


Honi Soit

SEMESTER ONE, 2016 • WEEK 7

FIRST PRINTED 1929



How did a lawyer from the SRC and a refugee take the government to the High Court, and win?

FEATURE, PAGE 11

The history
of 'authentic'
curry

CULTURE, PAGE 17

The masculinity
problem

Pranay Jha examines the toxicity
of private boys' school sport

INVESTIGATION, PAGE 6

Friendlyjordies
forever

Riki Scanlan speaks to the
YouTube personality

PROFILE, PAGE 10

The price of
being a hack

How much are your
student reps paid?

ANALYSIS, PAGE 9

Contents

2 / LETTERS	16 / CULTURE
4 / NEWS	18 / SCIENCE
6 / INVESTIGATION	19 / SOCIAL
7 / OPINION	20 / SRC REPORTS
8 / ANALYSIS	22 / CASEWORKERS
10 / PROFILE	23 / PUZZLES
11 / FEATURE	24 / SUPRA
14 / PERSPECTIVE	26 / COMEDY

11 / FEATURE

Naaman Zhou writes on the SRC lawyer and a Tamil asylum seeker who dared to take on the Department of Immigration, and won.

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Letters

Leave NUS alone

Dear *Honi*,

I write in response to Eden Faithfull's article about the National Union of Students. Whilst criticism of NUS in student publications is nothing new, it's important in the interests of students, unions, and the education movement to clarify some of the issues raised. Readers of *Honi* could be forgiven for thinking NUS is just a bunch of squabbling student politicians on junkets, yet this is an unfair, inaccurate portrayal of an incredibly active, diverse, and hard-working union. Yes, there are conflicts; show me an organisation without conflicts. In deeply political spaces like unions, disagreements over policy and strategy are par for the course. I absolutely do not con-

done the behaviour of National Conference delegates who cross the line from passionate debate into harassment and intimidation, but they are a minority. What is more important is the work the organisation does. NUS has a proud history of active, engaging student-led campaigns. The most high-profile recently is the education campaign against fee deregulation. Since 2014, thousands of students across the country have mobilised to protest the Liberal government's higher education agenda, via National Day of Action rallies, stunts, lobbying, and engagement with media, community groups, and other unions. This contributed to community backlash and pressured crossbench senators to oppose deregulation, resulting in the Federal Government twice failing to pass it. This is a huge win for students and there's no doubt NUS ensured students' voices were heard in

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Tom Joyner

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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

Tom Joyner

You're now holding the seventh edition of *Honi Soit* under the tenure of the present editorial team. It is both a great pleasure and honour to be an editor of *Honi*, and now as we edge towards winter – and with the experience of five editions behind us – it's become clear what a sharp learning process it has been. But one of the greatest pleasures of the job has been the capacity to contribute to an incredible catalogue of student activism over the decades. As we move closer to a federal election in which higher education and its accessibility to all students will once again come under threat, I've thought a lot about what this might mean. Activists commonly talk about the "student movement", but as you read the pages of this newspaper, it's hard to imagine something so monolithic as this would suggest. As you make your way through this week's edition, consider the challenges faced by first-in-family students, or the daily isolation and ostracisation of international students, or the shameless displays of status among the college elite. Is it disingenuous to tar with one brush as homogenous a single student voice across the country? Can there ever be one student movement? I believe such terms become part of a wider language often used as the rhetoric of rebuttal: heard at rallies and read on flyers, but at times alienating. Whatever it may be, it's just as crucial for any student movement to remain accountable and relevant to the very subjects on whose behalf it claims to fight. It's vital that the movement does not alienate, but rather inspires. The leaders of such a movement should take a hard look at their actions and students should equally be critical of them. For a student movement can only be as strong as its weakest part.

Baby, now we got bad bread

Dear *Honi*,

The other day I went to the Fisher Coffee Cart for some banana bread and they said they didn't have a toaster with which to toast it. I know you've been doing a top job analysing the ins and outs of the Strategic Plan but could you please investigate why the purchase of a sandwich toaster was not part of the Fisher Coffee Cart renovations? You can buy them at Target for \$9.

Regards,

Clare Cavanagh
Arts II

Eds' Note: We'd toast to this.

Lost in bureacracy

To the responsible Sydney University administrator (if thou dost exist), I am writing to lodge a complaint in regards to the University of Sydney's APA scholarship application process. I believe that I have been treated in a high-handed and rude manner by the scholarship office, who somehow gave me false information about their own procedures. I also believe the process lacks transparency, making it difficult to understand if procedural fairness has been adhered to in the decision making process. The grounds for my complaint are outlined below: Having submitted my application by the due date, on November 30 I sent an email to the office asking if I needed to submit my then unofficial honours results. I received an email confirming that I did not need to do so, that they would be able to access my results themselves. On December 11 I was sent a (presumably automated) email which asked me to submit my results. An email asking for clarification and a call to the scholarship office led to no answers until the 15th, when they told me to send in my results, which I promptly did. Once again my application did not proceed further until the 5th, when I received a rejection letter. Notwithstanding the emotional stress caused by the delay in knowing the application result, as the office had stated that results would be released by December 16, I find it hard to believe that this delay did not affect my candidature. After all, scholarship offers were being released throughout December, so I do not believe that it is out of the realm of possibility that they simply ran out of scholarships by the time my case was assessed. I have emailed the scholarship office, asking for clarification. I have received no reply. I contacted Associate Professor Kirsten McKenzie about my case. She informed me that I was unsuccessful due to the high calibre of applicants. This surprised me, as my advisers from the School of Economics had indicated that I was a strong candidate. Following this, I asked the Associate Professor about the cut off marks required to get a scholarship. I was informed that this information was not disseminated to non-members of the committee. I have heard the other Postgraduate students have received a UPA with a mark in the high 70s, with no publications (my mark was 81). I have been unable to substantiate this, but it has not been for the lack of my trying. I would like to know whether this is indeed the case, and if so, why these candidates were prioritised over me. I have no faith in the scholarship office. They failed to process my application properly, and after three months I have not had so much as an apology from them. It is undoubted that a procedural error was made in my application. I believe I have the right to know if this administrative mess cost me my scholarship. I am asking for the following: 1) A formal apology from the scholarship office indicating that they failed to process my application on time. 2) A transparent scholarship application process so that I can be certain that this administrative blunder did not cost me a scholarship. 3) A formal right to an appeal. The Sydney University Scholarship process has left me disappointed and I feel that I have been treated with disrespect and rudeness when trying to seek clarification over my application. Regards, Julian Kuan Economics PhD I

Last week, while I walked past the billboards on Eastern Avenue, I was confronted by two thoughts. First, we're using a heck of a lot of paper for our posters. Second, whose voices aren't being heard through the billboards? If the first point sounds insignificant to you, then you've probably missed the point. Let me restate it: we are using a lot of paper. I'm not going to make any assumptions about the diversity of people who print out posters to put up; about whether they are using recycled paper or consciously print fewer posters because of the environmental cost. The fact remains that the more we print, the more trees get shredded. And I fear that the meta-message of this - who cares about using heaps of paper! - is being subtly and perniciously communicated to people. We're meant to be an environmentally concerned campus. If we are, shouldn't we try and make our practice more sustainable? Concerning voices: a lot of the billboard space is taken up by posters from only a few groups. Don't get me wrong, I love the democratic tussle for poster room and the radical

impulse that leads students to publicise challenging and intriguing material. But I fear that the space is too often dominated by a few groups. Although I'm sympathetic to radicalism, I feel that radical groups often end up with the lion's share of the billboard space. Could it be that other people might be intimidated to put up material, or feel that's its useless because what they put up will be soon posterised over by more frequent users? I don't know. But if that's the case, it's a real shame. I would love to hear more from different groups, like VegSoc, Quid-ditch players & The Wom'n's Collective, and I would hate to think there are barriers to these and others' participation which we either don't know about or don't care about. Their voice needs to be heard. In short, I'd love to see the billboard space transformed to be more sustainable and more inclusive. I don't think that's too much to ask.

You recently published a reflection by Eric Gonzales on his experience with the SULS Juvenile Justice Mentoring Scheme (JJMS). It warrants clarification. The author was disillusioned with law students who, consumed with CV-stacking for the purpose of clerkships, disingenuously engage with social justice programs. This is a concern shared by many, and is true of any initiative of this kind. But to suggest that rogue resume-stackers undermine the value of this program unfairly targets JJMS, and the hard work of the organising Co-Chairs and volunteers, without justification. I am sympathetic with recent *Honi* articles criticising "voluntourism" projects, and I would be the first to question social justice programs which fail to deliver valuable outcomes. However, the JJMS is implemented in close consultation with (and indeed, at the request of) the juvenile justice centres where the programs are delivered. No doubt this is the reason that five years on, the centres still welcome SULS' participation. If these interactions fall short of "life-changing epiphanies", perhaps a gentle reminder is needed about knowing our place. As law students, we are hardly equipped to act as social workers, teachers or psychologists. The primary goal of the program, which is shared by the centres, is to develop rec-


reational activities and foster social relationships with people of a similar age to the centre residents. It's a shame for these activities to be described as 'pitifully boring time-fillers.' It's wrong to focus on what law students are getting out of it because the program is not primarily run for our benefit; although developing empathy and awareness is important in becoming a compassionate lawyer. Mr Gonzales suggests that 'the program becomes problematic when we believe one initiative to be an adequate substitute for broader community engagement.' I couldn't agree more. However, this ignores that JJMS is only one of many Social Justice and Equity programs that SULS runs. The Law School environment can be saturated by corporate information, but these are not mutually exclusive paths. Acknowledging the 'underlying aspirational' value of the JJMS does not make up for a simultaneous attempt at undermining its credibility.

I read about your contrived, handicapped debate in *Honi Soit* with delight. Are white men so far from the human spectrum that their exclusion reflects diversity? "Impressively, Sydney's top teams boasted absolutely no white men in the final." You're celebrating the exclusion of an entire demographic (hoorah! for diversity), as if their very participation could, would or should discourage the participation of people from other ethnicities, sexualities or demographics? What is this about? Wouldn't this be an indication that it is the "queer" and "majority of female speakers" that have a problem with engaging and interacting with the "other" that is unlike them, e.g.: straight, white, male, grew up/lives in the greater western suburbs or regional towns or cities (people like the much maligned bogans [who according to the "diverse" people are necessarily bigotted {'cause you know, they've got white skin maaaaaaan}}]). So much so that they celebrate their exclusion. Honestly, do the thought experiment in reverse: Yes! Finally a team of all white players wins the NBA finals! Hoorah! No more of them pesky black blokes. How does that sound to you?

But, then, a team entirely made up of women is, of course, cause for celebration (oh, the diversity, just how could you get more sexually diverse!) Hypocrites and phoneys. Just admit you're a bunch of chauvinists.

Did you hate every article this week? Think we're a bunch of chauvinists? Are you a fascist? Do you have nothing better to do with your time?

Send a letter to editors@honisoit.com by Friday 5pm. Keep it to maximum 500 words.



WHAT TO LISTEN TO
WHEN...

You don't manage to cum during that quickie in the park so you have to masturbate at home

Falling Short
Lapsley (2014)

Pretend
Tinashe (2014)

Better Give U Up
FKJ (2015)

Video Girl
FKA Twigs (2014)

Climax
Usher (2012)

RACISM AT USYD

Business School head tutor under fire for alleged racist comments

Max Hall & Naaman Zhou

Wu Wei, the head tutor of the Business School subject FINC2012 (Corporate Finance II), has allegedly called Chinese students “pigs” in a series of posts to social media.

“One of those [Chinese] international student pigs told me that, on behalf of the Australian-Chinese international student community, I have brought shame upon them all.

“USyd’s finance course is very hard – who knows how much money you low-IQ international pigs need to spend to pay for all those essaywriters,” a post, translated here from Chinese, read.

In other posts to Weibo, allegedly made by Wu, the user is filmed burning a Chinese passport and wrote that “...all Chinese students do is complain about their school and their courses, it’s all worthless garbage.”

In a comment attached to a screenshot of the email offering him the position of tutor, the user wrote that they couldn’t wait

to “start misleading our students.” Students took to social media to express outrage at his comments. In a public post that was shared over 180 times by Thursday morning, Evin Wang, a student of Wu’s, expressed concern for Chinese international students.

“As a Chinese student, I feel very insecure in his tutorials and lectures, because of how clearly he shows his HATE towards China and the Chinese people. He makes me wonder, if he hates Chinese so much, how could he possibly teach Chinese students without any prejudice?” Wang said.

Chinese students Jasmine Yu, Angel Zhao, Emma Liu and Alexander Shu called for Mr Wu’s resignation in a statement. “We feel that it is extremely inappropriate for a University of Sydney staff member to be making such racist and discriminatory comments on a public platform, regardless of what ethnic background or nationality he is.”

Wu was born in China but recently became an Australian citizen.

The Sydney University Business Society circulated a petition Wednesday night condemning his “racist and humiliating comments,” labelling the posts “appalling, shameful and unacceptable”.

“As a liaison between students and the Business School, we will not tolerate this behaviour, and will seek to hold those responsible, accountable for their actions,” the petition read.

A group chat involving over 350 Chinese students is being used to discuss and coordinate their response to the allegations.

Dean of the Business School, Professor Greg Whitwell, said “the Business School and the University of Sydney note the allegations made against a tutor and views them extremely seriously. The Business School is currently investigating these allegations.”

Mr Wu did not respond to a request for comment in time for publication.

Translator: Tracey Yeung



BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

Only 14 sleeps to go. Shoot me.

NUS hide & seek

While it has to be said *Honi Soit* has a long and glorious history of irreverent commentary on student politics at the University of Sydney, it’s not often its reach extends further afield.

Sources tell *Honi* that at the latest executive meeting of the National Union of Students (NUS), during discussion around the location of the upcoming Education Conference, members of the executive expressed reticence to allow hosting rights to go to Sydney University for fear of *Honi*’s critical coverage. NUS, beyond all its most glaring shortcomings, is a notoriously opaque organisation.

For one, it hasn’t updated executive meeting minutes on its website since July 6 last year. In the view of this humble student newspaper, public scrutiny certainly couldn’t hurt NUS. Sunlight, as is often said, is the best disinfectant.

Board shit(less)

The final list of contenders for a spot on the University of Sydney Union (USU) Board of Directors.

Almost half of the candidates are Independents or independents: Cameron Hawkins, Grace Franki, Koko Kong and Esther Shim.

Joining them, from various labor factions, are: James Gibson (Sydney Labor Students), Sam Kwon (National Labor Students) and Vanessa Song (Student Unity).

The Grassroots candidate is Courtney Thompson. Finally, there is a single Liberal-affiliated candidate: Dom Bondar.

The nine candidates are battling it out for five spots, two of which must go to wom*n identifying students.

If you want the breakdown of the colour and slogan allocations, see *Honi Soit* online, or just wait to see them for on Eastern Avenue.

Board absentees

A notable absence is Socialist Alternative’s (SAlt) rumoured first Union Board candidate, Declan Maher. The circumstances of this absence are opaque at the time of printing. We are guessing that it was a joke, since he replied to our interview requests solely with Jim Carrey gifs.

David Hogan, Liberal SRC Councillor, sent us this statement to clarify the status of his campaign:

“Just to clear up the fact that I didn’t end up running for Board (since you and the *Honi* team may be confused given that I told you I was running on the weekend), I didn’t see my support delivering a victory and hence decided not to run. That being said, I will be backing Esther since she’s the candidate who after having a look at her policies matches what I was running for in the first place. I’m going to campaign with her over the election and will be asking my supporters to back her as well.”

Campaign conflicts

Three editors will be involved in Union Board campaigns: Victoria Zerbst, Tom Joyner and Subeta Vimalarajah.

All election coverage has and will be written by: Andrew Bell, Natalie Buckett, Max Hall, Sam Langford, Alexandros Tsathas, Mary Ward and Naaman Zhou. These editors will have no involvement in the election.

make university less stressful for FIFs, with most agreeing a specific orientation day for FIF students would be beneficial, especially for explaining the enrolment process.

“The part where I had to choose the units was just an absolute cause of stress and confusion for me,” Angelica D’Amico, a first-year Arts student, said.

Most FIFs also believed that extending ACCESS card subsidies – which the USU introduced for 200 low–SES first year students this year–would help them partic-

ipate more in university life.

“To take part in many social events, join societies, you need to pay a hefty fee [for a card], but due to financial difficulties, many FIFs don’t get it,” Taylor said, adding that one of the reasons why she had not attempted to formally register the FIF group with the USU’s Clubs and Societies program was that many members would be excluded because they did not have an ACCESS card.

Being able to participate in the group is important to sever-

al students, often helping them feel less isolated.

“Having a group of people who are in the same position as me, being the first in their family to attend uni, really does mean a lot,” said Abby Molloy, a second year Arts student.

“It’s nice to know that there are people out there that may have had similar experiences, struggles and pressures in regards to attending uni, and it’s really comforting to have a platform with which we can communicate.”

CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE

Law library moisture crisis



Andrew Bell & Jayce Carrano

The Sydney University Law Library has undergone extensive repairs this week in an extended battle against water damage.

The largely underground library has experienced a string of structural issues relating to insulation and water damage for most of its brief life. This includes moisture in the carpeted private study rooms, which require aeration by fans for relief. Wooden panelling on the roof of the library was removed after it became water damaged.

Further, the Turnbull Reading Room (the circular steel

and glass spire which forms the architectural centrepiece of the library, pictured) frequently experiences leakage in times of rain, which is managed in an adhoc manner by placement of plastic tubs.

After heavy rain last Tuesday morning, an area of carpet next to the Reading Room was inundated and had to be cordoned off with hazard tape and traffic cones. At the same time, fencing was placed around the above-ground section of the library’s spire.

On Thursday, portable expanding barriers and a scissor lift were brought into the library

to began repairs. Using the scissor lift, Construction Services were able to cut away at sections of the board surrounding the Reading Room in the midst of perturbed law students.

Julie Parsons, University spokesperson for Campus Infrastructure & Services (CIS), said there was no significant damage to the building but indicated that “CIS are currently undertaking a systemic investigative approach to detect the source of the leaks and make the repairs.”

Ms Parsons provided the following statement, when asked when staff were first aware of the issue. “The first heavy or persistent rainfall after the completion of a building will realistically test its rain tight integrity. Most rainwater intrusion is noticed only if it impinges on the use of the building and becomes obvious. The staff at the New Law Library advise CIS of any issues as they occur,” she wrote.

The Herbert Smith Freehills Law Library opened in 2009.

The construction program currently in place forms part of a longterm strategy to solve the issues. Ms Parsons indicated that the project incurs no additional cost to the University, as they are being completed as part of the original building contract.

Ms Parsons said repairs to the building will be completed by May 5.

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

NUS president to stay after legal advice

Tom Joyner

The President of the embattled National Union of Students (NUS), Sinéad Colee, will remain in her role after legal advice sought by the organisation found no grounds for her removal.

