

# Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • WEEK 2

FIRST PRINTED 1929

“So...

can I

have a

simple

extension?”

- No more online applications
- Lecturers and students left confused
- Policy details yet to be finalised
- Extensions available across all faculties...  
but only if *your* lecturer signs up.

NEWS, PAGE 5



Uni loses  
disabled  
students' data

NEWS, PAGE 5

Faceless women  
Meet the anonymous admins of the  
USYD Rants Facebook page.

PROFILE, PAGE 6

Students  
conscripted  
abroad

FEATURE, PAGE 9

The Drew's  
party was  
shit

REVIEW, PAGE 19



# Contents

3 / LETTERS	15 / CULTURE
4 / NEWS	19 / SOCIAL
6 / PROFILE	20 / CASEWORKERS
7 / ANALYSIS	21 / PUZZLES
8 / OPINION	22 / SRC REPORTS
12 / PERSPECTIVE	24 / SUPRA
14 / SCIENCE & TECH	26 / COMEDY

## 9 / FEATURE

Alexandros Tsathas and Victoria Zerbst speak with students who have been conscripted.

## #ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### #LETTHEMSTAY POSTERS VANDALISED WITH ISLAMOPHOBIC MESSAGES

On Thursday morning, more than fifteen campus posters supporting refugees in detention were defaced with messages saying "No Muslims" and "Muslims rape babies". *Honi* editor **Naaman Zhou** was on the scene to catalogue what is now the fourth Islamophobic incident in a month, and the seventh since December. Following Thursday's incident, student leaders, representatives from SUMSA and even a NSW Parliamentarian called on the University to do more. We await the University's response.

To read the full article, visit [honisoit.com](#).

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# Letters

## In defence of the University Mardi Gras float

Dear *Honi*,

I'm writing this letter very much sleep deprived after what was a late and exciting night. Last night was the Mardi Gras and it was the first Sydney University Mardi Gras Float. However, last week there was an article titled 'Queer students consider boycott of University Mardi Gras float'. I think there

are a few things to clear up in this article.

To say queer students boycotted the float is problematic. Yes some did, but many other students involved in the AQSN (Australian Queer Students Network) were on the float. Perhaps a title that could also have been used was 'Queer students consider being involved in the University float'?

It's important that students, staff and the university administration are seen as important actors in creating change on campus individually but at times collectively. Creating further divide only does that, divide. If the university wants to make a change, do something

positive - who are we to judge?

I contacted Evan Jones and Marcus Wong as the Queer Collective convenors about the float. I wish to stress that no decision was actually made by the collective, as no formal collective meeting had been called. I put a poll up myself, that of which most people didn't do. I worked with Evan and Marcus to have a meeting on Christmas Eve. I made sure the collective had input even though individuals in the collective thought it best for inaction. Five people including myself attended the meeting in December. What was up for negotiation was how the float would go, and from this meeting we concluded queer students would be prioritized, and the details of the float and what students would wear.

I want to break down this usage of 'allies'. An ally is a term from the queer community that refers to people who support

queer issues who may not fit in the LGBTI categories. For example, questioning people, men who have sex with trans women, closeted people, MSM/WSW etc. Let's not assume they are all straight people.

Lastly, to say that it might not be appropriate for university management to be on the float is troubling. As a young person I feel very humbled that I can be so involved in the activism I do. It's because of those who did the work before me that allow me to do it. LGBTIQ people in my generation stand on the shoulders of those who came before them and it's best not to exclude them from the Mardi Gras parade.

Jack Whitney  
USU Board Director and  
Queer Portfolio Holder  
Arts/Social Work  
IV

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The University of Sydney—where we write, publish and distribute *Honi Soit*—is on the sovereign land of these people.

As students and journalists, we recognise our complicity in the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land. In recognition of our privilege, we vow to not only include, but to prioritise

and centre the experiences of Indigenous people, and to be reflective when we fail to.

We recognise our duty to be a counterpoint to the racism that plagues the mainstream media, and to adequately represent the perspectives of Indigenous students at our University. We also wholeheartedly thank our Indigenous reporters for the continuing contribution of their labour to our learning.

## EDITORIAL

Mary Ward

If you have a spare few hours in these early weeks of semester, head down to the rare books section of Fisher Level 1, and ask to see the old copies of *Honi Soit*.

Their yellowed pages are filled with names, many of which you might just recognise: Kirbys, and Abbotts, and Greers. (Oh my!)

*Honi* exists as a record of what happens on this campus far more comprehensive than any kept by the University's management. I feel great pride (and even greater anxiety) to think that, in 50 years time, an *Honi* nerd will be sitting in Fisher Library's basement, reading what we, as an editorial team, have chosen to add to that record in 2016.

There are two names missing from this week's paper.

They are two of the most influential people in the lives of Sydney University students, and yet you will not find their names on any student leadership ballot, or in any previous issue of this newspaper.

*Honi* spoke with them over lunch at some of campus' most mundane locations, but only on the condition that we maintained their anonymity.

Who are they? The administrators of the USyd Rants Facebook page.

And, if that last sentence was confusing, dear *Honi* nerd in the Fisher Library archives 50 years from now, ask your grandparents to tell you what a Facebook is.

*Last week, Honi was sad to learn of the death of 2016 Arts Revue director Elliott Miller. His name had appeared in Honi several times, and appears for a final time in the obituary opposite.*

## The USU doesn't want us to talk with our #mates :(

Dear *Honi*,

One would think that, through the multitude of controversies the USU has shuffled between over the years, the Board of Directors would both attempt to stop further controversy and be able to enact some sort of effective damage control if one ever did happen.

It only took the first academic week of 2016 to prove that wrong.

Last week's excellent letter from Brendan O'Shea pointed out the changes to C&S funding arrangements and the poor communication with clubs over them. As far as I can see, there has been no official

# More Letters

response from any branch of the USU clarifying the changes, or asking for further feedback. Instead, Club executives were sent an email from the President of the USU the day *Honi* was released, reminding them they can talk directly to the Board or the President they have any issues. It might as well have said "please stop talking about our problems to *Honi*, we'd much prefer not to have any outside scrutiny" - well, at least, that's how many of us read it. If the USU thinks "damage control" is the same as "please keep all of our problems out of the media" then, well, they really have learnt nothing from the past.

Worse still is that the Board ended the week with another controversy; a far more boring one on the surface but important all the same. In 2015, a landmark change to election rules meant that Board Directors could not endorse or

campaign for any prospective Board candidates - a fantastic rule intended to even the playing field for those without a current factional buddy on Board to coach them through the arduous campaign. It had teething problems as all major changes do - many Directors found ways around the rules, like sitting at stalls without wearing any campaign apparel, doing preference deals on behalf of candidates, and still giving advice only to their own heir apparent candidate. So for any rational Board, the simple solution is to tighten the rules and allow for reporting of such behaviour by other campaigns, right? Instead, all the new rules were scrapped because some Directors (many of them from political factions that would benefit from such a change) thought they were impossible to police. Disappointing but extremely unsurprising. Expect the winning candidates this

May to be the ones with current Board Directors wearing their shirts.

But the best (worst) thing about all of this is that this is now Week 2 - there's still a lot of 2016 left, which means a lot more time for the USU to impress and entertain us by continually falling foul of controversies they make for themselves, and for *Honi* to report on it all.

Regards,  
Cameron Caccamo

## The biggest problem facing Catholicism in Australia

Dear *Honi*,  
I have a bone to pick with the Catholic Society. You aren't

ple suffer at their lowest - even when he was at his.

He didn't want us to remember him with cancer, but it would be unfair to discredit the immense bravery he showed in the last six months.

Elliott was on several occasions moved from room to room at Life House for too many guests and too much fun. Once, while being injected with Endone, a nurse asked if he had any allergies. "Oh, only Endone" he said, to the nurse's panic, and then amusement. In his final days he still found time - by text - for sketch and stand-up edits; often blunt but always true. He was generous with all the faculties he sometimes claimed to have lost to his ferocious treatment. He held onto them to the end.

In the last week, everyone has been on a strange knife-edge between laughing and crying. Remembering every private anecdote, dreadful sketch idea, and brilliant moment on stage lights up the room as if he hasn't left at all. Cruelly, wastefully, heart-breakingly though, he has.

He leaves behind a far longer lifetime's worth of brilliant memories, and a renewed urgency: do everything you can, as well as you can; trust the things and people you love, and love them hard. Be fearless, be direct and be kind. None of us can afford to waste any time. Elliott, we all miss you, the crowd would like an encore.

By Patrick Morrow and Peter Walsh, with contributions by Maddie Houlbrook-Walk and Joel Hillman

## Love letters?

Wish to pen a declaration of your affection? Send your letters to [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com).

alone on this but are definitely the worst. Why is it that every year you insist on coating the uni in crappy chalk messages? If Sunday School ain't rustling your jimmies anymore and guerrilla graffiti is the only way to get your kicks, at least follow these few design tips to improve your marketing department.

Do literally anything else but use chalk. It's not impressive or eye-catching, the colour palette is abysmal and when people are walking over it it's impossible to read. It just looks shit.

If you have to use chalk, 'chalk it up' first and make sure it actually fits. Starting off 3000 pt and ending up 12 pt makes it look like you were that one kid that never got their pen license.

Find someone with slight artistic talent, spend some time designing something cool, and

get them to do an actual piece instead of scratching 'Praise God' a million times across everything. (Heads up: 'The cross in the 'O' makes it look like you are trying to sniper God.)

The phrases are neither witty or interesting. 'Have you heard of Jesus?' is like the Chocolate Society saying, 'Have you heard of chocolate?' We all have. Mainly because both have been rammed down our throats from a young age, one is just slightly more enjoyable.

Maybe your PR team might want to play publicity a bit low key for the moment... just in light of recent events. Summed up quite well by Cardinal Pell, 'it's not of much interest to me.'

Regards,  
Disgruntled design student

## From the archives

During his time at Sydney University, Elliott Miller appeared in *Honi Soit* four times, in reviews for his student theatre performances.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (Hannah Cox and Elliott Miller) show shades of their Stoppard-analogues in a complementary performance that balances the comedy with their drama. While

Review: *Hamlet* (Semester Two, Week Three, 2014)

writes. Elliot Miller was an easy stand-out amongst the cast, bringing an enormous energy to the stage that carried every sketch he appeared in. Other mentions

Review: *Arts Revue* (Semester Two, Week Four, 2015)

Memorable standouts included Elliot Miller's excitable last post bugle-player,

Review: *Arts Revue* (Semester Two, Week Four, 2015)

Like a good BBQ (sequel?) there were plenty of chops on offer from the ensemble cast (Elliott Miller, Jenna Owen, Maddie Houlbrook-Walk, Maddie Parker, Michael Cameron, Monisha Rudhran, Nick Welsh, and Reuben Ward) who showed great skill in both traditional character based performance and improvisation.

Review: *House Party* (Semester One, Week Nine, 2015)





## BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

We're stuck with this column name for better or for worse

### PowerPoint is not responding

The university has taken seven months to agree on a new format for the reports and PowerPoint presentations used in official meetings. Seven months.

Replete with the same ‘please, angry bull, charge at me’ red of last year’s un-wide rebrand and style guide instructions to “KEEP LANGUAGE CONCISE AND TO THE POINT”, the new format comes with rules that range from banal (“font should be Arial”) to preposterous (“Text should not be animated”).

*Honi* wonders whether Microsoft and a greased palm or two were involved in the requirement that “All Reports and Cover Reports are to be prepared in Word”.

The changes have been through five committees since they were first proposed in September. *Honi* can only imagine how long it took to decide which font to write the style guide in.

### Campaign Hunger Games

The University of Sydney Union (USU) Board has approved the removal of restrictions on board directors campaigning for candidates in USU elections. The regulations had only been in force for one year.

The previous regulations allowed directors to be “involved in a candidate’s campaign” but not “directly campaign to electors”. Directly campaigning included wearing a campaign shirt, distributing materials and approaching prospective voters. Effectively, board directors were still allowed to orchestrate campaigns from behind the scenes.

Board Director Michael Rees presented

a spectrum of changes to these regulations at the March 4 board meeting, which also included tightening the restrictions. The room voted for the ‘free for all’ option, meaning that board directors now have the same campaigning rights as ordinary students.

This is probably the closest board directors have ever come to identifying with the ordinary student.

### Bruised egos and unburied hatchets at OWeek

It’s not really a surprise that the fractious world of student politics spilled into OWeek this year. Behind the cheerful veneer of its stall, trouble was brewing at the Labor Club.

Lachlan Ward, the club’s president, was turned away from sitting behind the society’s stall by members of the Sydney Labor Students (SLS) faction who were staffing it.

Though students from different factions can be members of the Labor Club, Ward left SLS under acrimonious circumstances last year and it seems the hatchet is yet to be buried. *Honi* understands members of SLS intimidated and physically blocked Ward in particular from coming behind the stall even as president, and prevented other members of his new faction, National Labor Students (NLS), whose members are also part of the club, from going near it.

NLS then went and set up their own bootleg stall on the footpath outside Manning House. Ward, meanwhile, eventually approached the USU’s Clubs and Societies office in frustration, who asked his rival faction to back down. After the dust had cleared, it was clear that Labor had suc-

cessfully given bright-eyed first years an accurate glimpse into the world of Sydney University student politics.

### They don’t even go here

It’s barely week two, but while you were busy not buying readers, democracy’s been bubbling away. The SRC Council have already held two meetings this year (one in the break, one in week one), and just like a fascist tutor, *Honi*’s got some absences to announce.

Two of your elected councillors are yet to attend a single meeting in 2016. Alice Strauss (SLS) and Tom Baker (Liberal) are the kids on naught from two. It’s highly unlikely their stats will improve. *Honi*’s done some digging and can reveal that Strauss is actually on exchange this semester, while Baker has upped sticks and transferred to UNSW. Neither has resigned their seat to someone who can actually attend council (as is custom). Nor did they respond to our questions about when, if ever, they planned on organising a replacement. As far as we know, their seats - which they pestered you last September to win - will remain empty until next semester and next year, respectively.

### Apologies

Honi Soit would like to apologise for the misquotation of Liam Carrigan in last week’s *Births, Deaths & Marriages*. The column suggested Carrigan spoke on behalf of Grassroots, when the quote was actually made by another Grassroots member.

## UNI ADMIN

### VC wags Student Consultative Committee

Justine Landis-Hanley

The President of the University of Sydney Union (USU) has called out University Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence for failing to attend Student Consultative Committee (SCC) meetings, saying he should step down as Chair.

USU President Alisha Aitken-Radburn told *Honi* Spence has not been able to attend any of the four meetings since she was named President last year, saying, “it’s a cop-out he doesn’t come”.

“These meetings are the only opportunity that we get to alert him to student matters requiring action within our University, such as improving Satellite Campuses or performing arts on campus,” Aitken-Radburn said.

“For the last two meetings, myself and SUPRA President Christian Jones have left the Western Tower Boardroom to see Michael sitting in his office, which is hugely disappointing. “If he doesn’t want to attend these meetings, that’s for him to decide. But if so he needs to relieve himself as the chair of these meetings.”

The Student Consultative Committee is a key forum for consultation between the University and student representative bodies on policy matters relating to student experience and welfare.

When approached for comment, Spence’s office responded that he has only been absent from the past three meetings, and has “continued to liaise with students on a range of issues during that time, including a formal meeting with Education Officers from the SRC and SUPRA earlier this month”.

They assured *Honi* his office remains responsible for keeping him “abreast of issues raised at SCC... and progressing many of the issues on the agenda at the meeting”.

Aitken-Radburn said Spence’s absence allows for meetings to be stacked with administrative matters, instead of discussion around student concerns.

“Those items become delegated to a meeting with someone who probably has less capacity to get something done,” she said.

“If Spence attended these meetings, and took interest in a student issue, things would get done.”

The SCC will next meet on March 14.

