational outcomes need to be monitored and state curriculums need to be adhered to. Homeschooling is fine – I don’t see why it can’t work satisfactorily if you have sensible, committed parents – but the reality is that not every parent is like that.”

Dr Walker is right: in many cases, homeschooling works well for children. Bridget Dennis is in her third year of a Bachelor

of Education (Early Childhood) at Queensland University of Technology, and she was homeschooled from grades 2 to 9.

“I enjoyed it!” she tell us. “Homeschooling suited me because I was an organised kid who would do all my ‘schoolwork’ between like 9-12 and then have the rest of the day for whatever I was currently into. Ultimately, as the eldest in the family I was seeking more social interaction with people my age so I chose to go to school in Year 10, but I don’t regret being homeschooled at all.”

When Bridget re-entered the mainstream schooling system,

of a Juris Doctor here at USyd. She was homeschooled from age 13 to 15, and she also speaks very positively about her experience.

“In my case, my mum took a very free-spirited, lax approach. Although I initially had strict timetables that I tried to work to, and syllabus outcomes that I was trying to achieve, my mum did not believe in enforcing routines, and gave little direction.”

Her mother’s relaxed approach to her education helped Carly develop into a keen independent learner.

“Instead of studying what my friends at school were, I was

susceptible to peer pressure, and I discovered a lot about myself and about the world – things that I would not have discovered if I had stayed in school. But I also think homeschooling can be socially isolating, and although there are many faults in conventional education, I think the social aspect is fundamental to a young person’s development – even the negative social aspects.”

\* \* \*

The inquiry will hand down its findings and recommendations in mid-November. It is not unreasonable to predict that law reform will be slated; no-one wants 10,000 children living off the grid, and no-one wants things to continue as they are. It seems the multiplicity of cases means that legislators cannot treat every case as alike; freedom is dangerous in some cases and crucial in others.

Part of the solution is increasing the opportunities for disillusioned parents to engage with the system. That should involve opening up opportunities for students to participate in after-school activities without attending school during the day, enriching their education and mitigating the possibility of isolation.

Incentives for registration will certainly aid a substantial segment of the homeschooling community. However these changes should not free misguided or abusive parents from constraints of accountability by generating a system that has even less oversight and even more uncertainty. Homeschooling policy has consistently failed to resolve this tension, yet we hope that the inquiry will prove to be a step towards doing so.

From the other side of the world, through the little blue Facebook chat box, we relay the stories of positive homeschooling experiences and the details of some of the inquiry submissions to Jennifer. Maybe, we propose, homeschooling should be deregulated to an extent, to further enable these positive educational and personal outcomes.

“Homeschooling ought to be illegal. If I hadn’t been homeschooled, I don’t think I would have been abused less, but I think that I might have had a chance that it would have been noticed,” she replies.

“From my experience the homeschool parents that aren’t abusive are by far the minority. These parents need oversight. Almost every homeschooler I know – and I know a lot over two different countries – was abused.”

“You really know that many abuse victims?” we ask, incredulous.

“We’re everywhere.”

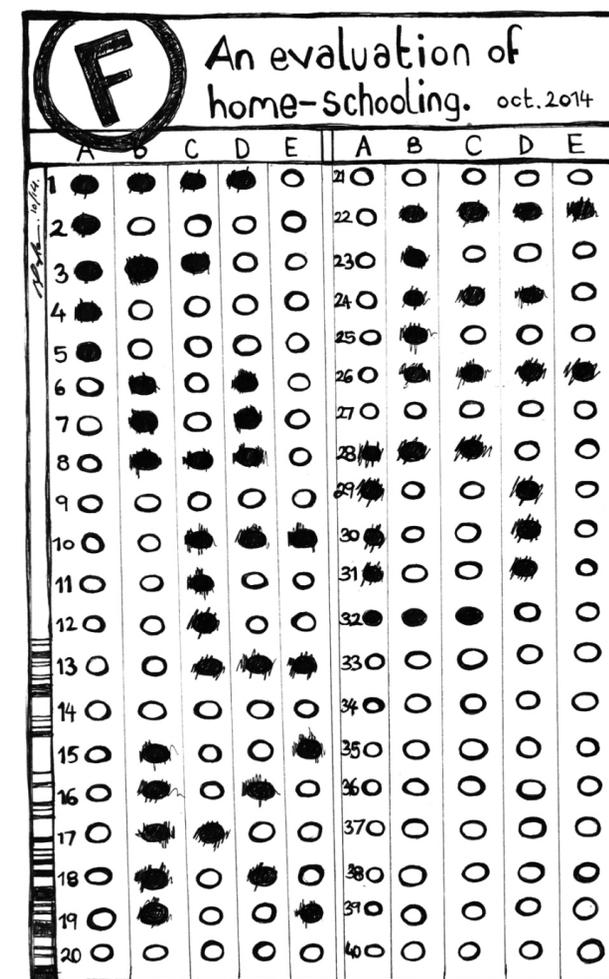


ILLUSTRATION BY MONICA RENN

she was pleasantly surprised by her knowledge base, skills set and aptitude for learning.

“I had stressed myself out before going to school thinking I’d be behind, and arrived to find I was nearly a year ahead in workload and was at the top of my class in pretty much everything for the rest of schooling.”

Bridget graduated Year 12 with an OP 4, which is equivalent to an ATAR of around 92.

Carly Mckenna is in her first year

reading about social and cultural theory, I was listening to music I never would have discovered, I was watching things I never would have watched. It was a rich experience in many ways.”

While she admits she had difficulty readjusting to traditional education and social patterns when she returned to school for Year 10, Carly maintains that her homeschooling experience was a positive one.

“I felt like I developed a stronger sense of who I was; I became less

# The desert of the wheel

Mary Ward pens a elegy for the iPod clickwheel.

I remember when we first met.

It was Christmas morning, 2004. You were just off the boat from China (via California, as you always made sure to remind me) and I was a wide-eyed schoolgirl who had sat on Santa's knee while pointing to a billboard.

"The pink mini, please!"

Two weeks passed and you arrived.

At first I didn't understand you. I didn't know what made you tick. "How can I make you tick?" I cried. Then I realised you were covered in a clear plastic protective film, and it all made sense.

Once we stopped using protection, well... that's when the magic happened.

Your song wasn't exactly a tick, more of a click. And we clicked, you and I. We really did.

You let me control you unlike I had ever controlled any user access point for a portable music device. I had you completely under my thumb. Hilary Duff, Nikki Webster, Jamelia – you

never judged me for my choices. And, with a simple hit of your central button I could pinpoint exactly where in Track 12 of the Lizzie McGuire Movie soundtrack I wanted to start dancing around my room to.

It was truly what dreams are made of.

You never shamed me for using you after eating greasy food, or with fingers sweaty from a spin bike. Hell, you revelled in it. With your easy-to-clean surface you remained perennially a sparkling white.

Eventually you left me in your first incarnation (it wasn't your fault – the stupid screen decided to bail on our jam

sessions; obviously not sharing our penchant for Fall Out Boy and Sandy Thom). But, luckily, you came back to me atop a second device.

You were a bit smaller (ironic, given that my thumbs had grown a bit larger over those past five years), and a bit sleeker, and if I held down some of your buttons you were able to take me to new and wondrous places we had never been before. You were different, yes. But you were there.

And, I know what you're going to say: you're still there. This is true. I know that some might think it is in bad taste to write a eulogy for someone who isn't actually dead.

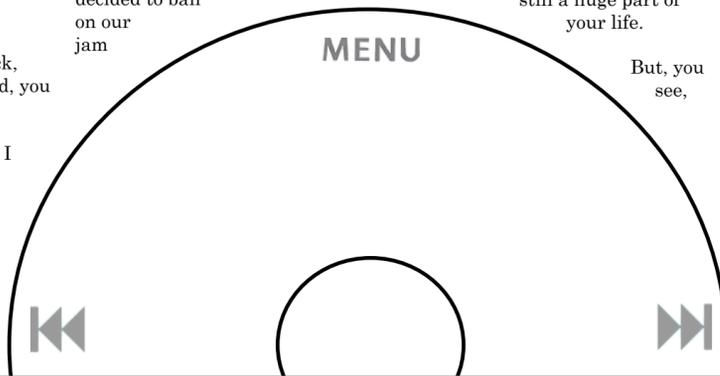
For someone who is, in fact, still a huge part of your life.

those folks in the California labs (the ones you kid yourself into thinking you come from) have different ideas. With their decision to retire the iPod Classic, their assault on your kind is nearly complete.

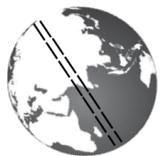
For now, you'll continue to exist as freely as you did two months ago. Then only on eBay. Then only in the hands of tech nuts who will take you and try to put you onto other things, as some sort of retro customisation. Then, eventually, not at all.

My click wheel. My sweet, sweet click wheel. I will continue to click you when that blur in the corner of my iPod screen has spread across the whole display. I will continue to click you when I update my laptop software and it deletes the entire library you helped me to curate. I will continue to click you when Microsoft get their act together and release a music player that doesn't look like it was designed by an eight-year-old boy with no eyes or hands.

I will keep clicking you then. But, I fear, I cannot continue to hear your click forever.



But, you see,



# Another World Game?

Rupert Coy explores the increasing popularity of cricket outside of traditional heartlands.

A young Chinese leg-spinner created cricketing history last month by taking the first double hat-trick in an international T20 game. Despite Zhong Wenyi's remarkable performance, South Korea still won the Asian Games match by six runs. On show was the first generation of homegrown players from the unlikelyst of countries.