Colee’s position was threatened after she allegedly neglected to submit a single President’s report for the first three months of her year-long term, prompting the organisation’s general secretary to seek counsel from law firm Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

However, the advice found that although it was “uncontroversial” that Colee had failed to provide a written report for the January or March meetings of the national executive, the February report was in fact submitted in an “informal” manner.

“The question under both rules [in the constitution] is whether Ms Colee failed to ‘give’ a written report for three consecutive meetings. On my instructions that did not occur,” it read.

In a statement to *Honi Soit*, Colee said that seeking legal advice was “ultimately the right thing to do” in the interests of her accountability.

“I am committed to ensuring that all my time as President is documented and accounted for and strongly believe that the submission of reports is important for the transparency of the organisation,” she said.

Colee attributed her two missed reports to “exceptional circumstances” including the recent death of a family member.

“I have performed my job not only to the best of my abilities, but beyond the extent required by NUS and its governing documents.”

The NUS employed the services of Maurice Blackburn Lawyers in March, reportedly at a cost estimated to be between \$5,000 and \$8,000, after it was understood Colee’s failure to submit monthly reports rendered her position automatically vacant under the organisation’s constitution.

Colee said she was confident in her ability to see through the remainder of her term as NUS President.

“I strongly believe that positions such as the one I hold should be open to people with all ranges of capabilities.”

Accessibility issues discussed in first meeting for first-generation students

Ashley Chegwyn

The First in Family (FIF) Facebook group met in person for the first time last Thursday to discuss ways to improve life for first-generation university students.

The group, which was founded by history student Ashleigh Taylor in 2015, acts as an online support network for students who are the first in their family to attend university.

“Often many FIF students struggle to ask for advice and don’t know whom they should ask,” Taylor said at the event, which was held at Courtyard Café.

“There are feelings of doubt about whether their work matches the standards of others, even feelings of isolation, creating a lot of stress which in some cases leads to students dropping out after their first year.”

Members discussed ways to

STUDENT ACTIVISM

Protest overcomes internal tension



Photo: NTEU Twitter

Nabila Chemaïsssem & Justine Landis-Hanley

Students united in protest last Wednesday as part of an Australia-wide “National Day of Action” (NDA) against fee deregulation, despite reports of internal dissatisfaction over poor organisation.

SRC President Chloe Smith said leaders had planned to march to UTS as part of the NDA, but redirected the protest to Michael Spence’s office due to the small crowd upon recommendations from members of Socialist Alternative.

SRC Education Officer Liam Carrigan also said the traditional rally was changed to a ‘speak out’ due to “concerns there had been inadequate building work” around the protest.

Smith said low attendance had been blamed on the National Union of Students’ (NUS) poor organisation.

“There were some disagreements as to what direction [the protest] took,” she said.

“The government made some announcements over the break and some people wanted the demands of the rally to be updated for that.”

“A general feel was that not as much organisation has been put into this NDA as with other ones, but that over the break, I think organisation has stepped up at USyd, UTS and UNSW”.

Honi understands a factional rift emerged after Socialist Alternative members in Sydney accused NUS Education

Officer and NLS member, Max Murphy, of poor organisation, such as failing to provide promotional materials more than three weeks before the rally.

Other activists defended Murphy, saying he successfully built strong NDAs in Queensland and Victoria.

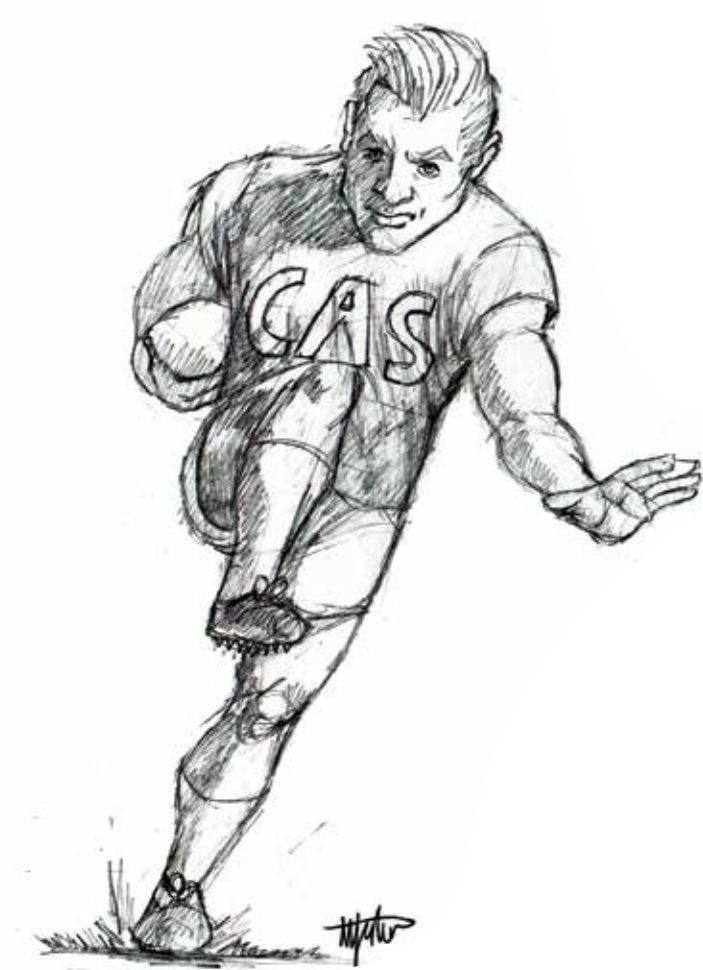
Loretta Picone, a visual arts graduate clad in chains and carrying signs saying “\$100,000+ degrees are Anti-Australian”, was also disappointed in the University’s lack of transparency regarding the closure of the Sydney College of the Arts.

Carrigan conceded that whilst the speak-out had been poorly organised, its ultimate purpose was to build towards a major budget rally scheduled for May 11.

INVESTIGATION

On a pedestal

Pranay Jha investigates the toxic culture of private boys' school sport



I t makes me feel ashamed of who I am as a person even though none of it's true and I feel helpless because I'm honestly too afraid to speak out against them... They can get away with whatever they want with numerous girls and they're all seen as heroes.

Art: Matthew Fisher

I had met Lucy* before. We had been to the same parties and had many mutual friends, but this was the first time I saw the pain behind the otherwise enthusiastic and energetic young woman I knew. In fact, as a former student at The King's School, the double standards she speaks of applied to my friends and me. Devastatingly, this is not her only experience with sexual assault; Lucy recounts four other incidents where private school boys have violated her consent.

One of her worst experiences occurred during Schoolies, where she recalls *"I was definitely taken advantage of in my drunken state and several boys witnessed it and didn't say anything until the morning, when they told all the girls that they were pretty sure I had been raped."*

Boys from certain private schools have a reputation – informed by wealth, privilege and social power – as Sydney's elite. During my six years of high school, I began to notice trends. They congregate at similar bars and parties, where they exercise control over who can attend, and, by extension, who reaps the "benefits" and social cache of these exclusive environments. It is in these environments, where these boys are lauded and placed on a pedestal, that Emily*, a former student at Loreto Normanhurst, suggests their true colours show.

"They are so much greater than the rest of the male species that they are able to do anything," Emily says. Her perception is shared by other interviewees who conceded their tendency to be arrogant and entitled *"really comes across on nights out"*.

As I spoke to more young women, these attitudes appeared to manifest as something far more egregious. Hannah*, a former student at MLC, shared painful memories of being assaulted by multiple students after she passed out at a Head of the River afterparty. Students then made jokes

about the incident in an assembly for the entire school to hear.

Hannah is not the only MLC student to have experienced this. *"One of the worst incidents I can think of was when my friend was throwing up drunk at a party and when I found her this guy was feeling her up,"* she tells me.

Beyond the perpetrators themselves, the issue extended to the impunity their social status afforded them. *"It is really hard to see someone who harasses you or assaults you as a criminal if you and everyone else see him as a good guy,"* Hannah explains.

These experiences made me question my high school years. I drew on not-too-distant recollections of significant dates in the school calendar, like Head of the River. On the Friday morning before the race, the school hall is filled with chatter about how each crew is shaping up, about which afters will be the "rowdiest". The seniors bellow a war cry. The rest of the school joins in. A thousand students lean back and scream at the top of their voice, as the eight "heroes" walk in. Their eyes are forward, heads held high, chest out: they are the pinnacles, the "ideal" GPS boys. At that point, the juniors understand what it means to be a student at this school.

As I spoke to more GPS and CAS boys, it became clear it is not necessarily the sporting achievements that are sought after by students, but the admiration and glory that comes with them. Inextricably linked to this are rigid and destructive constructions of masculinity.

"I think the problem at King's was the snowball effect, there was a group of people who really believed that stuff and the others either followed along or pretended to," my friend Rob tells me. Concomitant with this is the ability to get girls, be invited to parties and to hold a reserved seat at the Royal Oak Double Bay.

As students pursue masculinity, women are seen as accolades on the path to rising in the social hierarchy. My conversations with James*, a former student at King's and a member of the First XV Rugby team were testament to this. *"A girl has the capacity to say yes whilst drunk. Although she's intoxicated, she can still make rational decisions,"* he thinks.

The root of James' claims is clear to me: it lies in the entitlement and privilege that comes hand-in-hand with attending a prestigious private school and being idolised by everyone there. These boys feel they have the right to set their own standards of morality.

None of the schools *Honi* spoke to denied the problem. In fact, they were adamant about fixing it. "A very concerted attempt has been made over the course of the summer and throughout the preparation for the [rugby] season to bring what could be regarded as an atypical culture into line with the norm," says Dr Paul Hines, the Headmaster at St. Ignatius College, Riverview.

Dr David Mulford, the Headmaster at New-

The Greater Public Schools (**GPS**) and Combined Associated Schools (**CAS**) are two sporting associations formed of all boys schools, which are independent, with the exception of Sydney Boys High School. The Kings School, St Ignatius (known as "Riverview") and Newington are GPS schools, all which compete in an annual rowing race called **"Head of the River"**. All of the above are known to drink at the Royal Oak Double Bay. MLC and Loreto Normanhurst are private, all girls schools that have long-standing ties with GPS and CAS school students.

ington College, painted the broader context in which these issues arise. "The media makes it extremely difficult for young men and women to find a moral compass or code for respectful relationships when they socialise together. They see music videos that demean women and portray men who are dysmorphic in their body shape, dismissive or angry and violent."

Amid a similar acknowledgement of the prevalence of these issues, Dr Hawkes, Headmaster at The King's School notes, *"Sure, education will help, but so too will self-control and respect for others."* Herein lies the true problem.

Although all three Headmasters pointed to a range of laudable, considered initiatives to educate against these behaviours, these programs could not account for one fundamental problem: in the choice between being "cool" and being respectful, young men rather tragically appeared to opt for the former.

In support of this, Hannah speaks of *"lots of Facebook incidents of Newington guys ripping into feminism...it was sort of funny because they just did this affirmation thing last White Ribbon Day."* Will*, a Newington alumnus went so far as to say, *"A lot of the students I know, particularly the older years, see it as tokenistic."*

The initiatives of schools are positive and well-intentioned, but a deeply entrenched culture that glorifies rowers and rugby players hampers the responsiveness of students to these programs. It would always be the boys who hooked up with as many girls as possible that would be celebrated, and not those who stood for the rights of young women.

I can predict, with some certainty, the reactions of many GPS and CAS boys who will read this. I know that they will deny the existence of such a culture, that they will reduce it to individual cases, or outwardly reject the existence of such cases at all.

Despite this, one thing simply cannot be avoided. Not a single young woman interviewed was willing to attach her name to her comments, the single consistent reason being fear of retaliation. If that is not a culture that supports rape, I do not know what is.



OPINION

It's in the game(play)

Edward Furst on why Nintendo 64 is still the best

The Nintendo 64 defined the '90s – a time when TV remotes monopolised wireless technology, HD meant hunky dory, and an Xbox wasn't something talked about in polite society.

I decided to revisit the N64 to see how it stacked up against the world of gaming today. How would it compare to games boasting stunning virtual landscapes, advanced character development, in-depth plotlines, and budgets rivalling Hollywood feature films? The verdict: like a fine wine improving with age, the Nintendo 64 is better now than it was 20 years ago. This Penfolds Grange of gaming consoles manages to deliver the same blast of unadulterated (albeit pixelated) fun – I'd even go so far as to say it trumps the graphic masterpieces of today.

Why exactly then, is the Nintendo 64 still so great? What is the appeal, in 2016, of playing games with graphics that could potentially be entered into a modernist art gallery? I would argue that it is not in spite of the N64's outdated technology that its games are still so enjoyable, but because of it.

Developers in the 1990s weren't as concerned with gritty realism or spectacular virtual worlds. Games were designed to be above all else, fun. Ironically, it's as if graphic constraints sharpened developers' impressions of what constitutes engaging gameplay. The result was simple games, with a timeless element, that



Mario Super Smash and Luigi Super Smash: actually mafioso

one suspects the latest Call of Duty lacks. To demonstrate this point, let's fire up some of the old titles. Mario Kart 64, for example, is still a blast to play despite its out-dated graphics. Map designs may not be as colourful as modern iterations, but their simplicity enhances rather than detracts from the fun, leading to more

Don't diversify, decolonise

David Wang thinks we need to break the system, not conform to it

We do not want diversity.

Let me say it again.

We do not want diversity.

Or at least, any person with any genuine concern for justice should not want diversity—for not only does 'diversity' not solve what it is supposed to, it actively harms its own cause. The word 'diversity' evokes a vision of a rainbow of colours. Our university for instance, in living up to its brand image as a "socially inclusive" and "progressive" institution, has launched a new public relations campaign to paste photos of 'diverse-looking' people on to the screens of our library computers. Unfortunately, the realities of structural disadvantage and systemic racism cannot be fixed so easily. Our problem is that colonialism has bequeathed to us fundamentally unjust institutional structures, built on the ideology of white superiority and designed to sustain domination. Without deconstructing these inherently oppressive systems, simply diversifying fundamentally unjust institutions will not eliminate inequality, it will merely support the self-interested co-option

The discourse of diversity performs an invisible violence. Diversity sanitises.

and tokenisation of minoritised bodies.

Take our curriculum for example. Diversity might be the hiring of a lecturer racialised as non-white who works on the history of (white

European) science. It might be discussing how some Chinese intellectuals interpreted Marx's ideas in a course on European political theory, which will no doubt be universalised to something like 'Modern Political Theory'. An entire department may even be created for Indigenous Studies, where 'Indigeneity' is presented as an object of study for privileged Euro-American ways of knowing, unable to speak for itself.

Here, diversifying at best consigns those racialised as non-white to the footnotes of history.

Diversity does not challenge the ideology of white greatness: It does not decentre the hegemonic narrative of the 'West' as the cradle of culture and civilisation, as the driver of history and progress, while the 'non-Western' world can only borrow, react, and helplessly watch on.

The discourse of diversity performs an invisible violence. Diversity sanitises. It whitewashes the history and continuing realities of oppression to create a fiction of an egalitarian, pluralistic present. It allows the privileged to conveniently forget that those racialised as non-white have good reason to reject the conditions of their inclusion. For when we ask for diversity, we are demanding that the oppressed uncritically accept the very ideologies and institutional structures that oppress them because the only way to be included within white institutions is to twist our minds until it is in the image of the white establishment; to think like and be like the white norm. 'Diversity' trades our silence and submission for a place within the margins of a system that is not built for us.

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What has USyd achieved since its last strategic plan?

Nick Bonyhady takes a look back at recent University of Sydney history

By its own reckoning, the University had a lot of successes during its last Strategic Plan (check out last week's *Honi* if you want more on what the Strategic Plan is and why it matters) from 2011-2015. Some of these have been genuinely good for students, some have not, but here is the first of a series on goals that the University has admitted it did not achieve.

In 2014, the University of Sydney Union received a little over \$15 million from its customers, the vast majority of whom purchased food from the Union's outlets across campus like Courtyard, Manning, Wentworth and whatever the Fisher Coffee Cart is now called. Yet one of the University's biggest and most public failed objectives between 2011 and 2015 was to take over that business. The Union was protected by an agreement that expires next year.

When voluntary student unionism (VSU) was introduced by the Howard government in 2006, the University signed an agreement with the USU to allow the Union to operate most food services on campus and hire out prominent University venues like the Quad for events. The revenue from these business opportunities was intended to make up for the \$8.4 million annual shortfall that the Union experienced as a result of VSU. In

return, the Union would continue to create the diverse and exciting university experience that attracts so many students to Sydney.

In 2011, the University decided its funding deal with the USU was not working. In its Green Paper that year, the University argued that because the Union still required "extensive University support" to deliver services to students, the funding arrangement was inefficient. Instead, the University proposed that it should run food services and then grant the Union funding from the general University budget. Sibella Matthews, USU President in 2011, described the University's plan as a threat to the independent "student-run student experience" and opposed it, along with the rest of the USU Board of Directors.

The ensuing negotiations were messy, with the Board claiming that the University "should not have to resort to deception and bullying" and Michael Spence, the Vice-Chancellor, taking the extraordinary step of writing to students via *Honi* in response. By February 2012, neither the Union or the University had convinced the other to back down and the University ended negotiations. Instead, the outcome was determined by the original agreements. The University had the power to terminate its venue hire agreement with

the USU if it gave 12 months notice, which it did. On the other hand, the food services agreement could not be terminated without the consent of both parties, so it remained in force. Serendipitously, the introduction of the Student Services and Amenities Fee more than made up for the Union's lost venue hire money and it continued running food on campus – a situation that has remained to this day.

However, the food services agreement is set to expire next year. In its '2011-2015 Strategic Plan Performance Review', the University lists the reasons for any of its failures and where it hopes to go next, but with regard to food services the report only notes the "USU has an Occupancy License that will remain in place until 2017". Alisha Aitken-Radburn, the current USU President, said the USU was "happily working with the University" on an affiliation agreement and "the application of our option (in the old agreement) to extend for 10 more years". If those negotiations go well, despite the ominous lack of detail in the Performance Review, then that is excellent news for students and a testament to the work that the USU has done to improve food on campus. If not, then the future is more uncertain. Either way, watch this space.

Taken for a ride

Employees in all but name, Jayce Carrano investigates Deliveroo's treatment and training of delivery couriers

Deliveroo's expansion into Australia has happened in leaps and bounds, but if you talk to their contracted couriers, it has been on the back of a series of dangerous shortcuts.

This British food delivery company that launched in Australia last year has attracted local and international controversy over its riders – most of whom are students and backpackers – who are classified as contractors, not employees.

As contractors, riders must deduct tax from their pay and aren't eligible for superannuation or protected by the company in case of an accident.

Brendan, a Deliveroo rider and Sydney University student, said he enjoyed the work but held concerns about rider safety.

"It's a dangerous job and they don't provide insurance because we're not employees," Brendan said.

After enquiring about purchasing insurance, he was told by an agent that "nobody offers insurance for couriers because it's so dangerous".