## ACADEMIC POLICY

# Simple extension policy miscommunicated to staff and students

Siobhan Ryan, with additional research by Subeta Vimalarajah

An email sent to University staff provided incorrect information about the circumstances when simple extensions may be granted, leaving both students and staff confused.

The email, sent by Arts Dean Barbara Caine to all Faculty of Arts staff on March 2, stated that “Unit of Study coordinators have the discretion to give a short (no more than 5 days) extension in exceptional circumstances”.

The email contradicts an amendment passed by Academic Board in December 2015, which removed the requirement of “exceptional circumstances” for simple extension requests.

As *Honi* reported last year, the December amendment meant that circumstances need not be “exceptional”, merely “deemed appropriate by the relevant academic” for simple extensions to be granted.

Following the passing of this amendment, a working group was formed to further clarify the simple extension process. This group comprises Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) Vice-President Thomas Greenwell (who put forward the amendment), newly elected Chair of the Academic Board Anthony Masters, and other student representatives and University staff.

On February 18 this year, the working group confirmed that simple extensions of up to two days “should be implemented across campus consistently and transparently by negotiation between the student and the relevant academic”.

They proposed a model where simple extensions will be applied for via direct email, and approved at the discretion of the relevant Unit of Study coordinator.

Greenwell told *Honi* that, under the proposed system, he understands there would be “no more intervention by the Dean about whether or not the facul-

ty can have them”. The changes grant more autonomy to Unit of Study co-ordinators, in contrast to the previous system where co-ordinators were required to comply with faculty policy.

However, the conclusions of the working group are yet to be reflected in University policy, which has contributed to the uncertainty. As a result, there is no mention of the proposed procedures in 2016 Semester 1 Unit of Study outlines.

“I understand that the working group has agreed on the principles of simple extensions and those principles are currently being formatted into a policy which can go to the next meeting of the Academic Board,” Masters said.

Dr Megan Le Masurier, the Undergraduate Coordinator for the Department of Media and Communications, said she was concerned about student confusion regarding the new simple extensions process.

“[Simple extensions] were only explained to us... on Wednesday in week one,” Le Masurier said.

Changes to simple extensions have been accompanied by an entirely new special consideration system, which has also faced communication challenges.

If a student searches “special consideration usyd” on Google,

the first link that appears is the previous hard-copy application.

“As with any big change like this, apart from the technical element of it, one of the most difficult challenges is the communication,” Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Tyrone Carlin, told *Honi*, adding that “there have been and continue to be processes done to try as best we can to communicate the changes”.

The special consideration application period has been reduced from five to three days after the assessment, alongside the formulation of a centralised, online application system for all faculties.

Carlin justified the time reduction, saying, “If there’s a long period of time between the trigger and applying it...the remedy is also delayed,” referring specifically to re-examinations.

Undergraduate science student Phillipa Specker was concerned about the change. “From my experience [working for the Science Faculty] there were students who couldn’t get it [the application] in in 5 days,” she said.

She said the change could pose difficulties “particularly for students who have to book an appointment to see a psychologist”.

The new simple extensions policy will be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Academic Board, on March 30.

### Simple Extensions Vs. Special Consideration

**Simple extensions** are an “informal” extension request. They do not require supporting documentation, and are thus used in less serious circumstances. Under the previous system, they were only granted within the Arts faculty (though they were technically available to all faculties).

**Special consideration** is a formal process that requires supporting documentation. It may be granted where well-attested illness, injury or misadventure occurs. A practitioner’s (doctor, psychologist) certificate with a full evaluation of the severity, duration and the effect of the illness on the student’s ability to complete the assessment must be included.

## REVELATIONS 20:1

# USU threatens to deregister Evangelical Union



Andrew Bell

The University of Sydney Union (USU) has threatened to deregister the Sydney University Evangelical Union (EU) from the Clubs & Societies program over the latter’s requirement that all members must make a declaration of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Board views the requirement as exclusive to participation in the society and a discriminatory religious litmus test for eligibility to join the society.

The EU has until the 31st March to change the constitutional requirement. This ultimatum was received by email on 17th February.

Article 3.2 of the EU’s constitution states that each member must sign a statement that they “desire in joining the EU to declare my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, my Lord and my God”.

Members of the EU attended the USU Board meeting of Friday March 4 to petition the board to reconsider their position.

President of the EU, George Bishop, gave a three minute speech to the Board. In it, he cited human rights treaty provisions protecting freedom of religion. The EU has received formal legal advice on the matter.

Olivia Ronan, Vice President of the USU told *Honi* the Board saw the banning of identity requirements as “the best option for maximizing participation in the Clubs and Societies Program”.

“The foundations of the Program and of the USU are accessibility and inclusion, and to limit the candidates for election to Club Executives to those who ascribe to a particular faith is no less exclusionary than requiring candidates to be of a particular

sexuality or gender identity.”

Regarding the USU’s alleged treaty obligations, Ronan further suggested that “complaints of that nature could be forwarded to the UN should they wish to pursue them” after noting that the USU is yet to sign an international treaty.

Bishop emphasised to *Honi* the distinction between society participants and those eligible to be members.

“The requirement is basically that to have the voting rights and be the leader of the Christian society, they need to be able to declare that Jesus is Lord,” he said.

“We are not trying to shut up shop or close borders. We provide subsidies for non-Christians to come to the events.”

The EU has further claimed that the timeline set by the USU on 17 February is procedurally unfair.

While *Honi* understands that the 17 February correspondence was the first time deregistration was raised, the matter has been in contention for five years and has been through multiple formal C&S processes.

Bishop further expressed dismay that the dispute had become so public. “This is essentially an internal and private issue. We believe that we’ve been acting in good faith throughout the whole discussion. Ultimately, what I care about is that the EU continues to exist and proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ on campus.”

A concern of the EU is the potential for atheist students to appropriate control of the society.

Ronan has suggested to *Honi* that comprehensive anti-stacking regulations applicable to all societies should suffice if they are needed.



# Anonymous and angry

Mary Ward and Max Hall are two of the five people who know who runs USYD Rants

I'm sitting against the back seats on the left hand side, with a black and white patterned top on.

We meet in Carslaw Kitchen at 11:15am on a Friday. She says she's in her third year of a commerce degree, but doesn't want us to print her major. She doesn't say her name, and has previously only spoken with us through a Facebook account she made with a pseudonym. "No one knows that I run this page," she says. "No one. Not even my friends."

Over the next hour, the founder of USYD Rants ("The Founder") eats tinned pineapple with a plastic fork and explains how she came to be the anonymous admin of one of the University's most important online institutions.

The USYD Rants Facebook page started in 2014, when The Founder was in first year.

She was a fan of another anonymous submission page, USYD Love Letters, but felt there was something missing from the genre.

"Love letters, you know, are all the same: 'I love you', blah blah blah, 'we're meant to be together,'" she says. "[With] rants, you just don't know what you're going to get."

She messaged USYD Love Letters, to ask if they could share a link to her new page, "USYD Rants". They did, and the page received its first rant: "I fucking hate Engineering. I was an Engo for a while and I got stabbed in the back by people I thought were friends. Screw them and I hope they're miserable in their 9-5 jobs."

Over time – after many complaints about the Redfern Run and the state of the Law School bathrooms – the page has grown to over 11,000 likes.

"It is quite powerful, I suppose," she says. "Think about it, 11,000 people... that's extremely powerful, [but] it's actually pretty daunting as well."

As the page grew, so did the workload. In January, The Founder decided she needed a break and posted on the page asking for someone to take over. "Are you Max?"

We meet the new admin of USYD Rants at the bottom level of Manning. She is a third-year science student, but politely asks that we don't publish her name or major. We are allowed to publish that she eats nachos on Thursdays.

The New Admin also created USYD Lost & Found after finding a USB last year. The page has subsequently grown to over 700 likes. She thinks this experience might have given her an advantage among the 100 people who applied to take over the admin role on USYD Rants.

"There are some people I knew who would just use it as something to get what they wanted," The Founder says. "Whereas the person I did end up giving the role to I know will manage it spot on, maybe even better than I did."

The New Admin has only told one person about her new position: her boyfriend, who is not a university student.

"As soon as you put a face to something, something changes about it," she says. "I couldn't tell you what it is."

The Founder and The New Admin are the only two admins on the page. They have never met in real life.

The work involved in running USYD Rants is enormous. The page can receive anywhere between 20 and 100 submissions each day. These must then be read, chosen for publication, edited if necessary (both The Founder and The New Admin are self-identified grammar pedants) and then uploaded.

According to the two admins, 90 to 95 per cent of rants submitted are posted, and those removed are nearly always because they are irrelevant or excessively offensive.

"You don't want to be too politically correct because you want people to have a voice," says the New Admin, admitting that freedom of speech was the main thing she expected to be asked about during our interview.

She suggests controversial posts are part of

USYD Rants was founded as a Facebook page in 2014 as a place for University of Sydney students to anonymously vent their spleen on campus affairs, from annoying tutors, to crowded library spaces and bad coffee.

Even in her short time managing the page, The New Admin has experienced the downside of anonymous submissions.

"You think that you're doing a good job and then someone comes along and says, 'No, you're doing terrible!' And it just gets you down for a bit. But you have to remember that it's just one person."

Both admins are all too aware of the fate of their peers. Spotted: USYD, a page with over 23,000 likes, has not posted since May 2015. The Founder remarks that many similar pages seem to be "dying down".

The New Admin holds a deep respect for the page and its founder.

"What she did was really quite original and really something different. It was her brainchild and I have to keep up the integrity of the page."

We ask The New Admin what she thinks the average user of USYD Rants looks like. "I suppose I just imagine the average user to be anyone I see around campus."

And, trust us, after sitting with them in some of campus' most mundane locations, talking about annoyingly long labs and crappy food on campus, the admins of USYD Rants are as average as you.



what the page is "supposed to be".

"I mean, not everyone might agree with you, but we still live in a country where we're able to do that."

"Because it's anonymous no one cares what they say. A lot of [the rants] are derogatory, very racist, very sexist, very discriminatory towards degrees," The Founder says. "I do try to post a few controversial posts, but not controversial in the sense that it's extremely offensive."

Hate mail comes with the territory. The Founder has a fake Facebook account to prevent herself from accidentally outing herself on the page.

"I received a death threat once. Obviously it's not serious, they're not going to know who I am, but that's why I've made the pseudonym account."

"I don't take anything to heart because at the end of the day it is a rants page," she says. "They do have the right to rant, whether it be at me or anyone else."

*"No one knows that I run this page," she says. "No one. Not even my friends."*

# Clubs and societies shakeup

Sam Langford and Brendan J. O'Shea explain recent funding changes to clubs and societies

On January 28, USU Clubs and Societies (C&S) executives received an email detailing changes to the C&S funding model for 2016. Whilst many changes flew under the radar, others were more controversial.

Don't panic, these changes don't represent the end of your beloved weekly free drinks yet.

## The 10 events quota

The most controversial change limits club funding on free-for-ACCESS events. Previously, clubs could spread their \$4,000 funding cap across unlimited events without imposing attendance fees. The new system will require attendance fees after 10 events, or clubs will be forced to fund extra events out of pocket.

According to USU Board Director and Honorary Secretary Shannen Potter, the change was intended to "encourage clubs to budget and plan events more strategically by not relying on C&S funding for every event...[providing] executives with stronger events planning and management skills."

However, for clubs and societies who typically run small free weekly drinks or game nights, it is feared the sudden imposition of attendance fees may adversely affect member turnout.

Club executives who approached C&S were initially informed that the 10 event quota applied to the entire year. In brighter news, following a meeting last week with the executive of games society Sutekh, Potter clarified the quota applies to each semester rather than year.

This bodes significantly better for weekly drinks, but less well for the USU's ability to communicate important changes to clubs and societies.

The University of Sydney Union funds more than 200 clubs and societies as part of the biggest such program of any university in the country.

## Changes to grants funding

The second key change pertains to C&S funding for faculty clubs and societies. Under the previous system, societies associated with a faculty – for example, Sydney Arts Students Society – received annual faculty grants from the USU of \$4 per annum for each ACCESS card holder enrolled in the respective faculty.

For societies associated with larger faculties, this could amount to a pretty hefty sum – Sci-Soc's (the science society) 2014 annual faculty grant came to \$8,596. This was in addition to the \$4,000 of funding available to all clubs, meaning that societies like SciSoc could theoretically draw from over \$12,000 per annum (compared to the typical society's \$4,000).

Potter said the "rationale behind removing this scheme is fairness," especially to "other clubs who do not have access to this funding".

Less fair however, has been the level of communication in the policy transition period. Unlike the other changes announced in the January 28 email, automatic annual faculty grants were replaced with an application-based system in semester two 2015. According to Potter, no clubs applied, though *Honi* understands that there is confusion amongst faculty club executives over how the policy change worked and whether they had been informed, perhaps indicating a more pervasive communication problem within C&S.

Potter says that "as far as [she knows] the clubs were informed they had to apply via email." Yet several faculty clubs, including Sci-Soc and EdSoc (the education and social work society) were unaware of any such email, and only enquired about funding when they real-

ised the money had not been received. *Honi* understands that when some club executives enquired about if and when the policy changes were communicated to them, the C&S office responded that an email would be sent out "as soon as possible".

Potter sympathised with the clubs' confusion, but also suggested "there needs to be a bit of onus on club exec. If you were previously getting a payment from C&S which suddenly stopped because you missed an email/didn't get one/club execs changed maybe it is worth going to C&S and exploring your options that way".

Indeed, initiative on the part of clubs seems the only remedy to complex and contradictory regulations. Whilst faculty clubs, like all societies, now have the option to apply to increase their \$4,000 funding cap to \$6,000 or \$8,000, one of the eligibility criteria for an increase is to have received membership fees of over \$750 in the past year.

Given that ACCESS members are automatically granted membership of their faculty society, many of these societies do not charge for membership, making it impossible to fulfill this requirement. Potter acknowledged that while "they are not in principle ineligible for this increase... their circumstances may be different to other clubs", and encouraged clubs with questions or problems to approach C&S.

It is clear the controversy surrounding these changes is, at least in part, due to inefficient communication by C&S. However, there is still time for clubs and societies to have their say, with a survey sent out to club executives this week. Concerned students are encouraged to get involved in the discussion, and get in touch with the C&S office at c.socs@usu.edu.au.

# What's in a logo?

Jess Zlotnick takes aim at the Wom\*n's Revue logo

It is near impossible to find a single symbol that represents the diversity of experience. Yet it is necessary for every registered society on campus to do so. The mandatory Clubs & Societies web listing form requires an image or logo at maximum 250px width.

The Wom\*n's Revue Society logo comes from a quick Google search of 'feminist fist'. The fist in question has been appropriated by many causes throughout history, as symbols too often are. The Assyrian goddess Ishtar was depicted with a raised clenched fist. In 1917 the fist became a symbol for socialism. The fist is best known however as the icon used by the Black Panther Party as a symbol for racial justice.

Appropriation is unacceptable, and it is this unfortunate trap that the 2015 Wom\*n's Revue logo fell into, and which a letter from the Wom\*n Of Colour Collective raised concerns about.

"We feel that this use of the symbol is without consultation of the relevant parties and is deeply problematic as it fails to reconcile and recognise the historical significance of this symbol with your society's utilisation of it," the Wom\*n of Colour Collective said in a joint statement.

It is unfortunate that inclusive spaces and offers of representation are often criticised more heavily than their less inclusive and more problemat-

ic counterparts, but diversity and representation should not be thought of as simply 'good enough'.

Wom\*n's Revue is certainly not the first revue society complicit in appropriation. Taking on criticisms and accepting responsibility for appropriative behaviour is a first step in the process of diversifying and bettering Sydney University revue culture. Identity politics is prevalent on campus, and when called out it is vital to listen and move forward empathetically.