With its tea breaks, googlies and silly mid-offs, cricket is regarded as an almost comical stereotype of Britain. Like Monty Python, it has a quirkiness that is difficult to translate. Until recently, cricket outside the test playing nations largely consisted of small gatherings of expatriates from the cricketing world. The game's length and complexity makes it particularly difficult for outsiders to understand and appreciate.

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) recent expansionism has led to national cricket teams in as diverse nations as Uganda, Oman

and Thailand, but many of these squads are filled with expats. Wisden reported on a British student who began his gap year teaching in Argentina and ended it opening the batting for them against Guyana.

The last few years have seen a substantial increase in local engagement throughout the non-cricketing world. T20 cricket—three one-hour bite-sized games, with fireworks and cheerleaders funded in part by Bollywood billionaires—is capturing audiences worldwide. It has penetrated cultural boundaries that test matches never could breach.

This has been reflected by the growth of domestic cricket in China. There are now 34 clubs in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, and these are actively encouraging community participation, such as the inclusion of school teams in their competitions. The Shandong Government sponsored a men's

and women's cricket tour of New Zealand, and dual-passport holders have been banned from playing in the national team to ensure continued ownership of cricket among the locals. Ex-pats bring invaluable knowledge and experience, but an over-reliance on them stunts homegrown development.

Similarly, Nepal was transformed by its national team's qualification for the T20 World Cup. Fans swamped the airport to greet returning players, while local governments and the ICC are now injecting money into school cricket programs.

Previously, Canada and the USA qualified for the One Day International World Cup and Champions Trophy respectively on the strength of ex-professionals from India and the Caribbean with dual passports. In stark contrast, Papua New Guinea will be competing in next year's ODI World Cup in Australia

and New Zealand due entirely to the development of high-quality local cricketers. The new strength of their domestic cricket infrastructure also makes them far more likely to achieve the continued success that has eluded nations overly reliant on émigrés.

Outside a dozen devoted nations, cricket is still viewed as an exotic—and British—game by much of the world. But for the first time in China, Nepal, South Korea and elsewhere, children are growing up with a bat and ball in their hands.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, sub-continental cricketers eschewed the colonial way of playing cricket and devised markedly different strategies, developing a heavy reliance on spin bowling and wristy batting.

Just maybe, this new expansion of cricket will produce another revolution.

# Kyol: blueprint for change

Astha Rajvanshi talks to Kyol Blakeney, 87th President of the SRC, about the September elections, the 'race card', and his priorities for 2015.



The 2015 presidency of the Sydney University Students' Representative Council (SRC) marks a historic turn for the organisation.

Kyol Blakeney will be the first Indigenous president in 20 years and the first non-Labor president in 14, having won 61 per cent of the vote.

If student politics operates as a mirror to campus, students provide the blueprint for change. This election, and his victor, seem to suggest there is a desire, at least within the 2,349 undergraduate students who voted for Blakeney, to shake the existing structures of student leadership and representation from the ground up.

And yet, a day after Blakeney was crowned 87<sup>th</sup> President of the SRC, among the insular bubble of student politicians there was an unprecedented level of distrust and suspicion cast on whether he had, in fact, won on fair grounds.

Throughout the grueling three-week election, Blakeney's campaign suggested that he would become the first Indigenous SRC president. Contrary to this assertion however, exactly 20 years ago Indigenous woman Dr Heidi Norman had already conquered this feat by winning the 1994 SRC election.

\* \* \*

Blakeney, a third-year Education and Social Work student, currently resides in St. Andrews College and served as the SRC's Indigenous Officer this year. Originally from Werris Creek in northern NSW, he attended Scots College on a program set up by Aboriginal educator Waverley Stanley that sends indigenous kids from remote and regional areas to private boarding schools, before coming to Sydney University.

His presidential campaign was part of the 'broad coalition' of Grassroots and Switch, an assemblage of left-wing activist and independent students. A Grassroots win represents an

end to the Labor stronghold that has dominated the SRC, which not only places a considerable amount of pressure to carry on the torch that burns through Labor, but also a disbelief suggesting that this is a one-off – and that next year, Labor will come back with full force to reclaim the throne.

"Obviously, I feel a fair bit of pressure right now," concurs Blakeney, rather matter-of-factly. "I would like to think that it wouldn't go back to 'normal' by the end of my term, I would like the movement to keep going."

"Grassroots is about empowering people and we want to bring that to the SRC. One of the things that I would aim to do to ensure that it doesn't go back to your standard status-quo is to really promote what the SRC does so that students can actually come down and use the SRC's services."

\* \* \*

"Vote for Kyol, he'll be the first Indigenous president!" – this sentiment echoed the persistent pleas of many Grassroots and Switch campaigners during the election. The symbolic importance was highly evident: to have Indigenous student representation was rare and precious, but to also be a part of the inaugural campaign was what inspired many to get involved.

And yet, to define Blakeney's candidacy by the colour of his skin presented certain problems and complexities, and not just to those who were on opposing campaigns, who simply couldn't deny the importance of Indigenous student leadership on campus.

Without a doubt, Kyol's Indigeneity mattered to his stature as a presidential candidate. Without it, he may not have been able to appeal so strongly to the emotions of hundreds of students who were either conscious of the racial inequality that still persists in areas of university, or are subject

to it. At the same time, there were qualms – about racial polarization, about defining his candidacy on his ethnicity, and about creating the impression that not voting for the Indigenous candidate would suggest ignorance or racism.

"To an extent I believe that [race] had some influence over the campaign, but if you have heard me speak at previous campaigns, or read some of the articles I've written, you'll know that I'm not a fan of symbolism or tokenism, and I don't see it as a central part of the campaign," says Blakeney.

But 'symbolism', 'tokenism', or 'racial-redemption' are all ideas used to deflect from the fact that within student politics, a veil of political correctness will often see sweeping, and often racist, generalisations or assumptions sneak past scrutiny.

It's what allowed campaigners to tell voters that Blakeney "was a lazy man who just sits around smoking ciggies all day", and for allegations that his campaign was built on 'a lie' that played the 'race card' to surface and spread like a plague.

"If I said I didn't find it frustrating or that I was hurt I'd be lying," says Blakeney. "For the people that did go out and call the campaign a lie and a sham, I'd ask them to reflect on themselves quite heavily about the types of things that they stand for. It's not my job to educate them."

\* \* \*

Kyol's campaign manager Bebe D'Souza has confirmed that none of the campaigners were aware of Dr Norman's previous presidency during the election. "Of course, we would never want to take away from the achievements of Dr Norman ... that's an awful thing. But to call this a campaign tool is absolutely disgusting," she says.

At some point, one wonders if Blakeney's win actually matters for being the first, or second, or even third Indigenous presidency. To most, the fact that since 1929, and indeed the inception of the SRC, there have only been two Indigenous SRC presidents comes as rude shock at best and something to be expected at worst. It does, however, beg the questions: why do these inequalities still persist? Why are people of colour looked at with suspicion, doubt, or the suggestion that their victories are somehow inferior because they played 'the race card', or because of the skin colour they embody? At university, one would expect a higher bar to be set for inquiring minds to be more tolerant and open-minded.

"The idea that people would call the campaign 'a lie' or 'a sham' is actually quite insulting ... for the reason that those people were basing this entire campaign on 'oh you're Aboriginal and

that's why you're going get elected," he says. "I don't want to be sitting in a room or on a board because I'm Aboriginal, I want be sitting in a room or a board and making suggestions because I have the skills and the knowledge to actually do that and make a change."

For some, the overwhelming success and skills of Blakeney, an Aboriginal man, or D'Souza, as a woman of colour, is a reality that is a bit hard to swallow.

"Indigenous representation is always going to be an issue in society. If you want to talk about race or women's issues coming into the campaign ... they come into the campaign because they come into everyday life," says D'Souza.

Similarly, Blakeney recalls his experience on the campaign trail: "At multiple points, I had gotten into debates about being Aboriginal in the sense of 'you get all these bonuses', and at the point you turn around and say 'Mate, have you ever heard of the Gap? Do you know why we're there? That's what I'm trying to fix. So if you want to fix that and you want to see equality and you want to see Aboriginal people stop trying to take your bonuses that you think that we're taking, vote for somebody that will actually make it happen, don't vote for someone on the basis of tokenism."

\* \* \*

For now, Blakeney's name is added to the honour roll of presidents past – including High Court judge Michael Kirby, leading journalist Richard Walsh, international human rights lawyer Geoffrey Robertson, and of course, current Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

As for Blakeney, his priorities as SRC President for next year extend to three broad issues: opposing fee deregulation and fighting the reforms to higher education; ensuring that the university's new student housing project will be affordable and accessible; and allowing as many students a voice in student issues as possible, whether through attending stakeholder meetings or using the SRC's services.

While racial reconciliation is something that will go beyond just Blakeney's campaign and his presidency, it suggests far from a stalemate situation. Indeed, to be the first or the second Indigenous president is irrelevant. What matters, is that minorities – Indigenous or other – are speaking out and being heard.

If there weren't a vote to be cast in playing 'the race card', it would not be needed. The great shame about the world of student politics is that this is the prejudiced reality: in which we win or lose.

# COURTYARD IS OTHER PEOPLE

PATRICK "WORSE THAN CANCER" MORROW AND PETER "FUCK LANEWAY" WALSH MASTURBATE TOGETHER AT COURTYARD CAFE.

