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ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ZHU WEI

“I would like to feel safe on campus”: An open letter to the University

TRIGGER WARNING:
SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

Dear USyd,

I am the anonymous female student *Honi Soit* and other media outlets have reported on. I had a picture of me taken during intercourse without my consent or knowledge by a male student. That photo was shown around campus. I was bullied and sexually harassed. Over the past ten months I have been depressed and anxious. At moments I believed suicide was the only way out. I felt unsafe, alone and isolated. USyd became my nightmare.

Since *Honi Soit* published the story, I have been overwhelmed by the support of the student population. Students have made it clear that the man's actions and USyd's response are not okay. Now, I ask you to fight with me. We are the only ones who can change this. We must lobby Dr Michael Spence for university-wide reform.

I would like to speak directly to you, Dr Spence. I ask you to meet with me. Let's discuss how we can reduce sexual harassment on campus:

publically admit its existence and develop policies to address it. You need to ensure the safety of students on campus and support vulnerable students. I speak for the majority of students on this matter; it is time for change. It is time to publically condemn these actions and for the male student to be expelled.

On a personal level I would like to feel safe on campus again Dr Spence, to finish my degree without feeling intimidated and sexually harassed. So please make a stand for what is right. Follow in the footsteps of the Vice-Chancellor of Otago University, who publically condemned similar actions of students. I look forward to hearing from you Dr Spence.

I would like to address some of the University's recent actions I find concerning. Regarding the protection of the male student, I respect the University for protecting his privacy and safety. I only ask the same for myself as another student of this University. There was no action to protect me; no action in response to

the intimidation and harassment I reported. I am deeply concerned what type of message this sends. By protecting a perpetrator and not a victim USyd is making it clear: do not speak up, we will not support you. How does this victim-blaming approach encourage any other victim of sexual harassment to report anything to the University?

The University also told the Australian Associated Press and ninemsn that the male student had been reprimanded. They never informed me of this. As the individual who brought the misconduct charges, I would have hoped that the University would inform me of any outcome. I asked Student Affairs and the Registrar to keep me up to date of the outcome but was never informed of any action. The media only has vague and unsubstantiated claims. Nonetheless, I am finding out more from news outlets, than the institution that is supposedly supporting me. Even if there was a punishment, this is justice in the

dark. How can I know USyd took my report seriously if I am unaware of the outcome? I ask Dr Spence and Student Affairs to inform me of their actions, if any.

To my fellow students, do not seek out the man who did this to me. He has admitted his actions in writing. Yes what he did was wrong and harmful; he showed no respect for me as a person but I do not wish for any one to experience what I have experienced. Instead we must use this groundswell of support to create a campus where sexual harassment is rare. Students (regardless of their gender) need to feel supported when they come forward. I would like to wholeheartedly thank every single student and member of staff who has supported me. I know if we work together, we can ensure a culture of respect at USyd; a place where no student has to go through what I went through.

Yours Sincerely,

Anonymous female student

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We acknowledge that *Honi Soit's* office is located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

Editorial

Although a reflection on our achievements in this year's *Honi Soit* would be fitting for the last editorial, we contend that 12 months on, we cannot presume to be so wise, nor so arrogant. We are still learning, and we will continue to do so even when newer, more acne-ridden faces have replaced us.

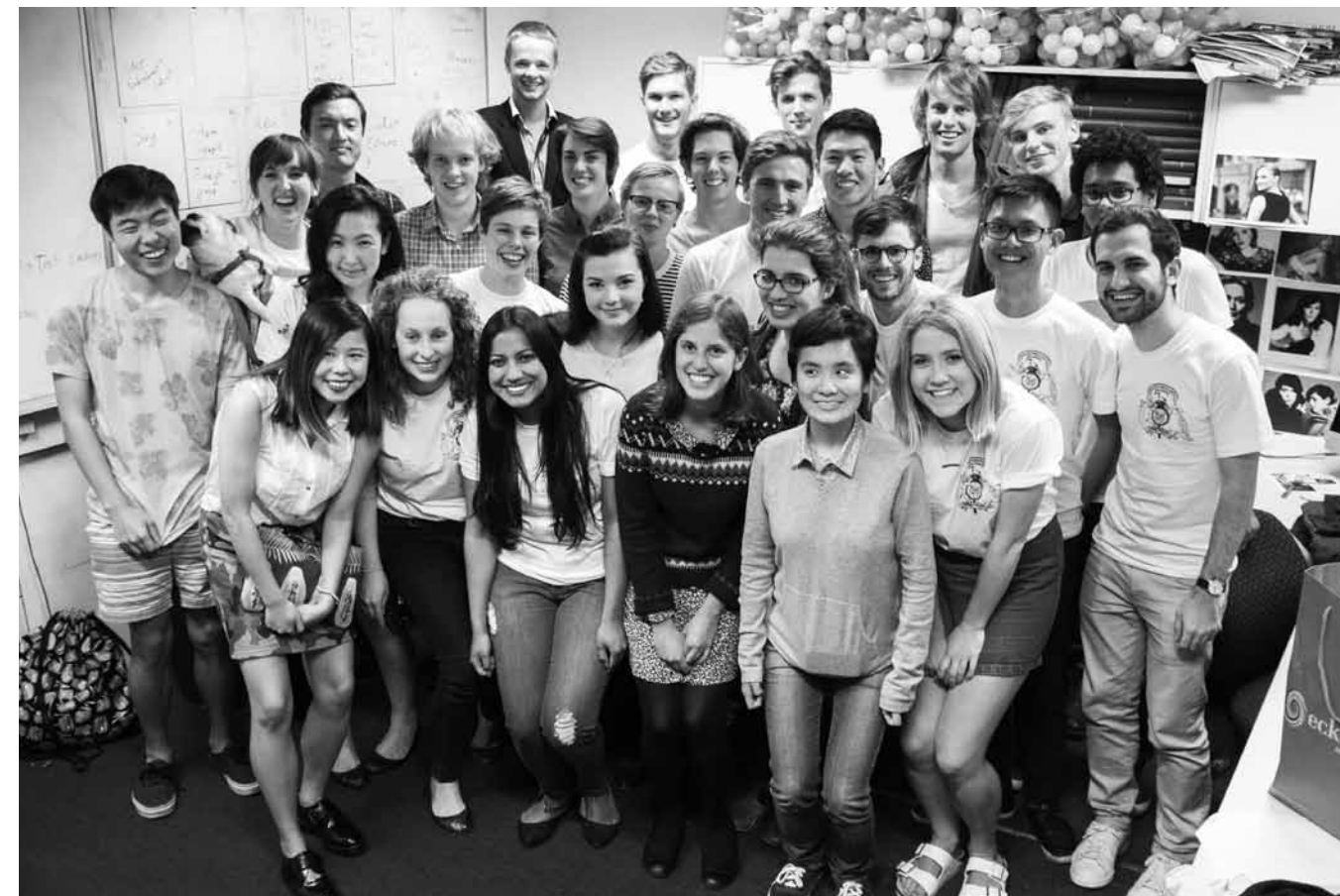
As editors, we have been tireless in our pursuit of the same goals *Honi* declared 85 years ago: to tell the truth (give or take), to be irreverent, and to hold power to account.

When student media is considered, it is often seen as inconsequential and without influence. Yet, there is something unique about the willingness to push boundaries, and to shed light on the truth, which can only be attributed to its belligerence – whether it is through publishing 18 vulvae on the front cover, calling for the resignation of University staff, or the decision to publicly name a perpetrator of sexual harassment.

As student journalists, we don't just publish words; we chase leads and set the agenda. We support the marginalised and the underrepresented to speak in autonomous editions. We harness the power of the digital age in the nitty-gritty coding of modern platforms. We have shared sandwiches with Australia's finest journalists in the Federal Budget lock-up. We sit outside the oligopoly that is the mainstream Australian media, nesting in the hotbed of the University of Sydney.

In doing so, we serve our readership with no motive of our own outside of holding institutional power to account.

And so, when we are met with criticism from all corners of the campus – from the University, or the University of Sydney Union, from factions far and wide, or the very organisation that funds us, the Student Representative Council,



we return to our office with the knowledge that we are doing our job well.

This paper is the fruits of the labour of its underpaid and overworked student editors (though if we had our way, we would stick around for years). We were elected by our peers with a mandate to shine light on what truly matters. Along the way, we have been lucky to have the support of our reporters, SRC staff and sometimes even students.

Ultimately, *Honi Soit's* success is decided by you, dear reader. Every editor, reporter and contributor first came to the paper by picking it up and flipping through its pages. You have contributed through criticism or acclaim, and we can only thank you for coming along on this journey with us.

TEAM HONI 2014. PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER YIU.

Honi Soit 2015: Callout for Writers, Artists and Filmmakers

Next year's editors are looking for a new *Honi Soit* team. Find out more about applying at tinyurl.com/honi2015.

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LETTERS

Survivor advocacy

Dear Honi Soit eds,

My name is Sharna Bremner and I am a PhD student at Adelaide Uni. I wanted to thank you for your coverage of the recent failures of USyd to address sexual harassment, and for standing with survivors.

For the past 18 months, I have been working closely with two of my best friends, Annie Clark and Andrea Pino, and other US-based students who have been advocating for survivors on campuses across the United States. I am now part of a large network of student activists who have had some amazing successes in addressing sexual assault and harassment on college campuses, including being involved in the recent White House initiatives, 1 is 2 Many and It's On Us, and who also offer online support services to fellow survivors of campus assault around the world. We have been looking at ways to implement a similar movement here in Australia, as we know that sexual assault and harassment is far too common on our campuses, and is woefully under-addressed by universities themselves.

Thank you again, for your excellent coverage of this particular incident and for standing with the survivor. Please feel free to pass on my details to the survivor. If she would be interested/feel comfortable, I would be more than happy to connect her with one of our support or activist networks.

Cheers,
Sharna Bremner
PhD Candidate, University of Adelaide

I hope they choke on wasabi

Dear Editors,

As a former student of Syd Uni (graduated last millennium!) I was shocked to hear three Syd Uni women talking at a sushi bar on the north shore last night about the sexual harassment case *Honi Soit* has reported on. The horrifying part was that the women were complaining about female student's complaint and *Honi Soit's* actions, arguing that the chances of the perpetrator (as your editorial rightly calls the male student) getting a "good job" had been destroyed by your publication of his name. Right before I deposited a large amount of fresh wasabi into their misos, I wanted to say "you know he could just NOT take photos of his naked partners while they had their eyes closed and NOT show the photo around"!!

Once again the public discourse on rape and abuse of women's bodies by men focuses on the woman. She is perfectly entitled to go to bed with a partner expecting that he or she will not take a secret surveillance of her. She is perfectly entitled to complain

about a breach of that expectation. And to so do for as long as she wishes. Had the man NOT taken his action, he would NOT have to worry about the consequences including publication of his name.

Honi Soit has a long proud history of making hard editorial decisions and while publishing the perpetrator's name is controversial it is hardly in the same realm as having a naked photo of one's self having sex distributed without one's knowledge.

Sydney Uni has a troubling history of managing such incidents and it is clearly doing no better now than in the 1990s. I applaud the woman involved for coming forward and *Honi Soit* for supporting women's rights to study in higher education and live in campus residences free from sexual assault and the disturbing and callous actions of men like the perpetrator and his friends (also perpetrators).

My sense is that the perpetrator is indeed unlikely to secure a good job into the future - because he is obviously a stupid tool. I hope he does suffer the kind of indignity which our student colleague suffered at his hands. And well done *Honi Soit*.

Regards,
Jo Smith

Preach

Dear Honi,

I wish your letters page wasn't so consistently shit and filled with ignorant whines - I do not give a crap about what the Conservative Club think about anything.

It's recent news that they can read, but who knew they could write too? Tell them to go piss around on the pages of their own "newspaper".

Save my eyeballs,

Olga McSmoulder

Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (Conscious Sedation and Pain Control), VI

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Stories from survivors

Sexual harassment and assaults happen on our campus and among our friends. They occur often and aggressively. Yet they are notoriously under-reported. As last week showed, USyd has no effective policy to deal with these crimes, and there is no clear path of punishment for perpetrators. Our University, like society at large, has a culture of silencing survivors. With archaic policies, it is easier for institutions to ignore deep undercurrents of misogyny and disrespect for bodily autonomy. This has to change.

TRIGGER WARNING.

Rose

It started with “he didn’t mean it, he’s just messed up”, “he’s got borderline personality disorder” followed by “we’ve got to check that he’s not going to hurt himself” and “we care about both of you”.

The man who violently raped me, identified as being as part of the student left at USyd; these comments were made by friends who are current members of the student left at USyd.

Being raped took away my voice; it took away my power, my confidence, my belief that my body is my own, and my self worth – I didn’t speak up that it bothered me that my friends invited him to their events. I couldn’t – some part of my mind believed that it didn’t happen, that somehow I had gotten things confused, that I had read the situation incorrectly. I never went to the police; I couldn’t deal with remembering it, having my actions put under scrutiny. I guess in a way, I have never really accepted what happened. I never believed it could happen to me.

This is not an attack on the left, or on the people who made these comments, but rather a snapshot example of the normalisation of rape culture and rape apology within our society – even within groups who fight against it.

Anonymous

I only recently realised that I’ve been sexually assaulted and harassed. It started in my first semester of uni, when I was fresh out of high school. I had a crush on my tutor, who was in his mid twenties, and one of the first authority figures I encountered at uni. After the unit ended, he accepted my Facebook friend request and we agreed to meet up.

We had a fun night, but, though I was bright eyed and bushy tailed, I started to smell bullshit.

“It started with ‘he didn’t mean it, he’s just messed up’, ‘he’s got borderline personality disorder’ followed by ‘we’ve got to check that he’s not going to hurt himself’ and ‘we care about both of you’.”

He bragged about having hooked up with other first year students, was irritatingly mysterious about dumb things like how old he was, and what he studied. By the end of the night I was feeling uncomfortable with the lack of respect extended to me, and though I was happy to kiss, I began feeling uneasy when he started doing that dude thing where they rub their erection on you repeatedly.

“I don’t want to have sex.” I said. He paused in his boner rubbing.

“Oh,” he said, “Well, I do.” And then he kept going, actually silencing my response by covering my mouth.

I pushed him off and gathered my things, walking quickly to the road and hailing a cab. He followed me, and tried to kiss me again but I dodged it and jumped in the cab. It cost \$56 to get home, but I was afraid to wait at the bus stop.

He messaged me to ask me to dinner, and in the light of day, I rewrote the narrative of the night before to be what I wanted: my long-time crush was asking me out, and it was going to be cool and fun. We went out again and it wasn’t what I wanted.

He started messaging me a lot of stuff on Facebook, pages and pages of stuff. I asked him to stop and told him to stop messaging me. He told me he was in love with me. I told him to leave me alone.

He didn’t. I had to block him on Facebook. He texted me strange things which suggested that at times he knew where I was without my having said anything, or having access to my Facebook profile. I deleted his number, but this would mean that I would accidentally respond “Who’s this?” over the years

of harassment that ensued. In the end, I have had to keep it saved so I don’t reply and risk eliciting more contact. This is unfortunate because I have to read his name when a message pops up, which makes me incredibly anxious and upset, and can leave me feeling shit for days.

He still messages me after over two years of my not responding. It’s harassment and it’s illegal, but I don’t want to pursue disciplinary avenues because I believe it would prompt him to try and find me more than he does already.

Julia

Taking your time to make a decision isn’t wrong, it’s the best option. It took me a little over a year before I reported the three cases of sexual harassment I experienced from a colleague in the SRC. Why? Because, even in the most understanding organisation in the University, dealing with and complaining about these situations is scary and daunting for anyone. It was only then I felt I had the network of support behind me to deal with whatever the world threw at me, even though I’m still yet to see what may come.

While the harassment itself is something that made me hurt and angry, it was the response from so many people I thought were good friends that hurt the most. Being told to “not do anything rash” when I talked about making a complaint, being told “maybe you’re overreacting” and “are you sure you’re doing this for the right reasons” were all told to me by people I considered some of my closest friends. It was only after I finally couldn’t tolerate working with the person – who I won’t name – anymore that I left student politics, and was no longer afraid of the dreaded comment – “you’re just complaining about them because you didn’t get what you wanted, it’s just a political attack”. That comment is still my greatest fear but one I now

feel equipped to brush it off thanks to the support of the SRC and the people around me.

There are so many fears I had when dealing with this situation; I was worried what it would mean for the faction of which I was a part, I was afraid that I would get in trouble if I rocked the boat. When a friend brought up one instance, not knowing about another, I shut them up. The head of the faction later thanked me: “I don’t want to know what it was about, but thank you for defending him.” This was told to me by another woman.

The boy in question was going out with friends of mine on two of the three occasions I experienced harassment from him (different friends at different times). Another

“While the harassment itself is something that made me hurt and angry it was the response from so many people I thought were good friends that hurt the most.”

comment I received because of this was “don’t say anything, you’ll just upset her for no reason.” I was scared I’d lose a friend, that it was my fault. I lost one of the two, and I no longer consider it a loss. I don’t need people like that in my life. But the other has become one of the people I trust most to have my back. If anyone were to ask me what I want to see happen since filing my complaint, I’d like him to learn what consent means, that women are not there to serve him when he feels like it. Also to learn that telling anyone “I just need to get you out of my system” is not an excuse to harass them.

NDAAs of our lives

Like sands through the hourglass, so too are these the top five protests of the year, writes John Gooding.

5. END THE BAN ON RAUE

The Cause: After being involved in an altercation with a security guard during Foreign Minister Julie Bishop’s visit to the Quad, then-USU VP Tom Raue found himself on the wrong end of a one-month ban from the University. Incensed, the Left took to the Quad.

The Vibe: Got off to an awkward start when the Fairfax reporter and photographer turned up on time and the hundred or so protestors were fifteen minutes late. Got off to an awkward middle when the chant “Touch one, touch all, end the ban on Raue” made an appearance. After some research, your correspondent understands this lyric is from a union song, but this doesn’t change the fact that, to the uninitiated, it sounds pretty fucking weird.

4. THE PROTEST AGAINST JULIE BISHOP VISITING THE QUAD AKA #BISHOPATUSYD AKA #ABBOTTATUSYD

The Cause: One unassuming day on campus, unanticipated reports of Tony Abbott on campus quickly flooded in. Upon arriving, the prominent Liberal on campus turned out to be Bishop. Close enough, most thought. Incensed, the Left took to the stairwell.

The Vibe: If you measure the quality of a protest by the resulting amount of grainy, unstable video footage uploaded and then hurriedly deleted off social media as the police may or may not be able to use it to charge people with crimes, #bishopatussyd was a resounding success. End the Ban on Raue was orderly, quiet, and very pre-planned. By contrast,

#bishopatussyd was chaotic, loud, and totally unforeseen. Truly an homage to snap protests of old.

3. The Leard Blockade

The Cause: Mining company Whitehaven has for some time been attempting to clear sections of the Leard State Forest in northwest NSW to create the largest open-cut coalmine in the country. Incensed, the Left took to the forests (repeatedly, over the course of the year).

The Vibe: Look, fixtures on the trot always attract a smaller crowd, but that crowd is all the more passionate for it. Any old punter can drag themselves to Eastern Avenue to rail against the latest exploits of the neoliberal agenda, but only true USyd believers have been willing to make the 500km hike to the Leard.