The issue is Deliveroo riders are employees in all but name, and should therefore be entitled to employee benefits. Without such benefits, they are allocated a level of risk and independence that is unfair, given how difficult it is for them to look after their own interests.

Classifying Deliveroo riders as contractors is dubious on at least three criteria set out by the Australian Taxation Office.

First, contractors should be paid based on a quote they provide. However, Deliveroo riders are paid at a rate determined by Deliveroo :approximately \$16 per hour with an additional \$2.50 per delivery.

Second, contractors must provide the majority of necessary equipment. Yet, Deliveroo requires riders to place a \$200 deposit (which is taken out of their pay) to hire a uniform, branded meal container, phone charger pack and phone holder.

Third, and most significantly, contractors must operate their own businesses. It's farcical that Deliveroo maintains the falsehood that each of its riders are running independent businesses.

Deliveroo creates an imbalanced power relationship where contractors – who should be able to contract on their own terms – shoulder extra risk. This arrangements disproportionately affect young people, who comprise the bulk of the casual workforce.

Pat, a Sydney University student who recently quit Deliveroo, said the company distances itself from riders to maintain this fiction of independence.

"Your only contact is to talk to someone on the phone you've never met before or message them on a messaging app or organise a time to go into the office. It's a very uncompassionate company."

This lack of concern extends into other aspects of business operations. Brendan said that Deliveroo claims to perform checks on riders'

bikes, but none of the couriers I interviewed had ever had their bikes inspected.

Pat described seeing many barely roadworthy "\$60 K-Mart bikes".

Aurora, an Italian student employed by Deliveroo on a working holiday visa, said that while she had to provide a photo of her bike, there was no follow up inspection.

Both Brendan and Pat described the training riders receive as insufficient. They said training lasts between twenty minutes and an hour.

During his first ride, Brendan's accompanying trainer ran a red light. "I didn't want to follow because I thought it was too dangerous," he said.

This absence of proper training coincides with dangerous non-compliance with road rules.

"I've seen riders on footpaths, on the wrong side of the road, and riding up one-way streets," Pat said. "A lot of people are coming from other countries that have different road rules."

Aurora said she did receive information about road rules but added that riders didn't always follow the law.

"We are expected to follow all these very strict rules that would slow down the delivery times. So of course sometimes, always in a safe way, we might have to ride on the footpath."

Deliveroo should be equipping riders for Australian roads, not detaching itself to save costs.

It needs to stop sidelining safety and taking its couriers for a ride.

\$tudent dollars

Justine Landis-Hanley helps you get to know your student representatives

USU Board Election campaigns are set to kick off soon, and a lot of us are falling into a state of voter apathy. Why should we bother voting at all, let alone worry about making an informed decision?

Possibly because, though it can be easy to forget, these roles carry with them not only substantial responsibilities, but substantial compensation. Some student representatives are paid more money per year than the average student will see during their entire Undergraduate degree.

This money comes from students. Given that, it is up to us to act as the check-and-balance for student representatives. This week, I spoke with those elected to paid positions of on-campus power, to compare their roles, responsibilities, and remuneration.

SRC PRESIDENT – Chloe Smith

Pay: Approximately \$39,000 per annum.

The Job: Act as a representative to the undergraduate student body and advocate on their behalf for a variety of issues, like academic standards, safety and equality on campus, and the University Restructure. The President also chairs monthly SRC meetings, executive meetings, and manages the day-to-day operations of the SRC as an organisation.

Average hours per week: 20-25 in the SRC office. However, Chloe explains, the nature of the role requires the President to perform tasks outside of regular office hours, like approving *Honi Soit* pieces, writing reports or attending events on the SRC's behalf.

Fringe Benefits: On-campus office (ft. couch).

SRC GENERAL SECRETARY – Split between Lachlan Ward and Georgia Mantle

Pay: Approximately \$18,000 per annum, which is calculated on a rate of ½ minimum wage. However, because the position is split this year, Lachlan and Georgia each receive 1/3 minimum wage, which totals \$12,500 per annum. "It's weird," according to Lachlan. "Split positions and thus factional deals actually waste the SRC money".

The Job: The role of the General Secretary is to ensure the smooth functioning of the SRC. This includes organising the SRC's O-Week presence, negotiating SSAF funding, preparing the SRC's budget, and assisting office bearers.

Average hours per week: 8-9. However, Lachlan said hours fluctuate depending on the time of year and what tasks are demanding attention: "In January I was around for about 6 hours a day, Monday-Friday, because of the O-Week handbook... but in some weeks, I would be in the office less."

Fringe Benefits: "Not that I know of," Lachlan laughed.

SRC PAID OFFICE BEARER POSITIONS – Dylan Griffiths and Liam Carrigan (Education); Anna Hush and Vanessa Song (Wom*n's)

Pay: The SRC Education Officers and Wom*n's Officers are paid using the same structure as General Secretary.

SUPRA PRESIDENT – Christian Jones

Pay: \$47,742 per annum. This stipend depends on the ARC linkage project stipend for PhD students and is paid at 1.5 times that stipend. For 2016 the President is paid at \$26.30 an hour for 35 hours a week.

The Job: Acting as the General Manager of the SUPRA offices, the CEO of the organisation, and the Chairperson and Spokesperson of the SUPRA council. "There's also a fair bit of admin work to be done," Christian said.

Hours per week: 24-30.

Fringe Benefits: "Morning tea on a staff or Councillor's Birthday? As a substantially smaller organisation than others, we cannot provide other luxuries like meal money or tickets to our staff and office bearers."

SUPRA EXECUTIVE

Other paid positions on the SUPRA Executive include Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Education Officer, Director of Student Publications, and the Equity Officers (Indigenous, Wom*n's, Disabilities, Rural and Regional, Queer, and International). They form the organisation's collective leadership and work to support it in various portfolios.

Each role is paid \$26.25 per hour, but can claim different hours of work per week.

SUPRA Treasurer Joshua Preece said while he can claim up to 14 hours per week, his hours vary "depending on how much is going on at SUPRA, and whether I have external commitments that week (like exam preparation)".

USU BOARD DIRECTORS - Kate Bullen,

Liam Carrigan, Tiff Alexander, Marco Avena, Atia Rahim, Michael Rees, Jack Whitney

Pay: \$4,416 per annum.

The Job: Oversee the strategic direction and finances of the University of Sydney Union (USU). Involves attending monthly Board meetings, reading and evaluating reports by senior staff, and making decisions about which major projects the USU should embark on. Directors also attend working parties in areas such as Communications, Commercial Operations, Governance and Co-Curricular experience, where they discuss operational matters within the USU.

Hours per week: Minimum six hours per week, as well as attending one monthly Board meeting

(3-4 hours), one information Board meeting each fortnight, and one working party meeting for an hour per week. But according to Board Director Michael Rees, "to do the job properly, you really have to do a lot more than the minimum requirements", saying some directors are in the office for 10+ hours per week, and others practically live there.

Fringe Benefits: \$11 allowance per day to spend at USU outlets. According to Michael, Board Directors can apply for a parking permit (because they work on campus), but they still have to pay approximately \$300 per year for the spot. Honi understands Directors sometimes also get free tickets to various Revues.

USU BOARD EXECUTIVE – Liv Ronan

(VP), Ed MacMahon (Honorary Treasurer), Shannen Potter (Honorary Secretary)

Pay: \$13,248 per annum.

The Job: Facilitate the operation of the USU. For example, the Honorary Secretary chairs and attends meetings and committees on specific projects, chairs the C&S Committee, prepares and works on Board Director projects, and reports on activities.

Hours per week: For Honorary Secretary, Shannen Potter said some weeks can demand as many as 20-30 hours, but others less.

Fringe Benefits: Same as Board Directors.

USU PRESIDENT – Alisha Aitken-Radburn

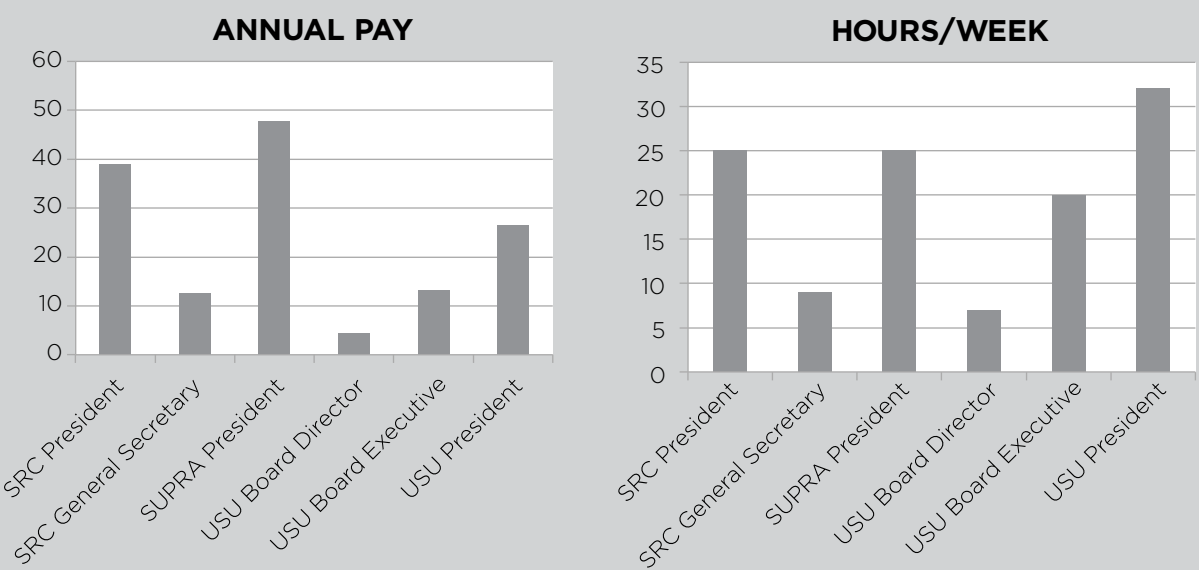
Pay: \$26,496 per annum.

The Job: Manage the Board and act as a representative of the USU on the Board's behalf. According to Alisha, the President is also involved in stakeholder management (i.e. meetings with the University, students, C&S), and works to implement new initiatives and ideas, such as their alumni engagements officer and international students council.

Hours per week: About 32 hours. Alisha says she tries to be in the office for four full days, but there is a "lot of out of hours stuff".

Fringe Benefits: Same as Board Directors.

How much are student representatives paid?



PROFILE

Friendlyjordies: ‘there’s no real satire in Australia’

Riki Scanlan asked the YouTube star about modern activism and his recent donations ‘scandal’

“Fucking BuzzFeed.” Jordan Shanks – the face of Friendlyjordies – slouches into Yen’s Vietnamese on Botany Road, Redfern. He’s frustrated with the media fallout after an April 6 BuzzFeed article ‘revealed’ his videos are funded by unions, GetUp, Greenpeace, and other left-wing organisations. His YouTube channel has achieved notoriety amongst young Australian men¹ for its fast-paced blend of hyperbolic character assassinations, punchy facts and fury at the Liberal Party.

He orders a noodle soup and pours some tea for both of us. He talks just as he does on YouTube, his speech peppered with vocal impersonations of his targets of ridicule, and punctuated by rolling his head back with sharp, barking laughter. Much of his humour, he admits, comes from his performance as this or that character. He says he isn’t “someone like Dave Hughes or Greg Fleet, who have a naturally hilarious presence”.

The Friendlyjordies YouTube channel began in 2013, after he graduated from the University of New South Wales, where he had learned the ropes of comedy and video editing through his involvement in stand-up comedy shows, revues, and the UNSW ARC podcast. The channel went viral after he produced satirical videos around the 2013 election. Jordan believes his following developed “because there’s no real satire in Australia. There is [satire], but it’s really safe. It’s not appealing to a certain market, it’s aiming for seven and seventy year olds”. He thinks it dawned on Generation Y that “holy shit, there’s a lot of old people that we never speak to who live on the Central Coast who



Photo: YouTube

“Australia’s just got this lazy underdog mentality – it’s very likable. And at the same time very frustrating.”

are going to vote for this guy [Tony Abbott]”. But Friendlyjordies isn’t just Jordan. There’s a team of editors, researchers, and producers behind the scenes. Jordan works with a core group of four people (producer, cameraman, editor and social media manager), and occasionally they take on another editor and researcher. The team came about after the 2013 election, when Jordan’s producer pushed him to keep on creating content and “build the Friendlyjordies machine”. Three years later, they bring in enough revenue in advertising, merchandise and donations for Jordan and his team to make a living.

Some of that income, as ‘revealed’ by BuzzFeed, is derived from sponsorships from unions and other left-wing organisations. A recent video encouraging youth to enrol to vote contained an authorisation from Dave Oliver, the Secretary of the ACTU, which is the peak body for Australian unions. Another video hammering the Liberal Party for planning to deregulate the TAFE system is tied to a petition website set up by the Australi-

1. 85% of his audience is men. Specifically “nerds or hipsters”. He likes nerds—perhaps not in real life—and hates hipsters, though he self-identifies as one.

2. In fact, he believes activists should “be like [him] and just be computer geeks.”

an Manufacturing Workers’ Union. But these sponsorships do not represent an uninterrupted income stream. Jordan says he maintains 100% editorial control and “because they believe in the cause and want to keep the channel going, they chip in money here or there. Essentially, it is a donation for what I was going to do anyway”. An email, written by necessity in the soulless style of a research grant, is sent out to left-wing organisations ahead of the release of a new video to solicit funding and keep the machine running.

To Jordan, his work is online activism, with his videos acting as “virtual protests of two hundred thousand people”.² He sees satire as a “gateway drug” for political engagement. People think politics is complex, he says, but it’s actually “pretty fucking simple. Liberals will always vote in the interests of corporations – that’s all you need to know. Labor will compromise with corporations to get a better deal for workers and the average Australian, and the Greens will take the moral high ground. That’s the gist of it. I think that’s the power of satire: it can get people interested in [politics] who otherwise wouldn’t be.”

It’s (young) (male) Australians and their grassroots disaffection with the Liberal Party that Friendlyjordies has tapped into and now relies upon for success. Some of them are now bothered by his apparent contradiction: being a grassroots voice, but also taking money from established political organisations. I ask myself – if I were offered money by unions to produce a satirical video with views I endorsed, would I

take the money? Jordan’s views after sponsorship are the same as they were before: his politics have remained solidly pro-union and anti-corporate. In conversation, he maintains a prominent streak of pragmatism: while the “values of the Greens are obviously correct, they are an activist party whereas Labor is a governing party”. There is largely no difficulty in identifying his sentiments from the videos he produces. But his pragmatism doesn’t tend to go to air.

He defends, for example, offshore refugee detention centres (despite opposing them being “obviously correct”) as a necessary concession made to ‘Gosford’ – what he calls average Australia. I question him on his tone of disdain for ‘Gosford’ and he backtracks a little, saying: “I like them, they’re alright people. Australia’s just got this lazy underdog mentality – it’s very likable. And at the same time very frustrating. They do agree with that general Liberal Party gist: ‘Well, if it’s not broken, don’t fix it.’ They never want to aspire to anything greater; they just want everything to remain exactly the same.” He pauses. “So, yeah, some little disdain.” In essence, it’s his belief that there’s only so much that can be done to shift people’s views – and compromise is necessary.

Jordan sums his politics up best: “The Liberal Party are evil, while the Labor Party are just a party that [the Left] have disagreements with”. I disagree with him, and I disagree with his preference for politics of compromise over politics of mass social movements – but, at the end of the day, having a Liberal-bashing political satirist is better than not. Plus, at his best, he’s fucking funny.

The case of his life

How an SRC lawyer and a refugee took the government to the High Court and won

Words by Naaman Zhou

Photography by Tom Joyner



They met in a small room in west Homebush. On one side, the lawyer. Thomas McLoughlin: late-forties and working for free, tall in his shorts and hiking boots. On the other, the client. A young man known only in the documents as WZARH. Sri Lankan and open-hearted, he had thick hair, a thin frame and three scars down his right arm.

They had heard of each other, but had not met. A man called Dr John Sweeney stood there, the bridge. A veteran coordinator at the Edmund Rice Centre, a Catholic social justice agency, Sweeney was a frequent mediator between the refugees of Sydney’s west and the city’s pool of pro-bono lawyers. To be here, McLoughlin had followed a

daisy-chain of contacts; the initial introduction to Sweeney coming from his previous job for an expert solicitor, Stephen Blanks.

WZARH was an asylum seeker caught in the machinery of due process. A Tamil, he had arrived in November 2010 and applied for refugee status four days before Australia Day. The Department of Immigration had mailed him back a rejection, but something was amiss. A disappearance. And that was why Thomas was here.

By all accounts, their first meeting was fairly dry. The case, says Thomas, “was a technical legal challenge, all about procedural fairness on the papers”.

“There was little on the day he could have told me to change his prospects.”

What Thomas left with was an impression:

WZARH was worried and quite alone. Honest and sincere, his personality hadn’t been damaged by the torture he had suffered, though his body, quite visibly, had.

“He was willing to put his trust in us,” says Thomas, “and that indicated to me he was a person willing to see the good side of Australian society, and the Australian legal system.”

Over the next three years, WZARH would come up against that system in a way few asylum seekers do. He and Thomas clambered up through the Federal Circuit Court, appeared (on appeal) before the full Federal Court, and in 2015, landed before the High Court. There, he would be victorious on paper, but perhaps a little less triumphant in the long coda of real life that followed.



He was from the north of Sri Lanka. The holder of a variety of jobs, he had studied diesel engines, worked with wood and paint, wound motors in Vavuniya. When he was 16, he was assaulted by the navy, who controlled his village.

His testimony to the Department of Immigration reveals how the trouble began. When WZARH was the leader of a local youth club, he was summoned to meet a pro-government paramilitary organisation, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP). He did not attend. In the next election, he campaigned for a rival candidate. In March 2004, the EPDP planned a public meeting and he and other Tamil youths blocked the area with their bodies.

That evening the EPDP came on their motorcycles. They took him to their camp where, the court documents say, he sustained injuries to his head, his left arm and his back. They cut his arm with razor blades and pressed his testicles until he fainted. He still suffered the inflammation four years later and halfway across the world, when he had to be hospitalised for the pain. When the EPDP released him that night, they said he would die if he returned.

Two different representatives of the Department of Immigration heard this story in two very different ways. The first, known for clarity's sake as the first Independent Merits Reviewer (IMR), met WZARH in person. They had an in-depth interview, recorded on tape and transcribed. WZARH told his story and the IMR jotted down notes for officials to cite later.

The work began to proceed in the way these things are supposed to proceed. The tape was converted to type, the paper trail grew fat. The day of the interview, the IMR had attempted to actualise the whole business to WZARH, to explain the knotty concept of "due process" in digestible terms. It came as a promise:

"I will undertake a fresh rehearing of your claims and make a recommendation as to whether you are a refugee. This will be given to the Minister for consideration."

That did not happen.

At a date that is unclear, and for a reason that was "unspecified" even to the High Court,

WZARH's reviewer gave up the case.