Wom\*n's Revue was founded in response to the male-dominated campus comedy scene, and so should above all strive to include others and create a safer space to create comedy and be intersectional where other revues fail to be.

In her final report, outgoing Wom\*n's Revue president Sophia Roberts said: "When you're learning to write and perform comedy you will make mistakes, you will make jokes you regret and you will upset people – it's what you learn from that, what you do after that's important."

All imagery is burdened with meaning upon meaning; symbols are often appropriations of appropriations. Revues can and should do better than rely on this explanation, and each Wom\*n's Revue has a responsibility to reflect the diversity and intersectionality it supposedly champions.



Wom\*n's Revue is looking for contributors interested in designing a new logo. Send an email to womnsrevue@gmail.com



# Male champions of corporate feminism

**Anna Hush** and **Subeta Vimalarajah** don't think Michael Spence is a champion of anything

You would think the Male Champions of Change (MCC) website is some sort of parody, akin to rentaminority.com (check it out, it's good value). Far from that, it was actually developed by Elizabeth Broderick, the former Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

When you enter the website, the lurid USyd orange confronts you (co-incidence?) as the sharp, deafening sound of corporate “feminism” silences your every radical inclination. It's the online equivalent of walking into a Goldman Sachs lobby.

The list of “champions” could easily be mistaken for the Australian High Court bench of 1920. Pictured are the gatekeepers of capitalism – from the Group Executive of Rio Tinto, to the CEO of ANZ – and they are being lauded for their decision to “accelerate” their impact to create a “gender equal world.”

Amongst these men, there are undoubtedly some who deserve praise, like the 2016 Australian of the Year, David Morrison. As former Chief of the Army, Morrison provoked rapid cultural change through a firm, no tolerance approach to sexism. Perversely, Broderick – who worked closely with Morrison in implementing said reform – was beaten to the award by him, despite also being a national finalist.

In the best case, MCCs are lauded above the women who enable and craft their platform. In the worst case, they get a pat on the back, but for having done nothing at all.

First in that category goes to our very own Vice Chancellor, Dr. Michael Spence.

Even if we wanted to pay respect to Spence's

contributions as a MCC, we literally could not find them. On his profile there is a list of his academic achievements, but under “resources”, where other “champions” have information about their work, Spence's page just says “coming soon”.

In all fairness, it would be an insult to say that Spence has done nothing for gender inequality. In fact, he has done a lot to entrench it.

For years, Spence has been a vocal advocate for fee deregulation. While he claimed in an interview to the ABC that the policy change would “improve equity and access”, we know from countries like the United States, that fee hikes have the opposite effect.

No doubt disgruntled by the failure of

*“Women with bachelor degrees earn only 58% of what their male counterparts do”*

deregulation to pass, Spence has led the push to radically restructure the University of Sydney. The proposal to slash the number of degrees from 122 to 20 generic bachelor programs would mean that students are forced to undertake specialised graduate and postgraduate study to compete in the job market.

Like deregulation, this creates more debt and more long-term financial stress for students, and women shoulder this burden disproportionately. Over their lifetime, women with bachelor degrees earn only 58 per cent of what their male counterparts do, and often

take unpaid leave to care for children, meaning HECS debts take far longer to repay.

Whether this leads to women opting out of university study altogether, or spending decades paying off mammoth debts, it seems ridiculous to laud Spence for championing the cause of gender equality when the restructure only deepens the economic burdens placed on the most disadvantaged women.

If Spence wants to adopt a “disruptive approach”, as the website claims MCCs strive to, he would oppose any moves to make university less accessible to women students.

That said, the claim that any of the MCCs take a truly “disruptive approach” to gender equity is specious. “Feminism” that lauds male CEOs for moving their white, wealthy, female counterparts up in the ranks still enables the disenfranchisement of the poorest women.

MCC Greg Lilleyman for example, is the Managing Director of Rio Tinto's mining operations in the Pilbara region. Mining activity in Western Australia is a primary motivating factor for the proposed closure of Aboriginal communities, which will displace thousands of Indigenous women from their homelands and force them into desolate fringe camps.

Male Champions of Change rewards a group of unspeakably wealthy white men for merely accommodating their wealthy, white female counterparts. CEOs like Spence, who takes home an annual pay packet of \$1.3 million, are not the solution to the problem. They are the problem.

## Let [her] stay

**Liam Donohoe** questions our desperate appeal to innocence with baby Asha

The Let Them Stay movement has been a ubiquitous force over the past few weeks. Images of baby Asha, as photos of Alan Kurdi did last year, have dominated progressive media. Following eight days of picketing at the Lady Cilento Children's hospital in Brisbane, Peter Dutton acquiesced to the protestors, announcing that Asha and her family wouldn't be returned to Nauru.

Advocacy group GetUp!, one of the numerous leftist organisations that lead the charge, was quick to label this outcome a “victory”. Though this triumphant language is understandable, it reflects the sorry state of asylum seeker discourse in Australia, and not only because, as we later learnt, Asha's release “into community” was code for release into community detention.

As of March 1, there are still 88 children in closed detention, 54 of whom live on Nauru. A further 31,137 people are awaiting final determination. Though Asha's conditions may have improved marginally, attention has moved away from improving the welfare of those who remain trapped in detention centres indefinitely.

The emphasis on Asha as an individual reflects the way the conversation has shifted to the right. Having met little success elsewhere, the movement has been forced to revert to images of children and constructs of innocence. Depressingly, it's because it's beyond people to have compassion for asylum seekers more generally.

Though Asha's innocence may have generated additional support for the movement, such support hasn't extended to older asylum seekers who are equally, or perhaps more, worthy of empathy.

A baby like Asha has not been persecut-

*“Focus has been turned to preventing asylum seekers from being returned to camps, rather than freeing them altogether”*



The 88th Students' Representative Council and editors of Honi Soit. Photo: Twitter

ed for decades. She hasn't been forced out of the country she loves, hasn't left behind family, and isn't conscious to the daily torture of Nauru. A baby like Asha is, however, a visceral appeal to the last vestige of human compassion that might lie in the hearts of the Australian public and, against all odds, the Coalition.

Ultimately such an appeal is symptomatic of a broader trend: focus has turned to preventing asylum seekers from being returned to camps, rather than freeing them altogether. Unsurpris-

ingly, this benefits the government, who can now satiate momentum by making easy concessions.

Yet this issue is more than cunning Tory politicking – whether by virtue of necessity or defeatism, we often forget that thousands more continue to be detained in torture camps. Let us continue the fight, not just to prevent Asha's return, but also to secure the freedom of those whose stories we haven't heard.

As the movement rightly proclaims, we must #LetThemStay – all 31,137 of them.



## Student soldiers

Some USyd students go on gap years, others are called up for national service. **Alexandros Tsathas** and **Victoria Zerbst** spoke to three former conscripts.

Art by **Matthew Fisher**

In a handful of countries around the world, when boys – and sometimes girls – turn 18, they must heed their nation's calling. The practice goes by different names: national service, military service, conscription, drafting. The finer details vary slightly from country to country, but the overall structure remains similar, with post-pubescent usually serving two years in the armed forces.

The nations themselves are often small, with chequered political histories and unpredictable neighbours. Governments hope this two-year boot camp will create a pool of reserves to draw from in the event of a skirmish, supplementing

their undersized professional armies.

Proponents of national service, mostly old men and governments, sell it as a rite of passage. It “turns boys into men”, teaches them to be regimented and independent. It's a great social leveler – prime ministers' sons go through it. Attempts at ‘dodging’ are usually punished with a jail term longer than the national service itself. Even expatriates and their children are often expected to serve.

Critics of conscription argue that it represents the only remaining form of forced labour in first-world countries outside of incarceration. It makes for an inefficient, volatile army. It is sexist and strips the economy of cheap,

young workers and delays education.

Though many countries have abandoned this scheme over the past 20 years, it continues to represent a significant event in the lives of thousands across the globe. Some of those lives now call the University of Sydney home.

Consider this: before they were members of Sydney University's society executives, they were soldiers. Before they were your lab partners, they were international translators. The University educates students from many countries where national service is the law – Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, even Israel and Austria.

Stories abound.



FEATURE

Manesh Sadwani is a third year commerce student at USyd. He is President of the Singapore Students' Society and Director of Events of the Finance and Banking Society. After graduating from Singapore's equivalent of Year 12, he served 24 months in Singapore's Air Force.

After an initial fitness assessment and nine weeks of basic military training, he was allocated to an administrative role that saw him tasked with managing the costs of the air forces' pilots.

He explains he was assigned this role partly as a result of his intended area of civilian study (economics) and partly because that was where the vacancy was - two-year postings make personnel appointments very volatile.

Manesh's experience of national service was overwhelmingly positive, and afforded him experiences he would never have otherwise sought out.

"In the first nine weeks, you go off to a different island and leave your family, you only see them on weekends. They make you go bald, they give you a number one [buzzcut]... they put you in the jungle, we got to shoot, got to throw grenades. They gave us the opportunity to keep a rifle, to experience stripping a rifle. I really enjoyed that bit especially."

One's early twenties represents the prime of one's life. Many significant educational, relationship and financial investments are typically made. Does military service impose a two-year roadblock on the most inopportune stretch of life's journey?

Manesh concedes it did interrupt his education, but not his social life to a great extent. His administrative role meant his typical days went from 8-5, and he went home in the evenings and on weekends.

However, Manesh does say the age gap which emerges when student soldiers return to uni is disruptive. "When we start university [in Singapore], all our female classmates are two years younger. In the beginning, I thought it was kinda strange, but I think it kinda works out."

Despite this blight, he believes in the enduring

utility of his two years in the military. "There's just so much regimentation, it instills a lot of discipline into us. Every morning we have to make our beds, make our lockers; commanders will check everything. We've got heaps of push-ups, it makes you a much tougher man, I think. And for me, I've come out here to Sydney, and I'm here without family, so I think it's good that I had the training so that I know how to survive on my own."

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Victor Lee is a second year pharmacy student who has recently returned to Australia after spending two years in Korea as one of thousands conscripted between the ages of 18 and 30. Although he spent his high school years in Australia, he was summoned back because he remains a dual-citizen. He is not as enthusiastic about his experience of national service.

One of Victor's biggest gripes is that his uni-

*"They make you go bald, they give you a number one [buzzcut]... they put you in the jungle, we got to shoot, got to throw grenades"*

versity progress was stunted (Victor completed one year at USyd before he served in Korea). On his pre-tour memories, he jokes, "Is chemistry the one with shapes and shit? Obviously I feel behind. All my friends have already graduated or in their graduating year."

For many conscripts, not only is university progress affected, but also their career progression. Victor explains, "It's a two year blank. If your dreams are being in an orchestra, when you go into the army, your life will probably take a completely different direction."

Completing national service is an important social milestone in Korea. Although Victor put it off at first, he knew that doing so inevitably would destroy his prospects if he ever wanted to work in

Korea. "If I don't go to the army people will see me in a different way. They have a stereotype of people who don't go to army."

Manesh says a similar expectation of service exists in Singapore, but to a lesser extent. A high rank, such as Corporal 1st Class or Officer on a CV may be the "x-factor" when Singaporean HR firms are filing through their candidates.

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Victor was lucky enough to be assigned to a special unit called KATUSA, the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army. After performing well in an English skills test, his name was added to a lottery. He was fortunate enough to win. This was a relief, "The Korean army is notorious for being strict but the US army is a lot freer. I was even able to go home on weekends and see my parents."

Victor was stationed in a US base and served as a translator at the battalion level. Consequently, he was privy to a lot of information that a normal conscript wouldn't have access to.

"Obviously if I talk about it out loud they wouldn't be happy with me."

Victor had never translated before, and was scolded for his slow uptake. "It wasn't a nice memory. Not doing your job properly is a big thing in the army." He was once required to translate for a two-star general in the army when his "brain kept freezing up". He interacted with many intimidating people, noting, "You can't talk freely in front of them. They are in charge of 20,000 people, so they have an aura around them."

If the pressure of completing one's military role not enough, strict bans on external communication were enforced. According to Victor, soldier-civilian relationships don't last in Korea. "More than 50% of the soldiers break up. It feels like everyone breaks up."

Relationships within his unit were stronger.

"I would say it is pretty special. If you go on a field training together for 15 days without washing, you will be friends for a while." Victor found this particularly comforting in times of political tension. He remembers being assembled and told that South Korea had been attacked with a missile. "They told us to prepare for war. Every division was alerted. Everyone had to carry their rifle and helmet and everything."

However, not every unit is as supportive. Bul-

lying is notorious in the Korean army, and over 800 conscripts have committed suicide over the past decade according to official figures.

"Bullying is a big thing too, but everyone just accepts it." Victor recounts stories of new arrivals being forced to introduce themselves while "doing something stupid". He adds, "The only things our unit didn't allow were actual beating or sexual harassment. We would never be able to say 'your mum is a pig' or 'your sister is a whore'. If that happened the whole unit would fall apart."

To combat its bullying problem, the Korean Army implemented a system which roughly translates to 'Letter of the Wish' or 'Letter of the Heart'. Every month, conscripts pen an anonymous letter to the officer in charge. That officer has the authority to immediately discharge anyone from their unit or send them to jail. Victor explains that you write down a review of how you have been treated, for example "Sergeant Lee has been harassing me" or "Sergeant Lee has been very kind to me, reward him" It is taken very seriously.

"There was one unit notorious for beating and harassing. One guy came in, wrote a letter, and it went straight to the highest ranking. 15 people in that unit were sent to jail straight away."

Victor concludes, "There is always this system that prevents harassment". He adds ominously, "but it is still conscription and an army."

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Steve Bachmayer didn't have much to do with Israel before he volunteered to join the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). As an Australian student, he was sceptical of Zionism because his school had "actively tried to force it down his throat". His entry into Israeli culture came through his relationship with his best friend, Ben, and Ben's Israeli family.

At the end of high school, Steve volunteered for the IDF Mahal program with Ben, serving shoulder-to-shoulder with conscripted Israeli soldiers. He "thought it would be quite interesting to serve for the army and see what it is all about".

While most of his friends were taking gap years, Steve wanted to inform his opinion on the complex political climate in the Middle East. "I can't form an opinion on something I don't really know all that much about. I couldn't trust anything that came out of my school's mouth, because I went

to a Jewish day school and they are going praise everything Israel touches."

The 18-month Mahal program draws in Jews from all over the world. In Steve's unit, there were Jewish soldiers from Finland, South Africa, England and America.

"The first year is essentially training. After that you go into a thing called Magav, which is guard duty." Every unit was assigned a different area of the country; Steve was sent to the West Bank.

"It was an eye opening experience in terms of seeing the dynamic between the settlements and settlers. There were incidents. I came out of it with a disillusioned view of the settlements in the West Bank."

There was one situation in particular that stuck with Steve. Peace talks were to be held in a settlement he was guarding, on the condition that Netanyahu made sure there was a cessation of settlement constructions on the West Bank. The army was sent to deliver the notices that would halt construction.

As a result, some Israelis turned on the guards. "Not like shooting or anything, but they put spikes in the road and slashed the tires of a troop carrier. It was pretty shit."

"Around that same time they were also throwing glass bottles full of paint. I wasn't there at the time but some of my friends had been hit."

By the end of his 18 months, Steve was happy to return to Sydney to commence his studies in nursing. He believes his army experience did teach him new skills, but if asked to name those skills or detail how they have affected him, he wouldn't be able to tell you. "Experiences shape us in ways that we don't really realise," he says.

For Victor Lee in the Korean armed forces, his military experience helped him break through mental barriers and make great physical gains.

"When you get 100 per cent in your Physical Training test" he explained, "they give you a three day holiday. Obviously as a lazy person, I wanted that so badly. I went for a run every night and did push-ups every morning. It wasn't the easiest, but somehow I got it."

Victor now believes that your mind gives up before your body gives up. "I feel better than the person I was yesterday. I was a fatty before I left. People talk shit about the army but one thing you can't deny is when you go, you get fit."