2. THE HOWARD CUP PROTEST AKA #PYNEATUSYD

The Cause: The John Howard Debating Cup, founded in 2010, is a competition between university Liberal clubs across Sydney. This year the contest was held at St John’s College, and judged by Education Minister Christopher Pyne. Three weeks earlier, a federal budget including university fee deregulation had been dropped on the Australian people. Incensed, the Left took to the colleges.

The Vibe: There are many entrances to St John’s, and one fence extending perpendicular to the building. Protestors arrived before Pyne and the doors were sealed in response. In order to cover all possible points the Pyne-ster could breach, the assembled protestors had to alternate between jogging clockwise around the building, and then counterclockwise once they reached the fence. This was made all the more awkward as an ABC reporter and camera operator were in tow.

1. THE NDA (THE FIRST ONE)

The Cause: Budget cuts and shit. Incensed, the Left took to Broadway (not that one).

The Vibe: Genuinely the biggest motherfucking protest *Honi* has ever been to, this NDA-shake brought activists and Regular Students™ alike to the yard. After the USyd contingent congregated outside Fisher Library, the decision was made to bypass Spence’s office before heading down to UTS and beyond. This turned out to be ill-fated, as the long snake of students politely obeying the ‘Keep off the grass’ signs ended up taking several minutes to pass through the Quad, meaning USyd was late to the cross-campus protest. Although the NDA lost many USyd hacks to the throes of the USU Board elections after an hour, it retained strength all the way to Town Hall. N-D-Yay!

The first NDA certainly set the tone for a big year of protests at Sydney University. But the sequels always suck.



ILLUSTRATION BY MIKAELA BARTELS

Redfern Tent Embassy: five months on

Eden Caceda reports on the ongoing protest for affordable Aboriginal housing.

It’s been five months since Indigenous activists took to The Block in Redfern in an attempt to obstruct the redevelopment plans proposed in the Pemulway Project by the Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC). Unlike many protests, the Tent Embassy continues as an activist stronghold in the heart of Redfern, where it has remained through rain, hail and shine.

After plans to build student accommodation on The Block were announced, many local Indigenous residents expressed concerns the redevelopment would not address the housing needs of the Aboriginal community and set up the embassy in protest. Today there are more than five large tents, makeshift household appliances, and no intent to move until the AHC completely shut down the

Pemulway Project.

Now, the Tent Embassy seems to be set up for longevity. The area has slowly accumulated more sustainable equipment and better amenities to make a more permanent home for the residents. “They’ve certainly gotten the word out there about the Embassy,” said SRC President-elect Kyol Blakeney, who just finished his year as Indigenous Officer with the SRC. “As a protest, it has grown and is continuing to grow.”

Over the past few weeks, weather has not been on the side of embassy-dwellers, with winds of 106km/h and heavy rain hitting the Embassy hard. Facebook has been a useful form of communication in this time, with

statures calling for volunteers to help tidy up and asking people to bring any useful materials to withstand the ever-changing Sydney weather. “The use of social media is definitely a huge part of the rallying,” said Blakeney. The protestors are relying on donations from people to stay on The Block. Someone actually donated a laptop, and this in turn has allowed them to promote the action and make contact with fellow activists.”

The people of the Tent Embassy have faced violence from the AHC and other incidents. As a result, many people are concerned for their safety at night, particularly because most of the protestors are women. Despite this, Blakeney said, the Embassy is still calling for more people to show solidarity with its protest. “Just like

how the Canberra Tent Embassy has stayed there for 42 years and will stay until their rights are achieved, I expect Redfern to stay there until the AHC respond to their concerns and they achieve sovereignty.”

Despite the struggles the Embassy has faced, the tents are still up and the fighting for self-determination and Indigenous rights continues. Blakeney has said that he will continue to support the Embassy and work with the SRC in 2015 to help the movement grow. “As President I’ll have to hand over a lot of my current role [as Indigenous Officer] but I am still committed,” he said. “Having already halted redevelopment once, what this ongoing protest has shown us is that direct action works.”

CALL-OUT: *Honi* are putting together an investigation on sexual harassment and intimate violence at USyd. Do you have a story that you would like to share? We can provide anonymity if required. Email honiinvestigates@gmail.com

Chaneg 2.0

Dear Honi,

Thank you to Mr. Joshua Dabelstein for giving this member of the "young right" enough inspiration to "rationalise getting up in the morning".

Indeed he has done the campus right a great service by shedding light on our bleak existence. Cheers m8.

Unfortunately Mr. Dabelsteins argument that the divestment referendums result is the "Perfect example of market forces" is flawed.

If the students who voted in favour of divestment chose to transfer to a university with no financial interest in coal, that would be a "Perfect example of market forces". However, the referendum is about as close to a price signal as a poll taken outside Merewether asking students if they want Coke in the bubblers.

Separating decision-making authority from responsibility is a poor model for university administration.

Harry Stutchbury
Arts III
Vice-President University of Sydney
Conservative Club

Autonomy is not for me

Dear Editors of Honi Soit,

I'm writing to express my unsatisfactory toward the idea of an autonomous issue against racism.

I know this might sound controversial, but I do have my reasons:

What is the aim of having an autonomous issue by people of colour? To raise the attention of racism, to fight against white supremacy and discrimination, to express the opinions on racism...yeh, I get it. As a person of colour and an international student myself, I really get it. I have experienced racism and I think it is important that more people should be aware of it. I am happy to see an issue of Honi Soit on it, but I am NOT happy with the idea of autonomy.

Why are white people excluded by an issue on racism? I know what the answer would be: because people of colour have the privilege- as the victims of the racial hierarchy, we have more experiences on such issues, and thus we have more say! Hooray to the thought that experience justifies speech!

Hold on- I don't think such logic is reasonable- having 1st-person

experience does not necessarily mean being aware. On the other hand, a 3rd-person experience might be valuable well- a witness of discrimination, and an attempt of stopping someone from being a racist- are these just nonsense because the speaker is white? Isn't it being racist in another way? -Sorry, I don't think so.

It's exactly like a fake feminist who do not even listen to any opinions from males, ONLY because they are males. It is only blind hatred. It is only a silly revenge- so we were/are discriminated by certain white people/males, now it's time for us to hate all the white people/males, in the holy name of anti-racism and feminism!

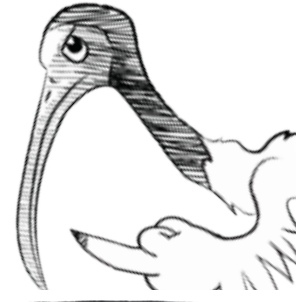
I don't have any problem if the racists are excluded, which I think is the only justified case of an autonomous issue on racism. By excluding white people, are you also implying that ALL the white are racists? What the fight against racism leads to is the absence of discrimination and racial hierarchy, not a new hierarchy where white

people are finally no longer at the top.

Everyone, of every race, should be involved in the education of anti-racism and be encouraged to express their opinion on the issues. The blind hatred is useless and childish- no one wants to be discriminated, and the consequence of exclusion is probably more hatred- nothing more.

Thus I am not happy with the idea of a people-of-colour autonomous issue. I've further included an artwork by me and my boyfriend, which was rejected early by the issue because of his whiteness.* I love the result of collaboration, and I think the drawing itself express the harmony among the races- we shall work together instead of hating each other.

Regards,
Cabbage



One last bit of #StuPol for 2014 (just like we promised)

Cameron Caccamo will be at NUS NatCon voting on proposed structural changes to the organisation.

The National Union of Students (NUS), the peak advocacy body for undergraduate students in Australia, has their National Conference (NatCon) in the second week of December each year. This is where elected delegates from each affiliate university decide on the leadership team and overall policy direction of NUS. As you can well imagine, it is also peak #StuPol, with hacks across the country gathering to have their voice heard and their faction's interests put above all others.

NatCon 2014, however, is shaping up to be one for the ages. For a start, it's less than two months away and we don't have a firm location yet, with rumours that La Trobe are refusing to hold it again after the issues of 2013. Incidents included attempted forced entry into University Reception, and members of Unity (Labor Right) being intimidated and shoved by members of Socialist Alternative, after a staff cuts rally.

More importantly, however, is the possibility of massive structural change to the organisation. In June this year, a summary of a full structural audit compiled by TLConsult was compiled. This was discussed at the NUS Education Conference in July, and predictably, chaos ensued. Representatives from Socialist Alternative and Grassroots were deeply unhappy with the many suggested changes, while National Labor Students (Labor Left) and the National Independents held reservations about significant elements of the report.

The structural audit was commissioned during last year's NatCon, and was meant to be a way for NUS to receive independent advice about its internal workings. Since the institution of Voluntary Student Unionism, NUS has struggled to be as prevalent as it once was, with significantly less funding coming from

its affiliate student associations.

However, many suggestions put forward by the report were met with criticism ranging from constructive to hostile. One of the more contentious issues was a potential restructure of office bearer positions, with the current 13 positions being potentially reduced to six - and none of these would be autonomous. Other suggestions include searching for new funding sources such as government grants (ha), developing Key Performance Indicators, having an advisory board of experts for consultation purposes, and appointing a temporary General Manager to oversee any major changes. These proposals were slammed as turning the Union into a bureaucratic entity, instead of focusing on activism.

Many of these reforms will be on the agenda at this year's National Conference. Which of them will be discussed is impossible to say at this

point, as policy submissions have not been requested yet. All changes to the Constitution or Regulations require a three-quarters majority, meaning that at least three of the major factions (Unity, National Independents, SAlt, NLS) need to vote together. Unity controlled roughly 40 per cent of all delegates in 2013, so having their approval is vital.

USyd will have a delegation of at least 17 students at NatCon: the seven delegates elected through the recent SRC elections, seven general observers, and three media observers. The SRC has also pledged \$72,000 in affiliation fees, an increase on 2013, making it one of the biggest financial supporters of NUS.

Expect more analysis of NUS, and possible changes, in the coming two months.

A hum of white noise

Anonymous explores their reality of depression, life, and suicidal thoughts.

TRIGGER WARNING:

This article contains graphic depictions of self-harm and discusses suicide, suicidal ideation, and depression. If you, or someone you know, is experiencing difficulties with depression or suicidal thoughts, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

I first considered killing myself when I was eleven years old.

Back then, it wasn't about melancholy, but a visceral desire to stop struggling. To stop pretending that life was something I wanted to keep labouring through. Even at that age, I knew I lacked whatever it was that gave others the capacity to feel something, to desire vitality. Living, with routines and family members and school and eating, felt like a bad choice someone made for me that I was stuck with.

I'd spent the night, New Year's Eve, with a friend's family who lived on the twentieth storey of an apartment building. After the fireworks, when everyone retreated from the balcony to the living room, I stayed behind, revelling in the sudden calm. I became fixated with the drop to the foot of the apartment building, into a dark yard housing a children's swing set. The balcony's railing was low, and I could have easily climbed over. In that instant, it was about bringing forward the time of my death from the distant future and bypassing all of the motions and waiting and emptiness. The drop seemed just high enough to kill me, rather than badly injure me. I wanted to know what else there was, because there had to be something. Like any self-obsessed child, I thought of my parents, and newspaper headlines, and the coroner dissecting my

pale, tomboyish body on a slab. I hated myself for wanting it.

There's a difference between actively wanting to kill yourself and hoping, simply, to stop existing. My desire between the two things fluctuated. I withdrew from my friendship group and eventually started to skip most of my classes. I left school campus for every free period I had to avoid seeing anyone I knew. I would eat my lunch alone, watching the rowers and yachts on the bay, wondering how people could go about their lives day in, day out, able to find meaning.

In winter of 2007, when I was 16, I became obsessed with the idea that somehow I would stop existing before the year's end. It felt like the natural trajectory. It was the longest year of my life, and I did not want to see the end of it. My grades dropped and I considered leaving school - why spend these final years doing such an unfulfilling task? Classmates came and went in a hum of white noise, laughing and joking with one another and teachers, as I stared in blank apathy.

In the past ten years, I've spent a lot of time thinking about killing myself, wondering which method would be the most accessible and least brutal to whoever eventually found me. Sometimes it feels legitimate - some people want to stay alive and others want to

die. Is it not implicit in the act of staying alive that you are doing so because it's a choice? There is a misconception that a person who does not want to live seeks to actively end their life. But thinking frequently about death is not the same as being suicidal. It also doesn't mean you want to be dead all of the time. When I have bad days, I simply want to stop existing.

I stopped considering suicide two years ago. A personal trauma pushed me over the edge, and after weeks of waking up in tears, eating half a meal a day and spending nights crying on the kitchen floor, I cracked. One night, on the brink of a panic attack, I ran to the back of the house in tears. I found a stack of spare tiles and began to throw them, one by one, to the ground. I hurled square after square at the concrete floor, more worried that the neighbours would see me crying than they would wonder what I was doing. I wanted to carve my arms and legs and chest open with the edges, letting myself bleed out in the garden, to disintegrate right then and there and be sucked into the earth forever. If my mother hadn't found me, shivering in the dark, whimpering into a pot plant, I don't know what would have happened.

It's okay if the pot plant thing made you laugh. I'm laughing a little about it too, on the inside.

Sometimes rock bottom is what it takes for you to realise what you want. (This is a truncated version of my rock bottom because the rest of it is much more ugly, but you get the idea).

In the months and years that have followed that period, I have realised that outside of those peaks of depressive dissociation, the more insidious, truer symptom of my chronic depression is a fluctuating desire to not live a jaded and apathetic life with routine and bathing and the future and eating meals and getting on a bus or watching it go by for no reason. This doesn't mean I'll always consider death as an option if 'things get really bad', but fighting against the slow-burning desire to not have to exist is probably going to be the hardest battle of my life. Because discussions of suicide are rarely frank and nuanced, the fact that this feeling is very different to actively seeking suicide tends not to be considered.

Like most taboo things, various aspects of depression and wanting to be dead need to be spoken about more. Having talked to two people about this recently was one of the most therapeutic things I have ever done. I want people to talk more openly about the insidious ways that suicidal ideation eats away at people over years, because sometimes it can save a life.



A Spurr in all our sides

The public/private divide is irrelevant, argues Tom Joyner.

Barry Spurr has never taught me personally, but I have been a student of the English Department now for three years. Reading revelations on Thursday of his senseless remarks sent a cold shiver down my spine. All of a sudden, I felt like the kid in the school play who finds out, behind the bright lights and music, the audience has been mocking him the whole time. Needless to say, my initial shock soon gave way to anger, and that anger hasn't subsided.

It's only been six months since LA Clippers owner Donald Sterling faced a public backlash following the airing of a private conversation in which he chided an ex-girlfriend for "associating with black people". Sterling was famously banned for life from the NBA for his comments, a measure that stirred indignation among some observers, who argued he had done nothing wrong. Perhaps in some ways, they were right. But, as others tried to

show, they were missing the point.

For me, Thursday's revelations hit closer to home as a person of colour. Like other targets of Spurr's email diatribe, I have to wonder if my place at the University is seen differently because of my race. But there are other pertinent questions that emerge: what dim view does our education system really take of Indigenous students? Is it easier for a white, native English-speaking student to gain access to USyd based on the colour of their skin? Are international students treated like a number to be exploited for revenue?

Whether or not Spurr apologises (as he has shown no indication to do so far) is immaterial. After all, his emails were never intended to be made public. His suspension by the University sends a strong message about the gravity of his offence – and has temporarily removed his deranged evangelism

for a 'racially-pure' society. But it does not alter the uneasy realisation that Spurr, like Sterling, is hardly an anomaly – Spurr was just unlucky.

The truth is that racist, sexist and elitist remarks like Spurr's are not a cause, but a symptom. "Private" comments like his are the tip of an institutional iceberg. Similar to Sterling's case, we had been shown, long before Spurr's emails emerged, the ideological and prejudiced bents of those colleagues of his in similar positions.

While published emails, like videos of racist attacks on public transport, provide more shocking and certainly newsworthy evidence of bigotry, they obscure the real issue. Institutional racism unfortunately doesn't make for digestible headlines or quotable soundbytes; it seeps insidiously into the foundations of entire establishments and corners

of democratic process.

I am still furious that for two years Spurr would have harboured such disturbing views of the very students he was presumably teaching during that time. To me, the line between what Spurr has said, and what he actually believes, is insubstantial. Public or private, broadcast or hidden, racism and sexism are toxic, but more so when they are propagated by those with power at an institutional level.

Whatever the implications of Spurr's emails, there are thankfully those still on campus who value university as an inclusive environment for students of marginalised backgrounds. It makes no difference to me if I was or was not personally taught by Barry Spurr. His words have chipped away at the decaying edifice that somehow our educational institutions and systems are accessible equally by all.

Justice through journalism:

Q&A with Amy McQuire

Amy McQuire is a Darumbal and South Sea Islander, and one of Australia's foremost Indigenous journalists. Here, she speaks to Xiaoran Shi.

What was it like growing up as a Darumbal and South Sea Islander woman in Rockhampton and how has that influenced your work as a respected Indigenous affairs journalist?

I grew up not really understanding the true history of this country and of my own hometown, which was one of the most heavily massacred places in Australia, and also a centre of the blackbirding trade. I didn't learn about Queensland's sordid history of stolen land, stolen wages, stolen children and stolen remains. I didn't know my own history and I couldn't identify racism in my own hometown because it is hidden within our institutions and colonial structures. It wasn't until I left home and went to Canberra to work as a cadet at the National Indigenous Times, in the city where the policies affecting the rest of Aboriginal Australia are made, that I received any schooling about the true history of the country and I think that's what really inspired me to work in Indigenous media - we need to ensure that history is dealt with first in order to truly understand current events.

You have a formidable resume of having worked with many of the peak Indigenous publications Australia, from the National Indigenous Times to Tracker magazine. Can you tell me about your time at each publication?

NIT was a really important publication - completely independent,

and it began out of [journalist] Chris Graham's basement. It ran on a shoestring but punched well above its weight. It broke really important stories, and it helped me develop my politics. It was a good training ground for solid, independent journalism. I then went to National Indigenous Television (NITV) and worked out of the press gallery for a few months where I learnt the definition of "churnalism". It was based at Sky News and, coming from NIT, I really felt starved of the kind of analysis and context we used to provide to our stories. NITV has changed a lot since it moved into SBS, but there is still a need for an independent voice away from the editorial oversight of SBS. Tracker was a really important publication because of the reach and the resources, although it was still under-funded. We were able to publish really important stories on underreported and misreported NSW communities like Toomelah, Bourke and Bowraville, but we were always hindered. The sad demise of Tracker taught me that you can't depend on any other organisation to fund independent media - it has to be totally independent and should be completely free of editorial control.

How does your previous work in Indigenous media inform your current work for more mainstream publications, such as New Matilda and the Guardian?

I've really liked concentrating on other issues for New Matilda but they are actually issues that end up affecting Aboriginal people as well. I'm very concerned about climate change, and that will ultimately impact on Aboriginal communities more harshly. I still find I write stories with an Aboriginal audience in mind, which is probably why I get so many negative reactions in our commentary section! But first and

foremost, I write for Aboriginal people and I think that's more than fair given most of the media is intent on demonising us.

What do you envisage as the role of media in pushing for sociopolitical change? Can journalism be effectively 'activist' without compromising traditional values of 'integrity' and 'objectivity'?