With the first IMR now "unavailable", a replacement stepped in. But while the former had interviewed the asylum seeker, the substitute did not. He decided to finish his inherited judgement using his predecessor's transcripts, tapes and incomplete thoughts.

Later court documents say that WZARH was given no explanation why his first reviewer disappeared. He was left unaware that the person now judging his fate was someone he had never met. No one even told him his reviewer had been replaced.

It was a hasty jigsaw: the first IMR compiled the evidence, the second delivered the verdict. In less than six months (depending on when the first IMR abdicated), the ruling was handed down. It was a no.

In this messy, late-stage interchange, Thomas, via Sweeney, saw the glimmer of a legal challenge. "Here he was with a visible physical injury as a claim for persecution, and the reviewer never saw him.

"It's comparable to anyone in Australia, going to court, having their case heard from one judge, and turning up on the day of judgement and finding someone else there."

With WZARH's consent and Sweeney's assistance, a claim was filed in the Federal Circuit Court – the whole thing headlined by a concert musician-turned-barrister, Paul Bodisco.

Thirteen storeys above the William St Cross-City tunnel, the judgment, when it came, was surprisingly quick. A dismissal made dismissively. In the Federal Circuit, the lowest court available, they felt the sensation of falling at the first hurdle.

Thomas and Bodisco argued the instinctive principle: WZARH's decision-maker had never seen his primary evidence – those razor-blade scars. He been denied the chance to be heard in person, and with this, procedural fairness.

They came up against Justice Kenneth Raphael, English-born and nearing the compulsory retirement age of 70. He had a reputation for conservatism. "You could never accuse him of having a soft heart for refugees," said a separate source

Front desk of the Edmund Rice Centre

A five year battle

- Nov 2010** ● **WZARH arrives in Australia**
- Jan-Apr 2011** ● **Applies for refugee status and is rejected**
- Jan 2012** ● **Interviewed by first IMR**
- **First IMR disappears**
- Jul 2012** ● **Second IMR rejects him**
- Oct 2013** ● **Loses in the Federal Circuit**
- Oct 2014** ● **Wins in the full Federal Court**
- Nov 2015** ● **Wins in the High Court**

in the legal profession. When Justice Raphael retired in 2015, he became a consultant for the very law firm, Sparke Helmore, who represented the Department of Immigration that day.

"He appeared to be hostile to our counsel," says Thomas. "You'd be forgiven for thinking it was a hopeless situation."

The decision he delivered would later be overturned, unanimously, by three judges of the Federal Court proper. But on the day it was bruising.

Raphael sided with the second IMR, saying WZARH's story was inconsistent and unconvincing. The Tamil politician WZARH claimed to campaign for had been in Colombo when WZARH said he was in Jaffna. This, said the IMR, meant that WZARH was not actually a dissident.

Though he accepted the claims of torture, he denied that WZARH carried the political profile to be persecuted if sent home.

Thus, Raphael ruled the in-person interview immaterial. Even if the second IMR had seen the scars, this wouldn't have negated the appar-

ent inconsistencies in his testimony, nor had an effect upon the lack of any present danger. The scars were WZARH's past. Supposedly, his future looked clear.

Years later, Thomas is still frustrated by that day. "As a lawyer you have to be careful, because you don't have control over many things. And working in refugee matters can be quite disheartening. I try to mediate that with a professional distance, but you do feel a loyalty to these refugee clients. I only have a few – there are some refugee lawyers who take on a lot. But this was the first case where I had that sense of main responsibility.

"There aren't many clients in general practice where, if it all goes to custard, they might die."

In the food-court basement that is the University of Sydney's Student Representative Council, Thomas' day-to-day clients present an array of different challenges. When I first meet him, he is making filing cabinets from old fruit boxes. At any given time, he's a man on two jobs.

His current role, split with his colleague, Annie Zeng, is part catch-all legal advisor (dealing with everything from academic appeals to car accidents) and part counsellor for any student who walks in. That day, he is tracking a student's bail hearing while reconstituting cardboard walls, storing his notes where once there were Sunkist lemons.

Thomas and Annie offer full-time, free legal support to the student body. Annie has a migration agent's license and fluency in four languages. For international students – often unmoored and under the pump – she and Thomas are a valuable resource.

Despite how hard the SRC offices are to find, the reception most days is full of students seeking their advice.

*Names in this article have been changed.

they had, were contained within the legal documentation all the way up to the High Court. Even as they settled the index at the registrar's desk, Thomas says he made sure they were close to the top of the pile.

He wonders if the photos played a major role. Certainly, when they went back to the Federal Court, twelve months later, they won. In the High Court a year after that, the verdict was even more emphatic.

The most satisfying part of the victory was perhaps the pettiest. In this far-fetched triumph in the highest court in the land, the whole by-the-bootstraps turnaround is best captured by a catty rebuke in the stenographer's record.

As the lawyers fronted to the bench, the barrister for the Department, performing verbal calisthenics before the eventual lunge, asked for an estimate of how long the trial was to run for. "Yes," said Justice Kiefel, "[Your appeal] was said to be a one-day case. It cannot possibly be that? It is a short point."

"I think we will finish within that time," said the barrister, on the back foot.

"Within one day?"

"Shorter than that time."

"Yes," said Kiefel, "I would have thought perhaps lunchtime would see us out."

It was, after that, one-way traffic in WZARH's favour.

A year before, in the Federal Court, the judges had ruled against the Department in no uncertain terms. They said that, while WZARH had no right to an in-person hearing, the substitution of reviewers was a "fundamental change to the administrative process" that happened "without the respondent being alerted". The first IMR had made a promise of how things would happen, and once reneged upon, this became a breach of procedural fairness. In short, "they did not do what they said they would."

Thomas saw this decision as fairly indisputable, yet the Department – in a move that some saw as somewhat frivolous – appealed to the High Court.

"Given the strength of the 3-0 decision of the full Federal Court, it seemed curious that the Minister was so willing to challenge it," Thomas tells me.

Hence, Justice Kiefel's, and the High Court's, apparent irritation as to their time. In the long-awaited final word on the matter, they affirmed the decision the full Federal Court had already made.

There was a rhythm to the whole thing – every argument from the Department matched by two queries from the bench. The transcript paints a landscape of constant rebuttal:

"DEPARTMENT: There is no general obligation for [the decision-maker] to conduct any interview...But then Justice Gordon's question, with respect, is a little different. It –

JUSTICE GAGELER: I think it is exactly the same. JUSTICE GORDON: It is the same."

Harried, the Department barrister took up the majority of the hearing. WZARH's barrister, a man called Shane Prince, was allowed to speak nearly uninterrupted.

Thomas grins. "It was awesome to be sitting in the High Court, across the lake from where I was a law student at ANU, watching five High Court judges do tag-team demolition of a government senior barrister."

In a way, it was fairly anticlimactic. A kind of limp dismissal, done in eight A4 pages; no fireworks. For WZARH and his team, it was a triumph, but crucially it was no salvation. All the victory meant was that his refugee visa application would be reassessed, not necessarily approved. Six months later, WZARH has still not heard anything. Not so much a winner as a survivor, strung out on a series of bridging visas.

"I felt proud we'd served him well," says Thomas. "He now has a fighting chance to make a contribution to Australia."

The provision of that chance is really the core of what lawyers like Thomas do for their clients. A wrangling of paperwork, a know-how of legal machinery, the dry ability to see violations of process when they happen and let their clients know.

Beaming, Thomas says, "it's been the best legal outcome I've ever had. Easily".

In March, I visit Thomas again. Back in the Federal Circuit Court on a rainy day, it's a new client but the same motions. The man from the student union (working in his own hours) against the Department of Immigration. It's another loss for the former.

The only question the judge asks Thomas is whether he'll dispute the amount of the costs his client must pay.

We wait for the client, Karim* – a Hazara with a missing leg to cope with and a wife, daughters and elderly mother to worry about. "I have some bad news," Thomas says, and shakes his hand.

Over coffee, Karim says his teeth hurt and Thomas tries to find out who his dentist is. Only once that is sorted do they plan the appeal. Karim asks him which court it will be in.

"Probably Federal."

"Well what court is this?"

"It says Federal," Thomas explains, "but it's the Federal Circuit Court, it's a bit lower."

In Afghanistan, Karim was a professional driver. Good at navigating, he is at this moment nevertheless lost.

Thomas draws him a quick sketch of the Australian legal system. He circles High Court. "It's the top one," he offers.

He's been there before.



Meow meow

Dan Thomas reflects on the time he nearly watched his friend die

It was the evening of a close friend’s birthday and the night was as young as our spirits were high. The plans were typical: pre-drinks at a friend’s place before heading to a nightclub in the city. These nights have a predictable success rate, making them something of a rite of passage for young people in Sydney new to freedom. We had the essentials: a small but close collection of mates, plenty of alcohol, a destination to dance, and of course, some MDMA powder or “molly”. Sweaty euphoria, unashamed dance moves, exciting conversations with new people and a sudden appreciation for the genius of deep house; the charm of these nights is questionable when deconstructed, but sublime in the moment.

As we finished off the last of the booze and got ready to leave for the city, a friend snorted his MDMA. It was then that our assumption of predictability shattered. In moments he hunched over, moaning and shaking uncontrollably. In less than thirty minutes he had become deranged, unresponsive, disturbingly incoherent and intensely disassociated. He’d clearly been sold something that was not MDMA.

His heart rate and pulse were dangerously high and his kidneys were nearing failure. Had he been without medical attention for longer, he could have died.

As time elapsed, his descent into catatonia deepened and our worries amplified. A panicked Google search of his observable symptoms revealed

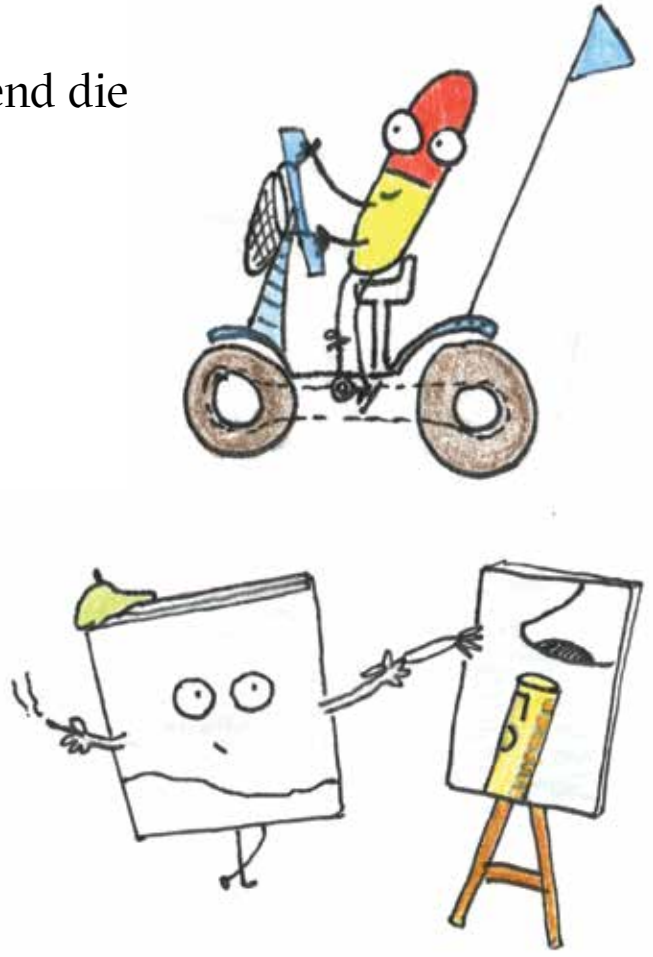
some insidious prospects, creating a grim shortlist of proverbial murderers falsely sold as MDMA: PCP, bath salts, methamphetamine and synthetic heroin. The prospect of fatality was beyond what a group of drunken mates were equipped to deal with, and so an ambulance was called.

His heart rate and pulse were dangerously high and his kidneys were nearing failure. Had he been without medical attention for longer, he could have died. One more moment of hesitation would have made all the difference. What my friend had bought as MDMA was identified by the hospital as the bath-salt mephedrone, known by the street name “meow meow” and steeped in infamy for its “zombie-like” effects after an American user ate a civilian’s face whilst high on it. Research added parricide, genital self-mutilation and suicide as the sadistic accolades of this innocently named chemical imposter.

In Sydney the ritual of the MDMA night out has reached a level of normality akin to the use of alcohol and tobacco. On this night, we had sourced it from a frequented, relatively trusted and personal dealer. The friend who had taken it was a safe and mature drug user. Whilst I would like to believe this was a one-off experience, or a cautionary tale to learn from, until drug policy changes, these risks are unavoidable.

At this point the arguments for drug legalisation are clear, and commonly known. Even if the government isn’t for drug legalisation it has an important obligation to address the increasing fatalities caused by imposter drugs. The most effective preventative means of this is drug-testing kits: pocket-sized solutions, which with a simple chemical colour reaction, corresponds to a chart indicating drug type.

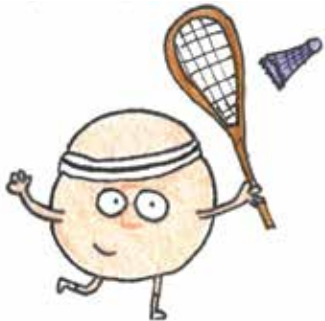
Needle distribution and injection rooms are a step in the right direction, and making drug-testing kits available should be the next one. Both night clubs and music festivals currently forbid the



Art: Elise Bickley

distribution and sale of these kits, as it’s thought they implicitly acknowledge drug use. With that, comes an attitude of blaming users instead of the system which encourages the distribution of these callous imposter drugs, an attitude that must be rectified for young people’s safety.

It was the evening of a close friend’s birthday and the night was as young as our spirits were high. We thought we’d bought some MDMA but a mate’s testing kit revealed it to be an imposter, so we sacked the shit, had a couple more drinks and continued another great night out.



*Names have been changed

alternative to the normative culture of monogamy. Phrases like “I need to feel special”, “I just wouldn’t want to compete” and “I’d just get jealous” are alarmingly commonplace.

The Group wasn’t a political statement for me. It wasn’t a way of rebelling or being “edgy”. It was something Rowan started for logistical purposes. The same way you might start a chat with a group of friends, a tabletop role-play gaming group, to organise speeches for a 21st birthday or a movie night. Take a look at your group chats. See why you start them and what they become. I guarantee most of them will start logistically and devolve into shit memes and that basketball game iPhone users get with Facebook messenger. What we deem strange is often eerily normal.

The Group was and continues to be primarily a source of communication and safety. I feel welcome and happy there as an ex-romantic partner because it goes beyond my relationship with Rowan. I consider myself friends with all members of The Group, and I will say it now and whenever asked, that it’s not as strange as anyone wants it to be.

Polycule: used to describe any system of connected non-monogamous relationships.

Inside a college festival

Lis Salander crossed the ticket line

Any college student will tell you it’s supposed to be the looest and most unforgettable night of the social calendar. The stench of urine floats from portaloos, alcohol flows freely (metaphorically, that is) and students lose all inhibition because, as Erasmus would tell you, “no party is any fun unless seasoned with folly”.

Most colleges at the University of Sydney host their own festival. From St. Paul’s Surreal Sounds to Wesley’s Carnivale, these ticketed parties draw big-name DJs and corporate sponsors.

But behind the scenes the hype is contagious and spreads like wildfire, driven, of course, by the seniors’ need to have more intoxicated bodies in attendance than any other college.

The events become so financially consuming that in order to earn a profit or just break even, colleges must sell more tickets each year. First year college students become the festivals’ foot soldiers. They have to change their profile pictures, wear cultish T-shirts around campus, and sell as many tickets as possible.

They have to do anything to secure the wishes of their commanders: seniors and social executives. But like war to a pacifist, the process is both

unnecessary and could be done in a more efficient and humane manner.

Due to an intense desire to please, college Freshers undergo a tremendous amount of social pressure. Gathered in groups, they try squeezing as much money out of as many random Facebook friends and campus strangers as possible. They are met with warnings like, “the last group to have not sold all tickets will be on bar or clean up duties during and after the event”. Freshers, fearing the loss of an epic night, shell out money from their own accounts to pay for all their tickets. Some transfer up to \$3,000 in the hopes that it will be refunded, often guaranteeing a financial loss for whoever had the optimism and aspirations.

When the weeks pass by and the hard copy tickets still remain, all Freshers are told that this is partially their fault. The tickets must be sold or else, as the threat often follows, the Freshers will have to buy them. Fear turns to desperation as some Freshers from cities and rural towns outside of Sydney must admit they have no friends left to sell tickets to. It becomes a very expensive night for these individuals.

For the Freshers who have an RSA license

instead of a full and ready bank account, they become the servers of alcohol and the recipients of bad news (no one wants to be sober at a festival). No Fresher will dare to speak up or argue with the status quo when a negative comment or unfavourable mumble could label them an arrogant Fresher. “Frarogance”, is the humiliating epithet thrown in front of fellow collegians or used to intensely shame freshers on private college social media pages.

As a fresher, it became clear to me that the social “bonding” at college is often achieved through mutual fear and public shame. Rituals continue even after OWeek. Every year, the Freshers are fresh, but their festival roles remain the same. It’s a tradition that all Freshers must go through in order to be accepted. The mentality exists that “if we had to do it, then so do you”. The senior collegians enable the cycle to continue when realistically the most effective method of getting bodies to parties has moved beyond word-of-mouth and on to screens. If the rules of engagement have changed, is Fresher ammunition still necessary? Or are collegians unable to change their stripes, in the same way the colleges are unable to shed their colonial sandstone walls?

Unsuspecting victims

Nina Dillon Britton questions an unregulated industry prone to abuse

The amateur artistic “muse” has been a staple of Western artistic communities for centuries; the romanticised, beautiful young woman, painted by the older (male) artistic genius. Contemporary artistic communities, in many ways, have carried on the tradition. Today though, young women are recruited through their networks of artsy friends or straight from Instagram.

The clearly established hierarchies in commercial fashion modelling between the photographer

*Names have been changed, stories are anonymous

and model are culpable – at least in part – for stories of abuse and assault à la Terry Richardson. But, what of modelling in the “progressive” art world? Female artists are more common, it’s more sociable – often not involving any financial component – with the artists and models often both part of the same local artistic community. Surely those conditions would mitigate abuse?

turn when abuse takes place. This is particularly so given most are amateur models; the artist often has a monopoly on any information about the rights of the model. Though most models reported artists asked them to sign contracts afterwards, a number reported not fully understanding the scope or significance of them. One simply states: “I just never fucking read them.”

The polyamorous group chat

Jess Zlotnick was in a group chat with her partner and their partners

Two weeks after Rowan* and I started dating I asked them if they were okay with me seeing other people while we were dating. “No,” they replied. “Only I may see other people. I see enough for the both of us. Have one of mine”. Sarcasm aside, their point was that of course I could. A few months ago, Rowan started a group chat with me, their other partners Alex, Tom, Logan, Anna, and Anna’s boyfriend Kane so, as they claimed, they could “get away with sending a group message for Valentine’s Day”. We’ll call it The Group.