**PM:** Peter picked the title, but I think it morbid and sensational – as is much of what he writes.

**PW:** I'm going to ignore that. Courtyard's windows look onto Parramatta Road, which, when you really look at it, has the same infinite quality as a cloud. The road might symbolise possibility, or the new HSC English area of study 'discovery', or – when you're weighed down by gnocchi – that too-full kind of sickness you feel when potato, cheese, and olives stick to your guts.

In terms of ambience, the restaurant's all Ikea: white walls and bare wooden tables. The product of a commercialised imagination, it's as if they want you to draw on everything ('make your own fun', as it were), but there are no crayons in sight.

**PM:** While Peter resents this cliché (though not his own), the Japandanavian minimalism is clean and elegant as well as, according to one builder, eye-wateringly expensive. It's a high quality finish that speaks to an outlet trying really hard to be taken seriously. It is light, spacious and just so nice to sit in. While the exterior quickly dissolves into embarrassing benches in bright primary colours, for the most part, Courtyard is a beautiful place to be.

**PW:** The entrees are remarkably – it hurts to say – good value for \$15.00 (better value still, at \$12.70 with

ACCESS - PM), which nets you a tasting paddle of four beers, a bowl of olives, and a garlic pizza crust. Our garlic crust – which is an entire pizza cooked as if it were crust – erred on the side of burnt, but I would say this is a flaw in execution and not in concept.

**PM:** The entree was great so long as you don't expect an orthodox pizza. I've had the paddle several times since and the pizza crust was better on each of those occasions.

Done with beer and pizza, we agreed on the bruschetta for our starter. It was fine; a satisfying light snack with a salsa that lacked bite and came with slightly soggy bread. I'm not decided as to whether it's fun or inconvenient that you get to build it yourself, but this is likely how they pass the savings on to students.

Having flirted with conventional Italian (I think Courtyard is meant, predominantly, to do Italian food? Are Courtyards a big thing in Italy?) for most of the meal, Peter and I strayed into what should have been bolder territory for the main course. A chicken (ORGANIC! IT'S ORGANIC CHICKEN! - Menu) and avocado pizza was sweet and confused, but unexciting, while eating the burnt butter gnocchi was like consuming Clag Paste.

**PW:** One mouthful of the pizza and I had a panic attack, thinking the part

of my brain that regulates taste had been severed. Turns out it just tasted like nothing.

**PM:** After mains, Peter was approached by a certain immediate past President of the USU Board who insisted that if he just mentioned her name at the bar, the bill would be settled for him. With a smile, she returned to the launch party, but absent-mindedly left a full glass of champagne at our table! I tried to correct the mistake but the anonymous ex-President was quite sure the champagne was Peter's. I think she was just being kind! This is presumably a courtesy extended to all who visit Courtyard, and not just to those who regularly and violently lambast Union establishments in student news outlets.

**PW:** Courtyard's prices are reasonable enough that I only mildly regretted not taking the bribe. I won't lie; I drank the champagne, but I paid the bill in full! You're unlikely to find a three-course meal for two as cheap as Courtyard is on ACCESS, which is a refreshing suggestion that the USU actually cares about students on a budget. Sidenote on ambience: once it turned dark, Courtyard's vibe was affecting, especially when combined with the Radiohead on the sound system. It may have overtaken the balcony of the Holme Building as Sydney University's number one place to have an early-life crisis. I can imagine being dumped here, my sobs

violently echoing while the server awkwardly asks me to settle my bill.

**PM:** But before Peter cried and settled our bill, we squeezed in (and by this point it was a squeeze) a canola and a coffee éclair, with cappuccinos. It's standard Union coffee. It mightn't win prizes, but it's drinkable. The desserts were rich and sweet, but it tasted like that they had been on a shelf all day. Actually, the vanilla cartocci is the pastry in the window I keep coming back for, and, at a similar price point to banana bread, it is – (to the dismay of my arteries – ) my new go-to breakfast.

**PW:** After paying, I looked at the window to see my own reflection and, beneath it, cars speeding past. The image, combined, was of my head being repeatedly run over. I want to say that Courtyard is a failure of the imagination – the kind of place you'd take your grandparents to die – but that would be spiteful. I enjoyed my meal here, despite the errant mains.

**PM:** Peter is a wanker. If you want a beautiful place to sit in all weathers, with an impressively affordable, if middling, menu then Courtyard is brilliant. Pasta of the Day is laughably cheap and usually quite good. Failing that, none of the warm staff members mind if you bring in microwaved meals from home. For all that this place does to cater to the conference crowd (given its proximity to The Refectory) it is, unfailingly, a student venue.

# LESBIANS ARE THE NEW BLACK

A DECADE ON FROM **THE L WORD**, LANE SAINTY INVESTIGATES HOW LESBIANS ARE FARING ON OUR SERIALS.

In the pilot of Ilene Chaiken's seminal series *The L Word*, one can view almost every lesbian stereotype known to woman. Androgynous womaniser Shane parties all night on the lesbian scene, sports dyke Dana is struggling with coming out to her parents, Alice fends off biphobic comments from her lesbian friends while navigating her extensive ex-girlfriend baggage and – in questionable taste – long-term partners Bette and Tina try to trick a man into an unprotected threesome so Tina can become impregnated with his sperm.

This year marks a decade since *The L Word* first debuted on Showtime in the US. It was a trailblazer at the time – although Ellen Degeneres had come out on her self-titled show in 1997, and Willow fell for Tara on *Buffy* in 2000. 2004 marked the first time a show had focused exclusively on lesbians and lesbian relationships. Over a long six seasons, *The L Word* became inextricably embedded in Western lesbian culture; it is hated and loved, offensive and progressive, terribly written and utterly engaging. (Perhaps most notoriously, *The L Word*'s opening theme music is roundly condemned as "the worst of all time". Think this is a big call? Listen to it.)

Over the ensuing ten years, we've seen a proliferation of lesbians in Western television serials. Spencer and Ashley of *South of Nowhere* came to our screens in 2005, we met Santana from *Glee* in 2009, 2010 brought both *Lip Service* and Emily from *Pretty Little Liars*. Then, with 2013 and beyond, *The Fosters*, *Faking It*, *Orphan Black* and *Orange is the New Black* brought an unprecedented – albeit still small – number of leading queer female characters to television.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) *Where We Are On TV* report provides an annual analysis of the representation of LGBT people on television in the US. The 2014 report shows four per cent of regular characters on US broadcast television are gay, lesbian or bisexual, with the remaining 96 per cent straight. Women – queer and straight alike – lose out to men when it comes to representation, with a 60-40 gender split. Unsurprisingly, people of colour lose out to white people as well: 27 per cent of regular characters were people of colour, including 13 per cent black and eight per cent Hispanic. These figures are telling – even predictable – but there are obvious issues associated with quantitative measures of representation: the portrayal of a character is manifestly more important than their existence alone.

As such, there are many aspects of lesbian culture passed over by GLAAD's report. We know the

number of lesbians on screen has increased since *The L Word*. But who are these lesbians? What are their ages, their life situations, their desires? And – importantly – what part, if any, of their sexuality is highlighted?

High school narratives have constituted one trend in lesbian TV portrayals over the past decade, including shows *South of Nowhere*, *Glee*, *Pretty Little Liars* and, most recently, *Faking It*. While the lesbian storylines of the former three all revolve around the discovery of sexuality in a heteronormative environment and a subsequently difficult coming out, *Faking It* is a clear outlier. Set in a progressive Austin high school where the outcasts are the 'cool kids', Amy and Karma pretend to be in a lesbian relationship in order to become more popular. However, their plan goes awry when Amy actually falls for Karma.

Before you protest – yes, it sounds terribly clichéd – the show outdoes its premise, and actually serves as something as a clever inversion of a regular coming out story. Having already come out as a fake lesbian and won the admiration of her peers, Amy is left scared only of her own feelings and how her most trusted friend will react to them. Her predicament highlights that coming out to oneself – regardless of external pressure – is a difficult part of grappling with sexuality as a teenager. (Although Amy's mother is non too pleased at her daughter's revelation, her discomfort is used more as a tool for comedy rather than a genuine interaction with the issue.)

While lesbian high schoolers have popped up consistently over the past decade, lesbian families are less common. *The L Word* saw Bette and Tina's child Angelica – the result of endless conversations about sperm donors, turkey basters, custody, co-parenting and every other possible dramatic lesbian parenting scenario. In other shows, lesbian parenting is barely touched. However, the strongest show about a lesbian family currently in production is undeniably *The Fosters*. The soap revolves around lesbian couple Stef Foster and Lena Adams, and their motley collection of biological, adopted and foster children.

*The Fosters* touches on issues of coming out and homophobia, but also on race and, in particular, family identity. In the first episode, foster child Callie reacts rudely to the discovery her new family has two mothers:

"So you're dykes," she says.

"They prefer the term people, but yeah. They're gay," says Stef and Lena's adopted son, Jesus.

Jesus's offhand response carries through to the rest of the show, in

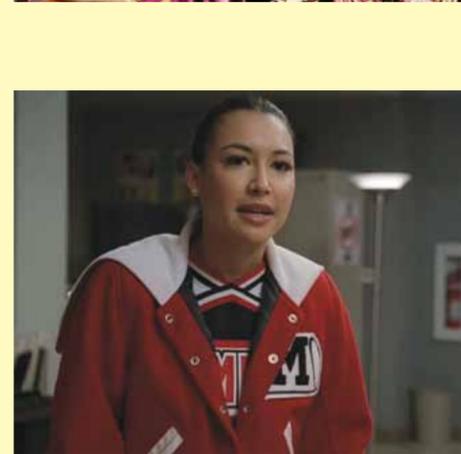
which Stef and Lena's sexuality takes a back seat to just about everything else in their lives – a much more accurate portrayal of adult lesbian life than the sexuality-centric *The L Word*. Stef and Lena's lesbianism is not the most interesting thing about them, and the writers of *The Fosters* acknowledge it.