I truly believe media has to push for socio-political change. It amazes me how "balance" can overshadow "truth". Every journalist is biased - the way you present your story is based on your or your paper's judgement on which opinion or fact is most important. Today, to be an informed citizen, you have to read a wide variety of sources because of the deep penetration of public relations (which is basically just a nice word for "propaganda"). "Straight, factual reportage" can also disguise the real picture of what is happening in a country because bare facts do not provide context or analysis about the true history of a situation or conflict. We do need stronger editorial voices because then you aren't just reading an anonymous byline - you begin reading journalists you trust because they have a direct accountability to you, and you can immediately call them out on their work through social media and the like.

You have previously spoken about the need to establish and support independent media for marginalised and disadvantaged peoples, arguing it is simply not enough for a few representative individuals to penetrate mainstream media discourse. What do you think would be the best way to work towards this?

I think it's critically important for Indigenous media to have our own outlets to counteract a lot of the mainstream media's negativity and straight out lies. But how you fund that is a different matter. The Indigenous broadcasting sector, for example, has always been deeply reliant on government funds, to the extent that they have been unable to foster solid journalism that could really threaten government. I just believe the non-white journalists who end up in mainstream media outlets unfortunately have to compromise the reason they are there in the first place: to provide a voice to their

communities, because they are working within a structure that disempowers them.

How have your experiences been working as a woman, especially a Darumbal and South Sea Islander woman, in the media?

I can't understand why there is still a gender imbalance in the media, given most of my journalism classes at university were filled with women. I truly believe there has to be a turnaround really soon. I believe sexism is a problem across every part of our society and maybe we just don't want to confront it. Maybe we want to keep getting caught on silly debates when we should be challenging power structures that continue to oppress women - one of those structures is the mainstream media. Although misogyny is rampant everywhere, I actually find Aboriginal communities are better on sexism. Women are often the heads and strongholds of the family and I've never felt spoken down to or patronised due to my gender in the way I have when in white institutions.

Can you tell me about your working relationship with Chris Graham, with whom you co-edited Tracker and with whom currently you work at New Matilda?

Chris is probably one of the best journalists in Australia because he actually has a conscience, he is fearless and he lives for his job. He is also deeply invested in Aboriginal communities and he's one of those whitefellas who isn't working in the Aboriginal industry, making money off black poverty. He's not a fly-in and fly-out journalist and has a huge contact book in Aboriginal Australia. He is working, often at personal detriment, to uncover the truth and fight for the rights of Aboriginal people. I've followed him around from NIT to Tracker to New Matilda, and we share a deepening sense of the Aboriginal press as an advocacy press, one that can't afford not to be biased. The original slogan for NIT was something about building bridges between black and white, but I guess now it would be about actually providing justice for Aboriginal people, not trying to simply ease white guilt.

Show me the money

Alex Gillis asks investigates how much you are putting into SUSF, and how much are you getting out.

"If Sydney University were a stand-alone country, it would have placed 14th in the medal tally at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, beating countries like Cyprus, Pakistan, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka," an article in the August 5 edition of the *Inner West Courier* began.

"For an institution with just over 50,000 students, the Camperdown-based University is punching well above its weight."

The article goes on to quote Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF) executive director Robert Smithies, who said USyd's success had a lot to do with the "strong scholarship program". But just how much are we paying to demolish Northern Ireland every four years?

In 2013, SUSF received \$4 million in funding from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) to do so – making it the largest beneficiary of USyd SSAF. Just under a quarter of that funding goes to the approximately 400 individuals in the Elite Athlete Program, some University of Sydney students, some not.

SUSF is also contracted by the University under a service-level agreement to administer our sporting facilities – most notably, the pool and two gyms on the main campus. The terms of this agreement are not public, but financial statements from 2012 depict a large organisation with a great many sections. The Corporate and Alumni Relations department, for instance, cost \$138,634 in administration and management while netting only \$130,297 in sponsorships.

Almost \$300,000 total was spent on marketing in the same year. The various sporting clubs supported by SUSF received in total \$1.4 million.

SUSF claims a "clear objective to provide the opportunity for members to participate in nominated sports at the highest level", while aiming in its constitution to "encourage the participation in sport by as many students of the University as possible."

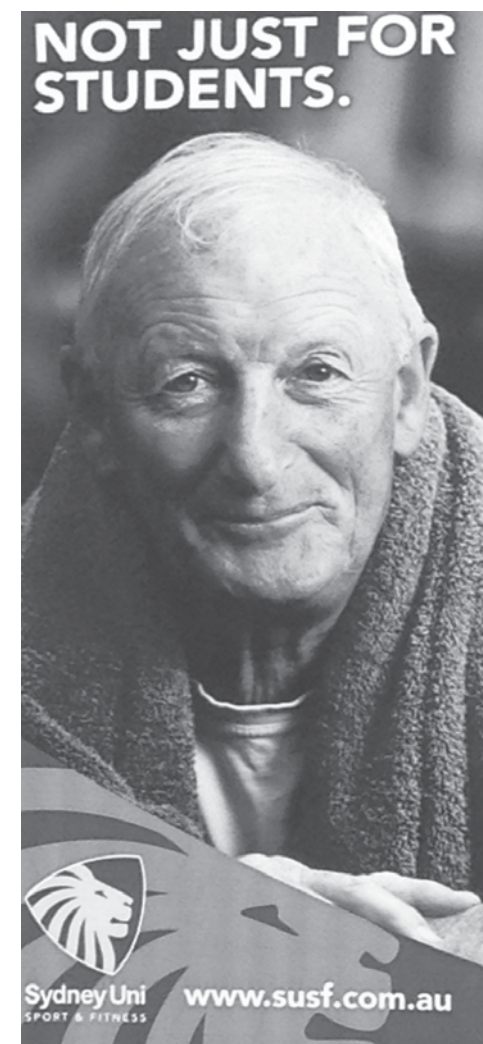
As each student effectively paid SUSF \$88 through compulsory SSAF fees last year, this equates to \$20 per year per student toward the Elite Athlete Program alone. The program supports "student athletes in their concurrent pursuit of academic and sporting excellence", according to SUSF's website. This takes the form of three permanent staff administering a program that includes financial assistance, international travel grants, academic representation, and tutoring. Despite the contribution of each and every full time student to SUSF, a yearly membership fee of \$60 is compulsory for facility access. Thus, SUSF will have received \$148 from any given full-time student before it is even possible to gain entry into the gym or pool. The pool charges the same \$4.50 fee as the most immediate competitor in Victoria Park – though the University owns and operates the facility and the operating body has already received a large amount of money from each student. Taking into account both annual membership and SSAF contribution before paying for a pass, the effective cost to a student of annual pool membership is \$140 more at our aquatic centre than at the City of Sydney operated Victoria Park pool.

This difference continues in gym pricing. Even the cheapest gym pass from SUSF is \$80 more than membership at the Victoria Park gym and \$127 more than membership of the for-profit Newtown Gym, when the SSAF contribution and an annual membership are factored in.

The paid membership system means students, already invested stakeholders in these facilities, have no say over their administration. Only paying members are permitted to vote in annual elections. In contrast, the other major recipients of SSAF funding – the Student Representative Council and University of Sydney Union – hold elections open to the student body generally.

The parameters for distribution of the amenities fee state the funding must, according to the University, "meet the needs of the broad cross-section of the University's student community". When contacted, SUSF told *Honi* that it "is confident it is meeting its goals and aims, and via a structured feedback process of our members as well as our day to day interaction with them we are constantly kept apprised of our delivery on these goals". There was no mention of non-members, who make up the majority of students. Given the cost of and funding provided by annual memberships, we can conservatively estimate there are far fewer than 10,000 student members. In other words, more than 80 per cent of the university's student body are contributing funds to an entity over which they have no control. Do our students care about Sydney University's performance at the Commonwealth Games? Are the

sporting facilities accessible enough to all students? Have you got your \$88 worth from SUSF this year?



This is an actual SUSF ad. Legit, not a joke.



Offence is no defence

Ada Lee had an emotional Facebook conversation with the self-professed 'soldiers' of the Australian Defence League.

Trigger Warning: This piece includes numerous quotes from members of the Australian Defence League, which are Islamophobic in nature.

"Fuck anyone who defends Islam. They don't deserve life, to defend those who align themselves with a death cult that has snatched life and joy and basic human rights away."

It's a hate-filled message, wrapped in the proclamation of defending human rights. This is one of the last things the Australian Defence League soldiers (ADL – Soldiers) say in our Facebook conversation.

Inspired by the English Defence League and set up in early 2010, the ADL is a loosely defined group of extreme, anti-Islam advocates in Australia, best known for their provocative presence on social media. A quick Facebook search uncovers dozens of different pages, with different location bases and sometimes, different leaders.

ADL Soldiers was created to be a "more hard-hitting... information page", according to Ralph Cerminara, page admin and President of the ADL. With almost 3000 followers, the ADL Soldiers page features videos of ISIS atrocities, declarations of war against Islam, Andrew Bolt reports, and defensive words about why they are not racist or bigoted

despite what "loonie left wing mates" might say.

Our Facebook interactions are tumultuous, as multiple ADL members reply from the same account. At times, it feels like tiptoeing around an angry and volatile child, one that could snap in an instant.

At one point, Cerminara reassures me that he hates racism and loves Asian people ("I am married to an Asian girl"). But when I ask if the ADL identifies as neo-Nazi, another user takes the reins and tells me his war veteran grandfather would shoot me if I asked him the same question.

They emphasise that they are not condemning a race but rather, an ideology they perceive as "a religion of war, of deception and slavery, of sexism, of paedophilia". In organising a Sydney meeting, they remind followers that the ADL welcomes people "from all racial groups and from all religions excepting the death cult of Islam".

As we have seen in the rising spate of Islamophobic attacks against Muslim women and mosques, more

and more Australians are using the atrocities of Muslim extremists to define and justify punishment against all Muslims. For ADL Soldiers, there is no such thing as the moderate Muslim.

The group insists they "have never attacked anyone," yet they do not condemn those who do. "If people verbally abuse people then that's them, they are sick to death of islamists raping young girls, planning to blow up people at the AFL grand final, Sharia law, marrying underage girls, it goes on and on," Cerminara says.

Just last month, Cerminara posted a video on YouTube (now deleted) threatening, "another Cronulla is coming, and I can't wait until it does, because this time, we're going to show you who's boss". He posted it after five Muslim men allegedly attacked him in Lakemba because he was taking photos of women in niqabs and posting them online.

Cerminara frames the 2005 Cronulla Riots using the discourse of war, emphasising the gang rapes and attacks on lifeguards that preceded it. "All wars have civilian

casualties...Aussies had enough," he says. "Bad thing like any war is there were acts that were not called for, but that's war, and when a foreign body comes to your country and rapes your women, tries to blow up your buildings and more, we are at war."

Maybe we are at war. When the West invades the Middle-East, when we hear endless stories of women in hijabs and niqabs being harassed on the streets, when we see images of 5000 flag-wavers attacking people of Middle-Eastern descent in Cronulla, it breeds the perfect climate for people from either side to recede further and further into the shadows of extremism, polarised and marginalised from the demonised Other.

At the end of the Facebook thread, there is a battle among page admins arguing whether to stop speaking to me. The words reek of paranoia, insularity and intolerance of criticism.

"Fuck anyone who defends Islam ... We will never stop. We will never stop learning about this death cult."

It's not a game anymore

Deaths threats were made over a video game and it's called GamerGate, writes Leigh Nicholson.

The GamerGate fiasco has engulfed the video gaming scene for much of the year. Last Wednesday, the absurdity reached a new climax. Zoe Quinn, the game developer at the centre of the debacle, tweeted every minute non-stop for hours posting screenshots from 8Chan, the 4Chan spin-off, revealing all her personal details, which turned into this weird meta ping-pong of posts in 8Chan of her tweets about the posts in 8Chan. A particularly haunting post was of an anonymous user finding Zoe's current address and every other address she had ever lived at. A more distressing post was one which literally, and calmly, suggested that killing Quinn would be the easiest way to win GamerGate.

If you only just started following GamerGate, you would have little idea how it escalated. Adam Baldwin, an actor from Firefly, was the one to actually start the hashtag #GamerGate, supporting the harassment and vindictive 'doxing'

(when someone's personal details are leaked) in tweets alongside ones like "What hard evidence is there that Obama doesn't want ebola in America?". Fun fact: tweeting with the hashtag will cause you to be inundated within seconds by supporters harassing and insulting you. I dropped out of the conversation once Seth Rogen got involved. You can't make this shit up.

GamerGate started with the criticism of Zoe Quinn's alleged relationship with a game critic. People, incorrectly, assumed that Quinn had used this 'relationship' to garner positive reviews for her game *Depression Quest*, even though the journalist in question never actually reviewed the game. Since then, Quinn has had to leave her home, and has of yet not returned. Anita Sarkeesian, a feminist game critic, has also been doxed, as have other female game developers. Sarkeesian was supposed to give a talk at Utah University this week, but had to

cancel when there were terror threats and the University said they couldn't promise gun control. Huffington Post also jumped in and tried to co-opt Quinn into a panel debate with the people who were sending her death threats, without telling her.

The problem with GamerGate is that, as it stands now, the people in support of it are arguing that it is coming from a place of fixing 'journalism ethics'. And that, other than the ones who are directly involved in the harassment of women within the gaming community, these supporters are, sometimes unwillingly, participating in the hate mob under the guise of exposing corruption.

Despite what supporters might try to say, GamerGate is not about fighting corruption or bad ethics. You can't handpick values from a movement and deny association when the same movement threatens to kill people. As some game critics have pointed

out, there are conversations to be had about questionable ethics in the field. For example, Polygon now requires contributors to disclose any donations made through the site Patreon, which is commonly used to fund indie developers, after one of the editors was found donating to Quinn.

GamerGate, however, is not about ethics. It is about mostly straight cis-men getting defensive when people interrogate their community. The increase in indie companies has meant that games no longer have to submit to the male-orientated paradigms and the desire for this diversity in games, and the criticism of lack-thereof, has injured the egos of those who have benefited from the exclusivity of gaming in the past. With everything this has come to, from bomb threats to having to leave your home for two months, it is helpful to keep in mind that this whole thing started because a female developer wanted to make a video game.

Rise of the readers

Evelyn Araluen Corr investigates how ebook data could change the world of literature.

They know you tend to read your textbooks in the morning, but prefer fantasy novellas at night. They know you skipped through the first half of *Vanity Fair*. They know how many times you reread Rue's death scene in *The Hunger Games*. They know which quotes you highlighted in *The Fault in Our Stars* before Tumblr made fun of them. They know you dragged through all those descriptions of meals in *The Song of Ice and Fire* series, and they know you couldn't turn the page fast enough in the sexy scenes. And you disgust them.

By 'they', I mean publishers. It's all thanks to the data-collection capacity of e-readers, which are capable of logging your reading times, your account activity, the speed at which you turn the page, and what you're most likely to want to read next. While an insight into my recent Wodehouse binge and propensity to forget to buy my textbooks until ten minutes before class begins may not seem particularly useful to anyone, there is a distinct commercial advantage to the

acquisition of this information.

As sales in e-books rise, new opportunities are emerging for publishers to study the ways in which we read, and tailor their products to suit the habits of "the average reader". In the days of boring old paper books, for example, it was difficult to identify the demographics and intimate habits of customers. E-book data collection thus gives publishers access to information and tools that had previously been restricted to television or film producers. Publishers, too, are now able to use online analytics to determine precisely who is reading, when they want to read, and what they think of their book.

Meanwhile, apps like GoodReads are introducing a social media aspect to reading, which means not only can you rate and review your favourite books, but you can catalogue a reading history to show off to all your friends about how much extra free time you have to spend on your enviable online persona. Although a relatively

new aspect to publishing, these developments do suggest some fairly ominous implications for authors.

On one hand, the ability to maximise books' marketability may lead to greater sales numbers, and allow the publishing industry to compete more effectively for "eyeballs" with the film and television industry. On the other hand, it could also give rise to a push for books which are written in accordance with a set of conventions devised from the study of an average Kindle user's reading habits. This makes very real the possibility that books being released over the next few years will exchange originality and innovation for 500 per cent more breasts and dragons in order to maintain user interest.

Without even considering the potential for our evil overlords to use

Kindles to control our minds, by studying how we read, *what* we read might soon become fifty shades of stock standard, "average reader"-approved plot.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY WOODS

Quest for the Holy Bail 2: Bail Harder

Sam Murray's concern over bail changes don't necessarily imply his criminality, but...



"The law and order auction" is a particularly apt phrase that refers to the tendency of both major parties in NSW to 'auction off' the rights of criminally accused persons for political point scoring, no matter how antithetical it may be to good public policy (see: right to silence; anti-bikie laws, the lockouts etc.) The most recent incarnation of this political penchant is the new (new) bail laws that have been recently passed by the State government.

After a nearly two year-long consultation process, this year the NSW Government reformed the *Bail Act 1978* (NSW). They replaced the confusing presumptions and counter-presumptions of the previous Act with a simple two-step test: bail could only be denied if someone was both an 'unacceptable risk' (of absconding, committing more crimes, evidence tampering etc.),

and if that risk could not be mitigated by measures such as confiscation of passport or daily reporting requirements. The only "problem" with these reforms was that, while many people ended up getting classified as 'unacceptable risks', most of the time courts found preventative measures would adequately mitigate the risks, resulting in most applicants getting bail. Suddenly, a cohort of bikies and alleged murderers (among others, of course) were getting bail. Cue *The Daily Telegraph* and talk-back radio demanding a radical change

And so the government complied, enacting a formal review of the new laws. In a stroke of political genius, they appointed the former Labor NSW Attorney-General, the Hon. John Hatzistergos to head up the review, ensuring they would both get headline recommendations (Hatzistergos

was a particularly law-and-order-centric politician) and Labor's support for any reforms. In an entirely unsurprising turn of events, the recommendations came back within weeks and quickly attracted bipartisan support. They have since been expeditiously passed into law by both Houses of Parliament.

The Bail Amendment Act 2014 cut the aforementioned test in half. Instead of courts determining whether or not someone was an 'unacceptable risk' and then determining whether that risk could be mitigated, anyone found to be 'unacceptable risk' is now simply denied bail. Given that under the previous system most applicants were found to be 'unacceptable risks', this means a lot of bail will now be denied. Even more problematic is the addition of an entirely new test, which states that if you have been

charged with certain offences such as serious drug, firearm and personal violence offences, the burden is on you to "show cause why [your] detention is not justified". This reverses one of the longest standard legal principles in the criminal law: the presumption of liberty being given to those charged with crimes. If you are charged with, for example, possession of a commercial quantity of cannabis, and are unable to 'justify' your non-detention, you're not getting bail no matter how low a risk the court determines you to be.

But, hey: in a state where it's okay to lose freedom of association, your right to silence, and your ability to have a drink at 3.01 in the morning, what does it matter if we throw another ancient legal right on the funeral pyre?



MORE THAN BILLS AND BOMBS

Ben Brooks on the successes of community de-radicalisation programs and the challenges they face.

Last month, according to Google Trends, more Australians searched for information about terrorism than at any point since the 2005 London bombings. Anxiety surged around the time that Prime Minister Tony Abbott introduced the flourish “apocalyptic death cult” to describe Islamic State and its Australian supporters.

By invoking rhetoric of exotic occultism, Abbott laid the groundwork for an ambitious national security agenda. “Regrettably, for some time to come, the delicate balance between freedom and security may have to shift,” he told an obliging Parliament. The government has moved swiftly to fortify the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, seeking to grant a raft of new powers and privileges commensurate with the urgency of the perceived crisis. Under proposed laws, ASIO will be able to access third party devices under a single warrant, intelligence officers will enjoy limited immunity from prosecution, and journalists could be imprisoned for ten years for the “reckless” disclosure of a special intelligence operation.