I knew Rowan to be polyamorous before we started dating. I still wanted to make sure they were fine with my being poly, which I wouldn’t have known, and would have been concerned about had I not straight up asked them.

The Group captured all the good things about polyamory, because above all, it was about communication. The Group was a way of escaping and dealing with that. What separates polyamory from monogamy is that there is an openness and honesty that addresses and deals with the need to be special, the need to feel loved without being in competition with anyone else, and the naturally occurring emotion of jealousy. Bottom line is that if you genuinely love someone then it should fill you with joy to see your partner happy, even if it’s not with you.

There was not and still isn’t anything strange

about being in contact with Rowan’s other partners. For one thing, dating the same person meant we had substantial things in common (aside from dating the same person), enough to get along at the very least. What we didn’t have in common was compensated by the sheer fact that being part of a non-normative relationship is a great source of comedy. The bulk of my experience of The Group was sharing stupid photos and making puns.

“The Group wasn’t a political statement for me. It wasn’t a way of rebelling or being “edgy”. It was something Rowan started for logistical purposes.”

If there’s something incomprehensible about the idea that one might be in contact with, and (god forbid) get along with the people your partner dates then I don’t know what it is. Polyphobia is rife because polyamory is still considered an

*Names have been changed



Art: Jess Zlotnick

Relationship anarchy

Courtney Thompson asks why we prioritise romance over friendship

There is a scene in the fourth season of *Sex and the City* (stay with me) where the four women are at their usual jaunt (an ambiguous café in New York City that probably charges \$5 for hot water with lemon) and Carrie (stay with me) is bemoaning the lack of a romantic partner in her life, or as she put it “no god-damn soulmate”. This elicits a surprising response from Charlotte (usually most preoccupied with finding her own romantic life-partner), who says, “well, maybe we can be each others’ soulmates and then we could let men be just these great, nice guys to have fun with.”

This suggestion, that perhaps the three women sitting in front of her are her soul mates (a proposition that is confirmed as the show progresses), is one that is particularly poignant to me at this stage of my life.

I’ve recently been plagued by the question of why we prioritise romantic relationships over



platonic relationships. Born out of a frustration with friends who repeatedly seek validation through attention steeped in romantic attraction, I haven’t been able to shake the nagging question of really, why am I not good enough for my friends? And more to the point, why do their romantic interests always – by default – take priority?

Within mainstream western culture, romantic love has been taken and represented as inherently more valuable than platonic love. At almost every turn, romance is centred and in increasingly damaging ways at that.

Women in particular are socialised to believe that because it is our ‘duty’ to reproduce, our value is rooted in our reproductive capabilities and finding a mate to reproduce with. Obviously, this narrative is exceptionally heteronormative, and not applicable to, yet it helps partially explain why women in

of this – apparently – an exceptional bond is forged.

When we are talking about the role of sex in differentiating platonic from romantic relationships, people suggest it comes down to the chemicals involved. A mix of dopamine, norepinephrine (adrenalin) and Serotonin, chemicals so strong they are often compared to the likes of cocaine and nicotine. Chemicals aside though, people have casual sexual relationships and some people in relationships don’t have sex, so why should we blindly accept romantic love as more worthy than platonic love?

Relationship anarchists agree with me. Relationship anarchy is the term used to describe a philosophy of love whereby all love is infinite and equal. It posits a world where relationships develop organically, but without being placed in any hierarchical structure. It radically reconceptualises how we understand

No chance to dream

Peter Walsh needed a lot of duty free to forget Fisher’s new sleep pods

Attention misguided slobs who wrap jumpers around heads in a fitful attempt to sleep in Fisher Library: you are taken care of. The University has installed New Age pods to sleep in. The plural is a misnomer, there is a pod (singular) and it sits behind the palisades on level four, looking like the unwanted byproduct of a steamy encounter between a massage chair and a hooded hair dryer at the Westfield Christmas party.

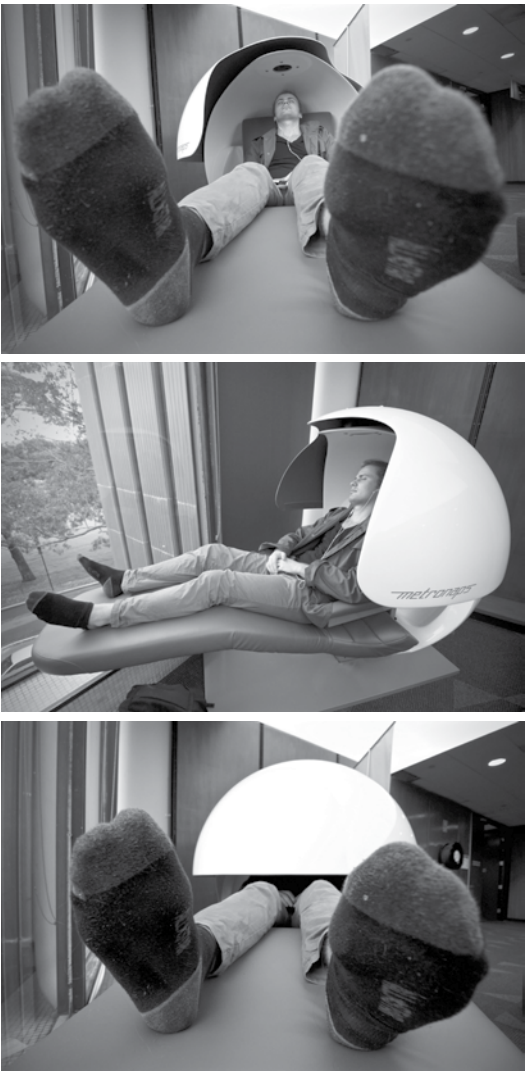
Lie down in the machine. This takes some doing – be brave, the looks you get on approaching sit between curiosity and contempt – and circle the visor around your head. Darkness! Or rather, a budget airline’s approximation of the dark – a near-dark grey interrupted by sheer light entering in through the windows overlooking Victoria Park, through the space between the visor and the chair.

Maybe this wasn’t the best place to put the sleep pod (especially considering the number of quiet, windowless spaces available on the lower and upper levels), but this is not a sleep pod so much as it is a manifesto pod. A Welcome To The 21st Century for your University Experience pod, where sleep – like education, or campus culture, or the diuretic stream of All Food and Drink – is reduced to discrete interactions negotiated in micro-transactions. Expect sleeping on the lawns to be banned by 2019.¹

But maybe I should turn the pod on. Immediately, the thing’s a-whirl with vibrations and music and-huh?—lights? Pale blue ones like the Hotline Bling video. Leaning over to read the instructions—ah—it tells you to “experiment with music and lighting”. My 20-minute counter drops to 18. The machine is quite loud, and only a pace removed from a study space on level four, and if you’re the kind of person who puts stock in negative energy then bring a dream catcher, because a palpable amount of bad mojo is directed towards the pod.²

By fiddling with the buttons, you can alter your recline: from slouching teenager, to lounging monarch, to full coffin supine. Same too with the music and the vibrating and the lights, which can shift in intensity and tone or be—and maybe this should be the default position?—entirely done away with.

In the end, the economy airline metaphor sticks. You wake in the pod sticky, with all the accumulated grease of an overnight flight and a commensurate amount of rest. It is a vessel not of comfort but of blunt utility. And from it you emerge, leaving as you would a plane, but with one crucial difference. You’re exactly where you left.



Photos: Tom Joyner

1. The students seated around the University of Sydney® Fisher Library™ Sleep Zone© are sketchy as fuck and I forgive you for not wanting to leave your bags unattended while you snooze. Your options here are limited to coddling your bag like a child, or padlocking each zip and bikelocking the whole mess to the base of the machine, as if it were mining equipment or a particularly old tree.
2. Though they may have just heard the afore “sketchy as fuck” sidenote.

relationships in our lives; just because you are romantic with one person, doesn’t necessarily mean that that relationship is more worthy of time and energy as one that is not romantic or sexual in the same way.

While relationship anarchy evolved out of polyamory discourse, the philosophies are distinct. A polyamorous person still has the capacity to prioritise their romantic relationships (even if they are plural rather than singular) and thus can be a “romance supremacist”.

Relationship anarchy extends beyond the best friend versus the boyfriend. It means taking all relationships – such as the one you have with someone in a tutorial,

with a co-worker, or even a sibling – and valuing them for what they are. Rather than trying to place them within a hierarchy, embracing the fact that they each give you something unique.

By reconceptualising our relationships in this way, it also allows space for the possibility that when any relationship ends, it’s not irrational to feel intensely upset, in the way that society only reserves for a “break-up”. Too often do we delegitimise our emotions because “it wasn’t that serious”, or “we only dated for a few months” and by extension, because the relationship was platonic and not romantic. These reactions are defined by

the same intuition, that which gives every relationship a normative value, instead of a personally defined one.

Relationship anarchy, like any political theory, is a mode of adjusting our thinking. It does not mean a romantic relationship can’t be the most important one in someone’s life, it just means it isn’t by default. It doesn’t mean your tutorial friend has to be as important as your sister, but it means they can be. By challenging the assumptions that underlie relationships, we empower their potential. So next time you start to be a Carrie, maybe let Charlotte play devil’s advocate.

The history of ‘authentic’ curry

Lamya Rahman muses on food

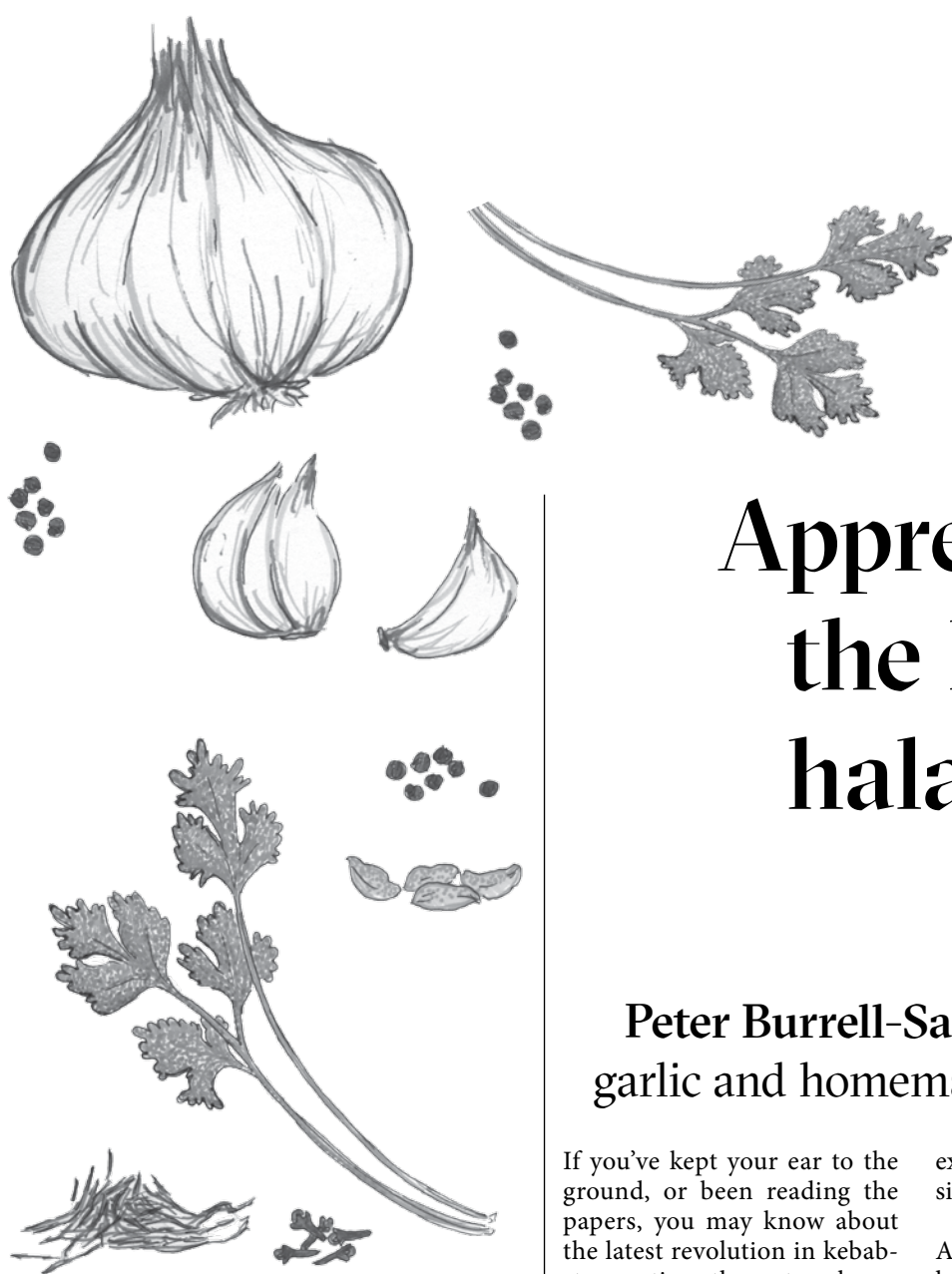
Medieval curry powder – a mixture of cinnamon, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, and bay leaves – was a sought after commodity during the late Middle Ages. It was so rare and in such high demand that the price of one sachet was almost equivalent to a bobbin of silk, leaving curry powder only accessible to the wealthiest members of society. Some historians argue that the demand for curry powder was rooted in its necessity – spices having good value as preservatives in a time before refrigeration – but I argue that curry powder is just really really good. French nobles weren’t adding it to slabs of fresh meat and fish to purely increase shelf life, they were making their own curries.

Unfortunately, the highbrow curry, effectively dismantled by British colonial propaganda, didn’t last into the mid-1900s. Because colonialists considered the Indian Other as uncivilised, curry was too. It became a messy dish fit for the lower rungs of society.

In some ways this colonial narrative was a self-fulfilling prophecy. The popularity of curry among the British working class saw Indian chefs compromise their authenticity in favour of food that could be made faster and sold more cheaply. Gone was the laboured love of grinding chillies and slowly braising meat in spice mixes. In was bright red food colouring, standardised menus and packaged curry powders.

Ironically enough, this reductionist take on curry became the new standard of authenticity. Highbrow curry was a foreign concept. Now curry was fast food, drunk food, cheap food and hungover food all at once. It wasn’t until the 1970s that white patrons gradually realised that the curry they were consuming was unrecognisable to people in India, begging the question that if the homeland couldn’t recognise it, was it actually authentic?

To mediate that concern, a greater emphasis



Art: Ann Ding

was placed on how curry was made. It wasn’t authentic unless the curry was made in a tandoor (1970s), in a karahi (1980s) or in a balti (1990s). The reversion to more traditional cooking tools was meant to be emblematic of the type of curry they would produce – that is, curry that retained flavours of the subcontinent. Although largely indifferent, Indian chefs still willingly sold these new ideas of authenticity. Diversity in the market created competition and an opportunity for a higher profit margin.

It also created intrigue.

English people from all walks of life started trying curry. No longer was curry boxed into a working class image. Indian restaurants, driven by this greater interest, gained the self-confidence to shed their monolithic identities. Chefs returned to previously discarded recipes, focusing on creating a standard of authenticity. They began making curry that would invite actual Indians to try Indian food.

Today, that concept of authenticity has expanded to include restaurants emphasising strong connections to the homeland. High-end Indian restaurants hire chefs trained in India, and only cook dishes from that chef’s home region. Naturally, it is quite expensive, which is great for raising the value of curry as an elegant cuisine, but not so great for those who can’t afford it. It’s authentic Indian food, sure, but one inaccessible to everyday Indians.

For as long as they can, chefs and restaurants will continue to play with the authenticity of curry. They will bake biryani in the oven, serve murg makhani with chips and swap tangy red chilli for something milder. Consumers will follow willingly, not just because of the strong allure of eating ‘authentic’ ethnic food in a Western country, but also because, if history has shown anything, it’s that curry is just really really good.



Appreciating the humble halal snack pack

Peter Burrell-Sander would like garlic and homemade chilli please.

If you’ve kept your ear to the ground, or been reading the papers, you may know about the latest revolution in kebab-store eating, the not-so-humble Halal Snack Pack, “HSP” for short. They’re nothing new – USyd frequenters of Uni-Bros in Wentworth building may know them as a “meat-box” – but they’re receiving an outburst of popularity across the Australia, and it’s all due to one organisation, the Halal Snack Pack Appreciation Society (HSPAS).

A HSPAS Facebook group (which currently has 87,000 members) just keeps growing. HSPs are being eaten left, right and centre across the nation. Their sudden explosion across the nation and in the hearts of the young makes them of some note.

So what exactly is a HSP? Well, there’s minor disagreement across the community, but the widely accepted model is a styrofoam package with chips, a layer of cheese, a layer of (preferably mixed) kebab meat, topped with a gorgeous lattice of garlic, BBQ and chilli sauce. The meat must be halal, whether or not the consumer is Muslim. No tomato sauce, since that’s considered “haram as fuck” (“forbidden as fuck”) and “dingo”.

HSPAS has developed its own terminology and beliefs about what a HSP should be, and the typical post takes the form of a review of a HSP from a particular store. Categories such as price, halal certification, meat, chips, sauce and greeting are all taken into account. To an

extent, HSPAS is like Yelp for a single foodstuff.

Where the Halal Snack Pack Appreciation Society gets really interesting, however, is when you look at the demographics. It’s hard to get exact numbers on something like this, but even a cursory examination shows that there’s people from an extremely broad range of backgrounds. Posts explaining things like exactly what halal and haram mean to those not in the know are common, and the page emanates a wonderful, convivial atmosphere.

While I can’t speak for subtler forms, anything overtly racist is shut down fast by the community, who want to get back to discussing the fine points of whether crinkle-cut or straight-cut fries make for the ideal HSP. Occasional posts from people on holiday trying to teach an Iranian, Indonesian or German kebab vendor how to craft this Australian twist on kebabs make for heart-warming and amusing vignettes.

Don’t get me wrong, this is no haven of friendliness and manners. It’s got far too many teenage boys, with casual slurs absolutely bog-standard fare, and a strong tendency to throw anyone who violates the ideal HSP in any way (such as by adding tomato sauce) to the sharks.

HSPAS has brought to the fore a delicious meal that has previously played second fiddle to the late-night kebab. It’s created a phenomenon of cultural communion: the community is tight-knit and sometimes vicious, but by and large friendly.

iAutomaton

Lena Wang wonders whether robots wrote this article for her

During last month's historic game of Go at the Four Seasons in Seoul, international champion Lee Sedol burst into an exuberant grin after his first win against Google's artificial intelligence (AI) program, AlphaGo. It would be his only win against the program in the best-of-five match.

While chess can be won through simple but extensive calculations, Go is said to be exponentially more difficult due to its many more possible moves, and people like Elon Musk and AI researcher Remi Coulom noted that a win for an intelligence program was predicted to still be years away. The victory of AlphaGo raises questions on the state of artificial intelligence and its future role in society.