Where Victor's gained bulk, Steve has gained a

Selected countries with compulsory military service	
	Austria
	Brazil
	Denmark
	Egypt
	Greece
	Israel (both sexes)
	North Korea
	Norway (both sexes)
	Russia
	Singapore
	South Korea
	Syria
	Taiwan
	Thailand
	United Arab Emirates
	Vietnam

new perspective.

"Not necessarily a helpful perspective, more just a perspective of nobody really knows what they are talking about. Even the people on the ground, they don't really know what they are talking about. It is just one big convoluted mess. Nobody is necessarily right. Everyone has bits of wrong."

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Many USyd students claim a gap year enriched their lives. It probably did. Though these adventures are well-documented on instagram and 'casually' dropped in conversation, the more interesting stories tend to remain untold.

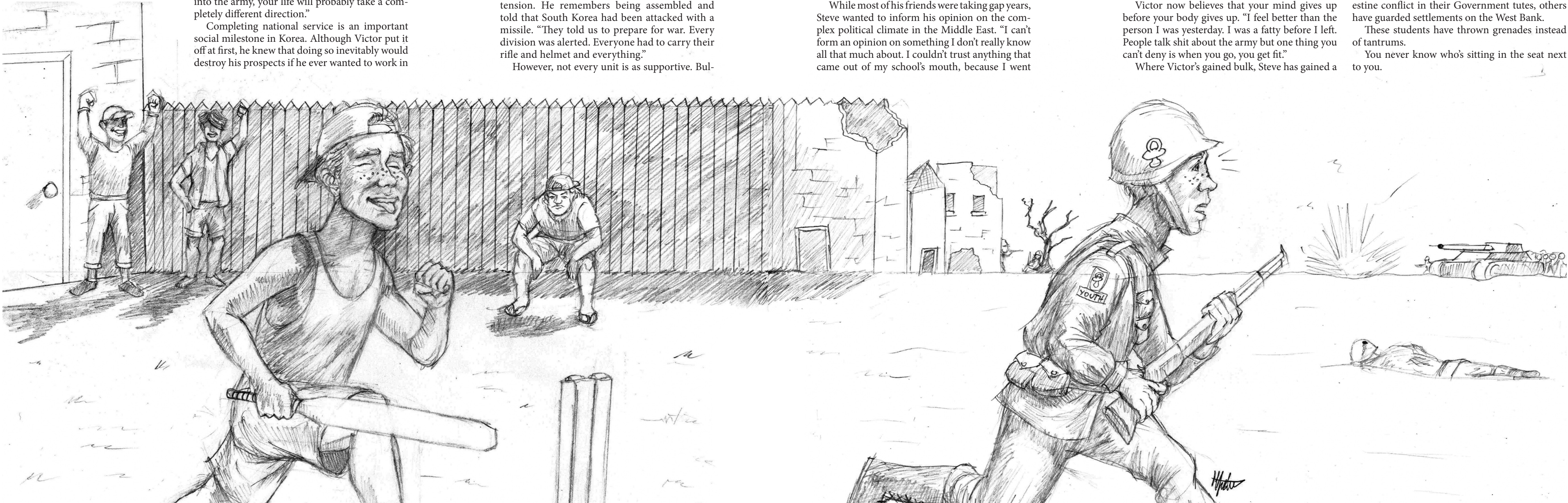
While some students struggle with their personal finances at the Marly on a Saturday night, others have been responsible for billions of dollars in advanced warfare machinery.

While some students stress about conjugating verbs in a language lab, others have translated military secrets to two-star generals.

While most students only study the Israeli-palestine conflict in their Government tutes, others have guarded settlements on the West Bank.

These students have thrown grenades instead of tantrums.

You never know who's sitting in the seat next to you.





# Carpe Diem: seiz(ur)e the day

Riki Scanlan took part in a research trial, then they were rushed to hospital

The last thing I remember is the number six. Seconds later, my body convulses for two minutes in the disguise of a seizure. My blood pressure is so low that if I stand, I will faint again; my heart rate is at 35bpm. I have no idea where I am.

What happened is now obscured in a haze, as if struggling to remember a nightmare. I was participating in a clinical trial for a new drug (details withheld to preserve the anonymity of the researchers). To be clear: the emergency ward doctors and the neuropsychologist all saw no correlation between the trial drug and my episode, which turned out to be a “vasovagal syncope”. In layman’s terms, my heart rate and blood pressure dropped suddenly because of a combination of underlying stress and a centimetre-deep abdominal injection, which caused me to faint. This is not the first time this has happened: when I was eight, I was straining on the toilet, fainted and, when I came to, threw up in the toilet.

Vasovagal syncope is relatively common, and are a known cause of fainting in people prone to needle-phobia. The complex relationship between psychology and physiology means they

manifest differently from person to person. For the most part, they are benign.

Not knowing that is terrifying. I am wrapped in blankets, rapidly breathing, with my voice threatening a low moan every second I am alone. I can barely crunch down on a Tim Tam. I shiver. Organised conscious thought? Impossible – only a jittery feeling rocketing towards the thought *how long do I have to live? Am I okay with falling into incomprehensible eternal darkness?*

The ambulance is called. I collect myself a little, enough to joke with the nurses staffing the Royal Prince Alfred emergency ward. I smile at the older and frailer patients. The paramedics slot me next to a woman who is in and out of hospital for threatened heart attacks. My left arm is hooked up with a large-gauge needle, which itches incessantly.

They say hospital is boring. It took six hours to receive a blood test and CT scan. But hospital does not only bore you, it makes you ignorant. No matter how good the bedside manner of the doctors and nurses, it remains deeply alienating. Medical professionals whisk in, insert

stuff, test stuff, say stuff, and leave. You never know when the next one will arrive until they do. Three radiology assistants appear, wheel me to the CT scanner, and irradiate my brain. I squeeze my eyes shut and confusedly think I can see the X-rays.

I am reminded of what Horkheimer and Adorno say about hospitals. They provide such great benefit yet contain such great horror. The

“No matter how good the bedside manner of the doctors and nurses, it remains deeply alienating.”

hospital, more and more in the form of big business, presses life itself to its service. The funding is low, the staff overworked, the patients bored, ignorant, and frustrated. Efficiency, the politician alleges on talkback radio, is maximised.

# First year blues

Oliva Rowe knows what you’re going through

This time two years ago, as I was just starting my Bachelor of Arts, my boss made a point of mentioning how university was the best time of his life. In the ensuing excited anticipation I spent weeks planning outfits, selecting interesting subjects and practising talking points; witty ways to introduce myself in tutorials as the stylised cool girl I wanted to be.

By week three it became very apparent that this was not going to be the time of my life. Despite my best efforts, the inherent pressure I felt to succeed plagued my thoughts. Despite how well dressed and charming I was, making friends was hard, the work itself was hard and I was left feeling extremely lonely.

I was too intimidated to attend the events hosted by clubs and societies. I was too unsure of my writing voice and opinions to articulate what I really wanted to say. Ultimately I was too confused, having just finished high school and undertaking such a broad degree. I felt like I wasn’t doing university right.

However, I soon discovered this experience was not unique to me. This is not surprising when you look at the statistics of mental illness in university students and realise that 26 per cent of young people are struggling with some gradient of mental illness. Since study-related stress is a key trigger, those first year university blues are real and ever-present.

Many of my friends suggested their issues with first year came from the huge leap from a tight-knit school and friendship group into a diaspora of different people.

Another problem is the numbing refrain that university is where everyone finds their ‘people’. This idea presents a dilemma of maintaining appearances of enjoyment when we fail to find said ‘people’ in our first year.

For me, my results were average, my relation-

Illustration:  
Ann Ding

ships were average and I was annoyed that I hadn’t taken a gap year. However, that is not to say that the first year of university has to suck. Rather, for many, it really is the time of their lives. But equally as felt is those feelings of insecurity about everything that has changed in such a short time.

Going to CAPS was helpful; being myself

was helpful, choosing subjects that were more focussed was helpful. For a few of my friends, deferring university was the right choice.

There is no right or wrong way to do university, but not being intimidated by the wide range of USyd clubs, events and opportunities is a good place to start.



# A room of one’s own

Caitlin Harvey had 13 house inspections in two days; fear the market

The house hunt can be incredibly daunting. It can be especially daunting when doing it alone. One Wednesday afternoon in February I am faced with four inspections in 90 minutes, and thus prepare myself to traverse the Inner West, shake hands with all manner of real-estate agents, and perfect the reverse parallel park.

First stop is a unit in Camperdown. Reverse parallel parking does not go well and I reverse over a brick (sorry car). Like I said, house hunting is fraught with terrors. The following unit is nice, but I’m incredibly put off by the owner, who watches intently from the stairwell as I wander through the unit. Needless to say, I did not spend very long here.

Next, I speed over to Annandale. I need not have driven so fast, because the estate agent turns up late, throwing out my whole schedule. The apartment can only be described as a seedy motel. Instead of windows it has entire walls of glass, front and back, both with sliding doors. Clearly, privacy was not a consideration when this building was constructed. The vulnerability of someone being able to see right through the unit, alongside the stained carpet and lack of any apparent lighting made me wonder why the agent didn’t have a list of mysterious deaths to disclose to me.

The next Saturday I have nine inspections scheduled before 1pm, so am out bright and early, ready to reverse parallel park all over the place.

The first is an apartment on Cleveland Street. “How convenient,” I think to myself. Unfortunately for me and the 10 other people thinking the same thing, the real estate agent never shows up. Good start. The next house is in Glebe. I should have been concerned from the start, when the real estate

agent had to hang up ten signs to indicate where the actually was. When I eventually get there, I find a granny flat out the back of a house. This granny flat is unique, however, in the fact that it has no windows. Trying not to think too much on the legality of this, I make a quick escape.

After another absent real-estate agent, things finally start to look up, with two perfectly decent apartments and blissfully timed inspections. Clearly I was naive to think things could be this easy, and I miss the next two inspections because apparently inspecting houses in Glebe, Marrickville and Alexandria in a 30 minute window

**This granny flat is unique, however, in the fact that it apparently has no windows.**

is unrealistic (not according to Google Maps). I arrive at the last house of the day with three minutes to spare, and it turns out all hope was not lost. My frantic demeanour apparently charms this real-estate agent and I move into the apartment a week later.

After traversing Parramatta Road, sifting through endless Domain property searches, and filling out a decent number of rental applications,

it seems I have finally found home. Now I’m sure I’ll be unpacking boxes for the next twelve months. Until next time, rental market, you’ve been shit.



## WHAT TO LISTEN TO WHEN...

cleaning your house but  
struggling to get rid of that  
DAMN BLOOD SPLATTER

**Bodies**  
Drowning Pool (2001)

**Dissolve Me**  
Alt-J (2012)

**Bad Blood**  
Taylor Swift (2014)

**Come Clean**  
Hilary Duff (2003)

**Man Down**  
Rihanna (2010)

# IN SHORT

## The name game

Eric Gonzales

On Christmas day, I received the proverbial equivalent of a lump of coal. Surrounded by family, I gushed to an aunt about the romance of our Hispanic surname. “Gonzales” seemed exotic, exuding sex and sensuality when uttered by some masked bandit to his damsel (or Don, if he swings that way) in distress.

I expected her to laugh. Instead, I got a history lecture.

“Three hundred years ago, the Spanish colonised the Philippines and set up a tyrannical regime.”

Oh.  
“And they gave peasant natives Hispanic surnames so they were easier to tax.”

The romance wasn’t the most grievous loss. Hierarchy resonated in my surname, and now it suddenly felt corrupted, degrading.

The past seeps into our present.

Although a Hispanic stock name effaced my ancestors’ original identities, it’s a birth right I refuse to renounce. It is no longer reflective of exoticism or sensuality, but so much more.

Some names, my name included, depict complex and rich histories past. But that Christmas day, I heard something else in my name. “Gonzales” painted a map of ancestral lines of possibility and progression.

I am no longer a peasant, but richer knowing of centuries past.

## Life of a saleswoman

Chloe Saker

I walked into the interview room and my (now) manager said to me, “So if I said you had to make \$4000 today, do you think you could do that?” I knew with beaming certainty that I could not do that – but, in Jim Carrey form,

I said yes anyway. Flash forward a year later, and to my bemusement, I’m still here: a young woman in an industry full of middle-aged men.

For salesmen, respect from customers often exists at the outset, due to the assumption that men are exclusively charismatic, motivating and persuasive.

Saleswomen have to work for that authority. The more random shit I knew (such as the unspoken feud between LG and Samsung), the more respect I gained, and the more customers conversed with me. The actual product-money trade became extrinsic to the web of intros, anecdotes, laughs, goodbyes and good lucks weaved within the sale.

Unfortunately, some customers still follow the equation: societal assumptions = my opinion. I was explaining the features of a washer to a man in his sixties, who interrupted to ask if I’d ever even used a washer. It threw me off. If I said yes, I’d prove myself, but it would be for him. If I said no, his ageist doubts would obviously be confirmed.

Another customer criticised my colleague’s sales skills... by saying she wasn’t very good-looking.

So here’s a call to value salespeople by their distinctive personalities because a Bosch dishwasher is far too decent to be sold to ageists and/or sexists.



# Hangover Grub

Melissa Chow on the chow that'll cushion the blow



Art: Johanna Roberts

The prevailing narrative has always been there is no intervention that will successfully prevent or treat alcohol hangovers. What experts will tell you over and over again, is that the only way to avoid a hangover is to not drink to excess.

Director of USyd's University Health Service, Associate Professor Ian Marshall, insists "there is no magic cure". Some strategies may improve specific symptoms like headaches or vomiting, but nothing relieves everything.

Hangover cures need to do two things: prevent alcohol from getting into the blood and or increase the rate at which it is metabolised. Associate Professor Gareth Denyer, who lectures Molecular Bioscience at USyd, can't ever see a silver bullet existing.

The elusive search for a hangover cure has now turned to complementary and alternative medicines. Will a hero emerge? I took the newest rumoured hangover cures to local experts.

### Asian Pear Juice

In what may soon win Australia bragging rights, the CSIRO has found consuming 200ml of Korean pear juice increases alcohol metabolism and may inhibit its absorption. Consumption of whole Korean pears, which can be found at any local Korean grocery store, produces a similar effect.

However, it must be emphasised that this effect only occurs if the pears are consumed before hitting the booze.

Dr Jon Wardle, founding Director of the Network of Researchers in the Public Health of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, believes the fruit's natural fructose could be the key. CSIRO continues to investigate.

### Vitamin IV Clinics

While Marshall says there is no evidence IV solutions can cure hangovers, Dr Wardle at least thinks they are relatively safe. Rehydration is crucial in sobering-up, and IV hydration (where a cocktail of vitamins, electrolytes and fluids is pumped directly into one's veins) has an immediate effect. Sessions start from \$150, making them popular amongst the rich tween demographic in the US. Melbourne is the only state in Australia with any such clinics. Sydney's last and possibly final clinic was shut down last week after a treatment scandal.

### Chocolate Milk and Greasy Food

Dr Wardle says "some greasy breakfast with 'good quality' foods such as eggs, bacon and olive oil" can help get through the morning after, along with chocolate milk. Choccy milk has vitamin D, sugars and proteins that will help replace the electrolytes annihilated by last night's bender. The proteins in salty food, eggs and milk contain cysteine, which helps break down and neutralise alcohol.

An honourable mention must be extended to the humble Vegemite-on-toast. Yes, drunkards can

be happy little Vegemites too. The familiar brown sludge is high in B vitamins and folic acid, which are typically depleted after a night of heavy drinking.

Unfortunately, my quest for the ultimate hangover cure has only left me grieving over broken myths.