Yet the “death cult” brand is as unilluminating as it is compelling. It obscures the root causes of home-grown extremism and their practical, grassroots solutions. “The government has chosen to intercept, act and imprison rather than teach, train and prevent,” complains Sohail Ateem, a Muslim youth leader from Hobart. Kuranda Seyit, Director of the Forum on Australia’s Islamic Relations (FAIR), agrees. “The government has not made an effort to understand *why* young people have these ideas and thoughts,” he tells *Honi*. Seyit sees this pattern as typical of the post-9/11 era. “They’ve created this invisible war and invisible threat that will continue forever.”

It is not disputed that radicalism is an emerging issue. “We didn’t realise how big the problem was until the Australian Federal Police sat down and showed us some graphics and tape recordings,”

says Ateem, 26. “It was bigger than we thought.”

Yet there are a many ways to mend a threat. A Sunni Muslim of Sudanese origin, Ateem undertook two Australian Muslim Youth Leadership and Peer Mentorship programs between 2011 and 2013, organised by the Australian Multicultural Foundation. With funding from the federal Building Community Resilience (BCR) grant scheme, the Foundation sought to prevent radicalisation in Islamic communities by training young Muslims to identify and mentor vulnerable individuals. Originally, the program focussed on the threat posed by Hizb ut-Tahrir. “Now,” says Ateem, “we have Al-Nusra and Islamic State.”

“[The Government] created this invisible war and invisible threat that will continue forever.”

The former Labor government launched the BCR initiative in 2010. Today, some \$5 million in grants have been distributed to sixty community-based projects across Australia which resist violent extremism and promote social cohesion. Its website is a graveyard of broken hyperlinks. The Liberal government has terminated the scheme pending the implementation of its own \$630 million national security strategy. “That work is done,” reads the new Countering Violent Extremism statement.

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As the government escalates its foreign and domestic counterterrorism response, *Honi* spoke with four programs funded under the BCR scheme. They are a motley collection of initiatives which take a range of creative approaches to countering radicalism. Yet together, they provide a valuable insight into the ways that civil society can divert extremist behaviour before it manifests in violent conduct.

The programs share a common commitment to early detection and prevention in place of investigation and prosecution. Fundamentally, they operate on the principle that radicalisation is a process that begins in the local community. “These are people who feel unwanted at home and unwanted by the community. They want a group to say ‘we value you and we respect you,’” says Ateem, who believes that radicalisation among impressionable young people is no different to other forms of juvenile delinquency. “If they didn’t find imams on YouTube, they would be selling drugs on the street.”

Dr Hass Dellal is Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation and

helped to oversee the leadership programs in which Ateem participated. “What we do is encourage the community to be aware of certain behavioural changes – and the intensity of those changes – which can result from grief, loss, unemployment, domestic violence, drug abuse, experiences with alienation or experiences with discrimination,” says Dellal. “It is about intervening and understanding before they become a problem.”

According to Ateem, the programs brought together two individuals from each state and territory. Participants were trained to identify and mentor vulnerable members of the community, with input from the Federal Police, ASIO, and its foreign intelligence counterpart ASIS. “In our first training course, there were three former radicals. These guys were at the point of no return, but the AFP kind of intervened at the right time. The stories we heard from them... well, it was eye-opening to see how far someone could go. The program does help people, and then those people become mentors.” With additional BCR funding last

year, alumni from the leadership programs are now delivering resilience training to the general community: a virtuous cycle of education and empowerment.

Football United also works to develop mentor-mentee relationships, but in a range of communities with high concentrations of refugees and migrants. “The whole principle is about enabling people to be together and engage with each other around things that they love,” says Dr Anne Bunde-Birouste, who founded the organisation in 2006 with support from the University of New South Wales. “The asylum seeker debate was raging, as it is again now. The idea was to enable people to feel welcome and help get settled in Australia – to belong and connect.” With a \$120,000 grant, Football United has developed football workshops for youths vulnerable to radicalisation, incorporating resilience and communication training. It is one of a number of programs, including an AFL initiative, which support social cohesion through the lens of sport.

Other initiatives address radicalism online, where Islamic State has staged a formidably effective recruitment drive. FAIR secured a BCR grant to produce Islamate, an online portal for information about Islam. Likewise, People against Violent Extremism (PaVE) received a \$115,000 grant last year to deliver a social media campaign. “We are the first and only NGO specifically devoted to targeting violent extremism,” says PaVE Program Director Kosta Lucas. PaVE hopes to take leadership of the non-governmental response to violent extremism. The campaign will launch in coming weeks via a *Walk Away From Extremism* website and a series of short online films.

Yet for all the aspiration and goodwill, community resilience programs face a number of credibility and funding challenges.

Programs affiliated with the government can struggle to earn the trust of local communities.

According to Ateem, the Youth Leadership and Peer Mentorship Program faced considerable resistance within the Muslim community. “We were treated like little governments spies giving reports to the AFP. The trust has pretty much gone. That is our biggest challenge.” The PaVE campaign, by comparison, has studiously avoided directing itself to a particular religion or ideology. “We are very carefully branded. Islamic extremism is a hot topic but we have just as much focus on white supremacist ideologies,” says Lucas. “A lot of our marketing represents two faces of radicalism.” As if to underscore the point, the PaVE landing page features a blonde female.

It is also difficult to determine the causes of extremism, and to design a comprehensive community resilience strategy accordingly. BCR grant recipients consisted of organisations as diverse as migrant resource centres for African, Middle Eastern or Subcontinental refugees facing settlement difficulties, groups combating white supremacy, and women’s support centres. At one level, this reflects an unfocussed, pre-Islamic State approach to countering radicalism. At another level, it reflects uncertainty as to the demographics most at risk of radicalisation, and the most effective way to support them. “We still don’t know a lot about why some people radicalise and some people don’t,” explains Lucas. “It’s such a weird mix of circumstances that trigger that behaviour in some people but not others.”

His comments are echoed by US Studies Centre researcher Dr Leah Farrall. “Radicalisation dynamics are changing,” she tells *Honi*. Farrall notes that there are significant differences between individuals radicalised towards Islamic State compared to Al-Qaeda, as well as the recruitment strategies of each. “The government has recognised some of these differences as they pertain to operational requirements and legislative amendments, but I am less confident that there is a comprehensive understanding of these dynamics,” she adds. “There needs to be a rethinking of how the government treats radicalisation and how it engages with affected communities.”

Sustainability is a third challenge. FAIR Director Seyit is frustrated by a lack of long-term vision from government. “The BCR and other grants are just cosmetic solutions to a very deep and complex issue. We need to look at how to empower our established institutions – identifiable, strong institutions – instead of throwing a few million dollars to organisations across the nation, in bits here and there. Some

organisations are getting all this funding and then just preaching to the converted.” After listening to feedback from other programs, Seyit believes that the funds were generally insufficient for more than a year of operations. According to Bunde-Birouste, this makes it difficult for programs to prove their long-term effectiveness. “The longer the program and the more regular the program, the higher the impact,” she says.

Lucas from PaVE is more reflective. “There is not exactly a plethora of funding sources for this type of work,” he says of the online counter-extremism campaign. “Then again, in the context of social issues Australia has faced, this is quite new.”

In such a fragile, myopic funding environment, programs struggle to find ways to build long-term capacity and magnify their impact. This can mean targeting not vulnerable individuals themselves but those around them. As the Australian Muslim Youth Leadership and Peer Mentorship program demonstrates, a cadre of trained mentors like Ateem can circulate skills and knowledge through communities long after the program itself has ended. Ultimately, detecting the embryos of radicalism is a task best suited for those closest to at-risk individuals. “Families are often the first to notice if someone is radicalising,” says Lucas. “We want to enable family and friends to engage with these people and to slow or stop the process – to start a dialogue.”

Lucas is not alone in arguing that families should be a focus for counter-radicalisation efforts. According to Dellal, families do not have the skills to distinguish radical tendencies from other forms of adolescent behaviour. Similarly, Seyit notes that no support services existed for parents like those of Melbourne teen and alleged Islamic State follower, Numan Haider, who was shot dead last month after stabbing counter-terrorism investigators. Haider was known to police prior to his death. Nevertheless, says Seyit, “the parents had no idea what was going on. We could have had an outreach hotline or TV campaigns like those for alcohol and gambling, letting them know that there is support.”

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In hindsight, the BCR scheme resembles an improvised social experiment more than a coherent counter-radicalism strategy. It is unclear whether Labor ever intended to gauge the effectiveness of the scheme with a view to expanding it. A number of programs interviewed by *Honi* report that the former government

“The government has chosen to intercept, act and imprison rather than teach, train and prevent”

did not listen to suggestions about how to build long-term capacity. Aware of its poorer community engagement credentials, the Liberal government has promised that future work in this area will involve close consultation with affected communities. In a statement to *Honi*, the Attorney-General’s department pledged to reinvest part of its \$13.4 million community engagement fund in programs which could include youth diversion, counselling and employment support services.

At present, however, none of the BCR recipients interviewed have received any communication from the government about their future status or the future strategy. Few professed any confidence that the government supports community-based approaches to countering violent extremism. The community engagement fund is a meagre two percent of the new national security package, which primarily supports the expansion of law-enforcement and intelligence programs: a measure, perhaps, of the government’s commitment to prosecution over prevention.

Indeed, the national security strategy has done little but throw fuel onto the fires of domestic resentment. Bungled police raids followed by a distracting ‘ban the burqa’ campaign have undermined much of the social cohesion that so many BCR recipients have worked to preserve. “It has been appalling to watch the Abbott government drive this kind of division through Australia,” Senator Christine Milne tells *Honi*. Those at the coalface of community resilience all agree. “The government has done nothing to quell this rising panic. Being so alarmist and sowing such mistrust is going to make the situation worse,” says Bunde-Birouste. If combating radicalism is a question of belonging, says Ateem, “then young Muslims are not getting it from the media. With ‘Islam this, Islam that,’ young Muslims just feel isolated.”

It is not surprising, then, that many community resilience programs seem to spend as much time dispelling misconceptions and prejudice as they do working with vulnerable individuals themselves.

Whatever the government proposes, any community resilience strategy will face unresolved challenges. Problems with trust, focus, and sustainable impact could be addressed with a less haphazard approach to planning

and funding. The Greens, for one, have proposed an Australian Centre for Social Cohesion. According to Senator Milne, the body would be independent of government, drawing together NGOs, government agencies and academics. It would address shortcomings in our understanding of the epidemiology of radicalism, and intervene with the most appropriate form of community or government support.

The proposal bears faint echoes of successful programs overseas, such as the Channel initiative administered by the UK Home Office. Vulnerable individuals there may be referred via the local police to a multi-agency panel comprising representatives from schools, universities, health services, law enforcement authorities or social services. The panel may then develop a support package consisting of anything from substance abuse counselling to anger management therapy, education assistance, mental healthcare, or employment and housing assistance. Since its inception in 2007, the program has taken 4000 referrals for which almost 800 received tailored intervention schemes. If nothing else, programs like these demonstrate that successful precedents exist overseas, and that there is a dire need for their services.

Ultimately, however, quashing extremism will require more than grants and consultations. It requires a cognitive shift in the way we – and the government – choose to interpret and respond to radicalism. To describe something as a monstrous death cult is to place it beyond the realm of rational interrogation. It lends Islamic State and other groups precisely the sort of mystique which these frustrated social workers and community leaders are trying to dispel.

In material respects, radicalism is no different to other forms of delinquency and criminal behaviour. It is the avoidable by-product of alienation and isolation, driven by a set of complex but familiar social issues. Addressing these issues should not be the sole responsibility of plucky social entrepreneurs and cash-strapped NGOs fighting for scraps of funding. It must be an essential part of our counter-terrorism strategy. With a little empathy, it is possible to turn back the lonely, hateful, or corrupted before they embark on a path to war.

“It restored my faith towards my generation”

The protests have united Hong Kong's youth under a political umbrella, writes Jay Ng.

Underneath the world-famous Hong Kong skyline lie housing shortages, huge wealth inequality and, now, the Umbrella Revolution, a political protest uniting a generation. In the past, Hong Kong has functioned like an apolitical city. White collars work numbly, hoping to buy an apartment one day, while android-like students study hard, hoping to gain a seat in university. Usually, the only thing that truly excites the city is the release of a new Apple iPhone model.

Over the past month, all that has changed.

Beijing's attempts to enforce pseudo-universal suffrage has changed what my Hong Kong social circle cares about. My Instagram feed, which once featured screenshots of iPhone 6 receipts, is now full of pictures of my friends sweating and camping out on the street, police brutality, yellow ribbons, and umbrellas.

The Umbrella Movement has not come from nowhere. Tensions between young adults of my generation and China have been developing since the election of current Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying (mainly known as CY Leung in Hong Kong), who is widely seen as a puppet of Beijing. As much as my generation seem preoccupied with flashing around their latest tech gadgets, we do understand that we are lucky to know about the problematic parts of communist Chinese history. We are conscious of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989, and we question authority from the mainland.

We have noticed moves of the Chinese Communist

Party (CCP) in recent years. In 2012 the CCP introduced the controversial 'Moral and National Education Curriculum', which was widely seen as intending to 'brainwash' future generations. The curriculum was later abandoned after widespread opposition and hunger strikes outside government offices. Since then, a lot of us have felt the need to take responsibility for our democratic future. Student movements, organised by Scholarism and the Hong Kong Federation of Students, have never been so prominent in Hong Kong society as they are now. Last year, the government rejected an application of HKTV (a new television channel that would have offered new shows to a young audience) in fear that it would pose a threat to Chinese media. The rejection added another reason why young generations distrust the government. You would be surprised that, in a so-called world-class city, you do not even get a choice for what to watch on television.

The Umbrella Movement is bringing my generation together. It has been a mind-blowing experience for local journalist Wanna Wong. She explains the profound significance of the event for her and her generation, saying that it “restored [her] faith towards my generation at a politically difficult time.” She was surprised to see how “such a lovely huge crowd would come together...to fight for democracy in a presumably apolitical city.” “Of course,” Wong adds, “it is frustrating to see how violent the pro-government groups could get at the same time.” Hong Kong

police have been violent since the beginning of the occupation, throwing 87 canisters of tear gas into a crowd on one of the first days of protest.

Speaking to some of the protestors, it becomes clear that the police brutality has actually played an important role in generating solidarity among protestors. It has encouraged even more apolitical teens and parents to attend demonstrations and show support by donating everything from toiletries to protective goggles.

Other than the practice of physical and violent attacks, the police have also conducted distasteful and humiliating pranks on protestors. Protestor Yeemei Lam recalls how policemen “waited patiently until protestors fell asleep by dawn and would use the siren and laughed as they woke up in fear and pack up their belongings.” These pranks had the effect of physically and emotionally draining the protestors, and of forcing them back to their normal routine of going to school and work.

While Hong Kong's youth often feel pessimistic about their future in regards to education, housing and career, they have a shared desire to preserve their autonomous political rights. Many of them see the Umbrella Revolution as a last chance, as an all or nothing moment. “This is my one and only home. I know I have my job and all but if I do not defend for my future, who will?” asks

demonstrator Hugo Kwong. Another protestor, Ginny Leung, who has been attending the movement for over two weeks, admits that it has mildly interrupted her usual routine and way of life, particular in terms of transport to and from the occupied areas. “But I am happy to adapt to other transport options and change of plans for democracy.”

As determined as the protestors are, the event has reached a bottleneck moment. On a negative side, it is clear to Yeemei that “protestors are running out of patience, it has been over two weeks! Living out on the street is not a carnival.” But, realistically, the government still holds the power. CY Leung has been avoiding taking on responsibility, as the leader of Hong Kong, to listen to and talk to the movement representatives. He has instead pushed other government officials out to repeat same statements over and over again.

It is going to be a tough battle, but supporters of the Umbrella Revolution are not backing down. “We are sharing one identical goal: to have democracy,” says Ginny. The crowd is tired, but has preserved their passion from day one.



Indigenous legacies

White Australia has a Black history, writes Evelyn Araluen Corr.

The day news broke of Barry Spurr's “whimsical linguistic game” – in which he reminisced about a world with “no fatties, darkies or chinky-poops” on the University's email system – I had the honour of attending the Dr Charles Perkins AO Annual Memorial Oration in the Great Hall. Charles Perkins was the first Aboriginal man to graduate from an Australian university; an activist, administrator, and soccer player, the leader of the historic Freedom Rides that revealed the prevalence of apartheid-like discrimination against Indigenous peoples throughout Australia. The entire evening was a moving tribute to the legacy of Dr Perkins' inspiring vision of a better Australia.

It is an appropriate moment to be asking this question of what it means to be “a better Australia”, a question initiated by Dr Perkins himself half a century ago. February next year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the 1965 Freedom Rides, which were led by a group of USyd students from the Student Action for Aborigines (SAFA) society. The group was formed (with Dr Perkins as president) in 1964, in response to a midyear campus demonstration over the American Civil Rights movement, which, according to protestors, had failed to address the injustices occurring within Australia. Although the Freedom Rides have a hallowed place in our nation's history, and are celebrated as one of the major factors in generating the overwhelming support for the 1967 referendum, they did not

end the social and institutional discrimination against Indigenous peoples in Australia. One does not have to look past the half a billion dollar cuts to Indigenous affairs sanctioned by our current government to see that that struggle remains.

The legacy of Student Action for Aborigines is fairly close to home for me. In 1964, my father, Barry Corr, signed up for SAFA on Science Road with songs of Bob Dylan and Joan Baez in his head, and the Beatitudes in his heart. He didn't know his Aboriginal ancestry then. It was a revelation uncovered years later, and his involvement in Aboriginal education over the past thirty years has involved classroom teaching, bringing Elders and community members into schools, working on state curriculums, delivering drug education to Aboriginal students across NSW, and twelve years of research on Pondering the Abyss, an online source-based history of settler and Aboriginal contact in the Hawkesbury. There is no doubt that SAFA, the Freedom Rides, and the follow up journeys he and other members undertook had a monumental impact over his life, but his involvement in SAFA is not something that he boasts about much. “I don't want to be memorialised into a milestone of Australian progress,” he tells me. “Memorialisation worries me in that it will become a fleeting feel good moment for White Australia.”

Memorialisation is a funny concept. Kind of like that word better. What does it mean to

memorialise the Freedom Rides, when this word better is being dangled before us, telling us that there is still so much more work that has to be done? What is the worth that I can attend a beautiful oration in celebration of Dr Perkins' legacy, where I receive an award for my academic achievements, and have strangers approach me to discuss my research in Indigenous and postcolonial writing, and yet a professor in the same university was able to couch his prejudice in educational rhetoric to advise that Aboriginal writing be struck from our national curriculum because its impact has been “minimal”?

I want to believe I can save the world with passion and literature and justice, but this sort of discrimination will haunt me throughout my career, as my father is still haunted by memories from his youth today. Being physically thrown out of the Royal Hotel in Bowraville when he tried to buy a beer for an Aboriginal man. Seeing the devastating effects that alcohol would have on Aboriginal communities. Being told by a policeman in a country town that there was clean dirt, and dirty dirt, and that only clean dirt could be washed off. Visiting Aboriginal communities where the housing was corrugated iron humpies. Taking a young boy into a milk bar to get him a milkshake, and seeing it served to him in a paper cup, instead of the aluminium containers given to white patrons. Going to the Bowraville cemetery, where Aboriginal people were buried at the bottom of the hill, their graves

marked by sea shells, and where his faith was washed away. This wasn't an Aboriginal problem back then, and it's not an Aboriginal problem now. White Australia's discriminatory attitudes and ignorance continue to this day.