As AI develops, students and employees increasingly begin to fear the potential of AI to endanger their chosen careers. We only need to look at history to observe how industries have been displaced by automation and the mechanisation of labour. The printing press supplanted the painstaking work of scribes in monasteries. However, many people would note this temporary unemployment was ameliorated by the generation of other industries – from booksellers to librarians to an influx of writers.

Contention still exists around whether technological advancements will lead to long-term unemployment. Professor Mark MacCarthy of Georgetown University suggests that machines will increase opportunities for employment, while studies at the University of Oxford suggest the opposite. The latter trend seems evident – where workers were once predominantly farmers, humans have now been rendered obsolete in an automated agricultural industry. More obviously, automation is present in our everyday interactions, from buying that shameful packet of instant noodles from the self-checkout machine, to the annoyingly pre-programmed responses of call centres.

In the same way that my grandma couldn't have comprehended Pewdiepie's career, technology may create jobs we can't even imagine right now. But it could also create programs so intelligent that we will seem as useless as a stone tablet next to an iPad.

But surely computers are only good at repetitive jobs, letting us pursue something interesting, or creative, something uniquely human? Our degrees in Renaissance art or linguistics or architecture are safe. And yet expert musicologists can no longer distinguish pieces composed by programs from those composed by human musicians. Similarly, white-collar jobs in stock trading and medical diagnosis are already partially mechanised. Not only does automation have the potential to overtake manual labour, but, given enough time, all other industries as well.

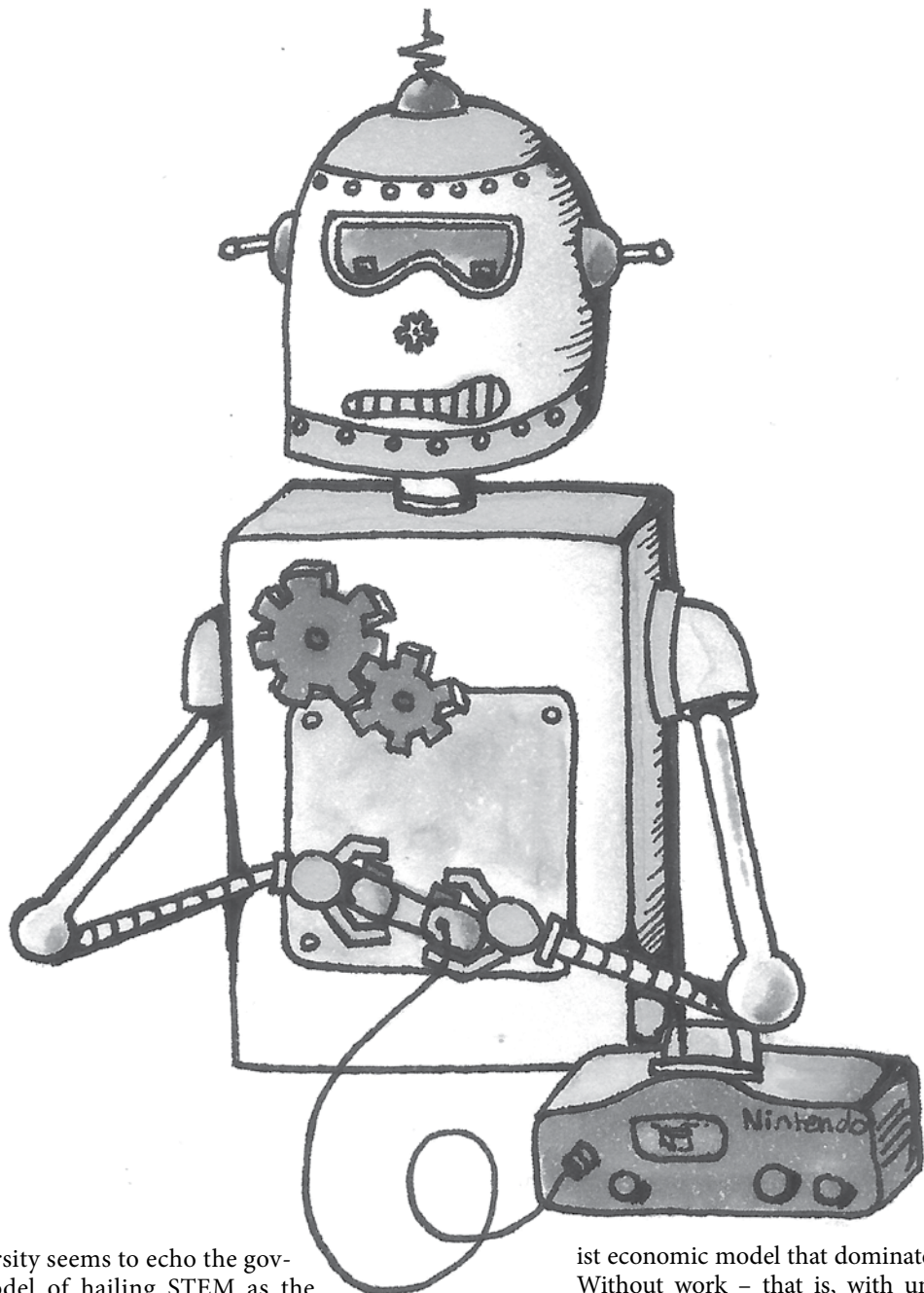
A potential solution to the automation of jobs seems to be an increased focus on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects and courses, redirecting career channels into areas that actually revolve around the development of AI and technology. If you can't beat them, join them. The University of Sydney seems to acknowledge this, noting on its STEM webpage that 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations require STEM skills and knowledge. Planning to enforce mathematics as a prerequisite for 62 of its degrees from 2019. However, the deficit in STEM students continues, as public sentiment still vilifies a career in science as cold, or removed from society. Australia's Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel, notes the decline in interest in STEM subjects in high school, leading to a shortage in tertiary enrolments and participants in the workforce. A career in IT is clearly not the new 'it' career.

The University seems to echo the government's model of hailing STEM as the future. The introduction of the 'Ideas Boom' rhetoric and the pursuit of an innovation-based agenda clearly seeks to push STEM to the surface, with the government committing \$12 million to maths resources and programming subjects in schools.

Despite this renewed focus, the government has neither internalised nor acted on its supposed support of STEM subjects beyond these shallow measures. It continues to divest funding from climate research and the CSIRO, instead channeling it into dubious projects like pseudo-scientific research into the health impacts of wind turbines. And while the aggressive innovation agenda certainly may give STEM careers the status they were missing, this may further isolate an essential ingredient in encouraging young people to pursue STEM: a sense of curiosity revolving around the romance of scientific study. Indeed, the CSIRO has been forced to cease research with no direct link to jobs and economic growth, severely limiting the potential innovations that so often tangentially emerge from such research. Other obstacles are present to promoting innovation, including the extremely disturbing underrepresentation of women in STEM fields, where they occupy only 16 per cent of workers, and number only a third of the number of men in the highest income bracket.

Perhaps the government is actually more strategic than they are given credit for and is preventing further technological innovation and the potential long-term unemployment that may come with it. It's difficult to determine the more hazardous risk: automation and loss of many viable careers, or the climate change-induced global catastrophe that would occur under the Australian government's ironically short-term outlook.

Clearly the government, and society itself, needs to be even more stringently future-focused. Without a reflection of this engagement with science in all aspects of policy, we could find ourselves overwhelmed by AI. Automation of labour has the potential to collapse the capital-



Art: Johanna Roberts

ist economic model that dominates our societies. Without work – that is, with unlimited leisure time – our social, economic, religious, political and scientific paradigms will be completely overturned. There is no denying the drastic effect artificial intelligence will have on our lives.

And yet we still underestimate the potential of AI. Stephen Hawking noted that the technological singularity, a point where AI would be capable of autonomous self-improvement, "could spell the end of the human race". AI that improves itself would therefore get better at improving itself, leading to the singularity level of intelligence as soon as 2040, according to philosopher Nick Bostrom.

Concerns and postulations regarding AI have also captured audiences beyond academic communities, from Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey* to a far more romantic rendering in Spike Jonze's 2013 film *Her*. These films explicate very different expectations of AI, but share a similar message: whether as commander of a spaceship, or a personal assistant operating system, technological advances in artificial intelligence will completely alter the roles of human beings, and industries available to the workforce.

It's difficult to tell what will happen in the future. While technology and therefore our ability to predict the future has improved, the rate of advancement has also increased exponentially, as evidenced by AlphaGo's unexpected victory over Sedol. We can't know how the development of artificial intelligence will affect job markets and what roles we could effectively perform in the future. We don't know whether our careers are protected or will be protected by governmental policy and whether its innovation will lead to more jobs or fewer. Que sera sera?

For now, we have internalised the commencement speeches of Steve Jobs and JK Rowling, and platitude-filled career guides, believing that our purpose in life is to pursue our dreams and passions. To never give up, because #YOLO. We try to avoid becoming unsatisfied with our future careers.

Ironically, as CGP Grey noted, we try to avoid becoming mechanistic, soulless robots.

Honiscopes

His Majesty Prince Philip provides you with some royal life advice.



Sagittarius

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.



Aries

Don't feed your rabbits pawpaw fruit – it acts as a contraceptive.



Taurus

You have mosquitos. I have the press.



Gemini

If it doesn't fart or eat hay, she isn't interested.



Virgo

Why don't you go and live in a hostel to save cash.



Cancer

British women can't cook.



Leo

Don't travel in something called economy class, which sounds ghastly.



Libra

Oh, what, a strip club?



Scorpio

We do not come to Canada for our health [there are] other ways of enjoying ourselves.



Capricorn

Young people are just the same as they always were. Just as ignorant.



Aquarius

You're just a silly little Whitehall twit.



Pisces

Kill a cat and save a bird.

Art: Zita Walker

REVELRY IN REVIEW

Pride party

Susie Elliott loves a good rainbow balloon arch

When I arrived at Pride, and other Deadly Sins (the closing night party of the USU's Pride Week), the dance floor was a tragic desert with stray balloons for tumbleweeds.

My heart sunk at the thought of getting all dolled up for a dud party. However, I was pleasantly surprised by how the evening, which was put on by campus queer party society SHADES, continued.

The rainbow aesthetic of Manning Bar was completely celebratory and playful – the way Pride Week should be.

The mirrors were obviously set up for selfies (which went to good use) and it was almost impossible to escape the array of colours that bespattered the place (cheers to SHADES for investing in a rainbow balloon arch – one never goes astray).

Once the dance floor started to match the lively backdrop, the party truly kicked off.

The music was a mix of crowd favourites like Salt-N-Pepa and Bieber, mixed with some gay club techno staples. Even though I don't think anyone has genuinely enjoyed gay

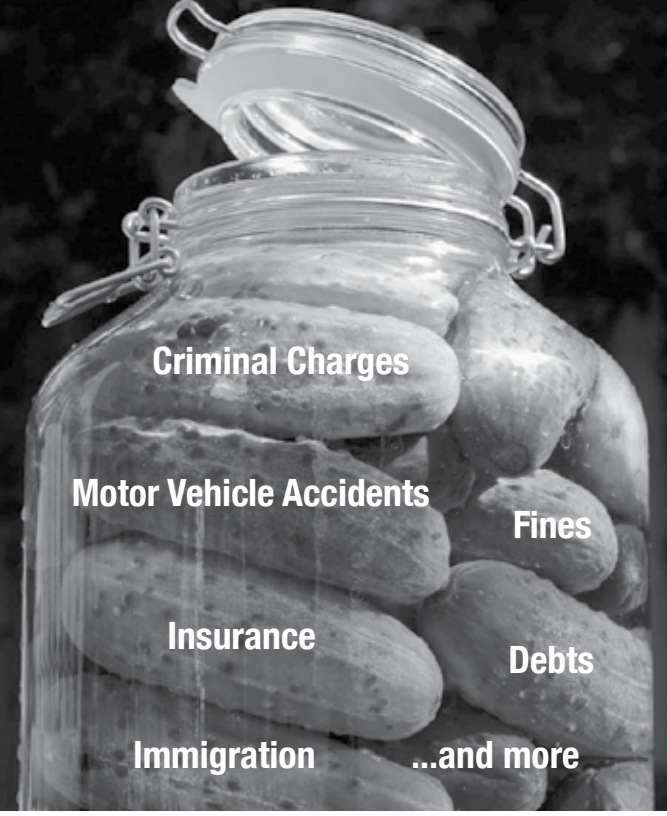
club techno since the '90s (and I'd be a bigger fan of show tunes coming back as our community's unofficial anthems) it was still fun, as you can never go wrong with good company, which is what ultimately defined the night.

I know that sounds like your clueless distant relative on Facebook, but being surrounded by fellow queers is the best aspect of Pride Week.

Most of us understand the experience of being at a party with no other open queers and feeling completely othered; we all know what it is like to be the novelty of a group. But this is the beauty of SHADES events; our community can relax and socialise without feeling like the political elephant in the room.

In no particular order, some downsides to the event included: the lack of Tegan and Sara jams, a misogynist comment about me made by some crusty straight bloke, and the fact that I wasn't allowed a double shot of vodka in my drink. But those things happen at every party, don't they?

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SRC REPORTS

The SRC is responsible for the content of these pages.

President

Chloe Smith

It's week 7 which means we're officially half-way through the semester. Whilst the majority of assessments and exams still lie ahead, just remember that you've made it this far and you can sure as hell make it to the end.

From week 7, students can begin applying for a Discontinue Not Fail (DNF) for units of study - something the SRC won for students back in 2011. DNF essentially means you can withdraw from a unit without a fail grade going on your transcript, if you can provide evidence that you had reasonable prospects of passing the unit prior to week 7 but then your circumstances changed. The SRC casework team can help you out with any questions you might have about applying for a DNF or any other academic issues.

Meanwhile your SRC has been maintaining a strong and active presence on campus. Last Wednesday saw the SRC out in force attending the National Union of Students' National Day of Action, protesting course fee increases and calling for full funding of higher education. Our welfare officers were also out on campus on Monday, offering students a quick and tasty study break with free Krispy Kremes for everyone who completed their welfare survey. And in the coming weeks, SRC officers and activists will be doing stalls, flyer-ing, lecture bashes, and more to talk to students about the university restructure and the next National Day of Action protest on May 11. There's also plenty happening in our collectives and action groups. So in between study, keep an eye out for your SRC on campus and come get involved, or get in touch with our office bearers on the USyd SRC website. We're always keen to hear from you.

Lastly, in light of recent issues regarding alleged racism from a university staff member, I want to reaffirm the SRC's strong commitment to a diverse, multicultural, and welcoming campus. We condemn racism and discrimination in all it's forms. I want to remind all students that if you witness or experience any incidents of discrimination on campus, or directed at or from a student or staff member of the university, your SRC can help. Our free casework and legal team can provide advice and support and direct you through the university's anti-discrimination and grievance policies and procedures. Everyone has a right to feel welcome here and your SRC stands with you.

General Secretaries

Georgia Mantle and Lachlan Ward

Hello all, At the point of writing (right before our 5pm deadline) we are still waiting on the returning of our SSAF numbers from the university. Once this happens we will be able to finalise the SRC's budget to ensure the SRC's services and collectives are providing you the most benefit possible.

Secondly, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the federal government has confirmed that it is committed to fee deregulation with our university courses, meaning that your hecs debt will increase with no tangible gains (look up the American model to see the consequences of fee deregulation). In addition, with the upcoming budget, it is almost certain that the federal government will cut money to Higher Education funding, so it's important that our students do something about it. We encourage you to attend the May 11th Protest against the Budget, to ensure that our voices are heard and our education is protected.

Finally, if you need any help finding a collective to join, feel free to send us an email at general.secretary@src.usyd.edu.au

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*

Wom*n's Officers

Anna Hush and Vanessa Song

Last week, I was one of only three people who attended a university-organised screening of *The Hunting Ground*. This documentary delves into the dark reality of sexual assault on college campuses in the US. Survivors bravely share their horrific stories, but throughout the film it becomes clear that the universities' failure to support these students is, for many of them, the most traumatic aspect of their experiences. As one of them puts it, "the message is clear - don't proceed through these disciplinary hearings. No matter what you do, you're not going to win." These trials went far beyond the presumption of innocence, ignoring concrete evidence to acquit male students who were clearly guilty, and who would go on to sexually assault many more women.

While there are obvious differences between US and Australian campuses - namely, our lack of elite commercial sports teams and fraternities - so many aspects of the film rang home to me. The universities' desperate desire to cover up these incidents, to create artificially low statistics on sexual assault for the sake of promoting a positive public image, is a shared phenomenon. A student in *The Hunting Ground* notes that "they protect perpetrators across the board because they have a financial incentive in doing so." Continued funding from investors and good enrolment figures both rely on the slick, shiny corporate façade the University presents to the public. Management will go to extreme measures to prevent this image from being marred by the inconvenient reality of sexual assault.

The University of Sydney senior management, more generally, do not see sexual assault and harassment as an issue of priority. They organised this screening without any consultation with student representatives and without promoting it anywhere, then didn't even bother to show up themselves. We are still waiting to see the results of the 'Creating a Safer Community for All' survey, run last year. We are still waiting to see the university take actions it signed onto in 2014, including a university-wide campaign against sexual assault, and bystander training during O Week.

This week, we also saw footage of male students at UNSW's Baxter College chanting an extraordinarily misogynistic song, which glorified the sexual assault of women. We commend the UNSW Women's Collective for their strong and swift response to this incident, and stand alongside them in the fight against rape culture on university campuses. Women students deserve respect and support from the University, and we will continue to demand an adequate response to the vicious phenomenon of sexual assault.

Environment Officers

Lily Matchett and Maushmi Powar

Hey planet-lovers =),

NSW environmental activism has been brimming with non-violent direct action, media stunts and radical education in the last couple of weeks and the USyd Environment Collective has greatly contributed. Despite Mike Baird's anti-protest laws, students and communities have been putting themselves on the frontline, in coal and coal seam gas expansion sites, to draw attention to the ongoing environmental injustice and the economic imperative to close these industries and transition into sustainable ones.

Over the mid-semester break enviro members went on an Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN) road-trip. We toured the world's largest coal port in Newcastle and NW NSW coal and coal seam gas mines in the Leard and Pilliga State forests. Local community members, Indigenous custodians, environmental campaigners, ecologists, competing industry employees and long-time blockade camp activists guided and educated us.

Together, 17 of us camped over 5 days, awaking early every morning to participate in non-violent direct actions including road blocking with banners and a 'carnival of coal'. Two of our ASEN members were arrested and charged while locking onto and hindering machinery is Santos' gas field under construction and another USyd student locked herself onto a Whitehaven coal conveyor belt 30m in the air, preventing the mining and processing of 6000 tonnes of coal in the 6 hours it took for police rescue to come and cut her off.

This week the fossil free campaign rises as the demand for Universities nationally to divest their investments in the top 200 coal, oil and gas companies remains ignored by chancellors, escalation will initiate Australia-wide. Keep your eyes peeled on USyd campus to see what stunts are in store.