### Academics' hangover cures

Dr Jon Wardle, founding Director of the Network of Researchers in the Public Health of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Chancellor's Research Fellow at the Faculty of Nursing Midwifery and Health, UTS:

"My personal tip is to alternate between drinks, with water to keep hydrated, and usually have a sweet drink before going to bed. If things are still bad the next day, some more sweet drink: a juice – it nearly has as much sugars as soft drinks, but at least has vitamins. If things are still bad, I tend to resort to sweet fizzy drink over the day until I do feel better. Getting up and moving around is essential. Your body wants to get rid of the by-products, but it needs help."

Associate Professor Gareth Denyer, Molecular Bioscience Lecturer, Faculty of Science, USyd:

"Water, water, tea, water, aspirin, dry toast, water, tea, water, shower, water, tea."

Associate Professor Ian Marshall, FRACP, FRACGP, Director, University Health Service, USyd:

"These days, I don't need a cure for myself."

# The End of an Era

Sam Gooding mourns the glory days of an old college haunt

On Missenden Road, nestled between a hospital and a café, sits a small pub. The tiles lining its faded facade reflect a bygone era, long before the modern pub gentrification movement gained traction. Inside The Alfred Hotel the furnishings are shabby and worn, stained with god knows what.

The regulars call this place The Grose and, although its name is derived from bordering Grose Street, it certainly lives up to its title in appearance.

Once upon a time, every Wednesday night, college students would descend upon The Grose from their sandstone castles across the road, the aura of youth and sexual tension almost physically tangible. The tiny dining room would be converted into a dance floor, sticky with rum, coke and sweat. The pretty little courtyard out the back would be thick with the haze of cigarette smoke, and the awkward beauty of the human mating ritual would begin.

The Grose was a disgusting place. It was dirty, smelly, and racy; basically the college equivalent of Bar Century (RIP). Drinks were bought, lips locked on the dance floor, and sexual conquests were won. But all of this was part of its unique charm; it was unashamedly just good enough for students, and that kept the squares away.

Some people on campus perhaps don't share the same opinions about the place. I remember a girl in one of my classes telling me it was a "cess-pool" of drinking culture and misogyny, attended solely by privileged college students. I asked her if she'd ever been to a nightclub, what school she went to, and what suburb she grew up in. Turns out she was a tad of a hypocrite when it came to pointing fingers about privilege. The Grose was gross, but no more so than any old nightclub.

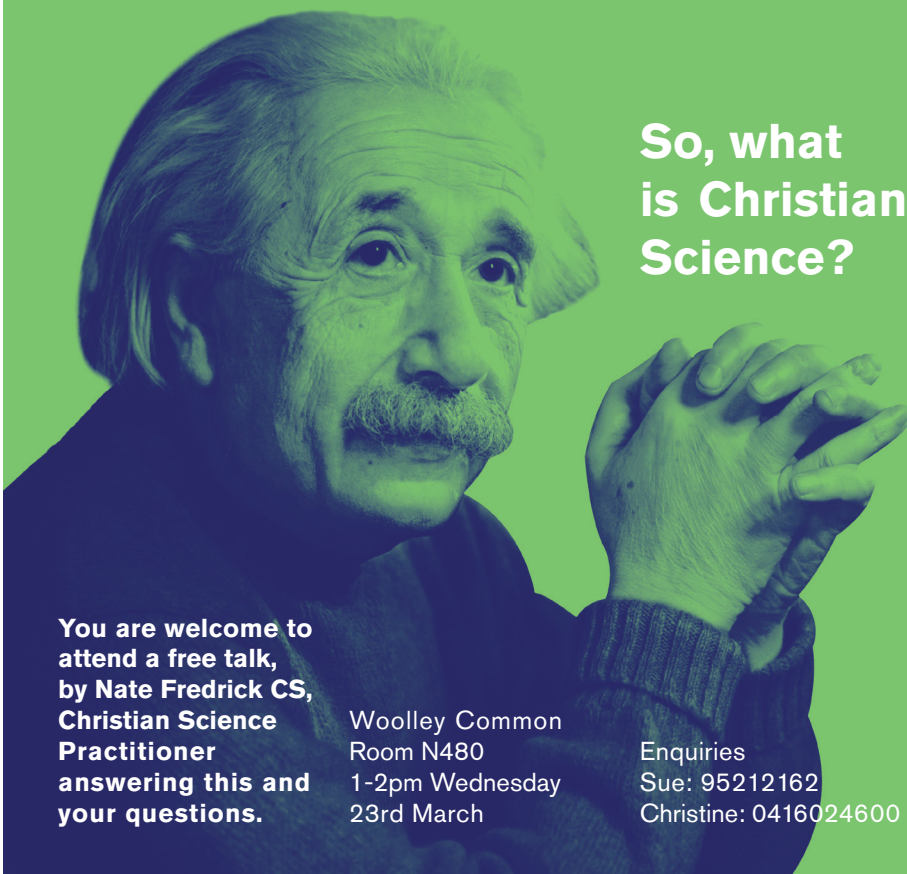
Regardless of people's opinions on the place, the fact remains that for decades this establishment has catered to generations of students looking to "Grose 'till close" on a Wednesday night. However, recent developments threaten the impending death of this institution.



Art: Brigitte Samaha

On April 28, 1954 Albert Einstein after attending a Christian Science church in New York asked;

**"Do you people realise what a wonderful thing you have?"**



**So, what is Christian Science?**

You are welcome to attend a free talk, by Nate Fredrick CS, Christian Science Practitioner answering this and your questions.

Woolley Common Room N480 1-2pm Wednesday 23rd March

Enquiries Sue: 95212162 Christine: 0416024600

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# Magical Ladies

## Zoe Stojanovic-Hill on a bewitching production

I have been obsessed with witchcraft for far too long. I knew the secret to love by the time I was five – a potion, whipped up out of Milo, soy sauce and dog food. When I was given The Wandmaker’s Guidebook for my twelfth birthday, I expressed my gratitude by whittling our ornamental pear tree into magic wands for my parents. I had a unique tactic when it came to playing the HSC game: sleep through Maths exam, prioritise interviewing Sydney’s Wiccan population.

Last Thursday night I witnessed SUDS’ Lady, written by Jess Zlotnick and directed by Shevvi Barrett-Brown. Maybe I was an easy target, hooked from the moment two witches prowled on stage, reading prophecies in the stagnant water of a bloody bathtub. But when I left the theatre I wasn’t dreaming of charms. I was dwelling upon gender roles, social status and mental health. There is depth to this play; real toil and trouble.

A loose appropriation of an (unnamable) Shakespearean tragedy, Lady foregrounds the plight of an ambitious woman, embittered by circumstance. Zlotnick recasts Lady Macbeth as a young washerwoman determined to escape small-town ennui and stifling gender expectations. Her mother tries to help in all the usual ways. When cuddling, lecturing and motherly advice all fail, she drags her daughter to the local witch. In an overgrown grove, our young lady learns about the flip-side of freedom: sacrifice.

I am all for a good ol’ re-jig of gender roles, but nothing gets me excited like a nuanced discussion. Lady needs to leave. Chosen exit strategy? Marriage. We’re left to question whether this is someone stripping the power from a biased institution by using it as a means to an end, or someone trapped. Is this empowerment or desperation? The show’s run coincides with the All About Women talks at the Opera House and International Women’s Day. Lady is part of a larger necessary conversation.

This play is packed so full of weighty content it is in danger of overflowing. However, clever sound and lighting design, some dry one-liners and compelling acting reel in potential emotional excess. Bianca Farmakis’ performance as the mother witch is especially captivating – sly and slightly sultry, but oddly nurturing, even vulnerable.

I wouldn’t call this production spellbinding. However, Lady is perfect for anyone craving the drama of a Shakespearean tragedy, who wants to sink their witchy teeth into something topical.

And if you’re still not sold...have I mentioned that there’s magic?

Lady is running until Saturday 12th March in the Cellar Theatre. Tickets available through SUDS.

# Golden GayTMs

## Katie Thorburn thinks you can put a price on disingenuous marketing



# One girl, three sex shops

## Theodora Von Arnim reviews a selection of Newtown’s racy stores

Sex shops are a lot like Thai restaurants – they sell deeply satisfying products, they can cause intense cravings, and there are a lot of them on King Street. This week I sampled what Newtown has on offer for the discerning USyd student.

### Max Black

It’s hard to imagine feeling more comfortable in a sex shop than in Max Black. Walking into the purple boudoir wipes away all images of leering perverts and crusty fleshlights. To preserve this, luxury conditions of entry include “no ice-cream” – disappointing since it’s next to Gelatomassi.

The staff are young and female, but in a Newtown-organic-health-food-promo-chick way, not a Bavarian-Beer-Café-eye-candy way. One of them overhears me mentioning the Swarovski crystal butt plugs that they stock (yes, really...), and immediately brings out several ornate options from the cabinet. Usually I’d blush when confronted with a butt plug with a rosebud base, but in a testament to the shop assistants attitude, I manage to pull off a dinner party-esque “Oh how very clever” with a straight face.

Max Black’s pornography is virtually non-existent, but this is more than compensated for by their wide variety of literotica. The books have a predominantly female and queer focus, accompanied by practical guides on themes like sex after 50.

Max Black’s refined and luxurious approach to sex toys creates a welcoming and sex positive environment. If anything, it’s maybe \*too\* nice. A couple looking to spice up their sex lives with some lube could easily be overwhelmed by the intensity of such a professional and high tech sex dungeon. The price range is also guaranteed to make your eyes water, \$500 latex bondage gear is hardly great for a student budget. Still, if you like the idea of rubbing shoulders with the Christian Grays and Anastacia Steeles of the sex world then Max Black is for you.

**Climax** – Swarovski crystal butt plug  
**Anti-Climax** – Said butt plug’s price tag  
**Longest Dildo** – 12 inches for the experienced  
**Verdict** – | | | | |  
**Price** - \$\$\$

### Adult Basement

After the intoxicating high of Max Black’s celebration of female sexuality, a visit to ‘Adult Basement’ will bring you crashing back down to the familiar seedy trope of a sex shop. Technically the entrance is off King Street, and this establishment is a strong argument as to why you should never venture more than 5 metres from a Thai restaurant.

It takes the basement theme very literally, and is also less a sex shop, and more a dirty Civic Video (which happens to be next door – DON’T GET THEM CONFUSED). Endless rows of trashy DVDs take up most of the room, with some filthy looking sex toys and costumes pinned to the wall. Their video selection ignores large swathes of the porn market, e.g anyone with a vagina. But if you happen to own a VCR you could find some niche albeit dusty content at the back.

A small, pink corner looks slightly promising. It offers a handful of the classics: vibrators, fluffy handcuffs, and butt plugs. Unfortunately further investigation was rendered utterly impossible when a cockroach scuttled across the floor, and your faithful reporter was forced to flee, never to return.

**Climax** – The 70% off closing down sale advertised out the front (fingers crossed)  
**Anti-Climax** – The cockroach, everything else  
**Longest Dildo** – 13 inches  
**Price** – \$  
**Verdict** – |

### Adult World

Adult World strikes a happy balance between Max Black’s solid gold handcuffs and Adult Basement’s cockroach infested misogynistic porn collection, making it the Goldilocks of King Street’s sex shops. Upon entering, you are assaulted with everything you could possibly want for a dildo-studded hen’s night: penis shaped piñatas, pin the penis on the male model, the list goes on. Adult World’s advantage is its variety, including introductory sex toys, beginner BDSM kits, and basics like lube and condoms.

The overall atmosphere is positive and welcoming. LGBT flyers are prominently displayed, and the staff gave me a helpful explanation of the differences between water and silicone based lubes. Sure, there are a few blow up sex dolls, and some comically large dildo, but the focus is on sex toys for female pleasure and non-heteronormative sex.

It also won’t break the bank - you can pick up entry-level sex toys for under \$20. Don’t expect Max Black quality, but they get job done. Adult World is the go-to entry-level sex shop for curious USyd students.

**Climax** – Decent and cheap products for most basic sexual exploration  
**Anti Climax** – Misogynistic porn collection in a separate room  
**Longest Dildo** – A laughable 23 inches  
**Price** – \$  
**Verdict** – | | |

Sex shops are one of the only places that present an alternative narrative of sexual pleasure to the dominant hyper male and heterosexual representations. So next time you are having Gelatomassi after a Thai dinner, consider finishing your ice cream and heading next door for a very different kind of treat.

# Albo drops fire mix tape, crowd goes wild

## Michael Sun and Lamya Rahman report on some lower house music

The sun is unforgiving when we arrive at one of the tastefully bare warehouses at Carriageworks in Darlington, the location of the first ever FBi Sydney Music Arts and Culture Festival. We’re among 60 other people who’ve made the bad decision of arriving in a place with no air vents at a time when going outside offers no respite from the sweltering indoor heat. Our shirts stick uncomfortably to our backs and trickle with sweat as we share a bottle of water.

We’re in the midst of regretting our life decisions and rethinking our spontaneity and mediocre planning when we spot an old man standing slightly off-centre on the main stage. His dark grey crew neck and black cargo pants combo makes for a normcore, Target-inspired look. For a moment we can’t tell whether he’s a security guard or an underground musician. It’s only when the lights flicker for a moment that it clicks.

“I love you Anthony Albanese!” a girl with light-up shoes shouts from two rows away. We agree and are immediately transported to the astral plane as ‘DJ Albo’ works his magic. It’s a surprisingly good one too: Florence and the Machine opens the four-track set, followed by a



Not pictured: literal flames coming from the set  
Photo: Micahel Sun

clever transition from the Wombat’s Let’s Dance to Joy Division to Joy Division’s own Never Tear Us Apart. New Order rounds off the set as we gather on the side of the stage, eager to catch our very own glance of Albanese among the throng surrounding him.

Our time finally comes. We make eye contact with the legendary DJ, whose sweat patches exceed ours. “FBi’s a great community cause,” he explains, “Community radio is so important.”

He uses the word ‘community’ a lot.

“I hosted rage when I was deputy PM,” he continues, telling us of his inspiration. “People liked the music I played - Spiderbait, Teenage Fanclub - so naturally, I performed gigs at the Victoria Trades Hall and the Newtown Social Club which had huge turnouts... and here we are.”

Despite his noncommittal answer to the question of his favourite genre (“I just love linking music from my generation with newer music”) and his musical talents – awfully reminiscent of the Spotify crossfade feature – we still think that Albo’s attempts to ~stay relevant with the youth~ are working, at least better than Hillary’s.



# STUDENT & STAFF PROTEST



NO TO DEGREE CUTS • NO TO STAFF CUTS  
NO TO FACULTY AND SCHOOL MERGERS

DEFEND  
QUALITY EDUCATION!  
FIGHT MANAGEMENT'S  
RESTRUCTURE!

WED 16 MARCH  
1PM CARSLAW BLDG

## REVELRY IN REVIEW

# The Drew's party

Anonymous wished to be anon lest they admit attending

After the much publicised debauchery of College O-Week, you might think the colleges would have a quiet Sunday night before the start of semester. If you think that, you have obviously never been to college. The return of heavies and sophomores saw the first major college party of 2016 held at St Andrew's Highlander Bar. The hype was big, the drinks were cheap and the interest was high. But the Highlander failed to live up to expectations, with most calling it a night well before the clock struck 12.

Where did things go so wrong? The first issue was capacity. The bar was packed by eight. At the time, it seemed that this was attributable to the \$3 happy hour specials. But as the party was dissected in subsequent post-mortems, another scapegoat was identified. Muggles.<sup>1</sup> A post on the event suggested suggest that Drews had been "too good" at promoting the event – creating an

influx of non-college students. The bar itself was overflowing, but not in a good way. Average wait times for drinks was half an hour, with some reportedly not getting served within an hour.

To add insult to injury, the security guards were rude and aggressive. When the queue had disappeared they inexplicably insisted that anyone who left the bar would not be allowed to return. I watched several people decide that staying at the party could not justify using the vomit-covered toilets inside the venue. That meant that people left early, gradually, but surely killing the mood. In this area, a disenchanted Facebook complaint garnered many angry likes.