There is a danger in memorialising the Freedom Rides as if the job were already finished. Conscripting and anti-Vietnam War movement swept Aboriginal issues out of the student and public consciousness in the 60s. Fifty years later, Indigenous communities are forced to distil the value and necessity of their needs into standardised forms to compete for limited pools of government funds, a fraction of the wealth that has been accumulated through the exploitation of Aboriginal land and resources over the past two hundred years. White Australia has a Black history, we are reminded at the Memorial. In her speech, Ms June Oscar AO questioned the complacent assumptions of progress and advancement, pointing out that these terms negate Aboriginal values, beliefs, knowledge and experiences and assume the right of White Australia to unblinkingly continue the old policies of assimilation. February 2015 is not a time for memorialisation. “Fifty years on”, my father tells me, “I realise that there has never been an Aboriginal problem. I would like to stand in Science Road during Orientation Week 2015 and see students of the University of Sydney reinventing SAFA and continue the Struggle.”



ACAR: Year One

Shiran Illanperuma on the rise and rise of ACAR.



Going down with the ship

Dom Ellis on working in a video store in 2014.

You know that scene in *Titanic* when the ship's going down but the violinists keep playing, choosing to sink together doing what they love over venturing heedlessly into the cold North Atlantic ocean? Well that's sort of how working at a video store in 2014 feels. You're surrounded by all sorts of death and destruction, but you're determined to go down with the ship.

According to last year's IBIS Industry Research report, the revenue of video and DVD hire outlets has declined at an annual rate of 14.8 per cent over the last five years. That's a lot of per cent. For all the hype about the death of print media, newspaper publishing has comparatively dropped just 6.3 per cent. Put simply: we're doomed, wedged somewhere between the penultimate and ultimate acts of *Titanic*, whereby the boat hasn't quite split in half yet, but the water is rising and you'd be crazy to turn down a lifeboat.

I boarded the proverbial ship a few days after my sixteenth birthday, hired on a whim by a carefree boss. I thought I was going to be the next Tarantino, a video store clerk by day, and writer-director by night. It seemed – at that moment – a dream job, but 2010 was a different time. The world was a slightly more optimistic, interactive place, but our idealism was very much rooted in naivety, as we

clung to a faith that our service, in all its tangibility, was valuable.

To be fair, hiring movies at that point made some sort of sense. Video stores were a relatively cheap and easy alternative to going out, and my store – Civic Video South Hurstville – was, and still is, smack bang in the center of middle-class suburbia (and families were our primary market). It was also pretty methodical: kids rented kid's stuff, teens and tweens rented raunchy comedies or scary movies, and adults would, somewhat alarmingly, get whatever franchise film we had most of.

Alas, with time, those demographics started to drop off. Teenagers quickly got their hands on torrents and massive data caps, while adults became privy to cheaper, lazier ways of drowning out the working week's angst. In that sense, the reality is bleak; because if a customer's late fee ever gets too bad or they get even slightly tired of the travel, they'd simply jump ship and sell their soul to iTunes, kiosks, or some other instant provider. So, as time has passed, we've pretty much just been left with a customer base dominated by kids and moralistic young families, which has rendered my Tarantino daydream all the more trite.

Unfortunately, that's the reality of

all things media and entertainment – humankind will always want cheaper and faster. So what do video stores offer that Netflix and iTunes can't? In his defense of video stores, Matt Singer from The Dissolve aptly determined that: "We live in a world where immediacy and instantaneous access is the fundamental driver of commerce. Convenience certainly has its place, but expertise should still have one too."

Honestly though, I can say with some confidence that what customers we do have left don't hang around for the expertise. While I consider myself relatively well-versed in film, I only occasionally call upon the IMDB backlog. Broadly speaking, customers seem to like deciding for themselves. Sure, they rarely make the 'right choice' – there's an extraordinary high demand for Nicholas Cage action flicks – but I think what keeps drawing certain people back is that they make a physical and cognizant choice.

In the scheme of things though, that hasn't counted for much. By 2013, 'Civic Video' was no longer, and in its ashes 'CIVIC' rose. With it, came a new doctrine, "Not Just Movies!", and a whole new brand to entirely disassociate CIVIC from the contaminated 'video' motif. Blockbuster took a similar approach, pushing the motto "Entertainment

Your Way". Rather than trying to win back a long-lost audience, these companies are now trying to re-frame the conversation: they don't sell videos, they sell the 'entertainment experience'. For the most part though, this promised experience has largely been rhetorical, and, in the case of CIVIC, only exists to the extent that stores also sell popcorn and a few miscellaneous toys.

Videology, a now iconic video joint in Brooklyn, took the experience enterprise to the next level, converting its ground floor into a bar and screening area, while storing the video rentals in a downstairs basement. In a lot of ways, Videology is representative of what physical media has become: a niche. And perhaps that's the inexorable direction for video culture, bound to be a province of hipsters and collectors. Just like the many technologies before it, the disk will surely be conquered by convenience.

As Civic Video South Hurstville counts down the days and looks upon the freezing, deathly waters that await it, we move ever closer to the drowning demise of a meaningful culture, and I can't help but pre-emptively mourn. Not simply out of nostalgia for a company that is undoubtedly flawed, but for the end of an era of film that encouraged interaction and that valued the physical experience.

Tumbl'n up feminism

After 'Girl Power' fell out of popular usage following the Spice Girls' hiatus in 2000, numerous articles labelled the twenty-first century 'post-feminist' and heralded the end of feminism, due to its perceived irrelevance and unpopularity. Unsurprisingly, continuing coverage of instances of oppression and gendered violence across the Western world has proved these statements erroneous. Social media has offered twenty-first century women unique opportunities for feminist discussion, especially among young women.

The nature of different social media websites prompts differing levels of engagement across the various platforms. Given many users maintain accounts across multiple platforms, they are exposed to a variety of feminist ideologies and modes of interaction in accessible, social formats. Founded in 2007, microblogging site Tumblr has proven to be one of the most successful social media platforms in prompting a huge outcrop of feminist thought and solidarity. Over fifty per cent of its

users are under 25. This young user-base provides fertile ground for the proliferation of multifaceted feminist ideas.

Tumblr offers its users a laid-back community. The layout of the site and fast-rolling homepage means the site has an inbuilt focus on sharing snippets of information. The way commenting works makes the environment quite prone to the tendency of 'piling on' those with opposing views. While at some point aggressive, users' comments facilitate the rapid development of feminist ideology. Users can break into feminist discussion by reblogging pithy quotes and voice frustration at everyday experiences of harassment, and sharing feminist artwork.

It's easy to see why this form of accessible feminism is appealing to a mass audience of young women; it echoes with their experiences, whilst remaining accessible and uncomplicated. This level of engagement has been criticised for lacking critical analysis and simply

Armchair activists should not be discounted, writes Sarah Armstrong.

'repackaging' patriarchal standards. This criticism is not necessarily too far off the mark, but in a world where multiple women deny identifying as feminists explicitly because they aren't 'man haters,' it's important not to deride mediums which raise feminist consciousness among young women.

Over time, users may gravitate towards more academic and in-depth discourse, and diversify their views, as they head into their 20s, with the medium becoming more important in solidifying existing ideology, rather than prompting new understandings.

Unlike Tumblr, feminist engagement on Facebook has less assumed knowledge of an activist lexicon, and is generally more focused on interaction with other, geographically proximate feminist women, be for rallies and sharing experiences. In addition to this, the focus on sharing articles differentiates this medium. Following the success of groups such as the now-defunct 'Everyday Sexism

Project,' multiple feminist Facebook groups have sprung up, facilitating discussion and organisation of events. These groups are generally populated by an older demographic of women. Given the relative lack of anonymity, users can be concerned about posting politicised content that may receive negative attention from peers or family members. Facebook is where celebrity feminist declarations have really taken off, in part due to the general PR friendly, palatable sentiments, and an easy 'like' spreads content broadly. They might do little in themselves to challenge oppressive systems, but definitely alter social attitudes towards feminism as a whole.

Despite being criticised as creating a generation of angry 'armchair activists,' it's clear that social media use by young women and girls is incredibly compatible with the proliferation of feminist thought. Just because they sit in comfortable armchairs doesn't mean their contributions should be discounted.

Just over a year ago, a handful of students marginalised by white supremacy came together on the New Law Lawns. My name is Ekanayake Mudiyansele Shiran Illanperuma and I was one of them. I am a 4th year International Student, a Sinhala Sri Lankan, born and raised in the UAE.

Before 2013, I had never substantially participated in campus societies, collectives or politics. All that changed when I took the course 'Race and Representation' by Professor Jane Park. From there, I found myself at the sixth meeting of Critical Race Discussion Group (CRDG); then, at the first meeting of EPOC; then, as an unofficial Office Bearer of the Students' Representative Council (SRC); and then, as an editor of ACAR *Honi*.

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Contrary to popular perception, ACAR was not the first autonomous space on campus to be drawn along race lines. There was Klub Koori and the Indigenous Collective, which were recognised by the SRC three years ago, but existed in various capacities prior to that.

Equally, women of colour were often hidden in many of these discussions. "The work of Wom*n of Colour (WOC) is often invisibilised and erased... The hard work of community building is so often done by WOC," ACAR Officer Oscar Monaghan told me, while cobbling together this piece.

A more immediate precursor to ACAR is the Wom*n of Colour (WOC) Collective, created by Tabitha Prado in March 2013. According to former Wom*n's Officer Jaya Keaney, "it was an offshoot of a lot of stuff that went down in Wom*n's Collective (WoCo) that was shitty".

The race tensions in WoCo in September last year resulted in the alienation and exodus of many WOC from the group. ACAR Officer Bridget Harilau elaborates, "It was really important because WoCo was becoming this racist mess and a lot of WOC voices were just being silenced or criticised and derailed". Tabitha characterises the WOC group as "the most positive online space I've ever seen".

Credit must be given to radical WOC like Deeba Binaei for speaking out publicly against the uncomfortable biases that, in the past, defined the Wom*n's Collective for being predominantly 'White'. "It's a little satisfying to remember that I provided the impetus to shut down WoCo for months before they built up the collective and its policies from scratch," says Binaei.

Elsewhere on campus, CRDG was founded by Tabitha, Jaya, Oscar and Sophie Steains. The group had its first meeting in late August and the topic of discussion was, appropriately, intersectionality. While the discussions themselves were non-autonomous, autonomous caucuses were held at the end of every meeting to provide POC a safe space to vent. This space was extended online when Oscar created the "Critical Race Discussion Group – Autonomous POC Space" on Facebook, in late July. For me, CRDG was a life-changing space. I still recall approaching Oscar after a workshop with awkward intensity to say, "I want to be more involved," and later, breaking down in an autonomous caucus over my rage and helplessness at being newly sensitised to oppression.

While EPOC did some heavy lifting in the realm of student politics, WOC Collective and CRDG were vital precursors. It is the communities built by WOC involved in these projects that bolstered ACAR's ranks and made its presence on campus viable. Tabitha for example, was a founder of WOC Collective, CRDG and an OB for ACAR. Her contributions alone to race and gender activism on campus are immeasurable.

Fahad, Oscar, Tabitha and Jaya had all been involved in autonomous organising with WoCo, the Queer Action Collective (QUAC), or both prior to ACAR.

"I've been involved in a lot of collective organising... and throughout them have noticed some absence in terms of race being something people talk about in a non-tokenistic way," says Jaya. Oscar echoes this sentiment: "QUAC has always been super White, WoCo has always been super White. There's been a lack of space for conversations about race." Their experiences in

these spaces undoubtedly shaped the political framework of a fledgling collective.

* * *

On September 6 2013 –the beginning of SRC campaigning season – SEX for *Honi*, an editorial ticket running to edit the student newspaper, posted their policy statement to Facebook: "We'll work to raise the voices of those who aren't always heard: in addition to Wom*n's and Queer, we'll add an autonomous People of Colour *Honi*", they declared.

SRC Queer Officer Fahad Ali's rebuttal on Facebook was scathing: "It's incredibly patronising to suggest that POC have to rely on a White majority editorial team in order to get our own autonomous edition of *Honi* *Soit*. Moreover, whether this is something that we desire as an Ethnocultural community is another question that must be answered only by our community and none other."

As it turns out, it was a POC on the ticket that had championed the notion. "It was my idea to have... an autonomous POC edition. I came into that based on my great appreciation of the Wom*n's and Queer *Honi*... I thought this was a natural extension of that," said Justin Pen, whose correspondence with Fahad culminated in the creation of the EPOC Facebook group just over a fortnight later. In the following weeks Fahad and a growing collective of students (including myself) spearheaded a campaign to get EPOC recognised by the SRC.

* * *

It is expected that a collective like ACAR should be met with a degree of opposition. What was unexpected – and indeed, hurtful – was that this opposition came not from overt racists but from the so-called 'Anti-Racist Collective', or ARC. Shortly after our decision to contest the position of Ethnic Affairs, I received a call from Adam Adelpour of ARC. I recall being sickly anxious, I had no experience with "stupol" and was the least equipped to defend ACAR's position. I clumsily directed Adam to Oscar, who was my strongest link to this strange new world. Soon after,

meetings were held between ARC and EPOC.

"I remember a few meetings with ARC that were really frustrating and upsetting. I remember crying in one... It was quite antagonistic... I think up until and including reps elect when stuff went down around the OB positions we were quite wary of them", says Oscar.

In the end, EPOC was forced to split the Ethnic Affairs position with the non-autonomous ARC. Fuming over the SRC's decision, Bridget said "If you vote in a non-autonomous OB for Ethnic Affairs, but not for Wom*n, not for Queer, not for *Enviro*... *It is racism*."

* * *

"2013 wasn't a great year for race-relations on campus... There was the racist Day of the Dead party... the failure to consult Indigenous students about Indigenous Festival... the sale of Native American headdresses by the USU... A lot of events that created a sort of race awareness", says Justin. Rafi Alam summarised this mood in an *Honi* article aptly titled, "Race-based activism on campus leaves much to be desired".

Hopefully ACAR has fulfilled or will fulfil those desires.

"I think it's very hard for new collectives to establish themselves," says Oscar, "I think ACAR has done a good job of that".

"I feel like we've made a really solid start to something that will hopefully go on for as long as it's needed... I'd like to think that it will be a foundation for radical race politics for years to come", Tabitha says.

"I'm really blown away by how far ACAR has come in the space of a year", says Fahad. "If this is only the beginning, one would be excited to see where else we're going"

As for me? Well, as an international student I feel I was just passing through. In less than two weeks I will be stepping down as an unofficial OB. In less than two months I will be leaving the country altogether. It's been an honour to be a part of ACAR.



Open letter from alumni to VC Michael Spence: ‘Sell University of Sydney shares in Whitehaven Coal’

Dear Dr Spence,

We the undersigned write to you as alumni of the University of Sydney.

We are proud of the University’s ground-breaking research and the dedicated teaching of its lecturers and tutors who advance the boundaries of human knowledge every day. We are proud of the University’s commitment to an ethical and sustainable world.

This is why we are profoundly disappointed to learn that our University has invested close to \$1 million of its endowment in Whitehaven Coal, a destructive company that represents all that is wrong with the coal industry in Australia.

Right now, Whitehaven Coal is threatening endangered native forest, prime farmland, and Indigenous cultural heritage sites to make way for a new coal mine at Maules Creek in northern NSW. When fully operational, Maules Creek coal mine will accelerate dangerous global warming by contributing over 30 million tons of CO₂ per year – more than NSW’s entire transport sector.

This investment directly contravenes the University’s own Investment Policy which states that funds must be invested in accordance with Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance principles.¹

An investment in Whitehaven Coal also flies in the face of your own personal commitments to seizing the ‘opportunity to appreciate the richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture as part of their story and identity’.² The Maules Creek mine site contains dozens of sites of cultural significance to the Gomeri traditional owners, including scar trees and burial sites.³ Some of these sites have already been destroyed by Whitehaven Coal to make way for the Maules Creek mine and more remain at risk.

Whitehaven Coal’s history of harming the environment, its disregard for the wishes of Indigenous traditional owners, and contribution to dangerous global warming places the company well outside of the kind of investment sanctioned under the University of Sydney’s Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance investment principles.

¹ <http://sydney.edu.au/policies/showdoc.aspx?recnum=PDOC2012/258&RendNum=0>.

² Wingara Mura-Bunga Barrabugui: The University of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Integrated Strategy, p. 2. Consulted on 6 July, 2014 at: <http://sydney.edu.au/strategy/docs/wingara-mura-bunga-barrabugui.pdf>.

³ Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan, April, 2013, p.16.

As alumni of the University of Sydney we urge you to uphold the reputation of our proud institution and sell all the University’s shares in Whitehaven Coal.

Bob Brown, Chair of The Bob Brown Foundation, medical doctor, environmentalist, former Senator and former Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Greens
David McKnight, Academic and Author
James Houston OAM, Clergyman
Mark Diesendorf, Academic and Author
Frank Stilwell, Professor Emeritus in Political Economy
Dr Joan Croll AO
Alfred Boros, Employment Programs Trainer
Jens Jebens, Technical Director
Jenny Blain, Editor
Anne Gration, Writer
Daniel Gloag, Education
Wendy Birch, Dressmaker
Bronwen Campbell, Teacher (ret.)
Richard Ng, Medical Practitioner
Daydd Kelly, Architect
Liz Gill, Research Fellow
Catherine Smith, Teacher
Pauline Bowles Sedgwick, Artist
James Beck, Company Director
Fiona Lehman, Manager
Barb MacKenzie, Physiotherapist (ret.)
Leanne Denby, Director of Sustainability
Sarah Marr, Writer
Roman Suwald, Architect
Sarah James, Manager
Susan Fortescue, Teacher
Sheridan Kennedy, Designer
Leonor Barba, Social Worker
Louise Stanley, Stakeholder Engagement Officer
David Murray, Academic and Author (ret.)