The largest environmental event of the year is upcoming during the winter break, this year to be held in Brisbane. The Students of Sustainability conference is the largest grassroots environmental conference in Australia and the Environment collective is about to start registration and travel planning for the not-to-be-missed event. Keep updated and register through the collective facebook page called 'USYD Enviro Collective 2016'.

Yours truly,
Lily Matchett and Maushmi Powar
(Enviroment OBs)

ACAR Officers

Aparna Balakumar, Adam Ursino, Elizabeth Mora, & Lamya Rahman

Recently ACAR hosted its very first social outing. We extended a heartfelt invitation to collective members to join us in attending Legally Blonde, a highly anticipated production by MUSE which featured one of our very own stars and office bearers, Aparna Balakumar. Aparna's performance was incredible and so was collective attendance and support. Congratulation Aparna! Thanks again to everyone who attended!

Late March, we held another first, our first collective meeting. We were so pleased to see old and new members attend and eager to participate in future planning. We discussed a range of issues including reviewing our current constitution as well as our collective response to the USU Ethno cultural Launch debacle which saw PoC students offended by the unfettered racism published on the online event space. Minutes to the meeting can be accessed via our Facebook group: "Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR)." Please note that our group can only be accessed if you are a University of Sydney student.

The main action points to have emerged from our meeting were:

Strengthening our constitution against undemocratic practices or foul play

Working closely with the USU to develop and implement a Safer Space policy which will safe a guard all access members against any form of discrimination and make the USU and student members more accountable to the concerns of identity or culture based collectives or clubs.

Increasing our presence on campus to make our collective more accessible to PoC students

Supporting the ACAR Revue Society as they create our second over revue production

On Saturday, the 16th of April, we will be following up action point one. Collective members will be meeting at University of Sydney Student

Representative Council headquarters to discuss how we can strengthen our constitution. Of particular concern to us is the implementation of anti-stacking measures which will ensure ACAR remains an inclusive and safe space for all PoC students on campus.

We have also contacted the USU Ethno cultural Portfolio Holder Atia Rahim to follow up action point two and further discuss the benefit of a Safer spaces policy for all collectives and clubs on campus. All other action points are being discussed and addressed internally by office bearers and collective members.

Lastly, we are also pleased to announce that our relationship with *Honi Soit* has been renewed. Since publishing our letter to the editor condemning *Honi* for breaching our autonomy in their reporting of the USU Ethno cultural launch, *Honi* hosted and facilitated a collective meeting wherein editors present made a solid effort to listen to our concerns and act according in the future. Part of this commitment involved sending all collectives a report of their recommendations to ensure greater and more transparent communication with collectives. We are very happy with this outcome! Thanks *Honi*!

If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Autonomous Collective Against Racism, please email us at: ethno.cultural@src.usyd.edu.au



When does your student visa run out?

It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with all your student visa conditions, especially the length of stay allowed under your visa entitlement.

You can find out about all the applicable visa conditions and your visa expiry date using the online service (Visa Entitlement Verification Online – "VEVO") on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website. Use this URL: <https://online.immi.gov.au/evo/firstParty>

When accessing this online service, you will need your passport number and other identification details which can be found on the visa grant email sent by the Department.

If you are not sure how to use VEVO or have trouble with this online service, you can get FREE help from the SRC registered migration agent by contacting 9660 5222.

Make sure you put the visa expiry date in your calendar and remember to NOT overstay your visa! Overstaying leads to serious legal consequences which in some situations may require you to leave Australia immediately and you will not be able to come back again for 3 years.



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Tenancy: A House That Works

If your home is covered by a lease agreement your landlord must provide you with a home that is reasonably clean, fit for you to live in, and in reasonable repair. You should be given a Condition Report when you start your lease showing what damage already exists. It is a good idea to take photos of any damage to the property when you move in. Email these photos to the landlord, so that you cannot be blamed for them when you move out. Similarly just before you move out take photos of things like the walls, the floors, cupboards, oven, etc, and email them to the landlord. This will also ensure that a fair Condition Report will be given when you move out. These photos will save you money by protecting your bond.

You have a responsibility to keep the home clean and in good repair. That means that if something breaks you need to tell the landlord. Some things are your responsibility to fix, while others are with the landlord. For example, if the hot water system breaks the landlord will need to have it fixed. If you break a window you will need to pay to have it fixed. Generally speaking you will need to use an appropriately qualified person to make the repair. If you “fix it” yourself and you consequently damage the property in some way, you will be liable for that cost.

Some repairs are considered urgent. This includes gas electricity and water supply; hot water, cooking and heating; anything that makes the home unsafe (locks, fire hazards, etc); and any damage from a natural disaster (e.g. storm damage).

your landlord must provide you with a home that is reasonably clean, fit for you to live in, and in reasonable repair.



When asking your landlord to make repairs it is a good idea to do so in writing. An email will timestamp your requests. This is handy if the landlord disputes the repair. If a landlord refuses to make an urgent repair you can organise to have that done yourself provided you spend less than \$1,000. Of course you'll need to keep receipts. Bear in mind that you might need to chase the landlord for that money through the NSW Consumer and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

In some situations you can ask for a reduction in rent due to a repair. See the case study below. To discuss your specific situation talked to an SRC caseworker. Email your situation to help@src.usyd.edu.au or phone 9660 5222 to make an appointment.

CASE STUDY

Wilma lives in a two bedroom home for \$400 per week. There was some storm damage to the roof and now her room has water leaking badly down all of the walls. The room smells mouldy and everything is getting water damaged. Wilma emailed then telephoned the landlord on Monday morning. The roof was repaired on Friday afternoon. Wilma figured that the bedrooms were half of the house, and one room was half of that. She counted the time as 5 days, though the landlord might successfully argue that it is only 4. So 25% of \$400 for 5/7 of a week = \$71.43. Wilma asked for a reduction in rent of \$71.43.

The SRC offers advice on tenancy issues and a range of academic and welfare issues: 9660 5222 or help@src.usyd.edu.au

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



Dear Abe,

I've got a million things going on in my life at the moment and uni just can't be my number one priority. I can't imagine that I will be attending many classes from now until the end of the year. I know I've missed the HECs census date, but is there a way that I can avoid failing.

Past Census

Dear Past Census,

You are still in time to apply for a Discontinue Not Fail grade (DC). The deadline is the end of week 7 of the semester - ie Friday 22 April this week. Look on your faculty website for details on how to do this. You will have no academic penalty, but will still be liable for fees. However, if you can show that you reasonably believed that you could complete the subject at the beginning of the semester, then you experienced an illness or misadventure that was not predictable and beyond your control, you may be able to apply for a refund or re-crediting of your fees / HECS. Ask an SRC caseworker for details based on your personal circumstances.

Abe

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

DID YOU KNOW?

If you apply to discontinue a subject before the end of Week 7 you will get a Discontinue Not Fail (DC)

Need help or advice? Your SRC is here to assist you.

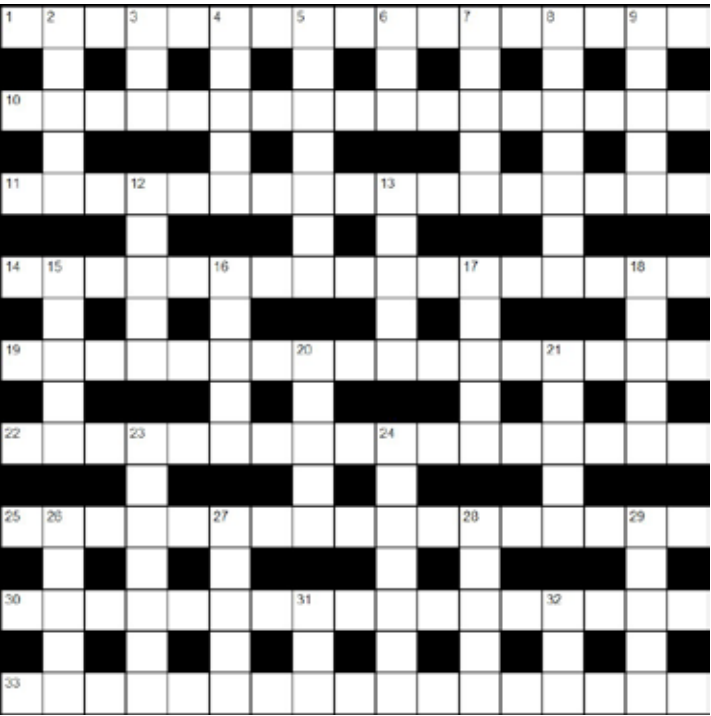
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We are located at: Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)

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Cryptic

Crosswords by *Atrus*



ACROSS

- 1 (1001+550/500)/501? Harsh... (3-6,8)
- 10 I find peace after backward jerk offends silky mirror dress (8,2,7)
- 11 Weather report: mostly dry, wind, rain, finally hail (smooth, round) (5,3,5,4)
- 14 June 6: party at the French commoner's shed in very acceptable retreat (8,9)
- 19 Barely submitted midterm - returned brief moment before time (8,9)
- 22 Usually fibs about model Fords, else replaced by roadster/speedster (8,4,5)
- 25 Sings about alphabet in special cell - no dead quiet job (5,6,3,3)
- 30 Retiring secretary promised to keep empty labelers, broken in two (5,4,8)
- 33 Non-applicable to support before support having non-applicable point (2,1,4,2,8)

SUMS, CrossSoc and LingSoc will be running another epic **Letters & Numbers** on April 20 from 5-6 pm in the International Students Lounge (Level 4, Wentworth Building). There'll be prizes up for grabs and entry is **FREE**.

DOWN

- 2 Lucky people greeting teacher in return (5)
- 3 Klein bottles necklace? (3)
- 4 Makes dough airing demands (5)
- 5 1 buck entry in theatres? (2,5)
- 6 Phat 3 options? (3)
- 7 Run, dribble to ring line (5)
- 8 Autumn Leaf stocktaker? (7)
- 9 Show off new top (5)
- 12 Scarlett's other half, left out after O'hara turned out oddly! (5)
- 13 Pass up club time? (5)
- 15 Head-to-toe external baby once in here? (5)
- 16 Pooh - lost top in lint trap? (5)
- 17 Stare under top during dressing (5)
- 18 Flew unoriginally like a gondola? (5)
- 20 Old heel-head design to boot? (5)
- 21 Shortly approaching conflict within Thailand's borders (1'4)
- 23 Cooked two times; later, baked - good? (7)
- 24 Mean way to party? (7)
- 26 Board a bus; return sans pet? (3,2)
- 27 Party choice: external defence (5)
- 28 A fairly new suit (5)
- 29 Fat trimmed for best, detailed final course (5)
- 31 John's toolshed back out back (3)
- 32 Helix plus!? (3)

ACROSS

- 1 See cryptic 14-across (5)
- 4 Navigation aid (3)
- 6 See cryptic 10-across (5)
- 9 See cryptic 19-across (7)
- 10 Deer meat (7)
- 11 Deadliness (9)
- 12 Plenty (5)
- 13 File's counterpart (4)
- 15 Rerword (10)
- 18 Perplexed (10)
- 19 See cryptic 33-across (4)
- 22 Moony? (5)
- 23 One bringing up the rear (9)
- 25 Mounted? (7)
- 26 Dog breed (4-3)
- 27 See cryptic 22-across (5)
- 28 See cryptic 30-across (3)
- 29 See cryptic 11-across (5)

DOWN

- 1 Large vein (7)
- 2 Praise (5)
- 3 Apelike (6)
- 4 Grow (9)
- 5 Know-how (5)
- 6 Tan (8)
- 7 Gulleets (9)
- 8 Genuine (7)
- 14 See cryptic 1-across (9)
- 16 Arterial swellings (9)
- 17 Whirlwinds (8)
- 18 Rampart (7)
- 20 Shaggy (7)
- 21 See cryptic 25-across (6)
- 23 Won every game in a series (5)
- 24 Game of chance (5)

Target

Y	L	O
S	B	H
O	C	O

- Punch to the gut: 6

Bandaïd floating in the pool: 12

Melted Zooper-Dooper: 21

Freshly washed sheets: 24
-

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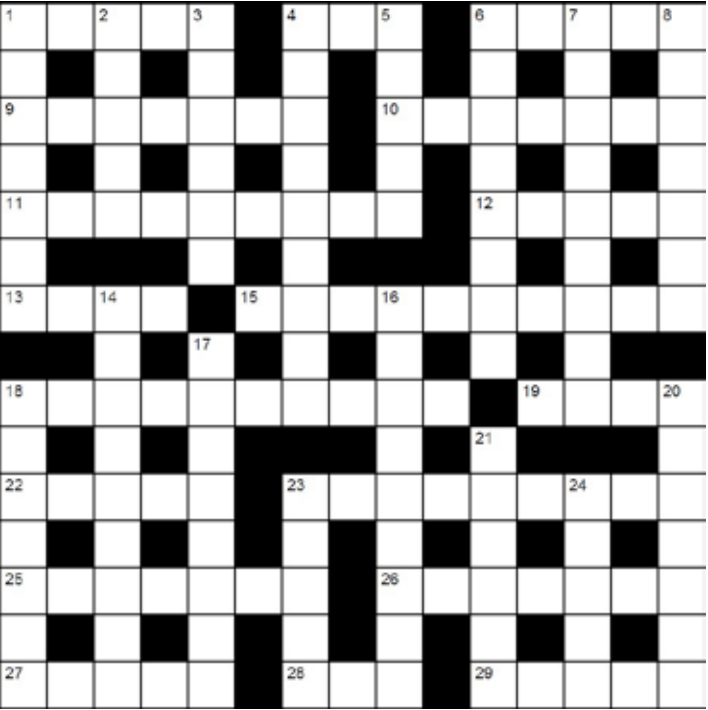
Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by *Atrus*

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

Week 6 quiz solutions: 1. C) K 2. South Sydney Rabbitohs 3. Tara Waniganayaka 4. North and Saint West 5. \$4.50 6. Newport 7. Gold 8. Liquorland 9. Three 10. True

Quick



Quiz

- Which of the following campus food outlets is not open on a Sunday? A) Subway B) Abercrombie Terrace C) Fisher Coffee Cart D) Carlsaw Kitchen
- How old is Bernie Sanders?
- Pulmonology is a branch of medicine that deals with diseases affecting which part of the body?
- According to Greek mythology, who was the goddess of beauty?
- What is the University of Sydney's motto?
- Who was the highest polling candidate in the 2015 USU Board election?
- How much is the Centrelink student start-up loan?
- Yerevan is the capital of which country?
- Which building is on the reverse of the \$5 note?
- Which Facebook page has more likes: the University of Sydney or UNSW?

The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY 

Safe Schools Attack - a test run for the Christian right

By *Rachel Evans*, SUPRA Queer Officer.

At the *Defend Safe Schools* rally in Sydney, highschool students from Castle Hill High said that they had lost a young queer friend to suicide. That they didn't have the Safe Schools program and they really needed it. The crowd was saddened but not shocked. Homophobia, transphobia and bigotry result in a rainbow community littered with lost friends and lovers.

The Christian right have had a great few weeks. Really, you'd have to say they've mostly won this round. Calling in the favour of giving PM Malcolm Turnbull the numbers in the Liberal Party to unseat Abbott and win top job, they demanded he scrap the program.

Cory Bernardi "program prematurely sexualises children" (*The Age*, 23/02/2016) and George Christenson (I don't want to see young people "sexually liberated" - ABC News 18/03/2016) led the charge, and just a few weeks after marching in Mardi Gras, Turnbull exulted the pro-bully lobby and gutted the program - making it clear no funding would be forthcoming in 2017.

Turnbull was not swayed by facts that queer youth are 6 times more likely to self-harm than their straight counterparts, and that 80% of bullying of sex and gender diverse youth happens at school (www.glhv.org.au).

The Christian right want a last-ditch attempt to stop the course of history.

The program is ground-breaking and young people and teachers speaking at rallies in its defense, affirm it saves lives. The review by University of Western Australia professor William Loudon found the main resource used by the Safe Schools program, "All of Us", to be "suitable, robust, age-appropriate, educationally sound and aligned with the Australian curriculum" and only recommended a few minor additions to the program.

The Safe Schools Coalition is so confident about its program it has all of it online (www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au).

The conservatives didn't win everything. Victorian, ACT, and SA state governments defended the program; committed to rolling it out in its original form, and promised to fund it. Indeed Victoria has ordered all schools to sign on by 2019. Queensland's ALP government, however, is quiet on the matter and you could hear a pin drop with the silence metered out on the issue by the NSW ALP opposition.

The rainbow community and allies weren't silent. They rallied in Melbourne's suburb of Belgrade (200), Melbourne (3000), Perth (300), Sydney (500), Brisbane (200), Adelaide (200) Launceston (40) and Ballarat. Sydney's rally demanded:

1. Full restoration and funding for the program.

2. Full access for students to all resources in the Safe Schools program
3. No need for any parental consent for any aspect of the program
4. Ability to work with primary schools
5. Additional funding to allow Safe Schools to work with all schools in Australia
6. A whole-of-schools approach to tackling bi/trans/homophobia
7. A full independent website with links to sources of peer support and
8. That the NSW Government follow examples set by Victoria and ACT and support Safe Schools through state funding.

In the last two decades the Christian-right's best friend in Parliament was John Howard who in 2004 passed the same-sex marriage ban. Twelve years on, with a sustained marriage equality movement, registration schemes, civil unions, same-sex adoption, and buoyed by international victories, the conservatives are calling in favours and counter-organising. Will Turnbull, sitting in one of the most gay male-dominated seats in Sydney be an even better mate than Howard to the Christian right?

At a recent Guardian-organised forum 'Marriage Equality: Why Knot?' ALP PM-hopeful Bill Shorten reiterated his 'promise' for a successful marriage equality bill to be passed within 100 days of election. He assured the audience 'we'd have the numbers.' Shorten tried to sound convincing because a skeptical audience remembered the pinkwashing at the last ALP National Conference which voted against a binding vote, allowed the business-as-usual homophobic conscience vote, and added injury to insult by 'promising' a binding vote in 2019.

Shorten was recently howled out when he marched in Mardi Gras over the treatment of refugees, so didn't want a repeat performance. But no disputes erupted, helped by tickets costing \$25, four of the eight panelists being ALP members, and Greens leader Richard de Natale saying he agreed with 'Bill' in his first few sentences of his speech. A friend whispered to me 'Why is it 100 days? Why not 1 day after being elected? Or 1 millisecond?' The ALP and the Greens threw their focus on the Liberals to grant a free-vote. An even more ephemeral cry than ever, given there wasn't a Liberal in the room.

Turnbull and Shorten are walking a tricky tightrope between the immoral conservatives in their parties and ever growing support for marriage equality and Safe Schools.

Turnbull's support is in decline after inaction on climate change; a huge upswing in support for refugees in the #LetThemStay campaign; attacks on unions but none on corporate tax evasion; and inaction on marriage equality. The Liberal's lead over Labor is narrowing with a March poll showing 53-47 Coalition to Labor. Even more telling is a massive plunge in support for Turnbull's approval ratings, down seven to 55% and up eight on disapproval to 32%. Shorten's approval is up three to 33% and

down on disapproval by three to 52%, but has only narrowed his huge deficit on preferred prime minister from 64=19 to 61-22.