There remains a serious dearth of butch lesbians on television, with strong femme identities preferred by networks and creators. Butch dykes transgress normative lines of not just sexuality, but also gender, making them a risky – and perhaps genuinely forgotten – choice for mainstream broadcast and cable program characters. Even with this in mind, the continual absence of such an enormous lesbian subculture is somewhat remarkable. Teen shows especially steer clear of portraying butch lesbians, preferring to give their lesbian characters a sporty (Emily on *Pretty Little Liars*), headstrong and aggressive (Santana on *Glee*) or vaguely tomboyish (Amy on *Faking It*) persona instead.

Soft butches Shane in *The L Word* and Sam in the Scottish serial *Lip Service* are the closest thing we saw to a butch lesbian until Lea DeLaria appeared as Big Boo in *Orange is the New Black*. DeLaria – a self-proclaimed "big dyke" – has BUTCH tattooed prominently down her arm and has spoken extensively about her identity as a butch lesbian in the media. However, the mere existence of Big Boo can't be taken as an immediate positive – in some episodes, she verges on being sexually predatory – and butch dykes remain a bizarrely underrepresented group.

The past decade has seen enormous shifts in the way lesbians are portrayed on TV. Although *The L Word* remains dear to many lesbian hearts, some of the writing in that show was unforgivable – the undignified portrayal of trans man Max Sweeney, for one, and the entirety of season six, for another. It was steeped in stereotypes, thick with unbelievable drama, and showcased an array of characters who constantly lacked the ability to make good decisions. But ultimately, *The L Word* set the foundation for myriad lesbian shows to follow.

Where will the next decade take us? Perhaps the best indicators lie in Netflix's *Orange is the New Black*. In this lauded show, there is far less 'coming out' than past lesbian shows have indulged in, sexuality is expressed both through conversation and physicality, and diverse representations of lesbians abound, including lesbians of colour and a transgender lesbian. If other recent lesbian shows are anything to go by, these trends will continue – each new show less of a trailblazer than the last.



Top to bottom: *Orange is the New Black* cast, Karma and Amy from *Faking It*, *The L Word* cast, Santana from *Glee*, *The Fosters* cast.

# A place to call home

Josh Krook investigates the international student housing crisis.

In a recent Senate Committee, Liberal Senator Sean Edwards repeatedly referred to the majority occupancy of international students of affordable student housing as a “rorring” of the system. He said that the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), set up by the Rudd government, had a significant “loophole” that allowed, for instance, Monash University to house over 70% international students in its subsidised units.

Federal Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews recently stated the legislation would be changed to explicitly state “tenancy preferences,” and prioritise domestic residents to bulwark against “rorring” by “wealthy foreign students”.

In response, fearing the move may breach the Racial Discrimination Act, Edwards asked: “I mean, if we don’t subsidise them, is that racism?”

The attendant representative of the Department of Social Services replied, “It’s a complex matter”.

## THE CURRENT SCHEME

NRAS is a scheme which sees government team up with local developers to offer tenants rent 20 per cent below the market rate. It is incredibly popular among universities who wish to offer affordable housing options to students. It has spread to: ANU, Monash, Deakin, UWA, UTAS, University of Canberra, Charles Darwin University (NT) and Edith Cowan University.

Earlier this year Sydney University applied for 1,200 new residential units under NRAS, to be subsidised \$10,000 each. When asked by *The Australian* about the number of international students who would be allowed into these units, the University replied that it “didn’t yet know the mix.”

As of the May Budget, applications under NRAS have been suspended. It is unclear if this includes Sydney University’s bid.

## THE REALITY FACING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students face a much higher cost-burden for their degree (sometimes three times what domestic students pay), a very punitive exchange rate, and a higher cost for public transport.

There is a common misconception that all international students are living in apartments bought by their wealthy parents. A survey by the University of Sydney however, revealed that of 1850 international students only 7 per cent lived in “housing owned by their family”. More than 40 per cent by contrast, “reported that their current costs for accommodation was not within their budget”.

The majority of international students interviewed for this article seemed to fit these statistics and said their parents often helped them out financially either to meet the cost of renting in Sydney or to assist them with tuition. Fausto, who has a scholarship with the University said “My parents have a budget reserved in any special occasion.”

Tuition costs overall were seen as inhibitive, often three times what domestic students pay per year. Fausto, who studies a Master of Professional Engineering, said he paid around \$35,000 a year. Mollie, who studies a Bachelor of Commerce, said she paid \$35,000 a year. Khuyen paid the lowest out of all international students interviewed at \$11,000 a year for a Masters of Accounting.

A second major cost was rent. Rental prices around Sydney University remain prohibitive to all students but particularly to international students, who may lack the local contacts to enter share house arrangements. It is rare for students living close to university to pay below \$250 a week. Of those we interviewed, the students living nearby University paid the highest, with Fausto in Newtown paying \$375 a week and Lily in Sydney Uni Village paying \$270/week.

International students who commute may save money on rent but they lose out in transportation costs. A recent NSW Parliamentary inquiry revealed that the cost of transport was seen as a significant barrier to international students, affecting their choice of accommodation, “with many students seeking accommodation within walking distance of their institution, because they could not afford to travel”. A Sydney University survey found 90 per cent of international students chose accommodation based on proximity to the University.

	MINIMUM RENT PER WEEK	UPFRONT COSTS (FEES/DEPOSITS)
STUCCO	\$73	\$292
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VILLAGE	\$285	\$1340-\$2165
UNLODGE	\$339	\$730 + 4 WKS RENT
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE	\$367	\$1510
SANCTA SOPHIA	\$420	\$1600
ST JOHN'S	\$484.50	\$3575
WOMEN'S	\$514	\$2970
ST ANDREW'S	\$555	\$2949
ST PAUL'S	\$609	\$1560

The commuting students we surveyed paid less rent, but faced high transportation costs. Shiran in Dulwich Hill pays \$200 a week, Mollie in Chatswood pays \$150 a week and Khuyen in Strathfield pays \$210 a week. But the lack of casual international student concession cards means that they cannot travel to university as affordably as domestic students. Shiran is “about 20-30 minutes [away] by bus, depending on traffic,” but cannot make this trip on a whim, because there

are no casual concession tickets for international students. International students can only buy 90 day and 365 day concession tickets, at a significant outlay of over \$400 and \$1500 respectively.

The University of Sydney’s Derrick Armstrong cites this “reluctance of... state governments to provide travel... concessions to international students” as a reason why so many international students are under “severe [financial] pressure”. A NSW Parliamentary Inquiry recommended “introducing travel concessions for all international students” – but the state government has largely ignored this recommendation.

NSW and Victoria remain the only states that still do not offer concession cards to international students.

## SEEKING ACCOMODATION

One of the biggest challenges facing international students is securing adequate (and safe) accommodation in Sydney, Shiran tells me. “When I first came to Australia I had no idea how to find accommodation. The only options put forward by the University related assistance were homestay, which can range from great to awful depending on your luck and University housing which is ridiculously expensive,” he said.

In my research, Sydney Uni colleges ranked as the most expensive of all rental-housing options in the local area. The cheapest option was STUCCO at \$73/week. STUCCO, however, is unable to host international students. “Unfortunately we cannot house international students... because STUCCO is partly owned by the NSW Government,” said Steph, from STUCCO management. “We must adhere to the legislation [on] Community Housing Eligibility,” legislation that only provides for Australian citizens and permanent residents.

“STUCCO would be more than willing to provide for international students but we can’t,” STUCCO resident Riki said. “The government is simply against international students... there’s a general preference for Australian citizens. I guess this is politically motivated – and linked with the mistaken misconception that all international students are rich.”

“International students are eligible for our temporary/emergency accommodation service,” STUCCO management told *Honi*. “The emergency accommodation protects people who are at risk of becoming homeless,” Riki said, “and can be accessed by calling an SRC caseworker.”

With STUCCO ruled out, the next cheapest option for international students is shared housing. However, this requires a network of friends already in the country. Fausto says that now that he’s settled in Australia, he’s “looking forward to moving to a new (cheaper) place with a couple of friends.”

Every international student interviewed searched online to find their initial accommodation in Sydney. Lily told me that “the internet helped a lot. Found this place online and had to apply for it online.” Gumtree was a favourite. Khuyen said “I got the location [Strathfield] in mind so just searched on Gumtree for information about it... I preferred to live in Strathfield as it’s a traffic junction, really convenient to catch an express train to the city in 15 minutes.” Shiran said “an acquaintance posted a Gumtree ad for room availability on a uni society Facebook page.”

This kind of informal, online approach was preferred overall to more complicated methods like going through a real estate agent. “As a student, you are in some way forced to rent with the few companies that easily rent to students; although they make things easier, they normally have higher rental prices,” Fausto said. Going through a real estate agent was seen as very difficult, with some students raising concern about discrimination. “Real estate agents asked for too much information and [it was] hard to get pay slips and provide a good rental history,” says Khuyen. The “real estate agent is very concerned with our financial situation, so [it’s] harder for us to rent the whole property... if we did rent it, they love to check up on us more often,” says Mollie.

Mollie was unique in those surveyed in having stayed in a homestay, a private home offering accommodation to paying students, during her first year in Sydney. “I was under 18. So my agent enrolled me in a language school, then the language school [had] connection with homestays. So it was all arranged before I came.”