Jolyn Hersch, PhD student
Pam La Brooy, Doctor
Jane Morgan, General Practitioner
Richard Downes, Builder
Katherine McLeod, Editor
Cheryl Low, Teacher
Susan Ambler, Library Officer
Anne Price, Teacher
Tom Chvojka, Teacher
Themis Michael, Doctor
Fiona Reuben, Social Worker
Kathleen Roche, Pharmacist
Marjorie Houston, Social Worker
Jennifer Herbertson, Early Childhood Educator
Michael Serafim, General Practitioner
Sharyn McGuire, Health professional
Stuart Purvis-Smith, Scientist (ret.)
Elizabeth Eggins, Teacher
Adam Lucas, Academic
Jan Forbes, Teacher
Rosalie Schultz, Doctor
Denis McMullen, Head of Residential Colleges (ret.)
Colleen Williams, Occupational Therapist
Kathryn Khamson, Teacher (ret.)
Louisa Billeter, Singer
Marianne Ferrari, Teacher
Lizzie Cole, Social Worker
Kylie Goldthorpe, Veterinarian
Nelda van Leeuwen, Librarian (ret.)
Alex MacPherson, Medical Practitioner
Edna Ross, Psychologist
Lyn McLennan, Teacher
Linley Marshall, Registered Nurse
Michael Bogнар, TAFE Teacher (ret.)
Fran Hegarty, Social Worker

John Dun, Teacher (ret.)
Peter Gould, Environmental Consultant
Patricia Kennedy, High School Teacher (ret.)
Michael Antares, Educator
Cheryl Woodcroft, Retired Medical Practitioner
Tracey Nixon, Doctor
Margaret Gibbons, General Practitioner
Katherine Tu, Campaigner
Jessica Brown, Communications Officer
Matthew Toulmin, Development Consultant
Clare Maclean, University Lecturer
Savrina Carrizo, Conservation Ecologist, PhD
Philip Jones, Science Teacher
Helen Redmond, Rehabilitation Physician
Noni Daniels, Artist
Anna Harpley, Artist
Sally Gaunt, Bookseller
Dawn Nettheim, Musician
Anna-Rosa Baker, Primary School Teacher
Charles Colman, Lecturer/Musician
Jolyon Bromley, Education Coordinator
Robert Jackson, Veterinary Surgeon
Nicola Williams, TV Producer
Andrew Symons, Client Partner
Marjorie Apthorpe, Geologist
Colleen Friel, Occupational Therapist
Gregory Solomon, Nurse
Dereka Ogden, Teacher (ret.)
Katherine Downs, Botanist
Glen Camenzuli, Building Surveyor
Geoffrey Vitlin, Management Consultant
Dr Elizabeth Mifsud, Artist

Boyd Naomi, Veterinarian
Michael Gormly, Graphic Designer
Peter Brown, Carpenter
Anne Murray, Medical Practitioner
Vinny Power, Manager
Jason Kelleher, Business Owner
Rhett Yeats, Dentist
Margaret Hilder, Teacher (ret.)
Carol Neist, Writer and Editor
Geoff Maddox, Social Worker
Drago Heler, Academic
Toinette Keeling, Educator
Susan Adams, Psychotherapist
Rachel Falconer, Environmental Planner
Damian Whiteley, Musician/Actor
Swetik Korzeniewski, Painter
Carol Broadstock, Family Counsellor
Kerry Best, Teacher
Karin Findeis, Senior Lecturer
Colin Chesterman, Professor Emeritus
Bridget Wilcken, Physician
Alesoun Marsden, Teacher
Daniel Mulder, Engineer
Michael Deak, Social Worker
Iona Mackay, Rehabilitation Consultant
Marion Armstrong, Social Worker
Dr Vanlyn J Davy JP, Teacher, Union Leader and Academic
Kate Moore, Architect and Lecturer
Margaret Moorhouse, Psychologist (ret.)
Beatrice Bleile, Mathematician
Jasmine Green, Psychologist
Abigail Humphreys, Registered Nurse
Todd Salter, Company Director
Liz Bassett, Teacher
Kendall Robinson, Teacher
Robert Forgacs, Lecturer

Cynthia Harris, Teacher
Daniela Giorgi, Education Officer
Frances Letters, Author
David Quince, Farmer & Grazier
Elizabeth Seares, Educator
Elizabeth Binsted, Executive Coach
Carla Thackrah, Musician
Peter Kelly, Engineer
Don Do, Lawyer
Elizabeth Richardson, Minister of Religion
Edward McMahon, Paralegal
Susanna Foran, Educator
Deb Cocks, Arts Practitioner
Alison Pert, Lecturer
Peter Ireland, Company Director
Helen Palmer, Medical Practitioner
Kathrine Palmer, Teacher
Ross Perry, Veterinarian and Wildlife Author
Vera Yee, Computer Operator
Ian Hughes, Senior Lecturer (ret.)
Alison Pritchard, Practice Nurse
Nicholas Powell, Architect
Richard McIntyre, Musician
Margaret Humphrey, Lecturer (ret.)
Genevieve Wensley, Teacher
Elizabeth Pressey, Veterinary Scientist
Rob Vail, Teacher (ret.)
Margaret Lange, Social Worker
Lorraine Weaver, Teacher (ret.)
Laurence Mather, Professor
Paul Hense, Lawyer
Robert Crosbie, Teacher
Michael Johnson, Project Manager
Dimitra Harvey, Writer
John Ross, Native Plant Nurseryman
Megan Dunn, Proofreader
Ifeanna Tooth, Curator
Helen Saville, Teacher (ret.)
Peter Gerard, Medical Practitioner (ret.)
David Nash, Engineer (ret.)
Elisabeth Kirkby, Historian
Christopher Walker, Minister of Religion, Uniting Church
Pete Wylie, Doctor
Carol Thompson, Veterinary Surgeon
Greg Molony, School Teacher (ret.)
Kate Charlesworth, Doctor
Amelia Swan, Scientist
David Watson, Artist/Writer
Graeme Ulbrick, Solicitor
Catherine Scott, Senior Lecturer
Sarah Mandelson, Director
Vanessa Smith, Academic
Pippy Cannon, Administrator
Graham King, IT Analyst
Royce Levi, Teacher (ret.)
Ron Newman, Research Scientist
Deirdre Ferguson, Teacher
Dr Jo Tibbitts, Electrical Engineer
William Laing, Consultant Geologist
Susan Fitzsimmons, Minister of Religion
Ian Pettit, Psychiatrist (ret.)
Paul Byrne, Software Designer/ Developer
Simone Bignall, Lecturer in Philosophy
Elena Hattersley, Producer
David Sleeman, Writer
Kendall Benton-Collins, Sustainability Communicator
John Kalman, Academic
Celia Genn, Academic
Ric Day, Medical Practitioner
Nigel Reid, Investor
Georgie Wilbe, ITC Project Director

Joel Turner, Conservation Scientist
Margaret Sharpe, Adjunct Senior Lecturer
Mark Hunyor, Coach
Phillipa Foster, Gallery Staff Coordinator
Kim McGrath, Consultant
Margot Oliver, Teacher
Ruth Marshall, Rehabilitation Medicine Physician
Brent Trousdale, Architect
Deb Turvey, Wharfie
Ann Woods
Penelope Joy
Laura Bishop
Clare Moylan
James Rose
Kathryn Lumley
Edoardo Cavarretta
Jennifer Blain
Simon Wood
Geoffrey Bradshaw
Barbara Guthrie
Gary Browne
Jenny Rose
Eddy Wilkinson
Ian Hainsworth
John Reeves
Catherine Poronnik
Terry Stillone
Mary Boland
John Ayling
Margaret Ryan
Janine Hodge
Jolieske Lips
Pamela Reeves
Albert Lightfoot
Gill Burrows
Davine Blakeman
Maryan England
Greg Taylor
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Tanya Jenko
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Jason Cabarrus
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Maureen Edgtton
John Merory
Renatae Porzig-Drummond
Michael Tuckson
Asahel Bush
Jeremy Kerbel
Kirsten Ockenden

Rochelle Rodier
Robyn Godlee
Diane Salter
Helen Sheehy
Martin Johnson
Daniel Steinberg
Susan Brown
Lucianne Brady
Romola Martin
Emily Summers
Nancy Smith
Joseph North
Steve Brady
Elizabeth Guthrie
Narelle Skinner
Lynette Lee
Iona Mackenzie
Josh Toyer
Natalie Rowed
Mary-Jayne House
Anthony Borger
Margaret Bellanto
Heather York
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Julie Horne
Adam Breasley
Peter Green
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Peter Jack
Steve Weymouth
Elizabeth Weiss
Rosalie Daw
Michelle Fulton
Matthew Arnison
Chris Page
Holly Wang
Bob Rich
Elizabeth Vanstaveren
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Jan Robbins
Barbara Finch
Sarah Doolan
Roger Crawford
Wendy Birch
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Karunya Prasad
Larissa Stone
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Worthington Will
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Kate Maclaren
Des Baker
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Juliet Sheen
Lorraine Yudaeff
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Helen Esmond
John Lowe
Aimee Inomata
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Alice Beauchamp
Madilina Tresca
Alexandra Leafa
Susan Dempster
Liz Phelps
Stefahn Dunn
Nick Golovachenko
Suzanne Loudon
Margaret Hamon
Helen Cotsell
Zulu Ghaf
Karl Adderley
Ben Ward
Geoffrey Field
David Jordan
Ronald Walls
John Maggs
Roger Campbell
Angelika Acock
Suzanne Barr
Warwick Earl
Lena Martens
Peter Wilson
Giles Thomson
John Hackett
Luke Gartrell
Gillian Reffell
Enid Hawkins
Marita Macrae
Michaela Cristallo
Lorraine Antonini
Valli Gent
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Johan Saayman
Sharon Buckley
Hilary Furlong
Sue Hurrey
Sarah Ellyard
Helen Smith
Rachel Sullivan
Selena Webber
Gretchen Miller
David Arthur
John William
John Russell

BioBricks and mortar

Synthetic biology is quickly moving from fantasy to reality, writes Alex Gillis.

Synthetic biology – the design and construction of new biological systems and components using artificial materials, or redesigning existing ones – has long been considered in the same realm as invisibility cloaks and hoverboards. However, the field is definitely in the mainstream; scientists can now create biological parts like DNA entirely from artificial materials, and then successfully insert those parts into living organisms.

Advances in the field are already having an impact; scientists at pharmaceutical firms used genetically engineered yeast to produce large quantities of artemisinin, a first-line malaria treatment that was previously sourced only from the wormwood plant. Biofilm materials, biofuels, and biorecycling processes have all been touted by commentators as the next big thing. The hype is a bit excessive, as it is with any field of scientific advancement, but these applications nevertheless have billions of dollars and thousands of researchers dedicated to them.

The processes of synthetic

biology aren't limited to massive research institutes either; there are innovations to be found at a grassroots level as well. The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition, started at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has grown into a worldwide event with hundreds of undergraduate teams all seeing what they can design and construct working with the same specified kit of biological parts.

Last year Sydney University's iGEM team attempted to build a biological reaction which could degrade dichloroethane, a synthetic major pollutant found in Botany Bay. This year, the USyd team is working to extend the toolkit by incorporating a recently discovered genetic process into the 'BioBrick' part catalogue. As bacteria reproduce asexually, they move genes between themselves manually, often using genetic units called 'integrons' to incorporate genetic material. A bacterium with a mutation which allows it to break down antibiotics could then pass that on to its comrades, making

infections much harder to treat.

Fortunately, humans can also make use of this process. Callum Gray, a Sydney team member, describes using integrons to move genes into an organism, a process which he says could avoid much of the mucking around that is otherwise required. Gray is enthusiastic: "[We could] turn these mechanisms around and fight bacteria with their own processes". Moving integrons into the BioBrick catalogue would allow use by anyone employing that system – iGEM itself is resolutely open-source.

However that very open-source, accessible nature gives rise to safety issues – as Gray cautions. For example, the genetic sequence for smallpox is available to purchase. Synthetic biology calls to mind the trope of monstrous Frankensteinian organisms, a concept looking less ridiculous every year. One of the field's pioneers, Craig Venter, is attempting to synthesise life completely. The overblown spectre of bioterrorism shadows all synbio reporting; the real issue may be ecological problems caused by

entirely new organisms wreaking havoc on natural systems.

Genetic engineering, as we understand it today, barely existed twenty years ago – the field's pace of advancement is beginning to follow the standard set by Computer Science rather than traditionally austere Biology. Moving research from university labs to the competitive world of start-ups and commercial applications will only accelerate it further. Rather than reserved experimentation, genetic engineers seem to have a fair bit of the mad inventor about them – frantically patching together disparate bits and bobs, part MacGyver and part Nikola Tesla. One gets a sense of the exuberance and energy driving this field from iGEM team members as they talk excitedly about technicalities, spending days upon days in the lab to get their reactions working and results together. Despite criticisms of overpromising and overhyping, iGEM and the synthetic biology field have arrived – and concrete impacts are already here. The future is yeasty and full of engineered bacteria.

At your McService

McDonald's is attempting to get into the high culture club, writes Hills Correspondent Mary Ward.

McDonald's Australia has decided to offer table service and, upon returning from an excursion to their trial restaurant, I can muster just four words:

The end is nigh.

Feeling threatened by the mass migration of smoothies in mason jars from Surry Hills cafes into the hands of plebs, McDonald's has decided that the way to win the public back is to beat the hipsters at their own game.

Armed with waitstaff (read: regular staff who are allowed to leave the counter on occasions other than when a child has vomited), rustic fry baskets (read: ornamental aluminium contraptions that would disintegrate if they were ever submerged into Maccas' vat) and a new range of DIY burger options (read: the ability to put aioli on a beef burger), the fast food giant has decided to go up-market.

The Australian trial restaurant is Castle Hill McDonald's.* I could make a remark about how this launch location has cornered the

cached-up bogan market, but I won't.

As I order, it becomes apparent that McDonald's might be the country's only workplace where computers cost more to run than humans. You pay for the privilege of using this new technology. If a 14-year-old McSlave wanted to eat a burger and chips on their lunch break, it would total two hours worth of wages.

(I hope that the drug trade out the back of Castle Hill Maccas is as thriving as it was when my pimply teen self worked the Drive Thru. Something's gotta fund that aioli.)

The process seems relatively straightforward. You place your order on a touch screen machine. The machine then spits out a ticket with a number on it, which you display on your table. If you want to enjoy Maccas' new 'fancy' presentation (a wooden board lined with a piece of fake newspaper, accompanied by chips in a fry basket) you need to order one of the new DIY burgers, although you can order anything off the menu and they will bring it out to you on a

regular tray.

So, basically, if you're ordering anything other than one of the new fancy burgers (which are only beef burgers, stupid chicken-ist Maccas) the whole experience is just like waiting for your food after being parked in a Drive Thru bay. Except you have to get out of your pyjamas.

Unfortunately, the opposite of fast food is slow food, and that is what this system produces. There are huge queues out the front of the two machines, while the cashiers sit idle a few metres away. I visit the restaurant (which is packed, see Castle Hill gag in paragraph five) with a group and, of the eight items we paid for, three don't arrive. Half an hour passes between us walking through the front door and all receiving our food.

It's a McDisaster, and I suppose the question you have to ask is: why?

Because, I don't think anyone really goes to McDonald's looking for a gourmet experience. I mean, I am a proud patron of Castle Hill McDonald's, but almost exclusively

while inebriated, or in a netball uniform, or both. Unfortunately this (reportedly) \$1 billion global shift from good, clean – in that it is wiped down every half hour, not in that it warrants #cleaneating – fun towards high-cholesterol chaos is trying to create a new market for McDonald's, while ignoring us slobs who keep it profitable in the first place.

And we're not lovin' it.

**The one on Showground Rd. Every outer-suburban postcode should have two Maccas, amirite? #hillslyf*



So you want to move out. What should you do?

MOVING ON

Here is some information on ending a rental agreement.

Are you going to stay for the length of your agreement?

Refer to your original contract or lease. It should state an end date. If it is a contract you should be able to give notice to your landlord equivalent to the frequency that you pay rent that you are moving out on the end date. Sometimes contracts will have a clause about the fee for ending the agreement early. If it is a lease this amount of notice is either 14 days (fixed term agreement) or 21 days (continuing agreement). Notice should be in writing. This does not include text messages and may not include email. It is best to send this by letter. Allow 4 days extra for mail to arrive.

What if you want to leave early?

This will usually cost you lots of money. If you have a lease agreement you will usually have to pay four or six weeks worth of rent, depending on what percentage of the agreement you have already completed. Sometimes you can find someone to take your place in the agreement to avoid paying all of this money. The replacement person has to be a "reasonable" replacement. For example, they need to have a similar capacity to meet rental payments and a good rental history.

If you're under a contract you may need to pay the equivalent of the rent up to the end of the contract. Sometimes you can find someone to take your place in the contract or start a new contract, but that is completely up to the landlord.

When am I considered to have left?

You have only completely left your accommodation when the landlord (not another tenant) has received all copies of all of your keys and other doorlocking devices (like swipe cards). You also have to provide "vacant possession" which means all of your belongings have been moved out.

What if I want to move out and my housemates want to stay?

You will need to find a replacement for yourself. If you are on the lease or contract have that changed before you go. If you are on the lease, regardless of whether you live there, you are legally and financially liable for the condition of the premises. Make sure you keep a copy of the new lease or contract to show that you are no longer on there.

How do I get my bond or deposit back?

After you have moved out take photos to show the condition of the accommodation. This is to avoid disputes with the landlord's assessment of the condition of your accommodation after you moved out. The cost of any repairs or cleaning will come out of the bond or deposit. The rest of your bond (leased property) should be returned in the form of a cheque or electronic transfer from the Department of Fair Trading. Deposits placed on contracted properties are less regulated. Make sure you have your receipt to prove that you did pay it in the first place. If there is any dispute about getting back this money talk to an SRC Caseworker.

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

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SRC CASEWORKER HELP Q&A

Ask Abe

Dear Abe,

I am on a Youth Allowance payment and I also work a casual job with varying hours. Sometimes I receive the full payment just under \$500, but other times I get much less than that. I heard that there is some sort of banking system that affects the amount of money I get, but I am very confused by all of this. Could you please explain why my payments vary?

Nursing Student

Dear Nursing Student,

The banking system you are talking about is Centrelink's way of keeping track of the extra money you are earning. It is called the Student Income Bank. Each fortnight you are allowed to earn \$415 without any reduction in your Youth Allowance. If you earn less than \$415, the left over carries over to the following fortnight. For example, if you only earned \$115 in the first fortnight, you will be allowed to earn \$715 (\$415 + \$300) in the second fortnight. This process keeps going until you've accumulated a maximum of \$10,100. Your Youth Allowance payment is reduced when you have earned more than your Student Income Bank. That is, by 50 cents in the dollar for amounts between \$415 and \$496, then by 60 cents in the dollar for income over \$496. If you are unsure about whether you have been paid the correct amount, gather all your paperwork and talk to an SRC Caseworker about it.

Abe

President's Report *Jen Light*



Well here it is, my last report as President of the Students Representative Council.

Not every 21 year old has the opportunity, or responsibility of running a \$1.5 million student

organisation, being responsible for over 14 staff members, and being the head of a Legal Corporation. This year has been the greatest learning experience of my life so far, and of course there were many hardships, but it was definitely worth it; as the privilege of being the head of a student organisation that fights for the rights and the welfare of over 23,000 undergraduate students. Far outweighs anything else. This year has certainly been a whirlwind, 2014 brought some of the biggest threats to higher education in Australia's history and I truly believed that the undergraduate students have put up one hell of a fight. We saw the largest rally hitting Sydney streets since the anti-VSU campaigns. This year the SRC has also been fighting for affordable student accommodation, I made a submission to the University fighting for 600 rooms to be priced at \$160 a week so students can actually afford their accommodation, and at the start of 2015 you will see all your lectures online after a year of pushing with the University. The SRC is also receiving a makeover to make sure our dungeon is welcoming and inviting.

It is here I now want to say THANKYOU to everyone who has supported the SRC and myself throughout the last year.