Goalposts can shift rapidly in a few months. If Turnbull wins the next election, he promises a plebiscite for marriage equality. Many organizations in the LGBTIQ+ community oppose it, rightly fearing a 'No' campaign that will harm queer youth, embolden homophobes, and cost ridiculous amounts of money. Abbott proposed a plebiscite at the election but Turnbull's conservative mates asked for it to be later. All LGBTIQ+ rights groups agree on putting a bill and passing it. The ALP also oppose a plebiscite but won't bind their vote, holding the issues hostage until we elect them. Given their lacklustre 'me-too-ism' performance, no-one is predicting their election is in the bag. Also, who can forget Kevin Rudd's election promise of 2007 to free the refugees after 90 days? 91 days after he took office, activists outside Villawood Detention Centre clarified that'd been one of those non-core promises.

Marriage equality is so popular (60% plus in favor, 80% plus of young people) that it seems we would convincingly win a plebiscite.

Moreover, a recent poll indicates people prefer a people's vote over Parliament getting it wrong again. 66% favour a national vote on same sex marriage and 23% think the issue should be decided by Parliament. Activists and the community rightly assess the plebiscite as a go-slow move by the Liberals, and don't want it - but we can both be anti-plebiscite and a pro-yes campaign.

Even with so much support for marriage equality and a people's vote surely in our favor, the Christian right want a last-ditch attempt to stop the course of history. But the rainbow community is counter-organizing. Activists are marching on Turnbull's office demanding marriage equality.

Actions are planned against the virulently anti-queer Australian Christian Lobby Conference (addressed by Liberal and ALP speakers) on 23rd April. Campaigning to refund Safe Schools, and put the marriage bill and pass it now, before the elections, strengthens people's power momentum for a mammoth 'Yes' vote if it needs to be deployed.

Our movement needs to remain non-partisan, inclusive and democratic, and it needs to place the same demands on all political parties. Talking up a free vote over a binding vote is confusing at best and pink-washing at worst. Pouring water on a people's vote when Parliament has been so incapable of passing the bill lacks tactical elasticity and vision. We need to be laying the ground work for a thoroughgoing YES campaign, not channelling the movement's hope into a Labor re-election.

Whether Labor or Liberal win the election the only way to guarantee a victory for Safe Schools and marriage equality is a resolute movement prepared to continue the fight until we are over the line. The rainbow movement and their allies are showing that resolution now.

PrEP: Can it end the HIV epidemic?

SUPRA talks to Ted Cook about his personal experience on PrEP.

Ted Cook works in regional sexual health promotion for a NSW community organisation. He is a former board member of the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre and Alfalfa House Cooperative; a current affiliate member of the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM); and a founding member of the Peer Advocacy Network for the Sexual Health of Trans Masculinities (PASH.tm).

Ted is a Science (Health Promotion) student at Curtin University and when he isn't travelling lives on Gadigal land in Sydney.

Australia aims to put a stop to new cases of HIV by 2020. One of the new tools being introduced in Australia to reach this goal is the drug called PrEP. Can you explain what PrEP is and how it works?

I sure can! Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is an HIV prevention tool whereby someone who is HIV negative takes a daily medication to remain negative. Essentially, the way it works is by blocking an enzyme called HIV Reverse Transcriptase, which means that PrEP stops the HIV from attaching itself to a type of white blood cell called a T cell and replicating itself throughout the body. This process of replication is how HIV successfully breaks the immune system.

Currently, the only medication available for use as PrEP is Truvada, a combination of the anti-retroviral compounds tenofovir and emtricitabine. Truvada is manufactured by Gilead Sciences and an application for use within Australia is currently before the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). An application to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for PBS listing is expected to be submitted post TGA approval.

The efficacy of PrEP has been shown across a number of major, large-scale studies. These have included the iPrEx study, which found that in a sample of 2499 aggregated cisgender men (MSM) and transgender women (who have sex with men) across six countries, that when taken with close to full adherence, HIV infection rates were reduced by 95-99%. The PARTNERS study found in a cohort of more than 4500 sero-discordant couples, that of those with detectable PrEP in their blood, HIV infections were reduced by at least 99%. Most recently, A Kaiser Permanente study in San Francisco found that over a 32 month period of daily PrEP use, no new infections were recorded, even when condom use decreased and other sexually transmitted infections occurred. The trials currently running in NSW, QLD and VIC with 650 gay and bisexual men have also recorded no new HIV infections.

In all of the studies into PrEP one thing is clear: if taken daily it works. In fact, of the over 40,000 people who are currently using PrEP, one person has acquired HIV and the strain of HIV acquired is incredibly rare.

How did you first hear about PrEP and why did you decide to go on PrEP?

I first heard about PrEP in 2013 in an article that ACON shared on one of their Facebook pages. I decided to start PrEP because I knew that I was at very high risk of HIV and also because of the kind of sex I wanted to be having but was too scared to have.

There is an opinion that PrEP is a revolutionary way forward in not only helping to de-stigmatise HIV but also as another means to practice healthy safe sex. What is your opinion on how PrEP will shift attitudes towards HIV and would you agree that PrEP is another method for practicing safe sex?

I can only speak from my own experience but, for me, PrEP is a sexual liberation. I can now have sex without fear of HIV, I never thought this would be possible. I am now way more connected to my sexual partners and am finding myself having more hook-ups with guys who are HIV positive without any fear whatsoever. For the first time ever, PrEP puts HIV prevention power in the hands of the bottom.

PrEP is safe sex in terms of HIV but of course doesn't prevent other STIs. The stigma associated with STIs is remarkable though and troubles me greatly, particularly since the vast majority of STIs are so easily transmitted, tested and treated. If I get a cold from a lover, is that an STI? But a cold is so much more uncomfortable, has significantly more side effects and can't be treated.

Researchers are expecting to reduce HIV transmission in NSW by potentially 50% over the next two years. This is a huge deal.

Is PrEP predominately aimed at gay men?

PrEP can be used by anyone, however, in Australia it is gay men who shoulder the burden of HIV with 75-80% of new infections happening in the gay community (primarily gay-identified, scene connected men) so it makes sense that PrEP would be promoted and made more available for this community. Globally though, HIV really does have a heterosexual female face and is a leading cause of death for women and girls in developing countries. The biggest issue is addressing the social determinants (the structural barriers) that make taking a daily tablet for HIV prevention extremely challenging, particularly in areas where anti-retroviral medication for people with HIV is either thin on the ground or there are cultural belief systems that see biomedicine as a big problem (which of course it is but in this case it also stops people dying!).

Currently a trial called EPIC NSW is being rolled out. Are you a participant in this trial and what is the aim of the trial?

I am still participating on the Prelude trial, which is EPIC's predecessor. I will be migrated into EPIC soon though. So while it's complicated globally, in Australia the aim of the new PrEP trials (including EPIC) is to significantly interrupt HIV infections among people at high risk. Most of those people will be gay men (cis and trans). Researchers are expecting to reduce HIV

transmission in NSW by potentially 50% over the next two years. This is a huge deal.

You are involved in PASH.tm, which stands for The Peer Advocacy Network for the Sexual Health of Trans Masculinities. What is PASH.tm's stance on PrEP?

PASH.tm believes that trans men and trans masculine people (assigned female at birth) who have sex with men; are gay; bisexual; or queer (known collectively as trans MSM) should have access to PrEP. However, it's important to note that trans MSM have been excluded from all clinical PrEP trials so it is unknown how or if PrEP efficacy is impacted by bodies where the primary sex hormone is exogenous testosterone (externally applied/injected). For trans MSM, comparison to cisgender men or women provides little insight and further research is required in this area. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also recently confirmed that investigation into transgender men and PrEP is a research gap. PASH.tm recommends a regimen of at least 20 daily tablets to ensure peak protection level is reached.

Some dating/hook up apps have amended their categories to include PrEP as a safety practice. Do you openly disclose that you are on PrEP in your profile, if so, have there been any noticeable changes in the way people interact with you either online or in person that are directly related to being on PrEP?

Yes, I do make it known on hook up apps that I'm negative and on PrEP. I haven't received any negative feedback at all but there is a fairly broad assumption that I'll be up for bareback, which isn't a lie so...yeah. I do ask about recent STI screening and general risk though but I find myself no longer asking about someone's HIV status. HIV positive guys are more likely to reach out to me as well, which I'm really into. I have found HIV positive guys to be a lot more into sex with a trans guy than negative guys. I have no idea what that's about but I connect with positive guys in a very different way. It's awesome.

Lastly, for students interested in PrEP, what resources and sexual health clinics would you recommend to get current information on PrEP from?

There are a bunch of relevant websites including <<http://epic-nswstudy.org.au>> and <www.endinghiv.org.au/nsw/epic>. There is also a great community group called PrEP Access Now that provide a lot of information about importing PrEP from overseas (for those that don't qualify for the EPIC NSW Study). You can find their Facebook group at /PrEPAccessNow and their website at <www.prepaccessnow.com.au>. They also go into a lot of detail about what the PrEP Program is all about.

There will be 20+ EPIC NSW sites, including a whole stack in regional areas. Sydney Sexual Health, East Sydney Doctors, Taylor Square Private Clinic and Holdsworth House are currently enrolling people, as is ACON's a[TEST] Clinic in Oxford Street and Lismore Sexual Health as well.

The NSW PrEP Infoline is 1800 451 624.

OPINION: I Hate The Ocean

These filthy opinions belong to earth-shackled Emma Balfour.

I hate the ocean. It is so big and blue and it is disgusting. It has too many fish, and one time I saw it throw up a whole shell! Yuck!

I hate the saliva of the earth so much. Why is it there? When will it stop? If I ever saw Poseidon I would punch him in the face for making the ocean that I hate. The deep terror is the worst part of this planet, and I don't know why we stand for it!

I used to love Johnny Depp, but when I found out he made multiple movies that had the ocean in them, I vowed never to kiss the pale man's beautiful face ever again!

Water World gave me nightmares for eight months. I hate the big wet so very much. When I sing the alphabet, I refuse to sing the third letter because of how much I hate the sea.

Who even needs the ocean? Give me a garden pond any day. Or even a man-made reservoir. Now that's a manageable body of water!

The evil water slosh is the scourge of this planet. I wish there were a ShamWow big enough to soak it all up. It is a bad thing, and I will fight it one day when my muscles are strong enough.

Report: Non-Vegans Talk About Vegan Diet More Than Vegans Do

Jayce Carrano has some beef.

The Australian Meat Industry Council has urged meat eaters to shut up after its own report found it is more likely for non-vegans to talk about how often vegans talk about being vegan than for vegans to talk about being vegan.

The report, originally commissioned to discover new ways to ridicule vegans, used 4 years of meal discussion data and a survey of 3,000 Australians.

At any given social occasion, there was a 19 per cent chance for someone to ask the question: "How do you know someone is a vegan?"

In cases where they did ask that question, there was a 96 per cent chance they would answer themselves with "They'll tell you" and then a 100 per cent chance they would laugh at their own wit.

Meanwhile, vegans mentioned their dietary choices in only 8% of cases and this was usually in answer to "why the fuck do you eat so much salad?"

A secondary finding of the report showed pescatarians were significantly more likely than others to be unable to commit to any aspect of their lives.

This Guy Looks Exactly Like Malcolm Turnbull And People Are Losing Their Minds

Elliott Brennan has a camera phone.

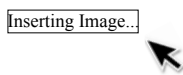
A stranger on the streets of Sydney has set twitter alight with his uncanny resemblance to the PM.



He's everywhere. People have spotted him on trains, buses, and even ferries that he says he uses to save the fucking planet – our hero.



#StreetPM as he's been dubbed can't go anywhere without being mobbed. Just look what happened when he went to Bali for a surf:



Not everyone's impressed though. This woman was seriously offended when #StreetPM laughed at her shitty internet speed.



#StreetPM strangled this dog.



We don't care, we love you #StreetPM!

FITNESS1001: How To Stay Healthy During Semester!

Justin Pepito is a very healthy boy.



Does the thought of giving up meat boxes make you hysterical? Are you wider than a hamster? If you answered yes to both then follow these health tips!

No Pain, No Gain:

If you're walking the dog without carpeting the sidewalk with last night's dinner or swimming without somewhat drowning, then add a little more intensity! High-intensity training keeps your metabolism churning, so try these killer circuits:

Coffee Cart Relays:

Nothing is more extreme than a caffeine-induced arrhythmia and an impending sense of doom, so boost dull library sessions by taking three coffee trips in that one hour you promised yourself to devote undivided attention to your notes. Your marks and your heart rate will soar!

Pre-Exam Study Sprints:

This is a potent life-hack! Wait across campus before reading time and sprint to your room while repeating essential notes. You may have missed ten strategic minutes to plan your essay, but your increased blood flow will keep that shaky hand writing for hours on end!

Superfoods Galore:

Agile minds crave nutrition. If you're going to be pulling late nights and early mornings then grab your blender and whip up this fit, fast and fun recipe:

EASY IMMORTALITY CLEANSE

Gilgamesh hates this! Whip up an easy blend of lemon water and extracts from the eternal youth plant to keep you calm and confident! You'll enjoy so many decades of future fun that failing this 85% assessment will be a meaningless blip you'll fondly poke fun at in the year 3016!

You'll need:

1 cup of lemon water, 2 tbsp of eternal plant extract, 1 baby lamb to sacrifice for the Sumerian fertility goddess, Ishtar

Experience: I Was Jacked Off By The Invisible Hand Of The Free Market

Will Edwards got a risky wristy. (Say 5x.)

I usually fuck socialists. "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need," is generally the most satisfying approach to sex.

But recently I was overcome by an urge to try something new. I wanted an experience that wasn't just different, but a little dirtier than I was used to. I wanted it rough. That's why I decided to fuck a metaphor for right-wing economics.

I met the Invisible Hand of the Free Market exactly where you'd expect: its college dorm room. After some perfunctory small talk about stocks, it initiated contact.

The Invisible Hand demonstrated the agility of market forces by awkwardly fumbling at my belt. When I realised it couldn't undo the clasp, I undid it myself along with the zipper. The Invisible Hand muttered something about economic interventionism before pulling down my underwear. At least it could tear something down quickly enough.

Things only got worse from there. Careless and without empathy, the Invisible Hand alternated between painfully gripping me tightly and barely gliding over my skin at all.

It clearly lacked a coherent plan to make me orgasm, a goal which, while eventually and barely achieved, was frequently delayed by moments of physical pain caused by insensitive handling.

Watching trickle down economics trickle down my chest, I vowed to never fuck people or metaphors from the right again. When it comes to politicians and fuckbuddies, I need someone with vision, compassion, and good handwork.

Young Witches Burdened By HEX Debts

Mary Ward is on her third coven internship.

Young witches across Australia have expressed concerns about rising HEX debts in a volatile job market.

While the average witch graduate has accumulated \$18,000 in HEX, only 64 per cent of witches are able to find employment within their first year out of school.

Matilda Weatherhollow, president of the Witches Against Needless Degrees (WAND) organisation, said witch qualifications were redundant in the contemporary magical workforce, and yet still witches were pressured into enrolment.

"Often you need to intern at three or four covens before you can get a graduate position," she said.

Six Presents To Put Under The Passover Tree

Victoria Zerbst is a Jew just for the jokes.

Sometimes other people have holidays, like Jews. Jews have this one holiday called Pesach (or Passover) where they celebrate the suffering of their people and lean to the left for two entire evenings.

Here are some presents you can give your Jewish friend to start a conversation that is not about Seinfeld, bagels or even the Holocaust!

1. Your Goy Tears.

Jews have to dip all their herbs in salt water to remind themselves of tears. Give them a jar of your own tears so they can be really reminded of tears.

2. *Romeo and Juliet*, the play!

"A plague on both your houses!" That's a line from this Shakespeare play and totally relevant to Passover, which is about plagues.

3. Bacon Soap

Scrub clean. Scrub clean the guilt of the ten plagues, my Jewish friends. Make sure the soap is only bacon scented, because kosher.

4. Cronuts

It would be hard to pass over amazing gluten-free content. But that's the point of Passover. It should be hard. Make sure you remind your Jew friends that they can't eat any good carbs with a cronut.

5. Dead Baby Fetus Doll

Baby Born? More like baby dead! Did you know that the final plague celebrated in Passover is the death of every first born Egyptian baby? Wow! Passover? More like passed away. #guilt

6. The Pyramids of Giza

Did you know the Jews built these pyramids? Seriously. Trust me. Don't look it up. Maybe you should help the Jews get the Pyramids back? Ldk?

Trending

[Broke sugar daddy rebrands as Stevia daddy](#)

[New Zealand school production of Les Mis kills actual pre-revolutionary French 10-year-old](#)

[Recently divorced man finally finds silver lining in his 3am kebab bag](#)

[Sanders carries 13 of the 60 delegates, has a sore back](#)

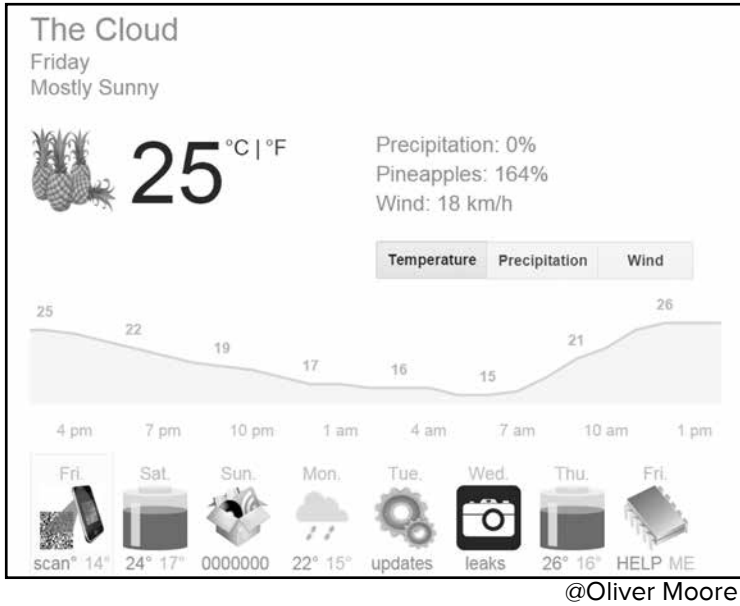
[Performance studies students told to move nipple tassel from right to left breast at graduation](#)

[Local grandparent still proud of mediocre grandchild](#)

[+ MORE MEMES, MEMES & DEATH](#)



@Victoria Zerbst



@Oliver Moore

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CALLOUT FOR WOM*N'S HONI SOIT

The third annual edition of *Wom*n's Honi Soit* will be published in Week 12. The issue is autonomously written and edited.

If you have ideas, submissions or questions please email: womens.officers@src.usyd.edu.au by 2nd May 2016. Final drafts will be due in the coming weeks.