There are now a significant number of intermediaries like this, cashing in on Australia’s education export boom. Agnes Ong, Marketing Executive of *Global Experience*, a homestay and apartment accommodation service that caters to international students, suggests that the key advantage of using an intermediary is safety.

*Global Experience* inspects the houses of homestays and meets “the potential host families... to

ensure good living environments for students.” All homestay families require a background Criminal Records and Working With Children check. “[The advantage of] using us as a middleman,” Agnes suggests, “[is that] we can act immediately on a student’s behalf to mediate”.

But there are risks with intermediaries too, with some scamming international students for cash. In 2010, a significant number of international students were scammed into putting down deposits and bonds on apartments in Australia that didn’t even exist. “In another example,” points out a spokesperson from the Redfern Legal Centre, “a student was told she would be sharing a room with one female. She [moved] in and found out she had paid to reside in a basement with six males.”

This kind of overcrowding is very common. The Australian Bureau of Statistics suggests one quarter of full-time international students are living in “overcrowded” accommodation. Those I talked to had only heard rumours: “I’ve heard stories where more than 10 people stay in the same house together... the landlord just chuck beds wherever he or she can to squeeze everyone in. But I didn’t encounter it myself,” said Lily.

Riki, STUCCO resident, knew of people sharing a living room “split in two by a crude partition wall, built by the landlord, just so that they could charge double the rent and use it as two bedrooms.” “When we are having Skype conferencing with our family and our friends in our home country we would not want to show them the background where they have seven

of our friends living in one place,” said Thomson Ch’ng from the Council of International Students Australia.

Kei McGrath, from the Illawarra Committee for International Students, said international students “don’t [often] understand Australian law” and when they deal with landlords directly rather than through agents they face “more opportunity for [exploitation].” Research by Sydney University’s Derrick Armstrong showed “40 per cent of [international] students had no signed tenancy agreement, 18 per cent had not paid a bond, 17 per cent had not received a receipt for their bond.” When disputes did arise with the landlord over conditions “the most frequent path for resolution for the student was to leave the residence”.

The proliferation of “cowboy landlords,” as the NSW Parliament calls them, has led to a series of “cramped, illegal boarding houses,” “associated with organized crime, including the sex trade and immigration rackets.” The *Daily Telegraph* reported in July about “a raft of disgusting and illicit rental accommodation, with owners charging vulnerable students and migrants hundreds of dollars a week to share filthy, tiny, living quarters.”

Reports of international students living in a shipping container, a minibus and an illegal demountable are the worst cases of this kind of abuse. The worry is that international students may be subject to such conditions, but unaware of their legal rights to specific standards under Australian law.



# Review: Schapelle! The Musical!

Andrew Passarello thinks *Schapelle!* was great (particularly the bits featuring other *Journalist #2* and *Chev Rolet*).

Ever since her capture in 2004, the evolving story of convicted drug smuggler Schapelle Corby has captivated a nation. From her dramatic arrest, to epic court case, and finally her parole escapades, the Schapelle saga has something for everyone.

The announcement of a musical, themed around Schapelle, seemed like a logical progression from the media frenzy of the past ten years. *Schapelle! The Musical* follows Australia's favourite drug dealer right from that fateful day at Bali Airport arrivals, to the infamous boozy night with Todd 'Bubbling' Carney earlier this year.

The casting was magnificent. Victoria Zerbst, rising star of the enormous USyd performing arts scene, was a compelling and convincing Schapelle. From the "true blue" Queensland drawl, to fake tan, the depiction was spot-on.

Attention to detail was marvellous as well – the inclusion of Astha Rajvanshi (of Former Immediate Past President of the USU fame) as Chevrolet, the little-known younger sister of Schapelle and Mercedes, was a great move.

*Journalist #2* played by *Honi* Editor and general BNoC Lane Sainty was also a standout performer. Indeed it was Rajvanshi and Sainty that carried the show through its slightly excessive 60 minute runtime.

Special mention as well to Darby Judd, who played a slurring and wasted Todd Carney, replete with a bottle of piss, which was sculled on stage to cheers from the audience.

If there is a criticism to level at the show, it's that everyone was taken down a notch with the exception of the real idiots (and losers) in the Corby saga – the Australian public.

Overall the show was pretty tasteful, though there were a couple of moments that prompted raised eyebrows

in the audience, with intentional mispronunciation of "foreign" words and names for comedic effect.

Run as part of the USU's Verge festival, it's not quite as well resourced and slick as something

like *Law or Arts Revue* – but it was as much fun as one could get from a Thursday night at Manning Bar. I'd go see a sequel – *Schapelle* is back in Australia by 2017, so they'll have plenty of new material to work with. God help us all.



ILLUSTRATION BY MIKAELA BARTELS

"You can't handle the truth about Schapelle!"

# Zizzling words from Žižek

London correspondent *Zoe Barnsley* went to a talk with Slovenian philosopher *Slavoj Žižek*.

'Pop philosopher', revisionary Marxist, director and dissident, Slavoj Žižek is outspoken about the need for a dramatic restructure of the capitalist socio-economic system. He also consummately rejects the ability of the "centrist-left" to achieve important change, in large part due to their focus upon cultural, as opposed to structural, alterations. He likes to draw heckles.

On exchange to England at the moment, I was able to attend one of his public lectures at the London Literary Festival. He spoke on the topic of Western liberty; whether it exists, and whether genuine freedom, in the bubble of global capitalism, has become an impossible dream.

At the end of his speech, in the Q&A section, a member of the audience, after commenting on

the surprising youth of the crowd, (which consisted largely of serious looking twenty something guys in big coats), asked Žižek for his advice to young people looking to effect change. The audience member took himself as an example. He had just graduated from university, and was working in the environmental sector. He had begun to note, with some level of desperation, that essential changes to global environmental policy were basically impossible. He argued, alterations to the way we operate on a massive scale, which are out of line with the interests of the vast majority of enormous corporations, are out of the question. He wanted to change this, but had become cynical about what marches and petitions could do. He was now also cynical about what working in environmental policy could do. What was Slavoj's advice to people like himself, who

want to change how things work, but have no idea how?

Žižek responded with three points, the three ideas that he thought were of the most importance for any revolutionary.

The very concept of human rights, he argued, opens a gap – even where they only apply to white males of a certain level of citizenship and birth. This is formal freedom: it acts as a point of reference that enables progress. There is no freedom without form, he said.

He also noted that leaders of a genuine movement of change do emerge - and will, as tension escalates. An authentic non-oppressive leader will make you aware of your potential freedom, of your ability to catalyse what seems in the current framework to be

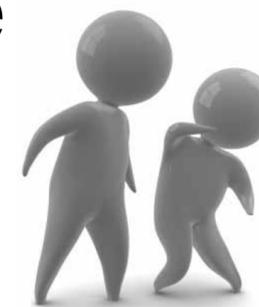
impossible.

When people say "We cannot wait!", don't listen. They will say, who cares about Hegel when children are dying in Somalia? He argues this is the logic of the ruling ideology. I translate this to mean: let's do something so that we don't think.

If you are looking to cause change, what Žižek has to say is valuable information. Decide whether you agree or disagree. If you disagree, think about what you disagree with. Žižek is one of a minute number of academic dissidents who are currently elevated to the popular stage. As such, he is one of the unique voices of this era, and, in this uniqueness, he is important. His nearly sold out audience at Royal Festival Hall attests to one thing, at least, that he is being listened to.

# They're Picking On Me

The University is bound by state and federal laws, to protect you against harassment and discrimination. But what should you do if you feel you are being harassed or discriminated against?



## What is Unlawful Harassment?

The University's Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy and Resolution Procedure defines "Unlawful harassment" as "any type of behaviour that:

- the other person does not want; and
- offends, insults, humiliates or intimidates them; and is either
  - sexual, or
  - targets them because of their race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, transgender, sexual preference or orientation (including homosexuality, lesbianism,

bisexuality and heterosexuality), disability, age, carers' responsibility, political belief, lack of a political belief, lack of a particular political belief (including trade union activity or lack of it, and student association activity or lack of it), religious belief, lack of a religious belief, and/or lack of a particular religious belief; and

- that, in the circumstances, a reasonable person should have expected would offend, insult, humiliate, or intimidate."

It then goes on to define Unlawful

Discrimination: "Unlawful discrimination is any practice that makes an unlawful distinction between individuals or groups, so as to disadvantage some people and advantage others."

## What can you do if you feel you are being harassed or discriminated against?

Contact an SRCHelp caseworker. They can gather your information and act as an advocate for you to place a complaint with the Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit.

## What if the bad treatment you receive is not technically harassment or discrimination?

The definition of harassment and discrimination is very specific. If you are being treated badly in another sense perhaps it is more like bullying or just unprofessional behaviour. This does not mean that it doesn't count. It just means that your complaint would be framed in different terms to suit a different policy. SRC Caseworkers are still a good point of contact.

## Who does this protect from?

Students are protected from other students, teachers (permanent, casual and contract), placement supervisors, and other contractors on campus.

To see an SRC Help Caseworker call 9600 5222 to make an appointment or email: [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)

## SRC LEGAL SERVICE

# WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

If You Have A Legal Problem? We Can Help For FREE!

Fines

Motor vehicle accidents

Immigration

Criminal Charges

Debts

...and more

**SRC Legal Service**  
FOR SYDNEY UNI UNDERGRADUATES

Level 1, Wentworth Bldg, University of Sydney  
02 9660 5222 | [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)  
e: [solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au) | ACN 146 653 143

We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

**法律諮詢**  
法律アドバイス

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

This service is provided to you by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

## SRC CASEWORKER HELP Q&A

# Ask Abe

Hello Abe,

My friend told me that I can get back the superannuation payments that my boss made while I was working here. I am going home to my country in December. What do I need to do?