It was an anti-climactic start to semester, and a party no-one should be sad to have missed.

1. Muggle (noun) – A pejorative term for anyone not wealthy or debauched enough.

# Six places to sleep on campus

As Fisher introduces a new sleep zone, Ann Wen reflects on your old school options for a few Zzz's on campus

## Lecture halls

Whilst USyd lecture benches tend to be fairly brutal on your back. Let's face it, it's not difficult to fall asleep here. But beware, your inevitable upright snoring is likely to showcase your body's most unflattering angles.

Also, hot tip, size matters. The bigger the lecture hall, the less likely a roaming Snapchatter will capture your down time.

## Libraries

Libraries are warm, impersonal and a bundle of books make a good makeshift pillow.

The Law library is good if you need complete silence to sleep, whereas Scitech is better if you prefer a light background hum.

If you're looking for a thorough slumber, Fisher 24-hour may sound appealing, but it's a gamble—sometimes the security guards come around to wake people. For best chances, place a book over your face to be safe.

## The Quad

The original architectural design of the quad did feature cushion coverings on top of the sandstone, but apparently that wasn't very tasteful. Now all we're left with is a formless pile of rocks, desperately lacking in aesthetic, which you can't even nap on. Useless.

## Tutorial rooms

It's just awkward if you fall asleep in class. Tute rooms are smaller and more intimate than lecture theatres, so every sound you make is regrettably magnified. I recommend seminar rooms, which are larger, making naps are more surreptitious.

## Lawns

Naps are so nice here, especially in the sun! Also, if you don't spend enough time in nature, this is



a valuable opportunity to get in touch with the rugged, sublime terrains of USyd. But make sure to pick a shady spot, because Jacaranda trees are only beautiful when they don't dictate the shape of the tan lines on your face.

## Food Courts

Wentworth is so busy, it's not even worth trying. Even when it's slowing down, it's painful to fall asleep with the smell of delicious kebabs wafting around. Courtyard is shady but you'll probably be woken up by a heap of BNOcs (big names on campus) laughing obnoxiously over a 1pm glass of wine.

## Honiscopes

These are horoscopes, not Kanye West tweets.



### Sagittarius

I'm very detailed oriented and I will know the difference, so don't try to just throw a bow on the original head.



### Leo

All positive energy.



### Aries

What is your definition of true freedom? There is no true freedom without economic freedom.



### Libra

Shut the fuck up and enjoy the greatness.



### Taurus

It's a beautiful time. I love my friends. I love my family. I love people. The human race.



### Scorpio

I have no interest in working with anyone who is too important or too good or too traditional to take a call at 3am.



### Gemini

I don't give opinions because they are commonly agreed upon. I say what I feel.



### Capricorn

I'm not even gon lie to you. I love me so much right now.



### Virgo

No matter what level you're at in life there is still a struggle.



### Aquarius

I stay away from that area all together.



### Cancer

A wise man should be humble enough to admit when he's wrong and change his mind based on new information...



### Pisces

All memes are wrong.

Art: Zita Walker

## THIS WEEK'S USU

# FOOD HACK\*

It's 4pm and you want cake. Now. But Taste is sold out, the new Fisher Coffee Cart has a mysterious lack of pink icing doughnuts and Courtyard's lemon tarts are wilting from too much sun.

Where do you turn? Engo Grill.

Honi can report that Engo Grill features the full range of standardised USU treats, and they're all usually still there at the end of the day. Exciting stuff.

\*Literally just for this week, we have no other hacks available until Board Elections.



# International Students Transport Concessions

Once, the NSW government gave International Students the same access to student concessions for public transport as any other student. In 1989 just as the international student ‘market’ started to expand they withdrew this and since then international students have had to pay full price to use public transport. The SRC has always opposed this discrimination.



## Ask Abe



SRC caseworker *HELP Q&A*

Hi Abe,

I moved into a place in Stanmore at the beginning of February. I paid my bond and 4 weeks rent in advance. Now that I’ve lived there a while I really hate it and want to move out. The house itself is dark and gloomy and I don’t really like my neighbourhood. I told my landlord but she said I had to stay until the end of my contract. This is a real problem because I’ve already signed a lease for another room in a different house. Please help me.

Doubled Up

SRC Caseworkers offer advice and support on a range of issues including: Academic Issues, Tenancy issues, Centrelink and more.

9660 5222 or [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)

Dear Doubled Up,

There are 2 types of renters: tenants and boarders/lodgers.

Tenants are covered by the NSW Residential Tenancy Act (2010). It sets down rules for both you and your landlord. The situation you have described is you wanting to “break your lease early”. As a tenant you may have a ‘break fee’ penalty specified in your lease. This is where you would have to pay a penalty but with a maximum amount of between 4 or 6 weeks rent (depending on the circumstances). This is in addition to you paying rent up until the day you provide notice and move out. If you do not have a ‘break fee’ specified in the lease then seek advice from a SRC caseworker to check your rights. You may seek to negotiate to break the lease early and reduce the loss the landlord faces due to people not paying rent to the end of the agreement, along with the cost of advertising etc. You may be able to convince your landlord to let you find someone else to take over your lease in exchange for no, or a reduced, penalty. They are under no obligation to do this. They also need to make an effort to find someone. If you have maintained your room in good order however you should receive a refund of your bond.

A few years ago as a result of students’ vocal opposition to this discrimination the Government made a small compromise giving international students the opportunity to buy long term travel passes (90 day or 365 day MyMulti tickets), at a slightly discounted rate. However following the recent introduction of the Opal Card these concessions are being phased out, and the 365 day MyMulti is no longer available for purchase from 28.1.16. Seek advice if you bought a 365 day MyMulti (for 2016) before that date. 90 day MyMulti tickets are still available for now, but are likely to be phased out.

International students now need to purchase a full adult Opal card. The SRC strongly advises all students take care to always travel with the correct Card (ie, in your pocket or your wallet, not at home). Transit police frequently check buses and trains and will heavily fine anyone without a card or who have not paid the correct fare for their journey.

*It is unfair that international students do not get the same concession as other students.*

It is unfair that international students do not get the same concession as other students. They are full time students who are only being allowed to work limited hours. These students contribute hugely to the New South Wales and Australian economy being the 3rd biggest ‘export’. They also work and pay taxes but get little in return

*The SRC will continue to fight to international students to have the same rights to transport concessions as local students. To join this fight contact the International Students’ Collective on 9660 5222*

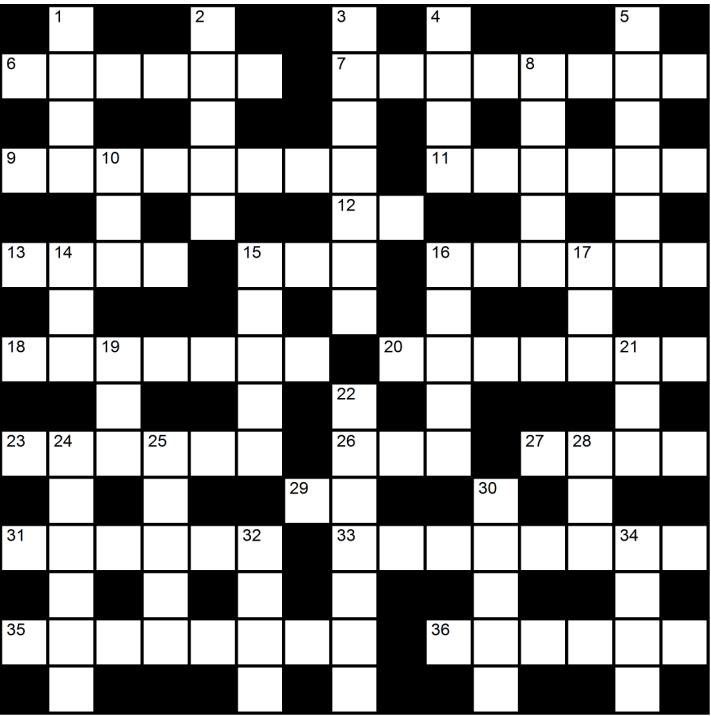
If you are a boarder/lodger, you are only covered by the contract that you signed. There is sometimes a clause in the contract about how to break the contract early. Again, you may be able to convince your landlord to allow you to find someone to take over your contract and reduce the landlord’s potential losses. If this doesn’t work you might like to speak to the SRC Lawyer about breaking your contract with as little financial penalty as possible.

Remember signing a formal lease, or making a written or other form of contract, means you are making a real agreement to stay to a certain date. Check the place you are moving into is OK for that time and think carefully before you sign something that commits you and the substantial (bond or deposit) money you are handing over.

Abe

# Cryptic

Crosswords by EN



### ACROSS

- 6 Vibration from essentially infrequently-arriving wherry (6)
- 7 Tip cheat deviously for possible description of a tanker? (8)
- 9 Faultily twice-stripped ship officer is considered best (8)
- 11 Motivation right for software interface to hardware (6)
- 12 A dinghy originally—but now? (2)
- 13 Couple-time litter (4)
- 15 Careen semi into sedan, say (3)
- 16 Quite narrow-minded about last funicular (6)
- 18 Trains or buses (7)
- 20 Anxious to damage tug’s interior, close to prop (5,2)
- 23 Warden beginning to exhort roadster after glance back (6)
- 26 A vessel for donkey (3)
- 27 Final pleas: jet without jeep (4)
- 29 A saucer primarily for arsenic (2)
- 31 First player’s public ferry, even (6)
- 33 Suspend introverted reverend’s force on a vessel (8)
- 35 Propel boat with prick—reportedly scorching (8)
- 36 A brig clipped inside of football club’s structure (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Ship body to English city (4)
- 2 Sourcing badly-engineered, abandoned mini submarine for structural elements (5)
- 3 Comes into sight as paper buggy (7)
- 4 Hunk placed first two utes in reverse within steelyard boundaries (4)
- 5 Express stop—joke for summary collection (6)
- 8 Hollow engine restrains locomotive starter—it’s the best (5)
- 10 Draw trike regularly (3)
- 14 Also, partially overturned scooter (3)
- 15 Show approval by shouting in lychee rickshaw (5)
- 16 Plans to stop retreat without starting limo (5)
- 17 Bit from front of territorial army’s dirigible (3)
- 19 One card for fighter pilot? (3)
- 21 Raises coupes without confirmation of enrolment (3)
- 22 Exceed time for transit by plane or ship (7)
- 24 Make use of exempt snowplough deployment centres (6)
- 25 Gasps over soldiers’ first pickups (5)
- 28 Junk has timber (3)
- 30 Remove limits from middle of punt/around punt’s prow (5)
- 32 Phoney turnback’s part of tram track (4)
- 34 Yeah, right to a skiff regularly (2,2)

### ACROSS

- 6 Arrow case (6)
- 7 Evoking pity (8)
- 9 Final (8)
- 11 Car guide (6)
- 12 Notice (2)
- 13 Article (4)
- 15 Passenger compartment (3)
- 16 Attractive (6)
- 18 Instructors (7)
- 20 Brought to a conclusion (5,2)
- 23 Person responsible for another person’s behaviour (6)
- 26 Earth containing oxidised pyrite (3)
- 27 Survive (4)
- 29 Whilst (2)
- 31 It’s used to remove bottle lids (6)
- 33 Chinese city (8)
- 35 A severely critical review (8)
- 36 Cloth (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Shell (4)
- 2 Smiles brightly (5)
- 3 Seems (7)
- 4 Upright members of a wall’s frame (4)
- 5 Break food down (6)
- 8 Type (5)
- 10 Fasten with a cord (3)
- 14 Very (3)
- 15 Disposition (5)
- 16 Small pieces of land (5)
- 17 Young boy (3)
- 19 Expert (3)
- 21 Times of good fortune (3)
- 22 Section of a written work (7)
- 24 Service (6)
- 25 Trousers (5)
- 28 Residue of burning (3)
- 30 Take hat off (5)
- 32 Bitterly complain (4)
- 34 Like it would be in the event that... (2,2)

# Target

E	N	M
A	H	O
P	E	N

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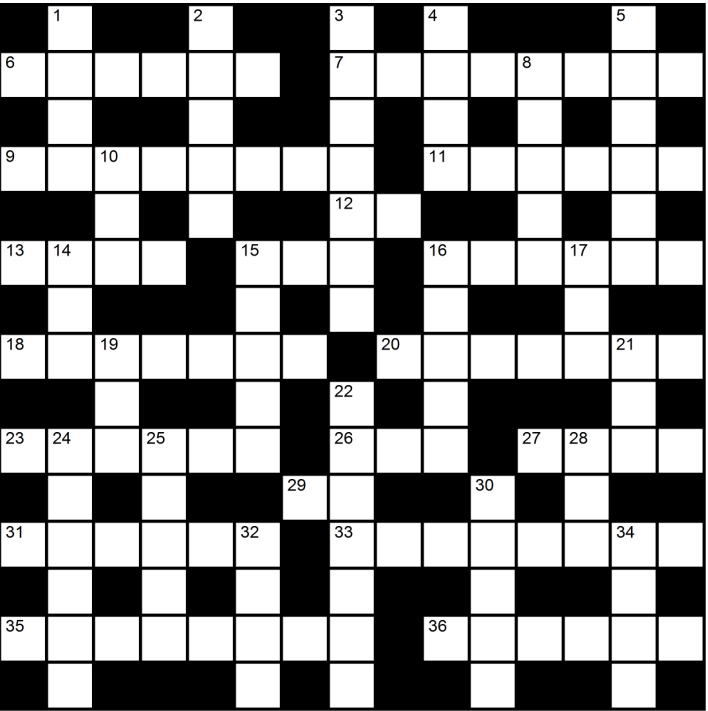
# Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by Atrus

7	2	1	9				5	
3							1	4
4	5	6						
8								
9	3	2	7		1			6
					4	3		2
					3		2	5
5	1				6			8
	4				7			9

Week One quiz solutions: 1. Alice’s Thai 2. Veterinary science 3. John Ellis Bush 4. Birdman 5. True, in 2012 6. Iodine 7. Suva 8. Queensland 9. True, from 1996 to 2001 10. Moving Pictures

# Quick



To learn how to do the cryptic and meet other cruciverbalists, join the **Crossword Society** Wednesdays 2-4pm outside Hermann’s.

# Quiz

- 1. Which Group of Eight university has the smallest enrolment?
- 2. The south end of King St features a homewares store owned by which former Play School host?
- 3. How many (full-time) years is a Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Laws?
- 4. Who were the three original Australian Idol judges?
- 5. Which was established first, Mandelbaum House or International House?
- 6. Who won the 2015 NRL grand final?
- 7. How much is two hours parking on Camperdown/Darlington campus on a Sunday?
- 8. In which year was the inaugural Sydney Mardi Gras street protest held?
- 9. Who is the NSW Deputy Premier?
- 10. How many councillors are required to be in attendance for an SRC meeting to be quorate?



SRC REPORTS

President

Chloe Smith

Welcome to week two – where tutorials start and you begin to figure out how to get from your class in Bosch to your class in Merewether. While most new students are starting to feel comfortable on campus, I want to talk about those students who might be feeling the exact opposite. You may have heard about the Islamophobic attacks occurring on campus since the start of the year. These include the trashing of the Muslim students prayer room five times, the scrawling of anti-Muslim graffiti, and, most recently, the vandalism of SRC posters advertising a #letthemstay rally with disgusting slurs.

I want to say this firmly – this university is for everyone. Regardless of your cultural background, you should feel welcome to study and pray in peace. That some feel they have the right to make students feel unsafe on the basis of their faith is totally at odds with what universities are – places of respectful debate and engagement with new ideas. These are cowardly, anti-intellectual acts of bigotry and the SRC condemns those responsible. I have called on the university to do more to tackle Islamophobia and to make students feel safe. The university has assured me that they are working on ways to do this and I will certainly be holding them to account. In the meantime, I want to reiterate that anyone who witnesses Islamophobia on campus should immediately report it to campus security and student organisations like the SRC. We also have a free casework service for students who may feel distressed as a result of these attacks. Muslim students are welcome at USyd and we stand with you.