Firstly a huge thank-you to everybody who voted for me in the SRC elections in 2013, I have worked as hard I could to make sure I have kept to the promises I made. A special Thank-you to all the staff of the SRC, the work you do is phenomenal and you have been a great support all year. To my family thank you for putting up with my meltdowns, me never being home and always trying to understand what I do. Thank you to Todd, you were the first person to get me on a student election campaign, thanks for always listening to me constantly talk about the SRC, my ideas, my complaints, thanks for keeping me sane and sticking by me, the unconditional support you have given me has been amazing. To John and Dylan I don't know what I would do without you two, I will be forever grateful for the work you put into my election campaign, thanks for always being around to talk to, drink with

and just have fun. To Alisha for being my sidekick all year, all I can say is no-one messes with us. Pat Massarani for being a fantastic undergrad senator and a great friend, you helped me immensely to navigate the University and find my feet. To Michael Buckland for teaching me how to make chalk, and being my go-to for advice. The whole Sydney University Student Unity gang you know who you are and I am certain that you will carry on and keep true to our faction. To Jack Boyd and NSW Unity, to National Student Unity; Isabelle, Gracie, Tom, Nikko, Tim, James and everyone else for your support. To David, Casey, Hannah, and to NLS and SLS and Unity crews Labor is not dead we will never be dead, we are movement and we will continue to fight for what we believe in. To my school friends who will probably never read this but have put up with a lot. Hilary, Jacinta, Nikki, Rochelle and Maja you have stuck by me despite constantly vanishing for months for election campaigns and constantly talking about the SRC. Finally congratulations to Kyol, there is a lot to fight for from here on but I'm sure you will do a great job in 2015.

General Secretary's Report

James Leeder



We love pamas, Palmer, palms and the SRC #Gen.Sec.Report.x264.mp4.S02W12

It's the end of the road and all you've got is another OB report. That sucks for you. We're not sure what you can do with an OB report at the end of the road. What you need is this map; the map to our hearts.

The year draws to a close and with these final weeks comes a serenity, a time to reflect on the year that has been. All of the elections are over, the ibides have reclaimed their rightful spots as the most infuriating thing

on Eastern Avenue.

SRC reports are an oft-ignored section of the paper, but the SRC is all about inclusivity so for those of you who haven't read any reports this year, here's what you could've learnt had you read all the reports:

300-500 words can be written in roughly 12 minutes

"The Palmer United Party is the newest venture from Clive Palmer, a former Liberal Party member and owner of mineralogy. Clive Palmer's net worth is estimated at \$895, with iron ore, nickel, and coal holdings."

That these reports get posted online, unedited, for everyone to read, forever

That you can spruik the activities of the SRC in every single report and still have hundreds of students who do not know what it is

"From the recommendations of the

Commission of Audit, we see findings right from the once widely ridiculed list of desired reforms from the stupidly far-right Institute of Public Affairs. From a Government that before the Commission already singled their intention to fundamentally change the programs that make Australian higher education sector one of the most accessible in the world."

Punctuation is like glitter, use it whenever and wherever you want, or don't use it at all

^^^ !!!!!???? - ; ; ;

Lists use up more column space and thus make your report bigger and more leardy

Lists are also easy because you can copy things from other places and it doesn't seem as unfair as if you put them in paragraphs

But seriously, being the General Secretaries of an organisation as great

as the SRC is an absolute privilege. We've enjoyed our time immensely and are proud of our achievements. We've negotiated with the University for SRC funding, organised the budget, attended rallies and supported activism on campus, helped get the first non-Labor president in 14 years elected, produced a handbook, met with and facilitated collectives as well as regular roles such as attending regular Executive meetings and staff interviews. We'd like to thank a few people, first, the rest of the Exec, VPs Max and Laura, Prez Jen, Georgia, Sonia, Nick, Chloe, and Commissar Pedram; approving staff leave en bloc wouldn't have been the same without you. Second, the Honi editors: the enjoyment you must get each week, eagerly reading the reports (spoilers!) and laying them out, must be enthralling. All we're sure of is that there is no better way to spend a Sunday. Finally, the readers, all eight of you, you know who you are and we love you.

FIN

Education Officers' Report

Ridah Hassan and Eleanor Morley



This week we organised a protest against Barry Spurr following revelations by New Matilda, which exposed the professor as a bigot-extraordinaire. His vile comments are absolutely reprehensible and should have no place on a university campus. Organising a snap action was important in letting Spurr and the university know that students unequivocally reject his views and demand his dismissal.

Outside the office we removed and tore up the academics name card. In its place, we pinned the more accurate "Barry Spurr, Professor of Bigotry."

Chants of 'Racism? No way! We got Barry banned today!' echoed down the halls of the John Woolley building where Spurr has been intricately crafting his hate-speech for the last two years (at least) as a tenured professor at Sydney University.

International Students' officer for the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association Maral Hosseinpour addressed the rally to condemn the government in their ongoing racist fear campaign. "They are building a wall of racial hate, xenophobia and misogyny to divide us and rule; to teach us and our children to hate and suspect immigrants and asylum seekers; to hate and harass women wearing Hijab in public; to hate and deny indigenous culture and to humiliate and discriminate against women and sexual minorities."

[The government] are sending out calls demanding to 'say something if

we see something.' Yes, we fucking see something, and we will say something, so loud and clear that everybody including Professor Spurr can hear and appreciate its rhyme; say it loud, say it clear; racists are not welcome here!"

Mid-rally we found out that Spurr had been suspended and banned from campus. To celebrate our victory, we engaged in our own "whimsical linguistic games," with a poetry recital. "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock" by the academics favourite T.S Eliot was adapted by student protestor April Holcombe into "The Hatesong of Barry Spurr," ending with the resolute:

"Streams of hatred fill your odious argument

With insidious intent

To read you surely overwhelms digestion....

Oh do not ask, "What is it?"

With our answer, we come visit.

In his room the students come and go

Barry Spurr: his job no more, my, no."

Given that this is our last report for the year, we'd like to acknowledge what a brilliant year it's been for the student movement. We successfully rallied in our thousands, turned our campus into no-go zones for Liberals and are a whisker away from defeating deregulation. Sydney Uni has been one of the key campuses around the country for the the campaign, and we're proud to have done our part to contribute to the revival of such defiant and vibrant national student movement.

Thanks to everyone who has marched, chanted, and chased Tories alongside us this year, it's been a pleasure.

In solidarity,

Ridah & Eleanor.

Queerkat Collective Report

Amy Stanford

Queerkats is a fabulous new collective created this year as a subset of the Queer Action Collective. Queerkats aims to create a safe and welcoming space that acts as an alternative to spaces and groups that are often dominated by cis men (cis men being people who were assigned male at birth and agree with that designation). At the beginning of the year we were defining ourselves as a 'non cis male' collective, but this definition has proved insufficient, and we are currently workshopping a better and more inclusive definition.

So far this semester we've been focusing on building community, getting our creative juices flowing and sharing skills and information. Following

from the success of our Pride Week Zine Queerkats members were heavily involved in contributing to and editing Queer Honi, which has traditionally been an area dominated by cis men. We've also had a strong turn-out to our fortnightly workshop/social event (Tuesdays 7pm). These events have included a poly workshop, art making, excursions to Lentil As Anything and a screening of lesbian TV dramedy Faking It. In the next few weeks we're planning a mental health workshop and a workshop to record stories as part of a queer archiving project and an exhibit at our Art Party (see below).

From 7pm on Wednesday 29 October (Week 13) at the Red Rattler in Marrickville we will

be hosting our Art Party to showcase the creativity and scope of non-normative queer experiences. Submissions are open to non cis men who are queer or questioning and entry is open to everyone (and free!). We'd love to see you there.

We've been really excited to see new faces this semester, including students from other universities. Thanks to everyone, no matter what your degree of involvement, for making the first year of the Queerkats Collective something really special.



Environment Collective Officers' Report

Clo Schofield, Steven Kwon and Marco Avena



The last time we wrote here, we were collecting signatures to bring on a referendum of the student body on whether USyd should divest from fossil fuels. Since then, so much has happened. The referendum won by a landslide - 80% of voters agree that we, as the university community, should stop investing in climate change. Coming up for the Fossil Free USyd campaign we'll be continuing to try to get Vice Chancellor Michael Spence to respond to our emails, and reaching out to clubs, societies, and other on campus institutions to creatively collaborate for a cleaner and not underwater future.

We've also been having intercampus

meet ups with Fossil Free Universities groups from all over NSW and supporting/being supported by campaigns on other campuses - it's been amazing working with folk from UWS, the University of Newcastle, UNSW, UTS, and Macquarie Uni.

Members of the Enviro Collective travelled up to the #LeardBlockade, which we've been supporting since soon after its inception two years ago, for the Shenanigans. Over 150 people took peaceful direct action, with community members, scientists, Kokoda vets, and shut down 4 mines, the world's largest coal port (Newcastle), and Gunnedah coal processing plant temporarily to protest the effect of coal on community, the climate, agriculture, health, biodiversity and Aboriginal land. If you're keen to come check out the protest camp at the Leard State Forest, there is another event planned, Act Up 6: Release the Bats, from October 30-November 4. The Enviro Collective will be heading up again and would love to have you along, so please drop us a line at environment.

officers@src.usyd.edu.au if you're keen to come.

On the Friday just past, we met with folk from Enviro Collectives across NSW and took part in the Pacific Climate Warriors' Flotilla - an on-water blockade of Newcastle harbour, which closed down the import/export of fossil fuels for the day. Their motto, "We are not drowning, we are fighting!", spits in the face of the often paternalistic Western view of passive Pacific Islanders, and encapsulates the incredible strength of the Climate Warrior crew who come from 13 different Pacific nations. Although it took a while to learn the ropes of dodging cops on jetskis in our kayaks, the Enviro Collective crew immensely appreciated the opportunity to #StandUpForThePacific in solidarity with the Pacific Climate Warriors, who were so inspiring their words left this Enviro Officer in tears a number of times. This action was really important in terms of standing behind first nations folks in instead of speaking or acting on their behalf, and is the kind of intersectional

environmentalist work we would endeavour to continue with and further improve on.

Coming up, we have a screening of Mining the Truth, an amazing film about students travelling through rural areas and listening to communities affected by coal and coal seam gas extraction - from health and agricultural community groups, through to workers in the mines. Free posh pizza and drinks will be provided at the screening on Thursday the 30th October at the Holme Common Room. After we'll talk about the Mining the Truth Road Trip, coming up from the 22nd of November through to the 1st of December, which will involve learning from mining communities, thinking about the best path for a just transition to renewable energy which includes, rather than isolates, the rural working class, and this year for the first time putting together a collaborative art project based upon what we learn. Email nswact@asen.org.au to learn more about the trip, for which you may be eligible to receive a subsidy from the SRC to attend.

Sexual Harassment Officers' Report

Georgia Carr and Kitty-Jean Laghina



The sexual harassment perpetrated by Alexander Wright is now well-known across campus. If you don't know about it, check out Honi Soit's reportage online. It is enlightening as a striking example of how the uni and wider society undermine and devalue the experiences of wom*n. This woman spoke out about her assault, put her

hand out for help and some semblance of justice or action, and the university did nothing substantial. Yet when Alexander Wright's identity is made public, the university jumped to protect his 'privacy'. It is horrifying that an institution we get our academic enrichment from participates in and maintains the destructive patriarchal sexist conditions that we live in. Want to see evidence of rape culture? This is it.

The SRC takes sexual harassment very seriously, but has historically lacked the funding and infrastructure to provide services to those in need. 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

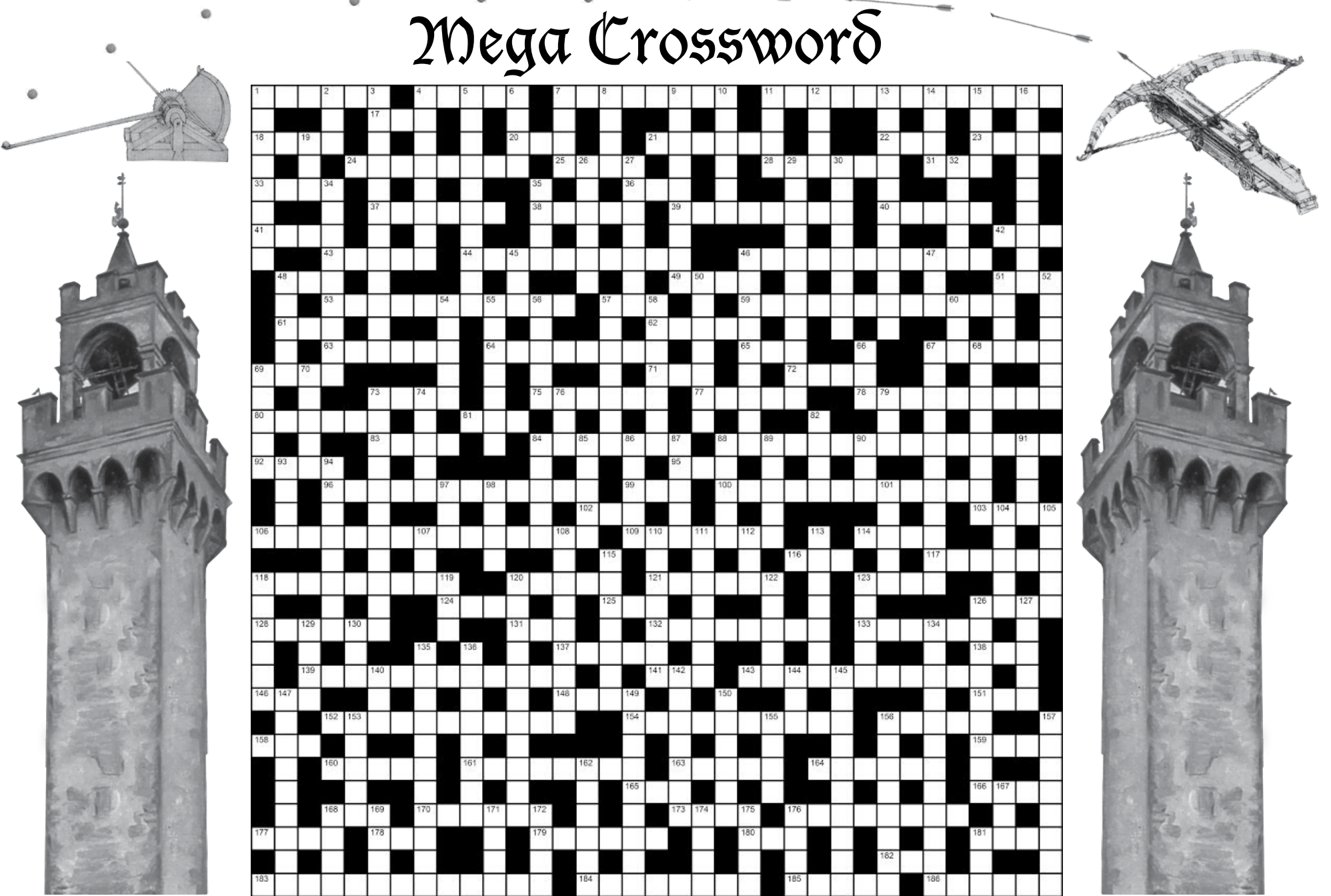
residential colleges or at university events. There is a severe lack of initiative in the university.

There are external services available to Sydney University students, such as the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sexual Assault Service and the NSW Police Force online reporting service, but these should not preclude an internal set of services or a clearly stipulated university code of conduct. It's also important to recognise that harassment can be subtle, or it can be labelled as a 'joke' or even as flattery, but sexual harassment can be incredibly pervasive and should be taken seriously by the entire university community. Further, we believe that any case of sexual harassment affecting members of this university community must be

dealt with on a survivor-centric basis.

Keep your eyes peeled for an autonomous action speaking out about Wright's reprehensible conduct and the uni's neglectful mishandling of the crime. Also don't forget Reclaim the Night will be on October 31 at Hyde park.

Lastly, 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 (02) 9515 9040 between 8:30am and 5pm weekdays or (02) 9515 6111 anytime if the sexual assault happened in the last 7 days.



ACROSS

- 1. ____ Time Machine , 2010 film (3,3)
- 4. 1970s dance music (5)
- 7. Criminal that uses fire (8)
- 11. Get to the point (3,2,3,5)
- 17. Brett or Jet (3)
- 18. Label (4)
- 20. America (3)
- 21. Globe (6)
- 22. Flee (3)
- 23. Breathe loudly (4)
- 24. ____ of Rhodes (8)
- 25. Civil rights activist Parks (4)
- 28. Rich guy (3,3)
- 31. Top 2010 1-Down editors? (3)
- 33. Epic tale (4)
- 36. Domesticated animal (3)
- 37. Hypothesis (6)
- 38. Measuring stick (5)
- 39. Fascinate (8)
- 40. Revolutionary (5)
- 41. Fails to be (4)
- 42. Pear-shaped fruit (3)
- 43. Criminal 2015 1-Down editors? (5)
- 44. Simplified or, derelict (6-4)
- 46. Understaffed (5-6)
- 48. UN health agency (3)
- 49. Cab (4)
- 51. Acquired (3)
- 53. Being the cause (11)
- 57. Hint (3)
- 59. Watchmen, for example (7,5)
- 61. XII divided by IV (3)
- 62. Oak tree fruit, often connected with squirrels (5)
- 63. Nintendo DS utensil (6)
- 64. Composed of one member (8)
- 65. In the past (3)
- 67. Roman orator who denounced Catiline (6)
- 69. Gin flavour (4)
- 71. Explosive chemical compound (3)
- 72. Space agency (4)
- 73. Sydney or Melbourne (4)
- 75. Horse disorder (6)
- 77. King during the French Revolution (5)
- 78. Completely developed (4-5)
- 80. African republic (6)
- 81. Water in the freezer (3)
- 83. Big military vehicle (4)
- 84. Two wrongs don't make a right, for example (7)
- 85. An unwelcome diplomat (7,3,5)
- 92. Nerf gun ammo (4)
- 95. 'sin(x)' as x approaches 0 (3)

- 96. Policy of advocating battles (12)
- 99. Gendered 2014 1-Down editors? (3)
- 100. Oscar (7,5)
- 102. Capital of Australia (3)
- 103. Newspaper piece (2-2)
- 106. Royal trees and shrubs exhibition? (9,6)
- 109. Leisurely walks (7)
- 114. Wrinkly fruit (4)
- 116. Product of creativity (3)
- 117. Detected by instinct (6)
- 118. Theory promoting community regulation of industry (9)
- 120. Valentine's boy with a bow (5)
- 121. Damaged beyond repair (6)
- 123. Loud 2011 1-Down editors? (4)
- 124. In addition (4)
- 125. Hideout (3)
- 126. Naked (4)
- 128. Posthumous 100-Across winner in 2008 (6)
- 131. Religious sister (3)
- 132. Not regularly (2,3,3)
- 133. Boil slowly (6)
- 137. Book supporter (5)
- 138. Cereal grain (3)
- 139. Indescribable quality (borrowed from French) (2,2,4,4)
- 141. America's federal law enforcers (3)
- 143. Crowd disperser (5,6)
- 146. Much ____ About Nothing (3)
- 148. Widespread (4)
- 151. Wild 2012 1-Down editors? (3)
- 152. Odysseus hid in this large wooden structure (6,5)
- 154. Grossly offensive (10)
- 156. Recurring idea, motif (5)
- 158. Conclusion (3)
- 159. Danny Pudi's character in Community (4)
- 160. Smug smile (5)
- 161. Aspiring person, alternate spelling of Spice Girls song (8)
- 163. Silly (5)
- 164. Grant (6)
- 165. Harry Potter's best friend (3)
- 166. My Name is ____ TV show from 2005 (4)
- 168. Preserved 2013 1-Down editors? (3)
- 170. Emblems that symbolise authority (6)
- 173. Distinctive clothes (4)
- 175. Lawyer (8)
- 177. 1840 square yards (4)
- 178. Disciple of Christ - A position set by The French (7)
- 179. Distinct period of history (3)
- 179. Strong flavoured sushi condiment (6)
- 180. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" singers (3)