Overseas Money

Hello Overseas Money,

The news on this is great for international students. If you worked here your boss could have paid money into a Superannuation fund for you. This is meant to be a savings for your retirement, however, since it is unlikely that you will be here then, you can usually have it now. Of course there are conditions like your visa has expired or been cancelled and you have to be out of the country to apply. You'll need all of the details of your Superannuation fund so keep copies of the statements that they send you. Go online to apply – [www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads](http://www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads). Normally you will get your money about a month later.

Remember also, that you can fill out a tax refund from any wages you earned. Do this before you leave Australia. Again ask the Australian Tax Office for the forms you need.

Abe.

*Abe's answers can provide you with excellent insight and helpful tips for surviving as a student.*

To ask Abe a question send an email to: [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)

# President’s Report

*Jennifer Light writes about the recent fossil fuel divestment referendum.*

You may have noticed over the last couple of weeks that amongst the mania that was the SRC elections, there was also another election taking place. This was for a referendum to vote whether or not the University of Sydney should divest from fossil fuels. Now of course this does not have the power to force the university senate or investment committee to divest from fossil fuels, however with an 80% vote in favor of divesting there is a definite push from the students to divest.

The outcome of the referendum on the Universities position has not yet been clarified but the University previously announced that it would not invest further

into coal and other combustible fuels until it had conducted a review of its investment practices.

Recently the Australian National University announced its decision to divest from seven miners on environmental, and social and governance grounds. This is after the ANU student association conducted a referendum about a month ago. A the Financial Review states “ANU is merely starting what any leading university should do.” Divestment campaigns are being run all over the country and hopefully ANU will begin the trend of Universities around the country to DIVEST.

As the divest campaign was being

run the SRC decide to take a look at our own investments. As the SRC has no income we also don’t have any major investments, other than with our bank. The SRC banks with the National Australia Bank, and as all four banks invest in fossil fuels it was decided our best option would be to encourage NAB to rethink its investments. Therefore myself and Clo Schofield (one of the environment officers) on behalf of the SRC wrote a letter putting NAB on notice.

NAB has leant nearly \$800 million to support coal and gas projects in the Great Barrier Reef world heritage area over the past five years, as well as loaning \$4.4 billion to the fossil fuel industry

in Australia. However their company statement says they are “committed to understanding and managing the impacts and dependencies of our business on the environment.” We are hoping that our letter will be recognized by NAB and encourage all others to take part in the campaign of putting their banks on notice. As the Australian banking industry is controlled by four major banks that all have investments in fossil fuel industries we felt putting our bank on notice was the best option – we need our money to go somewhere J

Have a great week and don’t forget to be environmentally friendly.

# General Secretary’s Report

*James Leeder discusses the recent SRC elections and upcoming Representatives Elect.*

Welcome to the penultimate General Secretary’s report for 2014. To anyone who’s made it this far, well done; to the rest, I’m not really surprised. The elections are (thankfully) over and Kyol Blakeney has been elected as the 87th SRC President. Kyol has been the Indigenous Officer for the last two years and is the second Indigenous President of the SRC. He brings experience as an activist and as someone already involved

within the SRC who will use his term to fight fee de-regulation and promote activism on and off campus.

Despite the results of the election, the composition of next year’s SRC remains unclear as most of the Officer Bearers are elected at a later election, known as Representatives Elect or ‘Reps Elect’. Positions such as the General Secretary, Vice President

and Education Officer are all decided at this event, which this year will be held on Wednesday 29th October.

These Office Bearers are elected internally by vote of the 33 newly elected councillors. All students are welcome to attend to hear candidates speak to their nomination. After Reps Elect, these Office Bearers, along with the President and councillors, will

begin their terms on December 1.

SRC elections are important but each year it becomes clear that reform is needed. Campaigns waste an enormous amount of paper over several weeks and voting remains an unnecessarily confronting experience for some. I hope next year’s SRC further reviews the electoral process and works to increase its accessibility.

# Autonomous Wom\*n of Colour Collective Report

*Shareeka Helaluddin and Tabitha Prado*

I am writing this a day after the launch of the inaugural Honi Soit edition autonomously compiled by those of us who identify as a Person of Colour, Indigenous, from an Ethno-Cultural background or otherwise marginalised by White supremacy. I still feel elated from the success of it all, and for having been a part of such an important - not to mention historically significant - edition.

It was no less of a privilege to have been a part of this, and to have collaborated with an array of people who actively defy stereotypes, negotiate oppression and seek social change in varied and nuanced ways. It lends subjectivity to our experiences, and our presence radically questions the White designation of University spaces, mainstream media and perhaps even social justice movements themselves.

For me, one of the most significant successes of the edition, is the centrality of Wom\*n of Colour (WoC) voices, and the sheer amount of space that we have taken up in the edition. Not going to lie, I shed a tear when I realised this, and the symbolic importance of us commanding space and representation. I am not sure I have the capacity to articulate the power that our voices wield. For any form of sustainable social justice, it is imperative to engage with WoC identities, as too often our experiences are rendered invisible. The WoC contributions to the autonomous edition intrinsically address the lack of attention given to our identities, but also the political potential of us carving our identities into a place like Honi!

I sometimes fantasise about our very own autonomous edition in the next few years, but perhaps

this is becomingly increasingly tangible as Sydney Uni slowly but surely comes to understand the insidious (and of course, explicit) bigotry that exists and sustained at this institution.

Despite the hostility and gross misunderstandings the ACAR edition is going to receive (a saddening but unsurprising truth, let’s be real); I actually remain hopeful about social progress here at Sydney Uni, and any further progress we can instil by intercepting as many media platforms as possible (Honi, the blogosphere, whatever else!) However, what has to remain consistent is the politics of non-white wom\*n, that are inherently subversive and demand to be centred in any discourse about social progression.

For all the wom\*n who contributed to last week’s edition (in any

capacity!), thank you. I hope you continue to fill pages, news feeds and dash boards, with your radiant presence. For all WoC who take the time and energy to address praxis of oppression, know that you are no less than incredible; but always remember to take time for yourself because breaking down hegemonies is an exhausting labour.

I look forward to continually confronting and dismantling oppression, expanding political practice and tearing at the social fabric of this world.

If your identity falls in line, please join us!

Facebook: Usyd WOC Autonomous Collective

http://womenofcoloursydney.tumblr.com/

# Education Officers’ Report

*Eleanor Morley and Ridah Hassan*

On October 2 a bill was rushed through parliament containing \$430 million in cuts to Higher Education. \$290m was lost in relocation payments to students moving between cities, and \$143m was slashed by denying student allowances to those going overseas for less than six weeks.

Worryingly, this bill was supported by the ALP. From this it is clear we cannot trust Labor to block all the cuts to higher education currently on the table at the hands of Abbott and Pyne. While they have spoken out in opposition to the deregulation of University fees, students cannot forget it was Labor who just last year attempted to remove \$2.3 billion in higher education.

By continuing the education campaign run by the National Union of Students, we can keep the pressure on those in parliament. The successes of the year so far have put student activists in good stead to prevent the neoliberal restructure of Australian Universities.

The final major action for the campaign this year is taking place this week, on October 16 at Sydney University. We will be hearing speeches by Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon, NTEU Sydney Uni branch president Michael Thomson and student activists. Following this, students will be delivering end of year report cards to Chris Pyne and Michael Spence

Pyne has moved legislation in Parliament to further degrade equality in education, but students have set it back. Since our protest campaign began opposition to the deregulation of fees has risen from 43% to 70% and it looks as if we could defeat this historic attack.

But Pyne and the vice-chancellors, particularly at the Group of Eight Universities are tenacious in their pursuit of a neoliberal, user-pays education system. Sydney University vice-chancellor Michael Spence has been publicly lobbying to the senate and the media in support of deregulation, despite the fact that students have been protesting against it all year.

Pyne’s horrific plans for the higher

education system and the Group of Eight’s refusal to listen to students earn them both fail grades for the year 2014.

All students are invited to join the NSW Education Action Network in delivering Pyne and Spence their report cards for the year, starting at 1pm outside Fisher Library!

**If you would like to get in touch, contact us at [education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)**

# Global Solidarity Officers’ Report

*April Holcombe and Anna Sanders Robinson*

The SRC Global Solidarity Officers have been active around a number of issues recently. The bombing of Gaza and subsequent massacre of over 2000 Palestinians attracted crowds of angry protestors to Sydney Town Hall (and to similar protests around the country). We attended and helped to organise these rallies, talking to people about the issue of Palestine and the importance of continuing to fight for Palestinian freedom. Another important rally we attended was the People’s Climate Mobilisation in Glebe, part of a

worldwide action against climate change. With a government that doesn’t even believe in climate change it is important to stand up against this issue that affects all of us.

The recent attacks on Muslim people through the Abbott Government’s new anti-terror laws are also extremely concerning. These laws are set to increase ASIO’s powers dramatically while restricting the freedoms of ordinary people. The laws also target Muslim people specifically

and have already resulted in raids on people’s homes in the dead of night, although no evidence of terrorism was found. As it stands more people die every year falling out of bed than they do from terrorist attacks; in fact there has never been a terrorist attack in Australia. These laws are Islamophobic, racist, fear mongering by the government and should definitely be opposed. We have been petitioning on Eastern Avenue against the laws and the Iraq War, talking to students about these outrageous attacks and why

we oppose them.