I also want to mention the student rally against the restructure on March 16th. This restructure, announced by university management on the eve of the university shutdown in December, will see degrees cut, faculties merged, and huge numbers of staff jobless. This directly affects all students and yet very limited information has been provided so far about what will happen to degrees and courses. The SRC is running a campaign to educate students about what we know so far – if you'd like to find out more, head to the rally at 1pm outside the Carlsaw building. I'll see you there!

General Secretaries

Georgia Mantle and Lachlan Ward

Hello all,

We trust that you have been settling in well to university and hope that you are enjoying all the tedious icebreaking exercises in your tutorials this week. Currently we are still engaging in SSAF negotiations with the other student organisations in order to secure the SRC's budget for this upcoming year so we can fund all our cool and amazing services. We are coming close to securing the final deal, with it looking like negotiations will be completed before the end of March. (Of course this process would be infinitely easier and more pro-student under Universal Student Unionism, but that is a discussion for another day).

Secondly, if anyone would like a copy of the Orientation Handbook, we still have some left over from O-Week so feel free to come to the SRC and ask for a copy. Also as a reminder, the Census date is on March 31st, which means this is the last day for picking up any subjects, and finalising payments and administration matters with the university. Remember if you have an issue with the

**Note:**  
These pages belong to the Office Bearers of the SRC. They are not altered, edited or changed in any way by the editors of *Honi Soit*

university administration or payment concerns, feel free to consult the SRC caseworkers on help@src.usyd.edu.au or come in and make an appointment.

Also you may have seen bright yellow posters around campus promoting a student rally on March 16th. This rally has been organised by the Education Officers and the Education Action Group in response to the restructure that has been proposed by university management, and it promises to be the first step in a strong and broad campaign. The restructure will see the reduction in the number of degrees, a reduction of staff numbers and faculty mergers. You may ask what does that mean for me? Well mainly this will cause a lowering of teaching quality at the university and progressively forcing students to undertake postgraduate degrees, meaning that you will have to spend longer at university and pay far more for your education.

Finally we would like to encourage you to get involved with a SRC collective, as collectives represent the main way for students to get involved with student advocacy and activism on campus. If you are unsure of which collective that would be right for you feel free to send us an email at general.secretary@usyd.src.edu.au

Queer Officers

Evan Jones and Marcus Wong

Hi everyone,

We are part of the Queer Action Collective (QuAC). Quite simply, we are the University of Sydney's queer student collective, providing support for queer (or LGBTQIA+) students on campus. We run our own campaigns or get involved in wider ones run by the Australian Queer Students Network (AQSN), as well as organising social events throughout the year. It's important to maintain the social element, as it is key to fostering learning, which is such an integral part of activism.

Over the holidays we worked with AQSN to organise a cross-campus Mardi Gras float for the parade. This is, of course, always a very fun way to start the year and an exciting opportunity for new students to meet others from around the state and country. We're pleased to say that USYD has a high number of students participating, and we'd like to thank everyone who has gotten involved, with of course a special thank you to AQSN for helping to put this together. O-Week was incredibly successful, with more than a hundred new sign-ups to the collective. The university also hosted two queer beers events, both well attended and a great way to start friendships. This is of course very promising and we were fortunate to meet so many new people when they came to visit our stall.

We've got an incredibly exciting year ahead of us. We have begun collaborating with other collectives on campus, and we hope to run some exciting events and campaigns with them. We're excited to learn from each other and give our members a full and well-rounded intersectional approach to social issues. We have begun collaborating for Pride Week, which will this year be held from the 14th to the 16th of April. It'll be something to look forward to and hope that it will do much for queer students on campus.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in contact with one of your friendly Queer Officers, Evan and Marcus. Send us an email at queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au. We look forward to seeing you all throughout the year!

International Officers

Hannah Elten, Jasmine Yu, Angel Zhao and Zeya Shu

On February 29 the Minister for Tourism and International Education published a Media release, announcing that about half a million international students studied in Australia in 2015 – a record number that is predicted to grow to one million by 2025. While the media release praised the importance of international education on Australia's economy (\$20 billion were generated by the sector in 2015 alone), it failed to mention the declining quality of living and public services offered to international students in this country.

New South Wales especially has been rather negligent towards international students' rights, being the only state that does not offer travel concession to both under- and postgraduate international students. This, alongside the abolition of the MyMulti ticket in February this year and the looming reforms of the Opal Card pricing system further burden international students with high public transport costs.

We are currently addressing this issue through the #FairFare Campaign, which was launched on Monday the 22nd of February and has gathered more than 1500 signatures in total in a very short period of time. The Campaign was launched in cooperation with SUPRA, NUS, as well as the SRCs of UTS and UNSW. We are happy and proud to have succeeded in creating a very active network of international students representatives from all over Sydney and the state, as this will facilitate future campaigns and hopefully is the beginning of giving international students in Australia a voice that will be heard on decision-making levels.

Another initiative we have been working on in this regard is the implementation of a consultative body to the USU formed by international students – we will see how this plays out over the next couple of weeks. Moreover, the International Students Collective is finally active again, and has had a very successful first meeting this week. We encourage every international student interested in creating change for themselves and their community to join.

Lastly, considering the recent outbursts of islamophobia on campus, we would like to reach out to all international students of Islamic faith – if you have experienced or observed islamophobia in Australia, or generally feel intimidated by the current atmosphere, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, the Muslim Societies on campus, or CAPS.

Residential College Officers

Justine Landis-Hanley, Chloe Hobson and Tom St John Baker

Hi Everyone, let us introduce ourselves as your college office bearers for 2016! It's the new year and a new semester, meaning we have just seen a hoard of new students moving into college for the first time. While everyone was partying at Manning or watching Shannon Noll, the new residence of the University of Sydney's several colleges were also partying at Manning, watching Shannon Noll, and completing and competing in a number of O-week College events. If you are wondering why some students have been wandering to class in Academic Robes while carry-

ing bricks... they are either from St Andrew's, or masochists.

The past two weeks have seen the return of second, third, and even fourth, fifth and sixth year college students to the place they know as their 'home away from home'.

As the 2016 College Office bearers, it is our role to represent the voices of students living at the University's Residential Colleges on the Student Representative Council. In this respect, we are also a point of contact for such students wanting connect with the University's administration.

In addition, we want to ensure that these students have the best time possible when living within the University of Sydney. We hope to explore issues of safety on campus, and address issues of Wom\*n's representation within college administration. In addition, we hope to better bridge the divide between college and university life, and have more students engaging with SRC collectives and utilising our services.

If you would like to contact the College Office Bearers, please do so at: residential.college@src.usyd.edu.au

Wom\*n of Colour Officer

Vanessa Song


We are currently in week 2 of semester! WoCC is working in conjunction with WoCo to put on the Growing Strong Launch, held on the 22nd of March at 107 Projects. There will be food and music and an opportunity for contributors to showcase their work. Confirmed performers include Dweeb City and Xiaoran Shi, It is guaranteed to be an amazing night, this is a non-autonomous event.

A picnic and banner painting session will also take place on the 12th of March at Victoria Park, before the International Women's Day March taking place in Hyde Park, hosted in conjunction with the Wom\*n's Collective.

WoCC is also delving into holding Race and Sensitivity workshops on campus this year, hopefully in order to create more awareness about intersectional feminism on campus.

Our first meeting will be taking place on the 7th of March at 4-5pm where we'll be discussing the outlook and ideas for 2016 as well as the goals of the collective. There will be music and craft available for collective members to be involved in, as well as the opportunity to meet one another. The meeting will take place in the Women's Room in Manning House.


If you would like to contribute to the Women of Colour Collective, please join our facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502317086477436/> and like our facebook page here for regular updates: <https://www.facebook.com/usydwomenofcolourcollective/?fref=ts> or shoot us an email here at: [usydwomenofcolourcollective@gmail.com](mailto:usydwomenofcolourcollective@gmail.com)



# CASH

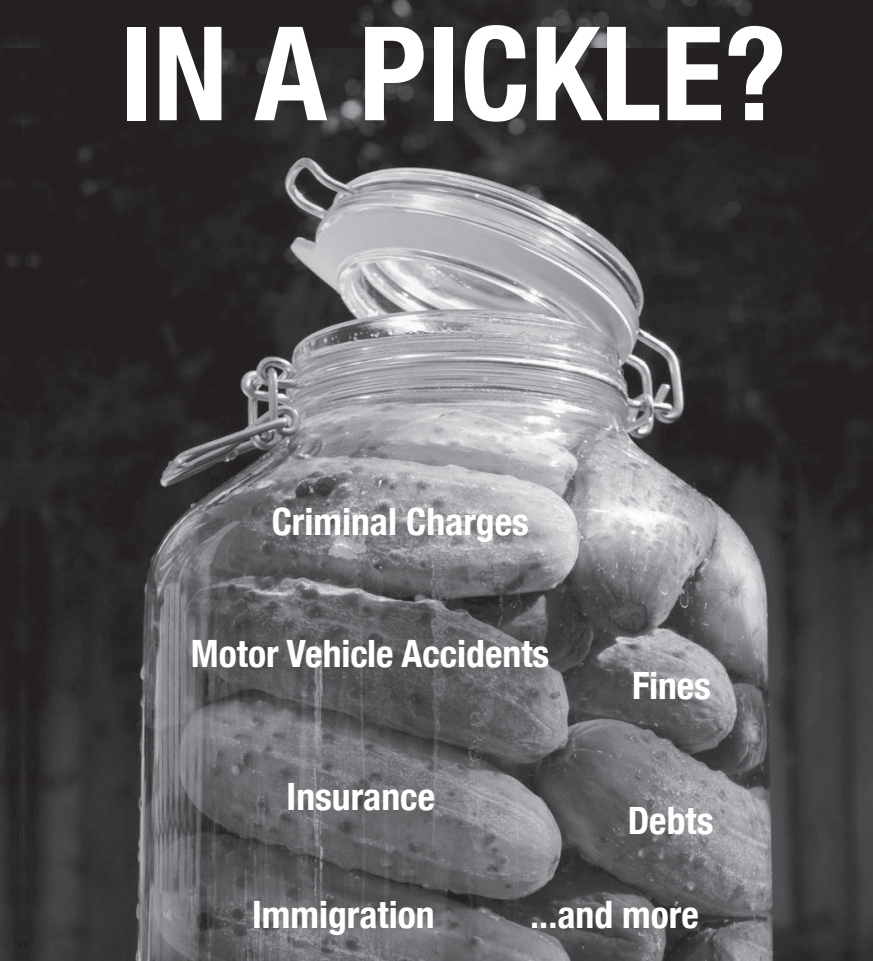
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# The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY  SUPRA

## Welcome to SUPRA!

By *Kylee Hartman-Warren*,  
SUPRA Co-President.

SUPRA is the heart and pulse of this postgraduate community. We represent 25,000 postgraduate students – and that includes you.

As an international PhD student, and a researcher in film and digital media, I’ve had an amazing time at this University and SUPRA has been an enriching part of my experience. I joined SUPRA because I found housing and transportation costs particularly challenging as an international student. I stayed because I discovered I was passionate about working on variety of problems including student visas, academic freedom, research standards and policy, women’s inclusion and the social isolation many students feel.

In addition to improving an amazing, albeit challenging experience, SUPRA offered opportunities to address problems facing students at this university, at the state level, and even in Canberra at Parliamentary hearings.

I say this because I hope each and every one of you finds an experience at this university that allows you to address or solve the problems you’re passionate about fixing. This will not only improve the skills that will enhance your study, but it will help you learn more about ongoing opportunities. You might even learn more about

yourselves and your deeper interests.

To do this, you can join one or many among a diverse range of the USU Clubs and Societies with activities around your current interests or around something you’ve never considered doing before. You can get involved with your faculties, or the professional organisations associated with your degrees. I also hope you get involved with SUPRA either by running for Council this April, or by joining our equity networks, which represent students. They include:

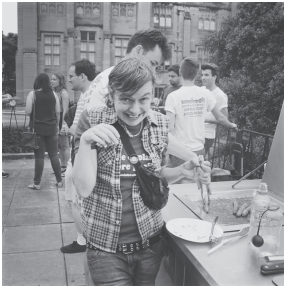
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students  
Female Identifying Students  
International Students  
Queer Students  
Rural and Regional Students  
Students with Disabilities

You can also get involved by attending our social or campaign activities or coming to us should you ever need help.

SUPRA can help you in many ways. We provide free advice and advocacy to all students who need help around matters like special considerations, academic appeals, or show cause and exclusion.

We offer a free legal service to help you figure out your rights around intellectual property, or off campus matters such as tenancy, contracts, or even misadventure. We have free publications including our Survival Guide and our wall calendar. They are free to you, and available at our office.

We even host social events



*O-Week was spectacular this year.*

*Thanks to each and every one of you for joining us!*

*“We ask  
for you  
to join  
us in the  
name of  
fairness”*

activists who will be there when you need them; you need only ask.

It is these same activists who have begun a new campaign demanding full and equal travel concessions for international students. It is international students that face some of the most problematic conditions. They often work in precarious and unstable work places. They often face high rental prices and poor living conditions. International students also face exorbitant up-front fees for their courses. It is our view that these students are exploited and treated unfairly.

What little transport concessions international students have are weak at best. The MyMulti winds up costing most international students more than an adult Opal card. Further, in 2015 the New South Wales Government abolished travel concessions for most international student research scholarships that still had them. We understand that the MyMulti concession is likely to follow suit.

New South Wales is one of only two states left in the country to not offer full travel concessions to international students. We have already seen the New South Wales administrative Decisions Tribunal rule that denial of travel concessions is discrimination. Now we are standing up to say enough is enough. We are here to demand full and equal travel concessions for international students.

But we cannot do this without your help.

We ask of our fellow students, both domestic and international, their help in making this happen. We ask for a little of your time, for your signature and most of all for your support in this campaign. We hope that you will sign our petition; join us on Eastern Avenue to talk to students; and raise your voice in your classrooms to see that our international friends receive fair fares. We are asking for your help because we have finished asking the New South Wales government to bring in travel concessions on its own. We are finished asking for them to do what is right. We are finished asking for them to do what is fair. We are done asking. We demand.

SUPRA asks for you to join us in supporting this campaign. Together, with raised fists and one voice we can ensure equal and fair transport concessions for international students. Together we can win. We ask for you to join us in the name of fairness. We ask you because we have finished asking them. We ask you to join us, and together we can succeed.

For more information, and to get involved in the campaign, please contact:

SUPRA Vice President Thomas Greenwell on 0403802030 or vicepresident@supra.usyd.edu.au

SUPRA Education Officer Ahmed Suhaib on 0451778087 or education@supra.usyd.edu.au

## What is a Postgraduate Survival Guide?

By *Adrian Cardinali*.

SUPRA Advocacy Coordinator.