- 181. Not false (4)
 - 182. Channel 2 in Australia (3)
 - 183. Ethos that the game will be enjoyed for its own sake (13)
 - 184. Horse ballet (8)
 - 185. Alloy of iron with a bit of carbon (5)
 - 186. Opinion that goes against the church (6)
- DOWN**
- 1. This newspaper? Oh no! It is changing! (4,4)
 - 2. Limit to one each (3)
 - 3. Lineage needing a drink showing a desire to kill (12)
 - 4. Remove 'the trees fostered change' (8)
 - 5. Signs up for inferior recorders (10)
 - 6. The blame is on us (4)
 - 7. Slightly open a glass vessel (4)
 - 8. Deprived saints lost it (4)
 - 9. Restlessly eager I am inept at changing (9)
 - 10. Model 43-Across of a religious type (6)
 - 11. Heartless head cook (4)
 - 12. Trial exam (4)
 - 13. Two 181-Downs obtain loud fish and chips condiment (6,5)
 - 14. Sicilian volcano is not applicable after alien... (4)
 - 15. jump energy turned into desire (4)
 - 16. Strangely, no marinas in the smallest republic (3,6)
 - 19. Rob a coffee container (3)
 - 26. Connected in lone position (6)
 - 27. Odd pair or single? It is based on 37-Across (1,6)
 - 29. White people slogans are remade in a Xenophobes' oblivious nightmare - silly leaders (5-6)
 - 30. Big cats? Sounds like a bunch of tricksters (8)
 - 32. Thin pancake paper used as decoration (5)
 - 34. Delegate power to construct art house around India's capital (9)
 - 35. Hike adventure kept hidden (4)
 - 45. Backward bro found in Mars perhaps? (3)
 - 46. Distinguishing style of autograph (9)
 - 47. Batman and Robin in Hindu Odyssey (3)
 - 48. Spin into a frantic activity (5)
 - 50. Disciple of Christ - A position set by The French (7)
 - 51. Sticker gel spread around with a bit of UHU? (4)

- 52. Thank you, Australian cheese magnate (6)
- 54. Gran's half pippen is foul (5)
- 55. Check out this quiet bug lurking around! (7)
- 56. Associates in clink start (5)
- 57. Israeli city is made alive in TV (3,4)
- 58. Associate the other half (7)
- 60. Seven (six, I followed) (3)
- 66. British flier found far back (3)
- 67. Islamic loon changes a kind of global exploitation (11)
- 68. US state new cool, 'rad', has nothing (8)
- 69. Tear up a small piece of paper (5)
- 70. Iron - a new way to walk? (2,3)
- 73. Young butterfly is literal crap when changed (11)
- 74. Ballroom dance - Opposite over adjacent! Proceed! (5)
- 76. Average rap comes back (3)
- 79. Keeper of death holds the Ashes? (3)
- 82. Found during Cinco de CIPHER (4)
- 84. Forced into pie's radius in diameter (5)
- 85. Body part used as an instrument? (5)
- 86. Directions to Electronic Art's streets (5)
- 87. Fighter dog breed (5)
- 88. Quiet 166-Across is a person of great worth (5)
- 89. Understands the sound of wind instruments (5)
- 90. In the least part a nymphomaniac? (3)
- 91. Account of the loud posterior (4)
- 93. Short alternative round of the lowest female voice (4)
- 94. Heard dainty ruler fine-tuning... (8)
- 97. ... nothing in Manila (3)
- 98. Test in the morning after the previous? (4)
- 101. Deliberately violent in the past about Greece (5)
- 104. Noodles from an earlier time before the first aioli (5)
- 105. Avoid animal meme about the D (5)
- 107. Fool a Nazi police force (3)
- 108. Extremely thoughtful after a former lover became high in price (9)
- 110. A road junction is something that gets me out of the mood (7)
- 111. Japanese paper art or, me and myself go about that unfinished game? (7)
- 112. Sprawl resulted from a false statement (5)
- 113. Fancy fungus came from initial toil and trouble (7)

- 115. Formal speech on the particulars of where you live (7)
- 118. Disorder avails drive! (6)
- 119. Very foolish, like some scientists (3)
- 120. Agreement of results cure concerns about missing second (11)
- 122. Overheard that a ridge of sand covered a blanket (5)
- 123. "Fundamental arts degree (sic)" (5)
- 126. Period between Stone and Iron that requires 600 food? (6,3)
- 127. Old-fashioned regarding tropes in the first half (5)
- 129. Jordan engage in following a karate school (4)
- 130. Even the ending of Hallow?! (3)
- 134. When rock-y men dance to a Foo Fighters' song (6,6)
- 135. President's degree framework has nothing on bear meat's odd pieces (6,5)
- 136. Abstain from egg-rolls - ends chewed (8)
- 140. Self-esteem built from Lego (3)
- 142. Gambling models begin out and about (7)
- 144. Talk to a couple (3)
- 145. Individual that I have beyond regard? (10)
- 147. Cup dances around the Fool's hat (6,3)
- 149. Mediocre bore tell a novel (9)
- 150. Middle Eastern marketplace in Arizona contained by a reckless Arab (6)
- 153. Ballroom dance - Drink! Back! Half-way! (5)
- 155. Perhaps the president executed half? (4)
- 156. New ritual to a kind of class (8)
- 157. Extramarital sin - a dull try to add energy without initial leeway (8)
- 162. One-sided bed contains said head-less (6)
- 167. Broadcast The Region Above (3)
- 168. Ridicule revolutionises Sartre - ejects contents (4)
- 169. Clutter in a large military room (4)
- 171. Expression of surprise goes to high hell when the 'E' was dropped (4)
- 172. Inundate without a minute to exchange (4)
- 174. Eurodance group involving water (4)
- 175. Memory unit heard to penetrate (4)
- 176. As quiet as a removal of snakes (4)
- 181. Old sailor: "Thank you - yrrrrrrr" (3)

Crossword by Zplig

The first person to battle through the mega crossword and send a high resolution image to editors@honisoit.com will win a Crossword society t-shirt, courtesy of Dover Dubarovsky.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LANE SAINTY

A Botanical Expose

The university has three emergency jacarandas, reveals Ed McMahon.

Campus aesthetics are an important concern for management; it's a key selling point for the neoliberal university. Putting aside for one moment its investments in ecodical companies, this reporter has decided to indulge their particular fascination with campus flora.

The go-to tree for the Marketing Department and campus tourists alike is the famous jacaranda in the south-west corner of the Quadrangle. This particular tree is so valued by management that it maintains three "emergency" Jacarandas.

When asked about the contingency, Senate fellows and senior administrators approached by *Honi* were especially tight-lipped. Two sources confirmed the existence of the emergency trees, and one suggested that they were kept off-site. It would seem that the information is otherwise designated "top secret", which begs the question: what else are they hiding?

History helps to explain the paranoia. The first Jacaranda was planted in 1927 by professor

of German, E. G. Waterhouse. It is generally accepted that students uprooted it for reasons unknown. Another was planted. It was again uprooted. The process repeated itself until Waterhouse, no doubt extremely miffed, planted one that was too large to be removed with human hands.

Or so he thought. On Tuesday 12 July 1938, the *Barrier Miner* reported a motion passed by the University Evening Students' Association condemning the vandalous removal of the tree. "The joke" read the motion "if ever there was one, has long since lost its point."

The tree appears as one of nearly 2000 listed by the City of Sydney as being of historical or environmental significance. Many of these trees have been behaving rather absurdly lately. Last year, the jacaranda itself flowered unseasonably early. Perhaps the time is coming when management will have to decide between its investments in fossil fuels and its jacaranda.

Of course, its not all about the jacaranda. In 2012 alone,

Straight White Guy Problems

Tash Gillezeau

1. when you write on the weekly shopping list hey mum get me 21 chicken breasts but she only gets four of those little packets that come with 3 breasts each notably not free range wtf mum

2. thanks dicko for the #ALSicebucket challenge nomination lucky the rig is in check uh whattagreatcause i nominate the boys charlie jack and billy you know the drill jesus wat am i doin with my life

4. when you find out your mates got high without you and you werent doing anything that night

7. getting to a lecture hungover lectures cancelled greaaatntt now what am i gonna do for two hours

10. running into your geography teacher from school hi sir how's it going yeah not too bad not too bad man that was awkward

11. when your ex is on exchange having fun and its like okay cool i think we all get it your in italy

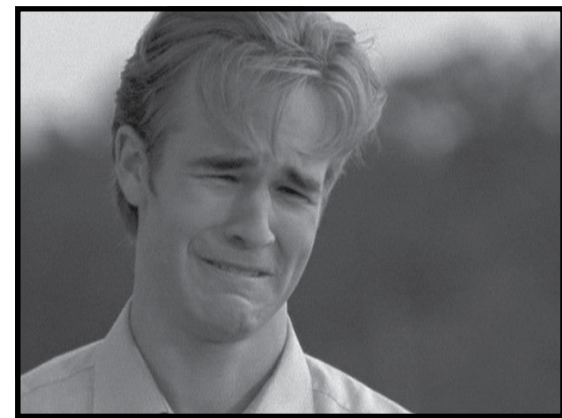
12. that one really stingy mate nah your alright mate your alright

18. when you specifically tell your boss you cant work saturday night because your going out and he rosters you on anyway and then says you have to find someone to cover it or you have to do it

15. when someone steals your snapchat at a house party and its kind of funny but stressful keeping track of it and acting cool about it at the same time

14. listening to asap rocky and your iphone battery dies before the end of the song

#SWGFP



So it would seem that our university is embroiled in a web of botanical intrigue that is so finely weaved that we may never untangle it. We may have only just scratched the surface, but it is for us to connect the dots as best we can.

Honey



Soy

Clive Palmer Naps In Parliament, Sets Record For Successful ‘Inceptions’

Naaman Zhou reports on our nation’s most admirable politician.

As new photos surfaced today of Clive Palmer sleeping through Question Time, the mining magnate and *Star Wars* prosthesis prototype has defended himself – revealing that he uses his sleep “productively” to steal the dreams of high-powered CEOs in a manner akin to the 2010 Christopher Nolan film *Inception*.

Palmer, a straw-haired caricature of a marshmallow that was accidentally brought to life by a careless wizard, had first been photographed snoozing in May this year. In September it was revealed the Member for Fairfax had the poorest attendance record of any lower house MP – attending only 19 votes out of a possible 202.

Batting away questions that he was failing his electorate, Palmer claimed his exemplary performance in the field of dream-snatching was more than making up for it.

“Sure you look at the stats and I’ve only attended 9 per cent of total votes,” he said, “but 100 per cent of my naps have resulted in a successful ‘extraction’. If you ask me, the taxpayer is definitely getting their money’s worth.”

“I’m at it 24/7,” he continued, “I promise that whenever you sleep, I’ll be there.”

The PUP leader, who frequently refers to himself as “an awesome little dinosaur” when alone, told reporters he followed the exact process set out in the film and employed an expert team of medical staff to administer sedatives. He revealed he had seen the movie six or seven times and found the performance of Joseph Gordon-Levitt especially revelatory.

IN OTHER NEWS

Team Australia Victorious in Second Half of Parliamentary Grand Final Following Performance by Press Gallery Cheer Squad

Red Flag Smashes Capitalism by Obtaining Dominant Market Share

Barry Spurr: “I’m not racist, some of my best friends are [censored].”

McDonalds Investigating Claims That A Customer Found Cow Meat In His Burger.

Mia Freedman Defends Comments As “part of a whimsical game of homophobia”.

Abbott gives landmark #sorrynotsorry speech.

!SHARRI! !WATCH!

Sharri Markson Goes Undercover To Reveal Pro-Evolution Bias In Science Courses At Sydney Universities.

Sharri Markson Goes Undercover To Reveal Anti-Corporal Punishment Bias In Primary Education Courses At Sydney Universities.

Sharri Markson Goes Undercover To Reveal Pro-Vaccination Bias In Medicine Courses At Sydney Universities.

Sharri Markson Goes Undercover To Reveal Anti-Holocaust Denier Bias In History Courses At Sydney Universities.

Sharri Markson Goes Undercover To Reveal Pro-Paterson Bias In Australian Literature Courses At Sydney Universities.

Sharri Markson Goes Undercover To Reveal Anti-Patriarchy Bias In Gender Studies Courses At Sydney Universities.

Sharri Markson Goes Undercover To Reveal Pronumeral Bias In Mathematics Courses At Sydney Universities.



White Christian Terrorist Quietly Happy With Way Things Are Going

Cam Smith is a hobbyist terrorist.

Local terrorist Rob Wilson is counting his lucky stars this week, after the Federal government once again pledged to focus a majority of its counter terrorism efforts on innocent Muslims and people fleeing Iraq, to the relief of Christian terrorists country over. The father of three and part time extremist says he is actually quite glad a majority of his work goes overlooked as a Christian extremist, as he prefers to let his work speak for itself, and he’s not in it for fame or glory.

Rob says he has been a hobbyist terrorist for some years now, tinkering away in his back shed with various detonators, when not scouring his Bible for new sins, and is always on the look out for more industrial grade manure to ad to his rapidly growing collection. While Rob says his interest is only a weekend job at the current time, he hopes that someday it might become his death.

Despite the government’s support, it’s not all smooth sailing for Rob, with the occasional run in with the authorities inevitable in his line of work. “For a while I was getting really worried that the police had cottoned on to my plans and might shut things down,” says Rob, “there was always this van with tinted windows parked out the front, but in the end it turned out they were just after my Sikh neighbors. Apparently they’d had a whole kitchen drawer full of knives of something, so they were all taken in for questioning under anti-terror laws and nobody’s heard from them since.”

Mary Ward investigates our nation’s best investigative journalist.



Pictured: Sharri Markson goes undercover as a journalist.

Get Thee To A Punnery *Sam Langford should be shot.*

An unnamed comedy writer has been fired in punishment for making too many terrible puns. *Honey Soy* met the writer at Gelato Messina to get the scoop.

“It all started when I was writing a piece on that weather last week - I thought it was gonna be a breeze,” the writer said. “But then I told my editor I wasn’t sure weather I’d mist my deadline. She just stormed off. I thought it would blow over, but then the complaints really started pouring in. I’m a little foggy on the details, but I think they said I was full of hot air, flooding them with puns, that kind of thing. Really rained on my parade, that did. Snow need to be so rude.”

“No body really nose what happened after that, but

I could tell it was time to face the facts. I was stalling in the bathroom the day it happened, but they flushed me out.” The editors eventually cornered the writer in a lift, leading to a conversation both parties described as “uncomfortable on many levels”.

“I kept trying to talk about how I could change in the future, but they were too hung up on the past... it was a tense conversation. Since then my articles have been redacted – it’s like censor-y deprivation.”

The writer described the situation as unfair, saying it was “completely punintended on my part.” They have even gone so far as to suggest an underlying medical condition forcing them to make terrible jokes, claiming that seven days without a pun makes one weak.

Now even more unemployed than before, the former writer is faced with a tough decision about what to do with next. “I used to be a banker, but I lost interest.” They feel they have been effectively written out of future journalistic ventures. “It’d just be like writing with a broken pencil,” they said. “Utterly pointless.” A brief foray in fine arts didn’t make much of an impression, as they didn’t find still life very moving.

The more dramatic arts, however, aren’t yet out of the picture. “I’ve been trying to write a piece for SUDS about my struggle with puns. I suppose you could call it a play on words.”

Ask Honey

Dear Honey,

I’m not trying to be offensive, but: how do lesbians have sex? I know this is probably quite a novel and original question that has never been asked before by anyone ever so please feel free to do some research and get back to me in your own time.

Cheers,

Confused and curious

Hi Confused and curious,

This is a great question and I can see it has come from a place of deep respect for lesbians. As you

suggested, I went and did some research on this topic. I can now reveal: this is how lesbians have sex.

First the lesbians have to source a variety of household objects, specifically: a spatula, a whisk and one of those machines that cores apples and turns them into little crunchy apple springs. They also have to buy those little cheeses that come in their own little wax wrappings IN BULK – we’re talking Costco bulk – and peel half of them, making sure to set the wax aside for later. Next, said lesbians have to transport said objects – wax and all - to that obscure and quaint little seaside town in Victoria where popular 90s Australian drama “Seachange” was filmed. Then they usually have to wait around in said seaside town for around 4-6 months until the spring rain comes, bringing with

it promise of a good harvest and a fertile crop, as well as strong healthy firstborns for all who perform the requisite new year ritual (here, the lesbians can choose to incorporate both the leftover wax and the apple coring machine.) At the first sign of the winter equinox, the lesbians are then obliged to catch a pair of wild pugs and harness them to a handmade wicker chariot, and ride into the hinterland leaving a trail of lemon drops and chocolate freckles behind them, as wedge-tailed eagles soar above them and choirs of Miley Cyrus impersonators herald their ascension into the promised land.

Regards,

Honey

Students’ Representative Council, The University of Sydney

MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES-ELECT OF THE 87th STUDENTS’ REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

A meeting of Representatives-elect of the 87th SRC will be held on Wednesday 29th October, at 6pm in the Philosophy Room s249, Main Quadrangle.

The following positions are open to nomination from members of the undergraduate student body:

- Vice-President
- General Secretary
- Education Officer
- Two Womens’ Officers
- Two Disabilities and Carers Officers
- Two Environment Officers
- Two Ethnic Affairs Officers
- Two Global Solidarity Officers
- Two Indigenous Students’ Officers
- Two Inter-Campus Officers
- Two Interfaith Officers
- Two International Students’ Officers
- Two Mature-Age Students’ Officers
- Two Queer Officers
- Two Residential College Officers
- Two Sexual Harassment Officers

- Two Social Justice Officers
- Two Student Housing Officers
- Two Welfare Officers
- Chairperson of the Standing Legal Committee*
- Director of Finance
- Director of Operations
- Six Directors of Student Publications*
- Orientation Committee

The following positions are open to nomination from members of the 87th Council:

- Five Executive members*
- Five Finance Committee members*
- Four Grievance Committee members*
- Two Inter-Campus Committee members*
- Two Standing Legal Committee members*

Positions in *italic* cannot be shared (SRC Regulations Part One Section 3d). All other positions may be split ONCE only (Part One Section 3c).

Nominations shall be taken from the floor at the meeting. However, nomination forms may be obtained in advance from the SRC front office or downloaded from (<http://srcusyd.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Reps-elect-nomform.pdf>)

Descriptions of positions are found within the Regulations of the SRC available on the SRC website (<http://srcusyd.net.au/about-us/constitution-regulations/>)

Note: Part One Section 4b. states:

Where an Officer position is split and shared between two members of the student body it shall only be considered held by a woman, for the purposes of Part 1 Section 4 (a) of the Regulations, if both of the joining members of the student body do not identify as cis-males.



85 YEARS OF
HONI SOIT

A Celebration



We will also be presenting the

REPORTER AWARDS
OPINION COMP WINNERS

& LAUNCHING THE COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

*Thursday 23 October**

VERGE GALLERY, 7PM

--- FOOD & BAR TAB SUPPLIED ---

*Please note this is the correct date, the ad printed here last week mistakenly had the wrong date.