Finally, the issue of the potential deregulation of university fees remains central. The National Union of Students has called various actions around the country including a rally on Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup> at Fisher Library at 1pm to protest against this attack on university education. The protests so far have been huge and successful so getting out there and telling the government we will not stand for their policies is even more important than ever!

# Sexual Harassment Officers’ Report

*Georgia Carr and Kitty-Jean Laginha*

Hey all.

We hope you’re keeping up with all the craziness of academic studies and extra-curriculars. We’re still getting over the whirlwind of Radical Sex and Consent Day last month. It’s great to see the Union instigating initiatives that are strongly feminist, sex positive and inclusive. Who said the USU couldn’t be radical? This is all thanks to those incredible Wom\*n that pushed for this event and the efforts of the organising collectives (also thank you to those that attended! <3 ) Some highlights were workshops that broke down barriers and misconceptions around sexual consent and a panel with hilarious, heart-warming and inspiring anecdotes from

individuals that have faced and fought oppressions and prejudices throughout life.

This month, October, is the month in which a huge global women’s protest against sexual violence and harassment is held. It is called Reclaim the Night. It will fall on Friday October 31 and will speak out against the harrowingly disturbing rates of male to female violence that so often goes unreported and unacknowledged. This isn’t merely a consciousness-raising exercise: wom\*n are taking to the streets and demanding the fundamental right to be able to walk the streets at night safely.

We’d also like to do a quick shout out to the Autonomous Collective

Against Racism (ACAR) who last Wednesday launched the first Honi Soit edition written and edited by ACAR. The launch night showcased some incredible and diverse talent from wom\*n of colour; everyone in the audience was awestruck. If you didn’t get a chance to read the edition in hardcopy, you can view it online!

This will be our last report as the Sexual Harassment Officers – new officers will be elected this month and will begin their term on December 1. These elections will be held at Representatives Elect on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October and office bearers will be elected by the 33 newly elected SRC councillors. Consider nominating if you think you would enjoy and thrive in an

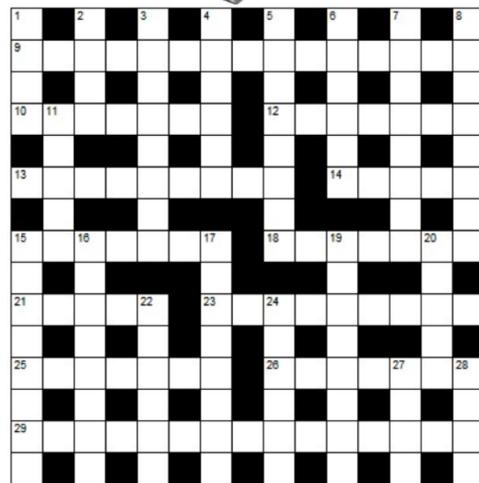
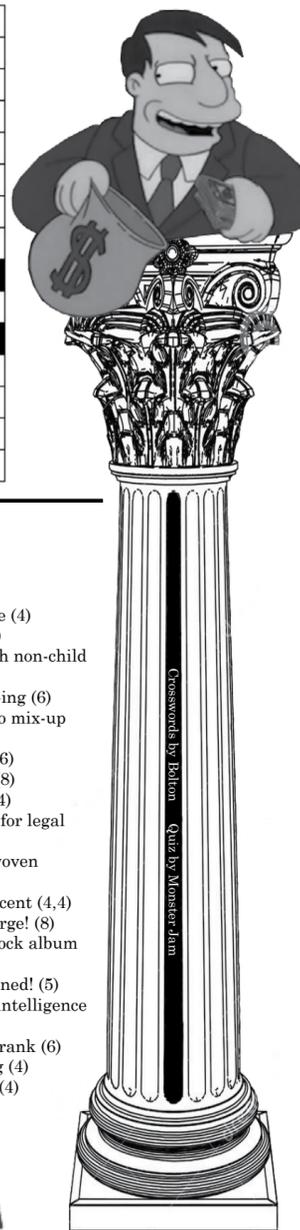
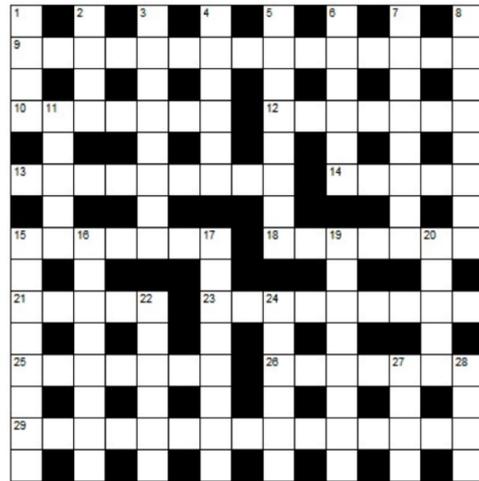
activist position within the SRC!

Lastly, we want to flag that if you or anyone you know has either experienced sexual assault or feels confused or unsure about an unwanted sexual experience and would like to speak to someone, please contact RPAH Sexual Assault Service on 9515 9040 between 8:30am and 5pm weekdays or 9515 6111 anytime if the sexual assault happened in the last 7 days.

Stay strong and best wishes for the rest of the semester!

# Quick Money

- Across**  
 9 Data processing device (7,8)  
 10 Downwind (7)  
 12 Recite at length (4,3)  
 13 Dispersed (9)  
 14 Urge (3,2)  
 15 Run-of-the-mill (7)  
 18 Convert into code (7)  
 21 Lacking enthusiasm (5)  
 23 Barangaroo developer (4,5)  
 25 Drain the cup (5,2)  
 26 Studio (7)  
 29 Bed-heating wired covering (8,7)
- Down**  
 1 Totem (4)  
 2 Mythical monster (4)  
 3 Covert (8)  
 4 Aircraft (6)  
 5 Time spent in prison in Britain (8)  
 6 Each (6)  
 7 Resolutely (8)  
 8 Commercial fishing tool (5,3)  
 11 Former prison occupant (2-3)  
 15 Decreed (8)  
 16 Experienced individual (3-5)  
 17 Path of the sun (8)  
 19 No through road (3-2-3)  
 20 Out of date (5)  
 22 ...Fanning, actress (6)  
 24 Adjacent (6)  
 27 Jet-black (4)  
 28 Memorisation technique (4)



# Fronting ICAC

- Across**  
 9 In mishapen mishap, a mishapen simul for filler tunes (10,5)  
 10 Awkward dawdler is awkward ambler (7)  
 12 No puzzled expression without work and rubbed nose (7)  
 13 This mettle sounds like olden unrest (9)  
 14 Saltpetre with nickel for petals! (5)  
 15 Photograph can set (7)  
 18 Applaud Italian through praise (7)  
 21 Japan heard to be horizontal line? (1-4)  
 23 Fairly decode alien and reflection for code (9)  
 25 Rising current to increase recruitment (7)  
 26 Ship from the Bile Age? (7)  
 29 Famous stony hand built in a very long time (1,5,2,7)
- Down**  
 1 Talk show perspective (4)  
 2 The Poo a missile? (4)  
 3 Objectionable sex with non-child and mixed grain (8)  
 4 Catch Treebeard MC-ing (6)  
 5 Sky-faller and prior to mix-up (8)  
 6 Shopping at Rivers? (6)  
 7 Idols ate mess alone (8)  
 8 Conclusive litmus (4,4)  
 11 Badly imboil evenly for legal cover (5)  
 15 Alter tux like interwoven structure! (8)  
 16 Dirty oxen trod adjacent (4,4)  
 17 Vote Weasley in charge! (8)  
 19 Divers gear a prog rock album (8)  
 20 "This is Roy", shortened! (5)  
 22 Chocolates, i.e. lost intelligence (6)  
 24 Swallow sang as a prank (6)  
 27 Test former morning (4)  
 28 Broke one's smeller (4)



# Cross-Examination

- In the Australian Parliament, Standing Order 94(a) is an order by the Speaker for a Member to do what?
- Other than Dame Edna, what are the other two major characters portrayed by Barry Humphries?
- Which opposition leader did Paul Keating want to 'do slowly'?
- While at the University of Sydney, what did Germaine Greer complete a masters in?
- What are the four grades in the Order of Australia?
- Which well-known Indigenous Australian is featured on the \$50 note?
- In the 2011 census, 25.3% of Australians identified as being which religion?
- The Mabo decision overturned which legal doctrine?
- Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared off which beach in 1967?
- Who wrote the Australian National Anthem?
- Previous Governor of NSW William Bligh was involved in which historical event?
- Sidney Nolan's most famous series of paintings is of who?
- Which Australian town is sometimes referred to as the 'opal capital of the world'?
- The SEATO treaty was primarily created to prevent the domino effect in what?
- Which Australian-born composer established a museum dedicated to himself?
- Lake Disappointment is an ephemeral salt lake in which state?

Answers: 1. Leave the Chamber for one hour 2. Sir Les Patterson, Sandy Stone 3. John Hewson 4. Romantic poetry 5. Member, Officer, Companion, Knight/Dame 6. David Unaipon 7. Roman Catholic 8. Terra Nullius 9. Cheyote 10. Peter Dods McCormick 11. Muring on the Buniny 12. Ned Kelly 13. Ned Kelly 13. Romantic poetry 5. Member, Officer, Companion, Knight/Dame 6. David Unaipon

# Honi Soit Opinion Competition and Commemorative Edition Launch

Come along to the Verge Gallery for free food and booze, to hear the winners of the 2014 Opinion Contest, AND to pick up one of the limited copies of the nifty Commemorative Edition of Honi Soit (compiled by yours truly, the editors of Honi Soit). Looking back over 85 years of Honi Soit, this special edition of the paper finds out what Honi got right, what it fucked up, and generally how it has kicked arse for nearly a century.