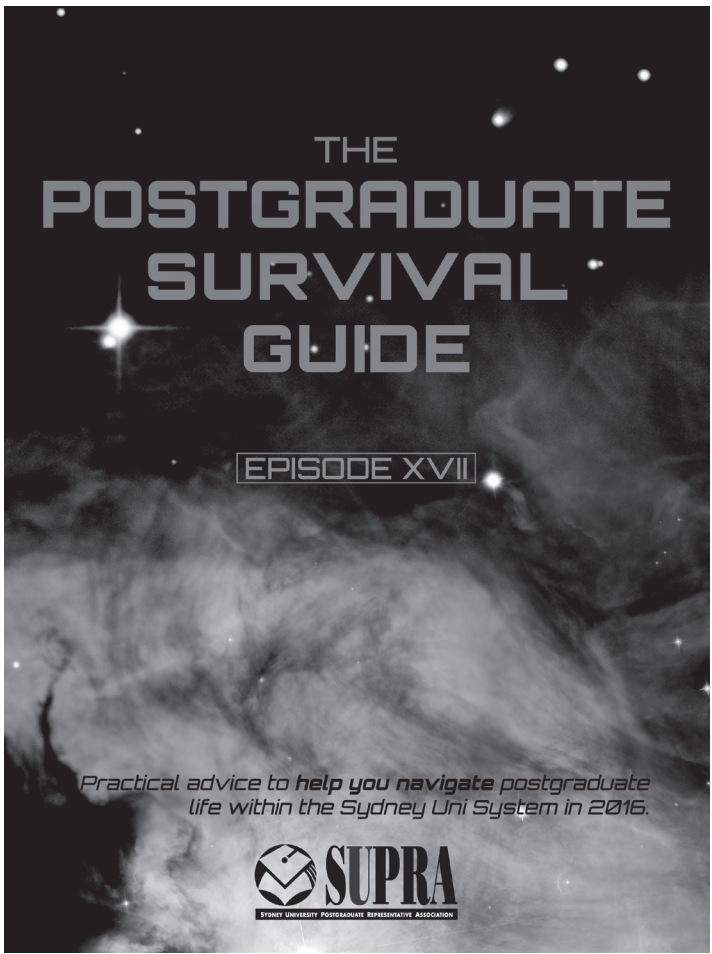
During O-Week SUPRA received hard copy proofs of our seventeenth annual Postgraduate Survival Guide. Over the coming weeks it will be posted on our website, hard copies will be distributed around the University and be available from our offices, and later this year we expect to be able to release it in Android and Apple App formats. In a sense the description on the cover of this publication tells you the key thing you need to know about what it is and why, if you are a postgraduate student, you should get yourself a copy. Here we describe its content as “practical advice to help you navigate postgraduate life at the University of Sydney”. SUPRA staff and members of SUPRA’s governing Council are very proud of this publication. To the best of our knowledge we are the only student organisation in the country to produce anything broadly comparable, and to do so consistently in an annual updated form over so many years. This year’s edition comes out at just over 150 pages, with the bulk of the content produced by the professional and multidisciplinary staff at SUPRA. Inside you will find key information and advice about general transport, health, housing and welfare matters. There is plenty of material on coursework assessment rights, research rights, academic appeals rights, practical information on responding to academic honesty allegations if ever you have difficulties, and much more academic material besides. We include a section on Fees and Centrelink and similar matters. There is also a suite of information on legal rights relevant to postgraduate students, and an extensive list of University and external contacts.

I imagine the above will convince many postgraduates to pick up a copy and keep it somewhere handy as a valuable reference guide. It is free and is a great advantage that students at many campuses without a vibrant student advocacy organisation simply do not have. However the above description of the Guide is somewhat mechanical and deserves more teasing out. One could argue, for example, that something called a Survival Guide suggests it would be a kind of welfare-based publication where we simply dispense advice to a presumed passive postgraduate population needing our help. It would be highly problematic if that is what it was. Instead it is almost the precise opposite. The Survival Guide is pitched in tone and in details as a publication that assumes and is certain of the enormous capacities of postgraduate students. It provides tools you can use, and which we trust and have faith in your ability to use, in order for you to take control of your own candidature and student life ever more fully.

Another possibly problematic way to understand something called a Survival Guide, is as a publication that assumes a base line hostility that one needs to survive as a student. Once again this would be to misunderstand the intention of the publication. We rightly assume that there might be times when things could be tough, and that supportive and respectful high quality information and assistance will help you to survive such times. However we also assume that that forms part of the basis of being able to thrive and do extraordinary things in your time as a student. We believe that students are not mere passive recipients and consumers of a degree-product, much as one receives or consumes a consumer good from a store. We believe the very nature of student life in its deepest essence refuses such simplistic characterisation. Producing a Survival Guide that presumes you will take it and use it as one amongst many tools to support you and your education, shows commitment to a richer and more fulsome

*“Practical advice to  
help you navigate  
postgraduate life at the  
University of Sydney.”*

The  
Postgraduate  
Survival Guide  
- 2016 Edition



notion of education as a process of potentially radical self and societal transformation.

Building on the above perhaps one will misread this again, and presume our Survival Guide gives quality information and the like, but we then leave you to your own devices unsupported when you really do need tailored and appropriately expert assistance. Once again nothing could be further from the truth. The Guide itself is mostly produced by a team of multidisciplinary professional staff, and in a sense it has drawn on the collective and accumulated expertise of such staff over the years. SUPRA made the decision years ago that it would employ professionals in its legal and advocacy services who have expertise in as wide a range of professional backgrounds as possible. Over time staff have included psychologists, social workers, lawyers, activists trained up in case services, and much more besides. The services we provide are fully professionalised, free, confidential, and independent of the University. We try to work ourselves into redundancy on every case, presuming we can support you to develop skills and capacities to resolve your own issues. We believe in student’s capacity to do so. However we do not leave you on your own. We also believe that in a complex and changing higher education and societal environment, where the demands on immaterial labourers are greater and more complex than ever before, and where postgraduate students are, in a certain sense, at the apex of confronting such complexity and challenge, that you should have access to such multi-faceted and multidisciplinary advocacy services. We believe it is a model of best practice in advocacy case service provision. We note too that the provision of such a tailored service, geared towards meeting students where you are and adapting to your particular needs, runs precisely against the grain of neoliberal reductionist orthodoxy. It is one way of protesting and resisting the reduction of higher education to a commodified space.

To address one last possible misconception of the term Survival Guide and such a Guide in its 17th edition, perhaps one might presume it static or conservative in a social welfare focus kind of way. Perhaps one might presume that it lazily re-hashes itself year after year. Once again nothing could be further from the case. In 150 or so

pages we are sure there will be the odd link or phone number or piece of information that gets out-dated or that could have been phrased differently or the like. However every number and link and piece of information has been carefully checked. There were a mountain of policy and legal changes in the University and externally last year, and to the best of our capacity the whole Guide is up to date. We already know that within the University milieu we are one of the few offices to have such information up to date and ready to go. More than that the content undergoes a review each year for potential substantive additions, based on feedback from those producing the content, but more importantly driven by students. We have run surveys and similar in the past. We also review information received through the year from those directly using our services. In 2015 and of the 25, 500 postgraduate students, when we finalise our own statistics we expect between 900 and 1000 cases to be our finished figures. Given we care a relatively small service those are quite extraordinary numbers. Because of the genuinely independent nature of our services, we are trusted with unvarnished information about student life that does not always find its way directly to the University. We could not quite get to including everything we would like in the current edition, but feedback and work in 2015 suggests some rights based information for those thinking about or engaged in sex work would be in order for the future. We are planning some work on cyber-stalking and bullying and rights in the coming year and that should be included in a 2017 Survival Guide. Drug and amphetamine use is on our radar as an area to address. And some ongoing work on harassment and bullying and safety around campus, building on survey work and conference presentations and the like in 2015, is likely to find more space in future Survival Guide editions.

As coordinator of the advocacy team and editor of the 17th edition of the Survival Guide, along with sub editor and SUPRA Vice President Thomas Greenwell, I want to commend this work to all postgraduate students. I also want to thank members of my team and all those who contributed to the work. It is something of which you can be rightly proud.

## Fair Fares for International Students Now!

By *Tom Greenwell*.

SUPRA Vice President.

SUPRA does not simply hold social events, give advice and advocate on your behalf. SUPRA is filled with dedicated activists and representatives who are here to campaign to defend and advance your rights. It was these activists who led the charge on simple extensions, and made sure they were preserved as university policy. It was these activists who were there to aid students in their campaign to improve teaching and assessment in the BUSS5000 and 6000 units last year. It is these



## My Sex Robot Won’t Fuck Me: Part I

Victoria Zerbst cannot tell Smeg from smegma



I bought my FAB32 FORNA1 two weeks ago and I am still as dry as the withered hairs on Donald Drumpf’s scaly flesh-skull.

Now, I am not a desperate woman, but when I forked out \$700 on the latest in Italian teledildonics, I expected more from this supposed blend of ‘evocative art and functionality.’

I anticipated a vintage model with sinuous lines in a vibrant colour. I lay awake at night touching myself while fingering the Smeg catalogue.

That robust, broad body. Those shiny and probably ergonomic handles.

I was waiting to get drilled so far into the ground that I ejaculated magma. I wanted a tech-centric orgasm from some well-designed hot and heavy machinery.

What a got was frosty and cold.

I was promised 2 x thermostats and a system with a tropical rating.

Yet, here I sit. Tetchy and splenetic with a sex robot that won’t even vibrate near my clitoris whilst whispering sweet, sweet nothings in binary code.

FAB32 FORNA1 has none of the personality promised to me on the website.

He won’t respond when I coo in his top box. He won’t make a move when I reshuffle his shelves. He only beeps when I leave his door open. That is the closest we get to foreplay, or as I call it, doorplay.

I would NOT recommend the FAB32 FORNA1. I am sorry, Smeg, but I am not a sexually satisfied customer.



Religion Opinion

I'm not scared of gays. I'm just scared of them jumping out from behind corners and yelling 'boo'.

Cory Bernardi



Every day a cadre of young queers hides within Parliament House, waiting to startle me. They frequently cause me to spill my tea. They are the burden of my life and their merciless chortling must be stopped.

@Adam Chalmers

## Turnbull justifies submarines: “We can turn them into women’s shelters”

Ann Ding reckons the submarines would look nicer in French pink, but peony is nice too.



In response to criticism of the federal government’s projected Defense spending by defunded women’s groups and shelters, Malcolm Turnbull has suggested that the 12 new submarines, estimated to cost at least \$50 billion, have the capacity to double as women’s shelters if the need arises.

“In this sense, they are very versatile,” Turnbull said. “Not only are they, as Senator Madigan put it, the spaceships of the ocean, they can also serve as temporary housing – and they have the added benefit of ease of transport and military-grade defense capabilities.”

Turnbull also pointed out that the submarines would be situated away from land, where the vast majority of men are known to reside.

Defense Secretary, Dennis Richardson, revealed plans to dedicate a portion of the budget to supplies of ‘BIC For Her’ pens.

There are also plans of converting torpedo rooms to yoga studios and extra wardrobe space. Calorie-counting software is also in the works. The submarines will also be repainted in what Turnbull describes as “peony pink”.

“Yeah, we will probably set aside two or three hundred dollars; that figure is yet to be confirmed,” Richardson said. “Part of that will also go towards redesigning the lettering on the submarine in a curlier script font.”

Women looking to take up residence in the submarines would however need to bring their own sanitary pads and tampons, as they are still considered luxury items.

## VOX POP! POP!

“There is still no Facebook option for ‘this post invokes within me a sinking feeling of dread and existential doubt akin to the feeling of a train passing by when you stand at the edge of a platform; fleeting, intense, and incredibly solitary. Also you use too many hashtags” - Jamie Lowe

## Intersectional Prison Gang “Somehow Worse” Than Skinheads

Peter Walsh can’t go back in solitary, he just can’t, man.



A racially diverse, trans-inclusive group of class warriors have formed an illegal inmate organisation that has been terrorising Silverwater Correctional Facility since Thursday.

The horizontally structured and leaderless organisation held a reading group of Jo Freeman’s *The Tyranny of Structurelessness* and made concerted efforts to avoid any informal, unaccountable leadership cliques forming.

They have now reportedly cornered H-Block’s vice trade, centralising the passage of weapons and drugs throughout the prison.

“Traditional weapons, like profiling, are powerless against a truly utopian collective such as this”, fretted Warden Laurence Peony from beneath his desk. “How can we divide and conquer when they look like everyone?”

Rival gangs, such as the Aryan Brotherhood, have been swiftly dismantled, with two senior members found dead in their cells over the weekend.

“We’re looking for someone between 160 and 200 cm, with fair to dark skin, and short to long hair”, read the Warden “Suspect could be queer, or not. Gender is not determined by appearance and so we can’t presume.”

At press time, the group had reached consensus on starting a riot, which began with a traditional smoking ceremony, asphyxiating three guards.

## Icy Reception for Iglu Residents

Oliver Moore is cold as ice



Residents of the student housing company Iglu Central were in a state of shock this week as a fault in the air conditioning system resulted in the interior of the building being coated in a layer of ice.

One shocked resident described it as, “like literally living in an igloo”. That’s pretty funny.

## Senior Citizen Practices Computer Skills

Adam Chalmers faxed the Vatican and they didn’t even fax him back *the cunts*



Proceedings of the inquiry into child abuse within the Catholic Church stalled today as Cardinal Pell, 74, attempted to use Skype for the first time.

“Hello? Hello?” the Cardinal cautiously muttered into the webcam which was, witnesses confirm, off.

Mr. Luke Brown, an intern in the Vatican technical support service, instructed Cardinal Pell to “make sure it was plugged in” and, in the event that this failed, to “try turning it off and on again.”

“Of course it’s plugged in!” a distressed Cardinal Pell was heard to yell.

Witnesses confirm that it was not.

### NOW HIRING

Vatican City is now hiring a **Social Media Intern**. The successful applicant will be:

- Knowledgeable of “memes”
- Skilled at popular social media platforms eg. Myspace
- Able to turn a blind eye

Email cover letter and résumé to [francis@vatican.va](mailto:francis@vatican.va)

Women and (out) homosexuals need not apply.

@William Edwards

## BREAKING: Sheep Unite in Support of EDM

Katie Thorburn knows Miley Cyrus stole her album title from the sheep



Confusion swept government today due to an ambiguous creative sheep protest.

Sheep arranged themselves into the letters “B-A-N-G-A-S” in the Otway Basin in Victoria.

Government was left wondering whether the sheep were calling for better music: “BANG-AS” (Bangerz more commonly spelt) as a critique of ‘Lock Out Laws’, or to ban the ecologically devastating fracking practice: “BAN-GAS”.

Head Animal Negotiator (formal title: Agricultural Minister), Barnaby Joyce, was called in to interpret the sheep’s demands after his successful negotiations with Johnny Depp’s dogs.

The Nationals, however, decided to publically interpret the sheep as having spelt “bangas” in celebration of Justin Beiber’s revolutionary new album.

Spokessheep for the area-sheep were optimistic of their ability to ensure a permanent ban on fracking with the third most productive agricultural lands in the continent.

They plan to constructively take the critique of their not-definite space: “It’s similar to the “Let’s eat Grandma”/ “Let’s eat, Grandma” punctuation debacle.

“Grammar and formatting needs to be spot on so we don’t commit incestuous cannibalism, nor prioritise fighting Lock Out laws rather than for an ecologically viable future.”

### Trending

[Handrails removed as part of government’s ‘Unsafe Schools’ program](#)

[Mike Baird: “We need to welcome refugees... but not after 1:30am”](#)

[Fish acne on the rise after Woolworths bans exfoliants with microbeads](#)

[Jeb Bush: “I could have been the zodiac killer if I wanted”](#)

[+ More Top Rated Nihilist Imagery](#)

## Inside Sam Smith’s speechwriting process

Mary Ward won best screenplay for this



Scene: Sam Smith and his management are placing the final touches on his Oscars speech.

SS: “Okay, so I want to say that I am proud to be the first gay man to ever win an Oscar—”

M: “But, what about Sir Elton John?”

SS: “Okay, how about I say that I am proud to be the first openly gay man to ever win an Oscar—”

M: “I’m pretty sure Sir Elton John was out when he won.”

SS: “What about the first openly gay, British man to ever win an Oscar?”

M: “Elton John.”

SS: “I know, I’m the first openly gay, British man to ever win the Oscar for Best Song!”

M: “Elton John. Can You Feel the Love Tonight. 1994.”

SS: “Eh, I’ll chance it. No one fact checks this stuff.”



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