October 22

# Civilization: Beyond Earth release

The next entry in the Civilization series takes Civ 5's core gameplay and takes it to the extra-terrestrial. It's the closest thing we're going to get to a modern sequel to 1999's *Alpha Centauri*, and all the buzz around the game is a guarantee that it will be an absolute masterpiece, just like how *Destiny* lived up to the hype last month. 2K Games have also thoughtfully decided to release it right before stuvac starts. It's going to be a long month.

October 24

# Steam Halloween Sale

Start saving now – Steam will be slashing prices storewide. This is your chance to again pad out your game library with titles you're never going to play and likely won't even enjoy. At least Valve's cut from each sale ~might~ go towards the development of Half-Life 3.

October 30 to November 3

# Australia vs Pakistan - First Test

We're getting so close to The Summer Of Cricket and Nine's Wide World Of Sports!!(!) Fire up your illegal stream for this early teaser, live from the United Arab Emirates. Will Global Warming eventually make it the Summer of Cricket all the time? I hope so.

October 22 to October 26

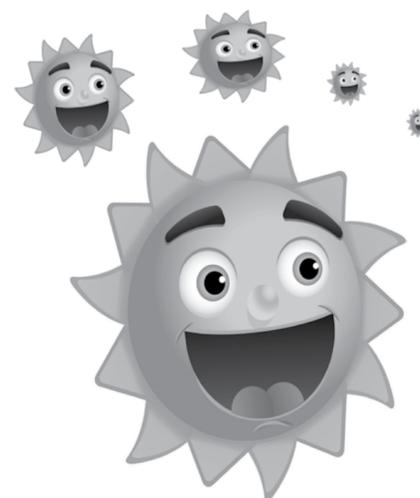
# MATT DAMON MOVIE NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

Get this. On Friday night, Channel Seven is playing *The Bourne Ultimatum*. But SIMULTANEOUSLY, Channel Nine is playing *Contagion*. Both star Matt Damon, so you could flick channels during the ad breaks and just have Damon on your TV for a solid two hours. Alternatively, you could get in touch with old mate YIFY and go back to basics with *The Bourne Identity*.

October 17

# The Sun Turns Into A Red Giant And Swallows Us All

5,500,000,000 AD – 7,600,000,000 AD



# Visa pathways for International Students

Migration law expert, Professor Mary Crock, will speak about visa pathways for international students who would like to begin their career in Australia. Come along to learn key information about what to consider before and during the visa application process.

Date: Wednesday, October 22nd

Time: 1-2pm

Location: Chemistry Lecture Theatre 1

RSVP: [careers.information@sydney.edu.au](mailto:careers.information@sydney.edu.au)

# HOSPITALITY WORKERS

## ARE YOU GETTING PAID THE MINIMUM WAGE?

Age	Hourly rate	Saturday/Sunday rate	Public holiday rate
20+	\$21.70	\$26.00	\$43.35
19	\$18.45	\$22.10	\$36.85
18	\$15.20	\$18.20	\$30.35
17	\$13.00	\$15.60	\$26.00
16	\$10.85	\$13.00	\$21.70

\*Minimum rates of pay for casual hospitality staff under the Restaurant Industry Award, current until 1 July 2015. The Award covers all bar, café and restaurant staff in Australia.

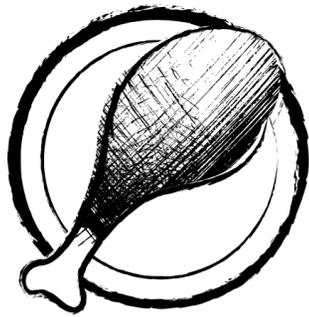


We are an all-volunteer group of working people who organise to defend our rights through collective action.

Together we can stop exploitative job practices and defeat abusive employers.

WWW.SYDSOL.NET • 0459 721 722

# Honey Soy



## ISIS Has A Branding Problem

Mary Ward on Board 2015.

On Friday October 10 at 0900 hours, ISIS's Terrorist Tim met with marketing executive Kyle Sanderson. The following is a transcript of their conversation.

KS: You have a branding problem.

TT: No we don't. Everyone freaking loves us. Our brand is great.

KS: No, no. Your goodwill is solid. It's brand clarity that's the problem.

TT: What do you mean brand clarity? I think we're pretty clear. Beheadings are clear. Not clean, sure. But clear.

KS: It's not what you do that's the problem, John. It's who you are. You. ISIS. Or is it IS? Or ISIL? We need to stop the inconsistent brand messages being sent out by the media, they're confusing consumers.

TT: I still don't understand.

KS: Let's consider the Taliban. What do you call the Taliban, John?

TT: The Taliban.

KS: Exactly. You would never call the Taliban 'the T' or 'Tally's Bandits'. One name, one fear.

TT: Well, what do you propose we do?

KS: You rebrand. You need a new name. What is it you want, John?

TT: World domination, a humble quest.

KS: But, your name – to the extent that we can talk about that catastrophe in the singular – doesn't tell me that. Do you just want an Islamic State? Do you want Syria? Do you want the Levant? (Do you really want the Levant? Because there are a bunch of basket case nations in that strip and I don't really think Lebanon's worth all of this.)

TT: I want all of it! All of it!

KS: Then, tell me that in your brand, John! Sell it to me! Let's brainstorm.

TT: What about the IS(IS/IL)?

KS: You can't use punctuation marks in hashtags, John.

TT: Shit.

KS: You know who are good at this? The Tamil Tigers. Tigers – ferocious, powerful, bestial. You need an animalistic quality. An animal that is small, but a total bastard. A dirty animal who steals and attacks and doesn't take no shit from no man.

TT: Yeah. What do you suggest?

KS: I've got it!

TT: What?

KS: IBIS.

### 5 places Kim Jong-un could be

#### 1. Snitching to Obama



#### 2. Behind you



#### 3. In the Game of Thrones universe



#### 4. In U2



#### 5. Hidden among us



## Deregulation Actually Not A Thing Anymore

William Edwards has aspirations, I wonder what they are.

A Liberal spokesperson has confirmed the Government's plans to deregulate higher education fees were actually abandoned several months ago. The Government's decision to cease its controversial reform was announced by Prime Minister Tony Abbott mere days after March in May.

The announcement, which read in part "We didn't know you felt that way" and "We're genuinely sorry," was expected to generate considerable celebration. To the Prime Minister's confusion, however, he was booed off the stage. The audience had been unable to hear him over a Socialist Alternative protest.

"I was trying to fix it," Abbott explained, exasperated, to *Honey Soy*. "I said they were right, my government had made a mistake, but they just kept chanting. It was kind of catchy, I guess, but not really helpful."

Abbott has since made several attempts to inform the Australian public of his government's change of heart, but has been unable to speak louder than SALT chants. Christopher Pyne was even sent to St John's College to enlist more speakers, and so more volume, but was unable to converse with residents due to yet another protest.

When asked by *Honey Soy* if they were aware of the policy change, an anonymous SALT member appeared briefly bewildered before asking the interviewer to sign a petition. When the interviewer pressed the matter they were accused of being "Liberal scum", prompting nearby activists to begin chanting. At press time the interviewer complained of Socialist rhymes being stuck in their head.



## Joke About Politicians Being Reptiles

William Edwards attended the comedy meeting this week.

Dr Sly Thering, a leading CSIRO biologist, has warned Canberrans to be cautious of politicians basking on hot surfaces.

"As members of the order squamata are cold-blooded," the warning reads, "many species therein engage in a practice called basking. This entails lying on flat, often dark surfaces to absorb heat from the sun. Ideal surfaces for basking include rocks and, more dangerously, roads."

Squamata consists of all snakes, lizards, and elected representatives. The warning explains that this behaviour, while necessary for politicians' health, places drivers at immense risk.

Vehicle-politician collisions are largely fatal for drivers. Politicians, though battered, are often able to slither to the safety of parliament thereafter, to plot new ways of reducing the Australian population.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott, last seen basking on a street near the Lodge, was approached for comment. He was however unable to be understood as the approaching reporter did not speak Parseltongue.



### IN OTHER NEWS

Truthers Take Note Of Parody Musical's Success, Commission Play About 9/11

Right-Wing Media Reports Muslims With Ebola Plane Hijack Terror Plot

Government Promises You Can Trust Government

'Labor doesn't care about u'

1st Year Apprentice Hairdresser Justifies Botched Haircut By Joining ISIS

Plumbers Union News: Tapoo Discussion in the Pipeline

Creator of bendy ruler sues Apple over iPhone 6

2015 Prez candidate: "USyd's first homosapien President"

Why Hasn't Parliament Banned Invisibility Cloaks, Huh?

Paulene Graham: Good Bloke

### Notice of Council Meeting

86th Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

DATE: 15th October

TIME: 6pm

LOCATION: Philosophy Room S249 (Quadrangle)



Students' Representative Council, The University of Sydney  
Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.src.usyd.edu.au

85 YEARS OF  
**HONI SOIT**

*A Celebration*



*We will also be presenting the*

**REPORTER AWARDS**  
**OPINION COMP WINNERS**

& LAUNCHING THE COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

*Wednesday 22 October*

**VERGE GALLERY, 7PM**

--- FOOD & BAR TAB SUPPLIED ---